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## **NEWS RELEASE**

***For Immediate Release***

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March 12, 2003

## **Burnside Triangle Advisory Group presents findings to Portland City Council**

**Citizen committee finalizes community survey to identify priorities for redevelopment in SW Stark St. cultural, entertainment, and historical area**

**Portland, Oregon.** The Burnside Triangle Advisory Group (BTAG) will present to Portland City Council the findings of a volunteer-organized survey designed to identify community priorities for future redevelopment of the historic Burnside Triangle on Wednesday, March 19, 2003, time certain at 10:15 AM, Council Chambers, City Hall, 1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. In addition, BTAG will present recommendations for Council consideration to help guide the implementation of the West End plan that will have significant impacts on the Burnside Triangle. The final report and recommendations of the group will be available March 19 on their website at [www.snabulus.com/btag/](http://www.snabulus.com/btag/).

The purpose of the survey was to give GLBT citizens the opportunity to voice their opinions on a series of recommendations for the future of Burnside Triangle. Over 500 people completed surveys asking them to identify their support for identifying the area as a gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) historical district; prioritizing physical

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improvements they'd like to see in the area; and interest in defining the area as a GLBT business district. BTAG developed these recommendations in response to an earlier survey conducted by the Metropolitan Human Rights Center in the summer of 2001.

Amongst numerous findings the preliminary survey results indicates strong support for publicly recognizing and commemorating the Burnside Triangle as a historically GLBT district. For example, this might be fulfilled through the funding and placement of historical markers recognizing sites significant to local GLBT history. To publicly recognize and commemorate the Burnside Triangle as a historically GLBT district affirms the struggle of the GLBT community to achieve social equality in Portland, and honors the contributions that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens have made to the city throughout its history.

Other findings suggest strong interest in the development of a GLBT community center in the district. Residents, businesses, and visitors want to retain the unique neighborhood characteristics of the area, and support the retention of existing and locally owned businesses and an awareness of the need for social service supports for homeless and low-income individuals in the area. There is broad support for a wide variety of streetscape improvements such as street trees, GLBT identified street banners, and street furniture.

BTAG was authorized by the Portland City Council as part of the downtown West End Plan approved in January 2002. In creating BTAG, City Council affirmed its commitment to the hallmarks of a dynamic civil society in which has Portland a unique urban center: diversity, inclusiveness, a historical vision, and community involvement. The West End Plan, adopted in January 2002, is an amendment to the Central City Plan. The advisory group is a citizen-led effort to investigate, share ideas and concerns with the City in its West End redevelopment efforts specific to the Burnside Triangle, Portland's historic GLBT district. The Triangle is centered on SW Stark St. and surrounding areas. It is sponsored by the Metropolitan Human Rights Center, within the City's Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

###

# BURNSIDE TRIANGLE ADV. GROU

## PSU student brings invisible history to light

OREGONIAN 9/27/02

*Melinda Maria Jetté will lead tours of the gay district in the Burnside Triangle*

By JOE FITZGIBBON  
SPECIAL TO THE OREGONIAN

Melinda Maria Jetté likes to call the Burnside Triangle the city's invisible historic district.

As a doctoral candidate with a passion for urban history, Jetté has compiled a century of gay and lesbian news stories focusing on the rarely told accounts of life in a 12-block area of hotels, cafes and nightclubs in Southwest Portland.

Standing before the Medical Building on Southwest Alder Street near Park Avenue, Jetté pointed to a fifth-floor window.

"That's where a young man who was about to be arrested for sodomy ... jumped out to the rooftop of the theater next door," she said.

This weekend, the Portland State University student will lead a two-hour walking tour of the area from Ringler's Pub on Southwest 14th Avenue and West Burnside Street to the Hotel Oregon on Southwest Broadway and Stark Street.

Along the way, participants will learn about the same-sex vice scandal of 1912, the lesbian physician who treated indigents and popular gay night spots.

"Some people might be a little squeamish when it comes to hearing about the scandals and sordid encounters with the police and the pain that many of the gays and lesbians suffered," she said. "But it's an important part of our city's history, and I don't think we

should back away from it just because it makes a few people uncomfortable."

Jetté also is a member of the Burnside Triangle Advisory Committee, formed in January after the City Council approved the West End Development Plan which guides development for the area.

The plan calls for redeveloping and landscaping a 60-block chunk of downtown, including the Burnside Triangle and the 12-block area between Northwest Couch and Southwest Washington streets and Interstate 405 to Northwest Ninth Avenue.

A key provision of the plan is the designation of the compact enclave of clubs, hotels and shops within the triangle as a central city entertainment district, which makes community celebrations easier to hold. It specifies the area for "its continuation as a Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Transgender friendly environment."

City planner Barbara Sack said zoning modifications for the area are designed to encourage the redevelopment of vacant lots without affecting gay-oriented shops, clubs and affordable housing units.

"We're trying to preserve what makes this area unique, especially the important number of housing and independent businesses in the area," Sack said. "We've liberalized zoning on surface parking lots as a way to encourage commercial development on some of the underused land."

Last spring, the advisory group collected 350 surveys from residents and business owners throughout the city and is seeking suggestions on redevelopment efforts from those within the Burnside Triangle.

### BURNSIDE TRIANGLE HISTORY TOUR

**When:** Saturday and Sunday from 1-3 p.m.

**Where:** Meet outside Ringler's Pub, corner of Southwest 14th Avenue and West Burnside Street

**Highlights:** 100 years of gay and lesbian history, including bars, cafes, hotels, music halls, nightclubs and gay-friendly businesses. Guides will discuss scandals, discrimination, personalities and vice squads as well as social and attitude changes in the past century.

**Cost:** Free; wheelchair accessible

**Information:** Melinda Marie Jetté, tour guide at 503-653-8893 or Brian Hoop at the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, 503-823-3075

"We know that there are some who want to see more landscaping along the streets and sidewalks, others who want places where they can bring their families, and many, like myself, who'd like to see Stark Street closed off from time to time for festivals and celebrations," said Jacob Brostoff, chairman of the group. "But, there are also those who worry that we're going to create a gay ghetto."

A few business owners and residents are unhappy with the process. Alix Nathan, owner of the Mark Spencer Hotel and former president of the Downtown Community Association, said he was upset that the advisory group had not involved him or other businesses in their discussions.

"I've always felt that we had

great rapport with the gay businesses in the area, but I'm disappointed and disturbed that they are moving ahead with this process without involving all the stakeholders," Nathan said.

Committee members said they were behind schedule but expected to meet with the neighborhood association and other business leaders in the next few months. The committee, which meets every other Thursday, meets next at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 3, at City Hall.

Brostoff said his group's greatest challenge is to find ways to celebrate the rich history and funky character of the neighborhood without becoming the next victim of gentrification. While some survey respondents want to maintain a focus on gay nightlife, others including Brostoff want less traffic, a mix of straights and gays working and living side-by-side, and a safe environment for sexual minorities.

The greatest fear of residents and club owners, he said, is that they will be absorbed by massive developments similar to the nearby Brewery Blocks.

"If the kind of commercial developers we've seen in the Pearl District move in, land prices will skyrocket, and what we love most about the area will change," he said.

Jetté is eager to help keep the area's character alive by sharing her stories this weekend.

"For decades, there's been a cloak of invisibility or denial that there's a same-sex history in Portland," she said. "But the reality is that it's significant and included professionals, artists and working-class people, much of it right here in the heart of the city. That's what I'd like people to know."

## PromiseKing



ON URBAN ISSUES

# City's gay history belongs to us all

TRIBUNE

8/6/02

It is official.

The future redevelopment of the city's downtown West End district will include the preservation of gay history and culture. This is the verdict of the Portland City Council.

In a unanimous vote, the council adopted the recommendation for action to establish the Burnside Triangle Advisory Group, which will recommend how to preserve the historic gay district. A community center is one project the group will discuss this Thursday when it meets at City Hall to flesh out redevelopment plans for the area on West Burnside Street between Northwest Couch and Southwest Washington streets.

I have been told that some evangelical groups and others who describe themselves as Christian conservatives will protest the Thursday meeting with the intent of disrupting it. I have conflicting thoughts about such protests.

First, I hope that all protests remain civil and courteous. We must eschew hate-filled, reckless rhetoric that exposes others to harmful ways. We still share the responsibility to assure all people the precious rights of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

However, I also think that those who disagree with the city's decision to designate a gay district should be allowed to express their dissent. My advice to the advisory

group is that a healthy policy debate cannot be held if participants or protesters are indiscriminately tarred with the broad brush of homophobia, xenophobia and bigotry.

I agree with the council's decision to expend public resources to preserve the historical interests of the gay community. It's a tangled and checkered history, sifted through conflicting memories and varying agendas. Given that, such a district seems justifiable.

None of us protested when the city redeveloped Chinatown and the Albina Community Plan as commitments to preserving the culture and history of our racial minorities. I believe the same respectful commitment should be extended to the history of gays' contributions to our city.

In every field, but especially in the sphere of philanthropy and service to humankind, gays have left an indelible mark in the annals of our city's history.

For instance, the Burnside Triangle was home to lesbian physician and activist Marie Equi during the 1920s. While she provided medical services to the poor and immigrant classes, she also was charged with sedition during World War I and imprisoned.

Lawyer Edward S.J. McAllister was convicted in 1913 of sodomy because of his relationship with another man and was consequently disbarred. His law license was posthumously restated in June 2000 by the Multnomah Bar Association.

For all the nasty division among us, our disposition to coalition building within our communities has proved substantial over the years. Most recently, we came together — gays, whites, blacks, et al. — to denounce the murderous rage of terrorists on Sept. 11.

My hope is that our different points of view will help us build a broader consensus around the city's central redevelopment plan for the West End.

Sen. Mark Hatfield once noted that if we pray to the biblical God of justice, we fall under God's judgment for not only calling upon his name but failing to obey his command. The commandment in this case: justice for all, hatred for none.

I follow this commandment even though I am evangelical and heterosexual. Do you?

Contact Promise King at  
[pkking@portlandtribune.com](mailto:pkking@portlandtribune.com).



# Study, survey to outline strategy for Midtown

BY AIMEE L. CURL  
Daily Journal of Commerce

A study and a survey focused on the Midtown area of Portland's Central Business District both hope to create a vision that will spur future economic development while retaining the area's unique and historic character.

The first, a development feasibility study bolstered with \$75,000 from the Portland Development Commission, is looking at the area between West Burnside and Southwest Salmon street that's bordered on the east and west by Southwest Broadway and 10th avenues.

This area, called Midtown (formerly named Crossroads), has been examined on several occasions.

PDC Development Director Abe Farkas said the current exercise isn't just another study.

"What we're looking at here is an implementation strategy, geared toward doing things rather than studying them," he said. "We're figuring out how to work with the private sector and others to foster change in the area."

The goal is to revitalize a portion of downtown that's been languishing.

"There's a number of vacant upstairs floors and woefully underutilized buildings in the area," Farkas said.

He said past discussions have unearthed various groups with different agendas for the neighborhood, from an emphasis on open space and an extension of the park blocks to saving and revitalizing historic buildings. He said PDC is talking to all stakeholders as part of the study.

DAILY JOURNAL OF COMMERCE

1/7/03

See MIDTOWN, Page 12

Page 12 THE DAILY JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, Tuesday, January 7, 2003

## Midtown: Burnside Triangle is subject of community survey

Continued from page 1

"There's many complex threads that need to be put together before (the neighborhood) can form an urban fabric. It's a delicate mix and a delicate balance," he said.

