

Grant Agreement 32002077 Midterm Report

Neighbors West-Northwest Review Board, Inc.

Grant Purposes

To advance the City's goal of supporting the creation of a framework by which the people of the City of Portland may effectively participate in civic affairs and work to improve the livability and character of their Neighborhoods, Neighbors West-Northwest's mission is to collaborate with the NW and inner SW Portland community to build informed, inclusive, and participatory neighborhoods that support our social and ecological well-being. Our work this year will be tempered by the "Resilience Resolution" adopted by the Portland City Council. Our primary programs have been developed with a goal of creating inclusive structures with adaptive governance strategies that contribute to fulfilled and empowered Portlanders. We do this with community trainings/events, fiscal sponsorships, our small grant program, online newsletter, land use and transportation education/advocacy, and community organizational support/capacity building. All this work is done through a lens of diversity, equity, inclusion and access.

Project Summary

1. Support of 11 Neighborhood Associations and additional community groups in developing and implementing projects and activities that benefit the community, including committee and board activities and elections, communication with community and government, and providing fiscal management, document retention and risk management services, including insurance.
2. Implement a NWNW funded grant program combining former Small Grants, Communications Funds and Community Collection Events opportunities, available to NWNW communities and neighborhood associations, for assisting community livability, resilience and social justice programs and projects.
3. Develop and implement increased outreach to community groups and organizations
4. Implement a Capacity Building program with workshops, trainings and events which support NWNW area neighborhoods and communities to develop inter-supportive relationships and strategies that advance racial equity and community resilience.
5. Provide neighborhood associations and community organizations informational and advocacy support in their decisions which affect community livability.
6. Implement organizational changes which assist in the implementation of broader community connections and the reach of our services.

Successes

Community and Civic Engagement Projects (2019-2020)

Portland Chinatown Lantern Festival – As part of our Small Grant Program, we awarded a grant of \$800 to the Oregon Chinese Coalition (OCC) to support the Chinatown Lantern Festival. The festival aimed to revitalize Chinatown and bring more people to the neighborhood, encouraging cultural heritage preservation and economic development. OCC used the grant to buy and place the lanterns throughout Chinatown, bringing in support from community members, neighborhood businesses and organizations. OCC also used the grant as an opportunity to build ongoing relationships with the Portland Government, working with the Portland Bureau of Transportation to receive a permit to hang the lanterns year-round.

Back to Basics: Community Dinner Project – As part of our Small Grant Program, we awarded a grant of \$1500 to Friendly House to support their “Back to Basics: Community Dinner Project”. Friendly House had two separate dinners in October with a total of 20 participants; the first dinner was for members of SAGE Portland Metro while the second was with participants of the Children’s Program. The paid facilitator, Vaune, organized and delivered ingredients to participants, provided digital and physical copies of the recipe, and also provided live instruction via Zoom. The dinners provided an opportunity for families and individuals to learn new healthy recipes, cook together, and safely socialize over Zoom.

Houseless Encampment Fence – As part of our COVID community resilience support, we awarded funding to Gather:Make:Shelter, a local organization dedicated to supporting Portland’s houseless community through the arts. The grant provided large-scale weatherproof prints to line the perimeter fence of one of the three emergency COVID-19 tent villages in NW Portland, established by the City of Portland, Multnomah County and C(3)PO. Village residents voted for sky and water images and hung the prints facing inward, toward the community. The prints provided safety and privacy, and encouraged further collaboration between local houseless communities and neighborhood organizations.



Selected Neighborhood Projects

FPNA SOLVE IT Litter Clean-up – Forest Park Neighborhood Association (FPNA) teamed up with NWNW and SOLVE to pick up roadside trash in Forest Park and nearby roads. The project began with a postcard campaign: delivered to each home in Forest Park, the postcard recruited volunteers to pick up roadside litter. Postcards also included FPNA's equity and diversity statement, and encouraged people to sign up for their neighborhood email list. On August 15, 2020, 37 event volunteers collected 1,760lbs (.88 tons) of plastic, glass, tires, and household trash that threaten water quality and wildlife in Forest Park. SOLVE provided guidelines and safety materials.

