



THE BUREAU OF **PLANNING  
& SUSTAINABILITY**

## Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

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Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Commissioners  
Portland City Hall  
1211 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Portland, OR 97204

RE: Support for Albina Vision Trust Community Investment Plan

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners:

The Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) is delighted to express our support for the robust community-led plan and process to date for Albina Vision Trust's Community Investment Plan. The PSC has received three briefings on the Plan and appreciates Albina Vision Trust (AVT) for the time they have invested in sharing this information with us. We are supportive of their future work and hope that a strong and collaborative partnership can continue with the City.

AVT's Community Investment Plan is a vision for an area that was once a thriving Black community displaced by urban renewal and highway construction. The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability's report on the Historical Context of Racist Planning (2019) documents the harm to communities of color by such activities and redevelopment patterns of the past that excluded them from homeownership and wealth-building opportunities, and perpetuated segregation and displacement through land use actions, zoning rules, deeds and covenants, and lending practices. The PSC would like to support efforts in helping AVT meet their long-term vision and values as the work moves into the next phase.

As a Commission, we are responsible for the stewardship, development, and maintenance of the City's Comprehensive Plan. One of the main guiding principles of the Comprehensive Plan 2035 is to promote equity and environmental justice by reducing disparities, minimizing burdens, and extending community benefits. There are policies that specifically address removing discriminatory barriers to



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allow for fair and equitable housing and address the impacts of gentrification and displacement. We highlight Policy 5.18 Rebuild communities:

*Coordinate plans and investments with programs that enable communities impacted by involuntary displacement to maintain social and cultural connections and re-establish a stable presence and participation in the impacted neighborhoods.*

In addition to supporting continued City bureau coordination and partnership building with AVT, we hope City Council will support City staff to consider policy and/or regulatory barriers, if any exist, as AVT enters its next phase. In addition, the PSC would like to elevate the importance and intersection of racial and climate justice in this vision. Through AVT's community engagement process, community members expressed the importance of green infrastructure, carbon free, walkable spaces. The PSC supports aligning these goals with future implementation efforts in the plan area.

As Albina Vision Trust and City staff move forward with future coordination and defining partnership opportunities, we encourage BPS staff to keep the Planning and Sustainability Commission apprised of future efforts.

Sincerely,



Steph Routh, Chair

