



Fix-It Fair 2021-22 Season Report

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Contents

Season summary	4
Fix-It Fair... at home!	5
Historical context	5
Program goals and priorities	5
Racial equity goals	6
Digital engagement	7
Live online workshops and skillshares	7
TRASH FOR PEACE PROMOTORES AMBIENTALES PRESENTA... CONSEJOS PARA REDUCIR, REUTILIZAR, RECICLAR – A WORKSHOP FROM TRASH FOR PEACE ON REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE.	9
Marketing and promotion	10
A SAMPLE OF THE FIX-IT FAIR E-NEWSLETTER, SENT APPROXIMATELY TWICE A MONTH AND PRODUCED BY LINDSEY MASER WITH CONTENT PROVIDED BY FIX-IT FAIR STAFF.	10
Participant evaluation and demographics	11
Lessons learned, barriers and other considerations	13
Expanding Fix-It Fair services	13
Community engagement	13
Promotion	13
Staff time	13
Moving forward	14

Season summary

As with the 2020-21 season, the continuing COVID-19 pandemic made in-person events impossible. Fix-It Fairs continued with an online, digital model with two primary online offerings: a Community Resource Guide and ongoing live workshops which were also recorded for future viewing. It also resulted in a cable television show in order to reach community members without reliable internet access.

Fix-It Fair hosted **44 online workshops** and skillshares presented by over 20 community-based organizations, government programs and individuals. **413 attendees** participated in the live workshops with over a thousand views of recordings, and counting.

The new online offerings have both benefits and barriers to access. This season, like the previous one, saw a **10% increase in low to median income attendees**. However, it is felt that in-person events reach many audiences that online resources do not. As in-person events return, a hybrid model will be considered to benefit from both in-person events and the online offerings.

Fix-It Fair... at home!

Historical context

Fix-It Fairs have been a trusted source of community since 1986. Fix-It Fairs focus on saving money, staying healthy and feeling safe and comfortable at home. Fix-It Fairs also act as a major access point for Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to reach Portland’s most vulnerable populations including individuals experiencing poverty, and historically and presently under-resourced communities.

The Fix-It Fairs help create access to low- to no-cost, practical, hands-on resources for Portland’s most vulnerable populations to save money, stay healthy, and be comfortable. Fix-It Fairs host groups providing tangible resources (such as materials to weatherize a house or on-site appliance or clothing repairs) and skills education (such as tuning up a bike, saving money on utility bills, or building personal credit).

Because the COVID-19 pandemic made in-person events impossible, Fix-It Fair pivoted to an online, digital model.

Program goals and priorities

The overall goal of the Fix-It Fair is to support diverse communities to build capacity to exercise collective agency and resiliency be better able to meet their daily, physical needs.

Priorities were assessed and revised by an iterative process by working with community groups and resource delivery partners to assess shifting community priorities in the wake of COVID-19 including the immediate and long-term economic and health needs of community.

“I learned so much! Very awesome resource for the community.

– workshop participant

Zonal Heating - Set Thermostat Properly
**Зональное отопление -
Правильно настройте термостат**



Daytime/Occupied
Дневное время/присутствие
68°F

Sleeping/Away
Ночное время/отсутствие
60°F / OFF

Don't crank your thermostat -
this wastes energy and doesn't heat faster!
**Не выкручивайте термостат -
это тратит энергию и не нагревает
быстрее!**

zoom

COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CELS PROGRAM PRESENT СЕМИНАРЕ ПО ПОДГОТОВКЕ К ЗИМЕ, А DIY WEATHERIZATION IN RUSSIAN. THE SAME WORKSHOP WAS ALSO GIVEN IN CHINESE, VIETNAMESE AND ENGLISH.

Racial equity goals

Fix-It Fair has a long history of reaching Portland's populations who are most vulnerable to poverty, food insecurity, job insecurity, social biases such as racism, and displacement.

Fix-It Fairs provide a touch point and delivery mechanism to these communities both for partner and Bureau resources. The Fairs also provide a way to build relationships and meet the community where they are at; they provide two-way communications between community, our bureau and community-based partners.