Forest Park Wildland Urban Interface Information Session & Firewise Program Education – Following the devastating wildfire season in 2020, the Forest Park Neighborhood held a well-attended neighborhood meeting in December via Zoom to discuss community concerns about living in a wildland urban interface. As Portland's largest urban wildland interface, Forest Park is currently considered to be at a relatively high risk of urban wildfire, as well as host to other environmental concerns and responsibilities. At the meeting, four Portland Fire Bureau representatives answered questions about fire prevention programs and best practices, and provided an introduction to the Firewise program.

PDNA Homeless/Houseless Committee – The Portland Downtown Neighborhood Association (PDNA) Homeless/Houseless Committee continued to support and develop relationships with unhoused individuals in their neighborhood. As part of the committee's new Portland Downtown Good Neighbor Project, teams of volunteers provided water bottles and cold weather clothing (hats, gloves, scarves and socks) to individual houseless residents in their neighborhood. Volunteers were also able to refer unhoused residents to local resources like Bybee Lakes Hope Center or Cascadia Behavioral Health. The committee continues to seek new ideas and collaborate with other Portland organizations working with unhoused communities.

Sylvan-Highlands—Skyline Boulevard Landslide Restoration Project – The Sylvan-Highlands Neighborhood Association (SHNA) has identified the need to repair a 2017 landslide adjacent to SW Skyline Boulevard. Research revealed that although the landslide is the responsibility of the owner, the cost of repair is beyond his means. Working with a city geotechnical engineer and a contractor, the neighborhood association has identified a less-expensive and more environmentally friendly method of both repairing the site and protecting it against future landslides. At the present, SHNA has established a strategy to develop a repair plan and approach the owner, and is currently in the process of implementing it.

NWNW Programming and Events

Development and Launch of NWNW Community Small Grant Program – In the absence of funding for the Community & Civic Engagement Small Grants program in this fiscal year, NWNW created an internal fund combining communications and some publications funding with savings gleaned from a partially vacant staff position. The NWNW Community Small Grants

Program emphasizes broad community participation, especially through partnerships among neighborhood, business, and community-based organizations. Projects should engage and benefit community members in the Northwest area, with priority given to projects that engage under-represented and under-served communities. Five projects have already been funded.

NWNW Neighborhood Board Orientation and Anti-Racism Workshop – In September, we provided a workshop on anti-Black racism as part of our Board Orientation. Although the orientation was aimed at incoming neighborhood association board members, the workshop itself was open, and over 35 interested individuals attended. The workshop was facilitated by Theresa Logan of Subduction Consulting. Over the 90-minute workshop, Theresa provided an overview of the history of anti-Black racism in the United States and Oregon, as well as ways in which we (as an almost exclusively non-black room) could contribute to anti-racist action. The workshop's popularity influenced the direction of our own inclusivity programming.

Urban Wildfire Information Session – As several of our neighborhoods exist in or on the borders of Forest Park, concerns were raised by neighborhoods bordering Forest Park on resident awareness and preparedness in case of urban wildfire. In response, Neighbors West-Northwest provided an information session on urban wildfire awareness. Staff provided research on wildfire safety practices, including current information on Portland's tree code, emergency system, and available evacuation routes. At the session, Jeremy Van Keuren from the Bureau of Emergency Management presented on Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NET). The results of the session are posted on our website, along with a printable awareness flier.

Building Diverse Communities – As part of our ongoing efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusivity in our neighborhoods, we designed "Building Diverse Communities", an educational program set to launch in January 2021. The scheduled roundtables, workshops, and lectures are designed to empower participants to be the change they want to see in their communities through education, skill-building, and open dialogue. The program is divided into three tracks to meet diverse learning interests and needs.

- 1. Community Café Conversations (C3)** provide a prompt for lively conversation about what diversity, equity, and inclusion means to you and your community. Grab your beverage of choice and join your neighbors on Zoom!
- 2. Active Allies Workshops** help hone your equity and inclusion skills to become the change you want to see in your neighborhood. Learn to have difficult conversations, educate others, and foster equity and diversity in your community!
- 3. Unpacking Oppression Lectures** provide an opportunity for you to dive deep into the equity issues affecting Portland today! Join us for this amazing series of lectures and workshops in partnership with Portland United Against Hate.

Workshops have been scheduled out to June 2021; our [schedule](#) of upcoming events is online. Some materials for January's workshops have already been prepared and are attached.

