

# Constructing Civic Dialogues Grant Program



OFFICE OF  
Community  
& Civic Life



# Providing tools & access to the Community

As we re-imagine new strategies to address conflict resolution in our communities that move beyond community policing, we recognize the need for access to opportunities that help people develop foundational skills of their own around community conflict resolution and communication.



# Program Origin

Civic Life allocated over \$4,000,000 for mediation and facilitation services from 2002-2019 to Resolutions Northwest for the Neighborhood Mediation Program. Constructing Civic Dialogues evolved from that program as an “upstream approach” to addressing conflict in our community.



FY 21-22– Constructing Civic Dialogues

# Goals: Constructing Civic Dialogues

The goals of this program are to:

- **Provide tools to the public to address conflict** by providing no-cost training and skill building around conflict resolution and other communication skills as well as no-cost conflict mediation support;
- **Increase access for participation** by supporting multicultural, multilingual, community-specific engagement that also addresses access for people with disabilities and other intersecting identities;
- **Develop a coalition among grant partners** as a cohort that comes together to collaborate, works in solidarity with one another, shares resources and goals.



# Community Skill Building

## FY 19-20 Grant Partners

- AORTA Collective
- Disability Art & Culture Project
- Oregon Humanities
- Training 4 Transformation
- Vanport Mosaic
- Portland United Against Hate
- Resolutions Northwest



Vanport Mosaic



Oregon Humanities, Fred Joe

**Outputs:** Grant Partners Provided training for 1536 people through 40 virtual and in-person workshops and courses. Some of the course offerings were as follows:

Racial Trauma & Healing

Leading Reflective Conversations

Stories in Movement

Interrupting Hate in Public Spaces

Understanding and Addressing Islamophobia

Trans in America

Trauma Informed Care

Facilitation for Liberation: Facilitating with an anti-oppression framework



# New Grant Partners

The committee came to consensus on their recommendations to fund five new organizations to make up the new grant cohort. The full program budget is \$248,319.

80% of the orgs selected are led by people in the communities that they serve and 100% of the project leaders are from the communities they serve; 60% are led by people with a disability; and 60% are BIPOC led; 60% are LGBTQIA+ led.



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# New Grant Partner

Street Roots \$47,319

Street Roots is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization in Portland that publishes a weekly alternative newspaper sold by people experiencing houselessness and poverty to earn an income. Their *Civic Circles program* seeks to create engagement between housed and unhoused neighbors led by Street Roots Ambassadors, people who draw from their experience with houselessness. Ambassadors will guide housed neighbors in skills around trauma-informed communication and deescalation, helping them understand daily struggles faced by unhoused people.

**street  
roots**



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# New Grant Partner

## The Curiosity Paradox \$60,000

THE CURIOSITY  
PARADOX

The Curiosity Paradox is a consultancy started by Access Artists Grant Miller and Jonathan Paradox Lee. They follow the legacy of radical Disabled-led expertise which suggests that as Disable people, they are the best designers of their liberation, and Disabled living has worth and beauty. Their program, *Dis/Rep*, will explore Disability Art and Justice through a series of virtual workshops. This is an anti-ableist, anti-racist, queer, and trans-positive space centering the needs and voices of the Disability community.



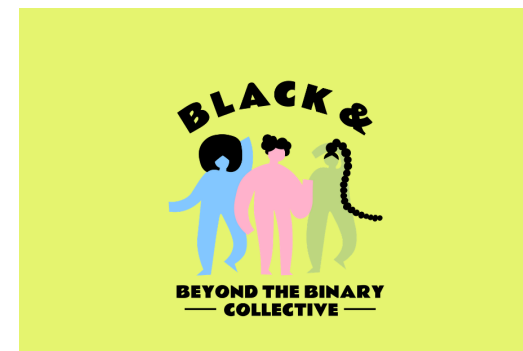


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# New Grant Partner

Black & Beyond the Binary Collective

\$60,000



Black & Beyond the Binary Collective is dedicated to advocacy and healing for transgender and gender-variant Oregonians who are Black and have lived experiences as a member of the African diaspora. Their project, *Community Safety Conversations*, focuses on the gaps in learning on community safety and the Black Transgender and Queer experiences.



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# New Grant Partner

Vo Vo \$35,000

Vo (they/them/theirs) is a radical educator of 11 years in over 20 countries in inclusion, racial justice, intercultural communication, Trauma-Informed Care, De-escalation and Restorative Justice. They are queer, disabled, a child of refugees, and an immigrant, and speaks 4 languages. Their program, *Anti-Racist Trauma Informed Strategies*, will be trauma-informed, resilience building facilitation training, inclusive of disability justice, harm reduction and LGBTQIA+ lenses; and practice for building Transformative Justice applications and skills.



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# New Grant Partner

Bridge-Pamoja \$46,000

Bridge-Pamoja works to strengthen the bonds between individuals of the African Diaspora and Africa, elevate their collective voice, and increase awareness of – and access to – resources that help address the unique needs of our community from a faith perspective. Their programming, *Bridging the Divide: Healing and Empowerment for African Immigrants and African Americans* is a community-driven effort to bridge cultural divisions between the African Immigrant and African American communities through storytelling, community building, and educational convenings.



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# Vision for the Future of Grant Program

Our vision for the future of this grant program is sustained, municipal support for the development of resources and partnerships that provide publicly accessible, no-cost access to skill building around conflict resolution and communication training. This includes 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.

