

# SEUL 6-Month Grant Report to Office of Community and Civic Life

## FY 2020-21

Grantee	SEUL Neighborhood Coalition
Project Title	District Coalition Office
Grant Agreement	32002080
Fiscal Year	July 1, 2020- December 30, 2020
Overall Project Status	Ongoing, 6-month report

**Project Summary:** This project is the operation of the SEUL Neighborhood Coalition, one of the City of Portland's seven district coalition offices supporting 95 neighborhoods of Portland, Oregon. Grant funds cover five staff positions and all operating expenses of the organization.

**Successes:** SEUL has successfully partnered with local communities of identity and geography, as well as city government, to address our mission of collaborating with the SE Portland community to build informed, inclusive, and participatory neighborhoods that support our social and ecological well-being. Successes are highlighted in the "*Featured Work of SEUL July 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020*" section below.

**Challenges:** Greatest challenges faced by SEUL this 6-month period continued to be responding to community needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic and finding a way to operate effectively in a virtual world. Additionally, during this period, we experience a complete change over in 3 of our 5 staff members, tenant turnover in our Main street property and the loss of our tenant at our Tabor Commons community space on SE Division and 45<sup>th</sup>.

We continue to modify our programming and services, so we are able serve all community members within our boundaries. Both reaching new community members to provide services to, while working with long-standing partners to reshape expectations present rewards and challenges.

## SEUL Overview

SE Uplift (SEUL) is part of the city-wide district coalition system, a coalition of a geographic region of 20 neighborhoods in SE Portland. The mission of SEUL is to collaborate with the SE Portland community to build informed, inclusive, and participatory neighborhoods that support our social and ecological well-being. Originally a government field office, SEUL has been a City of Portland district coalition since 1974. Annual funding from the City of Portland Office of Community and Civic Life (formerly the Office of Neighborhood Involvement) has been ongoing since that time in a mutually beneficial relationship where the nonprofit coalition is contracted to provide vital services that contribute to the City's functioning at a cost much lower than the equivalent services provided directly by the City. The grant requirements contain specific deliverables which are described at the end of this report.

SEUL is able to implement our Civic Life contract obligations in many ways consistent with how it has met requirements in previous years. In addition, SEUL addresses our own organization-wide goals. Information about our goals and grant obligations are outlined in our 2020-2021 Work Plan, submitted to the Office of Community and Civic Life in June 2020. For reference, the SEUL organization-wide goals are:

Goal #1: Increase the number of meaningful partnerships with SE Portland community groups that have been historically marginalized and underrepresented in city decision making through strategic outreach and equitable programming.

Goal #2: Increase SEUL supports to neighborhood associations in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

*Please note that the narrative section of this report contains links to SEUL newsletter articles, documents, video, and other media.*



## Featured Work of SE Uplift July 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

### 1. Featured Anti-hate and Justice Work

Below are some examples of anti-hate and justice work we have done that falls outside of our regular programming work.

#### **Support of own houseless neighbors: Portland United Against Hate Coalition (PUAH):**

SEUL continues to support PUAH as their fiscal sponsor, by providing them with insurance to operate, and by serving on their Steering Committee. This reporting period, we assisted them in overcoming insurance challenges. PUAH has been very successful in the past six months securing grants and other funding to complete their mission.

SEUL is also providing support to PUAH during their leadership transition. SEUL is excited to see who will lead PUAH in the near future to continue the much-needed work of this organization.

PUAH also attended the November SEUL Board Meeting to share information about post Presidential Election hate activity. We thank our SEUL Board for their continued support of PUAH and their mission.

While this is not part of what we do as a Fiscal Sponsor, SEUL has been there for PUAH since its infancy and we feel compelled to help the organization as it grows and settles into the type of organization it will become by providing not only the structural support, but also advising and supporting its operational and transition needs.

