

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Report of 2017 Disability Leadership Academy

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Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The Disability Program facilitated Disability Leadership Academy (DLA) from February 2017 through June 2017. Following a competitive application and interview process, DLA brought together a cohort of 15 individuals for ten Saturdays to learn about a variety of topics essential to disability culture and effective civic engagement, and it gave them the tools to work on a Community Engagement Project that would systemically impact Portland's disability communities.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

No long-term financial, budget or revenue impacts. Specific funding was allocated for Disability Leadership Academy, and the Disability Program budget covered costs over this amount.

Community impacts and community involvement:

Our 2017 DLA cohort was cross-disability, cross-cultural, multi-racial, religiously diverse and had an approximately equal number of men and women. Specific measures were taken to create an equitable opportunity to participate, including providing transportation and childcare, offering participant stipends and food, and making disability and cultural accommodations.

DLA's structure incorporated input from an advisory committee and feedback from a past disability leadership academy hosted by another organization. Approximately half of each five-hour session was devoted to learning about a relevant topic. Topics were presented by community members with a variety of disabilities and included: Disability Identity, Disability Rights & Justice Movements, Structural Barriers Within & Without, Conflict Resolution, Equity, Organizing, Navigating and Engaging with City Government.

Half of each session was focused on choosing and implementing a Community Engagement Project. The group chose to work on Disability Equity Goals and a resolution to institutionalize the goals. Because the group decided to use a consensus-based model to choose their project, they were just beginning to work on the project when DLA concluded. Participants have committed to continuing their efforts outside of the DLA structure.

The attached report includes extensive feedback from DLA participants about their experience and suggested changes. Overall, DLA participants found the experience overwhelmingly positive and especially valuable in understanding the diversity of disability experiences as well as creating new connections and opportunities for collaboration. Participants also frequently shared a desire for more direction and action-oriented structure during the Community Engagement Project work. This feedback will be incorporated into planning next year's Disability Leadership Academy, and all participants are also invited to participate in the planning process.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

- ☐ **YES:** Please complete the information below.
☒ **NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount