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Envisioning An Equitable Central City

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ENVISIONING AN EQUITABLE CENTRAL CITY

Envisioning An Equitable Central City

for our client:



CITY OF PORTLAND ***Bureau of Transportation***

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Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

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Ride Connection
Portland State University
Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust
Education
Old Town Community Association

CLASSMATES

Thanks to the incoming class of 2020 for all their support and feedback during this journey.

Dedicated to the students of Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, who weren't able to continue their journey as students.

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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge our identity as guests on this land.

“The Portland Metro area rests on traditional village sites of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin, Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other tribes who made their homes along the Columbia River. Indigenous people have created communities and summer encampments to harvest and enjoy the plentiful natural resources of the area for the last 11,000 years.

We want to recognize that Portland today is a community of many diverse Native peoples who continue to live and work here. We respectfully acknowledge and honor all Indigenous communities—past, present, future—and are grateful for their ongoing and vibrant presence.

We also acknowledge the systemic policies of genocide, relocation, and assimilation that still impact many Indigenous/ Native American families today. As settlers and guests on these lands, we respect the work of Indigenous leaders and families, and pledge to make ongoing efforts to recognize their knowledge, creativity, and resilience.”¹

Endnotes

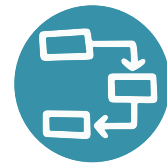
- 1 Portland Parks Foundation. (n.d.). Land Acknowledgement. Portland Parks Foundation. Retrieved May 16, 2022, from <https://www.portlandpf.org/land-acknowledgement>



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Through analysis of existing conditions and stakeholder outreach, VF Planning used an equity lens to identify stakeholder interests and needs in the Central City (CC). With promising practices in mind, we developed recommendations to progress toward the vision of an equitable and thriving CC. This work will serve as a new touchstone for Portland's Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) and Bureau of Planning & Sustainability (BPS) to use as they prioritize equity in the CC.



Process

- 1 Existing Conditions - gathered neighborhood-specific and district-wide data to create an Equity Portrait
- 2 Stakeholder Engagement - conducted interviews and roundtable discussions about equity
- 3 Stakeholder Directory - built a searchable database of organizations working in the CC
- 4 Promising Practices - compiled a list of inspiring actions and organizations
- 5 Recommendations - developed suggestions for improving equity, based on the previous actions



Equity

We define equity as a process that leads to a society in which all people have what they need to prosper and thrive. We acknowledge that this means wrestling with and healing historic and ongoing harms that have impacted Black people, Indigenous people, people of color, low-income and working class people, women, LGBTQIA+ people, and more. We seek to conduct work and produce a project that actively counteracts past and ongoing harm and creates opportunity for those who have been historically impacted. An intersectional approach to equity is key. We commit to personally and collectively reflecting on our interactions and creating space and safety to discuss them regularly, honestly, and humbly.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Central City (CC) is the foundation of Portland’s affordable, equitable, and sustainable future. It has the city’s highest concentration of affordable housing, residential diversity, jobs, cultural amenities, and higher educational opportunities. It acts as a small business incubator, and is the civic heart of our city. The CC represents only 3% of Portland’s land area but holds 11% of our city’s housing units and is intended to accommodate 30% of the city’s projected growth into the future.



EQUITY PORTRAIT



Employment Center

33% of jobs in the city are located within the CC



Live Elsewhere

Most CC workers live elsewhere



More Educated

More residents that live in the CC have graduate degrees



Fewer Children

Only 5% of the CC’s population is under 18, compared to 17% citywide.



Uneven Greenspace

There are only 15 acres of open space on the eastside, compared to 60 acres on the west side of the CC.



More Disabled

15% of the CC’s residents are disabled, compared to 12% citywide.



Wealth Gap

There is a wider wealth gap in the CC, especially among Native Americans, Other Race, Two or More Races, and Hispanics



Fewer Languages

More people speak only English in the CC



More Renters

Only 23% of units are owner occupied, compared to 53% citywide



Lower MHI

\$60k in CC, compared to \$73k citywide—\$13k lower



Cost Burdened

53% are housing cost burdened, compared to 46% citywide



Less Tree Canopy

The CC has fewer trees, especially on the Eastside



Age of Housing

48% of rental housing units were built before 1990 in the CC, compared to 68% citywide



Heat Island Effect

The CC has some of the most severe heat islands in the City



Public Transport

Residents that live in the CC are more likely to commute to work by public transport, walk, or work from home

ENGAGEMENT

To uncover the core equity issues that are driving the existing conditions, we reached out to stakeholders in the Central City to identify common issues, map the relationships between groups, and identified the following themes.



Accessibility

Of public spaces, meaningful engagement, access to power, social services, and housing



Representation

To lift up more diverse cultural representation, to acknowledge history, and celebrate Portland's full spectrum



Engagement

Relationship building, active listening sessions, followed by action and ongoing communication



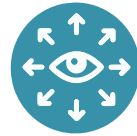
Housing

No-barrier housing, affordable housing, family-sized housing



Jobs/Business

Support for BIPOC businesses, Old Town has special needs, supportive services for workers



Perception

Stories and myths surrounding CC, motive and effectiveness of public agencies



Funding

And technical assistance is needed to support community-led planning



Governance

Includes accountability, transparency, flexibility, and innovation by sharing power with community leaders



Houselessness

Dehumanization is discrimination, needs targeted universalism approach, Old Town is overburdened



Safety

Both real and perceived, especially in Old Town



Transit Development

Equitable and convenient transit development and affordable housing along transit corridors

PROMISING PRACTICES

Inspiring practices that address the themes that arose from existing conditions and engagement. We chose the name Promising Practices over Best Practices because we wanted our document to be reflective of the most progressive bottom-up organizations at the time. Below are our 19 case studies that are meant to inspire and ignite more equitable cities.

Arts

- 1 The Center for Cultural Power

Basic Needs

- 2 PODER! San Francisco CA
- 3 Lift to Rise, Coachella Valley CA
- 4 East Bay Housing Organizations, Oakland CA
- 5 Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition, San Francisco CA
- 6 Elevate Chicago
- 7 SafeQueerPDX
- 8 ACT-LA, The Alliance for Community Transit, Los Angeles CA
- 9 SWEC - Southwest Corridor Equity Coalition, Portland OR

BIPOC Business

- 10 Mercatus PDX



Quality of Life

- 11 Coalition for Food & Health Equity
- 12 Oregon Health Equity Alliance
- 13 Willamette Farm & Food
- 14 Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition
- 15 Coalition of Communities of Color, Portland OR
- 16 VanDashboard, Vancouver, BC
- 17 REACH - Multnomah County Health, Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health
- 18 Equity Now Coalition, Columbus OH
- 19 Nordhaven Park'n'Play, Copenhagen, Denmark

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on existing conditions, the engagement themes, and promising practices, these are our recommendations.

Equity

- 1 Fund biannual equity summits with community leaders
- 2 Create an equity dashboard
- 3 Add a land acknowledgement to the City's website
- 4 Fund CBO's doing equity work

Culture

- 5 Bolster and amplify community-led cultural celebrations
- 6 Designate Old Town as a Cultural District

Open Space

- 7 Build a Park and Play on a parking garage
- 8 Invest in green spaces on the Eastside



Transit

- 9 Support transit options for disabled people

Houselessness

- 10 Develop small clusters of social services across the city
- 11 Expand basic hygiene hubs for houseless populations

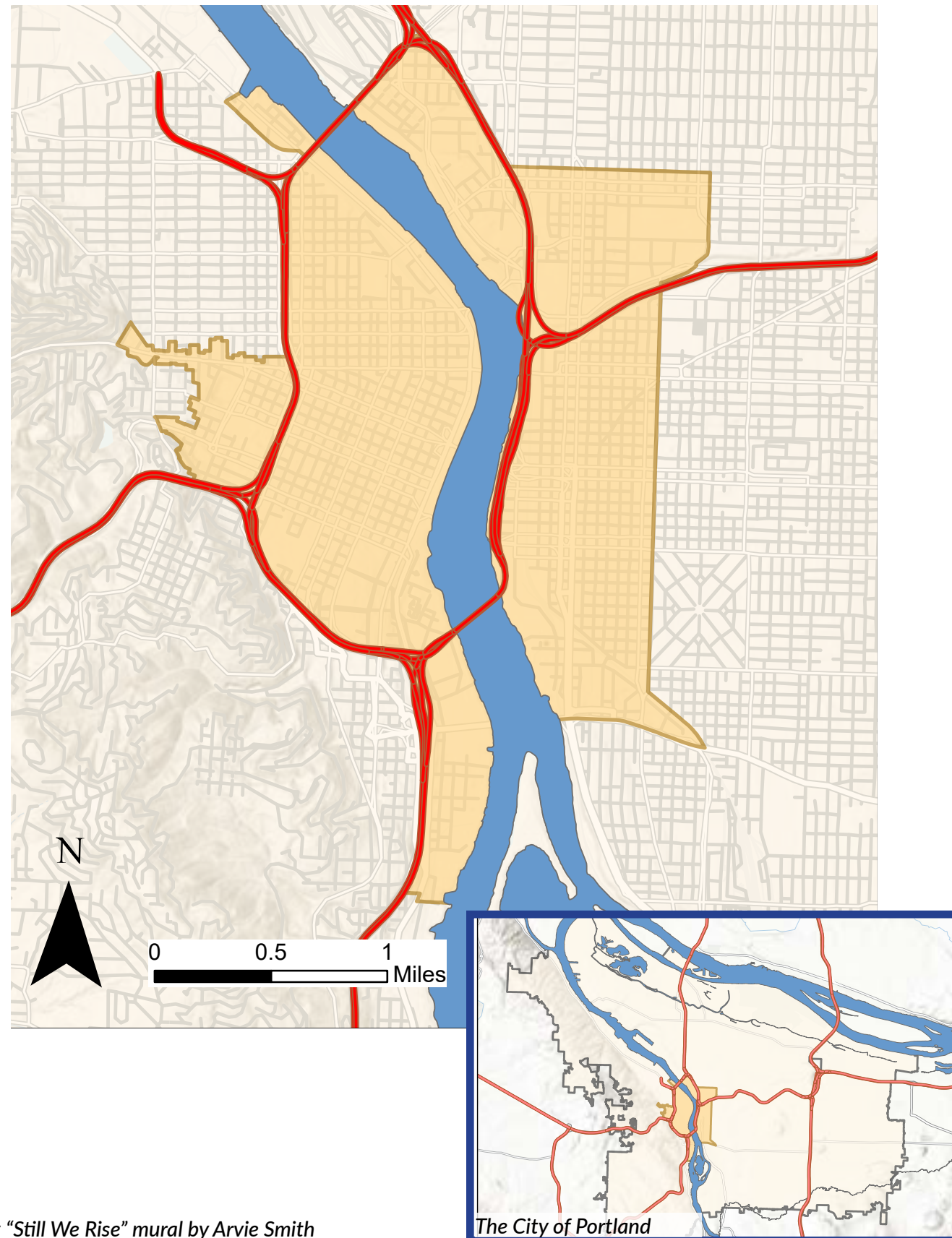
Capital Projects

- 12 ETOD: Affordable, ADA-accessible, and family-sized housing
- 13 Develop a CC community center



INTRODUCTION

Portland's Central City



Cover art "Still We Rise" mural by Arvie Smith

INTRODUCTION

Project Overview

This Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) Workshop project working with our clients, City of Portland's Bureau of Transportation and Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, advances the pursuit of equity within Portland's Central City. Six MURP students acted as the consultant, under the name VF Planning, and with the guidance of Portland State University professors.

Portland's Central City (CC) stretches from the West Hills to SE 12th Avenue and includes ten subdistricts: Lower Albina, Lloyd, and Central Eastside to the east and Pearl, Old Town/Chinatown, Goose Hollow, West End, Downtown, South Downtown/University, and South Waterfront to the west of the Willamette River.

The CC is the foundation of Portland's affordable, equitable, and sustainable future. It has the city's highest concentration of affordable housing, residential diversity, jobs, cultural amenities, and higher education opportunities. The CC also serves as a transportation and economic hub for the city and the region. It acts as a small business incubator, and is the civic heart of our city. The CC is a tapestry of rich cultural history and resilience as well as pain and displacement. It represents only 3% of Portland's land area but holds 11% of our city's housing units and is intended to accommodate 30% of the city's projected growth.

Through analysis of existing conditions and stakeholder outreach, the consultant used an equity lens to identify stakeholder interests and needs in the CC. With promising practices in mind, VF Planning developed recommendations to progress toward the vision of an equitable and thriving CC. This work will serve as a new touchstone for Portland's Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) and Bureau of Planning & Sustainability (BPS) to use as they prioritize equity in the CC.

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Problem Statement

The CC will play a pivotal part in Portland’s aspirational path towards equity and sustainability. Here, due to population, commerce, employment, transportation, and cultural amenity density, lies the base upon which an equitable future can be built. The relationships between communities, the design of public spaces, and the systems that support social and physical infrastructure are all critical pieces of this project. The CC is projected to carry 30% of Portland’s population growth in the near future, so there is a lot of pressure and desire to do things right. However, when issues of equity within the Central City are discussed without first understanding the experiences of those who live, work and play there, the conversation is predicated on a flawed foundation. In recent years, the CC has seen ongoing pervasive issues become magnified, leading to even greater inequities. City bureaus including PBOT and BPS wish to learn more about what systems for improving community capacity are currently present, what could be improved, and what else might be needed for the successful realization of the dream of equity.

Defining Equity

Because equity is a broad concept, the VF Planning team began the project with this idea: building equity means “building safe, accessible and progressive spaces for people first” and “[creating] safe, healthy, affordable, and convenient environments.” We also considered the different scales of equity: structural, procedural, distributional, and transgenerational. The issues that arose during engagement address equity at each of these scales. In the Central City, equity concerns the historical advantages and disadvantages faced by different populations, inclusion and exclusion of different groups from planning and decision-making processes, the distribution of resources that can result in disparate outcomes, and considerations for future generations. Like the City of Portland, VF Planning leads with race in our equity lens. However, we also consider the intersectional impacts and identities in the equity concerns of the Central City.

Equity was the core focus of this project. As such, we felt that it would not suffice to have one person focus on equity as their role, but rather to weave it throughout every role. Ultimately, we defined equity as a process that leads to a society in which all people have what they need to prosper and thrive. We acknowledge that this means wrestling with and healing historic and ongoing harms that have impacted Black people, Indigenous people, people of color, low-income and working class people, women, LGBTQ2SA+3 people, and the many other identities that make up Portland’s CC. We sought to conduct our work in a way, and to produce a project that actively counteracted past and ongoing harm and created opportunity for those who have been historically impacted. We believe an intersectional approach to equity is essential, and we committed to personally and collectively reflecting on and discussing our interactions regularly, honestly, and humbly.

In our process, we strove to operationalize equity at each step—beginning with reflecting on our positionality as white graduate students. We studied anti-oppressive interview tactics, learned about the origins of current realities, and put this all into action by following up with each engagement contact with a request for feedback on our process and deliverables, and sending each non-government participant a gift card as compensation for their expertise and time.

EQUITY TYPE	DEFINITION
Structural Equity	Government and other institutions have the policies and practices to operationalize equity. Structural inequity can result in reinforcing patterns of marginalization and disinvestment.
Procedural Equity	The processes for decision-making are transparent, accessible, and fair. Historically marginalized populations are included in decision-making processes and are actively engaged. Procedural inequity can result in a lack of diverse perspectives and extractive engagement processes.
Distributional Equity	Resources, burdens, and benefits are distributed fairly throughout the community. Distributional inequity results in patterns of segregation and areas where access to opportunity is lacking.
Transgenerational Equity	Burdens and benefits are distributed fairly to future generations. Multigenerational perspectives are considered. Transgenerational inequity involves thinking that a negative outcome will be the problem of a future generation.

Yuen, T., & Nguyen, J. 2020 December, The Planners Playbook. Change Lab Solutions. https://www.changelabsolutions.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/ThePlannersPlaybook_FINAL_20201207.pdf. Accessed 2020 June 9



Process Overview

Existing Conditions - We began by gathering neighborhood-specific and district-wide demographic data and discovered surprising facts that culminated in our Equity Portrait, which begins on page 25 of this report. Here, we debunked myths that we noticed exist about our CC.

Stakeholder Directory - We built a searchable database of organizations working on equity issues in the CC and region. We envision this as improving awareness and access for our clients and decision-makers to these important organizations to stimulate greater support of and partnership with them.

Stakeholder Engagement - Through three roundtables and eight interviews with equity leaders, we developed equity themes with key takeaways that improved understanding of equity issues in the CC and guided development of our recommendations.

Promising Practices - Based on the themes we were seeing, we curated a list of inspiring actions and organizations to ignite further work.

Recommendations - Finally, drawing from our analysis of this work, we developed specific suggestions for action, both in the short and long term.

Acronyms, Abbreviations & Preferred Terms

In equity work it was important to understand that there is no one-size-fits-all approach. By first learning updated terms we improved our outreach outcomes because using the preferred terms people identify with is the kind and responsible thing to do. This list is not exhaustive:

BIPOC - Black, Indigenous, People of Color. BIPOC recognizes that Black and Indigenous people are severely impacted by systemic racial injustices. The terms Black, Brown, and Indigenous are also used when possible to refer to non-white individuals and groups.

Targeted Universalism - “This is an approach that supports the needs of the particular while reminding us that we are all part of the same social fabric. Targeted universalism rejects a blanket universal which is likely to be indifferent to the reality that different groups are situated differently relative to the institutions and resources of society. It also rejects the claim of formal equality that would treat all people the same as a way of denying difference” (from the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society; “Targeted Universalism: Equity 2.0”).

Community-Based Organizations (CBO)- Any group that works with specific communities based on culture, geography, or other factors. These groups can be nonprofits, coalitions, and more.

Person/People of Color- “People of Color,” is a blanket term to refer to people who aren’t white.

Hispanic- Hispanic refers to people from Spanish-speaking countries.

Latino, Latina, Latine or Latinx (La-Teen-ex)- A person of Latin American descent who can be of any background or language. If the individual or group does not identify as either Latino or Latina, the gender-neutral term Latinx or Latine can be used.

Indigenous, Native American, Tribal - Indigenous people are the native people to an area, whereas Native Americans are native to the Americas. The Federal Highway Administration uses the term tribal, tribal lands, and tribal transit.

Person that is Undocumented - To refer to individuals who are not U.S. citizens/permanent residents, who do not hold visas to reside in the U.S., or who have not applied for official residency, the term an “undocumented person” is preferred.

Person with a Disability- The National Center for Disability Journalism (2015, p. 23) warns that “the word special in relation to those with disabilities is now widely considered offensive because it euphemistically stigmatizes” persons with

disabilities. Do not use the term “special needs” transit to refer to paratransit as it stigmatizes people with a disability.

LGBTQ2SA+3 - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, two-spirit (2S), androgynous, asexual, and aromantic.

Gender Non-conforming- A gender identity label that indicates a person who identifies outside of the gender binary (binary: man or woman). Non-binary people can be femme, masc, neither, both, or androgynous. It is encouraged to ask a non-binary person their preferred pronouns.

Pronouns - Asking someone their pronouns is encouraged.

Limited English Proficiency - A term used in the United States that refers to a person who is not fluent in the English language, often because it is not their native language. Both LEP and English-language learner (ELL) are terms used by the Office for Civil Rights, a sub-agency of the U.S. Department of Education.

Environmental Justice - The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, concerning the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

No Vehicle Households - This means that no one living in the household has a vehicle. This may be because of socio-economic circumstances or because of choice influenced by having active transportation options available.

***“Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”
- Jane Jacobs***



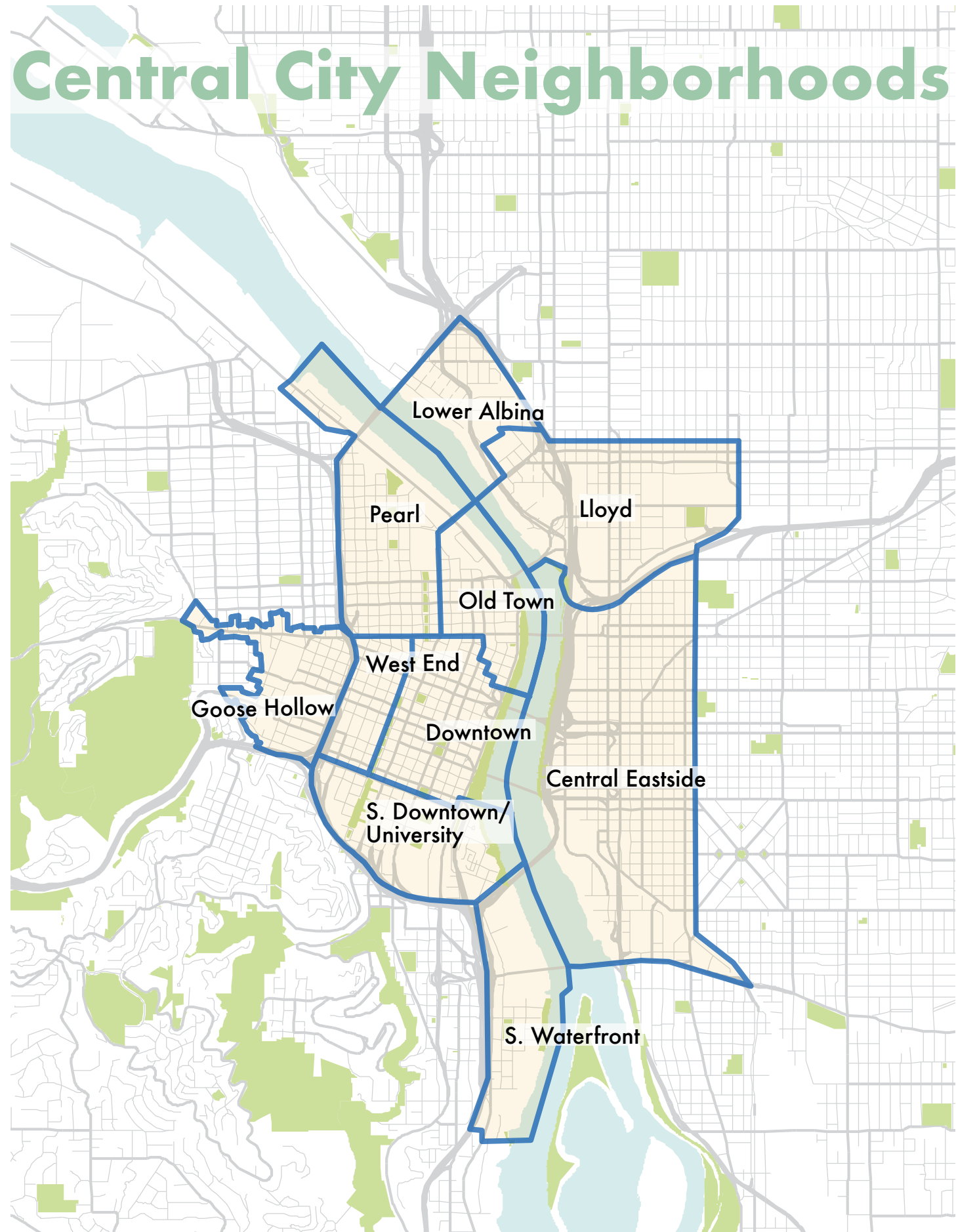
EQUITY PORTRAIT

of EXISTING CONDITIONS



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INTRODUCTION

Portland's Central City (CC) is the regional and state urban center. The CC stretches from the West Hills to 12th Avenue on the east, and includes ten subdistricts: Lower Albina, Lloyd, and Central Eastside on the east side of the Willamette River, and Pearl, Old Town, Goose Hollow, West End, Downtown, South Downtown/University, and South Waterfront to the west of the Willamette River.¹ Each of these neighborhoods within the CC has a different history and overall land use character, with Lower Albina, Pearl, and Central Eastside historically industrial, Lloyd and Old Town established as international, commercial and entertainment districts, and South Waterfront and Goose Hollow as residential areas. Downtown, the University District and the West End have long been mixed use, and are more intensively developed than other areas of the CC.