Strategies this year included continued partnership with the independent Community Engagement Liaison Services (CELS), direct engagement with community-based organizations such as Educate Ya and Trash For Peace, and partnership with government programs and nonprofits that are deeply engaged with these communities such as Portland's Office of Community & Civic Life and Bureau of Emergency Management, 211 Info, and the Community Energy Project.

Digital engagement

The digital model for Fix-It Fair... at home! is represented in three offerings: ongoing live workshops which were also recorded for future viewing; a permanent online Community Resource Guide; and a robust social media presence through Facebook to continually provide information and resources, including our own livestreamed workshops.

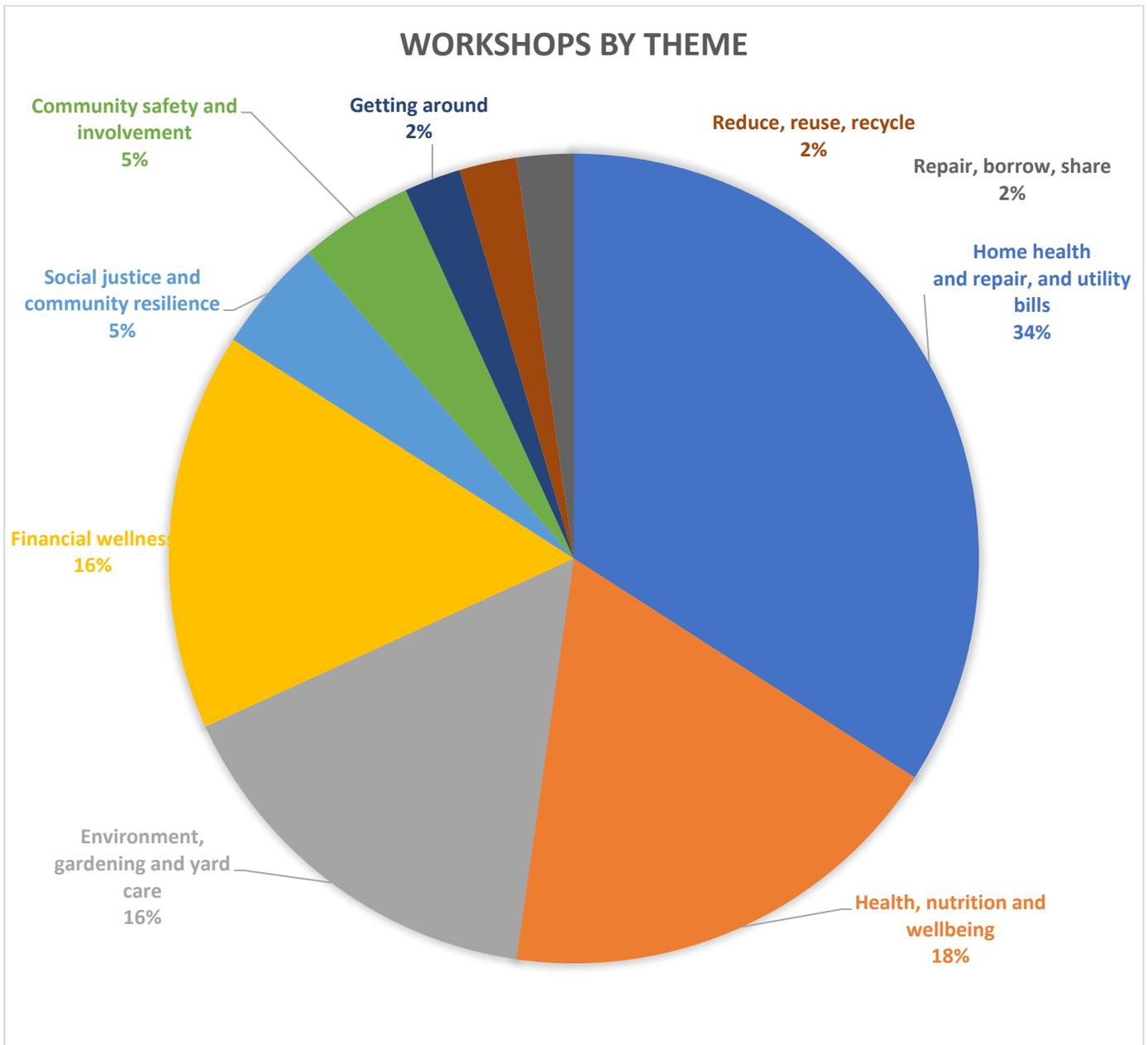
Live online workshops and skillshares

[Live workshops](#) could be attended in-person as a Zoom webinar, or viewed live on our [Facebook page](#). All sessions were also recorded on Facebook.

