

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

**FY 2012-13**  
**July 2012 through June 2013**

Organization: **Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)**

Note: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter report NA

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

1. 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.
  
2. Have you convened any gatherings/meetings or events to accomplish this goal/program function? If so, how many gatherings/meetings? Attendance?
  - *(Note there are only three quarters reported so numbers are incomplete)*
  - 232 meetings and activities
  - 2,254 participants

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

**Communications**

3. Describe the methods of communication currently used to outreach to your group.
  - Native Connect – a bi-weekly electronic newsletter sent out by the Portland Indian Leaders Roundtable
  - NAYA print newsletter
  - Portland Youth and Elder Council – monthly email updates
  - Facebook - NAYA has a communication program that updates our Facebook on a daily base with information regarding all of NAYA's programming.
  - One on one meetings
  
4. How many people are receiving these communications on a regular basis?
  - NAYA print newsletter – up to 3,600
  - Native Connect – 4,985
  
5. 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?

## Leadership development

6. 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?

- 14 trainings
- 150 participants
- Portland Youth and Elders Council leadership development is a collaborative effort woven into the Coalition of Communities of Color Leadership development program and NAYA's LEAD Program and Youth Leadership development activities.
- PYEC members participated in trainings on the following topics:
  - Traditional Native Games Training: the history, culture, and events of the research, resurrection, and restoration of Plains Indian games to North American tribes. Level I Training and Certification by: International Traditional Games Society.
  - Cradle Board Classes; teaching social norms, Portland Children's Levy.
  - Health care transformation and restructuring the health care system in Oregon, Northwest Health Foundation Health Advocacy Learning Cohort.
  - Evidence based practices in Native American programming: To provide an update on the progress of Oregon Tribal Best Practices in response to the requirements of Evidence Based Practices mandated by the Oregon Legislature in SB 267.
  - Transformational Communication: Tools for Cross-Cultural Understanding and Alliance Building, Nanci Luna Jiménez, CPF©; Kathleen Rice, Ph.D., and Stephanie González
  - The Oregon Social Business Challenge with Keynote Speaker Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus and Special Guest Speaker the Honorable John Kitzhaber, Governor of Oregon
- **Elder and Natural Helpers:** A collaborative project addressing intergenerational trauma and trauma informed engagement strategies when working with the Portland Native American community. PYEC members are participating in the "Elder and Natural Helpers" (E/NH's) series of trainings developed to build skills in community organizing, public health, and data collection. There are a total of 20 community members participating in this capacity.

Through partnerships and participation in the FGC we are working across organizations that serve the needs of Native American families and increasing the understanding of historical and intergenerational trauma effects on current underlying forces of our community that influence our civic engagement practices.

By sharing skills, knowledge, and experiences the cohort will develop a plan addressing health disparities that is grounded in community priorities and addresses community needs. Volunteers are developing a professional network, gaining critical skills to apply to future advocacy, educational or employment opportunities and receive on-going mentorship from FGC members and Portland Youth and Elders Council. The full cohort of E/NH's include men, women, young adults, and will conduct community forums aiming to engage young women age 15-25, young men age 15-25, women 25 – 55, men 25-55, and Elders. The FGC collaborative is a cooperative circle committed to promoting healthy pregnancies and healthy babies in Multnomah County's Native community.

Following the participation in the train-the-trainer series of workshops the E/NP's have created strong social ties among themselves and with the FGC partner organizations, they are creating concentric circles of action and communication in the broader community through Facebook posts, and at social events such as powwows and the weekly Bow & Arrow social club.

The E/NH's conducted a series of five forums in the community and engaged in the outreach and recruitment of the participants. They facilitated the forums and analyzed the information gathered culminating in a large Gathering of Native American (GONA) in June.

Powerful comments from the E/NH's have centered on themes including: finding hidden blessings, learning to share the work and our power, feeling accomplished, the joy of sharing in others' successes, growing in our relationships and being inspired by others.

- **Grant writing training:** PYEC members participated in a grant writing training facilitated by Kevin Wiber of the Grantsmanship Center which strengthened our ability, as community advocates, to articulate and communicate our vision, needs and planned approach to meeting those needs and write proposals that will assist the community in continuing the work of the FGC project and other community priority projects.