The CC of Portland is characterized by dense housing and contains the highest share of affordable housing in the city. The CC also serves as a transportation and economic hub for the city and the Pacific Northwest region. The CC is a tapestry of rich cultural history and resilience as well as pain and displacement. The built environment of the CC, as well as who lives, plays, and works there today has been shaped by local, state and federal policy. Mid-century policies of exclusion at state and federal levels of government, as well as local Urban Renewal initiatives led to the ejection of many people of color from the CC, especially in Lower Albina, South Downtown and Old Town. In the 1970s and 1980s, population growth exceeded local housing supply. Diminishing numbers of naturally occurring affordable housing and a lack of replacement housing caused housing shortages throughout the later half of the 20th century in the CC. In 2022, the CC has tactical projects to improve conditions in the CC and stimulate local economic recovery post-COVID19 Pandemic. The City has invested in programs like Enhanced Service Districts and Ecodistricts within segments of the CC to improve streetscape conditions within neighborhoods, as well as stimulate innovation and sustainable development.

Neighborhood Associations, City of Portland and even the METRO regional government have sponsored COVID-19 recovery action plans to reinvest and reinvigorate the CC. In this report we examine some of the influences that local land use policy has in shaping the form and texture of the CC. Examining the factors which influence equity within CC neighborhoods, we'll look at issues related to people, place, and the movement and circulation of people and goods throughout the CC. W

THE CENTRAL CITY

Plans & Policies

Plans

The CC has been shaped by the following area, circulation, and comprehensive plans:

1988 - CC Plan

2018 - CC 2035 Plan

2018 - CC in Motion Plan

Zoning

Zoning for much of the CC is

CXd, also known as Central Commercial and EXd, also known as Central Employment.

Central Commercial:

“intended to provide for commercial and mixed use development within Portland’s most urban and intense areas... A broad range of uses are allowed to reflect Portland’s role as a commercial, cultural, residential, and governmental center. Development is intended to be very intense with high building coverage, large buildings, and buildings placed close together. Development is intended to be pedestrian oriented with a strong emphasis on a safe and attractive streetscape.”

Central Employment:

“intended for areas in the center of the City that have predominantly industrial type development. The intent of the zone is to allow industrial and commercial uses which need a central location. Residential uses are allowed, but are not intended to predominate or set development standards for other uses in the area.”²



Leah Nash / Washington Post

LOWER ALBINA

History

Albina was once a company town controlled by the Union Pacific Railroad before its annexation to Portland in 1891. Its history of rolling displacements is long: first the Clackamas people, then the Irish, German and Scandinavian early immigrants, then the Black community.³ During the labor migrations during WWII, many Black people moved to Vanport City to build ships. Then both the 1948 flooding of Vanport City and banking redlining practices forced these people into Albina. Resilient, remaining immigrants and Black people thrived throughout the 1950s, and the small community was filled with a well-educated and primarily middle class population.

Then in 1960, hundreds of homes were razed to make way for the Memorial Coliseum in what was then the Eliot neighborhood in lower Albina. Then came Interstate 5, Highway 99, and the expansion of Emanuel Hospital. At each phase of this “urban renewal,” homes owned largely by Black people were deemed blighted and residents were forced to move. All in all, “1100 housing units were lost in Lower Albina.”⁴ In response, during the 1960s and 1970s, the area exploded with activism and was a hub for the Black Panther party which started many of their trademark social programs like the Children’s Breakfast Program.⁵ Black youth in Albina, frustrated with being “locked in” and occupied by the police, rioted in 1967 and 1969 which may have accelerated white residential and business flight (City of Portland Planning Bureau, 1991). The 1980s brought more difficult times, with many activists pointing to the rise in drug use, gang violence and the decline of the middle class being linked to economic stagnation, predatory housing policies, absentee landlords, and further disinvestment by the City.

In 1989, “The City began efforts to revitalize the area [...] with the Albina Community Plan (adopted in 1993). The plan established conservation districts to preserve Eliot’s remaining historic structures. While it brought about some significant improvements, rising property costs continued to force residents out of the area to resettle on the edges of the city and beyond (Displacement).”⁶ For the next two decades, the population continued to decline.

Now, learning from the past, City agencies are learning to listen. The N/NE Neighborhood Housing Strategy was a step forward. Currently, groups like Albina Vision are calling for more investment in the neighborhood, and active participation by residents in all future planning.

Plans

Albina Community Plan Action Charts (2000)
Albina Community Plan: The History of Portland’s African American Community (1993)

Albina Community Plan: Historic Districts in the Albina Community (1992)
Albina Community Plan Process (1990)

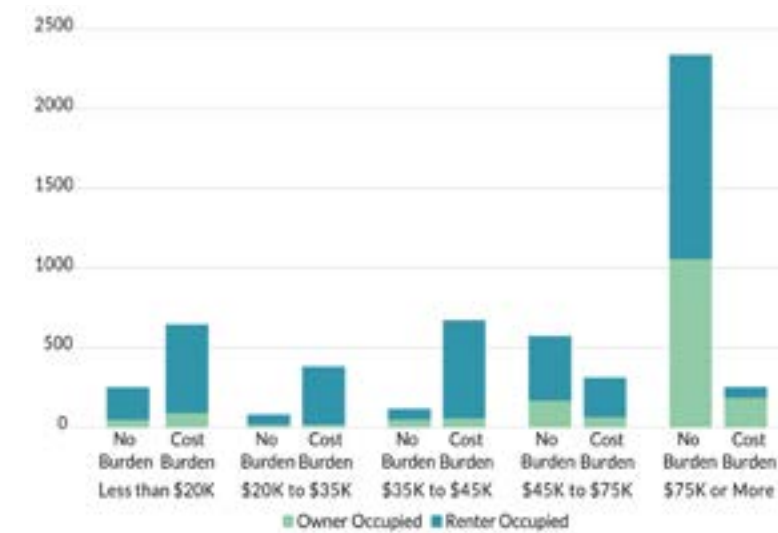
Active Organizations & Stakeholders

Albina Vision Trust
Emanuel Displaced Person’s Association 2



Statistics

Lower Albina
Housing Units by Cost Burden & Tenure



Race by Ethnicity Lower Albina	Population	Average MHI Lower Albina
Total Population	11799	100.00%
White	7764	65.80%
Black	1311	11.11%
American Indian and Alaska Native	89	0.75%
Asian	574	4.86%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	34	0.29%
Other	90	0.76%
Multi Race	880	7.46%
Hispanic / Latino	1057	8.96%

ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

LLOYD

History

Ralph Lloyd began to develop land around Portland in 1908 and bought the land encompassing the Lloyd District in 1926. He envisioned the undeveloped land as 'Portland's second downtown.' Portland's 200 foot blocks didn't suit his grand vision, and he envisioned a superblock design for the site. Enamored with automobiles, he decided to widen the neighboring road. In a controversial move, he bought the houses across the street from his property, knocked them down, and donated the land to the city to widen the road which later became Lloyd Blvd. He broke ground on his centerpiece hotel in 1929, but work soon stalled because of the Great Depression. Lloyd's daughters finished the hotel in 1959 and hired a famous architect to build one of the country's largest malls, completing their father's vision in 1960.⁷ At the same time, the development of Veterans Memorial Coliseum (1960) and the freeway projects for I-84 (1965) and I-5 (1966) resulted in the demolition of significant swaths of housing and small-scale commercial buildings in the Lloyd district, disproportionately impacting Black Portlanders.⁸

In 1995, Hank Ashforth finished the vision of a mixed-use residential district and in 2011 he pushed to add bike lanes and other options for active transportation. Lloyd is an "enhanced services district" (ESD) which collects a property management license fee from businesses to pay for programs focused on safety, transportation, sustainability, and economic development.⁹ The Lloyd ESD funds a group that works on public and active transportation enhancements, the neighborhood association, and the EcoDistrict. Since 2006, the Lloyd ESD has worked with PBOT on cleaning up litter, planting, and maintaining the street islands on NE Holladay St. They have also funded a community mural and have hired their own assistant district attorney.¹⁰

The sustainability program is overseen by the Lloyd EcoDistrict, established in 2010. The EcoDistrict focuses much of its work on creating and maintaining green space for pollinators, improving the livability of the district for all residents with residents experiencing houselessness in mind, and improving efficient energy and water use.¹¹ The Lloyd Center Mall has had a newsworthy year in 2021 after closing for good, recently announced that it would be reopened as a mall once more.¹²

Plans

- Lloyd District Development Plan (2001)
- Lloyd District Housing Strategy (2002)
- Development Vision for the Convention Center Blocks (2006)
- N/NE Quadrant Plan (2012)
- Lloyd EcoDistrict Roadmap (2012)
- Go Lloyd Annual Report (2020)

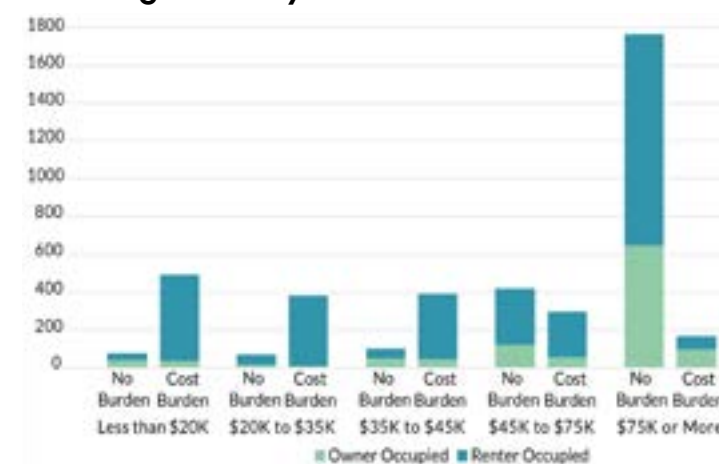
Active Organizations & Stakeholders

- Lloyd Enhanced Service District
- Lloyd EcoDistrict
- Go Lloyd
- Lloyd District Community Association
- Basic Earthquake Emergency Communication
- Node (BEECN) at Irvington Elementary
- Moda Center / Trailblazers
- Lloyd Center Mall



Statistics

Lloyd District Housing Units by Cost Burden & Tenure



Race by Ethnicity Lloyd	Population	Average MHI Lloyd
Total Population	8282	100.00%
White	5626	67.93%
Black	634	7.66%
American Indian and Alaska Native	73	0.88%
Asian	482	5.82%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	31	0.37%
Other	77	0.93%
Multi Race	611	7.38%
Hispanic / Latino	748	9.03%

ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

CENTRAL EASTSIDE

History

The Central Eastside Industrial District is bound by I-84 and SE Powell Blvd, the eastbank of the Willamette River and SE 12th Ave. The area was originally a series of creeks, sloughs, and marshes at the river's edge. Settled in 1845 as East Portland, the area was dominated by orchards and hay fields. The Morrison Bridge, the first bridge on the Willamette River in Portland, opened in 1887. 1890 saw the beginning of Produce Row by Italian immigrants. East Portland was annexed by Portland in 1891. At this time, the riverbank was lined with docks for produce, connections to railroad, and industrial services. In 1964, the I-5 freeway was moved from the west side (Harbor Drive, now Waterfront Park) to the eastside, which cut off most of the district to river access. The area was designated an Industrial Sanctuary in 1980.¹³

This industrial sanctuary is a major employment center with mixed use development along major corridors.¹⁴ Job growth rate here is the highest in the city since the recession. Uses include light industry, primarily industrial office use (including software companies Simple, Viewpoint, and Autodesk) and local commercial food processing (Stumptown, Salt & Straw, Alexis Foods). New residential units have grown at a higher than expected rate, adding 2300 new units between 2010 and 2018, which accounts for 48% of projected growth expected by 2035.¹⁵

There are two zoning classes within the CEID. The Central Employment zone is concentrated along transportation corridors and is a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial uses. Except for some open space along the river and some historical resources, the other areas are industrial uses that restrict commercial uses to those that are directly related to production of goods, e.g. a taproom located within a brewery.

The area is known for Breweries, Distillery Row, Produce Row (Sheridan's, Cornos), Milagro Theater, the Eastbank Esplanade and connection to the Springwater Corridor, OMSI, Oregon Rail Heritage Center, and Burnside SkatePark. Public art is present here too, Central Eastside Mural District is one of the most concentrated areas for murals in the city. Vera Katz, the mayor who shepherded the Eastbank Esplanade, is memorialized with a statue along the path.

Plans

- Central Eastside: Enhanced Service District
- Central Eastside Urban Renewal Area
- Central Eastside Parking Management Plan 2012
- Central Eastside Street Plan 2009

Active Organizations & Stakeholders

- Central Eastside Industrial Council
- Central Eastside Together - CEID's Enhanced Service District
- Cityteam Portland
- Hygiene 4 All
- Ground Score by Trash for Peace
- All Good Northwest



Statistics

Central Eastside Housing Units by Cost Burden & Tenure



Race by Ethnicity Central Eastside	Population	Average MHI Central Eastside
Total	6286	\$64,368
White	4470	\$67,140
Black	223	\$15,129
American Indian and Alaska Native	57	-
Asian	339	\$69,472
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	17	-
Other	56	-
Multi Race	505	\$221,250
Hispanic / Latino	619	\$34,363

ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

SOUTH WATERFRONT

History

South Waterfront and John’s Landing became prominent within the region in the 19th and early 20th centuries because it was the furthest point to which large ships could travel up-river on the Willamette. Shallow sandbars at Ross Island prevented large ships passing any further south. Thus, Portland was born at this place, at the end of the Willamette Valley. ¹⁶

After contact and colonization, the residents of south Portland and south waterfront were primarily of Italian and Jewish heritage.¹⁷ The districts along the waterfront were largely industrial, and a tenuous balance between industrial/manufacturing and residential use was continuously negotiated. “South Portland became notably the home of many “firsts” in Portland: the site of the first homestead, the first state penitentiary, the first water supply, the first dump, the first streetcar line, the first branch library and post office substation, the first County Hospital, the first urban renewal project, the first historic district, the first Greenway Trail.”¹⁸

Populated with working class people, the South Waterfront district was filled with mixed use developments. Freeway expansions (I-5, I-405, and US-26) in the 1960s and 70s isolated the neighborhoods within South Waterfront from other parts of Portland, and from the river. During this same time, South Waterfront became a brownfield industrial sector.

The 1999 North Macadam Urban Renewal Plan envisioned a “thriving urban community on the riverfront with an integrated public transit, vehicular, and pedestrian access system.”¹⁹ Now, that plan’s vision has been realized, with tall buildings standing where once an open field sat dormant. Several parks are spaced throughout the area. The Tillikum bridge- limited to pedestrian, bicycle and train traffic, links the West and East banks of the river. After decades of severe pollution, the Willamette river is now clean enough to swim in, and Poet’s beach welcomes swimmers in a new park. The Oregon Ballet theater school, Portland Arts and Cultural Department and several theater companies call this district home. The South Waterfront Greenway offers respite from the new urban district and restores public access to the river.

Plans

The South Waterfront EcoDistrict, 2010
 Portland Aerial tram, 2006
 River Plan /South Reach Ex. Cond. Rep. (1987)
 Willamette Greenway Plan, 1987

Lair Hill historic district design guidelines, 1980
 Portland: Corbett, Terwilliger, Lair Hill plan, 1977
 South Waterfront Greenway Dev. Plan, 2004

Active Organizations & Stakeholders

Go By Bike
 The Red Door Project
 South Waterfront Community Relations
 Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest
 Oregon Ballet theatre
 The Cottonwood School of Civics and Science
 (Public charter school)

OHSU Waterfront Campus
 National University of Natural Medicine
 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
 REACH Community Development
 Lines for Life-regional non-profit dedicated to preventing substance abuse and suicide.
 Muscular Dystrophy Association Oregon Office



Statistics

South Waterfront Housing Units by Cost Burden & Tenure



Race by Ethnicity South Waterfront	Population	Average MHI South Waterfront
Total Population	4629	100.00%
White	3217	69.50%
Black	134	2.89%
American Indian and Alaska Native	203	4.39%
Asian	511	11.04%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	5	0.11%
Other	22	0.48%
Multi Race	268	5.79%
Hispanic / Latino	269	5.81%

ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

S. DOWNTOWN / UNIVERSITY DISTRICT



History

South Downtown, defined as south of Market Street to Marquam Bridge and north and east of I-405, is split into upper and lower sections, with the lower section closest to the river and Portland State University encompassing much of the upper district. In the 1960s, Portland city leaders established a new Urban Renewal Area around South Downtown that decimated the Jewish neighborhood, displaced 392 residents, many units of affordable housing, and diverse and culturally specific businesses and houses of worship.²⁰ In its place, several tall brutalist residential towers were erected along with the Lovejoy, Pettygrove, and Keller Parks. Ira Keller, namesake of Keller Fountain and Keller Auditorium was the first chair of the Portland Development Commission (now Prosper Portland) and known for his bulldozer technique of urban renewal. In response, then Mayor Goldschmidt established the Office of Neighborhood Associations in 1973 to give residents a channel to be heard more directly in government.²¹

Since the fountains of the Open Space Sequence were built as part of the South Auditorium Urban Renewal Area, they have gone through different phases of upkeep and maintenance, depending on the current city budget. In 2013, these fountains were added to the National Historic Registry, and in 2019, Portland Open Space Sequence Restoration Project completed a historic restoration of Keller Fountain Park, Pettygrove Park, Lovejoy Fountain Park, and the Source Fountain.²² They are currently well used and have been the sites of engaging public art events.²³

Plans

South Auditorium Urban Renewal- 1957
 The Downtown Waterfront Plan- 1968
 Portland Downtown Plan- 1972
 Waterfront Park Plan- 1974-1975

The Downtown Community Association's Residential Plan - 1996
 Willamette Greenway Plan - 1998
 River Renaissance Strategy- 1999

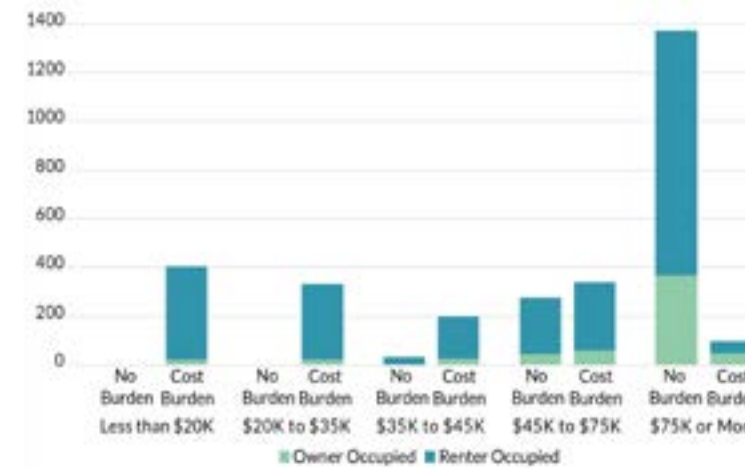
Active Organizations & Stakeholders

Portland State University
 PSU Farmers Market
 Operation Nightwatch- Houselessness Service
 Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative

(HRAC) at PSU
 SOLVE
 Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

Statistics

South Downtown / University Housing Units by Cost Burden & Tenure



Race by Ethnicity South Downtown / University	Population	Average MHI South Downtown /University
Total	6160 100.00%	\$67,637
White	4015 65.18%	\$62,489
Black	210 3.41%	\$54,057
American Indian and Alaska Native	32 0.52%	-
Asian	757 12.29%	\$2,499
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	30 0.49%	-
Other	75 1.22%	-
Multi Race	429 6.96%	-
Hispanic / Latino	612 9.94%	\$23,750

ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

DOWNTOWN

History

The area containing Downtown Portland was first known as ‘the clearing’ to migrating Native American, and later, European traders. The area was identified by Captain John Couch as a good port location due to the deep water and suitable bank. A major fire in 1873 destroyed 20 blocks of downtown. In 1887, the first bridge joining the two sides of the river, the Morrison Street Bridge, opened.

Downtown is bound by the I-405 freeway to the west and south, Burnside to the north, and the Willamette River to the east. The western edge of downtown is called the West End and the southern part of downtown is the University District, both have separate profiles. Some of the information provided here includes those two areas.²⁴

Downtown contains many cultural amenities: Portland Art Museum, theaters, concert venues, and many galleries.²⁵ Pioneer Courthouse Square, Portland’s Living Room, opened in 1984, replacing a parking garage on the former site of the stately Oregon Hotel. The Square is home to the man with an umbrella statue, called “Allow Me.” Portland State University, has been located in South Downtown since 1952. City of Portland bureaus occupy the infamous Portland Building, designed by post-modernist Michael Graves, and built in 1982.²⁶ Downtown is the transportation hub of Trimet’s wheel and spoke transit system.