 <p><b>Portland United Against Hate</b></p> <p>Các tổ chức cộng đồng và cơ quan Thành phố Portland đang hợp tác để theo dõi, ứng phó và ngăn chặn các hành vi mang tính thù ghét.</p> <p><a href="http://PortlandOregon.gov/oni/puah">PortlandOregon.gov/oni/puah</a>   503-823-2294</p>	<p><b>Ngắt ngang Sự thù ghét Thè Hành động</b> <i>Chúng kiến điều gì đó? Hãy hành động.</i></p> <p><b>Cảm thấy</b> Hãy bình tĩnh và quyết đoán.</p> <p><b>Hỏi</b> Nói chuyện với người đang bị quấy nhiễu: Tôi không cảm thấy thoải mái với điều này. Bạn ổn chứ?</p> <p><b>Hành động</b> Làm ơn kẻ quấy nhiễu. Giúp đỡ người bị quấy nhiễu. Đứng bên cạnh người bị quấy nhiễu, nhìn họ và trò chuyện với họ. Mời họ đi với bạn, tôn trọng mong muốn của họ.</p>
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#### **Houseless Committee Update:**

The SEUL Board of Directors re-launched their Houseless Committee in October, made up of board members, staff, and community volunteers. The Houseless Committee is focused on helping our houseless neighbors get the services and accommodations they need and empowering housed neighbors with tools and skills to treat those living on our streets with kindness and respect while resolving points of conflict. With a new Chair, the

committee continues to evolve as a platform to share information and exchange ideas. In 2020, the committee heard presentations from the Office of Mayor Wheeler and Central Eastside Together.

Multiple committee members are involved in the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association Community Safety & Livability Committee who work to provide immediate support, planning, and partnerships to develop sanctioned camp sites to mitigate the risk and trauma posed by camp sweeps. Trash collection, hygiene access, and community support allow neighbors, both housed and unhoused, to connect and develop a sense of place, and work collaboratively towards solutions together. SEUL's Houseless Committee is excited to work with already existing groups like Sunnyside, as well as build on partnerships with local organizations and government officials (like Representative Rob Nosse) as they work to identify realistic and innovative solutions to this complex issue.

SEUL staff and members of the committee are also in the process of collaborating on a robust houselessness resource guide to share with the SE community. Along with a list of available resources for houseless individuals and their allies, this guide will include educational components and will strive to bring more community members into the conversation around houselessness in Portland. The guide will be available online and will be a living document, welcoming community member input and updates.

As interest grows, the committee will continue to create partnerships, procedures and policies to effectively respond to Portland's housing crisis.

### **\*Impact Story\***

#### **Support of own houseless neighbors:**

SEUL has interfaced with a number of houseless neighbors over the years that have taken up long-standing residence on or near our property, and also those passing through. In the last 6 months we have come to know MaRanda, a houseless woman who had been sleeping at our Tabor Commons property with permission from the past tenant, Vibe of Portland. Upon Vibe of Portland leaving the space, staff and SEUL Chair have been in close contact with MaRanda and gotten to know her well. She is funny, kind, honest, and clever. She grew up in Chicago where her dad worked as a janitor and her mom in the public health field. She lights up when you talk about a topic that excites her, and she has been so helpful to have watching over the Tabor Commons property as SEUL transitions to a new tenant.



In order to help her transition from the property in a safe and healthy way. Staff connected her with houseless service providers, housing, job resources, and more. Over the three months, she has come to our Main Street location to use our technology to do research and apply for jobs, and we were even able to employ her to clean the Tabor Commons space. She has been a joy to get to know and to our delight, MaRanda notified us in January she was able to secure permanent housing with the financial support of SEUL and the SEUL Board of Directors who was able to fundraise and provide the \$1,000 she needed for her deposit and first and last months' rent.

While this is not part of what we do as a capacity building and civic engagement organization, we felt strongly that it was our responsibility to accommodate and support MaRanda in the best way we could. Our hope is this gives her the boost she needs to maintain permanent housing and get back to a safe and secure sense of normalcy.

