

**NEIGHBORS WEST-NORTHWEST COALITION
FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT (OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND CIVIC LIFE)
FY 2020- 2021**

This report follows the format developed for the 2021-2022 Grant Agreement, forming a starting point for the Annual Report required for that fiscal year.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

- Provided communication technical assistance to neighborhood associations.
- Disseminated information about community organizations, Neighborhood Association and District Coalition activities, City public involvement opportunities, and recruitment efforts for community volunteers for City Boards, Commissions, advisory committees, and task forces and other neighborhood issues of importance to individual community members, Neighborhood Associations, and public and private agencies and groups in the District Coalition area.
- Publicized the dates, times and locations of meetings, community events, civic engagement opportunities and other related activities on District Coalition calendar.
- Regularly posted to District Coalition Facebook page and increased followers by 12.5%.
- Placed five (5) Facebook advertisements for Coalition DEI events reaching over 4000 local accounts with average click rate of 32%.
- Sent twenty-two (22) e-newsletters to 800 subscribers with average open rate of 26%.
- Placed four (4) print half-page advertisements for District Coalition events and opportunities

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

Our ongoing core services to neighborhood associations.

Activities included:

- Assisted volunteers with organizational planning, policy development, event planning, leadership training, and technical assistance related to neighborhood livability, safety, economic vitality and other public policy issues or projects identified by Neighborhood Associations.
- Assisted Neighborhood Association and coalition activities.
- Provided assistance to Neighborhood Associations with limited reproduction and distribution of print and/or electronic newsletters, meeting notices and minutes.
- Provided financial support for web domains and web hosting.
- Provided support to maintain a web presence.
- Provided General Liability and Directors and Officers insurance coverage for the coalition governing board and organization.
- Provided General Liability and Directors and Officers insurance coverage to Twelve Neighborhood Associations.
- Provided information and guidance on Risk Management to the coalition and Neighborhood Associations.
- Provided accounting services to twelve Neighborhood Associations
- Assisted twelve Neighborhood Associations with Federal, State, and local registrations, renewals, and reports.

BOARD AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Our ongoing educational program supports neighborhood and community volunteers in building personal and organizational capacity in support of community involvement, as per the goal of Fulfilled and Empowered Portlanders.

Activities included:

- Facilitated three (3) board orientations for new and returning neighborhood board members
- Collaborated with fellow Portland neighborhood coalitions to provide one (1) ongoing board education workshop for coalition board members
- Designed and launched bimonthly civic engagement skill-building workshop series highlighting neighborhood strengths and successes; two (2) workshops taught to-date.

BUILDING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

The Building Diverse Communities Program Goals are to empower neighborhood association volunteers and community members to build the knowledge and skills required to develop and maintain ongoing relationships with a diverse group of community partners; to expand the program's reach to uninvolved populations, to assist individuals to be the change they want to see in their communities, and to amplify overlooked and underserved voices.

Activities included:

- Facilitated twelve (12) bimonthly roundtables on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) topics
- Provided six (6) monthly in-house inclusivity workshops building DEI comprehension and active ally skills; topics included microaggressions, implicit bias, intersectionality, and equity lenses.
- Partnered with Portland United Against Hate (PUAH) to provide five (5) workshops on specific issues affecting underrepresented and marginalized Portlanders. Topics included islamophobia, transphobia, anti-houseless bias, anti-immigrant hate, and hatecrime intervention.
- Provided one-on-one support for BIPOC community members looking to educate on racism and implicit bias in their workplace.
- Provided one-on-one diversity outreach education for neighborhood association board members.
- Provided one-on-one support and strategy sessions for neighborhood association members looking to bring DEI values and conversations to their neighborhoods.

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT Currently offered to neighborhood associations.

- Collected and archived appropriate Neighborhood Association and District Coalition documents.
- Assisted twelve member Neighborhood Associations, as requested, with tracking deadlines, completing, and filing of annual reports with the Oregon Secretary of State, Corporation Division, the Oregon State Department of Justice, and the IRS.
- Archived Neighborhood Associations and District Coalition records as required by the ONI Standards, State and Federal regulations and currently acceptable best practices, as set forth in the coalition's document management and retention policies.