Forty-four workshops were held from November 2021 to the end of April 2022, presented by over 20 community-based organizations, government programs and individuals with ten of these workshops presented in Spanish. Over 400 attendees attended live Zoom workshops, with many more ongoing views of the recordings.

Fewer than half the workshops were held than the previous season due to shifting priorities and staff bandwidth. However overall attendee numbers were higher than the previous season.

“[The grow your own food workshop] was one of the best that I have seen. There was info, resources, a knowledgeable presenter and Q&A. Thank you!
– workshop participant



“Home health and repair, and utility bills” was the most represented theme at the workshops, mainly through partnerships with Multnomah County and Community Energy Project, and aligns with our strategic goals of community health and wealth, and carbon reduction.

Toilets



Largest use of water in our homes

Age matters (pre 1992 is over 1.6 gallons per flush)

Common source of leaks!

\$50-\$100 rebates available



FIX-IT FAIR SPONSORS AND ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR PRESENTATIONS – PORTLAND WATER BUREAU ON WATER CONSERVATION AND SAFETY.

Reciclemos nuestra Ropa!!!

Dentro de todos los estados unidos se tira más de 32 billones de productos textiles al año.

Un total de 1,500 galones de agua se necesitan para manufacturar una camiseta y unos jeans.

Opciones:

- Compremos solo la ropa que necesitemos, compremos ropa de nuestra talla y gusto.
- Compremos ropa de segunda mano.
- Done la ropa que ya no le quede, ropa que ya no quiera o necesite, a tiendas como Good will, salvation army y thrift shops.
- Organiza un Intercambio de ropa con sus familiares, amigos y vecinos.
- Regale su ropa a una persona de bajos recursos.

Ideas para reciclar ropa

TRASH FOR PEACE PROMOTORES AMBIENTALES PRESENTA... CONSEJOS PARA REDUCIR, REUTILIZAR, RECICLAR – A WORKSHOP FROM TRASH FOR PEACE ON REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE.

Marketing and promotion

The main promotional tools continue to be through social media, specifically Facebook, and by e-newsletter newsletter was sent about twice a month and included upcoming workshop offerings, information on the cable access show, and resources from partners.



Connecting Portlanders with experts – and each other!

February 09, 2022



Weatherization workshop

We all want to stay comfortable in our houses and apartments and save money on utility bills.

Friday, February 11, 5 - 6 pm

This workshop, from our partners at [Community Energy Project](#), will show you easy ways to:

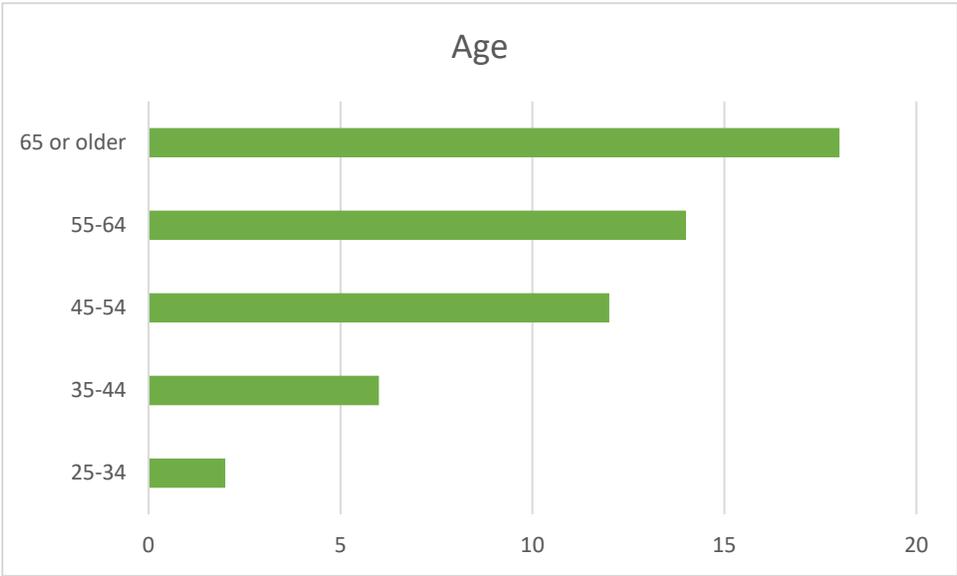
- Insulate your home to keep it warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.
- Stop cold air from sneaking in through doors and windows.