Plans

- Portland Downtown Plan (1972)
- Portland Downtown Plan (1980)
- CC Plan 1988 Map
- Goals and Guidelines Portland Downtown Plan 1980

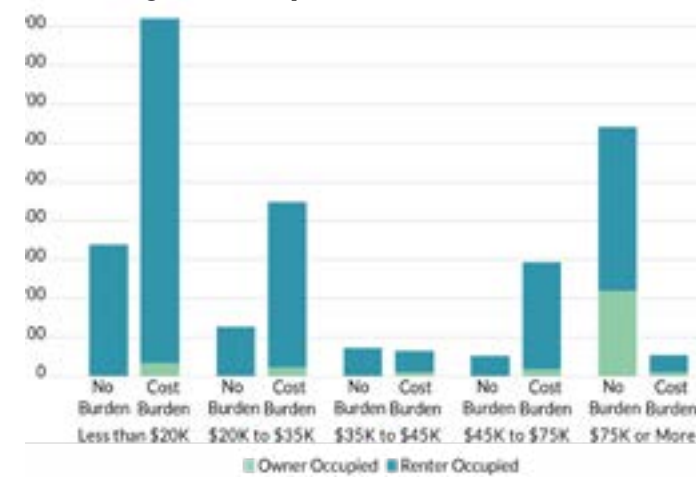
Active Organizations & Stakeholders

- Multnomah County Central Library
- First Congregational United Church of Christ
- Downtown Portland Neighborhood Association
- Friends of the Green Loop
- CC Concern
- Basic Rights Oregon



Statistics

Downtown Housing Units by Cost Burden & Tenure



Race by Ethnicity Downtown	Population	Average MHI Downtown
Total Population	4,690 100.00%	\$22,210
White	3,091 65.91%	\$25,084
Black	283 6.03%	\$8,769
American Indian and Alaska Native	51 1.09%	-
Asian	472 10.06%	-
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	5 0.11%	-
Other	45 0.96%	-
Multi Race	327 6.97%	-
Hispanic / Latino	416 8.87%	-

ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

GOOSE HOLLOW

History

Goose Hollow is rich with history and has a strong neighborhood identity. Topographically, the neighborhood has changed dramatically since settlement. Tanner Creek and the Tanner Creek Gulch defined the neighborhood in its early days. The creek entered the neighborhood from the west, carving a twenty block long, fifty feet deep, two block wide gulch exiting the neighborhood to the east.²⁷ In the early days of the city, post-colonization, indigenous communities resided in the neighborhood near today's Alder Street. Chinese farmers settled in the neighborhood around 1850, and their farms covered twenty-one acres along the slopes of Tanner Creek. Author Putsata Reang describes the Chinese farming community in Goose Hollow as sharing "an interest in cultivating crops that many had brought from their homes in the agrarian Pearl River Delta of China."²⁸ However, rising land values, urbanization, new development including the Multnomah Athletic Club, and the infill of Tanner Creek Gulch displaced this community completely from the neighborhood by 1910.²⁹ This development moved Goose Hollow into modernity. Goose Hollow became a neighborhood near the downtown core that offered both affordable and luxury housing options. Streetcar lines built along Jefferson, Morrison, 18th, and Burnside spurred commercial development,³⁰ The 1960s brought urban renewal and development of the I-405 freeway which demolished several blocks between 14th and 15th avenues which severed Goose Hollow from the west end of Downtown.

Foot traffic in the neighborhood has increased with expansion and renovation of Providence Park as a major attraction. Construction of the Kings Hill Max Station has improved neighborhood transit and the construction of mid-rise condos and apartments have highlighted the desire of the neighborhood for density. Recent community conversations have proposed to cap I-405 to mend the chasm, reconnect the neighborhood to downtown, and create a developable area.

Engagement in 2012 identified the community's desire to strengthen neighborhood identity, create clear retail or main streets, increase open space, increase neighborhood connectivity, and address lighting and safety issues.³¹ CC 2035 plan includes rezoning of a large portion of land east of Providence Park and north of Lincoln High School from central residential (RX) to central commercial (CX). Zoning across all of Goose Hollow includes a design overlay which requires development to adhere to specifications in the 1996 Goose Hollow Design District regulations.

Plans

- Goose Hollow Station Community Plan - 1996
- Goose Hollow/Civic Stadium Planning Committee Report -2000
- Northwest District Plan - 2003

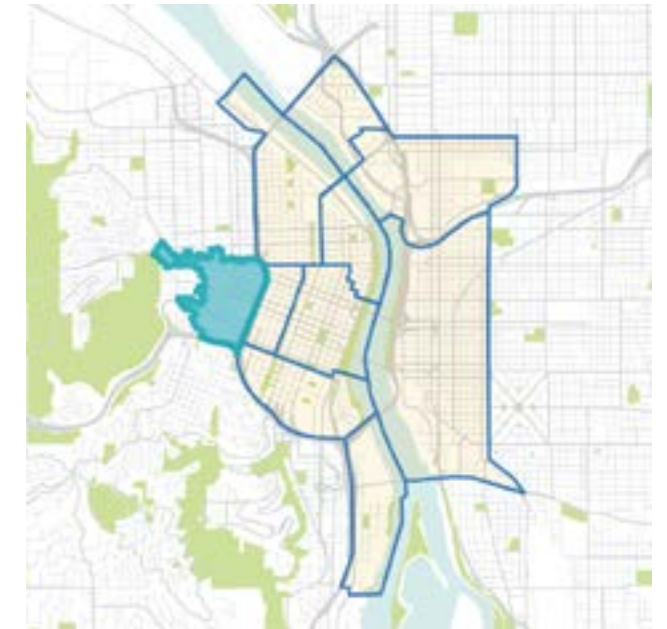
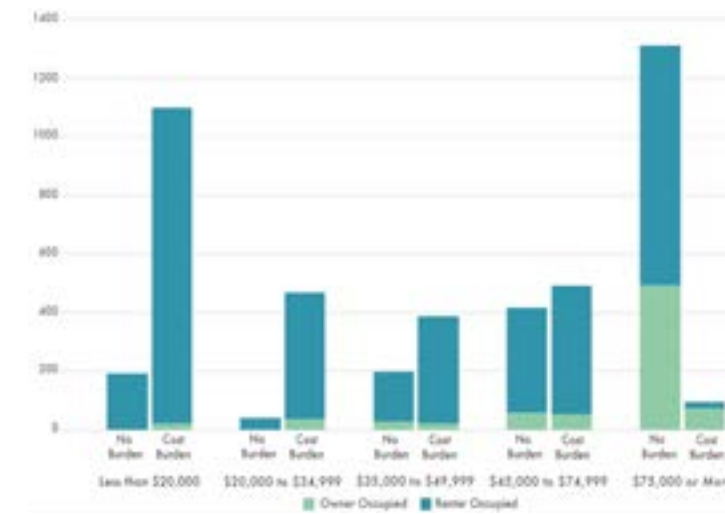
Active Organizations & Stakeholders

- Goose Hollow Foothills League Neighborhood Association
- Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest
- Sport Oregon
- Project Access NOW



Statistics

Goose Hollow Housing Units by Cost Burden & Tenure



Race by Ethnicity Goose Hollow	Population	Average MHI Goose Hollow
Total	8155	100.00%
White	5548	68.03%
Black	358	4.39%
American Indian and Alaska Native	67	0.82%
Asian	674	8.26%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	14	0.17%
Other	63	0.77%
Multi Race	589	7.22%
Hispanic / Latino	842	10.32%

ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

WEST END

History

Portland's West End is a subdistrict of the greater Downtown neighborhood. The West End was first designated in the 2002 CC Plan. The neighborhood's history is intertwined closely with the history of Goose Hollow and followed a similar development pattern up until construction of the I-405 Highway in 1964 which separated the two neighborhoods. One of the strongest identifiers of this neighborhood is the Burnside Triangle, a collection of LGBTQIA+ bars in the northern West End dating back to the 1940s. Recent years have seen many of these bars close and a loss of this community.³² Much of the West End was also included in the now expired South Park Blocks Urban Renewal Area (URA) which was established in 1985. Goals of the URA included expanding and supporting the downtown retail core, preserving Section 8 housing, providing middle income housing, and assisting Portland State University as an economic generator. This led to projects including Museum Place apartments, New Avenues for Youth Transitional Housing, and the addition of Director Park to the South Park blocks.

Presently, the West End is a mixed-use and residential neighborhood, and boasts a strong relationship with the South Park Blocks and Cultural District. Historically, the west side of downtown in the 1972 Downtown Plan and the 1988 CC Plan was designated primarily residential with a mixture of uses, but neither contained a detailed blueprint for the development of the West End as a distinct urban neighborhood. Aside from formally recognizing the neighborhood, the 2002 amendments to the CC Plan enacted zoning changes to encourage redevelopment and investment here. It increased incentives for residential development while also increasing flexibility of development in residential areas by allowing additional non-residential uses. To this end, the West End has seen significant housing development since the early 2000s with relatively high concentrations of residential buildings in the neighborhood. It is noted as an area within the CC that, despite being so close to downtown, still contains redevelopment opportunities in the form of surface parking lots and other underdeveloped parcels.³³

Art is a strong component of this neighborhood and takes many forms. The "Capax Infiniti" mural by South African Artist Faith47 is found here. Public projects like "Pod" and the "Zoobomb Pyle" sculptures are interactive and commemorate the area's history.

Plans

- Downtown's West End Plan - 2002
- South Park Blocks Urban Renewal Area - 1985-2008

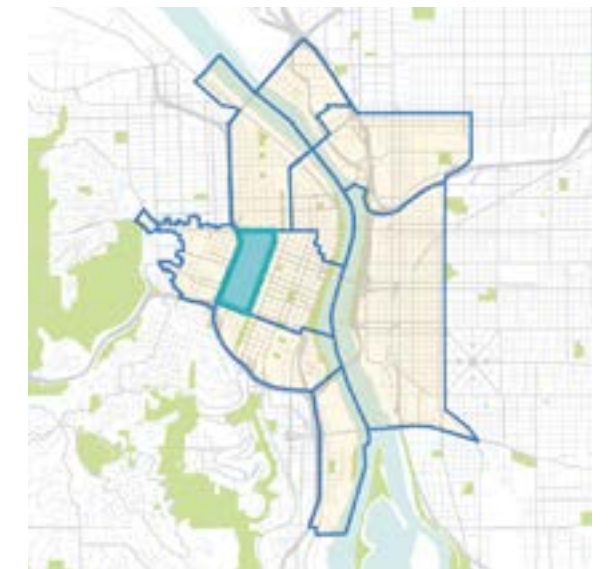
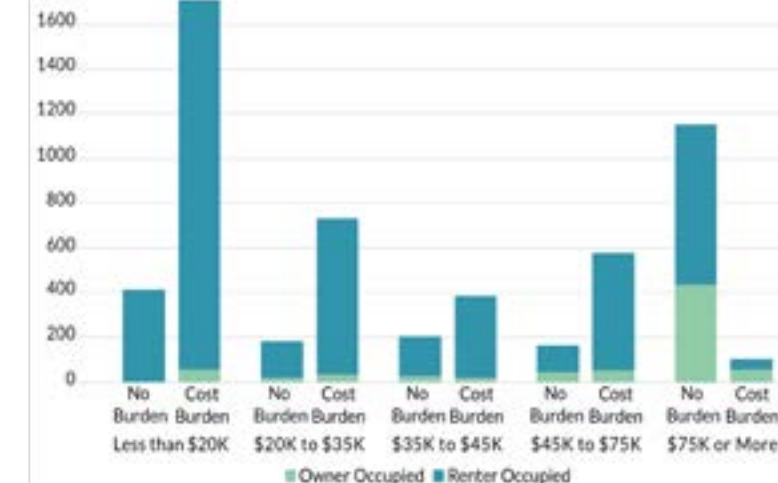
Active Organizations & Stakeholders

- | | |
|--|--|
| Outside In | Oregon Community Foundation |
| New Avenues for Youth | Refugee Disability Benefits of Oregon |
| Grantmakers of Oregon and Southwest Washington | Women's Int'l League for Peace & Freedom |
| Disability Rights of Oregon | SMYRC |
| Community Pathways, Inc. | Operation Nightwatch |
| United Way | Hands on Greater Portland |



Statistics

West End Housing Units by Cost Burden & Tenure



Race by Ethnicity West End	Population	Average MHI West End
Population	9840	100%
White	6513	66.19%
Black	477	4.85%
American Indian and Alaska Native	101	1.03%
Asian	1000	10.16%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	13	0.13%
Other	88	0.89%
Multi Race	735	7.47%
Hispanic / Latino	913	9.28%
		\$18,642

ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

PEARL

History

Originally a marshland along the Willamette River, the area we know as the Pearl District became a bustling hub of commercial and warehouse activity in the 1870s. At the turn of the 20th century, the Pearl District was home to blue collar workers and a number of religious institutions serving the newly established European immigrant population.³⁴ Railroad and industry expanded into the neighborhood, displacing the residents and their churches. As the timber industry declined, warehouses became occupied by furniture makers and artists in the mid-20th century.³⁵

The 1988 CC Plan laid the foundation for transforming empty warehouses into mixed use buildings. The Pearl District gained its name in the 1980s, when gallerist Thomas Augustine named the district after his friend, artist and activist, Pearl. Galleries and art walks began popping up, contributing to the district's reputation as an artist's haven. In the 1990s, the Pearl District we know today began taking shape when city officials planned streetcar networks and three parks in the area. The 1998 River District Urban Renewal Plan provided tax incentives, sparking the development of the Pearl District. At this time, housing development boomed, and 28% of the 2000 new housing units in the area were designated as affordable housing. The Lovejoy Ramp, which carried Lovejoy Street over rail yards, was removed in 1999, signaling the end of the district's industrial use. The columns of the ramp were painted by railroad worker and community artist Athanasios Efthimiou Stefopoulos. Two of these columns were preserved, and still stand in the courtyard at The Elizabeth condominiums.³⁶

Since the 90s, new affordable housing projects have been constructed in the Pearl District including The Ramona (2011), The Abigail (2016) and Vibrant! (2019). Businesses in the Pearl District are served by the Pearl District Business Association. Businesses include restaurants, art galleries, and boutique and upscale shopping. The district is served by major (Safeway and Whole Foods) and small-scale (World Foods) grocery stores. Though there are no longer many industrial businesses, there are still traces of the industrial history of the neighborhood.

In 2016, Prosper Portland bought up a centrally located 34 acre parcel of land along NW Broadway.³⁷ Prosper Portland's intention is to work with developers to build new affordable and market rate housing, amenities and a new addition to the north Park Blocks, connecting the Pearl and OldTown districts and the Green Loop. As of 2022, the site has not yet been redeveloped.³⁸

Plans

- Pearl District Development Plan (2001)
- North Pearl District Plan (2008)
- Pearl District Access and Circulation Plan (2012)

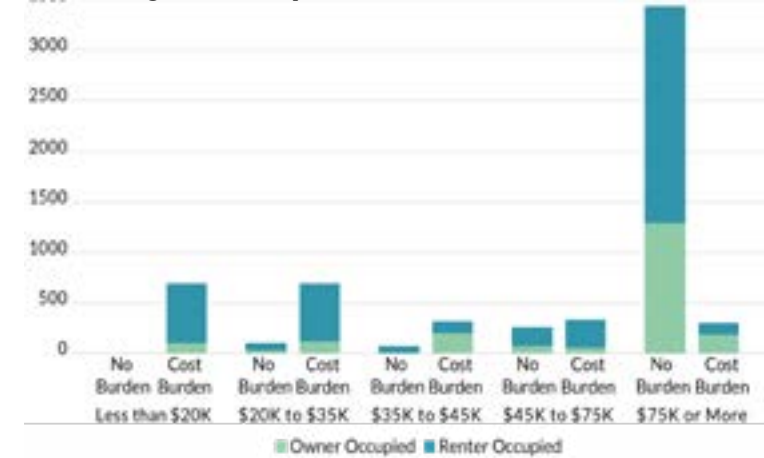
Active Organizations & Stakeholders

- Pearl District Neighborhood Association
- Pearl District Business Association
- Friends of Tanner Springs
- Portland Pearl Rotary Club
- Pearl District Portfolio



Statistics

Pearl District Housing Units by Cost Burden & Tenure



Race by Ethnicity Pearl District	Population	Average MHI Pearl District
Total Population	11,019	100.00%
White	7,779	70.60%
Black	443	4.02%
American Indian and Alaska Native	83	0.75%
Asian	986	8.95%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	18	0.16%
Other	64	0.58%
Multi Race	733	6.65%
Hispanic / Latino	913	8.29%

ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

OLD TOWN

History

Old Town is the oldest part of the city of Portland, and has been a local and regional hub for immigrants, low income and seasonal workers, and people of color for over 150 years. Chinese and Japanese run businesses and apartment buildings, SROs, and hotels created a bustling Chinatown and Japantown (Nihonmachi) at the turn of the 20th century. Prior to 1942, residents of the area during this time described the atmosphere of the neighborhood as lively and thriving with a close-knit and family oriented atmosphere.

World War II and the attack on Pearl Harbor, created a political environment hostile to Japanese and Japanese Americans (Nikkei), forcing them to close their stores, sell their things, and leave their homes, and be shipped off to internment camps around the western United States. The repeal of the federal Chinese Exclusion Act empowered Chinese community members to move out of Chinatown and many chose the area around East 82nd Avenue, what we now call the Jade District. The forced displacement of Japanese residents, and the out-migration of Chinese community members in the 1940s and 1950s caused an emptying out of Old Town.

In the 1950s, community-based organizations, like Blanchet House and Union Gospel Mission, set up to provide housing, meals and community services to disabled veterans and transient workers. In the 1970s and 1980s, the dissolution of state mental health hospitals and governmental fiscal conservatism led to an increased need for services for substance-use disorders, housing, and healthcare.³⁹ Despite calls for thousands of new housing units in both the 1979 and 1988 downtown plans, the rate of population growth exceeded the rate of housing production, in part because many naturally occurring affordable housing units were demolished and not replaced.⁴⁰

In the early 1990s and 2000s, community reinvestment took the form of The Lan Su Chinese garden, and the Japanese American Historical Plaza in honor of the harms against community members of Japanese descent during WWII.⁴¹ In the early 2000s, in response to the growing housing crisis in Portland, community led efforts created a secure encampment, Right to Dream Too (R2D2), and later, C3PO, which provided coordinated health care services.⁴² Old Town is the subject of several action plans and stimulus strategies for post-COVID19 economic recovery. Recently, community leaders have proposed initiatives to clean up the area, which has become densely encamped by houseless community members seeking access to the emergency services clustered in the neighborhood.

Plans

1979 - Downtown Housing Policy : BPS

2017 - New Chinatown/Japantown Historic District

Design Guidelines : BPS

2014-2019 - Old Town Chinatown 5y Action Plan

2019-2024 - Old Town Chinatown 5y Action Plan

2021 - Old Town Activation & Stimulus Strategy

Active Organizations & Stakeholders

Japanese American Museum of Oregon

Japanese American Citizen League

Oregon Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Org.

Lan Su Chinese Garden

Old Town Community Association

Union Gospel Mission

Maybelle Center for Community

Sisters of the Road

Street Roots

Transition Projects

CC Concern

Right to Dream Too

Portland Rescue Mission

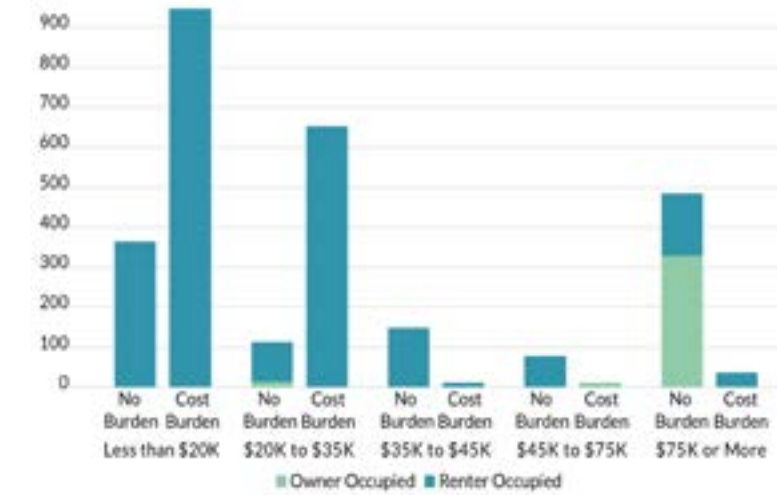
Blanchet House

P:EAR



Statistics

Old Town
Housing Units by Cost Burden & Tenure



Race by Ethnicity Old Town	Population	Average MHI Old Town
Population	5706	\$21,150
White	3751 (65.74%)	\$24,097
Black	469 (8.22%)	\$8,769
American Indian and Alaska Native	134 (2.35%)	-
Asian	174 (3.05%)	-
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	26 (0.46%)	-
Other	46 (0.81%)	-
Multi Race	428 (7.50%)	-
Hispanic / Latino	678 (11.88%)	\$26,576

ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

KEY POINTS

The CC hosts residents, workers, tourists, students, and more. As of the 2020 Census, the CC houses 58,376 people, which is nearly 9% of the population of the City of Portland. The CC is a major employment center within the region, but does not house the majority of the area's workforce. The CC trends towards housing more young professionals, and fewer families with children. Urban amenities like parks and cultural centers are not evenly distributed within the CC, and are more commonly found on the west side of the Willamette River.

The CC holds 12.2% of the city's housing stock, most of which is renter occupied, within 3.75% of the city's land area.⁴³

Few community amenities like libraries, playgrounds, community centers and community gardens can be found within the CC. The CC is an urban heat island, with lower tree canopy than other parts of the city, especially in the Central Eastside neighborhood.