### **\*Impact Story\***

#### **Black and Beyond the Binary Collective (BBBC):**



[Black & Beyond the Binary Collective](#) is dedicated to advocacy and healing for transgender and gender-variant Oregonians who are Black and have lived experiences as a member of the African diaspora. The organization is led by Babatunde Azubuikwe, their Executive Director who is also the co-chair of Portland United Against Hate.

BBBC has been a tenant at the Main street office of SEUL but has been searching for a more appropriate space to meet one of their biggest goals of establishing a community drop-in space and offering sustainable, ongoing mutual aid to our people. To our delight, BBBC applied for and was selected to become the new tenant at our Tabor Commons property on SE Division across from Franklin High School. The property will allow BBBC to find a constantly safe space to have complete autonomy. SEUL's ability to maintain and offer a space that met their specific needs, in the heart of SE Portland and close to frequent transit, for a signifiably below market rate has had a real impact on this organization and the community they serve.

### **DEIA Working Group:**

The workgroup, comprised of SEUL staff, board members, and executive committee continued moving SEUL's DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility) work forward during this 6-month period. This group, asked to identify, develop, and implement organizational-wide actions and outcomes for diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility under the leadership of Cliff Jones, staff at *Capacity Building Partnerships*, celebrated a major milestone this reporting period. The SEUL approved three key DEIA documents at the July 2020 board meeting.

The three approved documents: the DEIA Statement, Code of Ethics, and Equity Lens are available [here](#). Staff focused on publishing and sharing these documents online and with our key partners. Additionally, SEUL staff and Board members used the equity lens in our decision making for new staff hires and placing a new tenant at Tabor Commons. The workgroup continues to meet to effectively implement this strategic framework and move our organization toward greater diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.

## **2. Challenges & COVID-19**

### **COVID-19 Impacts:**

During this reporting period, SEUL had to continue to modify and evolve, not only the work we do in a way that was safe and accessible to our community, but also support our Neighborhood Associations and other partners in doing the same. Modifications and adaptations were made in all aspects of the way we do business from meetings, to our space, to our programming. Challenges and solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic will be a consistent theme throughout this report.

## \*Impact Story\*

### Community Clean-Up Events:

Community Clean-up funds were cancelled due to COVID-19 guidelines discouraging in person crowds and gatherings. Instead, the funds were awarded to 17 groups for neighborhood small projects centered around COVID-19 relief and community support during the pandemic in August. The projects' impacts to the community continued into this reporting period. To read the details of the projects see our August 2020 E-news [here](#).

The 17 Neighborhood Small Projects & COVID Relief Services were distributed through organizations and groups SEUL has existing relationships with since the funds' original purpose changed quickly, SEUL had to modify the process and get the funds out quickly. Fortunately, SEUL was able to leverage established partnerships and robust communication channels to disseminate the call for projects and was able to get funds awarded to partners such as Rose CDC, City Repair, Ground Score Association, VOZ, and many more.

### Arleta Triangle COVID Safety Hub

The Arleta Triangle Project Community Safety Hub is a resource to provide information, respite and personal protective and hygiene supplies. "The Triangle" is located at the intersection of SE 72nd Ave and Woodstock Blvd. It began in 2005, when neighbors came together to transform a neglected space at a dangerous crossing into a public plaza. It bridges an important safety connection between communities along 72nd Ave with the Mt. Scott Community Center.



With community help, Mt. Scott neighbors were able to leverage CCE reallocated funds into a hand sanitizing station, hygiene supply closet, resource guide, and a secured below ground bench to ensure a safe space for people needing to get out of their homes while maintaining physically distancing guidelines and COVID hygiene practices.

The Community Safety Hub has benefited people without access to stable housing and the community by providing relevant information, sanitizers, soaps, and masks, while allowing seating in the shade from the sun during the COVID-19 pandemic and hopefully beyond.