A SAMPLE OF THE FIX-IT FAIR E-NEWSLETTER, SENT APPROXIMATELY TWICE A MONTH AND PRODUCED BY LINDSEY MASER WITH CONTENT PROVIDED BY FIX-IT FAIR STAFF.

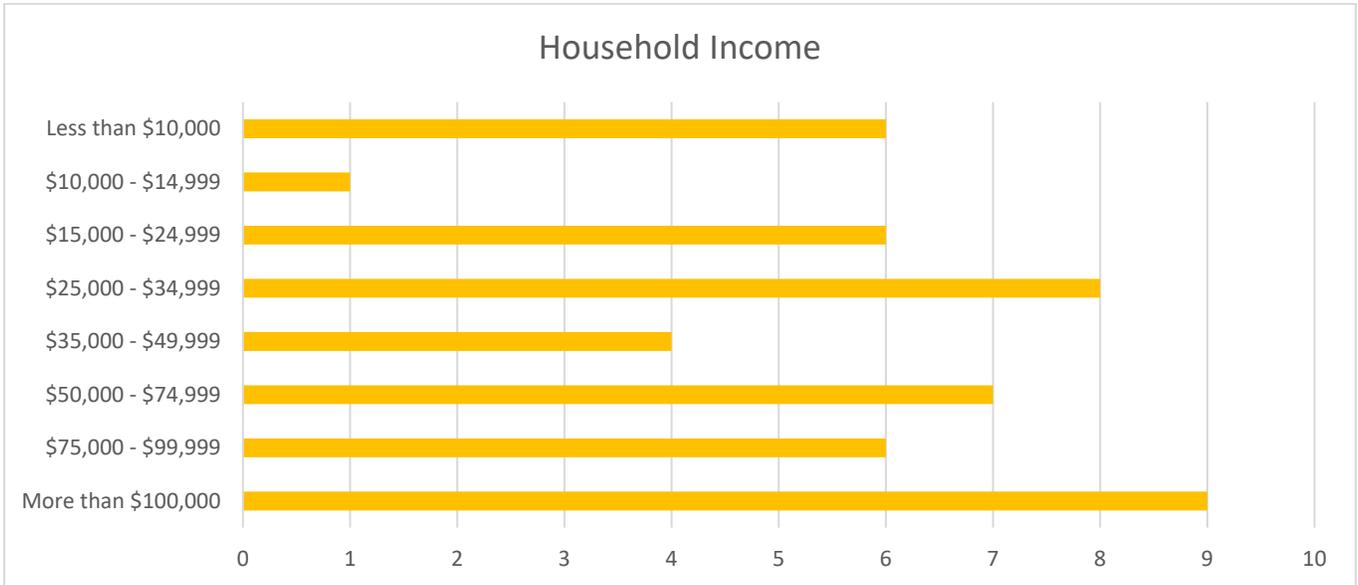
Participant evaluation and demographics

Live workshop attendees were surveyed for workshop evaluation and demographics. Participation was incentivized by entry into a raffle for each session they attended. Full responses are available in the Appendix A spreadsheet. Surveys were sent in either English or Spanish depending on the language in which each session was taught. Below are key takeaways from the surveys.