Population Density (Per Sq. Mile)	City of Portland	CC Districts
Total Population	650,380	58,376
Population Density (Per Sq. Mile)	4,873.6	10,763.8
Land Area (Sq. Mile)	133.45	5

Median Household Income (2020 Inflation)	City of Portland	CC Districts
Median Household Income	\$73,159	\$60,541

Average Household Size	City of Portland	CC Districts
Average Household Size	2.3	1.5

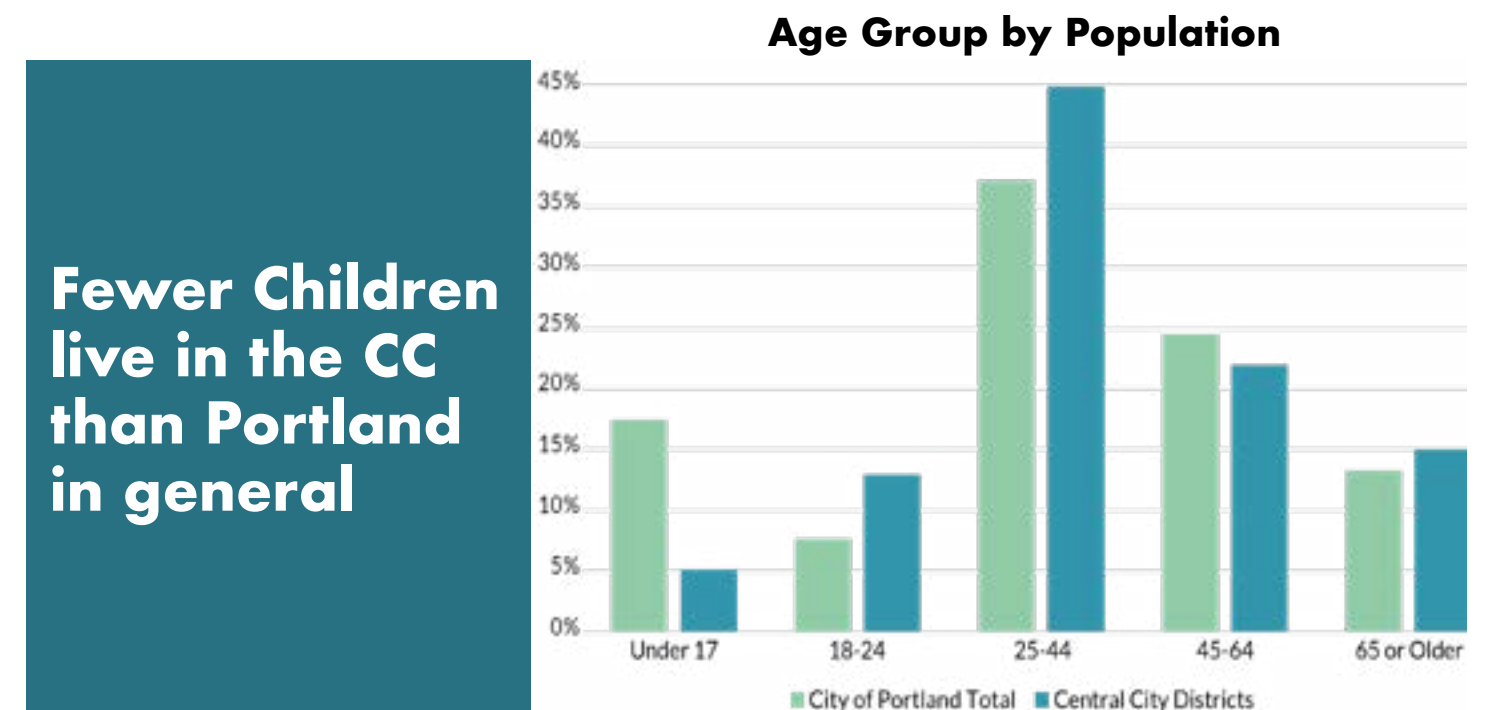
ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

PEOPLE

Within the CC we see data that shows many of the residents are young professionals, who rent their homes, without children. We see that the rates of educational attainment are higher in the CC than Portland in general, and the CC is marginally more racially and ethnically diverse than the City in general. The CC houses 58,376 people, making up 9% of the population of Portland, within 3% of the land area in the City of Portland. The CC is a major employment center for the region and the state, 33% of the city's jobs are in the CC within that same 3% of land area of the City. Many people live with disabilities in the CC, where there are many social and medical services present, and transit access is available for those living with mobility related disabilities.

Age

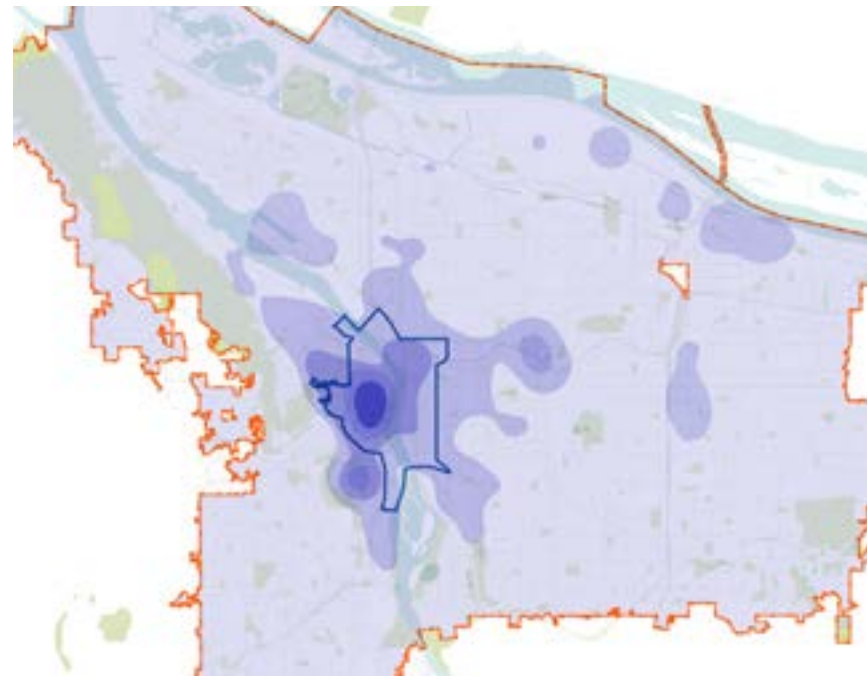
Fewer children live in the CC than Portland in general with only 5.2% of residents in the CC under the age of 17, while the city in general has 17.5% of residents under the age of 17. We see a prevalence of emerging adults aged 18-24 living in the CC, possibly to attend higher education opportunities at 13% compared to 7% in the city in general. Adults aged 25-44, make up 44.9% of the residents within the CC, but are less concentrated in the rest of the city at 37% of the population. Age groups at age 45 and above are evenly distributed in population between the urban core and the City of Portland in general. Lack of perceived safety, family sized housing units, and family friendly amenities may contribute to the flight of young families from the CC, and the eventual return of empty nesters to the CC seeking to downsize after their children have grown.



ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

Jobs / Employment

For all of the 156,000+ jobs within the CC, only 4.2% of them are held by people who also live within the CC, as many people commute to the CC from outside of the urban core. The CC holds 33% of jobs within the City of Portland and while there is a diversity of job opportunities within the CC districts, the most common roles are in Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services at 17.4%, Accommodation and Food Services at 11%, Finance and Insurance at 9.4%, Management of Companies and Enterprises at 6.6%, Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation at 6.3%, Health Care and Social Assistance at 6.3% and Public Administration at 6.1%. These categories of jobs reflect that there is a strong presence of professional, administrative, and technical jobs in the CC, as well as roles required to provide support to that workforce population.

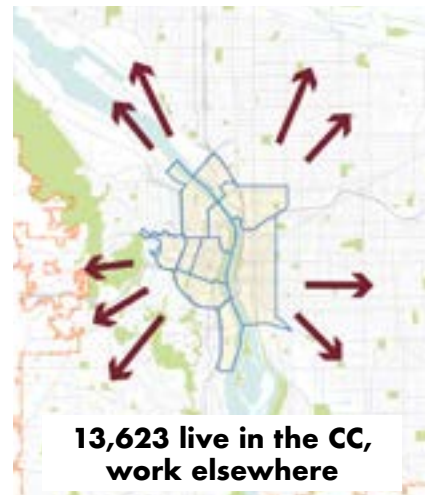
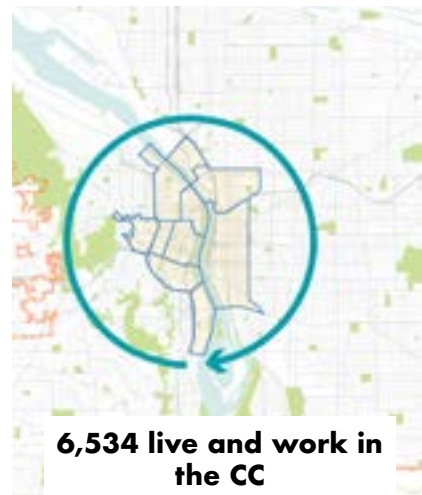
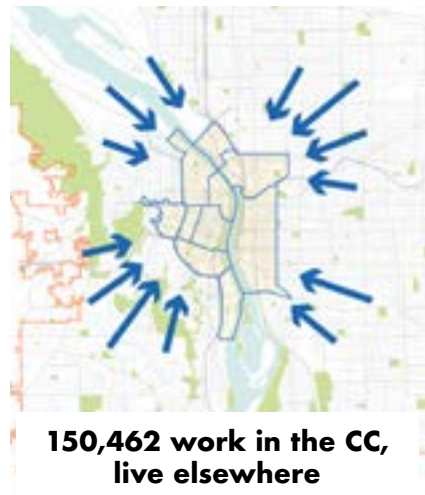


Job Concentration in the CC

Job Density [Jobs/Sq. Mile]

- 5 - 4,779
- 4,780 - 19,103
- 19,104 - 42,976
- 42,977 - 76,399
- 76,400 - 119,371

Inflow and Outflow of Workers in the CC



U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics 2019

The Median Household Income in the CC is lower than Portland in general

City of Portland
\$73,159
CC Districts
\$60,541

Education

Educational attainment in the CC is higher than Portland in general. A greater share of residents in the CC have professional or graduate degrees, and bachelors degree than the city of Portland in general. This could be due to the high number of professional jobs within the CC, as well as the presence of several higher education institutions and some medical and technical job centers as well. However, greater educational attainment does not necessarily mean higher median household income in the CC, which is \$60,541 annually in comparison to the City of Portland in general, which is \$73,159.

Citizens, 18+ Years, By Educational Attainment	City of Portland		CC Districts	
Total	500,242		47,327	
Less Than 9th Grade	9,925	2.0%	684	1.5%
9th To 12th Grade, No Diploma	18,600	3.7%	1,306	2.8%
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	79,761	15.9%	5,648	11.9%
Some College, No Degree	112,211	22.4%	10,108	21.4%
Associate's Degree	33,876	6.8%	2,477	5.2%
Bachelor's Degree	151,303	30.3%	15,704	33.2%
Graduate or Professional Degree	94,566	18.9%	11,400	24.1%

ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

Race and Ethnicity

The racial and ethnic makeup of people who live within the CC is not wildly different than the makeup of Portland as a whole, but we see that residents identifying as White, Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, Other Races and Mixed Race are represented as greater shares within the CC than in Portland in general. Looking at race and median household income, we see a significant wealth gap between White non-hispanic householders and many other races, particularly householders who are Black, American Indian or Alaska Native, or an Other, non-specified race.

Hispanic or Latino by Race	City of Portland	CC Districts
Total Population	652,503	58,376
White Alone	433,445	39,639
Black or African American Alone	36,975	3,341
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	4,273	710
Asian Alone	52,245	4,543
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	3,755	150
Some Other Race Alone	4,118	467
Two or More Races	45,356	4,169
Not Hispanic or Latino:	580,167	53,019
Hispanic or Latino	72,336	5,357

Median Household Income by Race (with 2020 Inflation)	City of Portland	CC Districts
Median Household Income	\$73,159	\$60,541
White Not Hispanic or Latino Householder	\$79,561	\$67,642
Black or African American Householder	\$36,101	\$25,400
American Indian and Alaska Native Householder	\$55,172	\$28,178
Asian	\$71,891	\$60,551
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Householder	\$69,420	-
Other Race Householder	\$52,159	\$16,240
Two or More Races Householder	\$59,606	\$34,215
Hispanic or Latino Householder	\$54,529	\$32,908

ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

Language

More people in the CC speak only English compared to the City in general, with nearly 86% reporting that they speak only English in the CC, and 81% in the City of Portland in general. Many people in the CC speak another language at home, and speak English well, with the count at around 5500 residents of the CC reporting that they speak another language in addition to speaking English “very well”, and 1883 residents of the CC reporting that they speak another language, and speak English “less than very well.” The incidence of Spanish speakers in the CC is lower than the city in general at 3.52%, compared to 6.39%. Languages which are spoken more commonly in the CC than the City of Portland in general are French, Haitian, or Cajun, Other Indo-European languages (incl. Hindi-Urdu, Bengali, Portuguese, Persian, Punjabi), Chinese (including. Mandarin, Cantonese), and Arabic, though other languages may be spoken as well.

Language Proficiency	City of Portland		CC Districts	
Speak only English	501,662	81.15%	4,5331	85.93%
Spanish	39,523	6.39%	1,857	3.52%
French, Haitian, or Cajun	3,798	0.61%	623	1.18%
German or other West Germanic	3,472	0.56%	329	0.62%
Russian, Polish, or other Slavic	11,769	1.90%	541	1.03%
Other Indo-European	7,734	1.25%	754	1.43%
Korean	1,391	0.23%	299	0.57%
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	10,725	1.73%	1230	2.33%
Vietnamese	14,495	2.34%	341	0.65%
Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	2,480	0.40%	156	0.30%
Other Asian and Pacific Island	11,994	1.94%	759	1.44%
Arabic	1,530	0.25%	229	0.43%

ACS 2109 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

More people live with disabilities in the CC than Portland in general

Disability

15% of residents in the CC report disability status, this is higher than Portland in general which has a 11.9% disability status for the city as a whole. There is concern about access to low and no-barrier housing for people within the CC, especially for people with disabilities. Aging housing stock and naturally occurring affordable housing in the CC may not be ADA accessible. Portland is no exception from trends throughout the United States, which show that identifying and accessing ADA housing units is difficult, and those living on social security income or other federal benefit programs, are likely to be priced out in competitive housing markets.⁴⁴

Population living with a Disability	City of Portland		CC Districts	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Population living with a Disability	76,620	11.90%	8,861	15.18%
Type of Disability				
a hearing difficulty	20,662	3.20%	2,470	4.59%
a vision difficulty	13,473	2.10%	1,637	3.04%
a cognitive difficulty	35,850	5.80%	4,848	9.02%
an ambulatory difficulty	31,836	5.20%	3,895	7.24%
a self-care difficulty	13,773	2.20%	2,007	3.73%
an independent living difficulty	26,688	5.00%	3,148	5.85%

ACS 2020: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, U.S. Census Bureau

Houselessness

Housing insecurity is a nationwide epidemic and Portland has its share of the crisis. Many of those without homes live in the CC, and the pandemic exacerbated an existing problem. According to the Joint Office of Homeless Services, during 2022's Point-in-Time count, roughly 30% (n=5,228) more people were counted as homeless than during the last count in 2019 in Multnomah County. "Since 2015, rents have risen much faster than the median income," and the federal disability checks that 21,000 people in Multnomah County rely on are for only about half the average rent.^[1] The causes of houselessness fundamentally stem from inequitable economic systems, and the solution will depend on societal adaptation. In the meantime, VF Planning supports urgent, pragmatic, humane, and evidence-based local solutions. We heard from stakeholders that low-barrier housing with support services is essential, more and more easily accessible rent vouchers are needed, dedicated safe parking zones with toilets and trash service can help a lot, and tiny home villages as transitional spaces are needed as outlined in this report from HRAC: Evaluation and Best Practices for Village Model. Ultimately, the solution to houselessness is housing.⁴⁵

PLACE

Housing

Within Portland's CC, Housing cost burden is a concern for middle and lower income residents. Housing cost burden in this analysis is categorized as housing costs making up more than 30% of overall income. Generally in the CC, few high income residents (Over \$75,000 MHI) are housing cost burdened, while residents in the lower and middle income brackets experience housing cost burden more greatly. The rates of cost burden vary between neighborhoods especially for households that make between \$35,000 and \$50,000 annually. We see a very low instance of homeownership among lower income residents in the CC, and this is illustrated most clearly within several west side neighborhoods of the CC including Downtown, West End, and Old Town. Old Town is the most concentrated area of low income rentership in the CC. Housing in the CC is made up of more rental units than owner-occupied housing. In the CC 77% of residents are renters, and only 22.7% own their homes. In Portland proper, we see the split of housing tenure much more evenly split around 53% homeowners and 46% renters. Less than \$20,000 MHI: 15.9% of those in the CC are housing cost burdened and pay more than 30% of their income on housing in contrast to 10.2% for Portland in general. \$20-35k MHI - 11% of folks in this income group pay more than 30% of income on housing vs 8.8% for Portland in general. The housing stock in the Portland and the CC is aging, with over 30% of rental units built more than 60 years ago.

Housing Cost Burden

Housing Units by Housing Cost Burden (>30% household income)	City of Portland		CC Districts	
Households burdened by housing cost (greater >30%)	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Households burdened by housing cost (greater >30%)	128,795	46.47%	17,113	52.69%



Residents of the CC are more burdened by housing costs than Portland in general

Housing Units, Tenure & Occupancy

Housing Units	City of Portland		CC Districts	
Housing Units:	293,208		35,742	
Occupied	277,142	94.5%	32,481	90.9%
Owner Occupied	147,175	53.1%	7,387	22.7%
Renter Occupied	129,967	46.9%	25,094	77.3%
Vacant	16,066	5.5%	3,261	9.1%

ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

Age of Housing Stock

Year Structure built (Rental Housing Units)	City of Portland		CC Districts	
Rental Housing Units:	129,967		25,094	
Built 2014 or Later	9,634	7.4%	3,572	14.2%
Built 2010 to 2013	4,991	3.8%	1,696	6.8%
Built 2000 to 2009	13,500	10.4%	4,636	18.5%
Built 1990 to 1999	13,877	10.7%	3,232	12.9%
Built 1980 to 1989	10,601	8.2%	1,805	7.2%
Built 1970 to 1979	18,822	14.5%	1,306	5.2%
Built 1960 to 1969	13,230	10.2%	1,163	4.6%
Built 1950 to 1959	10,680	8.2%	1,288	5.1%
Built 1940 to 1949	8,358	6.4%	748	3.0%
Built 1939 or Earlier	26,274	20.2%	5,648	22.5%

ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau



Parks & Community Spaces

Parks and greenspace are not evenly distributed throughout the CC. The neighborhoods making up Portland's central westside have 20 parks, spanning roughly 60 acres across the Pearl, Downtown, Old Town, Goose Hollow, West End, South Downtown & South Waterfront districts. Meanwhile the neighborhoods on the east side of the Willamette river making up Central Portland's eastside only have 2 parks within their borders, adding up to 15 acres of public space. When examining park and plaza placement and amenities, there is only one community garden within the CC, located in South Waterfront, and it is managed by a well-resourced neighborhood community garden committee.⁴⁶ Portland's South Park blocks were recently added to the National Register of Historic Places.

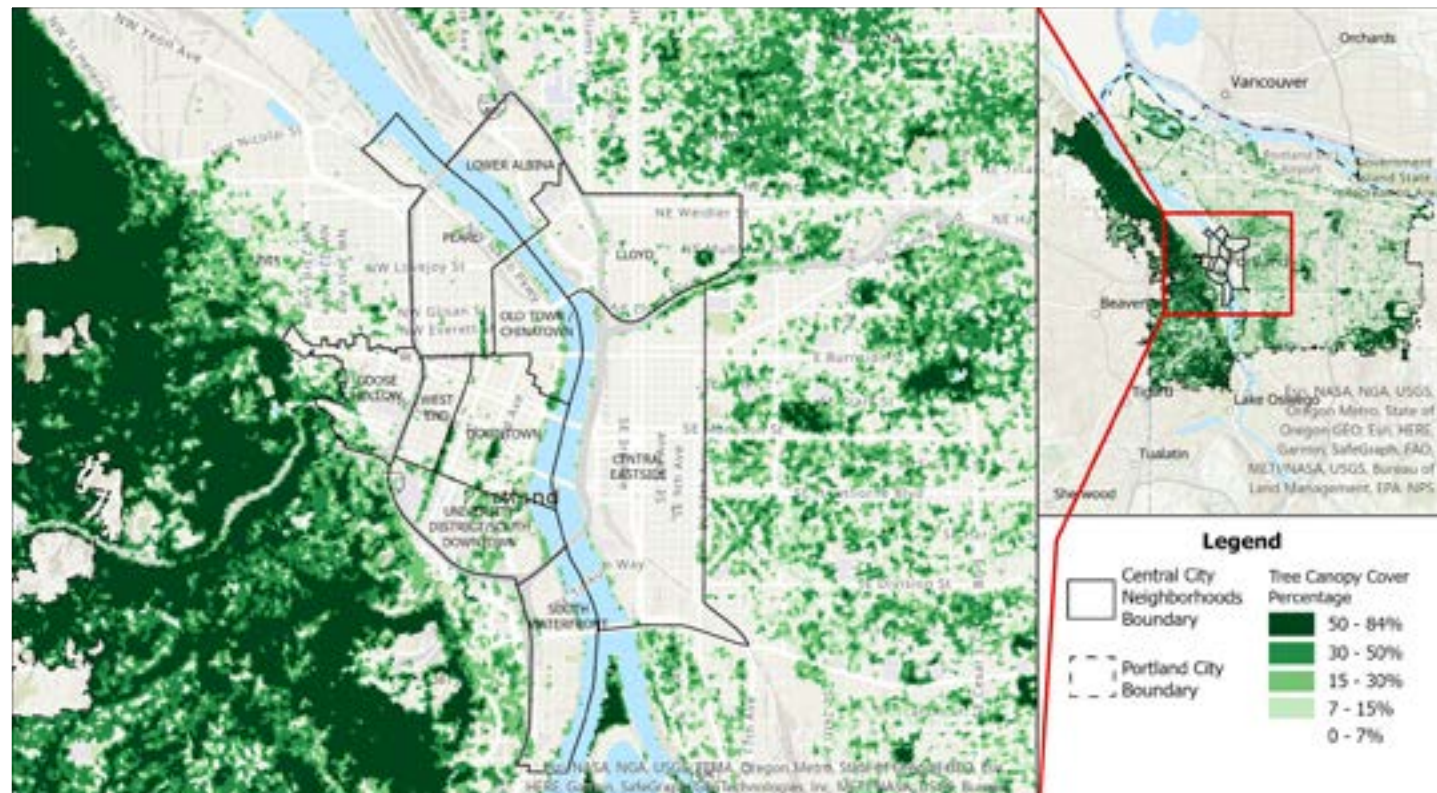
There are no community gardens run by Portland Parks and Recreation within the CC. Portland Parks and Recreation does not operate any community or arts centers within the CC though non-profit organizations may offer low or no cost community programming to residents in the area. The central library operated by Multnomah County libraries in Downtown Portland serves all of CC as the only city library. There are two skate parks in the CC. There are three public playgrounds within the CC, one located in the North Park Blocks, one located in the South Park Blocks, on PSU campus, and a third located in the north Pearl district at Fields Park. All three of these playgrounds are located on the west side of the CC. There are no public playgrounds on the east side of the CC.

