

## Diversity and Civic Leadership Program Year-end performance summary

**FY 2009-10**

**July 2009 through June 210**

Missing reports for October 2009 through March 2010

Organization: Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)

**GOAL: Community Involvement**, Increase the number and diversity of people who are involved and volunteer in their communities and neighborhoods.

- Examples of developing culturally appropriate strategies to bring constituency together to build community identity, understanding of existing City governance structures, and/or skills to analyze City power dynamics.
  - **Portland Youth and Elders Council monthly mtgs:** Open to all community members interested in community organizing, providing advocacy and learning about current issues that affect the Portland Urban Native American community. Meeting agendas are set by the Youth & Elders Council Steering Committee comprised of Elders, Adults, Young Adults and Youth who were selected by the General Council. Typical topics:
    - the Homeless Youth Continuum as it relates to stable housing for the Portland Native Community;
    - Drum and Regalia information sharing and tribal traditions;
    - Suicide Prevention Awareness programs.
  - **Portland Youth and Elders Council tabling:** Community Powwow at Pioneer Courthouse square *Indian Day Celebration*; Native Community *Back-to-school BBQ* at Columbia Park; *United Villages Cross-Cultural Event* at Overlook Park.
  - **Portland Consolidated Plan** – PYEC Members wrote and gave public testimony.
  - **Art of Reconciliation** - Organizing an event for healing from oppression through art and reconciliation with Resolutions NW, the University of Portland, and several independent businesses.
  - **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Public Employees Diversity Conference** – PYEC members on panel to share our insight on ways to collaborate with Portland's Native community and build collaborative relationships to maximize resources.
  - **Digital storytelling workshops** - Members at Central NE Neighbors workshops.
  - **Census Counts 2010** - Partnered to develop outreach documents.
  - **Housing needs** – NAYA Community Engagement Dept. creating document about need for stable housing, inequities, how affect families, policy ideas.
  - **Foster care reform** – Working with DHS to produce document re: history of Native families in foster care and policy recommendations.
  - **DCL strategic planning retreat** – with DCL groups, set process for identify and prioritize issues, form collective advocacy. Retreats in Sept. '09 and April '10.
  - **GOTV** – Added info about voting to website about Jan. 2010 special election.

- **Multnomah County Budget Forums** – Developed budget testimony.
  - **Coalition of Communities of Color presentation to Council** – on disparities POC communities face in this city, advocate for use of community verified data.
  - **American Indians for Opportunity** – presentation as catalyst for Native American initiatives, [www.aio.org](http://www.aio.org) LaDonna Harris presenter.
  - **Focus group** – with Oregon Public Health re: culturally specific outreach.
  - **Inter-group dialogues on race and racism** – with Office of Human Relations.
  - **Native American Advisory Committee** – Parks and Recreation dialogue re: culturally specific programs.
  - **Portland Indian Leaders Roundtable** – advocacy and relationship building with elected officials.
  - **East Portland Action Plan** – Community Engagement Committee
  - **Health equity in built environment** – With NICWA re: grant to NW Health Fndt.
- Have you convened any gatherings/meetings or events to accomplish this goal/program function? If so, how many gatherings/meetings? Attendance?
    - 1<sup>st</sup> quarter – 18 activities, 292 participants
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter – 22 activities, 263 participants
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr.
    - 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr.

**GOAL: Capacity Building**, Strengthen neighborhood and community capacity to build identity, skills, relationships and partnerships.

### **Communications**

- Describe the methods of communication currently used to outreach to your group.
  - Word of mouth.
  - Phone calls to members.
  - Distribution of fliers.
  - Weekly meetings with Elders to discuss the concerns of our community.
  - Monthly Community Update newsletter with training and advocacy opportunities.
  - Native Network, email calendar of meetings and events.
  - NAYA's quarterly print newsletter with PYEC meeting news.
  - Information tables at many community events.
  - PYEC website.
  - Maintain a database of participants.
  - Buttons with our logo
  - Facebook account.
  - MySpace address.
  - T-shirts identifying the group with logo and slogans, including "Elder in Training," "Stronger Together," and "Bridging Generations."
  - Members took Central NE Neighbors digital storytelling workshops.
  - NAYA TV – monitors at Family Center, highlighting activities.

- How many people are receiving these communications on a regular basis?
  - Combined Community Update, NAYA newsletter, Native Network
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr – 4,750
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr – 5,250
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr
- Describe one example of how one of these communication strategies is supporting your community building and livability efforts, fostering dialogue on policy issues, or publicizing opportunities for involvement with the City?
  - Community Update provides updates on advocacy, NAYA updates, trainings, presentations, information on how to contact government officials and other organizations advocating for their issues.
  - Handouts with talking points about advocacy positions for conversations members have that might influence policy.
  - Intend to develop MySpace and Facebook sites to better engage young people.
  - Discussing how to develop media presentations to better tell story.
  - NAYA TV monitors – posting activity info, seen by people at Family Center.

