

## ONI Budget Advisory Committee: Program Summary

Organization / Program title

**Office of Neighborhood Involvement, Graffiti Abatement Program, 503-823-5860,  
Graffiti Hotline for reporting 503-823-4824**

### **Briefly describe the program funded with city dollars**

The City of Portland/Office of Neighborhood Involvement Graffiti Abatement Program mission is to improve neighborhood livability by decreasing graffiti in partnership with the Police Bureau, neighborhood and business associations, and other community partners.

The graffiti abatement program focuses on the enforcement of the City's Graffiti Abatement Code (PCC 14B.80) and the Graffiti Materials and Sales Code (PCC 14B.85). The graffiti abatement coordinator works with private grantees and volunteers to:

- Encourage community members to report graffiti to the Portland Police Bureau via the graffiti hotline and online reporting;
- Disseminate information about graffiti through business and property owner graffiti removal permission forms;
- Respond to concerns, complaints and suggestions from interested community members;
- Enhance community education with respect to best practices in graffiti removal and deliver presentations to community groups, schools, and other organizations regarding graffiti trends, community impacts, and opportunities for public involvement in graffiti prevention;
- Organize volunteer cleanup efforts including training and coordination of volunteers, coordination with Volunteer Corps for regular cleanups at difficult chronic locations, and through organized neighborhood-business area collaborative graffiti cleanup events;
- Partner with district attorneys and police in the arrest and prosecution of vandals;
- Coordinate monthly Graffiti Task Force meetings, enhancing a network of agency partnerships;
- Enforce the City's Graffiti Abatement Code, which requires property owners to abate graffiti within ten days of its report; and
- Monitor the compliance with the Graffiti Materials and Sales code, working in coordination with Crime Prevention staff to monitor compliance and provide technical assistance to retailers in securing and tracking sales of graffiti materials.

The primary function of the program is to work with neighbors and business-owners to identify, report and remove graffiti from public and private spaces. The program provides grants and refers graffiti reports to the Youth Employment Institute and Goodbye Graffiti for graffiti removal services on private property.

### **Major activities and accomplishments during current budget cycle (ending June 30, 2011). Include Summary of what changed as a result of FY2011 budget cuts.**

Prior to FY2010, the program was funded with ongoing general fund dollars. In FY2010 that funding changed into one-time general fund dollars. In FY2011 the program faced an

additional 17% cut to budget, eliminating summer walking crews and reducing the funding available for free cleanup services. Prior to the elimination of the walking crews, the program provided summer job opportunities in 2009 for 18 youth to staff summer walking crews removing graffiti in the public right of way along major business corridors in Northeast and Southeast Portland.

The program continues to work to refer reports to appropriate agencies and coordinate cleanup with grantees. The program coordinated 8 neighborhood-business area collaborative Saturday cleanups in 2009 and 8 in spring/summer 2010. In addition the program supported an additional 34 graffiti cleanups with volunteers throughout the community.

The graffiti program continued a partnership with Central City Concern Volunteer Corps program, to provide job training opportunities for adults in transition as volunteers to do targeted graffiti cleanups in the City. This has resulted in an additional 16 cleanups at chronic properties that are large properties and would not have qualified for free removal. Many of the property owners have provided funds for the paint and each cleanup includes approximately 8 volunteers. There have already been 105 individuals that have graduated from the program as of June 2010.

The graffiti program also increased focus on training and coordination of volunteers for ongoing graffiti cleanup in Portland. There are now 9 neighborhood areas that have organized ongoing graffiti cleanup in their area, with several others groups committed to regular cleanups. The program provided a general training on graffiti removal and prevention in February 2010 and continues to train individual groups as they organize around graffiti issues. In FY2010, the program documented approximately 6,200 volunteer hours dedicated to graffiti abatement and prevention efforts supported by ONI, leveraging approximately \$114,000.

The program also awarded small grants to focus on graffiti removal and prevention, particularly at locations that are chronic targets of graffiti. Grants are being administered through the Coalitions in FY2011 and FY2012. Although project completion dates will be through the end of December 2011, there have already been some funds awarded resulting in murals and groups organizing cleanups.

In March 2010, the program sponsored the second annual 2010 Metro Portland Graffiti Summit, bringing over 150 individuals representing agencies in Portland and 16 other jurisdictions together to educate regarding graffiti issues and approaches to abatement and enforcement.

#### **Summary of program budget and staffing**

The current program budget for FY2011 is approximately \$340,000 (17% decrease from prior year). This includes:

- o ONI personnel expenses for 1.0 FTE Program Specialist and 0.4 FTE Office Support Specialist II (Admin support shared with Liquor and Crime Prevention Programs)
- o Grant with the Youth Employment Institute for approximately \$175,000, provides 2 crew leaders, youth crew participants and administrative/program staff for graffiti removal services upon referral.
- o Grant with Goodbye Graffiti for approximately \$10,000 provides graffiti removal services upon referral.
- o Funds for volunteer cleanup supplies.

The funds for this program have historically been on-going general fund dollars, but in FY2010 changed into one-time general fund dollars. Although alternative funding opportunities have been explored, nothing has been identified to replace general fund dollars.

**Partnerships with other organizations**

The program partners with neighbors, neighborhood association representatives, businesses, business associations, Portland Police Bureau, ONI Crime Prevention, Bureau of Maintenance, Portland Department of Transportation, Oregon Department of Transportation, Tri-Met, Youth Employment Institute, Goodbye Graffiti, Multnomah County Bridges, PGE/Utility companies, Central City Concern, city bureaus and other regional public safety departments and programs addressing graffiti abatement. The Graffiti Task Force continues to expand participation and partnerships with more local and regional organizations.