Parks, trees, and community amenities are not distributed evenly throughout the CC.



Tree Canopy

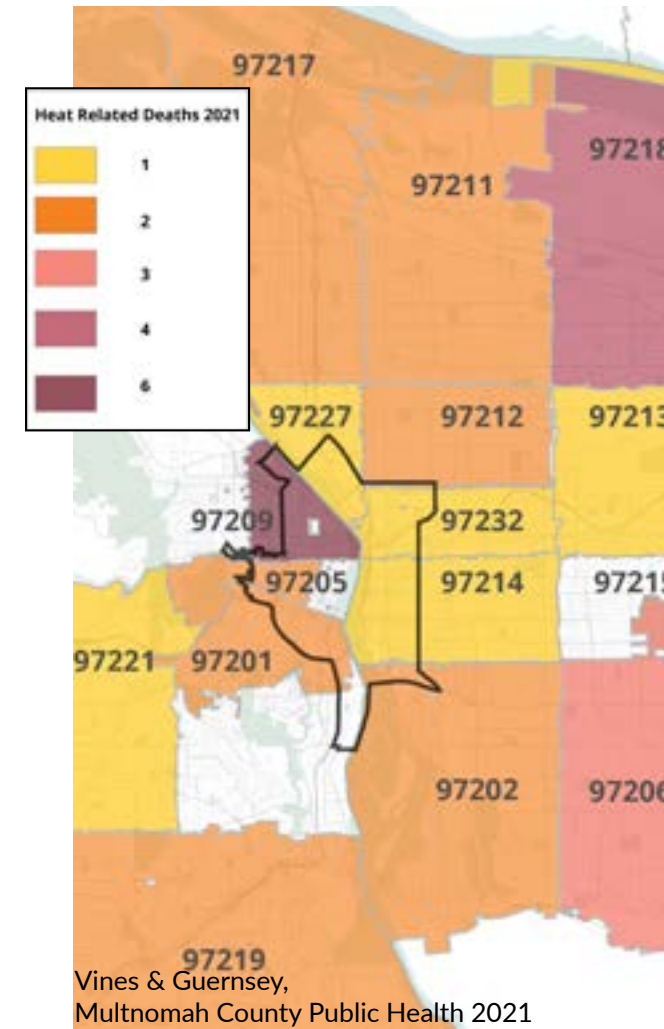
Compared to the greater City of Portland, the CC greatly lacks tree canopy coverage. In fact, the boundaries of the CC almost seem to denote the boundary between where trees are, and are missing. Immediately north of the Lloyd district boundary has a relatively strong canopy, however within Lloyd there is little canopy present. Similarly, areas east of the Central Eastside have many more trees compared to the Central Eastside. Areas within the CC that have the strongest canopy coverage include central Downtown and the South Park Blocks, University District/South Downtown, and the west portion of Goose Hollow. Nearly the entire Central Eastside lacks a canopy and highlights the need for green space in this neighborhood. The City of Portland has a goal for 33% tree canopy coverage by 2035, and much of the areas with planting potential, lie within the CC, particularly on the east side of the Willamette River.⁴⁷



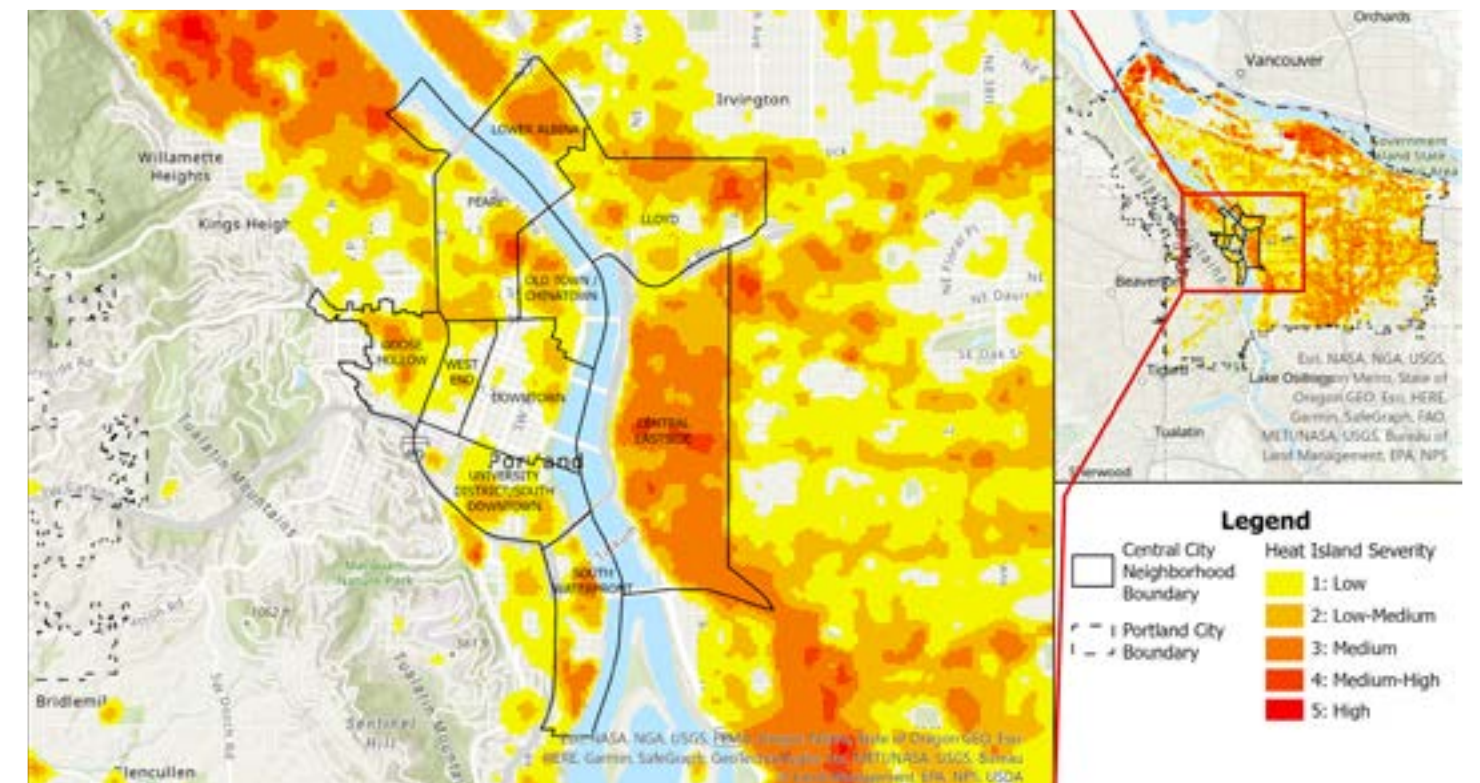
Heat Island Effect

The CC has some of the most severe heat islands in the City of Portland, especially considering its high population density compared to other areas like the airport and the industrial areas in the northernmost portions of Portland that also have a high heat island severity but have a much lower population density. The Central Eastside is the most strikingly hot area in the CC, though Lower Albu, Lloyd, Old Town/Chinatown, and portions of Pearl, Goose Hollow, and the South Waterfront have a high severity as well. Again, the boundary of the CC almost acts as a border between where the hottest areas of the city are within the CC and where cooler areas can be found outside of it

Heat related deaths in June and July 2021 were documented by Multnomah County Public Health Division. Old Town and the Pearl District saw the highest concentration of heat related deaths in the CC.⁴⁸



Vines & Guernsey, Multnomah County Public Health 2021



Public Restrooms

The first “Portland Loo” was installed in Old Town in 2008 to try to solve the issue of access to public toilets, especially for tourists and people experiencing homelessness. Since then, 15 have been installed throughout the city. 10 of the Loos are located in the CC, 2 on the eastside of the Willamette River. The Portland Loo website notes that there are a number of toilets available to the public during certain hours of the day. Most public buildings have bathrooms that are available to the public and some parks include public toilets as well. Access to restrooms became an issue for delivery workers in New York City during the COVID-19 pandemic, as delivery demand increased and access to restrooms was restricted by restaurants, public buildings and cafes, it’s likely that this same issue was experienced by delivery workers, houseless people, parents of small children, and others needing restroom access in Portland. The City of Portland’s Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program installed 100 portable toilets in the CC in an attempt to improve community hygiene and toilet access.⁴⁹

Places of Worship

The history of parts of the CC (especially the University District) points to the district as an important area for congregations from a variety of religions. There are plenty of churches still active in the CC. Downtown alone is home to the Old Church (1883), Portland Korean Church (1905), St. James Lutheran Church (1890), First Congregational United Church of Christ (1851), First Baptist Church (1894), First Unitarian Church of Portland (1924), and First Presbyterian Church (1886). There are 28 churches (22 on the west side and 6 on the east side) of various Christian/Catholic denominations, 1 Sufi Islam Temple, and 2 Buddhist Temples in the CC. There are no Synagogues or Mosques within the Central Eastside boundaries.



Cultural Institutions

The CC, like many downtowns, is home to major cultural institutions like the Portland Art Museum, the Saturday Market at Tom McCall Waterfront Park, Powell’s City of Books, Portland Center for the Performing Arts, and the Oregon Historical Society Museum. The largest farmer’s market (and one of the only year round markets) is located on the Portland State University campus. Many of the city’s major nightclubs are located in Old Town giving the neighborhood an exciting and sometimes chaotic atmosphere Thursday through Saturday. Many of these cultural institutions and events require some kind of fee for entry excluding the Saturday Market and Farmers’ Markets.

Schools

Higher education presence is very visible in Portland’s CC, with Portland State University, University of Oregon, Portland Community College, Willamette University, and Pacific Northwest College of Art, representing both public and private higher education institutions within the CC. This concentration of educational facilities may partially explain the concentration of post-graduate degrees within the region. Daycare, Pre-K, Elementary and Secondary schools are present within the CC as well but currently, there is a small percentage of the population which is primary and secondary school aged at 5.2% compared to Portland in general, which has 17% of the population between the ages of 0 and 17.

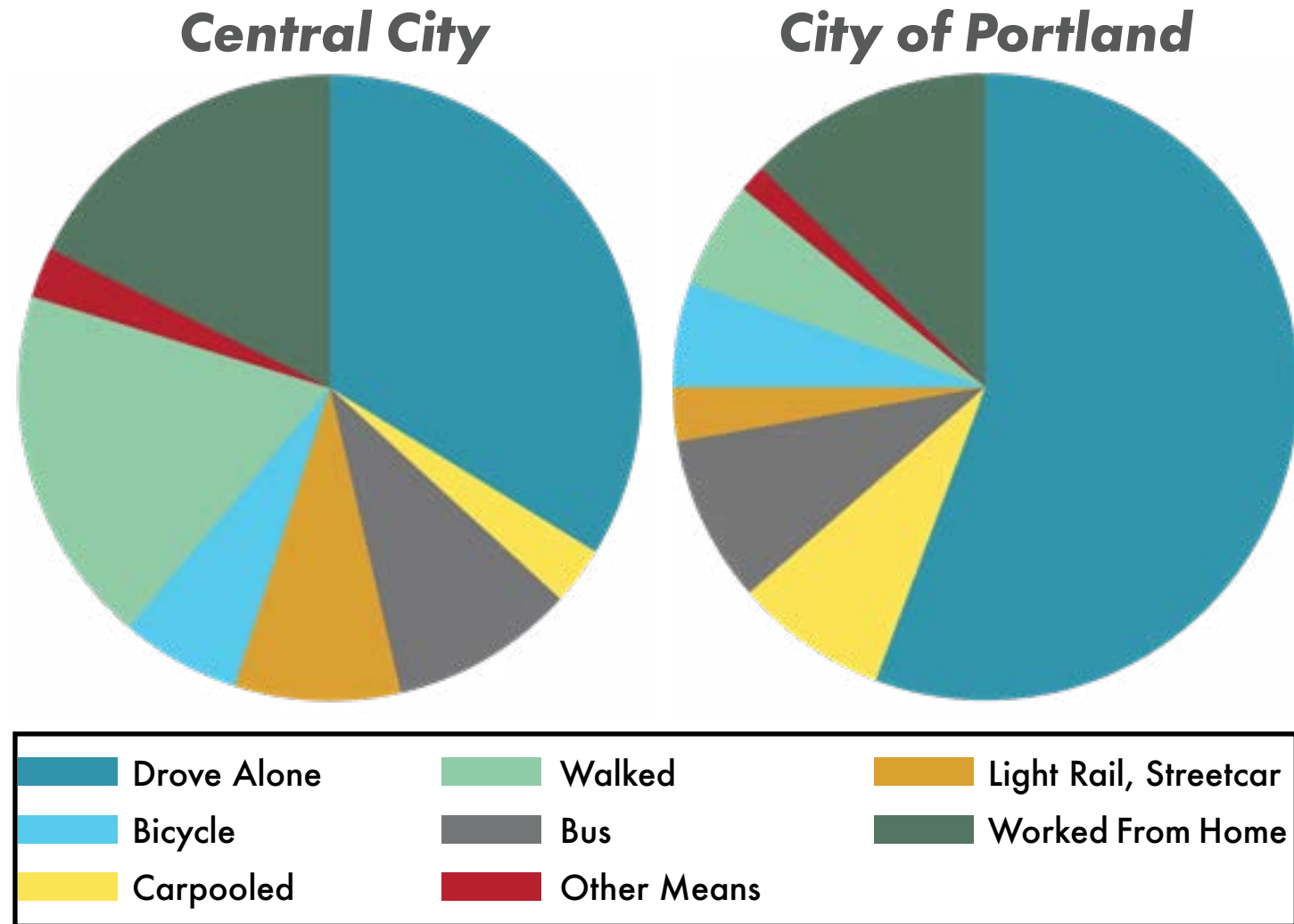
BIPOC-owned Businesses

There are a minimum of 116 businesses owned by BIPOC entrepreneurs in the CC. About 35% of the businesses listed on Mercatus are located in the CC. This directory depends mostly on self-report, so there are certainly more businesses owned by people of color in the CC. At a glance, it is easy to see that many businesses that are known to be owned by entrepreneurs of color (like My Brother’s Crawfish and Frank’s Noodle House) are not listed in the directory.⁵⁰ Community stakeholders noted that many food cart businesses throughout Portland, and in particular those which were recently re-homed to the Cart Blocks plaza, are owned by BIPOC or immigrant residents in the city, some with limited English proficiency.

MOVEMENT

We see that a majority of folks commute into the CC for work, or live in the CC, but commute elsewhere for employment. Few people both live and work in CC. Residents in the CC are more likely to commute to work by public transportation, walk, and work from home than residents in the greater Portland area. Reliable transit access is needed for the CC as a major employment center.

Transportation Mode for Commute



ACS 2020 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

Active Transportation

Residents in the CC are more likely to walk, bike, roll or take public transit for their commute than residents in the rest of the city of Portland. The CC in Motion plan determined that repurposing even 2% more of the public Right of Way for transit priority lanes, bikeways, and safer pedestrian crossings - could increase efficiency and capacity within the CC, and continue to slow or diminish the use of single occupancy vehicles within the CC in the future.⁵¹ Active transportation incentive programs, like Go By Bike in South Waterfront can make commuting by bike convenient for all. Inclusion of new micro mobility devices and e-bikes in transportation planning for the CC can continue to support transportation alternatives to cars.

Transit

The CC is a transportation hub for the city and the region, connecting disparate parts of the Portland metropolitan area via Trimet's hub and spoke model of transportation. Major transit centers are located within the Lloyd District and Old Town (Amtrak, CTRAN, MAX, etc). The Transit Mall runs nearly the full length of Portland's west side, from Old Town, all the way south to the University District. Transit access to South Waterfront has been expanded in recent years. The Portland Streetcar, serves the CC, and provides service to medical centers located just outside of the CC boundaries.

Freight

Major freight routes encircle the CC. The Central Eastside and the northwest corner of Lower Albina are designated as freight districts within the CC. Freight and passenger trains run along the northwest edge of the Pearl district, and along the western and southern edge of the Central Eastside, often causing traffic congestion for all modes traveling at grade. Several major truck streets, priority truck streets, and regional truckways which serve these areas are located along major arterials, highways and the bridges within the CC. Surface streets within the CC generally are set up as local service truck streets to serve local businesses for delivery pick up and drop off only. Designing for freight and transit service within the CC can preserve freight and transit efficiency and consolidate heavy vehicle traffic to certain streets. Bike freight is an emerging trend in freight conversations, and this kind of transportation can keep goods and services moving, without sacrificing street safety, air quality, or climate change goals.⁵²

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The Courts Skatepark, PSU

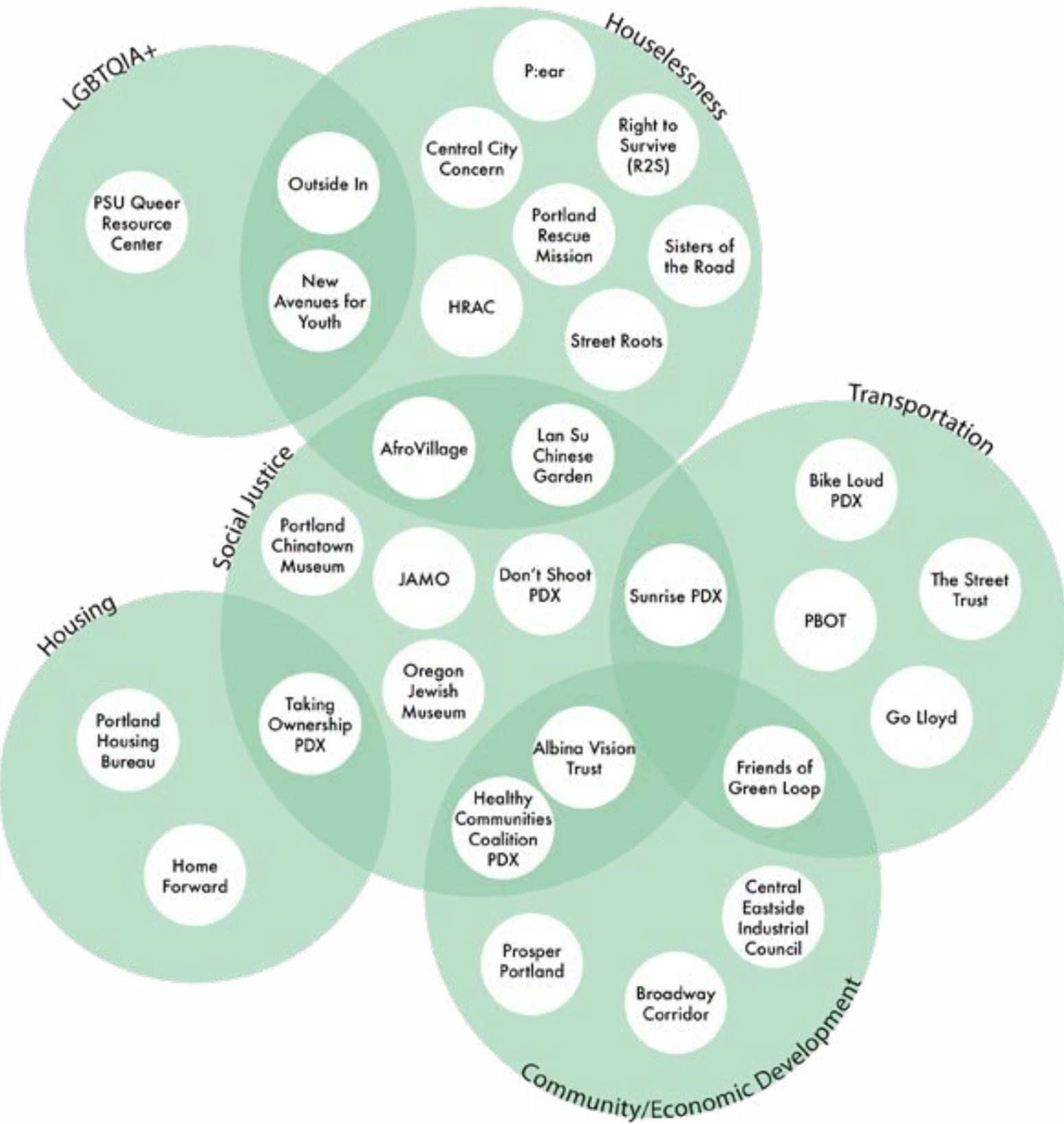
A large, circular illustration on the left side of the cover features the profiles of several diverse individuals. The profiles are rendered in a flat, stylized manner with various skin tones (brown, tan, light skin) and hairstyles. The background of the circle is a mix of warm colors like orange, red, and yellow. The overall composition is set against a solid teal background.

VOICES FROM THE CENTRAL CITY

Engagement Report

Stakeholders

Focused on the Central City



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We engaged community leaders and equity professionals who are consistently engaged with equity issues in three roundtables & seven one-on-one interviews to identify stakeholders, understand their needs, and understand equity issues through their experiences. This project had a short timeline and we were unfortunately unable to speak with many groups advancing equity in the Central City.

