

From: [Nicole Possert](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Cc: [Adam Hillary](#)
Subject: Written Testimony - Item 223 City Council Agenda (March 15, 2023 afternoon)
Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 6:40:12 PM

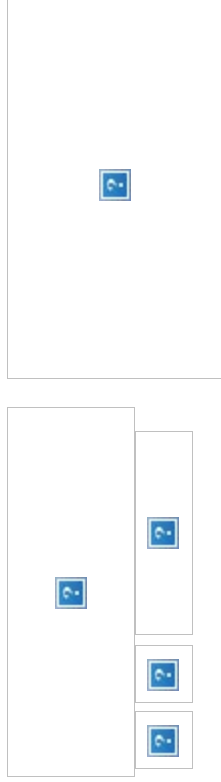
Honorable Mayor and Commissioners,

As Oregon's only statewide non-profit historic preservation organization, Restore Oregon works with thousands of people across the state each year to preserve, reuse, and pass forward the historic places and spaces that embody Oregon's diverse cultural heritage. By helping our fellow citizens preserve our state's unique built, natural and cultural environments, we help celebrate and promote much of what makes Oregon special.

The State of the City Preservation Report, by the Landmarks Commission, is an outstanding recap of what is working and what would be helpful to address in Portland. Our organization appreciates the work that the City has done for historic preservation, especially our voluntary Landmark Commissioners and small dedicated staff at both BPS and BDS. Thank you for supporting the federal and state legislation, specifically around tax credits and financial incentives (including the Special Assessment Program) for historic preservation.

We echo the request of the Commissioners in urging the City to set an example of excellence by maintaining City-owned historic/cultural resources so they don't become another demolition-by-neglect story. That all starts with a comprehensive Cultural Resource Management Plan so that the City can inventory and assess those resources - creating a roadmap of what is needed. Please consider adding in financial support whenever there is a budget process that would prioritize these activities.

Sincerely,
Nicole Possert



From: [Rod Merrick](#)
To: [Council Clerk](#)
Subject: Item 223 Landmarks Commission Annual Report testimony
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 3:28:21 PM

Mayor and Commissioners:

Rod Merrick, Co-chair of Portland Coalition for Historic Resources, speaking on my own behalf.

I appreciated the opportunity to support Preservation of historic resources in our city.

The PHLC is doing important work and the work of its dedicated and capable commissioners and supporting staff are much appreciated.

Preservation of historically significant buildings, landscapes, and artwork (including memorial statues) are integral for sustaining tourism, promoting economic development, and for the education of present and future generations of Portland citizens.

More than anything, Portland needs to dedicate funding to update its inventory of historic resources, a process which has been all but dormant for a generation.

The Report before you highlights the cost to the environment, the culture, and massive contribution to the solid waste stream of the demolition of viable structures. It points the measurable environmental costs of new construction.

All of this speaks to the need for policies that support preservation as the first consideration when new spaces and places are needed.

Thanks for your support and consideration.

PS Unsaid is my dismay at statements commending Council for their support for zoning reforms contained in RIP 1 and RIP 2 and specifically touting the anti-single family zoning. The density anywhere and everywhere policies are antithetical to good planning, sustainability, the environment, and generally a license to bypass preservation (despite pointing to rarely practical internal conversions as justification). They signal support for housing but do not address the underlying issues and causes related to either the shortage of housing or to the rapid increase in housing prices.


Rod Merrick, AIA NCARB
Merrick Architecture Planning
Portland, OR 503.771.7762

**TAKING
OWNERSHIP
PDX**

Let's Build.

Literally.





TAKING OWNERSHIP P PDX

Our Mission

Taking Ownership PDX is a community and reparations-based organization founded with the intention to activate and utilize community members and their resources for equitable change. Together we renovate and revive Black-owned homes and small businesses that have requested our help, with an emphasis on enabling Black Homeowners to age in place, generate wealth and simultaneously deter predatory investors and real estate professionals to deflect the gentrification process.

How it started

- Founded by Randal Wyatt in June 2020 as part of Portland's BLM movement.
- Portland native from East Portland
- Hip Hop Artist and Community and Cultural Activist for almost two decades
- Allies reached out asking how to be stronger supporters of the Black community
- Came up with group economics, reparations, and community-based model
- Taking Ownership PDX was born very fast!





Presenter: Charles Slaughter

- I was born and raised in NE Portland.
- I graduated from Grant High School in Portland.
- Attend Portland State University
- Earned a Bachelors of Science in Social Science From PSU
- Earned a Masters in Special Education at PSU.
- Currently Works as a special education case manager for Portland Public Schools.
- I've known Randal since we were 11 years old.