*"Thanks for being awesome, Southeast Uplift!"* -Sarah Iannarone, Arleta Triangle COVID Safety Hub Project Lead





## Garden Pantry Project and Low-Income Garden's Tool Fund

The Friends of Portland Community Gardens used CCE reallocated funds to purchase fertilizer for the 31 gardens who grow food for food shelters under the **Produce For People (PFP) Program** are currently preparing for the distribution of their harvest. Friends of Portland Community Gardens created a tools/supplies with list for the 10-15 gardens in areas where neighbors are experiencing poverty.



Garden



The areas where over 80% of gardeners qualify for low-income scholarship assistance, that the Garden Pantry Project plans to work with are:

- Powell Butte Community Garden
- Oliver-Parklane Community Garden
- Earl Boyles Community Garden
- Peace Community Garden
- Floyd Light Community Garden
- Senn's Community Garden
- NE 72nd Ave Community Garden
- Gilbert Heights Community

## **Tenant Changes at Tabor Commons**

SEUL said good-bye to Vibe of Portland after nearly 3 years of tenancy at our Tabor Commons space on SE Division. Due to the impacts of the pandemic, Vibe was forced to close their doors at the end of September despite SEUL's ability to forgive their rent during the first six months of the pandemic. SEUL staff worked to turn over the space and undergo a request for proposal process which started in October. SEUL used its newly adopted equity lens to evaluate proposals and evaluation criteria based on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA). We also recognized, given the conditions created by the pandemic, prioritizing Tabor Commons as a "community space" at this time may be limited or challenging and we did our best to work with a number of interested applicants on creative options and opportunities for the space that meet everyone's needs.

A Tabor Commons committee, comprised of board members and staff, evaluated 10 complete applications and selected Black and Beyond the Binary Collective (BBBC) as the top applicant candidate in December. The recommendation was approved by the SEUL's Executive Committee that same month. Staff have been preparing for their arrival February 1<sup>st</sup>. 2021 and excited to see BBBC move to a more fitting community space.

While Tabor Commons just seems like a property we rent out, SEUL is in a unique and privileged position to be able to provide space in prime location in SE Portland at much below market rate. This is another way we add capacity to new and growing organizations that need help getting started. It takes away time from our programs, but it also creates an opportunity to build relationships with, and help marginalized, and displaced groups return to places they have been displaced from and thrive. SEUL received a number of qualifying applications for the Tabor Commons space and we selected BBBC in large part because of our DEIA statement and desire to achieve restorative justice in any way we can. Read more in section 1 under Black and Beyond the Binary Collective.

## Staff Change Over



During the last six months SEUL lost three key staff members as they moved on to new career opportunities. Muz, Mireaya and Christina all left a legacy of great work and will be missed. Conducting a robust hiring process for three new staff members in a Covid impacted world is time consuming and challenging. We conducted all our recruiting and interviews online and through Zoom sessions. SEUL Board members were included in parts of the interview process. We used our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access documents to inform our interview criteria and questions and our equity lens to help in decision making. SEUL was very fortunate to hire three new staff members, who are featured in our monthly E-news [here](#) and [here](#), with outstanding experience, skills and personalities:

- Eaen Goss, Office Clerk,
- Matchu Williams, Community Liaison Program Manager,
- Paola De La Cruz, Communication Outreach Manager.

Leah Fisher was also promoted to Deputy Executive Director in December building on almost 5 years of experience at SEUL and previous work in community planning, policy and public health.

### **Organizational Change:**

Change continues to be a struggle in this system, and the last six months have been no exception. During this reporting period, SEUL established a bylaws committee to address challenges within our board after inequities both in board structure and procedures were brought to light again and knowing that Civic Life's code change process will take more time. With the concurrent conversations happening across the nation and globe around justice, healing, and equity the group is charged with applying the DEIA Documents including the Equity Lens to re-examine our bylaws and address inequities in particular focusing on how Neighborhood Association Representative Board Members are treated more favorably in the bylaws than Small Organization, Business Association and At Large Board Members. The bylaws were last modified in 2018, but the modifications did not dig

deep into these structural inequities. Currently the committee is collecting background information and supporting materials to aid the process throughout the next year.

