



“Glad to have this funding source! It was an excellent opportunity to talk about the area’s history, do STEM education, and provide outdoor experiences for the students. STEM learning is stronger when there is a story and cultural connections.”

Continued from inside

During Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership organized tours, 124 participants experienced the river from a canoe, some for the first time. Black youth, surrounded by other Black people encouraging them to be brave and try something new, enabled participants to overcome fears, strengthen connections to the river, and gain comfort and confidence on the water.

Goal 5: Increase collaborative relationships between community groups and governments.

Blueprint Foundation grew its partnership with Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership and Wild Diversity and connected with environmental remediation and restoration professionals through the Willamette Cove Environmental Field Day.

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership built new relationships with the Coalition of Communities of Color, Getting There Together Coalition, People of Color Outdoors, and Portland Harbor Community Coalition while designing educational canoe paddles.

Portland Harbor Community Coalition collaborated with Living Islands, Get Hooked Foundation, People of Color Outdoors, and Getting There Together Coalition on events, strengthening their relationships.

Grant funding helped Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods open the door to new connections, relationships, and collaborations with fellow grantees working in their district and engage community members in the cleanup.

The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access. To request translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, or other auxiliary aids, please call 503-823-5507 or Oregon Relay Service 711.

Traducción o interpretación | Chiakun mak me chiakun fos | Chuyển Ngữ hoặc Phiên Dịch | 翻译或传译 | 翻訳または通訳 Письменный или устный перевод | Traducere sau Interpretare | Письмовий або усний переклад | Turjumida ama Fasiraadda | الترجمة التحريرية أو الشفهية | ภาษแปลภาษา 𑌂𑌃𑌆𑌇𑌈𑌉 𑌂𑌃𑌆𑌇𑌈𑌉 | अनुवाद तथा दोभाषे सेवा

Translation or interpretation: Jessica Terlikowski, 503-823-5507

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2022 Portland Harbor Community Involvement Program

The Portland Harbor Community Involvement Program fosters meaningful public participation in the Portland Harbor Superfund cleanup process. It achieves this by engaging and collaborating with Portlanders, especially those disproportionately affected by historical contamination and upcoming cleanup efforts. Input from individuals with current, cultural, or historical connections to the Willamette River shaped the program’s goals and objectives. While the program includes various components, such as collaboration with community members to inform the remedy design at Willamette Cove and public education, a particularly impactful component of the program is grantmaking.

Portland Harbor Community Grants

The Portland Harbor Community Grants Program supports communities with connections to the Willamette River, including Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), people who eat resident fish and shellfish from the lower Willamette River, and housed and unhoused people living near the Superfund site.

A review committee of community and government representatives knowledgeable about affected communities, environmental justice, the Portland Harbor Superfund, equitable grantmaking, and community involvement chose eight organizations to receive grants in 2022.



Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership and ELSO paddle the Portland Harbor Superfund.

Program Highlights

- Partnered with the State of Oregon, Port of Portland, and Multnomah County Health Department to build the Lower Willamette River Fish Advisory Education and Outreach Program.
- Completed a plan with the EPA and the State of Oregon to increase public access and transparency of Portland Harbor information.
- Supported environmental career pathways through two internships with the City’s Portland Harbor Team.
- Collaborated with community leaders, agency partners, and technical consultants to create opportunities for community engagement and education, such as the Willamette Cove Environmental Field Day.
- Awarded \$180,000 in grant funds to support community-led initiatives among those disproportionately affected by the Portland Harbor Superfund site.

Program Goals and Highlights

Grantees

- Black Educational Achievement Movement (\$30,000)
- Blueprint Foundation (\$21,540)
- Coalition of Communities of Color (\$7,500)
- ELSO (\$40,000)
- Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (\$12,000)
- Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (\$26,490)
- People of Color Outdoors (\$11,680)
- Portland Harbor Community Coalition (\$30,800)

Outcomes by the Numbers

- \$180k in grants awarded
- 8 grantees (6 BIPOC led)
- 30 community-led events and activities
- 600 people engaged and educated
246 BIPOC youth
162 BIPOC adults

Goal 1: Increase BIPOC leadership and participation in the cleanup design process.

Around 100 community members, including 14 Blueprint Foundation youth, learned about sediment sampling at the Willamette Cove Field Day.

Goal 2: Expand community awareness and understanding of the Portland Harbor Superfund site.