Farkas said although there's no silver bullet that's guaranteed to get the area back on its feet, certain components like transportation, parking and mixed-use development will be key to making the strategy successful.

He said development in Midtown has lagged due to both public and private inattention.

"The area has been disinvested by the private sector and the public sector has also been interested in

other areas like Pioneer Square, the Pearl (District) and the Waterfront area," Farkas said.

Located partially inside the Midtown blocks between West Burnside and Southwest Alder streets and Southwest Broadway to 14th avenues, the Burnside Triangle neighborhood is the subject of a community survey.

The Burnside Triangle Advisory Group, with help from the city, is asking property owners, members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and other interested parties to share ideas and concerns and to rate the top five improvements they'd like to see in the Burnside Triangle.

Jacob Brostoff, BTAG's co-chair-

man, said small, locally-owned businesses have always been the driving force behind the neighborhood's health and vibrancy.

"Some of the businesses have been there for more than 20 years; but they have a tenuous hold on real estate. Most rent on short-term leases. It's unclear if the smaller or older buildings come down, whether they would still have a space," he said.

Brostoff said vacancy and low rents have encouraged small businesses to be a staple of the neighborhood.

"There's a lot of available space for retail and small configurations of Class C office space that's available and affordable. There's a lot of

pedestrian traffic," he said.

The survey's first question asks whether respondents would like to see the neighborhood identified as a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender district.

"We don't want to pump the neighborhood full of formaldehyde so it never changes," Brostoff said. "But the reality is, I'm a gay man and I'm concerned that my community's businesses have a place to thrive and be viable."

He said the gay community should be considered like any other minority community when the city makes planning decisions that effect their neighborhood.

Farkas said his team will take a look at the Burnside Triangle survey

results before completing work on the Midtown blocks study.

He said he hopes to have the implementation strategy for the Midtown area to the commission by March.

Brostoff said BTAG has already surpassed its goal of collecting 500 completed responses to the survey.

Surveys for the Burnside Triangle neighborhood can be found at <http://www.snabulus.com/survgen/btagssurvey.html> and must be completed by tomorrow to be counted.

Aimee L. Curl covers commercial real estate and development for the Daily Journal of Commerce. She can be reached by e-mail at [aimeec@djco.com](mailto:aimeec@djco.com) or by phone at 503-221-3314.

## Going down in history

TO THE EDITOR:

The Burnside Triangle occupies a central place in the history of gay men and lesbians in the Portland metro area.

The life of prominent lesbian doctor and social activist Marie Equi is one extraordinary example of this rich history. During the early decades of the 20 century, the Burnside Triangle was home to Equi, her partner, Harriet Speckhart, and Equi's adopted daughter, Mary.

When Equi, a pacifist, openly opposed U.S. entry into World War I, the federal government tried her on treason charges. The prosecutor attempted to use her lesbianism against her at trial. Equi ultimately was convicted under a new espionage act and served time at San Quentin Prison in California.

Before gay liberation, lesbian feminism and the sexual revolution of the late 1960s and early 1970s, homosexual men and women lived in a society that offered no civil rights protections in employment, housing or public accommodations and no visible community advocacy programs. In such a world, the bars and clubs in the Burnside Triangle were some of the primary social gathering places for gay men and lesbians in Portland.

Because the neighborhood was known as a place frequented by homosexual men and "unsexed women," it was also a place targeted by police and city officials in their efforts to monitor and control the activities of gay men and lesbians. In 1912 police officials and City Hall mounted a same-sex vice investigation that ruined the careers of several prominent closeted homosexual/bisexual men and led to the suicide of one man's wife. In the late 1940s the Portland Vice Squad reported on the activities of male and female impersonators at the old Music Hall on Southwest 10th Avenue and on the "cruising prospects for 'confirmed lesbians' at the former Buick Café on Southwest Washington Street.

During the 1970s the Portland Town Council, a gay business association firmly rooted in the Burnside Triangle, played a leading role in contravening the efforts of city officials and police to dismantle the "homosexual presence" in Portland. The work of these leaders, together with those of social activists, succeeded in bringing about a significant change in attitudes toward the queer community.

The Burnside Triangle continues to be a destination of choice for many gay, lesbian, bi and trans residents of and visitors to the metropolitan region. As a social and entertainment neighborhood with a rich history, it is one important area in the larger queer geography of Portland.

To publicly recognize and commemorate the Burnside Triangle as a historically gay district affirms the struggle of gay, lesbian, bi and trans people to achieve full citizenship in Portland and honors the contributions they have made to the city throughout its history. The citizens of Portland have demonstrated the value of such public memorials in adding to the city's social fabric: Witness the Japanese American park on the waterfront, a revitalized Chinatown and the experiences of African Americans to be recognized at stations along the Interstate MAX line.

JACOB BROSTOFF AND MELINDA MARIE JETTE  
Burnside Triangle Advisory Group Co-Chairs

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**BURNSIDE TRIANGLE ADVISORY GROUP PRESENTATION TO PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL**  
**MARCH 19, 2003**

The Burnside Triangle is an area with significant historic and present-day importance for Portland's sexual and gender minorities (GLBT Portlanders). Recently, the West End Plan—which includes plans for the redevelopment of the Burnside Triangle—was developed and adopted without inclusion of GLBT Portlanders or the businesses that serve them.

The West End Plan rezoned much of the Burnside Triangle and greatly increased its development potential. Changes are clearly coming for the Burnside Triangle, as evidenced by the Brewery Blocks and MuseumPlace redevelopment projects that border it on the north and south.

In April 2002, Portland City Council empanelled the Burnside Triangle Advisory Group (BTAG) to assist with the implementation of the West End Plan. City Council charged BTAG with representing GLBT Portlanders, to whom the Burnside Triangle has had significant historic importance for more than 100 years, in plan implementation. Since forming, BTAG has done outreach to sexual minorities (GLBT) Triangle residents and businesses to determine what the community's interests and priorities are for the district. This outreach included:

- Earned media in newspapers and on television
- Community history tours
- A survey of 510 individuals and businesses, administered in person, on the Internet and by mail, of 510 individuals and businesses about their priorities for the Triangle's future

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

The survey results show that there is strong support for public recognition and celebration of the Triangle's GLBT history and identity. Top priorities for businesses, patrons and residents include:

- A GLBT Community Center
- Retention of existing businesses and the district's historic character
- Expression of the Triangle's GLBT history through historical markers, public art and neighborhood design elements
- Streetscape and public safety improvements

BTAG RECOMMENDATION

We ask that City Council create an interbureau team to implement a number of recommendations based on the top priorities identified in the survey. We will present our full set of recommendations in our written report and March 19, 2003 presentation to Council.

**Burnside Triangle Advisory Group (BTAG)**  
**Report to Portland City Council**  
**March 19, 2003**

Burnside Triangle Advisory Group Vision Statement:

*The Burnside Triangle, a center for the community and region, is a historic area rooted in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and straight communities. It is a socially vibrant and commercially prosperous place where people of all genders, ages, and cultures feel affirmed and welcome. The Triangle continues to be a place where locally owned small businesses serve this diverse community and is seen as one of the most colorful parts of the city – creating a sense of place and pride for all residents and visitors to the Portland area.*

**Introduction**

The Burnside Triangle Advisory Group (BTAG) has conducted a survey of residents, businesses and patrons of the Burnside Triangle, a part of Portland's downtown that is bordered by significant neighborhood change. The survey probed community attitudes about the Triangle, and asked respondents to prioritize potential improvements for the Triangle. In this document, BTAG presents the results of the survey to City Council, along with our recommendations for priority improvements in the Triangle.

**A Brief History of the Burnside Triangle**

The Burnside Triangle area has been a meeting place for Portland's GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender) citizens since the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and even perhaps as far back as the latter decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the City of Portland, where, for most of this period gays and lesbians were a largely invisible population, bars and clubs in the Burnside Triangle were their primary social gathering places (see Appendix I for a map of the Burnside Triangle).

Through the middle decades of the twentieth century, the Burnside Triangle was a place targeted by police and city officials in their efforts to control the activities and suppress the civil rights of gays and lesbians. A good example of this persecution is the 1912 same-sex scandal. The scandal, based on the surveillance reports of undercover officers who regularly visited gay and lesbian nightclubs (see Appendix II for Historical Highlights of the Burnside Triangle Walking Tour), ruined the careers and lives of several prominent closeted homosexual men.

Before gay liberation, lesbian feminism, and the sexual revolution of the 1960s and 1970s, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered citizens had no civil rights protections in employment, housing, or public accommodations and no visible community advocacy programs in Portland or the state of Oregon.

During the 1970s, the Portland Town Council, a gay business association rooted in the Burnside Triangle, played a leading role in contravening the efforts of city officials and police to dismantle the "homosexual presence" in Portland. The work of these business leaders, together



with those of social activists, succeeded in bringing a level of tolerance and protection to the gay and lesbian community beginning in the late 1970s.

In 2000 the City of Portland demonstrated its commitment to GLBT civil rights by passing an ordinance outlawing discrimination in public accommodations, housing, employment, and education. Multnomah County followed a year later with its own non-discrimination ordinance. To date, the state of Oregon has not extended basic civil rights protections to the GLBT community. The historical development of the Burnside Triangle is congruent with Portland's history of extending basic civil rights protections to all of its residents.

The Burnside Triangle continues to be a destination of choice for many gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered residents of and visitors to the Portland metropolitan area. The Burnside Triangle is an important district in the larger queer geography of Portland. Thus, it is not Portland's only GLBT district, but rather one historically important area among many queer sites and locales around the city.

### **A Brief History of BTAG**

In the year prior to Portland City Council's adoption of amendments to the *Central City Plan* and ancillary documents in January 2002, the GLBT community began a dialogue with City officials with regard to these amendments, also known as the West End Plan. Over the spring and summer of 2001, the Metropolitan Human Rights Center convened a series of meetings to afford members of the GLBT community an opportunity to voice their concerns about a portion of the West End, called the Burnside Triangle.

In response to these community meetings, the results of a survey conducted at Portland Gay Pride (June 17-18, 2001), and advocacy by members of the GLBT community, the Portland City Council established the Burnside Triangle Advisory Group (BTAG) as part of the West End Plan and the *Central City Plan*.<sup>1</sup> In creating BTAG, City Council affirmed its commitment to those hallmarks of a dynamic civil society which have made Portland a unique urban center: diversity, inclusiveness, historical vision, and citizen involvement.

Following the establishment of BTAG, the Metropolitan Human Rights Center spearheaded efforts to organize the group in the spring of 2002, with interested citizens agreeing to a one-year commitment. The group began meeting on a bi-weekly basis in April of 2002 and dedicated the summer of 2002 to organizing and planning efforts. BTAG members elected to work on a consensus basis, creating three specific posts: secretary, and two co-chairs.<sup>2</sup> The membership of BTAG has consisted of at-large members of the GLBT community, community activists, planning professionals, members of the Portland Area Business Association (PABA), and residents and business representatives from the downtown area. Although Commissioners Saltzman, Francesconi and Leonard have graciously provided staff resources from the Office of

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<sup>1</sup> , Bureau of Planning, City of Portland, Downtown's West End: Amendments to the *Central City Plan*, Zoning Code, and Zoning Map. (February 2002), 24.

<sup>2</sup> Jacob Brostoff and Melinda Marie Jetté have served as co-chairs, and Thomas Soppe has served as secretary.

Neighborhood Involvement and the Metropolitan Human Rights Center, BTAG's activities have been largely led by the volunteer efforts of its members.

