Resolution: Appoint a Charter Commission to review and recommend amendments to the Charter

**Exhibit A: Appointee Bios & Statements of Interest** 

#### **Amira Streeter**

Amira is a millennial Black-American woman with extensive experience in government policy, collaborative problem solving, and community empowerment. As a member of Governor Brown's staff, she serves as the Natural Resources Policy Advisor. Her policy portfolio includes sustainability and environmental justice. Before working for Governor Brown, Amira has built her career in the private and non-profit sectors and several levels of government, including city government and the legislative branch of the state. A transplant from Maryland, she moved to Portland to earn a J.D. and a Certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law from Lewis & Clark Law School. She has been a proud Portlander for 10 years.

- Statement of Interest: What interests me about serving on the Commission is the potential to create historical change. We are at a pivotal moment in history and I am most excited about serving the City in an impactful way to shape Portland for myself, my community, and future generations.
- Personal Fact: My favorite thing to do on a rainy day is to curl up with a good book, a warm cup of tea and my dog.

# **Andrew Speer**

Andrew is a long time Parkrose resident and lives in the Argay Terrace neighborhood with his wife and two children. He was raised in the Portland metro area and is one of six children. From 2000-2004, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps as an infantryman and deployed twice during his service. Professionally, Andrew works in local government affairs for a local electric utility. Andrew is also very active in his community, serving on multiple boards and committees, and in 2019 was elected to the Mt. Hood Community College board of education where he represents outer East Portland on the board. He holds a Bachelor and Master of Science in Economics from Portland State University.

- Statement of Interest: I want to bring my diverse lived experience and passion for equitable outcomes onto the committee as lenses for how to consider and structure city leadership. I also want to ensure a voice and representation for outer East Portland on the Commission.
- Personal Fact: I love the outdoors, working in the yard, hiking, and running. I also love to work on home improvement projects and updating my mid-century 1960's home.

### **Angie Morrill**

Angie Morrill is an enrolled member of the Klamath Tribes and holds a PhD in Ethnic Studies. She is the Director for the Indian Education Program in Portland Public Schools and serves on the American Indian/Alaskan Native State Advisory Council for the Oregon Department of Education. She also serves as the Tribal Chairperson for the Sapsik'wala (Teacher) Program at the College of Education at University of Oregon.

- Statement of Interest: I am interested in serving on the Charter Commission because my family moved from Chiloquin, Oregon to Vanport during WWII and I was born and raised in North Portland in an historic Black neighborhood with an active Native community. It may seem like gentrification erased those neighborhoods but while Black and Native families may be pushed, they will not be erased.
- Personal Fact: Because of the pandemic, I adopted two kittens, Ambo (water in Klamath) and GoGe (river), two of the sweetest, cutest kittens in the world. In other words, I became a cat lady. My favorite spot in Portland is the boat launch at Cathedral Park, it's relaxing to look at the river and the prettiest bridge in the city.

### **Anthony Castaneda**

Anthony is a first-generation Mexican-American, who was born and raised in Oregon. He moved to Portland a decade ago and quickly fell in love with the city, though often misses his small town and surrounding fields of crops. Anthony is currently the Policy Manager at a local non-profit serving children, youth, and families in the Portland metro. He holds a dual BA in Russian and Political Science from Portland State University and a joint MPP/MA from the University of Michigan.

- Statement of Interest: My interest stems from my passion for public service and a commitment to equity and inclusion.
- Personal Fact: I enjoy large family gatherings and chasing around my nephews and nieces.

#### Becca Uherbelau

Becca Uherbelau currently serves as the Executive Director of Our Oregon, leading the organization's work to advance social and economic justice with a focus on ballot measures. Before directing Our Oregon, Becca was the Community Relations Manager for Metro, leading the engagement and community partnership strategy to develop and implement the agency's racial equity strategy. Becca has been working in community and public service, grassroots advocacy and politics for over two decades. She has worked for local, legislative and statewide elected officials, advocacy and community-based non-profits and has spearheaded statewide ballot measure, local levy and candidate campaigns. Becca has served on the boards of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, the Oregon State Board of Nursing, New Leadership Oregon and the Oregon League of Minority Voters. In all of her work, she seeks to dismantle systems of oppression, build power in communities and advance racial and gender equity. Becca grew up in a small Southern Oregon town and has lived in Portland since 1994 - residing in the lower Eliot, Sabin and King neighborhoods of NE Portland for nearly 20 years. Her children attend their neighborhood schools, Sabin Elementary and Grant High School.