Challenges

During this reporting period, the COVID-19 pandemic remained a challenge to our work. During the first two fiscal quarters we continued to work with member associations to provide online venues for meetings and informational sessions. Staff worked remotely for the majority of hours, one staff in office two days a week for onsite activities, pickups and deliveries. Organizationally we continued with two core staff for the first quarter, adding a new employee late in September to bring the office up to 3 FTE. In addition, we took over the Westside Watershed Center and Stormwater Stars programs from Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. when they lost city funding. This added two staff (1.5 FTE) in September. Bringing in three new employees with remote orientation and training went well but was a challenge for staff. The addition of new staff from multiple funding sources also required additional financial protocols.

Project Status Narrative

- Provided virtual orientation for new neighborhood and coalition board members
- Advertised and took applications for the Community Small Grants program, with a focus on attracting applicants who create resilient communities.
- Provided Community Grants application training and accepted grant applications
- Communicated through newsletter and social media platforms.
- Implemented a hiring process for a third staff member.
- Conducted NWNW Board leadership elections.
- Provided virtual trainings, workshops and/or and events for community organizations and Neighborhood Associations with focus on racial equity and resiliency.
- Supported Small Grant recipients in the successful completion of projects.
- Supported 5 Neighborhood Association online elections.
- Supported Neighborhood Association activities via Zoom.
- Assisted Neighborhood Associations and Community Organizations with capacity building.

Project Finances (See Attached).

Metrics

Community Partnerships

Diversity & Equity Training Development – Subduction Consulting

Civic Dialogue Workshops – Portland United Against Hate

Grant Recipient and workshop outreach partner – Friendly House

Grant Recipient – The Oregon Chinese Coalition

Grant Recipient – Braided River Coalition

Grant Recipient – League of Women Designers

Grant Recipient – Campus Compact of Oregon

Grant Recipient – Lan Su Chinese Garden

Grant Recipient – Scuola Italiana de Portland
Project Partner – Gather:Make:Shelter

Next Steps

NWNW Community Small Grants program - NWNW is excited to work with and provide new grants this year as part of our Community Small Grant Program. We are currently working with grant recipients for the 2020-2021 funding round to ensure successful completion of projects. We look forward to building new partnerships and supporting community building work.

Building Diverse Communities – Our new program is scheduled to kick off in January 2021. We currently have scheduled programming out to June 2021, at which point we will assess the program’s successes and challenges. Our vision is for this program to assess community engagement, topic interests, and diversity and inclusion needs, and to adjust programming accordingly as time goes on.

Strategic Visioning Process – As last year’s committee struggled under COVID, NWNW is relaunching the Strategic Visioning Process. The committee was tasked with revising the NWNW bylaws, mission statement, and board structure, as well as flushing out new programming and fundraising opportunities. The extent of this strategic process turned out to be a very heavy load for volunteers with limited staff capacity. Staff and the board executive committee are seeking a professional planner who could help create a cleaner and more successful process for this work to move forward. Committee direction will be evaluated and redefined at the upcoming Board retreat in late spring.

EIGHT TIPS TO BECOMING *(more)* WILDFIRE-WISE THIS WEEKEND

PRESENTED BY NEIGHBORS WEST-NORTHWEST

WWW.NWNW.ORG

1 SIGN UP FOR PUBLIC SAFETY ALERTS

First things first: make sure that you know when your community is at risk! Sign up for [public safety alerts](#) in Multnomah County to receive emergency notification for wildfires and other emergencies.

2 IDENTIFY RISKY BEHAVIOR

Most wildfires are started by humans, so being able to identify risky behavior can help prevent a fire. Risky behavior can include:

- Backyard burning
- Unsafe or unattended [campfires](#)
- Illegal fireworks or explosives
- Unsafe disposal of cigarettes

During wildfire season in Oregon (July through October), keep an eye out for risky fire behavior, particularly when the weather is hot, dry, and windy.

3 TIDY UP YOUR SPACE

Clear fallen leaves, pine needles, and branches from your deck, roof, porch, and gutters. Store away flammable items like furniture cushions or mats, and move potential sources of fuel such as woodpiles or spare lumber at least 30 feet from your home. Rake back mulch and trim plants and shrubs at least 5 feet away from buildings or attachments. Consider pruning overhanging branches to at least 5 to 10 feet away from buildings, and low-hanging branches away from the ground to prevent fire from spreading. If you want to go the extra mile, you can even look into including [fire-safe plants](#) in your garden!

Note: Many resources about creating defensible fire spaces weren't made for Oregon's verdant climate, or for Portland's rules and regulations that protect our trees. Keep our city green: take a moment to look [here](#) before pruning to make sure it checks out with city code.