By the summer of 2002, BTAG decided to concentrate its efforts on two major undertakings: walking tours illustrating the history of the Burnside Triangle and a GLBT community survey with regard to the future of the Triangle. Following a few months of research, practice, and preparation, BTAG hosted the history tours over the weekend of September 28-29, 2003. The history tours were well covered by the media and approximately 75 to 100 people participated. The participants expressed interest in the 100-year documented GLBT history of the Burnside Triangle and support for BTAG's efforts on behalf of GLBT citizens.

In the fall of 2002, BTAG made presentations to and initiated discussion with the Pearl District Neighborhood Association and the Downtown Community Association.

### **BTAG Community Survey Overview**

Following the Burnside Triangle walking tours, BTAG concentrated its efforts on preparing and administering the community survey. The purpose of the survey was to give GLBT citizens and Burnside Triangle stakeholders the opportunity to voice their opinions on a series of recommendations for the future of Burnside Triangle. BTAG developed these recommendations in response to the general survey conducted by the Metropolitan Human Rights Center in the summer of 2001.

The community survey was announced to the media and the GLBT community in early November 2003 (see Appendix III for a copy of the survey). The survey period lasted from November 14, 2002 through January 6, 2003. In disseminating the community survey, BTAG undertook a multi-pronged approach.

- First, media and GLBT community organizations were notified through press releases that an online survey could be completed by interested parties. This online survey was prepared by Donald Limbaugh, who provided many hours of volunteer labor.
- Second, BTAG members devoted several weekends to canvassing patrons of GLBT businesses in the Burnside Triangle and GLTB businesses in other parts of the city.
- Third, BTAG members disseminated electronic messages via email, requesting participation from local GLBT community organizations and their members.
- Fourth, BTAG representatives met with the Portland Area Business Association (PABA), a gay and lesbian business alliance, and asked members to complete the survey and make surveys available at their establishments.
- Fifth, BTAG sent a packet of surveys to Janus Youth Services, which operates the Access and Assessment Center for homeless youth in the Burnside Triangle.

- Finally, BTAG sought input from stakeholders in the triangle. Since constraints on financial and human resources made it unfeasible to affect a direct mailing to all of the 500 plus business and property owners in the triangle, BTAG sent a mailing to a random sampling of 200 business and property owners.

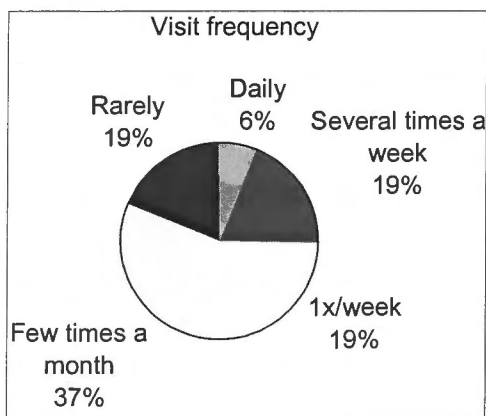
In total 510 community surveys were completed and returned to the Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

Following the closure of the community survey period, BTAG members set to work entering the data from the surveys and then verifying this data entry. Analyses of both the quantitative and qualitative portions of the survey are presented below. BTAG's recommendations with regard to the future of the Burnside Triangle flow directly from these analyses.

### Community Survey Results: Quantitative

#### *Respondent geography*

88% of all respondents were zipcodes in the Portland region, and 94% were Oregonians. The bulk of the remainder were from other zipcodes in the Pacific Northwest (defined here as Oregon, Washington and Idaho). 8% of all respondents lived in the Triangle.



#### *Frequency of visits to the Triangle*

Most respondents visit the triangle several times a week to several times a month.

#### *Support for Triangle's GLBT identity*

The majority of respondents supported the idea of the Burnside Triangle having a public GLBT identity.

#### *Business support for streetscape improvement projects*

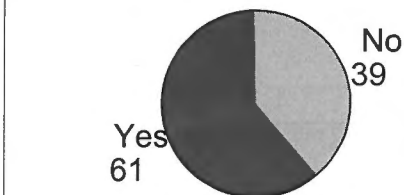
Most businesses said that they would be willing to sponsor or participate in a streetscape improvement project.

#### *Top 10 improvement priorities*

Among all respondents, the top 10 improvements were (in declining order of popularity):

1. Retain existing businesses
2. Safety
3. GLBT Community Center
4. Retain historical appearance
5. Trees and plants
6. Public recognition of GLBT history with signs, placards
7. Affordable housing

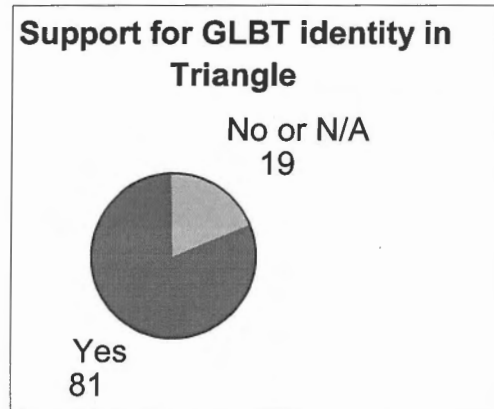
#### **Business support for streetscape improvement project**



8. Public art and murals
9. Cafes
10. Daytime activities

Among business respondents only, the top 10 improvements were (in declining order of popularity):

1. GLBT Community Center
2. Safety
3. Retention of existing businesses
4. More daytime activities
5. Cafes
6. More modern appearance
7. Public recognition of GLBT history with signs, placards
8. Trees and plants
9. Diversity flags
10. Public art and murals



### **Community Survey Results: Qualitative**

The comments from survey respondents fell into several categories (see Appendix IV for a complete list of written comments). They include social inclusion, neighborhood continuity, cultural and historical significance, community, public safety, diverse businesses, low-income housing, transportation and streetscape improvement, and fear of exclusion.

#### **Social Inclusion**

Bisexuals and others in the GLBT communities would like the Burnside Triangle be a place where they can bring their partners and children. Many people in the survey asked for family oriented activities and businesses.

- “I am a bisexual single mother of a young child and would love for my partner and I to go to community events with my son...”
- “Make it more of a kid friendly place. My partner and I have toddler that we cannot bring to the Burnside Triangle as it is now.”

Bisexuals, lesbians, and transgendered people want to feel welcome.

- “A transgender club would be nice.”
- “More lesbian-oriented businesses.”

Currently, the primary clientele of the entertainment businesses appears to be men. Women would like to feel more welcome and included. More businesses geared towards women could accomplish this.

- “I don’t necessarily feel connected to the Burnside Triangle because I’m a woman. It’s all about the boys. That’s okay, but I don’t go around there much because of that.”

### **Neighborhood Continuity**

Many survey respondents wanted the area to stay as it is now.

- “I would like to see all of the current GLBT establishments stay where they are..”
- “Yes I visit, and I believe you should leave it alone.”
- “If the area would be redeveloped it would destroy one of the brightest spots in my social world, making Portland seem more like a rural city, than the mature urban center it needs to be.”

### **Cultural and Historical Significance**

Survey respondents wanted any future development to recognize the GLBT historical and cultural significance of the area. In their comments, it is evident that they recognize the history and culture in the neighborhood today and they do not want to see it disappear.

- “I want to recognize the historical and cultural significance of the area to the queer community.”
- “So many people have so many ties: emotional, sentimental, and fiscal that it would be a shame to see it taken over by Corporate Americas. Big Business will never be able to replace the character and distinct personality the GLBT community has established.”
- “I would like to see the current character of the neighborhood preserved, but I’d also like to more family activities and businesses. “

### **Community**

A large number of survey respondents talked about wanting to feel a greater sense of community in the Burnside Triangle. In many comments, people specifically asked for a GLBT community center.

- “A big #1 for GLBT Community Center.”
- “A community center would help our community reverse the trend towards large city isolationism that, I believe, does not have to follow with growth. We need a place besides bars and once or twice a year events to come together. Community builds strength, provides support and helps us become a force in shaping the larger community of Portland and area...”

Survey respondents expressed the importance of a place like the Burnside Triangle. One Japanese person equated the GLBT community with the Japanese community. The historic geographies of cultural communities are recognized within Portland. Why not have the same for the GLBT community?



- “As with many communities (I am also Japanese), having a place that you can identify with, where you can feel you can let more of your guard down is an important part of the sense of community.”

### **Public Safety**

Survey respondents talked about public safety. Some said that they felt that the Burnside Triangle was one important geographic locale within the City of Portland that offers sexual minorities protection from being targeted.

Others addressed public safety with regard to drugs, prostitution, panhandlers, and homeless youth. As with any city, these problems are endemic to downtown Portland. People expressed a desire for community policing, and also emphasized concerns about police harassment of GLBT citizens.

- “It is a great area, and I appreciate feeling “at home” there. It’s wonderful to walk arm in arm and not fear for my life, too much.”
- “I have been visiting this area for over 20 years. It seems to have gotten darker and scarier as of late. As with the whole city, the number of homeless/scary people has gotten worse. It doesn’t feel safe in the triangle. I think that is my biggest problem with it. It seems somewhat seedy and dirty too. The triangle could certainly use a face lift, and make it more friendly.”

### **Diverse Businesses**

Survey respondents expressed an interest in seeing more businesses other than bars and clubs. Others wanted to see significant improvements in existing businesses.

- “Need more businesses that would draw me there, i.e. coffee shops, bookstores, etc. Portland needs the Triangle. We can make it into something wonderful for the diverse community of our town!”
- “The first time I visited a “Burnside Triangle” establishment I had to chase the cockroaches off my food.”
- “I would love for this area to become a vibrant place for everyone in the gay community. I want to see business prosper, and grow because of our support, and then more cafes and shops move into the district. This would create daytime activity, and be a fun place to meet friends for lunch, or after work cocktails. More variety of things to do, particularly daytime; more vibrant street scene with variety of businesses.”
- “The remaining one [bathhouse] is unacceptable. We know the city has placed roadblocks and excessive restrictions to prevent establishing new such businesses. Excellent facilities exist in Seattle and Vancouver BC. We should not have to travel out of town to use such businesses.”
- “The area around the triangle has become bright, trendy and totally unaffordable. Can we at least try to serve the population of this city more than the tourists?”

### **Low Income Housing**

Survey respondents expressed concern about gentrification displacing low-income residents currently living in the area. There was strong support for retention of affordable housing and additional social services for homeless individuals.

- “The most important thing is to ensure low income residents of the area are not displaced by gentrification.”
- “Do not displace any resident more than 3 blocks from her/his current homes. Try not to make more people homeless through out this process. Don't raise housing rents.”
- “Too many homeless cling to the streets of the Burnside Triangle, especially on Stark. The drug trade is also far too healthy in this area -- significant work needs to be done to clean that up as well.

### **Transportation and Streetscape Improvements**

Survey respondents asked for better access to public transportation to and from the Burnside Triangle. They asked for roads to be more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. They also want streetscape improvements such as bike racks, rainbow banners, shrubs, park benches, trees, and an all-purpose park.

- “Need improvements to the Burnside project (uncoupling) in order to make the district more pedestrian friendly and a better transition into the areas north of Burnside.”
- “I love the small 'zine store, cheap eats (Rocco's), relatively easy access via mass transit. Maintain existing small businesses, improve sidewalks to be more pedestrian friendly, acknowledge heavy bicycle use and support these patrons with adequate number of (art-sculpture) bike racks.”
- “Stark Street should be closed to autos and made into all purpose park with shrubs and benches - perhaps incorporating a bike path.”
- “A few more gay-oriented cafes or restaurants in the neighborhood would be a nice addition. Flags (like in S[an] F[rancisco]'s Castro) or neighborhood placards (like in Vancouver, B.C.'s Davie Village) would certainly help to give the neighborhood an identity.”