- Statement of Interest: My interest in serving on the commission centers around making decision-making at the City more accessible and accountable to all Portlanders and more representative demographically, geographically and in terms of lived experience of the city's population. I am also deeply interested in making the charter review process open, transparent and accessible to all Portlanders.
- Personal Fact: Some of my favorite things to do are to listen to live music, enjoy someone else's expert cooking and compete in family dance-offs. I am also obsessed much to my family's chagrin with holiday-themed movies and obscenely-early seasonal decorating.

### **Bryan William Lewis**

Bryan was born in Portland and has been working to empower communities since he was thirteen years old. Bryan served on the Multnomah Youth Commission for nine years, and was a Commissioner serving on the Executive Board of the Commission on Children, Families and Community of Multnomah County as well as serving on the Executive Committee of Take the Time. In his youth, he did a lot of student and campus organizing. He is a member of the NAACP Portland, Oregon chapter, a Precinct Committee Person for the Multnomah County Democratic Party and is President for the national nonprofit Community Rights US. Bryan is a former union organizer with the following organizations: SEIU local 503 and 49, a member of Communication Workers of American, local 7901; and member of the National Popular Vote Oregon. Bryan is interested in how new and emerging social movements can collaborate for a more just and peaceful world.

- Statement of interest: I want to serve as a Charter Commissioner to empower and embolden citizens of Portland to help make our document and government a tool for our collective betterment.
- Personal Fact: I am an artist and aspiring if not wannabe surfer.

### **Candace Avalos**

Candace Avalos (she/her) is a first generation American Blacktina, daughter of Guatemalan immigrants & Black Virginians from the south. After receiving her Masters of Education in Higher Education Administration from JMU, she moved to Portland in 2013 to work at PSU advising Student Government & Greek Life. As Chair of the Citizen Review Committee and serving on the Governor's Public Safety Training and Standards Task Force, she works to bring transparency and accountability to Portland Police. A co-founder of the Black Millennial Movement, she shows up for the community in a variety of ways, including as a board member for Portland: Neighbors Welcome and a communication coordinator for the Oregon Kickball Club board. She currently lives in NE Portland.

• Statement of Interest: Our archaic system of government, rooted in Jim Crow-era segregation, has created a lack of consistency and long-term strategic planning to address the most pressing problems facing our communities. I want to help lead an effort to bring all Portlanders to the table to envision a city charter that best serves our unique needs as a city.

• Personal Fact: I love perfecting my skills in the kitchen from tricks I learn through various cooking shows I watch like Top Chef, Hell's Kitchen, Master Chef, Cutthroat Kitchen, Chopped, etc.—and my favorite celebrity chef is Gordon Ramsay!

#### **Dave Galat**

Dave was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. He attended Cleveland High School and studied German and English Literature at the University of Oregon. After college he moved to San Francisco, living in the Bay Area for roughly 20 years. During that time (1996) Dave was in an accident that resulted in a spinal cord injury. Since then his career has been focused on navigating accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities as related to public entities. In 2014 Dave moved back to Portland to raise his family and start work with the City of Portland as an ADA Coordinator. He has two young children and lives in southeast Portland.

- Statement of Interest: I am excited to be a part of the Charter Commission because I know the value of having voices heard from all corners of our community will enhance the work that the City does to make Portland a truly inclusive city for everyone.
- Personal Fact: I love the Pacific Northwest and try to get out as much as possible with my family and friends to take advantage of our nature, history, culture, and food.