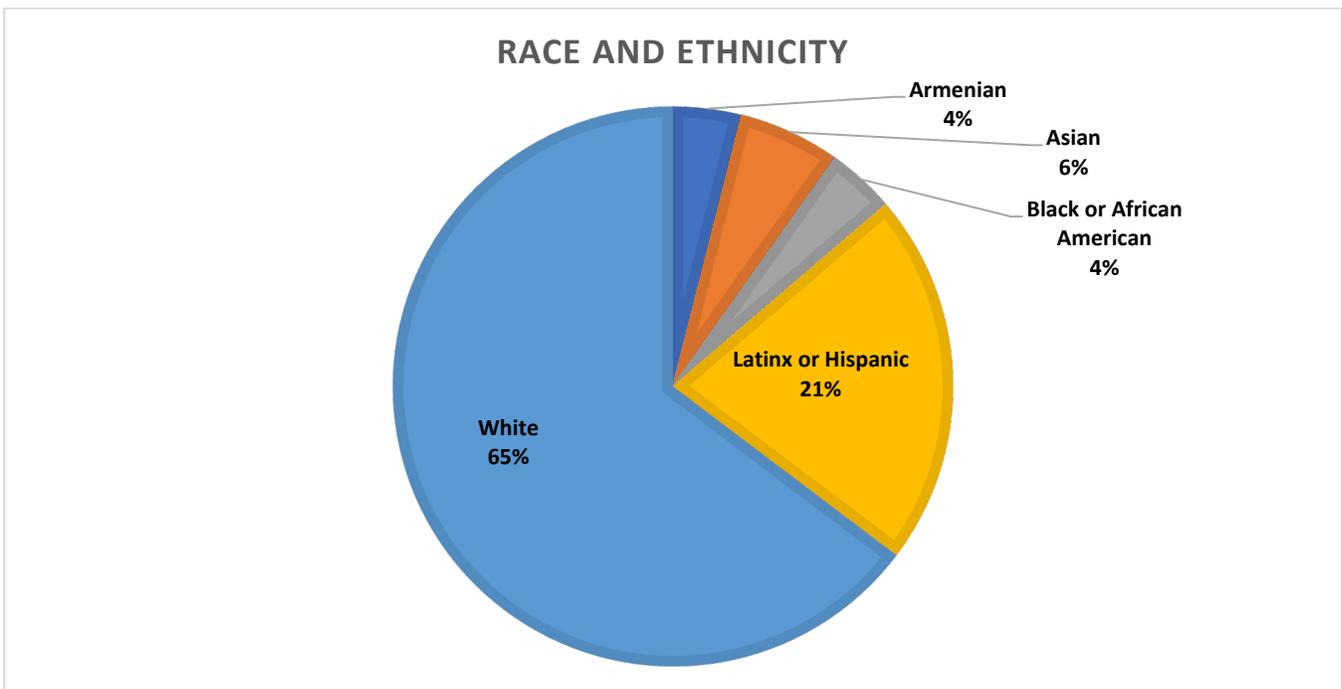
(Note: The response rate to online surveys was low compared to in-person events. The relatively small data size makes it difficult to state with certainty that these numbers are representative of attendees.)



The 2021-22 season demographics follow historic patterns of trending toward aging populations.



Approximately 68% of survey respondents identified as low to median income (\$0 - \$76,231 according to [available economic data](#)). This is over double an increase compared to 57% for 2020-21 and 47% for 2019-20.



A majority of responding attendees identified as White (65%), with a large increase in Latinx/Hispanic attendees (21%), and Asian (6%), Black (4%) and Armenian (4%) as the next most predominant groups.

Lessons learned, barriers and other considerations

Expanding Fix-It Fair services

Fix-It Fair staff considered hosting in-person “pop-ups” as part of this season of fairs. The pop-ups would provide smaller and more targeted community groups with strategic resources identified by our partner community-based organizations. The concept was developed in response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic but at a time when smaller gatherings and outdoor events were reasonable. The idea was generally scoped out, however was not developed further after being assigned to a staff outside of the core Fix-It Fair team.

Community engagement

Budget typically used for in-person needs such as space rental, childcare and lunches was rerouted to enlist community groups and individuals to both promote the Fix-It Fairs and as invitation to provide content.