4 CREATE A GO-BAG

Creating an emergency bag is essential if you have to evacuate quickly! Your go-bag should consist of a set of extra items that you don't require, and should live by the front door or in your car. Below is a list of items you can include in your bag:

- Face masks or coverings
- Prescriptions and medical supplies
- Glasses or contacts
- A First-Aid kit
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable radio and extra batteries
- Chargers and charging bank
- Cash or credit cards
- A change of clothing (including shoes!)
- Non-perishable human and pet food

Essential items that can't live in the go-bag such as important paperwork, expensive technology, or irreplaceable memorabilia should be put on a checklist (including their locations!) to collect before you evacuate so that nothing is left behind!

5 ASSIGN EVACUATION TASKS

Take the time to sit down with your household and assign tasks in case of evacuation. Knowing what to do and who does what will help make sure that everything gets done, even in a state of panic. Below are some suggestions for evacuation tasks:

- Turn off the gas and water
- Close and seal windows and doors
- Collect items on your evacuation list
- Find and help small children or elders
- Gather pets and pet carriers
- Grab the prepared go-bag

Make sure to establish a location (by the car, for example) for everyone to meet back up when they've finished their tasks!

Document Links:

Portland Tree Code: www.portlandoregon.gov/trees

Sign-up for Public Alerts: www.publicalerts.org

Fire Safety Tips: smokeybear.com

Fire-Safe Plants: wmswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/WMSWCD-Wildfire2-Final.pdf

Evacuation Routes for High-Risk Neighborhoods: www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/article/668061

6 PLAN YOUR EVACUATION ROUTE

It's always good to know where you're going! Ahead of time, choose a safe evacuation destination, such as a friend or relative's home. Make sure that you have several evacuation routes prepared and practiced in case one is blocked by fire. For high-risk neighborhoods like Forest Park and Linnton, Portland has designated some potential routes [in this document](#), on page 36.

7 CHECK IN WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Some members of your community may lack the necessary resources when evacuating, such as a car or a safe evacuation destination. Others may need extra assistance if they have children, elders, or disabled household members. Check in with the neighbors on either side of you to make sure they have the necessary resources to evacuate safely, or to see if they are able to assist you!

8 SPREAD THIS INFORMATION LIKE...

Help your neighborhood become fire wise by sharing this flyer with family and friends or on social media. Share your own evacuation plan with your neighbors and encourage them to make their own. The more people in your community that are informed, active, and prepared for wildfire, the safer your neighborhood will be!

Bear in mind that these tips are only suggestions: if there's something we've missed, make sure to share it with your community to help make us all safer!

Neighbors West-Northwest is excited to announce **Building Diverse Communities**, our new educational series! These monthly roundtables, workshops, and lectures are designed to empower you to be the change you want to see in your communities.

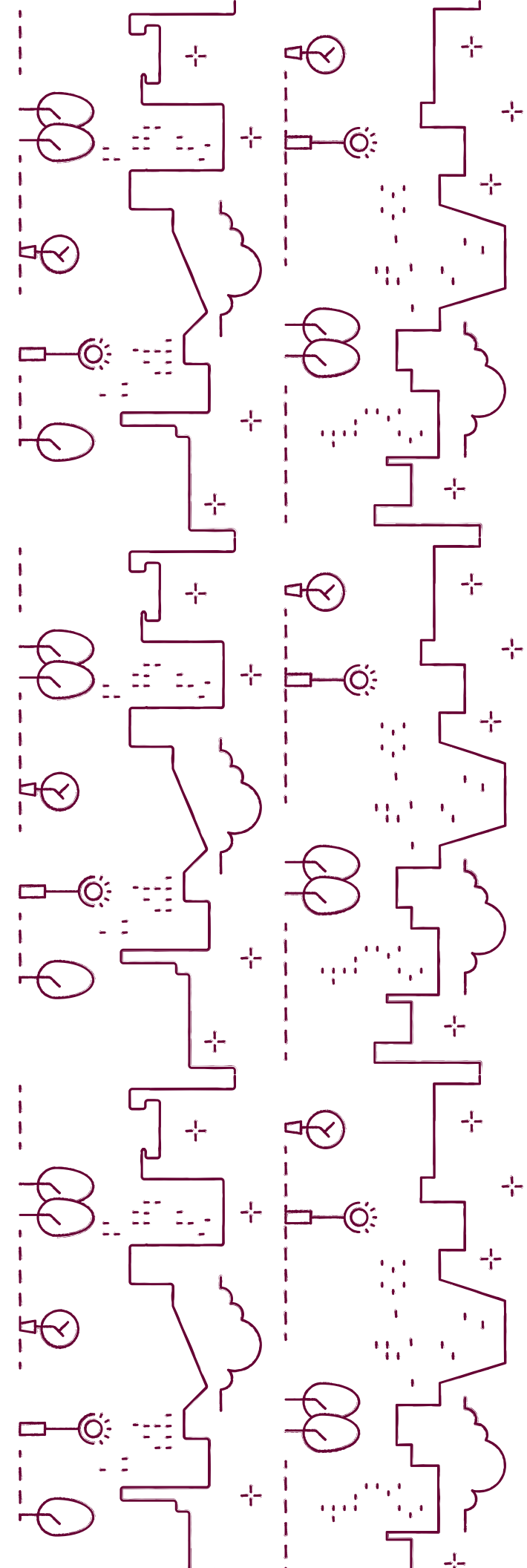
Community Café Conversations (C3) provide a prompt for lively conversation about what diversity, equity, and inclusion means to you and your community. Grab your beverage of choice and join your neighbors on Zoom!

