

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: *Authorize grant agreements with five organizations for the Constructing Civic Dialogues Grant Program at the Office of Community & Civic Life not to exceed \$248,319 (Ordinance)

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Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

For decades the City of Portland has sponsored community mediation and facilitation services at no cost to community members. These services have enabled individuals to obtain third-party support in discussing challenging topics and have played a role in diverting matters that might needlessly involve police intervention. As we re-imagine new strategies to address conflict resolution in our communities that move beyond community policing, we recognize the need for people to be able to access opportunities that help them develop foundational skills of their own around community conflict resolution and communication. The Constructing Civic Dialogues Grant Program is a concrete way the City of Portland can channel multi-year financial resources to groups doing this community-based work as well as support ongoing community mediation services.

Living under the Covid-19 pandemic, a volatile and uncertain political climate, as well as uprising in response to ongoing police violence and institutional racism, the need for skills around conflict mediation, communication, and community mutual support is central to our health and safety. The aim of this grant program is to support these ongoing community-led efforts in our city. We have focused on programming that is led by the communities that it serves and that works to be accessible to Elders and people with disabilities, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), people experiencing houselessness, immigrants and refugees, LGBTQIA+ and 2Spirit people, people with intersecting identities and others who experience barriers to participation.

The cohort model activates a dynamic network of community partners who can share and support each other as their programming is underway. There will be four cohort convenings throughout the grant period and opportunities to establish connections and share resources within the cohort. The selected cohort will have demonstrated experience in the following areas: applying equity and inclusion to civic processes; fostering interconnected communities and a sense of belonging among its diverse members; providing multicultural, multilingual, community-specific engagement, community mediation, reflective listening, de-escalation, non-violent communication, facilitation, Disability justice community dialogue, community organizing, transformative justice, restorative justice, civic engagement and anti-racism work.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

A total of \$248,319 in General Funds is allocated in Civic Life's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 proposed budget for Constructing Civic Dialogues grant awards.

Community impacts and community involvement:

The Constructing Civic Dialogues Grant Program emerged from public input from underrepresented communities that indicated they were not proportionally accessing or benefiting from the neighborhood mediation funding and have a need for similar services.

- Over the last year the Constructing Civic Dialogues trainings have conducted over 75 different trainings and provided Portland based participants a free opportunity to have difficult conversations and build skills around conflict resolution and communication.
- Civic Life staff hosted two virtual information sessions in 2021 for potential grant applicants and offered one virtual information session with ASL and CART Captioning available.
- Cohort members convened to share resources, skills, and experience in the cohort which has led to deeper inter-organizational partnerships.

100% Renewable Goal:

N/A

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