#### **Debbie Kitchin**

Debbie Kitchin is a Principal of InterWorks, L.L.C., a general contractor specializing in commercial tenant improvement and renovation and residential remodeling since 1994. InterWorks is an award-winning contractor with expertise in sustainable building practices. Prior to joining the family business in 1996, Debbie was a regional economist for 18 years, mostly at the Northwest Power Planning Council. Debbie serves as Immediate Past President of the Board of Directors of the Central Eastside Industrial Council and a member of the Board of Directors of Greater Portland Inc. She served as Chair and Member of the Board of Directors of the Energy Trust of Oregon (member for 16 years). She is Chair Emeritus of the Portland Business Alliance. Debbie was awarded the 2017 William S. Naito Outstanding Service Award and the 2015 DJC Women of Vision Award. Debbie has a B.A. in Economics from Reed College and the MBA from Portland State University.

- Statement of Interest: It is important to have a form of government that promotes equitable representation for all members of our community. As the primary provider of services that all Portlanders rely on, our city needs a governmental structure that facilitates efficient and effective delivery of services.
- Personal Fact: I love living in the beautiful Pacific Northwest and enjoy many outdoor activities including skiing, soccer, boogie boarding, golf and hiking.

#### Debra Porta

Debra has been a resident of Portland for over twenty years, moving here from Texas in 1997. After a career in restaurant management and customer service, Debra returned to college at 36, ultimately receiving a Master's Degree in Public Administration with a Specialization in Nonprofit Management. In addition to serving as Executive Director for a local LGBTQ+ nonprofit organization, Debra supports and advises a variety of small and emerging nonprofits

and community organizations. Actively engaged in the LGBTQ+ community, Debra and her wife of seven years live in North Portland.

- Statement of Interest: I want to serve on the Charter Commission to help ensure a variety of diverse voices are actively included in the process. I also want to help "demystify" these kinds of processes and engage people in their own governance structures.
- Personal Fact: I am a life-long collector of recipes, and I love to cook for other people.

#### Hanna Osman

Hanna Osman is an Assistant Planner with the City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, with a background in Public Health. Her work on the West Portland Town Center Plan includes stewarding an inclusive community engagement process and applying a health equity lens to a major community planning project. Her interests include racial equity, health equity, social justice, community engagement, social determinant of health and mobility justice. She values her time with her family, friends and community. As a board member of the Somali Empowerment Circle, a small grassroots organization, she has co-created a housing advocacy toolkit that is culturally specific to the Somali community in Oregon in hopes of improving civic engagement in her community so that they are brought to the table when important housing policies are being discussed and implemented. As she moves forward professionally, she is actively discovering ways to bring her public health lens into the urban planning world, especially on how to use public health frameworks that lay the foundation to a healthier community. In all, Hanna is an aspiring leader that is building on the work of current and past leaders.

- Statement of Interest: I want to serve on the Charter Commission because I want to learn the ways I can impact the city and its future. Looking at our current City Charter, there can be gaps or inequities, which can give us the opportunity to improve amendments and create recommendations that can strengthen the Charter. I also want to be able to engage with the public in a manner that supports and speaks to them, because as a City, we support our communities. If I am able to do this, I would accomplish many goals, especially the ones that are driven by humility and opportunities to give back to my community in a way that is unique.
- Personal Fact: I enjoy spending time with my loved ones, my cats and giving back to my community through my volunteerism with the Somali Empowerment Circle.

### **Karol Collymore**

Karol Collymore is the Inclusive Community portfolio director for Social & Community Impact at Nike. Previous to Nike, she worked for Metro, the Early Learning Division at the State of Oregon, and the Equity Foundation. She has worked in government, politics and non-profits for over 15 years. Karol is also the current board president at Cascade AIDS Project and on the board of the Portland Trail Blazers Foundation.

• Statement of Interest: I believe in the work of government and the role our community's citizens play in the outcomes. I look forward to working with the commission to continue to improve the way our city works and ensure it works everyone.

• Personal Fact: I love so many things about Portland but one of the things I love best is going to Blazers games!