Why this work is important

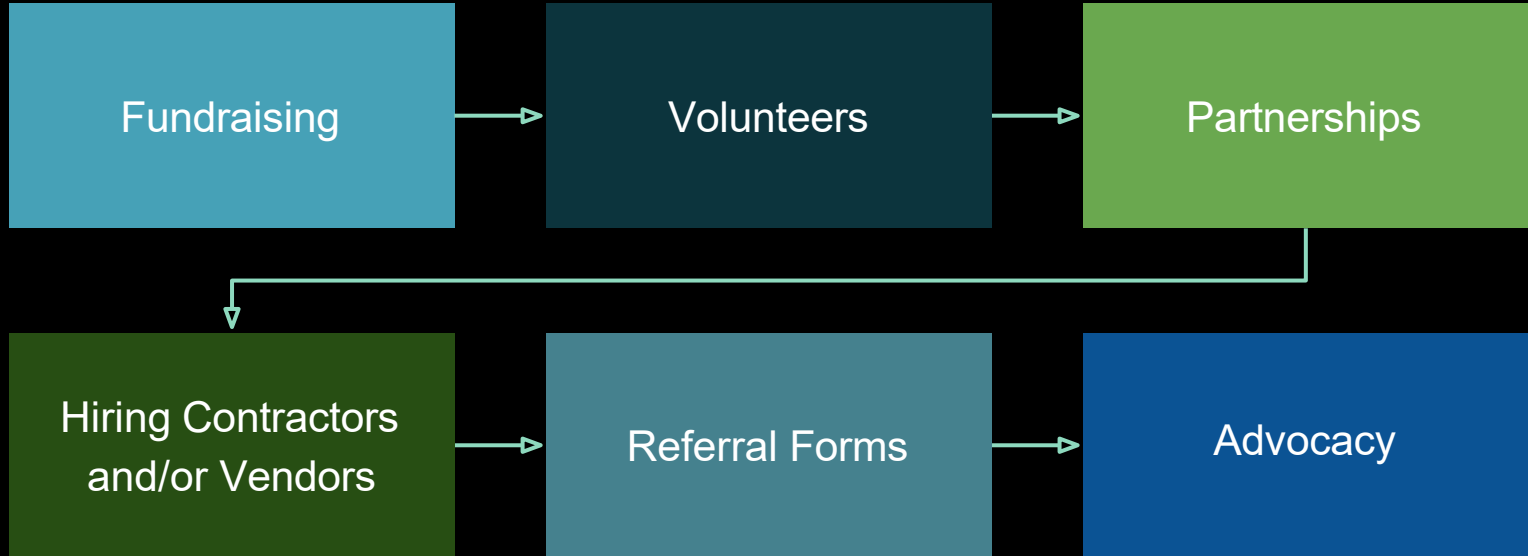


Portland has a history of racist and predatory real estate and banking practices that have targeted, excluded, and displaced thousands of Black home and business owners since Black people were permitted to live in the state of Oregon. Due to a lack of efficient and impactful equitable change from our policymakers and enforcers, we decided to take grassroots action to provide equity and justice to the Black community of Portland through reparations in the form of home and small business repairs, renovations, financial assistance, and advocacy.

We also needed to provide a clear path of reconciliation and justice for our allies who want to provide resources and physical labor to create quick tangible results that helps combat the consequences of economic exclusion and various forms oppression the Black community has suffered for hundreds of years.

[Ombudsman Report](#) - City's BDS reliance on complaints for property maintenance enforcement disproportionately affects diverse and gentrifying neighborhoods

How We Work



What We've Accomplished

1

Since our inception in June of 2020, we have raised over \$1.6 million, mostly through private donations from community members and allies!

2

Signed up over 400 volunteers who have done an estimate of \$160k worth of labor for homeowners and business owners.

3

Helped over 150 Black homeowners and small business owners with various repairs, renovations, cleanups, and financial assistance.

4

Participated in the Portland Charter Reform Committee which helped create measures on the 2022 midterm ballot. And have met with several city official and government branches about creating more equitable and inclusive practices.

\$125,000

Raised since New Years
2023

3

Average Projects per Month

12

Average Volunteers per Project



TAKING OWNERSHIP PDX

\$2,000,000

Fundraising Goal for 2023!

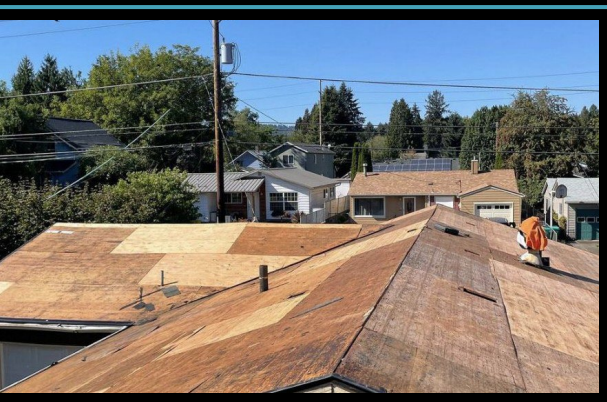
Donate Here



Testimonials



TAKING
OWNERSHIP
PDX



The Future of Taking Ownership PDX

- Non-profit status!
- Collaborating with pre-apprenticeship programs
- Partnership with Portland State University Students
- Expand our model to all marginalized communities nationwide

How to Get Involved

Visit www.takingownershippdx.org to:

Make a financial donation
(through our fiscal sponsor All
Ages Music PDX)

Submit a business or
organization to our Public
Resource list

Sign up as a
volunteer

Refer a
homeowner or
small business
owner

Contact Us

Learn more
information about
our organization

City Council Meeting - Wednesday, March 15, 2023 2:00 p.m.

Agenda No.	First Name	Last Name
223-01	Wendy	Rahm
223-02	Rod	Merrick