



CITY OF PORTLAND

Office of  
Community  
& Civic Life

189078



**"The Office of  
Community &  
Civic Life is a  
gateway to civic  
engagement and  
to the city."**

**-COMMISSIONER EUDALY**



OFFICE OF  
**Community  
& Civic Life**

**THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & CIVIC LIFE** connects the people of Portland with their City government to promote the common good. Our programs create a culture of collaboration, expanding possibilities for all Portlanders to contribute their knowledge, experience, and creativity to address local concerns and make life better in the city we all share.

## What we believe

### One city, many communities

Portland is home to a diverse range of communities with unique experiences and interconnected lives. Weaving these distinct perspectives together to inform local decision-making strengthens our city in ways that benefit everyone.

### Power for and from the people

Portlanders have the ambition and ideas to address the challenges that impact their own communities. Support from and partnerships with local government create new opportunities for participation and encourage more people to help lead the way forward.

### Creating our future together

Our actions today will shape our city tomorrow. It's critical that we respond to the opportunities created by our growing, increasingly diverse population now while learning from the experiences of the native and global populations that have long made this place their home.

**OUR MISSION  
REMAINS THE SAME:**

We work to engage and support community members in making collective choices that shape our lives.

**Promoting a culture of civic engagement by connecting and supporting all Portlanders working together and with government to build inclusive, safe and livable neighborhoods and communities.**

We recognize that Portlanders organize in different ways, and we are here to support everyone.

We serve as a connection point, facilitating understanding and collaboration between community and their local government.

Our programs are designed to create a city with a high quality of life for everyone who lives, works, and plays here.



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Building community at  
The Rosewood Initiative

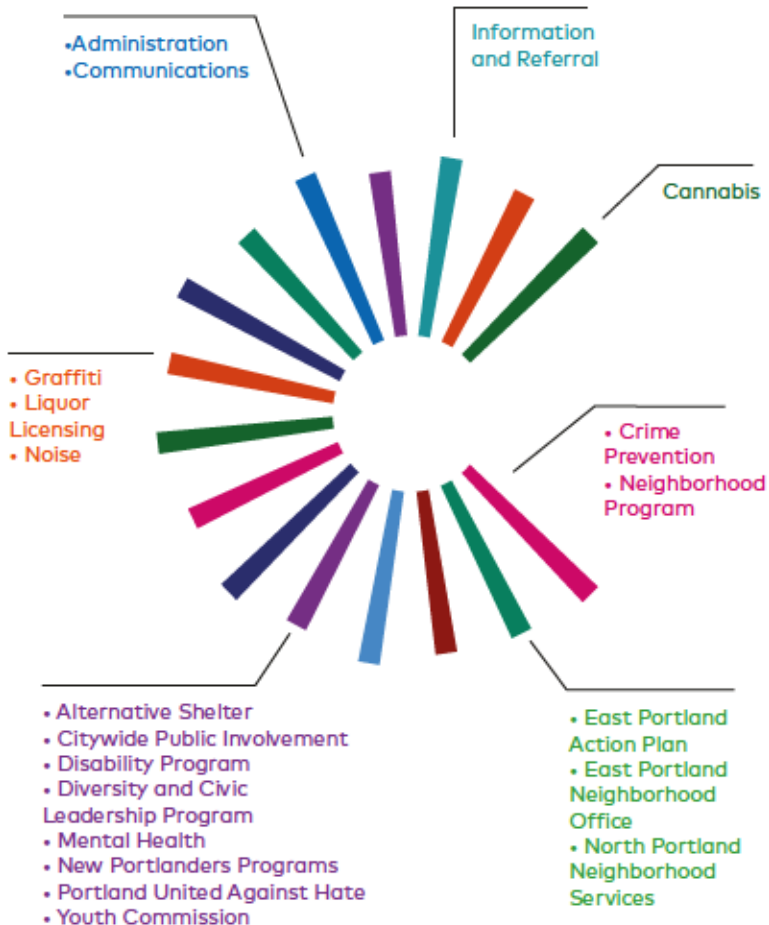
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2018 Disability Power  
Box participants at the  
graduation ceremony



# Office of Community & Civic Life Programs



## Long-term goals

Over the next 10 years, the bureau will work toward three big-picture goals.

## Inclusive structures

The Office of Community & Civic Life will build inclusion into our daily operations, setting broader change in motion across City government. This requires proactively considering input from and impacts on the diverse communities within Portland. It also requires strengthening partnerships with and investing in community-based groups that represent a broader spectrum of Portlanders.

### EXAMPLES OF 3-YEAR PROGRAM MILESTONES:

- **Business Operations and Administration:** Support the many ways community want to engage digitally.
- **Cannabis Program:** Fund and facilitate dispersal of funds for record clearing, expungement, and workforce development.
- **East Portland Neighborhood Office:** Enhance community building and civic engagement infrastructures to increase the partnerships serving East Portlanders by 20% annually.

## Adaptive governance

The Office of Community & Civic Life will bring diverse communities together to address shared concerns and issues that affect all Portlanders. We will also seek more ways to collaborate with other City bureaus, bringing the power of our collective resources and expertise to achieve shared goals and citywide initiatives.

### EXAMPLES OF 3-YEAR PROGRAM MILESTONES:

- **Community and Neighborhood Involvement Center, Livability, and Crime Prevention:** These three programs will work together to expand the breadth of community and agency partnerships to develop a more holistic approach to public safety, livability, and resiliency.

## Fulfilled and empowered Portlanders

The office will strengthen Portland's culture of civic engagement and create an environment in which all Portlanders feel encouraged to contribute. We will invest resources across a wider range of communities within the city and ensure more people who live in Portland see their experiences, concerns, and aspirations reflected in City-supported programs.

### EXAMPLES OF 3-YEAR PROGRAM MILESTONES:

- **Information and Referral:** Implement a citywide service delivery system, so Portlanders can easily and effectively access City information and services.
- **North Portland Neighborhood Services:** Develop non-governmental sources of funding for community-driven programs.

## Our name and why it matters

### **What does the new name represent?**

The Office of Community & Civic Life articulates our reason for being: the experience of living in Portland. We chose the word *Community* to include all Portlanders, and the word *Civic* to highlight our role in engaging the public in local government.

### **What was the process that led to the new name?**

From January - February 2018, we conducted interviews with key informants, fielded a public survey, and invited members of the public and staff to participate in discussion-based focus groups. These efforts were designed to gather direction and understand why our office is important to a range of community members, regardless of how they organize or identify. Details of our complete rebranding process are available on our website.

### **How have we changed?**

The bureau was originally created in 1974, as a way for neighborhood associations to participate in the local government's decision-making process. Since then our office's programs and relationship with the public have evolved. In 2018, we changed our name to better represent the work we do, the ways we support, and how we engage with all Portlanders through our distinct, yet connected programs. We partner with communities and other local government agencies to address local concerns and improve quality of life in Portland.

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Community leader Ricardo Varela and Youth Commissioner Yesenia Ramos Pacheco testify in support of universal legal representation to City Council (March 2018)





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