# Melanie Billings-Yun

Melanie (PhD, Harvard) is an international negotiation consultant, mediator and an adjunct professor in the PSU Business School. Born in Portland, she has lived in nine countries and worked throughout Asia, North America, Europe and the Middle East, helping individuals and organizations resolve disputes, bridge cultural differences, and build more productive relationships. Throughout her career Melanie has worked to help women amplify their voices, the topic of her 2015 Ted-X talk in Malaysia. She is the author of *Beyond Dealmaking: Five Steps to Negotiating Profitable Relationships*.

- Statement of Interest: I would like to help realign the city charter so that all Portlanders feel that they have a voice and that their voice matters. Specifically, I would like to see an efficient and responsive government that serves all neighborhoods equally and is answerable to our diverse residents.
- Personal Fact: I am an avid walker and feel that no day is complete unless I spend part of it in one of our wonderful Portland forests.

### Raahi Reddy

Raahi Reddy has over 25 years of experience working at the intersections of racial justice, gender justice, environmental equity, economic development, and labor issues. She is a skilled coalition builder and effective strategic wrangler of researchers, policy advocates, trainers, and communicators to produce durable community impact. Raahi currently serves as the Director of Metro's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program. Her team is responsible for helping Metro programs, investments and internal practices advance racial equity in the Portland-metro region. Prior to joining Metro, Raahi worked at the University of Oregon where she co-authored several groundbreaking reports on the experiences of low-wage working Oregonians including "The High Cost of Low Wages in Oregon." She also led Basic Rights Oregon's organizing program and spent over two decades in the labor movement. As a first-generation immigrant of South Asian descent, public service is central to Raahi living her values; she currently serves on the board of Family Forward Oregon and formerly served as board chair for the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO). Raahi holds a master's degree in Urban Planning from UCLA.

- Statement of Interest: The Charter Commission review will be a tremendous opportunity to assess and potentially reimagine the rules that undergird our City's economy, political structures and how we operate as a city. I want to help City residents, especially the most disenfranchised, have access to this process, see themselves in the future of Portland, and ultimately have a renewed sense of belonging in this place we call home.
- Personal Fact: The trees of Tabor are magical. Many days you can find my 2-year-old pup and me on a stroll-listening to birds, chasing squirrels (ok that's him, not me) and taking in the views of this gorgeous city.

#### Robin Ye

Robin Ye is a proud Chinese American who grew up in Beaverton, Oregon. He earned his bachelor's degree in Public Policy and Human Rights from the University of Chicago. Robin is dedicated to the cause of electoral justice -- practices and policies to expand the vote-- to achieve greater representation in our democracy -- particularly for those living at the intersections of race, class, disability and gender. He most recently worked as Political Director at Oregon Futures Lab and spent three years at APANO (Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon) on political advocacy. In 2021, Robin will enter the Oregon State Legislature as Chief of Staff to Rep-elect. Khanh Pham, currently the only Asian American in the legislature. In his free time, Robin enjoys spending time with his cats and foster kittens, hiking and the outdoors, and cheering on his Portland Trail Blazers.

- Statement of Interest: The Charter Review Commission is a direct opportunity for an engaged, richly diverse, and accurately representative group of Portland community members, to shape their city and the values within its charter. I believe its greatest strength is that it is an independent body with ample time to consider reforms-- more insulated from the short-term whims of politicians.
- Personal Fact: There's no place better in Portland than at the Rose Garden (a.k.a Moda Center) watching Damian Lillard rain down threes from halfcourt. Welcome to Rip City, RoCo!

#### Salomé Chimuku

Salomé Chimuku (she/her) is a first-generation Angolan-American. Salomé was born and raised in Portland and specializes in policy and equity work. Salomé attended Willamette University. She has worked as a staffer for many campaigns, elected leaders and organizations. Salomé alongside Cameron Whitten Co-Founded the Black Resilience Fund over the summer. Salomé speaks five languages and is also an award-winning artist. As a queer, disabled, immigrant woman Salomé joins the Charter Commission with the same devotion for transparency, accountability, accessibility and equity that she thinks is possible.

- Statement of Interest: I am interested in serving on the Charter Commission to get Portland to walk its talk. Portland needs to be the accessible and equitable city it can be.
- Personal Fact: I like to cosplay and have an all-black pit bull named Hercules.