## **Partnerships and Collaborations**

7. 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?
  - Bonneville Power Administration
  - Bureau of Environmental Services
  - Bureau of Planning & Sustainability
  - Coalition for a Livable Future

- Coalition of Communities of Color
- Columbia Slough Watershed Council
- Cully Neighborhood Association, and several others
- Dancing in the Square Native American Day Celebration
- DCL organizations
- East Portland Action Plan,
- Future Generations Health Collaborative
- Grand Ronde tribe
- Groundwork Portland
- Hacienda CDC
- HOPE Coalition
- Housing Organizations of Color
- Housing to Homeownership Fair
- Human Rights Candidate Forum
- Let Us Build Cully Park
- Lewis and Clark Law School,
- Metro
- Multnomah County Health Department
- Multnomah County Mental Health & Addictions Services Department
- NARA NW
- National Indian Child Welfare
- NWHF
- Office of Equity and Human Rights
- Office of Neighborhood Involvement
- Oregon Health Authority
- Oregon Native Chamber of Commerce
- Ortiz Center
- Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette
- Portland Area Indian Health Board
- Portland Community College
- Portland Housing Bureau
- Portland Indian Leaders Roundtable
- Portland Parks and Recreation
- Portland Police Bureau
- Portland Public School Board,
- Portland State University
- Public Involvement Advisory Council (ONI)
- Siletz tribe
- Umatilla tribe
- Verde
- Warm Springs tribe
- Water Bureau
- Wisdom of the Elders

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

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

8. How many people have participated on city advisory committees, boards, commissions?
  - Native American Community Advisory Council, Parks and Recreation
  - Acknowledges representation on many committees but does not list

### **Culturally appropriate public involvement models**

9. 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?

- **Parks and Recreation:** The partnership with the Let Us Build Cully Park! Collaborative with Portland Parks and Recreation demonstrates the community's ability to advocate for increased acknowledgment of Native history in the way we develop parks. Specifically PYEC seeks development of a Tribal Gathering Garden in the park. The Portland Youth and Elders Council (PYEC) has been emphasizing this priority with the City of Portland Parks Bureau for a number of years. The development of a new public/private partnership with the bureau for this park highlights the efforts made to date and encourages the community to keep pressing forward.

The collective work on the Cully Park project has caused the City of Portland Parks and Recreation program to explore new ways that they partner with the community to bring resources to a park deficient neighborhood and is creating a national stir on how to engage community in the development process at a level that is unprecedented and is improving neighborhood livability.

Here is a link to a Streetroots article about our work at Cully Park and in the Cully Neighborhood: <http://news.streetroots.org/2013/03/27/many-communities-one-beautifulsong>.

- **Native American Community Advisory Council:** PYEC was part of creating the Native American Community Advisory Council to Portland Parks & Recreation three years ago which was created following years of advocacy with the City to address underrepresentation of Native Americans in our parks and parks programming. These partnerships and collaborative efforts have resulted in increased awareness of the significance of place and land to Native peoples. It is also creating significant shifts in the way that PP&R is joining with the Native community to reach the long-term perspective on where Parks needs to be in the

future and through policy changes around how the community will gather traditional plant materials at the Tribal Gathering Garden being designed at the Cully Park site.

In October 2012 the Native community participated in a ground blessing ceremony that was conducted at the Cully Park site. Conducting a blessing and engaging in ceremony to reclaim this land, which is also a brownfield, was significant for the local Native population and many others who attended the event. In addition, we presented to the Portland Parks Board on the importance of recognizing Native American history in our public spaces. Video of Cully Park Blessing Ceremony: <https://vimeo.com/62909068>

- **Metro:** PYEC has also advocated for an increased awareness of the management of natural areas and open spaces through Metro with community participation in the Natural Areas Levy work that was conducted to help support Metro's decision in presenting a ballot measure to the community for improved funding.
- **Metro Councilors:** PYEC members have held strategic relational meetings held with each Metro Councilor in order to highlight priority issues for our community. PYEC is focused on environmental justice and creating collaborative efforts that bring daylight to potential partnering with local tribes and the Urban Native population in co-management of and creating access to public natural areas and trails in our region. We are hosting public meetings where public involvement and program staff are coming together with a broad representation of Native community members to create a new way of doing business in our public spaces.
- **Building Cully Alliance:** PYEC is participating in the Building Cully Alliance as part of the Cully Neighborhood Prosperity Initiative with Portland Development Commission.
- **Portland Housing Bureau focus groups:** PYEC is partnering with Portland Housing Bureau by conducting focus groups to help inform the bureau's equity strategy.