NWNW COMMUNITY SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM 2020-2021

In the 2020-2021 fiscal year NWNW assisted 10 groups with funding via our Small Grants program. There were an additional 5 groups awarded funds which were not able to complete their projects. NWNW staff is working with some of these groups on creating a successful proposal for next year. There was a good range of project categories with the most common being Community Building Events, this was an impressive success considering the Covid limitations. Half of the groups were NWNW member neighborhood associations and 4 were groups who had not previously received funding. There was great variety in the funded work from art and cookies, to picking up litter. We love to see the creative ways that people in the community can take a small grant and use it to improve their neighborhood or increase visibility of under-represented voices and cultures. NWNW is grateful for the added funding in 2021-2022 which will enable us to broaden the reach of this work.

Metrics:

- 10 projects funded: 5 neighborhood associations, 4 groups new to the Small Grant program, and 1 returning organization with a new project
- At least 1 project from each category, however the Civic Engagement or Social Justice Focused Project category was not as highly represented.
- About \$5,000 of our proposed budget did not end up being spent by Small Grant recipients. Mostly this was the result of current conditions from Covid and the economic and housing crisis causing extra burden on project planners. We hope to see a higher success rate next year.

The following chart shows a summary of the projects completed and below is a short description of the work they did:

Organization	Project	Grant Total	Category
Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association	Arlington Heights Shreds	\$1,324.73	Community Building Event/ Neighborhood Cleanup Event
Braided River Coalition	In Their Footsteps - Lost voices of Old St Helens	\$2,500	Community Building Event
Brown Hope	Blackstreet Bakery: Northwest Expansion	\$1,500	Community Building Event
CoHo Productions	CoHo Nightlife	\$3,000	Community Building Event/Social Justice Focused
Forest Park Neighborhood Association	SOLVE Litter Cleanup	\$649.69	Neighborhood Cleanup Event
Linnton Neighborhood Association	Linnton newsletter	\$901.50	Communication Project
Old Town Community Association	4 th Avenue Greening	\$2,500	Neighborhood Care Project
Pearl District Neighborhood Association	Zoom package	\$921.21	Communication Project
Portland Chinatown Museum	Chinatown Virtual Community Roundtables	\$3,000	Community Building Event
William Temple House	Style & Sustainability for Social Good	\$3,000	Community Building Event
		\$19,297.13	

Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association (AHNA) – Arlington Heights Shreds

AHNA held a secure document shredding event which served as an opportunity to connect with those neighbors coming out to partake of the service. 44 neighbors attended, resulting in 1,800 pounds of shredded paper. Many expressed gratitude for having the opportunity to dispose of confidential documents and were happy to stop and chat with neighbors as well. They were encouraged to sign-up for the neighborhood newsletter and PBOTs “Slow Down Portland” yard signs were also distributed. Promotion was done via social media, newsletter and 10 yard signs that were strategically placed around the neighborhood.

Braided River Coalition (BRC) – In Their Footsteps: Lost Voices of Old St. Helens

In an effort to build appreciation for the multi-cultural history of the Linnton and Guilds Lake area, the BRC created a series of life size portraits that represent a few of the many different stories which took place there. Hundreds of volunteer hours were devoted to researching the history, recruiting BIPOC artists and gathering supplies. Artists often had a connection to the portraits they chose. These portraits help unearth the history of Linnton as a diverse working town and families who were displaced for tank farms and other industry. It is a lost history which the BRC takes seriously and is trying to address the intergenerational harm to the communities and workers who had a connection to these lands and waters.

A campaign launch and press conference, which received local news coverage, was held outside at one of the Port terminals in Linnton with about 50 people. The portraits were displayed along a chain link fence with the backdrop of heavy industry. The portraits are now displayed at the Linnton Community Center for the summer, along with historic photos and large posters with some history of the area. A walking tour of Linnton is also offered. The portraits will continue to be displayed in galleries and office spaces over the coming year.

Brown Hope – Blackstreet Bakery: Northwest Expansion

The NW Expansion project made great strides to engage the Friendly House community and residents of NW Portland in a conversation about Blackstreet Bakery and its goals to support Black Portlanders. Many had never heard of Blackstreet Bakery or Brown Hope. This project had the added benefit of connecting Brown Hope and Friendly House which led to additional collaboration. Through three pop-up events at Friendly House, Brown Hope was able to distribute over 200 vegan treats to NW community members. This included many Friendly House Children’s Program participants. Two of the three pop-ups were strategically scheduled to align with pick-up times for these programs, which were enthusiastically received by the kids wanting sweet treats and their parents or guardians interested in learning about Blackstreet Bakery and why they were giving away free cookies! The third and final pop-up occurred on a Friday in May during Friendly House’s community night where they provide services to those who are experiencing houselessness or simply in need. Many of the program participants left with a backpack full of goodies to sweeten their day/night when they are outside.

CoHo Productions – CoHo Nightlife

Narrative report in delayed due to health issues.