### Leadership development

- As a result of this project describe one method to develop leadership opportunities for your constituents to become effective advocates on City public involvement initiatives and/or initiatives by your organization to achieve economic and social equity? How many people have participated?
  - **Elders and Steering Committee** - members participated in trainings on “*Gangs in Indian Country*” and “*How to start and maintain a Youth Council.*”
  - **Ongoing intentional dialogue with Elders** - Exercise sessions three times a week. Discuss ONI and DCL processes, community needs, historical information regarding the years of organizing with the Indian organizations in Portland since the Relocation Act brought families here in the 1950’s.
  - **American Indians for Opportunity** – presentation as catalyst for Native American initiatives, [www.aio.org](http://www.aio.org) LaDonna Harris presenter.
  - **Focus group** – with Oregon Public Health re: culturally specific outreach.
  - **Inter-group dialogues on race and racism** – with Office of Human Relations.
  - **Developed budget testimony** – re: County budget.
  - **Native American Advisory Committee** – Parks and Recreation dialogue re: culturally specific programs.
  - **Portland Indian Leaders Roundtable** – advocacy and relationship building with elected officials.
  - **Developing curriculum** – 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr report says they are developing curriculum??

### Partnerships and Collaborations

- Describe a new or update on a collaboration or partnership developed as a result of this project with other community organization(s), neighborhood and/or business association(s) where there may be opportunities to work on common community and neighborhood livability issues?
  - Note: NAYA sees an interconnectedness and common threads of where all our opportunities unite and intercept. The PYEC is invited to many many collaborative meetings and opportunities to share recommendations and policy advocacy strategies, to do outreach, to encourage participation.
  - **DCL groups** – Second strategy retreat
  - **ONI** – Second strategy retreat
  - **Central NE Neighbors** – digital media trainings.
  - **East Portland Action Plan** – Community Engagement Committee
  - **PCM** – digital media trainings.
  - **Resolutions NW** – Art of Reconciliation
  - **University of Portland** – Art of Reconciliation
  - **City and County** - 16<sup>th</sup> Annual NW Public Employees Diversity Conference
  - **Oregon Dept. of Human Services** – Foster care document.
  - **Coalition of Communities of Color** – report, Council presentation
  - **American Indians for Opportunity** – presentation
  - **Oregon Public Health** – focus group
  - **Office of Human Relations** – Intergroup dialogues
  - **Parks and Recreation** - Native American Advisory Committee
  - **Portland Indian Leaders Roundtable**
  - **NICWA** – grant to NW Health Foundation

**GOAL: Public Impact.** Increase community and neighborhood impact on public decisions.

### **Representation on City advisory committees**

- How many people have participated on city advisory committees, boards, commissions?
  - Airport Futures Project committee (BPS)
  - Bureau/Budget Advisory Committee (ONI)
  - Community/Police Relations Committee (Office of Human Relations)
  - Cully-Concordia Action Plan Committee (PDX Planning Bureau)
  - Dialogues on Truth and Reconciliation around Race and Ancestry
  - Elders in Action (ONI)
  - Housing Commission (PHB)
  - Human Rights Commission (Office of Human Relations)
  - Multnomah Youth Commission (County and City)
  - Oregon Native Chamber of Commerce
  - Planning Commission (City of PDX)
  - Portland Indian Leaders Roundtable
  - Portland Parks and Recreation board

- Portland Police Oversight Stakeholders committee (Police)
- Public Involvement Advisory Council (ONI)
- Reynolds School board – youth rep
- United Way, which committee?

1st Qtr – 17 people involved; 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr – 35 people

#### Learning experience

- Several of our members applied for positions on the Multnomah County Board of Property Tax Appeals. While these individuals were not selected, the process did result in a Native American being chosen for the board. The tax appeals board is now 44% people of color. Participation in that process provided us with an awareness of additional systems and processes for participation and outreach. PYEC members continue to work to find positions on City and County entities that allow for our culturally diverse members to participate and share their expertise in defining the problems and barriers that hold us at the margins and suggest solutions that will impact change. We continue to hold discussions with the DCL partners to determine how to successfully identify possible entities for which representation of our members would most meet the needs of our community.

#### **Culturally appropriate public involvement model**

- Please describe any opportunities this quarter you have had to engage with City public involvement efforts. What have been some of the successes or challenges in engaging in this process?
  - Challenge of minority voice advocating for people of color at public meetings. Lots of meetings keep PYEC members away from families.
  - Access challenges – transportation, child care, and language used at meetings.
  - Public liaison model, PIAC – get more info!
  - Principles of Public Involvement, PIAC – establishes what public can expect from government, retain flexibility in how city bureaus do outreach.
  - Coalition of Communities of Color – most of DCL groups are members, helps coordinate policy development, advocacy efforts, conversations about social justice and civic engagement and how to act in solidarity with other organizations to increase our voice and impact change.