Through our engagement process we uncovered eleven key themes:

-  **Accessibility** with universal public/community spaces, meaningful engagement & representation in power, expanded social services and housing clusters, and convenience for high needs populations.
-  **Cultural Representation** where the Central City can be a culturally representative regional urban center, education for cultural history and struggles is a priority, and Indigenous design and autonomy is uplifted.
-  **Engagement** relates to a sense that planning has not done engagement well. We must value cultural institutions, engage in diverse listening sessions, and include impacts on everyday life. Action must follow engagement.
-  **Funding** and technical assistance for community planning is highly desired. Policies currently restrict community planning despite the value that it brings.
-  **Governance** where accountability, transparency and innovation are valued. Community leaders desire more political power and some residents are taking action when they feel roadblocked by the government. Decision-making needs to be more flexible.
-  **Houselessness** discussions centered on targeted universalism to meet needs and more engagement with houseless populations. Old Town is overburdened with clustered service. Dehumanization is discrimination.
-  **Housing** is a major need (middle housing, no-barrier housing, affordable family sized units, mixed income in Old Town).

-  **Jobs/Businesses** are core to the Central City's identity. Inclusive hiring and support for Black, Brown, and Indigenous businesses are critical needs. Old Town businesses especially need support. Consideration for schools and daycare are important in supporting workers.
-  **Perception** relates to the stories and myths surrounding the CC. It is a critical work center, but is not seen as supporting families or communities. There are also perceptions surrounding the motives and effectiveness of public agencies that impact the CC.
-  **Safety** concerns are linked to houseless locations, but there are major concerns for the safety of people experiencing houselessness. In Old Town especially, people want to help, but feel unprepared.
-  **Transit Development** refers to a need for equitable, affordable, and convenient transit development along with affordable housing along transit corridors.

While there is not a coalition centered on the Central City specifically, there are a variety of coalitions that already exist along with an informal coalition of cultural institutions in Old Town. The themes from engagement point to clear equity concerns in the Central City.



INTRODUCTION

Engagement for the Central City Equity Foundations project centered on understanding the needs and dreams of community leaders who are dedicated to advancing equity in the Central City and beyond. There is an ecosystem of community organizations, coalitions, nonprofits, public bureaus, and more who work together to advance affordable housing, support people experiencing houselessness, improve active transportation and transit access, improve opportunities for Black, Brown, and Indigenous business owners, expand disability rights and access, and make progress on other issues related to social equity and justice.

The objectives of engagement were:

- To identify and understand the stakeholders involved in equity issues.
- To understand the work being done in the Central City around equity issues.
- To uncover the core equity issues in the Central City and frame them through the words of equity leaders.
- To begin mapping the relationships between groups working to advance equity in the Central City.
- To understand the promising practices in community organizing and coalition building.
- To develop key takeaways from engagement that inform our recommendations to clients.

METHODOLOGY

We hosted three (3) roundtables to bring together community leaders and those knowledgeable about equity topics. Additionally, eight (8) key stakeholder interviews were conducted to support the findings from the existing conditions analysis and the roundtables. Interviewees were treated as distinct from participants of the roundtable discussions for their greater specificity in topic areas and their expected participation in a roundtable environment, perhaps being drowned out. We felt that interviewees would benefit from a one-on-one session for us to gain better insight into culturally-specific and professionally-specific perspectives. See Appendix 1 for a deeper look at the process of deciding and distilling themes.

Limitations

Due to the exploratory nature of this project, the data collected during the engagement process was more qualitative than quantitative. We recognize that our own biases may influence how data is categorized and how it is understood. Because the project had a short timeline, we were unable to reach out to all the groups working to advance equity in the Central City; however, our interviewee selection process attempted to receive input from all subject areas. Another limitation of this project is the relatively small number of people that the VF Planning team was able to engage. This finding could

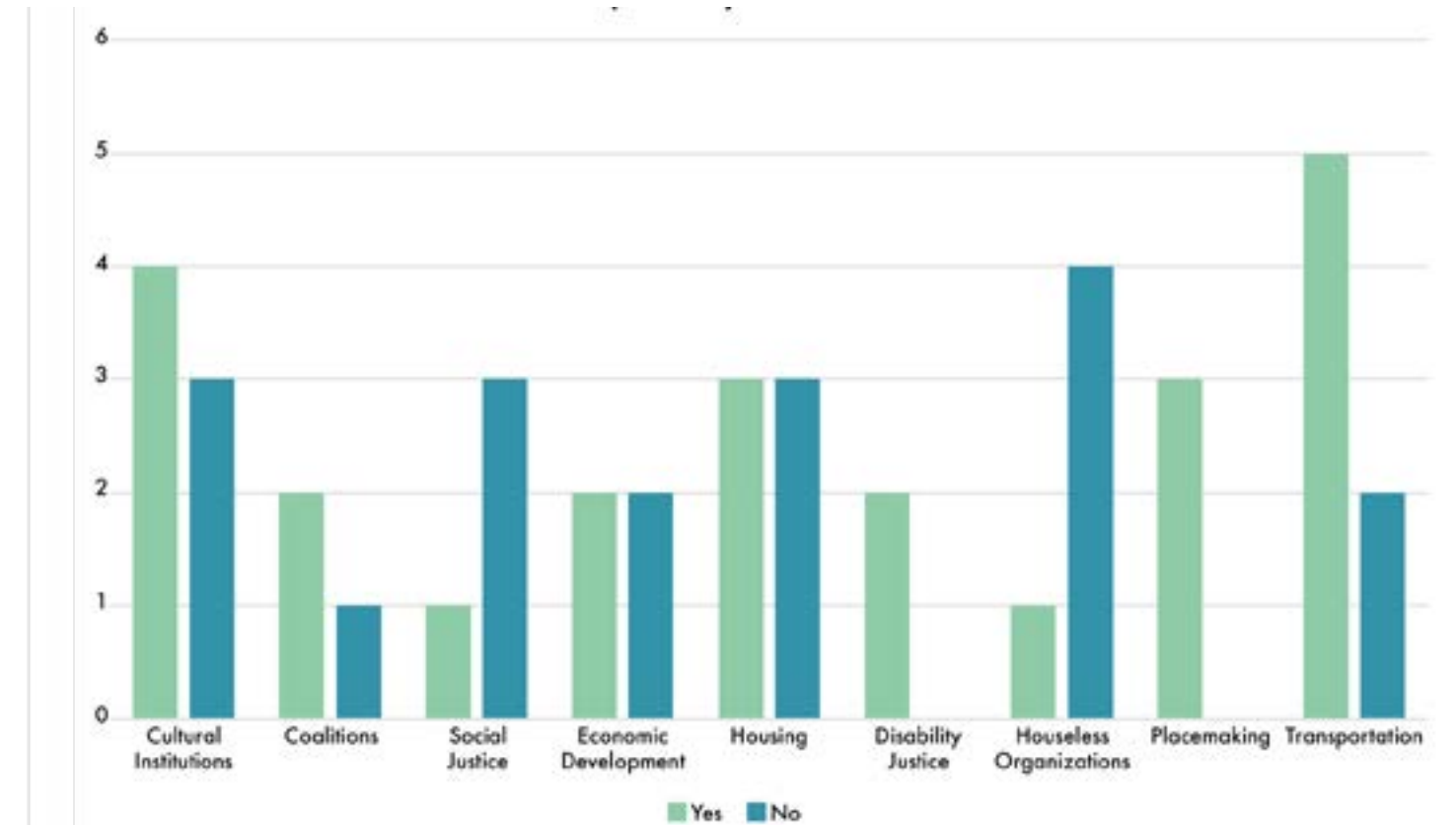
be the result of Old Town related participants being overrepresented (3 of 7) in our sample. This report is just the beginning and continued outreach and deep listening must be prioritized to gain a more comprehensive understanding of needs, minimize bias, and to better refine best directions for equity in the Central City.

PARTICIPANTS

In total, the VF Planning team reached out to 41 people and organizations. Of those, 23 of those participants joined us for roundtables and interviews and 18 declined or did not respond. Notably, organizations representing the topic of houselessness were underrepresented in our participant pool. We heard from some of these groups that declined that they just did not have capacity to participate. We conducted the most outreach to organizations working on transportation and housing as well as cultural institutions. While most of our participants did not work directly on houselessness, it came up repeatedly as a concern. More outreach to organizations working on houselessness is certainly needed. Future projects could find time to volunteer at organizations like Sisters of the Road or Central City Concern to meet them where they are and understand their perspectives. Unfortunately, the short timeline of this project did not allow in-depth focus on houselessness issues in the Central City.

Most participants represented non-profit and other community-based organizations. Future work may benefit from looking at how public agencies work with each other and with community groups. There were also a plethora of nonprofit organizations that this project did not reach. Including the perspectives of private institutions like small businesses and major employers in the Central City could provide a more holistic view.

Figure 1. Rate of responses from potential stakeholders (who said yes and no to participating) by focus area.



We spoke to people involved in:

Getting There Together

City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

Japanese American Museum of Oregon

ACHIEVE Coalition

Disability Rights of Oregon

City of Portland Office of Equity and Human Rights

City of Portland Office of Community and Civic Life

Community Alliance of Tenants,
Street Roots

Portland Housing Bureau

Central Eastside Industrial Council

Taking Ownership PDX

Portland Parks Foundation

Bike Portland

1000 Friends of Oregon

Friends of Green Loop

Portland Bureau of Transportation

Oregon Walks

Go Lloyd

Ride Connection

Oregon Jewish Museum & Center for Holocaust Education

Old Town Community Association

Other Portland organizers and academics

The results of the engagement process are not meant to fully represent the individual stances of any one of these organizations or people, but are meant to provide an on-the-ground perspective from people interacting with issues in the Central City every day.

We wanted to, but were unable to speak with other organizations including:

Central City Concern

JOIN

Transition Projects

Portland Street Response

Coalition of Communities of Color

Prosper Portland

OPAL

The Street Trust

Sunrise Movement

Home Forward

Don't Shoot PDX,

Portland Chinatown Museum

Lan Su Chinese Garden

Southwest Corridor Equity Coalition (SWEC)

Many others

Unfortunately we did not have the time and capacity to fully reach out to these groups. We want to stress the importance of continuing this engagement and including the voices that we were not able to reach.



Sarah Pearlman/VF Planning)

ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Our engagement process brought forth eleven (11) key themes and a variety of other key takeaways. The themes are explained in the following pages. Results from the roundtables and individual interviews are combined.

We also examined existing coalitions and ways in which groups in the Central City work together. We felt that this was important to include in this report as an objective of engagement to uncover how community-based organizations work together currently.

A look at our process and an extensive (though likely not comprehensive) directory of equity-focused organizations can be found in the appendices of this report.

THEME
Accessibility
Cultural Representation
Engagement
Funding
Governance
Houselessness
Housing
Jobs/Businesses
Perception
Safety
Transit Development

Accessibility

We heard that accessibility is contingent upon the need for people in power to accurately represent and address communities with the greatest needs. It also depends on meaningful engagement that centers the experiences and cultures of under-resourced communities. Advocacy and representation is key to creating accessible communities.

People's access to transportation options and how well infrastructure supports non-auto options was a repeated conversation. Accessibility was emphasized as particularly important for the high concentration of seniors and people with disabilities in the Central City. There were concerns brought up about the response to micro-mobility options. Some wondered if renaming bike lanes to reflect other micro-mobility options could improve accessibility.

Community spaces need to be designed to be inviting to Black, Brown, and Indigenous and historically excluded or displaced communities. They should also be places where people do not need to purchase something for access. It was also brought up that innovative and successful design of community spaces often comes from nonprofits and community-based organizations who may be able to manage spaces with better specificity. The lack of community spaces in the Central Eastside was emphasized.

Accessibility for houseless communities was another topic which centered around how meeting some of the simple yet critical needs like access to bathrooms, hygiene, food and water, and waste disposal is important. Street Roots & Office of Finance and Management's expansion of public port-o-potties and PBOT Healthy Business Permit program for outdoor seating and parklets were brought up as successes. Other ideas included safe consumption sites and public bathhouses. Old Town's overconcentration of social services and housing was brought up. The City needs to expand clusters around Portland and promote a "no wrong door" approach. There was similarly a need for social services in Lloyd.

Distributional equity includes concerns from access to basic needs like bathrooms to access to welcoming community and open spaces.

Key Takeaways

- Public/community spaces are extremely important, need to be made inviting and activated for BIPOC, houseless, and historically excluded communities, and should adopt a targeted universalism model to achieve this.
- Meaningful engagement and adequate representation in positions of power to center the needs of the most vulnerable and underserved communities is necessary.
- Clusters of social services and affordable housing are good, but need to be expanded beyond Old Town which is carrying a disproportionate amount of the weight.
- Convenience is a key consideration in meeting the needs of targeted populations.

Cultural Representation

The Central City needs cultural representation. This could look like a designated Cultural District as we heard from some, but should also include acknowledgement of the diverse cultures that live in the Central City through public art, architecture, ecology and landscaping, and more. Looking to Vancouver, BC as a model, incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing and being is essential to moving the needle forward on true cultural representation. There are many organizations and cultural institutions that the city could leverage and support who are already doing the work of trying to increase cultural representation in the Central City.

Key Takeaways

- The Central City should be a regional urban center with cultural representation (Vancouver, BC as an example).
- There is a desire to have a place that feels like home and where histories and struggles are recognized.
- The Central City should be a place for education about the histories and struggles of Black, Indigenous, Japanese American, Chinese American, and other people of color in the region (tied to school curriculum).
- Allow Indigenous people to create their own spaces; rethink glorification of pioneer history.

In terms of structural and procedural equity, we heard that government needs to consider cultural diversity and diverse ways of knowing in their processes and policies. It is especially important that Indigenous people and tribal leadership be in charge of the processes that impact them. Structurally, recognition of the colonization of the land is important when making decisions. Distributionally, cultural representation has not been evenly recognized and supported. In terms of transgenerational equity, we heard a desire for the Central City to be a place where people can learn about the contributions of BIPOC individuals. Cultural representations and histories should be passed down to future generations and education should reconsider the glorification of white pioneers over all of the other groups of people that have impacted the city.



**"To heal ourselves, we have to heal the land."
-Indigenous Academic and Activist**

(Student-led Sustainability @ PSU)


Engagement

We heard a need for more engagement overall. Many feel that they are under-engaged when it comes to the material decisions made in the places that they live and work. While we heard an undercurrent of over-engagement on lofty principles like equity and justice, we also heard that people felt the city was not communicating physical changes with them. There is frustration that some infrastructure is not being maintained (lamp posts, sidewalks) and that the city is moving things with good intentions and vision, but without monitoring to see the on-the-ground impacts. On major issues like houselessness and crime, people feel that the city has told them of plans, but they have yet to see implementation. Diverse listening sessions and equitable relationship building are needed and the city should lean on its major cultural institutions who are already doing the work.

Engagement in neighborhoods like Old Town, which have experienced underinvestment, is especially important to structural equity. Deep and thoughtful engagement is also key to procedural and distributional equity. The type of engagement we heard a need for involves making planning processes more accessible to all community members. Distribution of resources and attention is also critical to equitable engagement.

Key Takeaways

- Engagement is the biggest hole in planning.
- Cultural institutions are the anchors, we should turn to them.
- Need diverse listening sessions and relationship building.
- More engagement is needed, especially on changes that impact everyday life and business.
- Engagement is meaningless without action and communication of process.



**"Nothing about us without us."
-People Roundtable**

(Community Engagement Liaison Services, LLC)

Funding

Comments about funding primarily focused on the role of the City in supporting the work of CBOs or focused on shifting the burden away from funding streams that incentivize undesired behavior. We heard a need to diversify the City's revenue stream beyond metered parking, especially in light of a desire to continue parklets long-term. Additionally, the City has perhaps not done enough to leverage the talents of nonprofits and other CBOs to tap into a wider array of funding like grants that could make progress on planning goals while easing the burden of funding on public agencies.

We also heard a desire for bureaus to provide technical assistance and funding to help communities plan. Community organizations and cultural institutions know that they are already doing the equity work that the city is looking for. They would like to see trust from the city that they can use any provided funds to better their communities. Suggested examples include a team at PBOT or BPS to metabolize and implement community plans and a pilot year of the city funding community organizations to do their work with measurable goals (like increased tourism or new businesses opened) to see how that actualized trust can improve the physical space of neighborhoods.

Funding concerns relate to distributional equity. Many of the community groups that are focused on equity feel that they could do more and support the city's equity goals if funds were distributed based on which groups are successfully advancing equity in the Central City.

Key Takeaways

- Government should provide technical assistance and funding to help communities plan.
- "Capacity funds" could be a framework for distributing funding.
- Policies and rules restrict the ability of communities to plan themselves.
- True community-led planning efforts like Imagine Black's People's Plan or the Albina Vision Plan are the best form of community planning, but are not seen as legitimate, and are not favored over technocratic planning.



(Regional Arts and Culture Council)

Governance

There is a disconnect between those working, those living, those making political decisions, and those living outside the Central City. We heard distrust and frustrations surrounding the role of City government and agencies. People perceive public agencies as lacking the accountability to make meaningful progress. We also heard up that these City plans and projects are often not innovative enough and do not fully address those with the greatest needs. We heard that some were tired of

pushing back on bureaus that they felt would not change and have taken small actions to improve their neighborhoods without the permission of the city.

The siloing of bureaus is frustrating. Participants felt there was a lack of collaboration between city bureaus and with the community. There was a sense that the City was not acting or was lacking coordination on major issues. When decisions are made, there needs to be more flexibility in decision-making processes.

Community leaders and individuals who work with equity issues need to be put in positions of power. Charter reform was brought up repeatedly. There was also no desire for another committee that advises the City on equity. It was suggested to focus on increasing the power, resources, and coordination of groups and leaders that already exist. Lastly, further meaningful and comprehensive public engagement is needed moving forward.

In terms of procedural equity concerns center on how easy it is for community members to navigate the system of decision-makers, politics, and planning. It may also have implications in terms of distributional equity. Siloing of bureaus and their resources may lead to blind spots where resources aren't distributed equitably.

Key Takeaways

- More accountability, transparency, follow through, and innovation on public plans and projects, for which the status is often unknown is needed.
- The City lacks coordination and urgency in their responses to major issues like houselessness and committing to equity and it has wasted resources and time.
- Community leaders and individuals who work on equity issues in the CC need to be in positions of power where their voices are elevated; equity organizations must advise city actions.
- The City must pursue more meaningful and comprehensive engagement to ensure representation in the City's actions.
- There is a disconnect between those living in the Central City, those working in the Central City, those outside the Central City, and decision-makers.
- Residents are taking action on their own instead of pushing against organizations that do not want to change.
- Personalities and egos get in the way of action.
- It's important to have the flexibility and autonomy to make decisions and then reassess and pivot with new information.



**“If anti-racism is the core value, what is the consequence for being racist?”
-People Roundtable**

**“People need to have joy everyday, no matter what; a cup of coffee and a table to share with a friend.”
-People Roundtable**

(Jonathan Levinson/OPB)

Houselessness

Despite our lack of engagement with organizations focusing on houselessness, it was clearly a concern in the Central City. Housing is a key need for houseless individuals and will provide safety for them. We heard that no-barrier housing, housing that prevents evictions, and housing that provides autonomy and community are key to successfully transitioning people from houselessness. We heard from one person that not enough incentive exists to hire houseless individuals which poses another barrier to transitioning from houselessness.

We heard multiple times that a targeted universalism approach will benefit houseless populations, while also benefiting greater public. An example is designing public spaces to meet simple yet vital needs, like a place to go to the bathroom or a place to dispose of trash. This will consequently benefit others by also providing them with a place to go to the bathroom and cleaner streets. We also heard that the City’s response to houselessness has lacked coordination which has left nonprofits and advocacy organizations to pick up the slack. Moving forward, the City should have a clear process and must prioritize meaningful engagement with houseless communities and organizations.

Organizations in Old Town feel unprepared as the population of people living on the streets has increased significantly. The clustering of social services in Old Town is detrimental to unhoused,

long-time residents of Old Town as increased demand limits their access. There is a real fear that people are becoming desensitized to houselessness and that people throughout the city are beginning to mentally dehumanize those living outside. In Old Town, there is concern that the vulnerability of those living on the streets and sidewalks makes unhoused people easy targets for violent crime.

As a result of overt discrimination, unhoused people are often excluded from engagement processes (procedural inequity). The clustering of social services in Old Town is a distributional equity issue.

Key Takeaways

- Emphasizing targeted universalism in meeting the needs of the houseless community will not only benefit their needs, but also yield benefits to the wider public.
- Housing for the houseless is a key need, but must be no-barrier housing that prevents evictions and provides autonomy and community.
- The City’s response to houselessness must prioritize meaningful engagement to center the knowledge and experiences of houseless individuals and the organizations that work most closely with them to develop solutions.
- Dehumanization is discrimination.
- Residents experiencing houselessness are dying in Old Town.
- Clustering of social services in Old Town (at the exclusion of other neighborhoods) is problematic.



“As soon as you open up your door, step over someone sleeping on your doorstep, and move on with your day, you are lost.”
-Old Town cultural institution

Housing

Key takeaways on the topic of housing primarily surround issues of affordability and issues in provision of diverse types of housing. We heard that affordability is a major issue that prices out Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities and those with low and even middle-wage jobs. We also heard that there is still a need for more affordable housing. Specifically, we heard a need for more family-sized affordable housing units across the Central City and more mixed-income housing in Old Town. We have also heard that not enough affordable housing is no-barrier housing and does not do enough to prevent evictions. These are two important considerations in transitioning from houselessness. No-cause evictions were also brought up by an individual as a major problem. There is a lack of diversity in housing options and affordability levels that, moving forward, must be a priority in developing healthy communities.

The work of nonprofits and community-based organizations in developing various types of housing was upheld as a success story and could be a method to achieving greater housing diversity and affordability. At the same time, we heard that the City has not done enough to amplify the efforts of these organizations. One individual made a key point that a focus in identifying vacant or underused buildings in areas with high housing need should be prioritized.

Key Takeaways

- The Central City is currently and increasingly unaffordable especially for Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities and those with low to middle-wage jobs.
- Nonprofit or community-based organizations’ housing developments can be successful and can target areas with high housing needs, but the City has not done enough to amplify their efforts.
- The Central City is flooded with affordable housing and does not have enough middle housing or family-sized units to support families.
- Housing for the houseless is a key need and will provide safety in a multitude of ways, but must be no-barrier housing that prevents evictions and provides autonomy and community.
- Family sized, affordable housing is needed.
- Mixed income housing in Old Town is desired.