### **Fear of Exclusion**

Several survey respondents interpreted the proposal to recognize the Burnside Triangle as a district of historical and cultural significant to the GLBT community to mean that others would be excluded, especially straight people. Others felt that establishing the Burnside Triangle as a GLBT district would recognizes 100 years of GLBT history and would preserve GLBT culture. These respondents felt that the Triangle must be a place where the GLBT community can feel safe and everybody, including straight people, can feel welcome. In their view, a historical vision of the Burnside Triangle promotes inclusion, not exclusion. The latter perspective most closely matches the attitude expressed at BTAG meetings: recognize and celebrate GLBT history and ensure that everyone feels welcome.

- “I'm concerned that identifying the triangle as a GLBT identified district could lead to discriminatory activity. GLBT should not be segregated to one small area of the city.”

**BTAG Recommendations**

Analyses of the quantitative and qualitative data of the community survey lead BTAG to recommend that the City of Portland undertake the following actions and studies:

**We request that the City Council immediately create an interbureau team, beginning May 2003, charged with:**

- reviewing, and where necessary, amending the West End Plan to include the recommendations listed by category below,
- coordinating the implementation of these recommendations across bureaus and programs,
- consulting with BTAG about bureau activities related to development in the Triangle and
- reporting quarterly to BTAG, and annually to City Council, on its progress in implementing the recommendations outlined below:

**Social Inclusion**

- Direct Regional Arts and Culture Council to offer grants for GLBT-oriented cultural and artistic efforts in the Burnside Triangle that appeal to a broad spectrum of the community including youth, women, and families.

**Neighborhood Continuity**

- Direct Portland Development Commission to target small business recruitment and retention programs within the Burnside Triangle.

**Cultural and Historical Significance**

- Recognize the Burnside Triangle as a GLBT historical, cultural, and entertainment district.
- Fund or support grant writing efforts for the Oregon Historical Society to complete a comprehensive historical study of the Burnside Triangle that includes the history of sexual and gender minorities.
- Fund the placement of GLBT historical markers throughout the Burnside Triangle after completion of the OHS study.

**Community**

- Direct the Portland Development Commission to assist in identifying and securing mixed-use development opportunities in order to site a GLBT community center.
- Direct PDC staff to identify funding opportunities for a GLBT community center.

**Public Safety**

- Direct the Police Bureau's Sexual Minorities Roundtable to develop a Burnside Triangle subcommittee in order to develop a community policing plan specific to Burnside Triangle.

**Diverse Businesses**

- Direct the Portland Development Commission to provide start-up funds for initiating a Burnside Triangle Business Association and an economic development plan that is supportive of GLBT culturally-themed businesses.
- Direct the Portland Development Commission to increase marketing efforts for storefront improvement programs in the Burnside Triangle.
- Direct the Portland Development Commission to foster partnerships with the Portland Oregon Visitors Association, the Portland Business Alliance, and the Portland Area Business Association to market cultural and entertainment businesses unique to the Burnside Triangle. Produce a neighborhood map.

**Low-Income Housing**

- Support community demands for no net loss of existing low-income and affordable housing stock within the Burnside Triangle.
- Ensure that existing affordable housing stock is secured before opportunities are lost due to growth in the housing market.
- Direct the Bureau of Housing and Community Development to partner with Multnomah County to improve housing and social services for low-income and homeless individuals and youth who call the Burnside Triangle home, including GLBT-specific homeless youth programs.

**Transportation and Streetscape Improvement**

- Direct the Bureau of Planning to extend Burnside/Couch decoupling studies to include streetscape improvements on Stark Street such as street trees and curb extensions.
- Prioritization of downtown urban renewal district funds for low-cost streetscape improvements such as rainbow flags, bikes racks, and benches, etc.

**Summary**

Residents, workers, and visitors to the Burnside Triangle are part of a vibrant culture that makes the area economically viable in its current state. To ensure the economic viability of the Triangle, businesses and property owners must continue to meet the demands of their current customers.

To maintain Portland's history of honoring diversity and GLBT civil rights and to make ground-breaking decisions contributing to Portland's "future" history, development and public investment in the Triangle must heed the voices heard in the survey. Development in this area has the potential to honor all of its citizens.

Public recognition of the cultural and historic significance of Burnside Triangle to the GLBT community affirms the struggle of GLBT people to achieve full citizenship in Portland, and honors the contributions that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens have made to the city throughout its history.

The citizens of Portland have demonstrated the value of such public memorials in adding to the city's social fabric. Witness the Japanese-American park on the waterfront, a revitalized Chinatown, and the experiences of African-Americans to be commemorated in the public art for the Interstate Max line. There is a strong Portland tradition of recognizing communities in general, and individuals in particular, in a public fashion. The Burnside Triangle can continue this tradition—but time is running out. We ask City Council to act quickly to continue Portland's tradition of sensitive development that preserves neighborhood assets and embraces the future.

### Notes

Appendices attached:

Appendix I – Map of the Burnside Triangle

Appendix II – Historical Highlights of the Burnside Triangle Walking Tour

Appendix III – BTAG Community Survey

Appendix IV – Written Comments from BTAG Community Survey

Sources:

1. Bureau of Planning. City of Portland. Downtown's West End: Amendments to the Central City Plan, Zoning Code, and Zoning Map. February 2002.

2. BTAG Meeting Minutes, April 2002-March 2003. Office of Neighborhood Involvement. City of Portland.

Website:

BTAG report to Portland City Council available on the web at: <http://www.snabulus.com/btag/>  
(available March 19, 2003)



# APPENDIX

## Burnside Triangle Study Area

Sheet 2 of 2

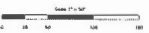
#### INFORMATION SOURCES:

**Photography:** out  
 Bunting herons and 21 other "sensitive" species listed here could gain a 10% increase in the 1984 General Land Sale, at Environment's Services. Not registered directly in the Texas Base Map. Photographs have been taken where the birds are abundant. The map is not a scientific map, but is valuable for small areas but may not be more so at all.

All birds protected here unless otherwise noted. For more detail, consult the in the service materials at City of Portland, Office of Planning.

The information on the map was derived from data supplied to the City of Portland, Bureau of Planning, B. Co. The map is not a scientific map, but is valuable for small areas but may not be more so at all.

The City of Portland is not responsible for the accuracy of the information on the map. The map is not a scientific map, but is valuable for small areas but may not be more so at all.



## Appendix II – Historical Highlights Burnside Triangle Walking Tour\*

September 2002

### Buick Café, 1239 SW Washington

- Lesbian meeting place from at least the 1940s. The 1940s witnessed a growth in urban lesbian communities as a result of the World War II. The war brought women to West Coast cities, as both military personnel and war industries workers.
- A city police report from the period noted that “these women are reported to attempt their pick-up at the Music Hall and in case of failure before the Hall closes, they then retire to the Buick and look for other prospects.”
- The report also noted that “these women were recently ousted from San Francisco for their actions and are apparently confirmed lesbians.”

### Rich's Cigar Store, 724 SW Alder

- One of only two stores in town that would sell the homophile publication, *The Mattachine Review*, beginning in the 1950s. “Homophile” refers to support for homosexual civil rights prior to the emergence of gay liberation and lesbian feminism in the late 1960s.
- *The Mattachine Review* was the newsletter of The Mattachine Society (1951-1961), the first major organization to work for gay and lesbian civil rights in the United States..
- *The Mattachine Review*, which was often passed from friend to friend, afforded homosexual men in Portland access to information about the activities of Mattachine Society groups around the country during a conservative period in American history – the height of the Cold War and the McCarthy trials in the U.S. Congress.
- In the United States during this period - in addition to facing criminal trials and harassment by police - gay and lesbian citizens could be fired from their jobs, forced out of their homes/apartments, and in the worse-case scenario, be forcibly committed to mental institutions if it were discovered that they were homosexual. Thus, most lived closeted, double lives.
- During the fifties, several landmark cases in the U.S. Supreme Court loosened the mailing of “obscene” material. This led to an increased circulation in erotic pulp fiction and magazines in the U.S. Mayor Terry Shrunken, former Multnomah County Sheriff, organized a para-governmental commission to pressure Portland magazine stores to stop carrying so-called “filth” (i.e., *The Mattachine Review*). Rich's Cigar store was one of only two stores that declined to support Shrunken's “Decency in Literature” campaign.

### Medical Building, NE corner of Park and Alder

- In Nov. 1912, Dr. Harry A. Start was arrested for sodomy after a young man, Andrew Borland, jumped out of Start's fifth floor office to a roof connecting the building with the adjoining Pantages Theatre.
- Following the 1912 same-sex vice scandal, physician Harry Start, attorney Edward McAllister and store clerk Edwin E. Wedemeyer were convicted of sodomy. Their convictions were later overturned by the Oregon Supreme Court on technical grounds. Without a grandfather clause, the new sodomy statute of 1913 was not legally binding for charges from 1912.
- However, this Supreme Court ruling did little to mitigate the social stigma of the scandal.
- William H. Allen attempted suicide, but recovered. He was never brought to trial.
- Edward J. S. McAllister attempted to continue working as an attorney. However, as a result of social ostracism no one would practice law with him. McAllister then moved to Myrtle Creek in Douglas County and became a farmer. The *Myrtle Creek Mail* noted in McAllister's obituary that he “had known tragedy, persecution, and disappointment.” (d. 1926).
- Having concluded that McAllister had been stripped of his membership simply because he was homosexual, the Multnomah Bar Association posthumously voted to reinstate him on June 17, 2000. He was the first member to be reinstated in the association's 94-year history.

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\* Prepared by Allen Bare, Melinda Marie Jetté, and Tom Soppe.

- Harry Start was subsequently unable to rent office space in Portland and had his state medical license revoked. Leaving creditors in Portland, he went to China and worked with the government of provisional president Sun Yat-Sen. Start's wife committed suicide in August 1913 before arrangements could be made for her to join him in China. Mrs. Start had supported her husband throughout the scandal and subsequent trial.

#### Hotel Oregon, SW Broadway & Stark

- Home to lesbian physician and activist Marie Equi during the 1920s
- Equi doctored to poor, indigent, and immigrant classes in Portland, providing abortions and medical care to women in difficult circumstances. Given the poverty of her patients, she only charged them what they could afford. Her medical offices were located in the Lafayette Building, Sixth and Washington.
- As a pacifist, Equi opposed America's entry into World War I. When the federal government tried her on treason charges, Prosecutor Barnett Goldstein used Equi's lesbianism against her. Goldstein referred to Equi as an "unsexed woman" and Special Agent William Byron called her a "an anarchist, a degenerate, and an abortionist."
- In contrast to the federal government, prominent Portlanders and Oregonians supported Equi. Governor Oswald West and the editor of the *Oregon Journal* offered to testify on her behalf.
- Equi was ultimately convicted under a recently updated espionage act that "forbade criticism of the U.S. government, the constitution, the military, the flag, navy or uniform." She subsequently served nine months in San Quentin prison in California.
- In March 1927 the *Oregon Journal*, recognized Equi as "One Good Samaritan."

#### Tel & Tel, 820 SW Oak

- Originally the Linton Trolley waiting room
- Opened in 1957, owned by Robert Saunders (1957-1962)
- Known as Derek's (1963-1965), then the Annex
- Robert Hoblit named it the Family Zoo in 1971
- The site has a long gay history, dating back to at least WW II when it was drop-off site for GI's.
- Popular with the upper classes during the 1960s. During this period Derek's attorney Jim Davis argued before City Council that a gay club was not a "disorderly/dirty premise" (the statute used to deny gay establishments liquor licenses), and that gays had a constitutional right to be served liquor

#### Just Out, 9<sup>th</sup> North of Stark

- Former office of Portland and Oregon's GLBT biweekly newspaper established in the 1980s (now located on the eastside near the Burnside Bridge).