Portland Harbor Community Coalition, Get Hooked Foundation, and Living Islands hosted a culturally specific event for Pacific Islander community members about the long-term health risks of eating resident fish from Portland Harbor. Living Islands received 200 fishing poles from the Get Hooked Foundation, created videos, and translated fact sheets into five Pacific Islander languages.

The Coalition of Communities of Color partnered with Getting There Together and Portland Harbor Community Coalition to host an outdoor educational and community building picnic for 30 community members, including 10 Spanish-speaking attendees in Cathedral Park.

Black Education Achievement Movement and ELSO facilitated intergenerational conversations between Black elders and youth to contextualize the Willamette River and the Portland Harbor Superfund through the elders' experiences. Elders shared that despite the connection they once had through living near, fishing, or working in one of the industries along the river, they now felt separated from the river and their communities.

Goal 3: Increase interest and awareness of environmental remediation career pathways among BIPOC communities.

Blueprint Foundation improved its workforce development programming by linking it to local cleanup and restoration efforts and making new connections with environmental and restoration firms. Their youth program participants shared their environmental monitoring knowledge with water resources professionals during the Willamette Cove Environmental Field Day.

Blueprint Foundation and ELSO promoted environmental career pathways among BIPOC communities with a culturally specific STEM curriculum on the Portland Harbor Superfund. ELSO also trained 16 high schoolers who educated 160 K-8 youth on Water Wednesdays, covering the site's history and future.

People of Color Outdoors collaborated with BIPOC environmental experts to educate 32 Portlanders on the Portland Harbor Superfund cleanup, which created a supportive community for BIPOC natural resources professionals to share their experiences as people of color working in natural resources.

Goal 4: Strengthen connections between Portlanders and the Willamette River.

Black Education Achievement Movement took 14 youth on the Portland Spirit and explored issues of river access, economic inequities, and racial justice.

Continued on back



Noni Causey of Black Education Achievement Movement talking with North Portland neighbors about what youth learned about the Portland Harbor Superfund.



Youth learning the science behind environmental cleanups at the Willamette Cove Environmental Field Day.



"The community grant review committee did a good job centering equity and BIPOC voices. Continue relying on their insights."



More images from the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership and ELSO paddle.



City Awards Nearly \$500,000 To Support Community-led Projects and Programs About the Portland Harbor Superfund

News Article

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Shaped by and for communities disproportionately affected by the [Portland Harbor Superfund](#) contamination and cleanup, the City's Portland Harbor Community Grants support community-led projects and programs about the Portland Harbor Superfund and meaningful public involvement in the cleanup process. This year marks the third round of grant funding available through the [Portland Harbor Community Grants](#) program.

A diverse review panel of community and government representatives evaluated this year's grant applications using a [set of criteria](#) and a consensus-based decision-making process to determine grant recipients and award amounts. Grant reviewers were selected based on their knowledge and experience related to affected communities, environmental justice, the Portland Harbor Superfund, community involvement, equitable grantmaking, and environmental remediation.

The grant review committee awarded \$481,837 to nine community organizations whose projects and programs are led by and for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities or involve deep partnerships with and benefit BIPOC communities. This year's grant recipients are:

Blueprint Foundation (\$74,600)

Blueprint Foundation redresses the opportunity gap for Black youth within the Portland metro area by engaging youth in culturally-specific experiences that introduce and prepare them for family-sustaining careers in the green sector. With these funds, Blueprint will help prepare the next generation of BIPOC environmental scientists and professionals. Blueprint will also increase awareness about the Portland Harbor Superfund, deepen trust in the scientific processes, and expand its Portland Harbor education, stewardship, and STEAM education efforts. BIPOC youth and undergraduate peer mentors will engage in field activities, including conducting air and water quality monitoring in and around the Portland Harbor Superfund site.

Ecotrust (\$75,000)

Ecotrust manages the Green Workforce Academy in partnership with Blueprint Foundation, Native American Youth and Family Center, Self Enhancement, Inc., and Wisdom of the Elders. The Green Workforce Academy is a dynamic, BIPOC-led partnership aimed to build economic justice through green jobs training for Portland's adults of color. Funding will support the expansion of the Green Workforce Academy curriculum to include more information on the Portland Harbor Superfund and new content on environmental remediation career pathways. The program will also foster connections between students and environmental remediation professionals to support networking and relationship-building for career development.

