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CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**  
PORTLAND HOUSING BUREAU

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May 2, 2012

Portland Housing Bureau Partners

RE: Portland Housing Bureau Equity Agenda

Dear Partners:

The Portland Housing Bureau (PHB) is committed to equity as a core value. As laid out in our Strategic Plan, over the last 12 months we have engaged with many of our contractors, partners and leaders in the community to develop, articulate and begin implementation of our Equity Agenda.

PHB's Equity Agenda addresses current and historic disparities experienced by communities of color in housing. Portland's communities of color have many assets, but startling disparities still exist. To meet our mission, PHB is committed to doing our part in seeing that our resources, practices and partnerships promote equitable access to housing and opportunities for Portlanders, with a particular focus on communities of color. We will focus on removing barriers for communities of color and adopt strategies that will address inequities and make our community stronger as a whole.

We recognize that to implement a successful Equity Agenda, we need to engage our partners in creating successful strategies. We also need to be specific about what we are asking for, how we will measure and report on results, and what outcomes we intend to create.

Below are a list of highlights of our work to date, and next steps:

- PHB developed an Equity Business Plan, with Bruce M. Watts & Associates, which sets the framework for our Equity Agenda moving forward.
- PHB has initiated work to include equity goals across all of our business lines.
- PHB will track improvements in access to funded programs & resources by communities of color.
- What we learn with our partners will inform the strategies we create to improve outcomes for communities of color across PHB's Strategic Priorities.
- For PHB sub-recipient contractors, the 2012-13 Contractor letters coming to you shortly will include specific information on equity goals.
- PHB will work with the City of Portland's Office of Equity and Human Rights, the Coalition of Communities of Color, Multnomah County and other public and community based organizations to develop an Equity Lens – a set of filters we will apply, collaboratively, to assure that our budget, policy and programmatic decisions advance the goals of addressing inequities and making our communities stronger.
- 2012 Housing Development NOFA development partners will create opportunities for MWESB contractors, suppliers and professional services providers.
- Over the next year, we look forward to hosting and participating in forums to listen and learn from our contractors, stakeholders, culturally specific organizations and community members, to develop effective strategies to improve outcomes for communities of color.

Our full organization is engaged in implementation of the Equity Agenda. The Portland Housing Advisory Commission (PHAC) will oversee our progress and serve as ambassadors to a wide range of community stakeholders.

We look forward to partnering with you to build and implement our Equity Agenda in the years ahead. We cannot accomplish this change without You!

We will start the dialogue with current PHB subrecipients at a meeting this month to coincide with the end of the budget process and beginning of planning for FY2012-13 subrecipient contracts. Our intent is to hear from our subrecipient contractors and provide information about FY 2012-13 contracting changes and highlights of the Equity Agenda. Subrecipient agencies will soon receive a separate invitation with the details of this meeting.

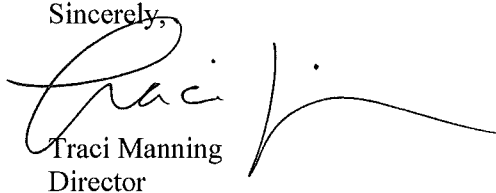
Over the course of the year, invitations to other focus groups involving our other lines of business will follow where PHB Staff, members of our PHAC Equity Advisors Subcommittee and I will provide more detail about the Equity Agenda roll out over the next year.

We deeply value your expertise and experiences in serving our community and see these forums as just the start of many future opportunities to engage your involvement and partnership in reaching our Equity Agenda goals.

We have a shared fate as individuals within a community and communities within society. All communities need the ability to shape their own present and future. Equity is both the means to healthy communities and an end that benefits us all. The measure of our collective success will be that Portland Housing Bureau resources and programs contribute to assuring that Portland is a place where everyone has access to the opportunities necessary to satisfy their essential needs, advance their well-being and achieve their full potential.

Thank you for your continued partnership and your efforts towards achieving these goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Traci Manning", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Traci Manning  
Director