#### 19) The Music Hall, 413 SW 10<sup>th</sup>

- Opened in 1937 by Russian Jewish emigrant Paul Schneiderman, the hall originally showcased vaudeville acts.
- Around 1947, Paul's son Leonard booked a San Francisco female impersonator troupe. It quickly became one of the city's most popular gay and lesbian nightclubs featuring both male and female drag performances and musical acts.
- Since the late 1940s and early 1950s was an era that pre-dated canned music and lip-synching, the drag performers sang their own songs.
- Notes from a February 1949 Vice Report (Women's Protection Division) on the music hall:
- "The Master of Ceremonies appeared to be a man; but later in the evening announced she was a woman."
- "Sgt. Warren of the Detectives said we would probably have to go there several times until we were better known before we would be accosted."
- "The most vulgar part of the show was a take-off on Mae West; which was done by one of the impersonators and this act was the so-called highlight of the entire performance. The dirty stories were told in a very suggestive tone of voice and facial expressions [sic]."

## Conclusion

- The Burnside Triangle has been a place where gay, lesbian, bi, and trans folks have lived, worked, and socialized for at least 100 years.
- Over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we have witnessed historical realities and social changes affecting the GLBT community in Portland.
- Prior to World War II, homosexual men and women created communities and geographies in spite of the great odds against them. The lives of long-time couple Marie Equi and Harriet Speckart and the many men caught up in the 1912 same-sex vice scandal are testaments to this earlier time.
- World War II was a watershed for gay and lesbian communities across North America. The migration of people to the cities afforded gays and lesbians the opportunity to create more visible - though still highly marginalized - cultures and spaces.
- The 1950s and early 1960s was a transitional period, with the small-scale homophile movement (the gay Mattachine Society and the lesbian Daughters of Bilitis) laying the foundation for the later, larger-scale Gay Liberation and Lesbian Feminist Movements of the late 1960s and 1970s.
- In Portland as in other major cities, the bars, nightclubs, restaurants, and cafés have long played a major role in the history of the queer community. They have provided spaces for gays, lesbian, bisexuals and trans folks to socialize. Their presence has challenged public perceptions. And the bar owners and managers were some of the first gay leaders to publicly challenge restrictive city laws, and the coercive practices of police and city officials.

## References – Portland

*A Walking Tour of Downtown Portland: A Century of Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Historic Sites.* Portland: The Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest, 1999.

Boag, Peter. "Sex and Politics in Progressive-Era Portland & Eugene: The 1912 Same-Sex Vice Scandal." *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 100:2 (Summer 1999): 158-181.

Painter, George. "Justice Finally Realized: The Case of Edward McAllister." *The Oregon State Bar Bulletin* (April 2001). [www.osbar.org/2practice/bulletin/01apr/toc.htm](http://www.osbar.org/2practice/bulletin/01apr/toc.htm) [July 12, 2002]

## References – General

Chauncey, George. *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940.* New York: Basic Books, 1994.

Faderman, Lillian. *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in Twentieth-Century America.* New York: Penguin, 1991.

Hogan, Steve and Lee Hudson. *Completely Queer: The Gay and Lesbian Encyclopedia.* New York: Henry Holt & Company, 1998.

Marcus, Eric. *Making History: The Struggle for Gay and Lesbian Equal Rights, 1945-1990, An Oral History.* New York: Harper Perennial, 1992.

Martinac, Paula. *The Queerest Places: A National Guide to Gay and Lesbian Historic Sites.* New York: Henry Holt, 1997.

Miller, Neil. *Out of the Past: Gays and Lesbians from 1869 to the Present.* New York: Vintage, 1995.



# Community Survey

**What's your vision of the downtown Stark St. cultural, business, and residential area?**



## What is the Burnside Triangle?

The Burnside Triangle, a center for the GLBT - Gay, Lesbian, Bi, and Trans - community and region, is an historic area rooted in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and straight communities. It is a socially vibrant and commercially prosperous place where people of all genders, ages, and cultures feel affirmed and welcome. The Triangle continues to be a place where locally owned small businesses serve this diverse community and is seen as one of the more colorful parts of the city - creating a sense of place and pride for all residents and visitors to the Portland area.

## What is the Burnside Triangle Advisory Group?

The citizen advisory group, BTAG, comprised of residents, business and property owners, along with visitors to the area, is in the process of collecting information from all who live, work, and play here. For the sake of space in this printed form, BTAG refers to sexual and gender minority communities as "GLBT". We are open to suggestions on how to better refer to these communities. Please include your suggestions when you fill out this survey.

## Where is the Burnside Triangle?

The Burnside Triangle is bounded SW Alder, SW 14th Ave., West Burnside, and SW Broadway in downtown Portland, Oregon. This area will most likely be undergoing development in the near future, though no definitive timeline has been established.

## How your feedback will help?

We are looking to encourage community involvement in the future development of the Burnside Triangle. As such, your participation in this survey is valuable to BTAG and the GLBT community in Portland. Please take a few minutes to complete and return this survey by December 15th. Not all sections may apply, so read carefully.

## Section 1: For everybody:

Do you want this to be a GLBT identified district?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you own a business in the area, are you interested in being identified as a GLBT oriented business?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you are a visitor, why do you visit the Burnside Triangle?  
[check all that apply]

- ☐ For the nightlife  
☐ I visit people who live here  
☐ I visit businesses here  
☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you live?

\_\_\_\_\_ Write in the zip code of your residence

What top five improvements would you like to see in the Burnside Triangle?

Rank them from 1 to 5, with 1 being your top priority to 5 being your lowest priority.

- |   |   |                        |
|---|---|------------------------|
| _____ more daytime activities           | _____ coffee shops  | _____ cafes            |
| _____ GLBT community center             | _____ retain historical appearance                            | _____ elder housing    |
| _____ affordable housing                | _____ better lighting   | _____ bike parking     |
| _____ services for low-income residents | _____ sidewalk improvements                                   | _____ diversity flags  |
| _____ public art and murals             | _____ more diverse businesses                                 | _____ bookstores       |
| _____ mixed residential/commercial      | _____ keep existing GLBT businesses                           | _____ trees and plants |
| _____ more family oriented activities   | _____ more modern appearance                                  |                        |
| _____ make it more of a safe space      | _____ public recognition of GLBT history with signs, placards |                        |
| _____ other _____                       | _____ other _____   |                        |

(OVER)

## Section 2: Who are you?

The questions in this section are designed to give the BTAG a better idea of who you are. Please answer the questions you are comfortable with.

### If you are a business owner of a business in the Burnside Triangle:

What percentage of business do you think is generated by the GLBT community? ☐ 0-25% ☐ 26-50% ☐ 51-75% ☐ 76-100%

Do you belong to a GLBT business association or trade group? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If No, would you join one committed to business interests in the Triangle? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you interested in sponsoring/participating in a streetscape improvement program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

### If you are a resident of the Burnside Triangle:

How long have you lived in this area? ☐ less than a year ☐ 4-6 years  
☐ 1-3 years ☐ 7 or more years

How many people live in your household? ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 or more

What is the size of your apartment? ☐ single room ☐ 1 bedroom  
☐ studio ☐ 2 or more bedrooms

What is your monthly rent? ☐ 0-\$250 ☐ \$501-750  
☐ \$251-500 ☐ more than \$750

Why do you live in the neighborhood? ☐ proximity to businesses ☐ other \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ like to be a city dweller \_\_\_\_\_

### If you are a visitor to Burnside Triangle living elsewhere in Portland or US:

How often do you visit the area? ☐ Every day ☐ 2-3 times per week ☐ Once a week ☐ Few times a month ☐ Rarely

What would make you visit more often? ☐ cleaner and safer ☐ better parking  
[check all that apply] ☐ better public transportation ☐ environment that makes everybody in the GLBT community feel welcome  
☐ other \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Comments

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### Where do I mail this to?

**Mail this survey to:**  
Metropolitan Human Rights Center (MHRC)  
Attn: Brian Hoop  
City of Portland  
City Hall, 1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Rm 110  
Portland, OR 97204

**Sponsored by the Burnside Triangle Advisory Group (BTAG)**  
City of Portland  
Metropolitan Human Rights Center  
Office of Neighborhood Involvement

**Co-Chairs:**  
Melinda Marie Jette  
Jacob Brostoff

## Appendix IV – Comments from BTAG Community Survey\*

I am a bisexual single mother of a young child and would love for my partner and I to go to community events with my son and feel like he is seeing an accurate depiction of what our "lifestyle" is like. This means: being in an environment where he can see that our lives are accepted and normal in the real world.

When you say "GLBT identified district," I think that may be interpreted as "gay ghetto." I don't want a ghetto. I want to recognize the historical and cultural significance of the area to the queer community. Make it a historical or cultural district, but please don't give people the impression that it's a gay ghetto.

It is a great area, and I appreciate feeling "at home" there. It's wonderful to walk arm in arm and not fear for my life, too much.

Having a LARGE Tenant who would provide very cheap spaces for artists and NON-Profits would be really great.

As with many communities (I am also Japanese), having a place that you can identify with, where you can feel you can let more of your guard down is an important part of the sense of community.

The area around the triangle has become bright, trendy and totally unaffordable. Can we at least try to serve the population of this city more than the tourists?

The area revolves around sex with the strip joints and bath house. Why not embrace culture and promote the fact that gay people like coffee shops, cafes, retail, etc. and introduce that into the area –hopefully pushing out the strip joints and disgusting bath house. If this is an area that speaks to the community as a representative of what gay people find important, why not include legitimate business and endorse something other than nudity and alcohol....there IS a market for it. (P.S. I'm not a lesbian....I'm a 33 yr. old gay guy)

There certainly is a lot of opportunity and possibilities on this subject. I support improvement of this area for the current usage AND to bring in more diversity for the GLBT.

I like the idea of a locally owned small business district.

Thanks for caring enough to find out what people think/want. I especially think Portland needs a GLBT Center. It would be a great place to hold daytime activities so the neighborhood isn't just a bar zone. Thanks again!

An incentive should be developed for the building owners to upgrade their buildings creating a safer more welcoming environment. Just as downtown has begun to enforce the sidewalk/loitering laws so should this area. There should be a way to piggy back the renewal to the brewery blocks with financial incentive to the business owners. Until there is a reason to clean up and upgrade these buildings and move the transients and drug clinics away people will not feel safe. Jake's deserves kudos for staying in the neighborhood. Diverse business needs to be attracted with incentives just as they have in the retail core, without the issue of copious permits.

This could be a really exiting place to go beside just Powell's.

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\* These comments come from the sections that allowed respondents to provide additional feedback. They have been edited for grammar, spelling, and handwriting errors. Clarifications have been added in brackets.

As in other cities, I believe that a designated area such as the Burnside Triangle would foster more diversity and business in this area as well as being a great community project.

Solve the aggressive panhandling issue. Thanks for your good work!

The first time I visited a "Burnside Triangle" establishment I had to chase the cockroaches off my food late. The businesses are run by people who seem mainly interested in exploiting gays.

Need more businesses that would draw me there, i.e. coffee shops, bookstores, etc. Portland needs the Triangle. We can make it into something wonderful for the diverse community of our town!