The concerns around housing are related to structural, distributional, and transgenerational equity. We heard issues related to getting housing built which points to issues in the processes and policies around housing. This could be limitations from historic designations or the need for new incentives. Affordable housing is not distributed fairly throughout the Central City in addition to the need for more housing in general. Finally, the impacts of housing need may affect future generations. For example, the lack of affordable family-sized units impacts the access children have to a dense, walkable environment.

Jobs/Business

While Central City is regarded as a place that is defined by its provision of jobs and business opportunities, we have heard that there are some issues in the accessibility of jobs and sustainability of businesses. In terms of employment, it was heard that employers are not doing enough and could improve in hiring houseless individuals and people with disabilities. These populations are highly concentrated in the Central City. We also learned about the need for a greater variety of jobs that cater to people from a variety of educational backgrounds.

In terms of small, Black, Brown, Indigenous and immigrant-owned businesses, we heard that these businesses often lack capacity or ability to connect with services that exist to improve their ability to succeed. In particular, we heard that the City could do more to foster this connection, as well as support, amplify, and work in partnership with them to create an environment that supports and values its small businesses. We also heard that Old Town has struggled to keep businesses, and that many of the current businesses in Old Town are owned by people of color. Business owners and their staff in Old Town are experiencing significant trauma from the violence happening in their neighborhood. One person also brought up a need for more childcare in the Central City connected to supporting people accessing jobs.

The theme of jobs and businesses involves distributional equity. We heard a desire for more jobs that align with different levels of education and more opportunities for people experiencing houselessness to access jobs. We also heard a need for more support for Black, Brown, Indigenous and immigrant-owned businesses which is related to the distribution of support.

Key Takeaways

- A strength of the Central City is that it provides many jobs.
- Jobs may not be hiring as inclusively or representatively of the Central City as they could be, such as houseless individuals or people with disabilities.
- Small businesses, particularly those that are Black, Brown, Indigenous and immigrant owned, struggle to get connected with business services that help with financing, grant-writing, subcontracting, being contracted out, and advertising.
- The City is not doing enough in their role in supporting, amplifying, and working in partnership with small businesses, non-profits, and CBOs.
- Old Town businesses need help.
- Desire for more Asian-owned businesses in Old Town.
- Access to schools and childcare are essential services for helping people succeed in their jobs.
- Black, Brown, and Indigenous businesses need protecting/support.

Perception

Overall, the Central City is seen as a privileged place that is consistently over-invested in. For future projects, it will be necessary to adequately rationalize why investment is going towards the Central City rather than the eastside of Portland. The Central City is also known for being a critical work center that supports a lot of jobs, and a place that focuses heavily on development and public projects. This, however, is contrasted by notions that the existing jobs are not accessible to the many of those living in the Central City. This includes those who live with mental or physical disabilities, substance abuse issues, a history of housing insecurity, and/or those without a higher-education degree. Many workers cannot afford to live in the Central City. It is seen as a place that sustains jobs, albeit not well enough, but is not seen as a community. The lack of family-sized housing (3+BR units) and accompanying family-centered infrastructure was noted as contributing to this perception.

Houselessness is seen as a defining issue in the Central City and especially in Old Town, particularly after the pandemic. Consequently, clustering of social services and over-policing has further compounded this perception.

The perception of transportation mainly centered around the public overlooking the Streetcar as an important transportation option that serves many people with disabilities, the elderly, and many low-income tenants. It links riders to services like medical centers and clinics. Additionally, regarding conversations around resumption of fareless square, there were doubts about whether the Central City is the most equitable or politically acceptable place to re-implement this.

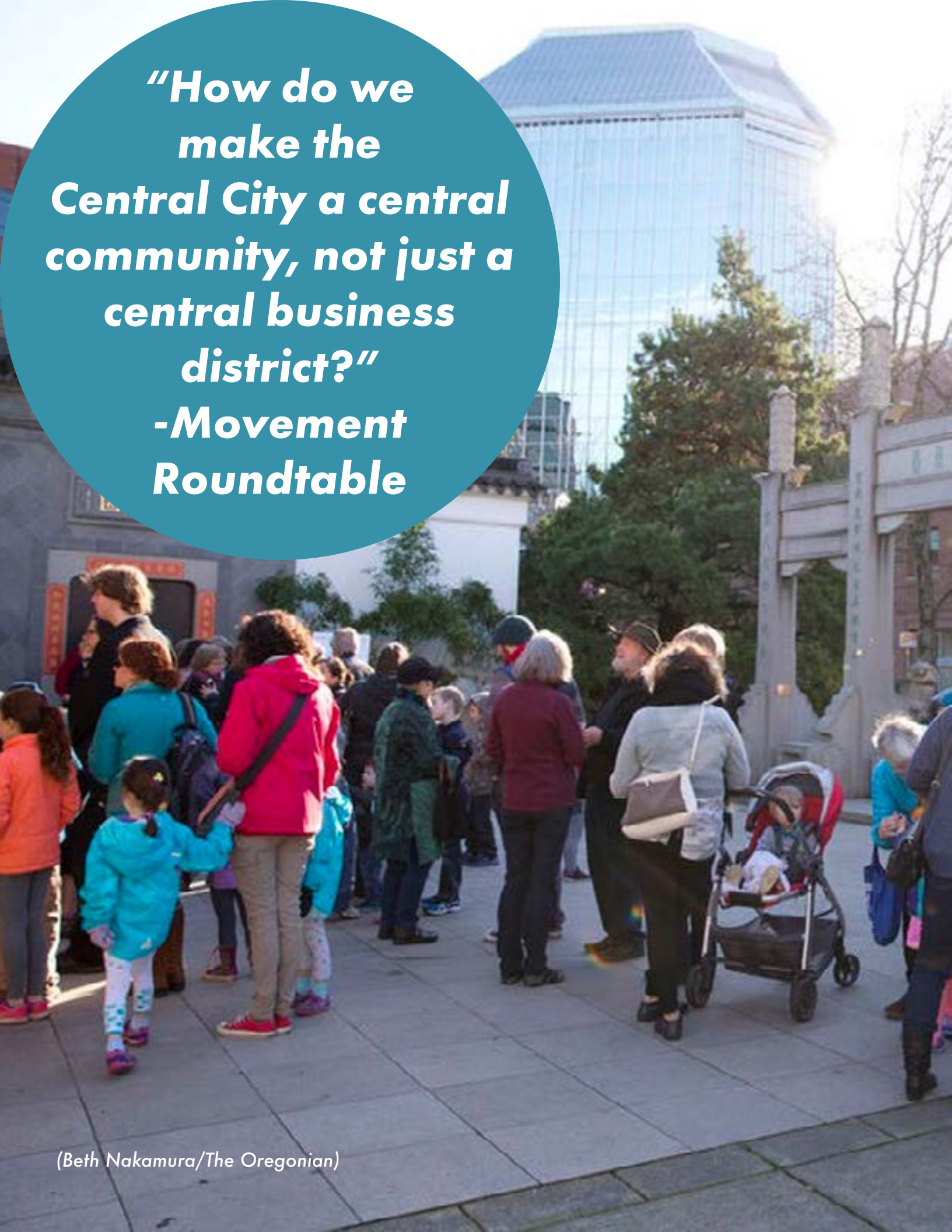
Key Takeaways

- The Central City is seen as a place defined by its concentration of jobs and is critical as a work center.
- The Central City is seen as a place that does not support a community, cannot house or support families, and where affordability of housing for middle-income people is an issue.
- There is distrust of City agencies specifically from equity-focused organizations who also feel that City agencies have over-invested in the Central City.
- City agencies are not trusted as accountable, actionable, urgent, or innovative.

Overall, public entities are seen as having a lack of accountability, action, urgency, and follow-through on council-approved public projects. Nonprofits and community-based organizations are often seen as the source of innovation and urgency. The role of education was also emphasized as insufficient in teaching structural racism.

The mixed stories and myths about the Central City impact how attention and resources are directed to it (distributional equity). It has implications for transgenerational equity as well in terms of how growth will impact future generations.

**“How do we make the Central City a central community, not just a central business district?”
-Movement Roundtable**



(Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian)

Safety

There was some mention about the issue of personal safety and safety of property. Conversations around safety were often connected to the issue of houselessness. It was, however, stated specifically by organizations focused on helping houseless communities that safety has only recently become a more prominent issue in the Central City. Safety concerns are mostly a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the exacerbating effect it has had on the issue of housing insecurity. We heard that prior to the pandemic, safety was less of an issue and overall interactions with houseless communities were more amicable.

People do not feel safe as a result of car harassment, concerns for personal safety, and concerns for the security of belongings such as one's bicycle or micro-mobility device, particularly in Downtown. It was also stated that safety is much more of an issue at night than during the day. Additionally, the safety of those experiencing crises was a concern in light of the improper response from police. Portland Street Response was remarked as a recent positive effort in ensuring proper response is available, although more frequent service is needed. There was also a recurring undertone of safety issues as a byproduct of some of the other issues that the Central City is experiencing.

Shootings have become commonplace in Old Town. We heard of businesses getting their windows shot out regularly and shootings on the street being common experiences. From our understanding, much of the violence in Old Town is related to organized crime. People aren't visiting as a result of the stories about violence in the neighborhood, businesses and residents are struggling, and there is actual violence.

Key Takeaways

- Safety concerns for person and property are often linked to locations in which houseless populations are located, particularly in Downtown/Old Town.
- The safety of houseless populations is a concern.
- Stories of disaster and violence are a true part of the story, but not the whole story.
- Organized crime is a growing issue.
- Business owners and staff in Old Town are traumatized.
- People feel unprepared to handle the issues on the street, but want to help.

The safety concerns related to safety of those experiencing houselessness is mostly closely related to distributional equity. While some of the safety issues are related to “perception” of the Central City, safety can also be considered a resource. Folks in Old Town, especially those experiencing houselessness, are not provided the resources (i.e. housing, rat-free environments, community spaces) they need to be safe.



(Danielle Kurtzleben/Vox)



Transit Development

In the feedback we received, issues with freight and relating delays were especially salient in the Central Eastside along the Division Transit Project line, and thus into the west side. Freight and industrial delays for transit in the Central City were brought up as a challenge.

Another overarching issue is the need for efficient transportation options for people with children and especially those without vehicles, and in places where daycares are sparse like the Central Eastside. These groups are heavily reliant on efficient transportation. We heard some frustration with requirements for new affordable housing developments to have bike storage. It was noted that many don't utilize the bike storage and rather that transit passes and subsidies may be more successful. The Central Eastside Commuter Pass was a model that was referenced. Another question about resumption of fareless square was posed regarding how equitable it would be implemented again in the Central City. We heard that equitable and affordable transit-oriented development around the Streetcar and TriMet lines were ideal programs or goals to work towards. There was also a desire to make transportation options simpler and more efficient for transit reliant populations who are eligible for low-income fare programs. Go Lloyd's Transportation Wallet Program was noted as a successful model in making these options simpler and more accessible.

Key Takeaways

- Equitable, affordable, and convenient transit development (both the transit system itself and transit-oriented development) that responds to the needs and preferred modes of communities who are most reliant on transit options.
- Affordability of housing surrounding transit is important.

Transit development is related to distributional equity. This was notably a financial access issue over a physical access issue (beyond concerns about freight delays). Furthermore, there were concerns that other modes of transportation, like cycling, were prioritized over transit. While we still heard strong support for bicycle infrastructure, this could signal a need to adjust attention to transit a little more.

Additional Key Points

While our themes refer to feedback that we heard multiple times, some individuals made key points that we felt were important to include. These individuals consistently engage with equity issues every day and can help us better understand them.

Old Town needs help. The neighborhood came up in conversations with people focused on the Central City as a whole as well as stakeholders focused on or located in Old Town. Safety and crime are major concerns in Old Town. Business owners and staff are dealing with extremely traumatic conditions (homicide, gun violence, theft, etc). We heard that 10-12 people are murdered in Old Town every month. We were unable to verify this statistic partially because many of these homicides are unreported. We heard that all of the victims have been people experiencing homelessness.

In terms of safety more broadly, we heard that Police have not provided proper response to those experiencing crises. Portland Street Response has been beneficial but more frequent service is needed. Safety is more of a concern at night than during the day.

We also heard that homeless populations are often in high crash corridors and are consequently less safe.

In terms of accessibility, convenience of transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities is important, especially in Downtown. We heard a need for more on-demand transit options specifically. Bike lanes could be renamed to better reflect micro-mobility options like e-scooters and e-skateboards/hoverboards. Ownership and management of some community spaces could be better under CBOs or non-profits who are more eligible for funding and could free up City capacity. Non-profits were noted as being better in getting more for their money than the City and are eligible for more types of funding. We heard a perception that innovation in projects and developments typically comes from non-profits and CBOs.

Lloyd is in need of addiction and mental health services, which ties into the need for social services to be more evenly distributed. The Central Eastside greatly lacks green space. Parks and public space downtown need creative opportunities to make Black, Brown, Indigenous and other historically excluded communities feel welcome.

Educational systems teaching structural racism and impacts would provide long-term benefits to perception of Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities. There was a desire for public education to focus on the histories of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people in the region. While there have been improvements, there is still a lot that isn't taught. Though this is perhaps beyond the purview of PBOT and BPS, we still felt it was important to reflect that need. Schools and childcare are generally lacking in the Central City.

The city's funding streams need to be diversified beyond metered parking, especially since there is a desire for parklets to be continued long-term, and in order to meet climate change goals having a majority of funding come from parking fees is at cross-purposes. We also heard, however, that Go Lloyd's Meter Revenue Allocation Committee has been beneficial in funding their neighborhood. Consideration of how these programs will be impacted should be included.

With respect to transit development and transportation, we heard that the Streetcar is an overlooked transit service. It serves a lot of people who are transit-reliant, low-income and/or persons with disabilities with access to medical centers within the city and clinics along the route. Affordable transit-oriented development around streetcar and TriMet service lanes presents an opportunity to advance equitable transportation. We heard concerns that resuming the Fareless Square program in Central

City could be inequitable or too contentious of a political decision. This idea would need greater engagement and research. Bike storage requirements may be looking in the wrong place in terms of equity. Many people in the affordable housing buildings don't use bike storage. Transit passes and subsidies may be a more important route. The Central Eastside Commuter Pass has been an example. We also heard that people with children are less likely to take public transit. There is a need for more daycare, especially in the Central Eastside to both support jobs and business opportunities and to help transit-reliant families.

We heard a desire for greater emphasis on getting vacant or underused buildings in areas with high housing need transitioned to housing. We also heard that no-cause evictions are discriminatory and need to be banned. Homelessness overall has been magnified by the pandemic. We also heard that there is not enough incentive to hire homeless individuals.

In terms of job and business opportunities, TIF is important for redevelopment to improve stability of businesses. Prosper Portland is an important economic engine for the city who has recently made big changes to improve themselves. Partnership with them may be wise. There are competing interests between the strong need for social services and the issues these services impose on the stability of businesses. This harkens back to concerns over the over-clustering of these essential support services.

Charter reform could be extremely beneficial in ensuring representation, which is an issue, and creating more responsive governance. This came up in a few different contexts with some folks who are actively working on charter reform. Another committee or office to achieve equity is not desired or seen as needed, but rather more resources to improve capacity, funding, and give greater power to ones that already exist (Office of Equity and Human Rights for example). Equity manager positions within every City bureau lack coordination and are disjointed from the centralized Office of Equity and Human Rights. The Office of Community and Civic Life is working to amplify what current engagement and equity practitioners are doing right to advance coordination.

CONCLUSIONS

A part of this project was to uncover if and how organizations focused on equity work together in the Central City. While there does not appear to be a group organized around the Central City as a whole, it should be noted that the groups we spoke to were very familiar with each other and frequently worked together. A group of organizations have centered their work on Old Town. As noted before, the success of the Central City is predicated on the success of each of its neighborhoods. The work of these organizations should be upheld and supported by the city. This also points to a need to focus on Old Town to uplift the Central City as a whole.

Furthermore, we did witness some new connections being made, in the roundtables particularly. The example that comes to mind was between a staff member of a city bureau and a community leader. This points to a possible need for a space for organizations and community leaders to make connections to each other and to bureau staff. The biggest disconnect appears to be between city bureaus and the community rather than between community organizations themselves.

As noted throughout the report, there is not a desire for another advisory committee or a city-formed coalition. People want to be heard and want to know that their input will have tangible outcomes. Clear communication from the city, even to just update people that projects are in progress or that challenges have arisen would be helpful to enhancing transparency.

Key Takeaways

- Old Town needs help; People dealing with violence and homicide.
- Police have not provided proper response to those experiencing crises; Portland Street Response has been beneficial but more frequent service is needed.
- Safety is more of a concern at night than during the day.
- Houseless populations are often in high crash corridors and are consequently less safe.
- Convenience of transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities is important, especially Downtown; On-demand transit is a need.
- Bike lanes could be renamed to better reflect micro-mobility options.
- Lloyd is in need of addiction and mental health services.
- The Central Eastside greatly lacks green space and daycare services.
- Educational systems teaching structural racism and impacts would provide long-term benefits.
- The city's funding streams need to be diversified beyond metered parking.
- The Streetcar is an essential, but overlooked transit service.
- There is uncertainty about the equity implications of resuming the Fareless Square program.
- Bike storage requirements may be looking in the wrong place in terms of equity; Transit passes and subsidies may be a more important route.
- Greater emphasis needs to be focused on getting vacant or underused buildings transitioned to housing.
- No-cause evictions are discriminatory and need to be banned.
- TIF is important for redevelopment to improve stability of businesses; Increasing trust for Prosper Portland.
- Charter reform could be extremely beneficial in ensuring representation and creating more responsive governance.
- Another committee or office to achieve equity is not desired or needed.
- Coordination needs among equity staff for bureaus.
- Houselessness has been magnified by the pandemic.
- There is not enough incentive to hire houseless individuals.



Sarah Pearlman/VF Planning)

Existing Coalitions

While our research did not uncover a group or coalition focused on the Central City, we did uncover a number of coalitions that stakeholders that do work impacting equity in the Central City participate in. We got the sense that more community advisory boards were not desired. Furthermore, any coalition had to be formed from the ground up, by the community. Many of the groups that do work in the Central City or work that impacts the Central City already work together in both formal (coalition, advisory group, etc) and informal capacities. The coalitions include, but are not limited to:

- Getting There Together
- Welcome Home Coalition
- Healthy Communities Coalition PDX
- ACHIEVE Coalition
- Coalition of Communities of Color
- Metropolitan Alliance for Workforce Equity

There is also a loose coalition of Old Town cultural institutions that work together to advance equity and social justice, educate the public on the cultural history of the area, and engage in placemaking activities to improve their neighborhood. Focusing on how to support and foster this coalition could be a way that the city can begin to advance equity in the Central City.

The figure on the next page shows a cross-section of the groups that are in coalitions in Portland and how those coalitions overlap. Groups displayed were chosen based on their focus on the Central City, so each coalition has more organizations than are displayed. While the Southwest Corridor Equity Coalition (SWEC) is not focused on the Central City, they provide a successful model in community organizing and coalition building.

Themes

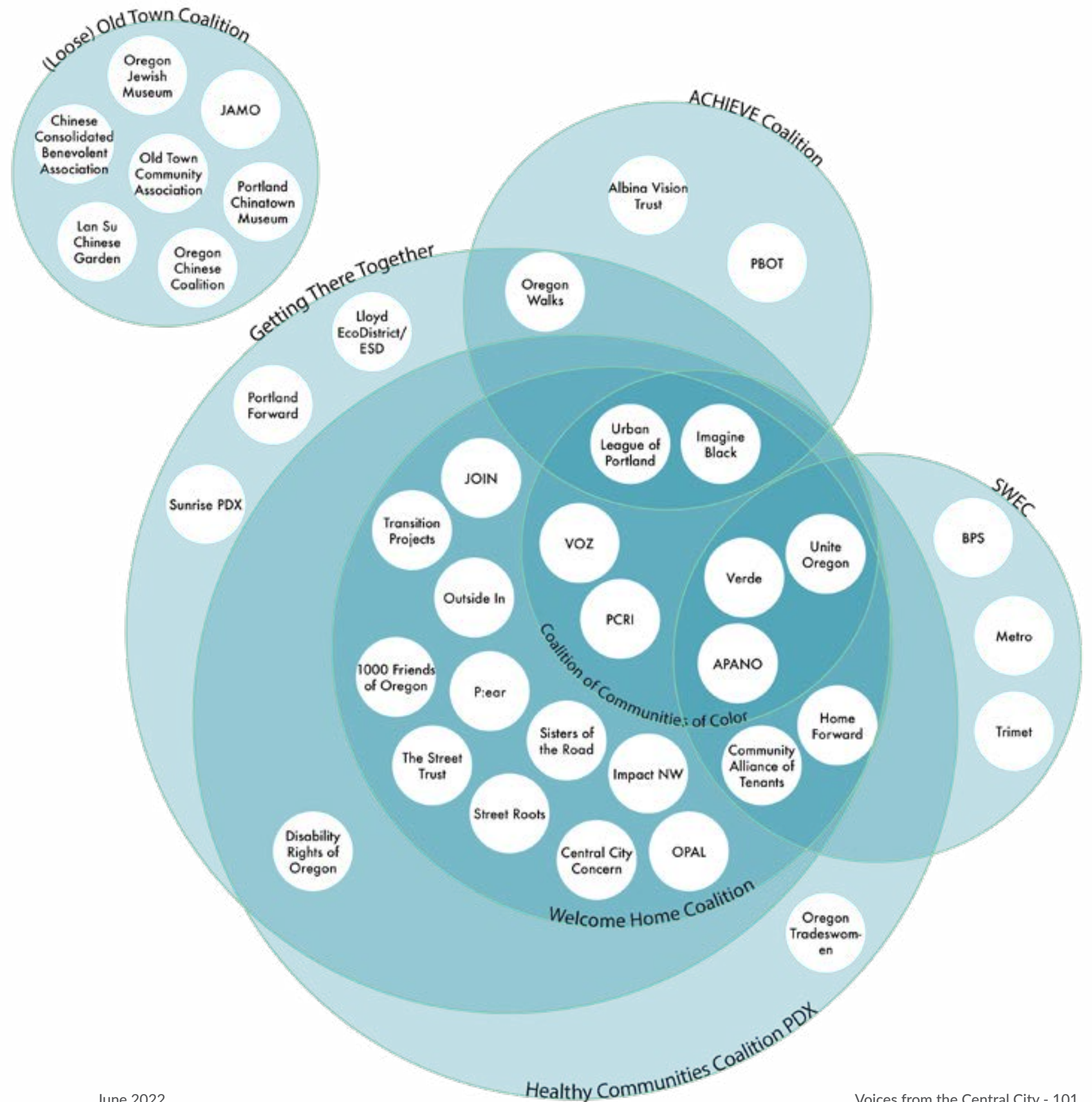
The eleven themes explored in the report represent the needs and desires that arose during engagement. All together, we heard that people do not currently feel heard or empowered. There are clear equity needs that impact people living with disabilities and older adults (transit development), people experiencing houselessness, the sovereignty of Indigenous leaders, and the diverse cultures within the Central City.