Forest Park Neighborhood Association (FPNA) – SOLVE Litter Cleanup

FPNA holds an annual Earth Day SOLVE Litter Cleanup event. As promotion for this volunteer event and for the neighborhood association itself, they mail a postcard to each address within their boundaries. This offers the best opportunity to reach underserved populations in the neighborhood and to increase the

number and diversity of people engaged. The postcard included an abbreviated version of FPNA's equity and diversity statement. In 2021 a record setting 190+ volunteers signed up to help, 29 of these were children. They collected 7,240 lbs (3.63 tons) of trash, and 133 tires. A trailer-load of hazardous materials was also collected and delivered to Metro Central Transfer Station. This represents a great amount of pollution that would otherwise be left to threaten water quality and wildlife. This year the event also featured a new partnership with the Skyline Ridge Neighbors (SRN), the neighborhood to the north of FPNA. This brought in 60 of the total volunteers and allowed the group to cover even more area. Portland Fire set-up a booth to promote the Firewise Program for an extra dose of education and community resiliency.

Linnton Neighborhood Association (LNA) – Linnton Newsletter

Every other month for the past 11 years the LNA has been creating, publishing and distributing their local neighborhood newsletter to the more than 400 households in their neighborhood. The newsletter includes stories of interest such as: membership benefits, neighborhood events and important contact information, stories from minority groups in Linnton and Portland at large, important issues relating to environment, tank farms, air quality, petroleum shipments, political events and government initiatives, local businesses, NET and neighborhood preparedness, and local ecological efforts for Linnton and Forest Park. The Communication Committee puts in an average of 16 hours of volunteer time with an additional 30 hours of volunteer time distributing the newsletters to each household. Last year LNA began to also publish the newsletter electronically to the 125 email addresses (about 75 households) which have been provided by the membership. Linnton has an above average percentage of elderly homeowners who have limited access to technology so the print version is vital to their inclusivity efforts.

Old Town Community Association (OTCA) – 4th Avenue Greening

This project was initiated in conjunction with activation projects on the Davis Festival Street, including My People's Market and regularly held street fairs, in order to make the thorough fair more welcoming. The greening initiative focused on NW 4th Avenue between Burnside and Glisan streets, where there are currently many vacant storefronts and a lack of regular maintenance. The trees along this stretch had become highly overgrown and detrimental to sidewalk users. A contractor was hired to prune the 28 trees and mulch the tree wells. Additional efforts in this area included the Oregon Chinese Coalition installing and maintaining red Chinese lanterns on the light poles, and several murals being painted on the Festival Street and nearby buildings to further increase the sense of community in the area.

Pearl District Neighborhood Association – Zoom Webinar

Final report in progress.

Portland Chinatown Museum (PCM) – Virtual Community Roundtables

When COVID caused the museum to close for an extended period staff pivoted their focus to begin providing online sessions where community members could learn and discuss topics of interest. These Virtual Community Roundtables led to a greater audience reach than the previous PCM membership, and new opportunities for partnership. This also enabled the museum to broach topics beyond what an in-person museum would typically be able to consider. Some of the topics offered included: voting and the census among Asian American communities, winter flowering plants at Lan Su Chinese Garden, *Minari* film screening and discussion, *Chinatown Pretty* book reading and discussion. Due to the success of these roundtables over the last year, PCM plans to continue offering them even now that the museum has

reopened.

William Temple House (WTH) – Style and Sustainability for Social Good

Style & Sustainability for Social Good was the major 2021 WTH fundraiser and an online community building event that was free for all to attend. The program was designed to be interesting and inspirational to a wide range of people and by making it free even those who were unable to donate could participate and enjoy the show. Highlighting the thrift store in northwest Portland, this year's program showcased tips and tricks for transforming living spaces with preloved home décor. The sustainability focus of reuse and recycling has the added benefit of protecting our environment by keeping more items out of the landfill and putting them back to use.

More than 213 people tuned in to watch the free online event featuring William Temple House board member Lacey Evans and guest speaker Stephanie Thornton Plymale, CEO of Heritage School of Interior Design and author of *American Daughter*. Stephanie delighted viewers with her interior design tips and tricks and inspired us by sharing her personal mental health journey that connects her to the WTH mission. The event also featured a photo contest for participants to demonstrate how they make use of thrift store finds.

Attendees responded that this was the best virtual event they have seen, and the fundraising goal of \$100,000 was surpassed by \$14,000 to directly benefit more than 6,800 people who come to WTH for food assistance and counseling each year.