Additional sponsorships were scoped the season, however the initiative was not brought to completion after being assigned to a staff outside of the core Fix-It Fair team.

In future the intent is to seek out additional sponsorship dollars to meet the needs of both in-person events and the additional practice of engaging community groups in our outreach strategies.

Promotion

While Fix-It Fair does not generally utilize the services of Communications Team, the program benefits by having access to the skills and time of Materials Management Team’s internal marketing specialist Lindsey Maser. Lindsey continues to lead the development of a dynamic e-newsletter. However, we understand that further work can be done to reach Black, Indigenous and Latinx communities, and linguistically and culturally diverse communities, by partnering with groups such as IRCO and Imagine Black, and emphasizing outreach and promotion elements with existing partners such as the CDCs.

Staff time

Staff time on the Fix-It Fair was reduced during the 2021-22 season to two active staff at about 30% FTE.

Fix-It Fair staff 2021-22

Wing Grabowski, coordinator

Harmonee Dashiell, coordinator

Lindsey Maser, communications support

Nikoyia Philips, executive supervisor

Moving forward

The online Fix-It Fairs reached new audiences than in-person events. Notable was a 10% increase in low to median income attendees both this season and for 2020-21. As we resume in-person events we will provide a hybrid of both online and in-person resources.

We also aim to secure additional sponsorship dollars due to the rising cost of in-person events and the additional cost of direct engagement of community-based organizations.

We also want to consider the long-range impacts of the Fix-It Fairs. In order to fully understand successes and limitations, and to better consider changes to the program, an in-depth evaluation of the Fair is planned for the 2022-23 fiscal year.



THE BUREAU OF **PLANNING
& SUSTAINABILITY**

bps@portlandoregon.gov

About City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) develops creative and practical solutions to enhance Portland's livability, preserve distinctive places, and plan for a resilient future.