The NGLTF [National Gay and Lesbian Task Force] conference was a great way to meet and make community. A community center would help our community reverse the trend towards large city isolationism that, I believe, does not have to follow with growth. We need a place besides bars and once or twice a year event to come together. community builds strength, provides support and helps us become a force in shaping the larger community of Portland and area.

Transit serving this area is a definite plus which backers should emphasize (as far as visitors are concerned). More visitors might live here if there was 1. housing and it was 2. affordable. Lovely area, convenient to all of the city.

I would be disappointed if the area was labeled "the GLBT-identified district." It is divisive and would make me less likely to go there (I'm heterosexual) and feel less welcome. It's smack-dab in the center of the city and a variety of people walk through there to get to Powell's and other places. I hope it remains an open and free public space.

I would like to see one of the run-down hotels in the area remodeled and transformed into a modern, affordable, GLBT-identified hotel, in a traditional sense. The ACE hotel in Seattle is a good model for this type of development. I know people who could pull this off...

I have been visiting this area for over 20 years. It seems to have gotten darker and scarier as of late. As with the whole city, the number of homeless/scary people has gotten worse. It doesn't feel safe in the triangle. I think that is my biggest problem with it. It seems somewhat seedy and dirty too. The triangle could certainly use a face lift, and make it more friendly. Some diversity in the shops would be wonderful too, something other than the bars. Some shops of all kinds would be wonderful. Adding lighting, trees, flowers, would really improve the area. I lived in the Castro area of San Francisco. You just felt "safe" in the gay hood there. Thanks for doing this survey. Hope it helps the triangle area of Portland!

Portland, with ALL of it's diverse neighborhoods, and business districts, is a city for ALL people. WHY do we need a "specially-designated" area for this ONE people group? Besides, those areas already 'seemingly' designated, on sexuality-based businesses...i.e., prostitution, strip clubs and pornography-based businesses, do we want another sexuality-based area, no less, at the Gateway of our newest, and most prime area, the Pearl District? Is this how we, as a City, want ourselves defined? We, as a third generation, native family, say NO !!!!

The Triangle isn't the best spot for a queer district. Not only is it male-oriented, and bar-oriented, largely, it doesn't serve the diverse needs of ALL people identifying as LGBTQ. It's not bad, but I don't think it's the right place or time, either.

Too many homeless cling to the streets of the Burnside Triangle, especially on Stark. The drug trade is also far too healthy in this area -- significant work needs to be done to clean that up as well. A few more gay-oriented cafes or restaurants in the neighborhood would be a nice addition. Flags (like in S[an] F[rancisco]'s Castro) or neighborhood placards (like in Vancouver, B.C.'s Davie Village) would certainly help to give the neighborhood an identity.

The most important thing is to ensure low income residents of the area are not displaced by gentrification. After that, maintaining the "GLBT" flavor of the district is very important. street/sidewalk improvements would be nice, too, as well as less panhandling.

The question is simple, do you want this to be a thriving area for all (not just GLBT) or an exclusionary area?

I feel that this is an excellent idea! I hope that it comes to fruition.

The GLBT freaks need to be shipped to a desolate desert island.

I think Portland needs a district that is a positive reflection of our community. We are more than dance/strip clubs and bars. Invest in beautifying the outward appearance of the triangle. Lose the sleazy motels and enforce pan handling more vigorously. Introduce more restaurants and cafes that open the triangle up to those who are not drinkers and bar dwellers.

Respectfully request the downtown Stark St. area NOT be identified as a "GLBT" community. This is completely unnecessary and will only worsen divisions among community members who don't want to be pigeonholed as GLBT advocates. We need fewer labels, not more.

Additional and cleaner restrooms in the gay bars. Sometimes the smell of urine is very strong, especially in the Silverado. The long lines and the waiting to get into the restroom can be very frustrating.

There are plenty of parks and areas in town for "family oriented" activities, lets keep this area for adult activities and improve the quality/diversity of the businesses that are there.

I am not in favor of a "gay ghetto", but would like to see a gay neighborhood looked upon by the GLBT and local greater community as not being an undesirable place to be, i.e., clean and respectful/respectable. I live eight blocks west on Burnside and love my neighborhood. I intentionally moved downtown so I would have access to the social life of the Burnside Triangle. If the area would be redeveloped it would destroy one of the brightest spots in my social world making Portland seem more like a rural city, than the mature urban center it needs to be.

Get the homosexuals out and have a normal area. How come we don't have a normal district identified? Why does this city cater to all the weirdoes? Please at least move the boundary to 13th (W), Burnside (N) Stark (S) and 11th (E), why go all the way to Alder where a lot of normal people are? Keep your sexuality in the bedroom and out of the streets! Why does the city give special rights to small groups, why isn't everyone treated equally? Why is it that a white heterosexual male interviewing for a job would be in last position against females, blacks, homosexuals all qualified the same? I am against giving special rights to minority groups, "give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach a man to fish and you feed him for a life." NO SPECIAL RIGHTS FOR ANYBODY, TREAT ALL MANKIND ALIKE. WHY DO MINORITIES AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS GET SPECIAL RIGHTS???

More variety for the older (40+) after-hours crowd. Maybe even a Senior GLBT center? Ok, so I'm looking ahead. Thanks for the opportunity to participate!!



Portland is definitely a large enough city that the gay and lesbian community should have an area where they all feel welcome and all other people should feel welcome too. A lot of gay people frequent the nightclubs in that area as it is now. But with improvements and the addition of other gay owned businesses (besides nightclubs) I think even more people would visit this area. I think it would be a total disrespect to the gay and lesbian community to get rid of this area and the current gay owned and gay frequented businesses. Please keep the area and let's just make improvements and make it even better than it today. I think this area could be a great place for the gay and lesbian community. Not just at night but during the day too. I believe it is only fair that everyone in our great city has a place that they feel comfortable in going and just being themselves. Please keep Portland's reputation as being a very diverse and vibrant city and keep the triangle.

I find this to be an extremely worthwhile project. Portland has a large GLBT community, which is one of the reasons my partner of 10 years and I moved to this area from the South. It would be a great asset and recognition of our community to see this project realized.

I feel it's important to honor this area as GLBT, since they are legitimate contributors to society, and represent a good array of talent, and creativity.

Keep up the good work and good luck with ongoing progress!

I would love for this area to become a vibrant place for everyone in the gay community. I want to see business prosper, and grow because of our support, and then more cafes and shops move into the district. This would create daytime activity, and be a fun place to meet friends for lunch, or after work cocktails. More variety of things to do, particularly daytime; more vibrant street scene with variety of businesses.

The area needs to be cleaned up and consistently maintained. Perhaps one day the Portland Street car line could run through the Triangle. Outdoor cafes would be terrific. Upscale shopping, apparel would be super. Specialty foods and markets. The Portland Bathhouse really needs to go. The appearance of boarded up windows makes the area appear like a ghetto. I'm surprised the Brewery Block tenants aren't concerned by this. Additionally, a bath house is NOT the image the straight community needs to associate with a designated gay area. Move the bath house somewhere else. It's an absolute embarrassment to most reasonable gay people (I'm one of them). This is not the image we want for ourselves. This is really a must. Anyone who doesn't see this huge "Elephant in the corner" needs to open their eyes. Portland Baths/Zippers Down is a business and they deserve to do what they need to stay in business, but the Triangle won't work if they are there. It's just that simple. The current bath house location could be turned into lofts or offices.

I'd like quiet, smoke-free bars and restaurants. When I eat out, I almost always go elsewhere, though I prefer gay-oriented places.

Have upscale restaurants, stores, coffee shops, bookstores, antique stores that appeal to all walks of life; yet, are predominately owned and operated by gay and lesbians. Make it a cheery, clean, safe place that invites artists, business men and women, and tourists.

A safe environment for gay & lesbian interaction, and a public meeting place more activities other than the bar scene, also a better place for dancing. Thank you for holding the survey and for your work on this project!

More day and night time variety of businesses (cafe's, shops and keep night life)

I have lived in Portland for two years now and since the first part of place I felt comfortable and welcomed was the Burnside Triangle. This is where my friends come together and share in the safe non-judgmental businesses. I am concerned that people who don't spend there time and money in the area will be the determining voices in what happens there. So many people have so many ties: emotional, sentimental, and fiscal that it would be a shame to see it taken over by Corporate Americas. Big Business will never be able to replace the character and distinct personality the GLBT community has established. Thanks for hearing us and Merry Christmas!

I would start with improving O\Bryant Square, then update the side walks with color spots and trees. Some buildings are in need of repair. enclose a few streets with an overhead screen for laser shows, like they have in Reno, NV. Close the streets during Mardi Gras and have a festival.

I would like to help if possible to see this become a reality. I feel it is time for Portland to develop an area for GLBT.

I love Powell's, but I don't feel safe walking there. I do not want this area glamorized as a GLBT area. I fear that you will exalt this area and confuse the impressionable minds of children who don't know yet that they are the product of an egg and a sperm. Please, let children understand the basics of human sexuality before teaching them the alternatives. Drawing attention to the area will eliminate heterosexuals and their wallets, both within the area and the surrounding blocks.

Your first question is quite difficult to answer if you don't know what supporting/not supporting designating the area as "GLBT" will do.

I am against establishing a separate area based on sexual orientation. This is not a unifying move, but a fragmenting move. If we were to carry this idea further out, then we would have designated areas for race, religion, age, etc. Not acceptable in a diverse society.

I live in Corvallis, but am in Portland regularly. I would like to visit the area to feel comfortable in an open-minded and gay-friendly community, as well as to support such businesses. In addition, I would go to this area for the social life (or nightlife).

I wouldn't want children to be exposed to a open GLBT.

GLBT folks should feel welcome here and feel free to congregate in this area, but we should not officially sanction any kind of segregation and ghettoization. Might be benevolent in this case, at this time, but look at the bigger picture.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my thoughts.

Need the improvements to the Burnside project (uncoupling) in order to make the district more pedestrian friendly and a better transition into the areas north of Burnside. Don't use any sort of designation of the area to exclude the same or similar businesses from adjacent areas or other areas in the city.

I really think it is fine the way it is -- just needs some facelift improvements. Please find a good use for that beautiful building with the clock tower on 11th!

I believe that there must be a conscious effort to develop community resources, such as galleries and a community center, to energize the culture of the LGBT people who use this area extensively, and to inform other parts of the community about our lives and culture.

Yes I visit, and I believe you should leave it alone. Don't waste government money there. Try paving streets and building sidewalks in all of the forgotten neighborhoods. You are spending too much time and public money performing social engineering in neighborhoods that are already doing fine. Don't let the special interest groups and developers convince you that this is the role of city government. Your role is to provide basic services to Portland citizens. This includes citizens without sewer hookups or sidewalks.

I can only assume that the reason for this survey is pressure from the GLBT community. My message to this community is that culture does not come from government handouts or city council resolutions or handsome street side placards. It comes from within the community. You want more cafes in the neighborhood? Then open a cafe.

Try to get more diverse businesses in there that are proud to be GLBT!!!

Better nightlife. A clean, modern, less smoke-filled nightlife establishment(s) is what Portland needs. The existing places are all we have, but they are filthy, unkempt, outdated dumps.

Reduce traffic congestion--perhaps make it pedestrian and buses only. Don't displace folks the way every other planning and development project the City undertakes has. Stop gentrifying Portland with such zeal.

I would love to see more upscale gay/mixed clubs and restaurants in the area in order to attract the more upscale people in the GLBT community.