Active Allies Workshops help hone your equity and inclusion skills to become the change you want to see in your neighborhood. Learn to have difficult conversations, educate others, and foster equity and diversity in your community!

Unpacking Oppression Lectures provide an opportunity for you to dive deep into the equity issues affecting Portland today! Join us on the 4th Wednesdays of the month for this amazing series of lectures and workshops in partnership with Portland United Against Hate.

Learn more and check out this month's schedule at:
nwnw.org/building-diverse-communities





THE ABC'S OF INCLUSIVITY

GLOSSARY

NEIGHBORS WEST-NORTHWEST

Ableism: Practices, structures, and attitudes that disenfranchise or oppress disabled people and communities. Ableism is based on the assumed normalcy or desirability of non-disabled bodies and minds.

Access: The necessary conditions so that marginalized individuals can enter and fully engage in a physical or virtual space.

Ageism: Practices, structures, and attitudes that marginalize or disenfranchise the elderly or the young.

Ally: Someone who makes the conscious and ongoing commitment to utilize their privilege to support and uplift marginalized communities.

Anti-Black Racism: The specific institutional and interpersonal hatred, fear, and oppression of Black people, communities, and cultures.

Bias: A conscious or unconscious prejudice against an individual or group based on their identities.

BIPOC: A term bringing together Black, Indigenous, and other people of color based on shared experiences of racism.

Cisgender: A term used to describe a person whose gender identity aligns with their sex assigned at birth.

Classism: Practices, structures, or attitudes that marginalize or oppress lower or working class people and communities.

Code-Switching: A term referring to how marginalized people may change their cultural behavior, attitudes, or communication styles to avoid being stigmatized when outside of their communities.

DEI: An acronym standing for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Disability: A visible or invisible physical or mental variation that affects a person's ability, particularly when their access needs are unmet. Disability is not a bad or rude word, and many disabled individuals prefer it to other epithets.

Diversity: The representation of the wide variety of how people identify with one another.

Dominant Culture: The cultural values, behaviors, and norms that are dominant within a society. Dominant culture in the United States reflects those of white, suburban, middle-class, Christian, cisgender, heterosexual, and abled communities.

Equity: The fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all people. Equity acknowledges that marginalized communities and individuals may require different or additional forms of support, advocacy, or opportunities in order to achieve equality.

Empowerment: An intentional, ongoing process to decentralize power and provide opportunities for decision-making, authority, and opportunity for marginalized individuals and communities.

Gaslighting: Referencing the 1938 play *Gaslight*, the term gaslighting describes how privileged individuals attempt to invalidate, deny, or mitigate marginalized individuals' experiences of oppression.

Gender: Part of a person's internal sense of self, which may or may not align with their sex assigned at birth. Gender is a spectrum, not a binary: although many people identify closely with masculinity or femininity, gender is vast, complex, and personal.

Gender Roles: Cultural assumptions that assign behaviors, attitudes, or characteristics to specific gender identities. This system limits us all, and often punishes those who do not conform to gender expectations.