<http://portland.gov/bps>

503-823-7700

Presenting organization	Topic	Date/Time	Participants	Theme
Construction Contractors Board	How to Hire a Licensed Contractor for Home Improvement Projects	Thursday, November 4, 2021		5 Home health and repair, and utility bills
Community Energy Project	Saving with Solar	Tuesday, November 9, 2021		5 Home health and repair, and utility bills
The Portland Chapter of the Awesome Foundation	Do More Awesome!	Tuesday, November 9, 2021		3 Social justice and community resilience
Community Energy Project	DIY Winter Weatherization	Tuesday, November 9, 2021		2 Home health and repair, and utility bills
Community Energy Project	DIY Winter Weatherization	Tuesday, November 9, 2021		14 Home health and repair, and utility bills
Community Energy Project	Lead Poisoning Prevention	Tuesday, November 30, 2021		4 Health, nutrition and wellbeing
Portland Bureau of Environmental Services	Become a Partner in Watershed Health!	Wednesday, December 1, 2021		5 Environment, gardening and yard care
Multnomah County	Navigating SNAP & Related Resources	Tuesday, December 28, 2021		2 Health, nutrition and wellbeing
Multnomah Country Weatherization Program	House as a system	Wednesday, January 5, 2022		5 Home health and repair, and utility bills
Educate Ya	VIH y la salud sexual en nuestras comunidades	Thursday, January 13, 2022		4 Health, nutrition and wellbeing
Financial Beginnings Oregon	Budgeting - Goals & Tools for Financial Success	Tuesday, January 18, 2022		3 Financial wellness
Financial Beginnings Oregon	Bienestar financiero – Presupuestación	Tuesday, January 25, 2022		5 Financial wellness
Multnomah Country Weatherization Program	House as a system - Part 2	Wednesday, January 26, 2022		5 Home health and repair, and utility bills
Portland Water Bureau	Water Efficiency, Water Quality and Financial Assistance	Thursday, January 27, 2022		9 Home health and repair, and utility bills
Trash for Peace Environmental Promoters	Loom Knitting Tutorial	Wednesday, February 2, 2022		4 Repair, borrow, share
Community Energy Project	семинаре по подготовке к зиме (Weatherization Workshop - Russian)	Friday, February 4, 2022		8 Home health and repair, and utility bills
Community Energy Project	冬季耐候性指导班 (Weatherization Workshop - Chinese)	Wednesday, February 9, 2022		11 Home health and repair, and utility bills
Community Energy Project	Hội thảo về Phòng chống Hao Tốn Năng Lượng Điện/Khí Đốt Nhà Ở (Weatherization Workshop - Vietnamese)	Thursday, February 10, 2022		18 Home health and repair, and utility bills
Community Energy Project	Weatherization Workshop (English)	Friday, February 11, 2022		4 Home health and repair, and utility bills
Financial Beginnings Oregon	Bienestar financiero – Crédito	Tuesday, February 22, 2022		4 Financial wellness
Cook First PDX and Montavilla Farmers Market	Fixin' to Cook: Soup Joumou (Haitian squash soup)	Thursday, February 24, 2022		25 Health, nutrition and wellbeing
OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program	Growing a Bounty of Berries	Saturday, February 26, 2022		70 Environment, gardening and yard care
City of Portland Office of Community & Civic Life	Community Safety Team Pedestrian Safety Training	Tuesday, March 1, 2022		12 Getting around
Cook First PDX and Montavilla Farmers Market	Fixin' to Cook: Soups — a lentil soup and a minestrone	Thursday, March 3, 2022		15 Health, nutrition and wellbeing
OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program	Garden of Eatin' - Vegetable Gardening Tips	Saturday, March 5, 2022		29 Environment, gardening and yard care
The Office of Community and Civic Life, Community Safety Program	Personal Safety	Tuesday, March 8, 2022		9 Community safety and involvement
Cook First PDX and Montavilla Farmers Market	Fixin' to Cook: Sauces	Thursday, March 10, 2022		21 Health, nutrition and wellbeing
Financial Beginnings Oregon	Financial Wellness – Investing: Savings & Retirement	Tuesday, March 15, 2022		10 Financial wellness
OSU Master Gardeners	Ask a Master Gardener!	Saturday, March 19, 2022		14 Environment, gardening and yard care
Financial Beginnings Oregon	Bienestar financiero – Invertir	Tuesday, March 22, 2022		4 Financial wellness
Cook First PDX and Montavilla Farmers Market	Fixin' to Cook: Unusual Spring Greens	Thursday, April 7, 2022		15 Health, nutrition and wellbeing
Community Energy Project	Savings with Solar	Tuesday, April 12, 2022		4 Home health and repair, and utility bills
Financial Beginnings Oregon	Financial Wellness – Risk Management: Protecting Yourself Financially	Wednesday, April 13, 2022		4 Financial wellness
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District	Attracting Pollinators to the Urban Garden	Thursday, April 14, 2022		7 Environment, gardening and yard care
Financial Beginnings Oregon	Bienestar financiero – Gestion de riesgos	Wednesday, April 20, 2022		3 Financial wellness
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District	Creating an Edible Landscape	Wednesday, April 20, 2022		14 Environment, gardening and yard care
Community Energy Project	Advocate for a Clean Energy Future!	Thursday, April 21, 2022		3 Social justice and community resilience
Community Energy Project	Climatizacion: Facturas de energia mas bajas (Air conditioning: lower energy bills – in Spanish)	Thursday, April 21, 2022		4 Home health and repair, and utility bills
OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program	Container Gardening with Culinary Herbs	Saturday, April 23, 2022		11 Environment, gardening and yard care
Office of Community & Civic Life	The Basics of Crime Prevention Through Placemaking and Environmental Design	Wednesday, April 27, 2022		8 Community safety and involvement
Educate Ya	VIH y la salud sexual en nuestras comunidades	Wednesday, April 27, 2022		3 Health, nutrition and wellbeing
Community Energy Project	Ahorrando con Energia Solar Comunitaria	Thursday, April 28, 2022		2 Home health and repair, and utility bills
Trash for Peace Promotores Ambientales	Limpieza verde (Green cleaners – Spanish)	Thursday, April 28, 2022		3 Home health and repair, and utility bills
Trash for Peace Promotores Ambientales	Consejos para reducir, reutilizar, reciclar (Tips to reduce, reuse, recycle – Spanish)	Thursday, April 28, 2022		3 Reduce, reuse, recycle
				413