ELSO (\$74,600)

ELSO provides culturally relevant STEAM programs that empower children and youth of color to Experience Life Science Outdoors through place-based education that centers and elevates the stories, ways of knowing, individual needs, and lived experiences of Black and Brown communities. With these funds, ELSO will train high school-aged summer camp guides about the Portland Harbor Superfund site, cleanup, river ecology, and environmental justice to conduct age-appropriate interactive educational activities for K-8 students.

Living Islands (\$50,000)

Living Islands is a BIPOC woman-led, volunteer-driven organization that advocates for Pacific Islander communities through cross-cultural education and awareness. Grant funds will support the group's expansion of its "GoFish PI" program to include information about the Lower Willamette Fish Advisory. Living Islands will engage Pacific Islander communities through social media, holding culturally specific fish education events, and collaborating with other community organizations and government agencies working on the Portland Harbor Superfund.

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (\$32,537)

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership works to restore and care for the water and ecosystems of the Lower Columbia River for current and future generations of fish, wildlife, and people. With these funds, the partnership will recruit and support BIPOC interns as Paddle Leaders for on-river educational canoe trips for Portland Harbor Community Grants grantees and their networks. Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership will collaborate with each grantee to shape canoe trips that expand participants' understanding of the Lower Willamette River and the Portland Harbor Superfund site through direct on-the-water experiences.

Nesika Wilamut (\$50,000)

Nesika Wilamut is an Indigenous-led organization that creates connections, builds community, and shares resources to build capacity for an equitable, diverse, and inclusive river health movement. Funds will support Nesika Wilamut's engagement with BIPOC community members, build capacity, and decolonize approaches to river stewardship through Network Learning events. During the events, they will center traditional knowledge and the cultural lifeways of Indigenous communities by educating participants about the Portland Harbor Superfund, Lower Willamette River health, history and connection to the river, tribal community engagement, and respect for Indigenous knowledge.

Pacific Northwest Council of Water Protectors (\$25,600)

Pacific Northwest Council of Water Protectors is a coalition of Indigenous and non-Indigenous supporters who carry forward the fire that began at Standing Rock to protect our sacred water and maintain the sovereignty of tribal nations. Grant funds will support events that center cultural, educational, and Indigenous traditions, including the Medicine Gathering, Portland Harbor riverbank cleanup, and Water Blessing for Indigenous communities. These events will provide educational opportunities about the Portland Harbor Superfund site, environmental stewardship, cultural preservation, and healing through ceremonies tied to the water.

Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group (\$62,000)

The Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group fosters ongoing communication with government agencies about community concerns, questions, and priorities pertaining to the Portland Harbor Superfund site. These funds will support the development of The River Education Center and associated programming at Green Anchors, located on the riverfront of the Portland Harbor. Through The River Education Center, the Community Advisory Group will provide Superfund-related educational programming, workshops, and community meetings. Funds will also support the development and implementation of the River School to teach North Portland youth and adults about the Portland Harbor Superfund history, contamination, cleanup, and how to get involved.

Portland Harbor Community Coalition (\$37,500)

Portland Harbor Community Coalition works to elevate the voices of communities most impacted by contamination in the Portland Harbor Superfund site and ensure these communities lead cleanup, restoration, and redevelopment in ways that directly address their needs. With these funds, Portland Harbor Community Coalition will collaborate with tribal representatives and Indigenous Mayan community members to organize a culturally inclusive water ceremony along Portland Harbor. They will also work with organizational partners and youth to co-create an interactive educational workshop and field trip to increase awareness and interest in Portland Harbor, the river, Lower Willamette Fish Advisory, and safe fishing practices.

More about Portland Harbor Community Grants

In recognition of the inequitable impacts of the contamination and cleanup of the Portland Harbor Superfund site, Portland Harbor Community Grants prioritizes funding community projects and programs that are led by and benefit Portlanders with current, cultural, and historical connections to the stretch of the Lower Willamette River that makes up the Portland Harbor Superfund. These communities include BIPOC Portlanders, people who eat resident fish and shellfish, and housed and unhoused neighbors living near the Portland Harbor Superfund site. Funds awarded by the grant support community-led efforts to:

- Increase awareness and understanding of the Portland Harbor Superfund, the [Lower Willamette River Fish Advisory](#), and scientific, technical, policy, and process topics related to the cleanup
- Strengthen participation and leadership of affected communities in the cleanup process
- Engage BIPOC communities in environmental remediation career development
- Support collaborative partnerships among community groups and governments