



OFFICE OF
**Community
& Civic Life**

Promote the common good

Bureau Advisory Committee Meeting



VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING:



Tuesday, December 15th, 2020



5:30 – 7:00pm

2020-2021 Civic Life BAC Members:

ATTENDED: Leina Gonzalez Baird, Katherine Couch, Daniel Franco-Nunez, Jose Gomez, Manijeh

Mehrnoosh, Kimberléa Ruffu, Meron Semere,

ABSENT: Stan Penkin (excused), Christina Weinholz (excused)

RESIGNED: Adam Lyons

ZOOM LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/95451691638?pwd=b2s5Zy84T0UyZmZSTThTZzdNRHAvdz09>

PHONE OPTION: 888-475-4499 (Toll Free) **WEBINAR ID:** 954 5169 1638

NOTES:

Mayor's Guidance recognizes there will be some challenging cuts:

- Prioritize: most affected by health and economic crisis. Emphasis on parentship on bureaus and across jurisdictions, across partners. Encourages bureaus to work together, collaborate when possible and minimize impacts to service interruption.
- General fund (discretionary fund) guidance, more than 30 staff, 5% cut to general fund allocation.
- Bureaus that submit reductions of 5% can submit add back packages for specific purposes if that addback fits with the City's priorities, as long as it doesn't increase amount of funding. Future guidance may be issued.
- QUESTIONS:
 1. How do other/Federal dollars affect this guidance?
 - Depends. There are requirements often that won't support existing things—more about the “economic challenges” community is facing. Doesn't solve the budget challenge, because it can't replace those funds. Maybe if another package coming from the Federal government.
 2. No CAL numbers?
 - CAL ETA? This week? Mayor's office has not released those numbers as of yet.
 3. Ways City Council involved?



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- Each City Commissioner is in charge of presenting the budget, then there are work sessions in March where city council hears about those proposals and from community, then Mayor's recc, then amendments, then final vote to confirm budget.
- CIVIC LIFE FY 2020-21 Budget Work session
 1. Strategic Goals
 - Program level > Bureau-wide > Long-term. If we did everything well, we'd see more folks participating.
 - BAC helps Civic Life make those investments for the shorter and longer term goals.
 2. Key Challenges/Risks
 - Civic engagement partners and networks emerging electorate: unmarried women, people of color and young people age 18-29.
 - Human Capital: Examining positions and programs, especially one-person programs designed to serve entire city. Considering additional competencies: language, culture data, technology, digital engagement, communications.
 - Function that reflects the bureau's mission and changing demographics.
 - Better program collaboration, less siloed processes and co-located with other bureaus to work city wide
 - Considering where the dollars are—Neighborhood Associations are the longest investment, since day one, for 46 years. We do not see BIOPOC in our programming until less that 10 years ago.

QUESTION:

1. How can we get to equity with inequitable investment?
 - a. Priorities addressing strategic challenges.
 - b. Technology investment.
 - c. Able to shift dollars to efforts serving our most vulnerable communities--responding to Mayor's Priority Areas.
2. Civic Life will have to submit a proposal: where to cut? Where to reinvest?

Core values and Mayor's direction must be reflected in the reduction/additions: don't just cut things that are duplicative, but ask how the system/program can operate differently.



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3. Would the neighborhood budget be directed toward DCOs (SEUL, etc) to grants for direct community services?
 - Necessity to invest in the immigrant and refugee communities, youth, folks facing houslessness, building Civic Leadership. Neighborhood support is a good investment, but is it the best, most responsive and culturally competent mechanism to achieve these goals? Are NA the best orgs to do that work? Are they reaching the most vulnerable? N/A are good, but a lot of grass roots groups that are more responsive, connected and efficient in their service providing.
 4. Do the nonprofit community orgs have the same opportunity to get resources/investments? Do they have the same level of support to receive funds and write the RFPs?
- NOTE Numbers are related to 19/20 years similar percentage, we have to ask: since COVID 19 has taken us to another reality—how has each one of these budget lines been affected by COVID 19? What impact to BIPOC community? Folks facing houselessness? Graffiti abatement increase? Why? What is our baseline? We are looking at this in past reality, but we are in a new one.

QUESTIONS:

1. Where are we today and what do we need to do differently?
2. Why so much \$ to Cannabis?
 - a. Cannabis and is 100% sustained by their licensing fees. A new industry, only a program for 4 years. That amount reflects the economy around the industry. During COVID Cannabis considered essential, sales have increased, but can't predict the longer term. Cannabis is medicine to many people, stress, anxiety, Cannabis sales go up from COVID, but also a high number of robberies.
3. Civic Life is serving as key link in language to communities as well as standing up and organizing economic relief fund, Oregon CARES fund, Oregon Worker Relief fund. Diversity and Civic Leadership cohort, 100% BIPOC lead has gone online but also same works vulnerable members needing mental health services, food security, and reallocate funding,
4. There is a large digital divide--not everyone has internet access, social workers provide services distribution link between gov and communities. They are often the best positioned to do this work because of their staff, established trust of the community, ability to speak in languages, and already connected to the community. These organizations are not receiving the largest amount of funds, but shouldering the bulk of the impacts of COVID, relying on



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these groups to address these emergencies. DCL, lead by BIPOC through community based organizations.

5. MYC: engaged in COVID 19 voting information, language of ballot measure, how to register to vote, especially first time. Worked with County Emergency communication center to help community to connect to resources. MYC recommended to get armed student resource officers, rising up for racial justice, their analysis was used to change policy,
6. Constructing Civic Dialogues, accepting application to orgs or consultants to provide around conflict resolution, addressing conflict. How can we provide Portlanders to resolve issues amongst themselves before police, etc. Form this program with Resolution NW, to create a toolkit for mediation and conflict resolution. It's been long determined that an upstream system approach makes more sense. Born a few years ago, Portland Unites against hate is a notable partner in this program. They are outside of law enforcement, where the incidents can be reported and directed to resources, anti-hate training.
7. ECC: Where the city is now and how we respond is a clear indicator in what matters to us in the City . Portland propaganda, that we are inclusive, but need to see where we spanned our dollars to reflect. We like to say "equal access", but that doesn't account for structural issues. The procurement system is not an equitable process—ie food access cards, It's important to really have an honest look at itself. How to navigate those systems haven't been as easy.
8. ECC: Relying on grassroots orgs, they are shouldering hte burden of the response. Vulnerable communities are the most burdened by these systems especially with COVID
9. What to grow in a cut scenarios?