



OUR STORIES MATTER.

Experience. Educate. Engage.

Teach history, including all voices.

Know Your City
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Mission

Know Your City engages the public in art and social justice through creative placemaking projects. Our programs and publications aim to educate people to better know their communities, and to empower them to take action.

In 2016, Know Your City will be advocating for Civic Equity Education Managers to be funded by the City of Portland and Multnomah County to work with community in the development of inclusive Oregon Studies curriculum for K-12 schools in the tri-county region.

The goals of our program are as follows:

- 1. Cultivate the leadership of global citizens that excel in their school studies and are engaged for the rest of their lives.**
- 2. Ethnic studies have demonstrated the ability to improve graduation and student achievement rates. Offering inclusive curriculum will help more students thrive.**
- 3. We believe that all youth should intimately understand the communities who lived before them in their neighborhoods and the lessons provided of how to thrive as a community.**
- 4. We believe the development of inclusive Oregon Studies curriculum will help to eliminate racism and other forms of discrimination that frequently occur in our society.**

Civic Equity Education Managers will make a profound difference in our ability to provide these vital community programs.

Why We're Taking Action Now

The proposal for Civic Equity Engagement Managers originates from concern about the **lack of access to human rights related educational programming** for youth.

Many school districts in the Portland metropolitan region have not been able to offer youth and students a robust understanding of Oregon's diverse civic and historic culture. Addressing this educational void is urgent because we are experiencing a dramatic transformation in the demographics of our schools. Many classrooms in the metropolitan region are majority-minority, with youth who could be intimately

understanding the communities who lived before them, in their neighborhoods. We must highlight how these

communities struggled due to social inequality, but also how they thrived. Currently, this need goes unmet.

The city is and will continue to undergo many kinds of changes that slowly shift the nature of the communities here and what it means to be a citizen in Portland. According to the 2010 Census, more than half of current residents are not native to the area. The city's metro population is growing rapidly — and according to the Portland Plan — is expected to continue to grow 40% by the year 2025. With this growth there is a renewed need for cultural and historic preservation for that helps generations of communities thrive.

We believe that the celebration of human rights creates a stronger and more prosperous community. We believe that every individual, no matter who they are, can reach their highest potential when they are recognized for their humanity. We emphasize everything we share in our struggles, to broaden perspectives and deepen the meaning of the word "community."

These programs provide engaging, nontraditional means of dialogue through a multicultural lens – providing people from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to become civically engaged and have a greater connection to the surrounding community.

Additional readings:

Oregon was recently the subject of a viral online article that highlighted its history as a racist white utopia. <http://gizmodo.com/oregon-was-founded-as-a-racist-utopia-1539567040>

ALLY youth has been building national and international awareness advocating for ethnic studies in Portland Public Schools.

nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/students-call-ethnic-studies-portland-high-schools-n458696

A Mexican American Studies (MAS) program was launched in the Tucson Unified School District in 1998. In 2011, it was reported that there was a 2.5% drop out rate for MAS students, compared to a 56% national dropout rate for Latinos.

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/education-uprising/interview-with-curtis-acosta>

A business plan developed by Portland State University Business of Administration Capstone Students about the development of inclusive human rights curriculum on behalf of the Oregon Center for Human Rights:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1We3PLy6Cw-AMWSOVbhV-LjE3ZjuCcY7WiktL0WqqSt3tKBHXRC6WhEjySFqrhLcaXJDZc84dkUM6cNjX/view?usp=sharing>

Background Information

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed **Senate Bill 739** – a piece of legislation that urged for the recognition of Oregon's diverse history within curriculum related to Oregon Studies. The bill's direct language stated, "*The Department of Education shall develop academic content standards for Oregon Studies and shall prepare materials to support teacher training and classroom instruction... shall include a balanced presentation of the relevant*

contributions to society by men and women of African American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian American and other racial groups in Oregon."

In 2012, the City of Portland adopted the Portland Plan, and within the **5-Year Action Plan** approved the support for actions that would "*promote curricula that reflect the experiences, histories and cultures of Oregon's communities of color, immigrants, and refugees to boost student investment and performance*". While these policy objectives are an opportunity to strengthen the voice and visibility of marginalized communities, they did not provide funding for the implementation of these programs.

As a follow-up to these legislative efforts, in Spring 2015 the Oregon Center for Human Rights, an Oregon nonprofit formed in 2014, and Know Your City launched the **Human Rights Education Report**, a research tool to assist in accountability and full implementation of Senate Bill 739 within each school district, and is expanding to cover additional communities in Oregon that are affected by human injustice. The Human Rights Education Report will be a tool to help ensure that all students have access to enriching educational experiences about human rights by documenting what schools are already doing in terms of Human Rights based curriculum.

The Oregon Center for Human Rights and Know Your City partnered with a PSU Business Administration capstone class that interviewed over 12 community experts and developed a business plan for the development of this curriculum. In addition, the Oregon Center for Human Rights and Know Your City attended the 2015 Oregon Education Association's Statewide Representative Assembly, and surveyed over 50 teachers to receive feedback on how to best develop inclusive Oregon studies curriculum. Both the Portland Association of Teachers and Portland Public Schools are financial sponsors of the Human Rights Education Report. In addition, the Oregon Center for Human Rights and Know Your City, have engaged the Oregon Department of Education's Office of Equity, and a number of nonprofit organizations to collaborate on how to create this curriculum.

Know Your City aims to hire a Civic Equity Education Manager who will partner with schools, teachers, and students to create educational curricula that further engages our youth in Oregon's diverse background. This would be facilitated through a Human Rights Teachers Summer Institute, where teachers are provided continuing education credits to prepare lesson plans and school trips on topics that align with the purpose of Know Your City.

There are national examples of this work, most importantly, the Idaho Human Rights Education Center in Boise, Idaho.

Organizational Endorsements: AFSCME Council 75, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, Basic Rights Oregon, Bus Project, In Other Words, Lara Media Services LLC, Latino Network, NAACP Portland Unit 1120-13, Standing Up for Racial Justice PDX, Tivnu, and Verde.

For more information, please contact Executive Director Cameron Whitten:
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Civic Equity in Education Timeline

February 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch the human rights education report
March 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch new Oregon educators survey
April 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know Your City community dialogue on Ethnic Studies and Inclusive Oregon Curriculum OEA Rep Assembly
June 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First convening of teachers
September 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin youth engagement Finish collecting answers for human rights education report Form curriculum committee
December 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish the human rights education report Report back to city council
January 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January retreat with teachers community engagement
February 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Release Party and forum for the human rights education report
March 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with school districts Pilot the curriculum
April 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oregon Education Association Rep Assembly
May 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Educators Retreat
June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalized curriculum
July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Rights Education Summer Teachers Institute
August 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Oregon Quiz First Day of School