I have really mixed feelings about this area -- after all a nickname like "Vaseline Alley" comes to an area for a reason. If I was going to elevate an area to special status to show people what it means to be GLBT, I would want it to focus less on drinking and sex and more on ALL the aspects of what it means to be gay -- a place where more of the GLBT community would want to live, eat, think, play, work, and be. It's just hard to think on the "Triangle" and not use the word "seedy" to describe it. As a very out gay man, this isn't necessarily the place I want people to associate with me when they think "oh, so that's what it means to be Gay." However, I will say that a planning process for the area might just be what's needed to update the image and move it into the 21st Century -- a place where ALL GLBT folks feel welcomed and included. Thanks for asking!

The area needs a strong plan and implementation strategy, that supports the character and essential diverse housing and services that exist in the area. Identifying the area as a GLBT District is an interesting proposition but begs the question of why are we proposing this, what is the significance, and what do we hope to get out of this identification. The reality is that a variety of businesses exist and that there is an agglomeration of unique food, entertainment, housing and services. Creating a district with signage or whatever identifiers you come up with are for outsiders, but really people are not dumb so I question why an established district is important.

Destinations other than male-oriented, drinking-oriented nightclubs.

Do not displace any resident more than 3 blocks from her/his current homes. Try not to make more people homeless thru out this process. Don't raise housing rents. More cultural activity for queers: art, music, dances.

Thanks for doing this survey, good luck.

The panhandlers are so prevalent they make me feel very unsafe.

More commercial activity -- cafes, coffee shops, stores Need to eliminate the blight west of I-405, better connect with Downtown, better connection with the streetcar, reduce Burnside as a barrier, make O'Bryant a gathering spot for people

AIDS Memorial. Hooray that you care.

Less emphasis on bars, sex and drugs---is that what being gay means I moved here 5 years ago and worked at what is now the Clyde Hotel in the heart of the Burnside Triangle. I received a pretty heavy and dank dose of the Triangle back then and it was enough to keep me away permanently. I've lived in NY, Dallas and Chicago, all of whom have gay neighborhoods/districts. I rarely spent time in those neighborhoods either. Why? Because the neighborhoods were ruled by fear of the outside world and in the shadow of this fear lived all the addiction, shallowness and self hatred that I see very prevalent in the Triangle. I love that in Portland gay people live everywhere (even Beaverton!) and do not succumb to this fear factor. But the Triangle as it is right now is nothing more than a great big bathhouse. I would volunteer to help with the transition only I'm now preparing a move to Hawaii. I wish you all the best in this time of revamping the Triangle. I have much faith in the Portland community. Aloha!

Portland has a habit of talking big about diversity and equality. We'll see what all this talk comes to with this.

Thank You for taking the time to research this information.

There are groovy places to hang out. More small businesses that are conducive to vibrant and diverse cultural life Small businesses should be accessible to people with varying amounts of disposable income.

I love the small zine store, cheap eats (Rocco's), relatively easy access via mass transit. Maintain existing small businesses, improve sidewalks to be more pedestrian friendly, acknowledge heavy bicycle use and support these patrons with adequate number of (art-sculpture) bike racks. Thanks for asking!!

Broad community involvement including non-GLBT participation. (we're all part of this community).

Dance clubs where straights don't take over.

Hopefully, we could get a city GLBT center.

I don't necessarily feel connected to the Burnside Triangle because I'm a woman. It's all about the boys. That's okay, but I don't go around there much because of that.

#### GLBT Community

I have spent significant time in this area over the past 30 years and would like to continue to do so. Please allow this area to flourish as GLBT identified and resist "gentrification" takeover.

Popularity of the existing bars comes and goes about as often as they change formats. Over the years I have witnessed each bar become essentially the same. The ones with good music don't have dance floors. The ones with dance floors don't play music that I find appealing for dancing. I realize each bar is trying to stay alive, but I would like to see the existing bars updated with each one a little more unique than the next.

More representation of the Lesbian community as well -- not just a gay men gathering place

Daytime activities (reading rooms?)

More non-bar queer businesses

"Gay all day" businesses

I'm interested in public recognition of Burnside Triangle as a GLBT district.

If unable to retain all of the area-keep key businesses (esp. those with historic value), create GLBT area on Eastside (part of Esplanade area?) for new, diverse business with family, all-inclusive atmosphere.

I was a bartender at Scandals for a few years, so I know the area well. My personal opinion is that if we make it a "GLBT identified district", it defeats what we are actually fighting for, which is a more inclusive society-we separate ourselves.

I think it should remain the same or with actually more gay businesses and bars in the area. More variety of bars, more parking, better policing. But most of all retain small street charm. No bigger buildings. No razing of buildings. Rent should be according to comparable rent or capped.

All people must be treated equal to complete the Triangle Family.

I support making the Triangle a GLBT district only if you clean it up and include lesbians. I want more family friendly activities and attractions-not just nightlife.

Build multi-level parking a block off of Stark-no parking on stark-make Stark 2 lanes-only-extend sidewalks out further-lighting; outdoor seating/dining/club extensions.

Less police harassment

I believe certain areas should not be identified as such so if that is the only way to maintain and perpetuate them yes.

The drug and homelessness problem needs to be addressed in this neighborhood.

The Burnside Triangle would be a great place if a few improvements were made such as more housing, cleaner streets and more businesses other than bars like coffee shops or perhaps some bookstores.

Please maintain current levels. If not, we know! If yes! we'll support. Other than this paper. If it ain't broken don't repair unless supported by us. Thank you.

I moved from Colorado where the GL community is all over town and people have to drive to 3 or 4 locations to have drinks, dinner and have fun. Keep it diverse & fun & it will work, for everyone.

Keep the Triangle here. Keep the street folks part of the plan for the Burnside project, don't cut them out!

I think we should utilize this area to its fullest! W/more gay and lesbian involvement in the community. We are proud of who we are.

Outdoor urinals like San Francisco or Amsterdam

Gay restaurants

No police, too many crackheads, homeless. If there is a place to sit, and it's dry, creepy, offensive people will be there it's \*not\* safe!

The gay community in Portland is crucial to the gay and straight communities alike. Acceptance and love is what brings peace. Why not continue that tradition?

I live in Portland Suburbs, NE in particular. Open the area up for easier commerce. Establishing at the same time a classy environment-Money Money Money

Be fair to all, not just the few who have money and influence. Keep this a diverse community!

Better security and more parking is needed more trees lining streets.

I have issues with a subtle "self-ghettoizing" based on identity.

A transgender club would be nice.

I would like to see the establishment of a more visible GLBT neighborhood with more housing, a community center and signage. A truly visible gay neighborhood is what we are missing in this city.

I have lived in cities that have specifically identified "gay neighborhoods". I think this is a good thing as it allows a safe and comfortable place to play and socialize and shop for members of the GLBT community.

Less Street people

Signage/lighting e.g. like "Boystown/Halstead" area of Chicago. More diverse businesses and mixed use commercial residential uses would make the area more of a "neighborhood" space for GLBT community center and/or affordable space for organizations like SMYRC [Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center], Cascade [AIDS Project].

More lesbian-oriented businesses

We need this area to continue as a homo-positive neighborhood for both the benefit of its residents and visitors. It's a one of a kind place--it's what drew me to PDX.

This area should be a gay community sanctuary. We have no where else.

More GLBT businesses, so not spread all over town

I think it is important for the GLBT community of Portland to have an area, where they know they can find night life, business, and activities that pertain to them. As I have many friends that come to Portland, many are shocked that these gay businesses are spread all over town - and you have to drive everywhere, with this area enhanced, people only have one trip.

I feel that Portland should compete with other cities, like San Francisco in housing and supporting the gay district.

We need more lesbian bars, cafes, etc.

More lesbian establishments

Don't let the retail push out the gays! But the hugely advertised, visible sex clubs doesn't help up, as business or private.

I love Portland.

I think it is important for Portland and the gay community to the Burnside Triangle - but need to have it a little safer, though I do feel safe there.

Get rid of the burns.

I would like to see the current character of the neighborhood preserved, but I'd also like to more family activities and businesses.

A big #1 for GLBT Community Center.

Clean up the neighborhood they need to get drug dealers and street kids out the triangle.

More outreach services for street youth who hang out on Stark street.

More needs to be done for homeless and pervasive drug use in area.

Clean up existing buildings, inside and outside, sidewalks, and beautify.

Retain the "village" look but add more retail with housing above. Block off some streets.

Get grid of panhandlers!

Non smoking in bars.

Remodel facade of whole foods building in keeping with historic appearance of neighborhood.

I like the part of town the way it is.

Since the advent of AIDS, 3 gay bath house closed. The remaining one is unacceptable. We know the city has placed road blocks and excessive restrictions to prevent establishing new such businesses. Excellent facilities exist in Seattle and Vancouver BC. We should not have to travel out of town to use such businesses.

Area is only one of it's kind in Oregon. It is a state treasure for gay men.

Solve the problem of homelessness and panhandling for all the city

Most major cities have developed a gay neighborhood that is preferable to driving downtown. Unfortunately Portland has not evolved in that direction.

Classier gay clubs. The triangle should not be "tagged" as a GLBT district any more than NW 3rd and Davis should. As a gay man I seldom visit the triangle because the gay businesses tend to the sleazy. I prefer the 3rd and Davis area. There's nothing about gay life in the triangle worth commemorating. Clean it up, plant street trees, add sidewalk extensions, public art, etc. Leave the "Gay thing" out of it.



"Beat Cop" presence - walking police presence to keep down drug trafficking and prostitution.

BT needs to become a place to come and shop. Shopping and eating area with it's own individuality, I.e. 23rd and Pearl. All else will follow. Keep it's own individuality. I love the gay places. Also, keep the young here. Keep the soul here.

I don't go to gay bars, but I am very active as a member of the Gay community. Diversity is everything.

More for lesbians/women

We are proud to be who and where we are. We have our city and wish only to be allowed to be who we are. There are those who are good and bad in every community.

GLBT community center and more cafes.

More cafes and good restaurants.

GLBT community center and more trees

Make it more of a kid friendly place. My partner and I have toddler that we cannot bring to the Burnside Triangle as it is now.

Begin with an inaccurate assumption and you will end up with a flawed conclusion. The BT survey begins with the assumption that GLBT is OK and that it is the role of the city to support the GLBT community. As a theist I begin with the assumption that GLBT is not OK and that it is not the role of government to promote GLBT activity. Consequently, I oppose the identification of the Burnside Triangle as a GLBT identified district.

I don't want to hear any "sexual encounter" stories from "queers". They are repulsive and abnormal. We don't need a special district for these types of people. It discriminates against normal people. The city should stop accepting, tolerating, condoning, encouraging and promoting sexually promiscuous lifestyles. We don't need "queer" bordellos anywhere in this city. C.C. & Rs to keep normal people out of the area are illegal. You can't restrict ownership or leasing to "queers" only! No one wants to be propositioned on the streets by queers.

I've lived in Portland for 30 years and I have frequented the area much more in the past. Parking has been the biggest challenge in visiting this area. I think it is a good idea before the GLBT businesses move to lower rent/less restrictive locations in PDX. Thank you!

I strongly believe in the rights of homosexual and gay people to choose their lives, but feel this should be personal and not public as an issue. Making gay issues political issues backfires--quiet co-existence is the answer, and it facilitates tolerance. Thank you very much for considering my input.

Try to keep the panhandlers off the sidewalks.

Have known BT for decades and "gay area" for 17 years. It's a place for alcohol (bars), drugs, flophouses, male prostitution, gay bath houses and street crime. What's to be proud of? And, why call attention to it? It's bad PR for the gay community.

More daytime-oriented businesses, gay cafés, rainbow flags, housing (mixed use).