Homophobia: Practices, attitudes, and structures that disfranchise or oppress LGBTQ+ people and communities. Homophobia can also manifest as hatred, fear, or discomfort with LGBTQ+ culture, or behavior or attitudes associated with LGBTQ+ people.

Implicit Bias: The internalized attitudes or stereotypes that unconsciously affect our behaviors, decisions, and assumptions. These biases may not reflect our conscious beliefs or attitudes but impact our behavior just the same.

Inclusion: The act of creating spaces in which traditionally excluded individuals feel welcome, and respected, and are empowered to fully participate in activities, processes, and decisions.

Intersectionality: A term describing how the intersection or overlapping of multiple marginalized identities creates a unique experience. The term was coined by lawyer Kimberlé Crenshaw to describe how the experiences of being Black and being a woman cannot be understood independently, but as intersecting to create a distinct experience for Black women.

Intersex: Someone whose sex characteristics do not conform to binary expectations. Intersex conditions are natural, normal, and common: intersex individuals make up 1.7% of the global population, comparable to people with red hair.

LGBTQ+: An acronym standing for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer; the plus encompasses all other identities.

Marginalization: A term referring to the current or historical exclusion, diminishment, and disempowerment of non-dominant groups or individuals.

Microaggression: The everyday verbal, nonverbal, and environmental slights, snubs, or insults that other and exclude marginalized individuals, often unintentionally.

Misogyny: The specific oppression, fear, and hatred of women and femmes. Misogyny can also manifest as hatred, fear, or contempt of femininity, or the assumption of the superiority of masculinity.

Misogynoir: A term coined by queer Black feminist Moya Bailey to describe the specific oppression, fear, and hatred of Black women and femmes, or behavior, culture, or attitudes associated with Black women. .

Neurodiversity: A term describing the normal, natural, and important variations in which human beings think and process the world.

Oppression: A term describing the complex web of institutional discrimination, personal biases and bigotry, and social inequity that results in the pervasive and systemic disenfranchisement of marginalized communities.

Prejudice: A conscious or unconscious negative belief or judgement about a group of people and its individual members.

Privilege: An unearned right, advantage, or immunity granted to all members of a dominant group. Privilege is often invisible to those who have it.

Pronouns: The part of language we use to refer to people in the third person without using their name. In English, pronouns typically reflect or indicate gender.

Racism: Practices, structures, and attitudes that result in the oppression of people and communities of color, based in a presumed superiority of white people and cultures. A simple definition is racial prejudice + power = racism.

Respectability Politics:

The expectation for marginalized individuals or communities to behave a certain way in order to gain their allies' support.

Saneism: The specific hate, fear, and oppression of people with mental illnesses. Saneism particularly affects those with rarer or heavily stigmatized illnesses, specifically psychosis.

Sex: The categorization of biological characteristics into the binary of male or female. Sex is usually assigned before or at birth, and gender is often assumed to correspond. Note: the acronyms "AFAB" (assigned female at birth) and "AMAB" (assigned male at birth) are often used to describe a person's sex assigned at birth, regardless of their gender identity.

Sexism: Practices, structures, and attitudes that result in the marginalization or oppression of women and femmes.

Tokenism: The act of making a superficial attempt to increase a space or group's diversity without meaningful inclusion or empowerment of marginalized communities.

Tone Policing: The act of criticizing the angry or emotional manner in which marginalized people discuss their oppression, rather than addressing the oppression itself. Tone policing is part of respectability politics.

Transgender: Someone who identifies as a gender other than the one assigned to them at birth. Transgender people can identify within the binary or outside of it.

Transphobia: Practices, attitudes, and structures that oppress transgender people. Transphobia can also manifest as hatred, fear, or discomfort with transgender communities and culture.

Transmisogyny: The specific institutional and interpersonal hatred, fear, and oppression of transgender women or femmes.

White Fragility: A term describing how confronting race or racism can cause white people to become uncomfortable, guilty, or defensive. White fragility causes white people to break down or lash out, derailing important conversations about race to focus on their reaction.

White Supremacy: The ideology that white cultures, beliefs, and behaviors are normal, desirable, or superior to those of people of color. While most people associate white supremacy with hate groups like the Ku Klux Klan or neo-Nazis, white supremacy is deeply embedded in many institutions and cultural assumptions that privilege whiteness.

Please bear in mind that this glossary is not definitive or comprehensive, but serves as a starting point.