A board development committee was also created in the past six months to both assist in recruiting and onboarding new Board members, but to also focus on Board member retention.

### **Liability Insurance:**

How can something as unexciting as insurance become such a barrier to doing great community work? Well it has. During this reporting period, SEUL has received three serious requests from partners for liability insurance required to support innovative houseless neighbor efforts. Foster Powell Neighborhood Association wanted to pay for, and establish hygiene stations, but have been unable because SEUL insurance does not cover such activities and insurance costs were more than they could afford. Similar barriers have come up for the Woodstock Neighborhood Association and Montavilla who also want to support houseless neighbors. We need Civic Life's support to figure out how to help groups acquire liability insurance to do the community work they are striving to do to help marginalized folks living in their community.

## **3. Ongoing Programs**

### **Small Grants Program:**

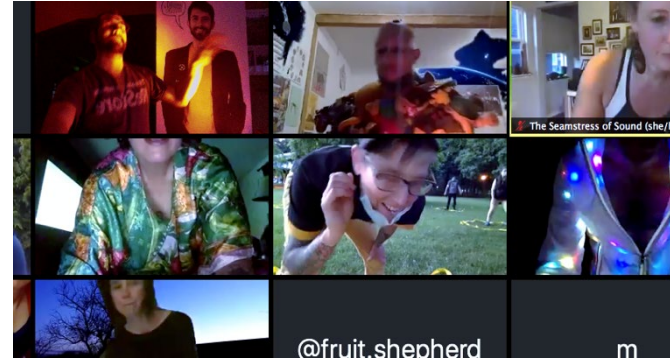
SEUL's Community & Civic Engagement Small Grant Program strives to keep barriers to entry low, while building community capacity to do great projects. Projects this year faced numerous challenges due to state guidance on COVID-19 around social distancing and limiting social gatherings. Delivery of projects required reimagining goals within a remote context. For some projects this meant distribution of material remotely and for others it required pivoting towards online experiences to deliver workshops, presentations, and galleries. This meant an increase in the amount of people able to interact and collaborate remotely.



Thanks to the support of Grant Manager, Matchu Williams, many of the grant recipients were able to transition and adapt to the big social changes and alter their programs to serve the community virtually. One great example of this can be seen through *The City Repair Project*.

City Repair was awarded funding for their project “Village Building Convergence”. This is their 20<sup>th</sup> annual event that spans over ten days, filled with facilitated presentations, workshops and community events. Because of the pandemic, the events had to be redesigned to work virtually.

The virtual events are recorded and have been receiving a lot of interactions on YouTube. They can be found [here](#).



### **Fiscal Sponsorship Program:**

SEUL currently provides fiscal sponsorship service to 10 neighborhoods and 6 community groups. With the impacts of the current pandemic not as many projects happened in the past six months as compared to this time last year. The SEUL Finance Committee also recommended to the SEUL Board for adoption a new fiscal sponsorship fee. The sponsorship fee was carefully crafted to only charge fees to our fiscal sponsors who have the most amount of transactions in the past quarter. This policy was developed using our SEUL adopted equity lens and in the end the policy is currently only being applied to two organizations who met the policy criteria. The following is a list of fiscally sponsored projects that rely on SEUL staff to administer and support:

- 10 Neighborhood Associations
- Black and Beyond the Binary Collective
- Portland United Against Hate
- Portland Through a LatinX Lens
- Congo Peace Project
- Queer Lives Archive
- Sensory Integration Project
- Friends of Reservoirs
- Kitchen Share SE