I'm concerned that identifying the triangle as a GLBT identified district could lead to discriminatory activity. GLBT should not be segregated to one small area of the city.

I believe that matters of gender identity for an area should be voted on only by stakeholders: those who live, work, own property or business in area and are willing to be listed by street address & phone, not just P.O. Box or email.

I would like to see all of the current GLBT establishments stay where they are,



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## **BTAG Report to Portland City Council - Outline**

### **March 19, 2003**

#### **Introduction: A Brief History of BTAG**

- West End Plan Background and creation of BTAG
- Objections
- Formation of BTAG in late spring 2002
- Structure of BTAG and membership
- Activities April 2002 – March 2003

#### **BTAG Community Survey Overview**

- Objectives
- Format and Question

#### **Community Survey: Methodology**

- Targeted audiences
- Limitations due to budgetary and personnel resources available
- Dissemination: paper, online, media, canvassing, mail-out, PABA, etc.
- Number of respondents

#### **Community Survey Results: Quantitative**

- Data
- interpretation

#### **Community Survey Results: Qualitative**

- Interpretation of comments

#### **BTAG Recommendations for Future**

- Recommendations regarding future development of Burnside Triangle
- Future of BTAG

#### **Conclusion:**

- Benefits of BTAG's work
- Public process
- Thank you to Portland City Council for support of GLBT community

#### **Appendices**

- Copy of community survey
- Complete list of written comments from respondents
- Website address for public access to BTAG's complete report

## **BTAG Report to Portland City Council - Outline**

### **March 19, 2003**

#### **BTAG Vision Statement**

##### **Brief History of Burnside Triangle - Melinda**

- 100 years of queer history

##### **Brief History of BTAG - Melinda**

- West End Plan Background – lack of GLBT involvement
- Creation of BTAG by City Council in finalized West End Plan
- Theme: diversity and civil society in Portland
- Formation of BTAG in late spring 2002
- Structure of BTAG and membership
- Activities April 2002 – March 2003

##### **BTAG Community Survey Overview - Melinda**

- Objectives
- Format and Question
- Targeted audiences
- Limitations due to budgetary and personnel resources available
- Dissemination: paper, online, media, canvassing, mail-out, PABA, etc.
- Number of respondents

##### **Community Survey Results: Quantitative - Jacob**

- Data
- interpretation

##### **Community Survey Results: Qualitative - Kaelin**

- Interpretation of comments
- General observations and specific ideas

##### **BTAG Recommendations for Future - Jacob**

- Recommendations regarding future of Burnside Triangle based on survey results
- Future of BTAG

##### **Summary - Everybody**

- Benefits of BTAG's work: a win-win situation for the City and the queer community
- Vision for the future: economic viability and tourism, livability, commitment to diversity, retention of Burnside Triangle's unique character (including the clusters of small businesses)
- Thank you to Portland City Council for support of GLBT community
- Website address for public access to BTAG's complete report

##### **Appendices**

- I- Map
- II- Historical Highlights of the Burnside Triangle from BTAG's walking tour
- III- Copy of community survey
- IV - Complete list of written comments from respondents

# Burnside Triangle Advisory Group

Presentation of recommendations  
to Portland City Council  
March 19, 2003

Jacob Brostoff

Melinda Jetté

Mike Piña

# What is the BT?

- I-405
- SW Washington
- W Burnside
- SW Park





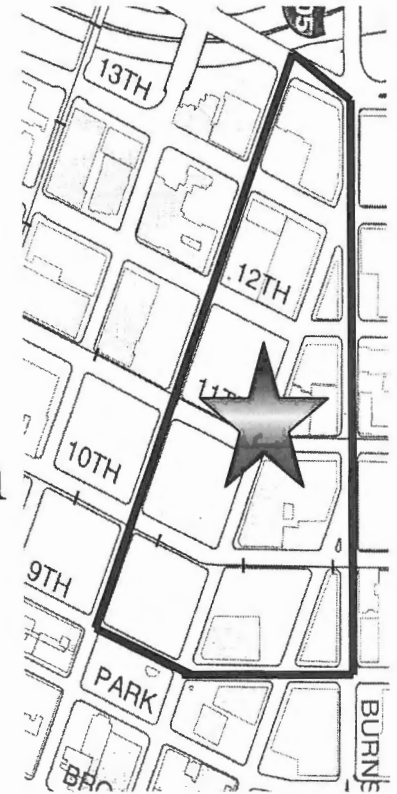
# Who is BTAG?

- Representatives of GLBT patrons, businesses and residents of the Triangle
- Empanelled by Council in April 2002
- Charged with assisting bureaus with West End Plan implementation



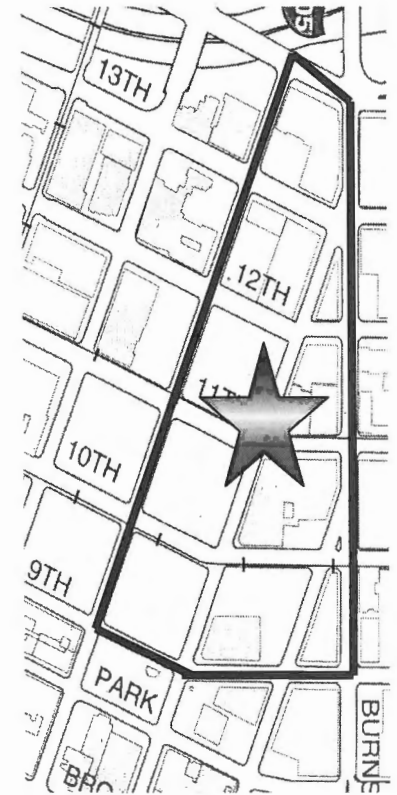
# What's in the Triangle?

- History
- Currently serving primarily gay men



# Why now?

- West End Plan
- A neighborhood changing
- Risk of losing neighborhood assets



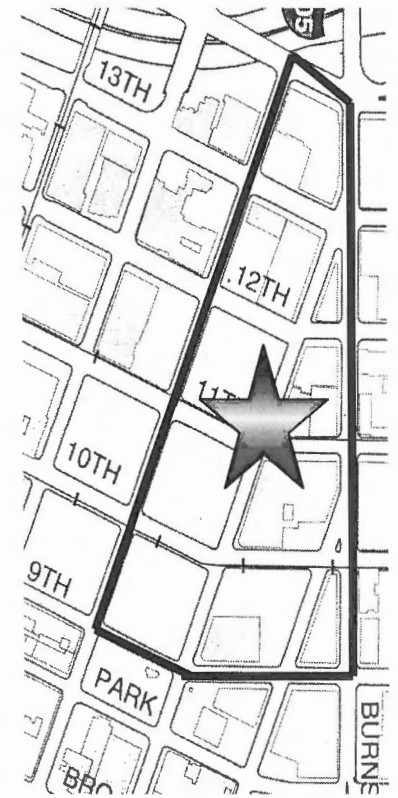
# What we did

- History tours
- Media
- Survey

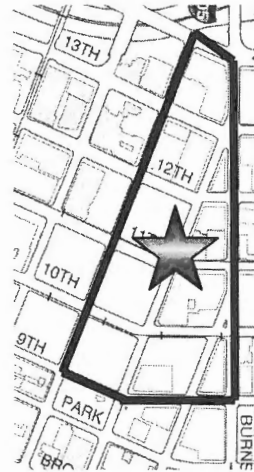


# What the survey says

- Strong support for GLBT-identified district
- Loyal patrons
- Consensus:
  - Improve the public realm
  - Acknowledge and celebrate history
  - Create community center
  - Strengthen businesses

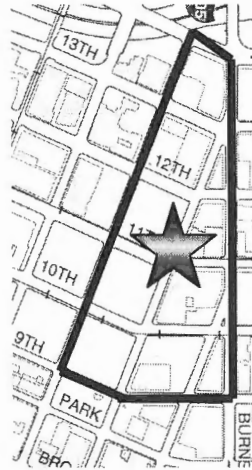


# The BT is a great neighborhood



“It is a great area, and I appreciate feeling ‘at home’ there. It’s wonderful to walk arm in arm and not fear for my life, too much.”

# Strong GLBT small businesses



“ I would love for this area to become a vibrant place for everyone in the gay community. I want to see business prosper, grow because of our support.”



# Improving the built environment



“Maintain existing small businesses, improve sidewalks to be more pedestrian friendly, acknowledge heavy bicycle use, and support these patrons with adequate bike racks.”

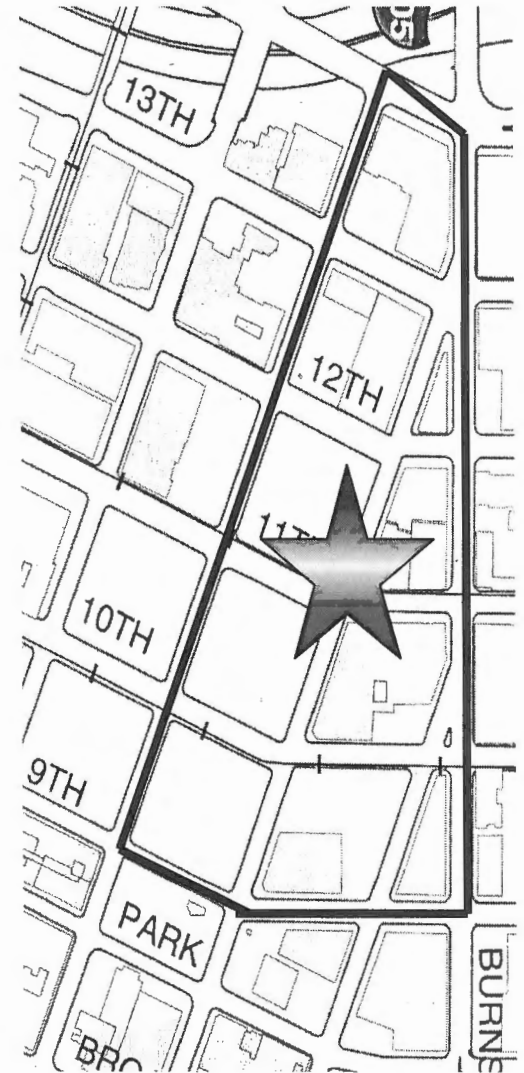
# Queer community/community center



“A big #1 for a GLBT community center.”

# What we recommend

- Interbureau team
- Community Center
- History and public recognition
- Improvements to the public realm
- Housing and services
- Preserve and strengthen businesses



Mayor and Councilors, thank you for the opportunity today to present the findings and recommendations of the Burnside Triangle Advisory Group. The Office of Neighborhood Involvement and the Metropolitan Human Rights Center are honored to have supported this effort of individuals advocating for a cause of significant historical, cultural and economic importance to the gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered community.

For eleven months MHRC has provided logistical staff support for the Burnside Triangle Advisory Group. In that time we have had nothing but the upmost respect for the dedication and commitment exhibited by a core group of 12 individuals who have worked tirelessly on this project.

With minimal resources the group has compiled an impressive historical gay, lesbian, bi and trans record of the area; reached out to a broad cross-section of the Burnside Triangle to identify community priorities; and spent many a Thursday evening debating goals and objectives for this group effort.

We hope you will support their final report and recommendations. We believe they will do much to ensure the continued vibrancy of the Burnside Triangle as an area of significance to the GLBT community for many years to come.

Lastly we want to pay tribute to the memory of Allen Bare, a beloved committee member, low-income resident of the Burnside Triangle, and key historical researcher for this project, who passed away this fall days before the walking tours he helped design took place.