

# **Graffiti Abatement Program Strategic Planning Workshop & Dialogue Findings**

June 6, 2017

9:30 AM – 2 PM / Taborspace

On June 6, 2017 the Graffiti Abatement Program facilitated a community workshop to discuss the impacts of graffiti on the communities of Portland and strategize ways to address and understand the complexities of the issue. The first part of the workshop focused on presenting information about GAP's current program functions, increased removal services for fiscal year 2017-2018, and presenting research about different approaches used across the country and world for graffiti management. After the presentation, participants broke up into small groups based on their areas of interest and/or work to brainstorm their concerns and challenges in dealing with graffiti's impacts on the communities of Portland. After the period of brainstorming, groups were asked to come up with their top concerns and a list of management strategies for those concerns. **This report captures the information compiled during the analysis and strategizing portion of the workshop. A complete compilation of the brainstorming results is available in a separate Power Point document.**

The following organizations and agencies were in attendance:

## **PBOT**

**Multnomah County Bridges**

**Northeast Coalition of Neighbors**

**The Human Rights Commission (Office of Equity and Human Rights)**

**Southeast Uplift**

**Central Northeast Neighborhood Coalition**

**Pearl District Business Association**

**Pearl District Neighborhood Association**

**Richmond Neighborhood Association**

**Portland Parks and Recreation**

**Central City Concern**

**Kearns Neighborhood Association**

**Regional Arts and Culture Council**

**Central Eastside Industrial Council**

**Metro**

**Friendly Streets**

**Graffiti Removal Services**

**Portland Graffiti Removal**

**Community & Neighborhood Involvement Center (Office of Neighborhood Involvement)**

**Crime Prevention (Office of Neighborhood Involvement)**

**Portland Street Art Alliance**

**Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association**

**Trimet**

**Portland Streetcar**

**The International School**

## Top short-term concerns and challenges surrounding graffiti in Portland:

- 1) **Concern:** Increasing amounts of hate graffiti in Portland.  
**Strategy to address issue:** Catch/stop perpetrators (bring back graffiti investigator role).
- 2) **Concern:** No enforcement against those caught tagging.  
**Strategy to address issue:** Bring back graffiti investigations.
- 3) **Concern:** Lack of funding.  
**Strategy to address issue:** Empower community members with resources, education, community-driven solutions, diversify funding sources, create list of community groups/resources working on graffiti as an issue.

### Other short-term needs:

- Increased enforcement against negligent properties.
- Town hall / open-forum for graffiti writers and community (RACC and Portland Street Art Alliance help organize).
- Develop and implement more constructive measures to reduce repeat offenses when taggers are caught.
- Dedicate more money from more agencies to deal with issue.

## Top long-term concerns and challenges surrounding graffiti in Portland:

- 1) **Concern/Challenge:** lack of enforcement/consequences for those doing graffiti.  
**Strategy to address issue:** bring back graffiti investigations and enforcement against/interventions for prolific taggers.
- 2) **Concern/Challenge:** education & communication about graffiti and its implications.  
**Strategy to address issue:** institutionalize programs with public, private, non-profit, and school partnership. Examples: Friends of Trees, neighborhood cleanup hybrid, SOLV, Friendly Streets.
- 3) **Concern/Challenge:** delays in cleaning up graffiti.  
**Strategy to address issue:** increased funding for more graffiti removal crews across agencies.
- 4) **Concern/Challenge:** Different cultural norms around reporting.  
**Strategy to address issue:** ongoing outreach and education about reporting (both internally and for the community).

### Other long-term needs:

- Best practice manual for community groups wanting to do murals
- Transformative and sustainable prevention
- More resources, local artists'/ street artists
- More constructive way of dealing with offenders
- City-wide, cross bureau tracking system for incidents, dispatch and response