## Land Use and Transportation Program:

Monthly meetings with educational speakers and timely land use and transportation topics are a key component of the Neighborhood Planning Program. These meetings are planned and hosted by SEUL staff, with input from attendees, to increase the access and understanding of these complex topics. These monthly meetings have changed in response to COVID-19. The meetings are hosted completely online, we have shortened the duration, and typically only host one topic/presenter (as opposed to multiple). Staff provides pre-meeting consultation with participants who may be concerned/unsure about the zoom technology being used and provides technical assistance to those who need it. Despite the move to virtual meetings, the LUTC continues to draw approximately 15-40 community members per month, primarily chairs of neighborhood association land use committees, local advocates, and the general public who want to better understand the many transportation and development changes happening in our area.



The Neighborhood Planning Program Manager, Leah Fisher, also continued to respond to community needs and concerns related to notices, land use disputes, and policy questions. Additionally, she continues to expand the diversity and number of community members and groups engaging in land use and transportation issues in Southeast Portland. This period, SEUL secured funding, created a plan, and connected with community partners to launch a first ever land use and transportation leadership program with stipend. The program purpose is to get more youth and folks from historically excluded (from land use and transportation policy decisions) groups involved in land use and transportation advocacy. Since it's the first time SEUL (and other Coalitions) have done a program like this, we hope to learn from the experience and share outcomes with our colleagues at the other Coalitions.

## Neighborhood Association Liaison Support:

Traditionally, SEUL staff have supported our 20 Neighborhood Associations via the Staff Liaison program. As we continue to modify our programming to be more inclusive and strive for greater equity in the city-wide Neighborhood Association System, SEUL has struggled most to modify this program due to our limited capacity and the specific services provided by this program. Over the last six months staff has continued to have conversations about how to open this resource up to non-neighborhood associations and two big steps forward occurred this reporting period. First, we outlined our

vision/parameters for the “Liaison Services” and published them on our website [here](#). Publishing this on our website will help reinforce boundaries with our Neighborhood Association partners, while also sharing the opportunity with non-neighborhood association groups. We have also had initial talks with two non-neighborhood groups about being part of a trial or pilot project testing what this process and partnership might look like for non-neighborhood associations. We hope to launch the pilot project in the next reporting period.

Liaison staff also continued to provide support via this program to our Neighborhood Associations to address the digital divide that exists in the older population we often work with. Staff went above and beyond to ensure our Neighborhood Association elections happened as inclusive and transparent as possible while also following current state non-profit laws and organization by-laws. Technical assistance to ensure zoom meetings ran smoothly were secure, and accessible occurred. We provided use of our zoom account in instances where that was needed. Staff continues to have conversations with our partners about effective use of video technology, leveraging social media, and help trouble shoot technology challenges during this time.

### **Training & Skill Building:**

Throughout October into early November, SEUL provided a series of five trainings to our new Neighborhood Association board members, SEUL Board members and any other interested community members. We called it our “Leadership Academy” and it was also shared with other Coalition community members. The intent was to orient new board members who may have just been elected to their board, while also providing skill building and information in areas staff and participants have seen a need. Virtual trainings included: New Board Member Orientation, Meeting Facilitation 101, Diversifying your Board, Now What?, Communications Part 1 and Part 2 and concluded with an Implicit or Unknown Bias training. The training was well attended and received excellent response from the Board.

SEUL also continues to inform and educate community members on events, topics of interest, and our organization via our monthly E-news. Key feature articles this period included: information on our updated Land Use and Transportation resource pages, education around the racist history of the neighborhood watch program, highlights from notable BIPOC Board and Community members, our grant programs and other community support. All E-News can be found [here](#).

