

CITYWIDE COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD SUMMIT/SPECIAL EVENTS PROPOSAL

Office of Neighborhood Involvement, Neighborhood Resource Center

April 7, 2011

DRAFT for ONI Bureau Advisory Committee consideration

Need statement

The Office of Neighborhood Involvement and its partner organizations have organized numerous citywide gatherings over its 37 year history with the goal of bringing community and neighborhood leaders together for community dialogues on contemporary issues and leadership trainings. It's been some seven years since the last one. The Five Year Plan for Increasing Community Involvement recommends ONI organizing such gatherings. ONI receives frequent inquiries about when we'll organize another summit.

Solution and goals

Organize a large-scale citywide day-long event in partnership with ONI's partner organizations with multiple formats to accommodate different learning styles including open space dialogues, leadership trainings, and world café small group discussions on select topics. Formats would include opportunities for open space dialogue by topics, culturally specific and/or geographic identities.

The goal would be to build cross-organization dialogue amongst ONI partner organizations, neighborhood and community leaders towards building collaborations which address and solve common neighborhood livability, public safety, economic and social justice issues. Our values would place an emphasis on organizational relationship and capacity building as well as volunteer leadership development – this would not be an all staff driven project.

The structure of the event would be established by a committee of ONI and partner organization staff and volunteers. The agenda, topics identification, facilitation would be generated and led by community members.

Other format and logistical possibilities

- Large scale site such as convention center, local college, Red Lion Inn hotel with both large auditorium and numerous break-out rooms.
- Incorporate evening social activity such as concert – Civic Engagement Rocks!
- Consider several smaller dialogues per year leading up to the larger scale event.
- Incorporate Spirit of Portland into event with business sponsorships of awards and swag for winners.
- Engage youth with possible link to existing youth of color/culturally specific leadership summits, maybe grants.

Suggested Partners

- Neighborhood (95) and business district (37) associations, district coalitions (7), Urban League, Center for Intercultural Organizing, Immigrant Refugee Community Organization, Native American Youth and Family Center, Latino Network, Portland Commission on Disability, Alliance of Portland Neighborhood Business Associations (APNBA), Elders in Action, Public Involvement Advisory Council, Resolutions NW, others.
- Research role of local area colleges (PSU, Lewis and Clark, Concordia, Univ. of Portland, Reed, Portland Community College) to engage students in civic leadership skill development.

Funding Base and budget issues

- Other than City general funds research role of Metro, Multnomah County and business sponsorships to develop an ongoing funding base.
- Consider fee for service for those living outside of Portland.
- Incorporate into the budget resources to ONI partners for helping with event outreach.

Staffing possibilities

- 1 FTE program coordinator that would be responsible for multiple ONI sponsored large scale events other than the summit such as National Night Out and Ready Set Go. The staff person would have both community organizing and event planning/logistic skills.