### **Scott Fogarty**

Scott Fogarty has dedicated his professional life to environmental protection and enhancement. He currently is the CEO of Old Growth Wisdom Consulting and the founder of the Clean Streets Initiative. For 25 years he served as non-profit Executive Director for both Friends of Trees and the Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center. Prior to that Scott was a Project Director for the US Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Water and was a Public Interest Attorney in West Virginia. Scott has served on many Board of Directors including the Human Access Project, Sandy River Watershed Council, Willamette Riverkeeper, Grey Family Foundation Facilities Board, Opal Creek Federal Advisory Board, and the Multnomah County Public Health Board. He holds a J.D. from West Virginia University and a B.A. from Santa Clara University.

• Statement of Interest: I am interested in serving on the Charter Commission because I believe that Portland needs to deeply examine how and if the current government

- structure is serving the good of the people in a positive, holistic and equitable way. And if it is not, then how to amend the system to be inclusive, diverse, and equitable.
- Personal Fact: I love Portland breweries, traveling the world, camping and skiing with my daughters and wife, whitewater kayaking, surfing, rugby, gardening and the arts. I recently completed a solo motorcycle journey around Mongolia where I went from the Altai Mountains to the Gobi Desert in search of the meaning of life (still looking).

#### Steven Phan

Steven was born in Portland and grew up in our beautiful city. He is a community advocate who works with underserved communities, through housing advocacy, working with populations of adults with disabilities and also volunteers with children who are experiencing grief. Steven's lived experience of growing up in a low-income home with a single mom instilled the importance of a strong work ethic combined with the need for collaboration in our community to be successful together.

- State of Interest: I am excited to serve on the Charter Commission because as a child of immigrants, person of color, and product of Portland, I strive to bring a perspective that can help make a different through representing myself and our community.
- Personal Fact: I love to take advantage of time on our own Mt. Hood, whether it is hiking, snowboarding or downhill mountain biking.

## Vadim Mozyrsky

Vadim Mozyrsky immigrated to the United States from Kiev, Ukraine. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas and a juris doctorate degree from the University of Texas School of Law. After law school, he clerked for judges in state, federal and international courts. Before his current work in the field of disability law, he practiced corporate litigation and mediation. Vadim is active in the Portland community, focusing on disability and immigrant issues. He has served on several city commissions and committees, institutional advisory boards, and in community-based organizations. Currently he is on the steering committee for the Portland Committee on Community Engaged Policing and the Citizen Review Committee under the Auditor's Independent Police Review division. He also serves on the board of directors for the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization and the Public Safety Action Coalition. Vadim is a national union representative for IFPTE/Association of Administrative Law Judges. In his free time, he enjoys traveling and exploring the Pacific Northwest.

- Statement of Interest: I seek to use my institutional knowledge, legal background, and community organization skills to spotlight and address the civic needs of Portland's varied communities.
- Personal Fact: Rain, snow or shine, my favorite place in Portland to idle away some free time is the Japanese Garden.

### Yasmin Ibarra

Yasmin Ibarra is the Political and Governmental Affairs Organizer for SEIU Local 49. As a labor organizer, she lifts up the voices of members across Oregon, leads policy negotiations on

issues impacting workers in our community and consults for local electoral campaigns. She has experience and background in political and community organizing. Yasmin moved from Hermiston to Monmouth where she was student body president at WOU and then worked her way up to Executive Director of the Oregon Student Association. It was through those roles that she developed a deep passion for education, social justice, and civic engagement. Since then she's run and supported several political electoral campaigns in Oregon. These experiences showed her the power of individuals to address issues of racial and economic injustice. In all her work Yasmin has shown a commitment for helping people win real victories to improve their lives.

- Statement of Interest: It takes intentional engagement to make sure individuals can participate in the decisions for the City of Portland. There are barriers in our government structure that are not equitable, and I believe that changes to the Portland City Charter will ensure more perspectives are considered.
- Personal Fact: In my spare time I enjoy cooking, learning how to play tennis and taking a bike ride around town.