## **Communications Funds / Communication Grants:**

For the second year in a row, SEUL has proudly worked towards equity in the way that communications funds are distributed between our 20 neighborhood associations and community groups in Southeast Portland. In 2020-2021 SEUL has re-evaluated the program and distribution of funds once again, to further enhance accountability and strive for greater equity among the population we serve. In the reporting year of 2019-2020, SEUL evaluated and transitioned a portion of our communications funds program into a small competitive grant process open to all community groups including non-neighborhood associations. This year, out of the \$23,000 available in communications funds, \$10,000 will be distributed to neighborhood associations; \$500 per association. The remaining \$13,000 will support the competitive communications grants program in which applicants can qualify for up to \$1,000 of grant funding. Neighborhood Associations are also eligible to apply to the competitive communications grant program.



### *What is the difference between Communications Funds and Communications Grants?*

*Communication Funds*- are non-competitive funds available to SE Neighborhood Associations who apply by the deadline and submit for reimbursement by the deadline.

*Communication Grants*- are competitive funds open to **all** SE community groups and organizations who apply by the deadline.

### **Outreach:**

SEUL is transitioning into finetuning our social media presence. With its undeniable influence on community engagement, social media has become the best way to connect with our neighbors, especially during COVID-19. Our outreach methods have changed by reimagining SEUL's visual language. The rebranding of our social media presence includes promoting a cohesive look throughout all of our platforms. Through the merging of photography and illustration we are pushing for a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

### **Community Meeting Space:**

SEUL typically makes community meeting space available to community members and groups at little to no cost, depending on the situation. However, due to the COVID-19



pandemic, our building is open by appointment only and is largely closed to non-tenants. Cleaning is done frequently and SEUL staff rotate days in the office to limit exposure.

While quiet, our building still has a lot of life thanks to the community-focused work of our tenants. Our new Office Clerk welcomed the newest Main Street tenant, the United Congolese Community Organization of Oregon, this reporting period. They support the lives of Congolese community members in Portland and surrounding cities. SEUL continues to accommodate, while meeting safety protocol and recommendations, our long-standing tenants, Black and Beyond the Binary Collective, Disability Art and Culture Project, as well as Representative Nosse and staff.

## **4. Community Partnerships**

Community partners, not already mentioned above, that SE Uplift engaged with this reporting period include.

### **Foster Powell Neighborhood Association:**

SEUL had the unique opportunity to work with the Foster Powell Neighborhood Association in applying for both a small and a large Portland Clean Energy Fund Grant. The project is to transform Firland Parkway into a Regenerative Native Food Forest, so that it can provide healthy produce to priority neighbors (POC, low-income, disabled, houseless populations), while mitigating climate change and restoring native habitats at the same time. They will partner with nonprofits and schools to host education workshops and community activities on this landscape. There will also be educational signs, garden beds, and benches to invite visitors and volunteers.

The Firland Parkway is a 1.65-acre parkway running along SE 72 Ave from Holgate to Foster. It is in one of the most ethnically diverse and economically under-developed areas of Portland. Portland Mercado is right across Foster from the Parkway.

Although it doesn't appear that our request will be funded during this round of PCEF funding, we do plan to apply for the next round of funding.

### **Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT):**

SEUL continues to support low income renters via our partnership with Community Alliance of Tenants. The partnership has been ongoing for over a year now, however, given the pandemic, the way SEUL adds capacity to CAT has changed. During the last six months, the Neighborhood Planning Program Manager has supported CAT by helping the organization build an electronic database of tenant question and answers that CAT staff can easily access. Like SEUL, COVID-19 has pushed CAT to reevaluate how they do business and how they can improve what and how they do their work. SEUL has been happy to be a part of their evolution by supporting this work remotely.

## **Operation Partners:**

SEUL is continually striving to improve our older Main Street building to become more eco-friendly. This period, we had the opportunity to work with a local BIPCO-owned solar company to apply for a Portland Clean Energy Fund grant to have our windows and lighting replaced. If awarded, it will make our building more energy efficient. Eventually, we would also like to have solar panels installed on our roof. Costs savings from energy bills would be paid forward to our BIPOC tenants in the form of rent and event space reductions.

