

Diana Richardson

#278109 | March 16, 2021

Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, Recommended Draft**

It is so important, crucial even, to not only allow but encourage self-organized and self-governed villages such as Hazelnut Grove to lead the way, as they have done over the past five and a half years. The creativity and resourcefulness of people with lived experience can never be matched nor imitated by social service organizations. The cultural associations of who houseless people are must be changed by respectful interaction--acknowledging the validity of their expertise. Only in this way will we begin to fundamentally change the reality of our city and the culture that keeps it locked into an adversarial mentality.

Testimony is presented without formatting.