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3.96.010 Purpose

This chapter directs the Office of Community & Civic Life to effectively engage Portland communities in civic engagement and work together to deliver more just and equitable outcomes. This chapter creates the Office of Community & Civic Life and sets out its functions, duties, and responsibilities to serve, respond, and adapt to the needs, aspirations, and opportunities of its evolving communities. This chapter outlines the basis for the role of civic engagement in creating an inclusive city in which each of us can contribute and belong. The Office serves people who live, play, worship, and/or work in the City of Portland as individuals and through all forms of groups (including but not limited to affinity-, business-, community-, issue-, and neighborhood-based groups) and across generations.

3.96.020 Definitions

As used in this Chapter, the following terms have the meanings given them in this Section.

- A. The City of Portland is a welcoming, inclusive, sanctuary city¹. The City and the Office have committed to racial and social justice² within a multicultural, intergenerational^{3,4} and ever-changing environment⁵.
- B. Civic engagement encompasses all the ways by which we participate in this form of democracy. The origins of our democracy include colonialism, white supremacy⁶, and economic exploitation, as well as native sovereignty⁷ and the striving for self-determination by all communities. These origins continue to shape our assumptions, institutions, and practices. Civic engagement is a powerful way to expose assumptions reflecting historical origins and rebuild our government institutions and practices to be more fair, just and in service of all Portlanders.

1. Resolution Number 37277 (2017): Declare the City of Portland a Welcoming City, a Sanctuary City, and an Inclusive City for all
2. Resolution Number 37144 (2015): Adopt the Citywide Racial Equity Goals and Strategies, as presented by The Office of Equity and Human Rights, to guide City policies, plans and procedures
3. Resolution Number 181290 (2007): Authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement with Multnomah County to designate the Multnomah Youth Commission as an official youth advisory body to the City of Portland and Portland City Council
4. Resolution Number 37039 (2013): Action plan for an age-friendly Portland
5. Ordinance Number 187832 (2016): Adopt a new Comprehensive Plan which replaces and supersedes the Comprehensive Plan adopted with Ordinance 150580 and amend 161770, 165861 and 177028 ordinance
6. Resolution Number 37414 (2019): The City of Portland condemns white supremacist and alt-right hate groups
7. Resolution Number 36941 (2012): Formalize governmental relationships with Tribal Government Partners and establish government-to-government consultation agreements

3.96.030 Functions

- I. The Office of Community & Civic Life Engages with People and Communities to:**
 - A.** Administer and assess the impact of programs and services as directed by City Council and approved through the budgeting process.
 - B.** Connect with their government and facilitate exchanges through programs and partnerships that are responsive, at times iterative, accountable to community concerns, and reflect an equitable distribution of public resources.
 - C.** Seek out, learn from and engage a diverse range of community partners to support their community-responsive practices for civic engagement.
 - D.** Compile and disseminate voluntary guidelines on emerging, culturally-empowering, data-informed and promising practices for community and civic engagement to community and government entities.
 - E.** Support and connect the social, organizational and physical infrastructure for community members working with each other and with government.

- F. Develop and implement learning opportunities that focus on culturally-empowering civic engagement through community-based partnerships. These learning opportunities should address a shared understanding of City functions, pathways to engage with the City of Portland, opportunities for participation and engagement, and the capacity to develop and influence policy.
- G. Collaborate with government partners in defining, planning, and implementing efforts that affect the distribution of public resources and the livability of communities by balancing needs and public resources through an ongoing assessment that focuses on delivering more just and equitable outcomes.
- H. Lead by example and advocate for government to collaborate with community wisdom, knowledge, experiences and public resources to create efficiencies and effectiveness that bring communities together around shared goals and concerns.

II. The Office of Community & Civic Life Supports City Bureaus and Engages with other Government Jurisdictions to:

- A. Develop programmatic, bureau and citywide capacity to critically examine assumptions underlying community and civic engagement practices and analyze who benefits and is burdened as a result of decision-making processes.
- B. Redirect public resources to reduce systemic barriers to community and civic engagement.
- C. Reduce disparities and deliver equitable outcomes in agency practices and services through culturally-empowering models of community engagement.
- D. Implement policies and practices that recognize the historical exclusions of marginalized and underrepresented communities and that honor the leadership structures of those communities.
- E. Develop collaborative forums of learning that promote integration of emerging, culturally empowering and promising practices in community and civic engagement by each jurisdiction.
- F. Collectively and continually adapt to the ongoing evolution of community, identity and place and recognize the critical relationship of community to their government in producing disparate outcomes and systemic exclusion.