We are also working closely with SymbiOp, a local and sustainable landscaping company, to revitalize the outside of the building, including planting native/edible plants, removing the lawn, and improving existing garden spaces.

SEUL is proud to be able to support local, minority-owned businesses to meet our operation needs. In doing so we have found more points of connection in our own work, and further build community in the SE area and beyond.

## **Southeast Uplift Board Demographics:**

As of this report the Southeast Uplift Board consists of 28 Board Members. Here are the demographics of the Board as best approximated by staff:

Neighborhood Association Representatives:	20
Small Organizations, Business Associations, At Large:	08
Female:	17
Male:	11
Under 24:	00
25-44:	17
45-64:	09
Over 65:	02
White:	19
Hispanic/LatinX	06
Asia:	01
African American or Black	01
Middle Eastern/Northern African	01

Project Finances	Awarded:	\$475,356	Grant Expenditure to Date	\$221,256.75
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#### Next Steps

SEUL will continue to work on implementation of this grant agreement for the upcoming 6 months. SEUL understands that in recognizing historical inequities, Civic Life is pivoting to better serve under-served, under resourced, and/or marginalized communities through district coalitions while continuing to support neighborhood associations.

### **Specific Project Metrics**

The City of Portland contracts with SEUL Neighborhood Coalition to provide the following deliverables specified in the grant contract:

1. An annual plan
2. Outreach and Communications (communication, collaboration, and connection among community organizations and disseminate information about neighborhood associations, coalitions, ONI, and City public involvement opportunities)
3. Organizational Support: Support neighborhood associations and community groups in developing and implementing projects and activities that benefit the community.
4. Advocacy Support (help neighborhood associations and community efforts to analyze, organize, and influence decisions that affect community livability).
5. Training and Skill Building (develop and offer leadership and skill-building opportunities that benefit the community)
6. Participation in Civic Life programs
7. Neighborhood Small Grants Program
8. An accessible office in the community
9. Document management (collect and archive neighborhood association and district coalition documents)

SEUL addresses each of the above through ongoing programming which is described in detail in our 2020-2021 Annual Plan, and many highlights have been described in this grant report. In general, these deliverables are inherently part of SEUL structure and services, based on the grant requirements and expectations of City of Portland over the past multiple decades.

The work of SEUL includes, in conjunction with the above deliverables, efforts to address the following goals listed in the 2020-2021 contract with City of Portland. Goals and sub-goals below have been identified by our board and staff as key areas for SEUL programs.

**GOAL X: STRUCTURES FOR INCLUSION:** Modeling the inclusive practices and processes we seek to promote, the Office of Community and Civic Life will partner with diverse, self-identifying communities to:

- Aggressively develop institutional practices for inclusion and transformational change within government structures
- Increase community building and civic engagement opportunities for communities working toward equitable outcomes for all

**GOAL Y: MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNANCE:** To realize more adaptive decision-making in community and government, the Office of Community and Civic Life will:

- Support inclusive cross-cultural, cross-issue organizing in community to reflect the ability of resilient communities to address complex, inter-connected issues
- Lead internal capacity development within City government, particularly as it pertains to engaging community toward equitable outcomes
- Create and hold shared space where community and government join together to identify opportunities and solve shared challenges
- Support communities in pursuing forms of governance that reflect their lived experience, values, and aspirations

**GOAL Z: FULFILLED AND EMPOWERED PORTLANDERS:** A progressive change in culture of civic engagement is foundational to long-term systemic community building and government change. The Office of Community and Civic Life will:

- Prioritize resources that support communities in building resilience both with and without their government

- Ensure equitable sharing of resources
- Promote inclusive education, art and play
- Create an environment for respectful dialogue and problem solving that acknowledges our differences as we work toward shared goals

**Certification:** By signing this report, I certify that it is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Name: Leroy Eadie, Executive Director

Date: January 25, 2021

Signature:



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Date report submitted

January 25, 2021