



Williams & Russell Project

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Williams & Russell project?

The Williams & Russell project involves the redevelopment of a long-vacant parcel of land currently owned by Legacy Health and adjacent to Legacy Emanuel Hospital in North Portland. Legacy and Prosper Portland recognize that we have neither met nor enforced requirements for Legacy Health to redevelop the property. Rather than resort to legal means of remedy, the City, Prosper Portland and Legacy have decided to work together in a collaborative manner to support economic opportunities and the social determinants of health for the community that was adversely impacted.

As part of a collaborative project, Legacy Health will participate in a community process to be led by a community based Project Working Group. We do not know what the actual development will eventually be. This vision will be guided by a collaborative approach involving a Project Working Group along with input from the public and community leaders connected to North/Northeast and the African American community.

What is the history of the Williams & Russell property?

In the early 1970s, the Portland Development Commission and the City of Portland condemned, purchased and demolished 188 properties as part of the Emanuel Hospital expansion project. According to a report written by Jeana Woolley, entitled "Reconciliation Project: The Emanuel Hospital Urban Renewal Project", 171 households representing 88 families were removed as part of the Emanuel/PDC urban renewal project. Woolley stated that of the 188 properties PDC purchased and demolished for the Emanuel Hospital Urban Renewal Project from 1971-1973, 158 were residential and 30 were commercial/business properties.

Emanuel Hospital subsequently purchased these properties from PDC and acquired additional properties from individual property owners in order to grow and expand their campus in North Portland. Emanuel Hospital purchased the Williams & Russell property on September 29, 1980 for \$396,777. The deed from PDC to Emanuel Hospital



For more information about this project visit prosperportland.us/williamsrussell



as part of this acquisition required that Emanuel would “begin the redevelopment of the Property by the construction of the improvements thereon within a reasonable period of time and, in any event, the development of the Property for hospital and other related uses shall be completed by January 1, 1990.” The deed also stated that this specific requirement was “binding for the benefit the Community and (PDC) and enforceable by PDC against (Emanuel Hospital).”

What is the Project Working Group and what is their role?

The Project Working Group includes 25 community members connected to the N/NE Community and representing a wide array of community partners, generational perspective and technical expertise. The Project Working Group members were nominated via a community-led process and a public call for community-at-large interested parties. The Project Working Group also includes representatives from Prosper Portland, Legacy Health, the Portland Housing Bureau, and the Mayor’s Office.

The Project Working Group will inform the development of the Williams & Russell property,

which could include affordable and workforce housing for seniors and families; community gathering spaces; a cultural business hub; open space; a community health center; or retail spaces and other community-desired amenities. Given its zoning, overall development capacity of the site is approximately 220,000 square feet.

How can I get and stay involved?

The Project Working Group meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month to discuss and outline a community process. Project Working Group meetings are public meetings and are open to the general public. There will also be additional future community events for the Project Working Group to share their work and gather community feedback.

A project web page contains information and documents related to the Project Working Group and community events:

prosperportland.us/williamsrussell

If you would like to connect with the group, please send inquiries to:

NEHillBlockPWC@portlandoregon.gov

PROJECT WORKING GROUP

Cupid Alexander, City of Portland, Mayor’s Office

Michael Alexander, Black United Fund & Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC)

Bryson Davis, Soul District Business Association (SDBA)

Joy Alise Davis, Portland African-American Leadership Forum (PAALF)

Anthony Deloney, Self Enhancement Inc. (SEI)

Lakeitha Elliott, Community-at-large

James Faison, Professional Business Development Group (PBDC)

Leslie Goodlow, City of Portland, Portland Housing Bureau

Stephen Green, Black Investment Consortium for Economic Progress (BICEP)

Tony Hopson, Self Enhancement Inc. (SEI)

Denetta Monk, Urban League

E.D. Mondainé, Portland National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capuia, Prosper Portland

Justice Rajee, Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC)

Walter Robinson II, Portland African-American Leadership Forum (PAALF) & Urban League

Jillian Saurage, North/Northeast Housing Strategy Committee

Karis Stoudamire-Phillips, North/Northeast Community Development Initiative Oversight Committee

Chabre Vickers, Wells Fargo

Sharon Maxwell, Community-at-large

Charles Wilhoite, Legacy Health, Board of Directors