Overlapping Coalitions

The figure shows a cross-section of the groups that are in coalitions in Portland and how those coalitions overlap. Groups displayed were chosen based on their focus on the Central City, so each coalition has more organizations than are displayed.

While the Southwest Corridor Equity Coalition (SWEC) is not focused on the Central City, they were included due to their impact on equity and their proximity to the Central City.

While most of the coalitions shown are organized by and made up of nonprofits and community based organizations, ACHEIVE Coalition is convened by Multnomah County and SWEC is convened by Metro and is a partnership between public agencies, nonprofits and private entities.





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INTRODUCTION

Why Promising Practices

We chose the term Promising Practices over Best Practices because we wanted our document to be reflective of the most progressive bottom-up organizations at the time. Moving forward, we hope this document serves as a guide for our team, PBOT, BPS and highlights our efforts so that they may be utilized in the future.

The goal of this document is to provide our clients with a comprehensive report of the best practices around the nation, state and city in an effort to inspire and dive into our equity work. We aim to provide accessible grass - roots organizing efforts supported by the government in an effort to inspire the direction of our own project.

Central Themes

These case studies all began by seeing a need from their community and addressing that need from a grassroots perspective with people powered solutions. They all value collective impact strategy to achieve equitable outcomes for those facing marginalization in their communities. The case studies can be understood as four separate values: Support for: The Arts, Housing and Transportation Needs, BIPOC Businesses, and Quality of Life Programs and Policies.

Supporting The Arts: These organizations center empowerment through the arts to community members.

- » The Center for Cultural Power

Supporting Housing and Transportation Needs: These organizations focus on basic needs such as housing gaps and transportation accessibility and mobility needs in their communities.

- » PODER! San Francisco California
- » Mission Anti- Displacement Coalition, San Francisco California
- » Lift to Rise, Coachella Valley, California
- » East Bay Housing Organizations, Oakland, California
- » Elevate Chicago, Chicago Illinois
- » SafeQueerPDX
- » ACT - LA The Alliance for Community Transit, Los Angeles California
- » SWEC - Southwest Corridor Equity Coalition, Portland, Oregon

Supporting BIPOC Businesses: These organizations value connecting and financing BIPOC businesses to uplift the local economy.

- » Mercatus PDX

Supporting Quality of Life Programs and Policies: The organizations concentrate on the health of their community, centering racial health inequities and food insecurity.

Coalition for Food & Health Equity

- » Oregon Health Equity Alliance
- » Willamette Farm and Food
- » Oregon DD Coalition
- » Coalition of Communities of Color
- » VanDashboard
- » REACH - Multnomah County Health
- » Equity Now Coalition, Columbus, Ohio
- » Nordhaven Park & Play, Copenhagen, Denmark

Other underlying trends shared by these groups are environmental justice, racial health equity and addressing the socio-economic conditions that have created such conditions. In understanding our role within this context, we seek to support a targeted grassroots mission that centers the lived experience of those most impacted by the harms of socioeconomic and environmental inequalities within the Central City.

CASE STUDIES

National & International

Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition, San Francisco, California

The Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition (MAC) was originally formed to fight neighborhood displacement brought upon the neighborhood by the tech start-ups and evictions of the dot-com boom in the late 1990s. They are similar to our project in that they are a small section located within a central city.

Since the creation of MAC, they quickly learned the necessity of zoning and local government's land use powers as a potential terrain of engagement in seeking to determine the course of neighborhood redevelopment. They understand that neighborhood mobilization and real estate interests go head-to-head, all while artists organize around rising rents. During this time, the Mission increasingly became a high-tech playground with class and community tensions running high. Residential cohabitation with mixed income allows for the transmission of cultural norms that promise to lift the social and cultural level of the urban poor. Values of moral habilitation are fused with the story of the urban frontier being reclaimed by an upstanding, hardworking, and virtuous middle class.*

* "Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition - FoundSF." https://www.foundsf.org/index.php?title=Mission_Anti-Displacement_Coalition.



ACT-LA

PODER! San Francisco, California

People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Justice (PODER) is a grassroots organization that works to create people-powered solutions to the profound environmental and economic inequities facing low-income Latino immigrants and other communities of color in San Francisco.

Since 1991, PODER has centered the experiences of residents in the Mission, Excelsior and other southeast San Francisco neighborhoods. They have won important cases in public health, the availability of affordable housing, access to parks and open space and accountable government. They are a people- and issue-based coalition that hopes to bring about a meaningful multiracial democracy and create new models for economic resiliency and environmental sustainability in a city facing growing inequality. Their two major campaigns are PUEBLOTE: Public Lands in People's Hands and Working Together: Putting the Economy in People's Hands which empower San Franciscans by providing affordable housing and economic opportunities.

Website: <https://www.podersf.org/>

Lift to Rise, Coachella Valley, California

Local Coachella Valley service providers collaborated to determine how to meet higher service demands, provide housing stability, food and healthcare access as indicated by a Community Needs Assessment.

To address the disproportionate vulnerability of Latine residents in the Coachella Valley area and stimulate a co-production model of participation, the Lift to Rise coalition of community based organizations used funding and strategies from Feeding America's Collaborating for Clients methodology. Lift to Rise works simultaneously to provide emergency aid, and increase overall affordable housing supply, and fight institutional disinvestment in the long term. Interventions included assistance for community members in the form of emergency financial relief, improved access to housing and energy subsidies, and better access to financial institutions in the eastern Coachella Valley. Their mission is to realize a future where all Coachella Valley families are healthy, stable, and thriving. They use a "Plan-Do-Study-Act" process to iterate and scale their programming and interventions and have community action networks to engage and level up pilot programs.

Website: <https://www.lifttorise.org/about>

East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO), Oakland, California

EBHO is a group of private, nonprofit, and public member organizations committed to preserving, protecting, and creating affordable housing through education, advocacy, organizing, and coalition building. They are organized around the issue of affordable housing. In their strategic plan they note that they "collaborate with cities and hold them accountable [and] lift up the voices of residents who are most affected by the housing crisis." EBHO is a consortium of city governments, nonprofits, and private developers committed to housing security in the East San Francisco Bay Area.

The main structure is based around the EBHO's six ongoing committees. Four are geographically focused (Concord, Oakland, Berkeley, and East Bay Regional Policy) and two are mission focused (Faith & Justice and Resident & Community Organizing Program). Committees are made up of EBHO members and shape and participate in the groups campaigns generally focused on advocacy and education. The EBHO is organized with dedicated staff and an oversight board.

Website: <https://ebho.org/>



ACT-LA The Alliance for Community Transit, Los Angeles, California

The Alliance for Community Transit – Los Angeles is a coalition of over 40 member organizations throughout Los Angeles county, that strives to create just, equitable, sustainable transit systems and neighborhoods for all people in Los Angeles, placing the interest of low-income communities and communities of color first as they create a more sustainable region.

ACT-LA envisions a Los Angeles that is a transit-rich city, a place where all people have access to quality jobs, affordable housing, necessary social services, ample transportation options, and a voice in decision-making. They believe in building a sustainable community through the reduction of toxic air pollution, the promotion of public health, and the strengthening of community culture and heritage. Together, they participate in advocacy, organizing, and policy-making—and collaborate on regional campaigns to improve the Southland. Their transit Campaigns include: Reliable and frequent bus service, universal fareless transit, funding non-policing safety strategies on transit.

Website: <https://www.act-la.org/>

The Center for Cultural Power, Oakland, California

Based on the idea that culture shapes politics and economics, this artists-of-color-led organization strives to “inspire artists and culture makers to imagine a world where power is distributed equitably and where we live in harmony with nature”

The Center for Cultural Power (CCP) uplifts artists, equity, creativity, regenerative relationships, biocultural diversity, transformation, truth telling, and joy by supporting artists through fellowships, training, and activation which creates opportunities for intersectional stories about migration, climate, racial, and gender justice. CCP also develops cultural strategies with organizations and practitioners because they believe art can accelerate cultural change.

Recent work includes “Beyond Status,” a compilation of short films by immigrants that highlights their authentic experience; “The Disruptors,” a fellowship to help bring BIPOC and Trans voices to Hollywood; and “Climate Woke,” a program that supports artists in imagining a world that is aware of environmental consequences.

Website: <https://www.culturalpower.org/about>

Coalition for Food & Health Equity, Hudson County, New Jersey

The Coalition for Food and Health Equity is a Black women- led nonprofit that places hunger within the larger context of racial health equity, working to end hunger, improve health, and advance economic equity within Black and Brown communities.

They envision a nation where no one goes hungry, and everyone can access the food and wellness services they need. Founded in 2020 by Dr. Leeja Carter, Coalition Equity is an outgrowth of the Hudson County Hunger Project (HCHP); a hunger program serving Hudson County, NJ residents. HCHP launched in March 2020 as a direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic with a model that delivered weekly meals to vulnerable populations in Hudson County by partnering with local restaurants. Since March 2020, Coalition Equity has expanded to addressing hunger, health, and wellness through a racial, health, and economic equity framework. Their two main programs are the Hunger Project and Senior Fitness courses, which both target resource sharing, community wellness, and coalition building. The Hunger Project is a weekly meal delivery program for individuals experiencing food insecurity and Senior Fitness Courses offer weekly low impact fitness classes appropriate for seniors.

Website: <https://www.coalitionequity.org/>

Equity Now Coalition, Columbus, Ohio

The Equity Now Coalition is a multi-year collective action initiative focused on social justice. The Equity Now Coalition (ENC) is facilitating the design and implementation of a collective impact strategy to achieve equitable outcomes for Black residents of Columbus, Ohio.

ENC acknowledges racism is a public health issue and seeks to address and reform policies that contribute structural racism, to improve the lives of Black people. The coalition began meeting weekly to share information and leverage their collective efforts to respond to the COVID -19 pandemic. Participants committed to create a long-term strategy to achieve systemically equitable and measurable outcomes. ENC strives to create the infrastructure necessary to sustain Black-led socioeconomic advancement to redress structural racism through policy and investment changes to close the generational wealth gap for Black people and improve the quality of life for all. This coalition African-American community leaders are calling on the community to do more to combat racism and improve living conditions for African-American residents in the region. Objectives include local police reform by partnering with the Fraternal Order of Police and encouraging state politicians to declare racism a public health crisis.

Website: <http://equitynowcoalition.org/>

VanDashboard, Vancouver BC, Canada

The VanDashboard showcases progress on city initiatives in Vancouver, BC to create transparency and maintain a dialogue with residents.

The Canadian city of Vancouver hosts two dashboards: VanDashboard and Healthy City. The VanDashboard explores 65 indicators across six categories:

- 1) Core service delivery
- 2) Affordability and housing
- 3) Climate change
- 4) Economy and finances
- 5) Equity and social issues
- 6) Vibrant culture.

The Equity and social issues page includes overdose calls, homelessness services clients, and social grants awarded, among others. Each target is backed by an explanatory page that explains the rationale and analysis and includes access to the data. Each page contains a “Contact us” button.

“The Healthy City Strategy is comprised of 13 long-term goals for the well-being of the City and its people, including ambitious targets to reach by 2025.” Goals include the health of children, housing, social connections, and personal expression. The Healthy City dashboard is supported by Partnership for Healthy Cities and Bloomberg Philanthropies. The tool is intended “to be a tool for changing the systems that create inequities between communities.” Readers are encouraged to explore the data and use it to improve their communities.

Website: <https://opendata.vancouver.ca/pages/vandashboard/>



PODERSF!

Elevated Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

Elevated Chicago is a group that works to achieve equitable transit-oriented development (eTOD) to achieve racial equity in Chicago to improve health, climate resilience and cultural vitality of people of color living and working near transit.

Elevated Chicago is governed by a steering committee made of representatives from local CBOs, they work with local public health to distribute community sustainability grants. They argue that transit-oriented development should be more equitable than automobile centric development. In practice, this hasn't been the case, in the city of Chicago since 2013 there has been a program to incentivize development near transit systems, however much of this development has not been affordable and is gentrifying historically black and latine neighborhoods. Elevated Chicago works in strategic areas within the city, along transit corridors and within ½ mile of transit stops where people of color are at a higher risk of displacement.

Website: <https://elevatedchicago.org/>

Nordhavnen Park N Play, Copenhagen, Denmark

The starting point for the design of the Nordhavnen Park n Play was a conventional car parking structure. The task was to create an attractive green façade and a concept that would encourage people to use the rooftop as a playspace and community area.

Copenhagen Denmark has found a solution for the lack of childspaces in their Central City, playgrounds and parking garages. Their goal was to create green, playful, free public spaces for children and young families. Park 'n' Play is a new car park situated in Århusgadekvarteret, the first phase of a major development plan for Copenhagen Nordhavn development project. The neighborhood is currently under development and will host a mix of new and existing buildings in the future. The basic principle of an active car park is the idea of an accessible and recreational roof offered to local inhabitants and visitors alike. Visibility and accessibility are therefore essential when creating a living roof.

Website: <https://jaja.archi/project/konditaget-luders/>



Nordhavenen Park N Play

Oregon

Oregon DD Coalition

The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition provides developmental disabilities' organizations throughout Oregon the opportunity to work closely with other professionals, self-advocates and leaders in the field. They envision a future in which people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have a voice in legislation and systems that affect their lives.

Their vision is to provide opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live their lives to the fullest by influencing the services associated with their support, rights, and well-being. They aim to help create a future where all people with developmental disabilities are respected for their skills, talents and contributions to our society. The Oregon DD Coalition created the Grassroots Oregon (GO!) Project in July 2004 to connect regional advocates, identify issues of concern in communities statewide, and provide technical assistance regarding issues related to individuals with developmental disabilities. Oregon DD Coalition advocates for policy advancement through legislative processes. Provides a list of resources and supportive organizations. The Oregon DD Coalition provides training opportunities and resources for people who support individuals with developmental disabilities, including direct support providers, family members, self-advocates and related professionals.

Website: <https://orddcoalition.org/>



Oregon DD Coalition

Willamette Farm and Food, Lane County

Willamette Farm & Food Coalition facilitates and supports the development of secure, sustainable and inclusive food systems in and around Eugene, Oregon. They understand that the best way to support farms and food businesses and ensure that the regional food system is secure, sustainable, and inclusive is to buy locally grown products.

Willamette Farm & Food Coalition provides Eugene area residents with resources to eat farm fresh foods from Lane County growers and ranchers. They support a locally grown directory and fill your pantry (FYP) program to provide Oregonians with a unique opportunity to buy staple and storage crops in bulk directly from area farmers. In 2020 Willamette Farm & Food Coalition was invited to serve as the Farm to School procurement hub for Lane County. This role, granted through the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network, helps to connect farmers and school nutrition staff together for the purchase of farm fresh foods in our county's schools. They work in close partnership with the county's farm to school education Hub: the School Garden Project.

Website: <https://www.willamettefarmandfood.org/>

REACH, Multnomah County Health Department

Multnomah County Health Department's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program collaborates with the ACHIEVE Coalition and its partners to implement three primary strategies (Nutrition, Community Clinical Linkage, Physical Activity/Built Environment) and two collaborative strategies (Communications, Economic Development);

REACH works with their partners to identify, design and implement communications, policy, systems, and environmental improvements which are culturally relevant, to redress chronic disease burden and disparities among Black/African immigrant and refugees from the cradle to the cane. REACH uplifts and preserves Black culture and health, builds organizational capacity to increase access to: safety net and community health programs, nutritious foods. Increases economic development opportunities, and improve community design to connect safe and accessible places to thrive, worship, shop, play and work. REACH is funded by a national grant from the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Website: <https://www.multco.us/reach/about-us>

Portland

Safe Queer PDX

Safe Queer PDX was created in response to the targeted hatred and violence occurring here in the streets of Portland, Oregon. Their goal with this platform was to be a streamlined resource that people can use to stay informed, connected, and safe.

Safe Queer PDX was an Instagram account that would share sighting and activities of known hate groups, Queer community events, safety tips, a helpline that would call Uber/lift rides in the moment for those targeted by hate crimes, most often happening waiting at bus stops or walking home. Their work was in understanding that the systems put in place may not protect the BIPOC and Queer people and that they must protect and fight for their community. Safe Queer PDX served as a pillar for safety and connection in the LGBTQA+3 community from 2017-2022 with over 3,000 followers and 280 posts.

Website: <https://www.instagram.com/safequeerpdx/?hl=en>



Mercatus PDX

Mercatus is a business directory and story archive that elevates the unique and universal narratives of entrepreneurs of color in Portland and connects the city and region with local talents, businesses, services and products that come from diverse entrepreneurs.

This directory is made up of 1031 business owners that are advertised and uplifted through the site and partnership in efforts to create a thriving inclusive economy, where BIPOC businesses are not reduced to tokenism and outliers. Mercatus understands that, “We rarely see ethnically diverse entrepreneurs sharing their anthems, struggles, and best practices. Yet today, more than ever, that is what we require to remain competitive and reflect the shifting demographics of an emerging tapestry of innovators, small business owners and creators.” Mercatus elevates BIPOC businesses in new industries and undiscovered markets, they connect entrepreneurs and a network of business resources.

Mercatus has partnered with Travel Portland, Portland Means Progress, and the City of Portland to elevate the directory which receives hundreds of visitors each month. Mercatus is a direct supply to vendors within My People’s Market, a collaborative event organized by Travel Portland and Prosper Portland. The marketplace is aimed to advance opportunities for business owners of color by connecting them to the travel industry and other professionals who can help expand and scale their businesses. Mercatus provides pathways to new business opportunities including access to booming Portland industries like athletic and outdoor, technology, green cities, manufacturing, and tourism.

Website: <https://mercatuspdx.com>



Southwest Equity Coalition (SWEC)

The Southwest Equity Coalition was formed by community organizations and government to steward the Southwest Equitable Development Strategy with the recognition that major transit projects have been followed by displacement and disruption.

The coalition is focused on equity and social justice, equitable housing, workforce stability, business stability, and community development, and all of that within a lens of building health and the ability for families to prosper in place within Southwest Portland, and specifically around the West Portland Town Center. The coalition is facilitated by an Executive Committee made up of five BIPOC-led organizations, the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT), HAKI Community Organization, Centro Cultural, and Unite Oregon. The Executive Committee makes decisions on behalf of the coalition, including the coalition’s position on policy or project changes, admission of new members, offering stipends to community members, and ensuring diverse representation in the workgroups. There is also a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that provides insight into the design and implementation of SWEC initiatives and plans. The TAC includes representatives from Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), Community Development Corporations (CDCs), Trimet, Metro, 1000 Friends, and community organizations. The coalition includes three workgroups. The Anti-Displacement Workgroup focuses on mitigating residential involuntary displacement. The WPTC Community Development Workgroup was born of the West Portland Town City Plan and works with BPS on residential stability and ownership, mobility, and economic opportunity. The Business and Workforce Development Workgroup focuses on inventorying small businesses and supporting BIPOC-owned businesses. Each working group is led by a member of the Executive Committee.

Website: <https://swcorridorequity.org/>

Oregon Health Equity Alliance

OHEA is a people of color led collaborative, organized to center and uplift the wisdom of our communities of color through racial justice informed health equity policies and practices as part of the movement to dismantle white supremacy and shift the imbalance of power.

The OHEA convenes organizations who serve constituents facing health inequities in the Tri-County region of Clackamas, Washington and Multnomah counties. The collaborative brings together community-based organizations, health systems, government and institutions to talk through how they can better coordinate their work to provide more equitable outcomes for communities of color. Their work was inspired because of the gap in advocating for health equity policies and social determinants of health as it pertains to health disparities. To this day, they continue to advocate for racial justice informed health equity policies and practices. Their work includes community powered change in partnership with the Multnomah County Health Department, advocacy work for legislative change through priority legislation, and technical assistance and consulting work related to health equity. OHEA focuses on supporting the following policies, Expand and Sustain Tribal Health Workers (HB2088), Cover all People (HB 2164), and Racism is a Public Health Crisis (HB 2337).

Website: <https://www.oregonhealthequity.org/>

Coalition of Communities of Color

The Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) was formed in 2001 to address the socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism and inequity of services experienced by families, children, and communities of color and organize these communities for collective action resulting in social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice and prosperity.

The CCC is an alliance of culturally-specific community-based organizations representing African, African American, Asian, Latino, Middle Eastern and North African, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Slavic communities of color. Their work includes policy analysis and advocacy, environmental justice, culturally-appropriate data and research, and leadership development in communities of color. The CCC supports the The Research Justice Institute (RJI), an institute that seeks to decolonize research and data as a way to realize systemic change for BIPOC communities by conducting research that defers to BIPOC communities. They work to elevate the everyday knowledge and strategies of BIPOC communities and bridge the divide between community and dominant institutions through the power and uses of BIPOC data.

Their environmental justice work focuses on energy justice, water justice, climate justice by gathering in coalitions to find pathways to change, grow community engagement and input in existing policy discussions. Their Environmental Justice work has led to the creation of the Portland Clean Energy Fund, The Oregon Clean Energy Opportunity campaign, The Oregon Water Futures Project, and Climate Justice X Design.

Website: <https://www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org/>



Coalition of Communities of Color



VF PLANNING



RECOMMENDATIONS



INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of our workshop project we set out to find out who works, plays and lives in the Central City (CC) and what their needs are. The CC will play a pivotal role in Portland's aspirational path towards equity and livability. Here, due to population, commerce, employment, transportation, and cultural amenity density, lies the base upon which an equitable future can be built. Through our research we have identified 11 themes as requiring immediate need and attention: accessibility, cultural representation, engagement, funding, governance, houselessness, housing, jobs/businesses, perception, safety, and transit development. Our engagement process included roundtable focus groups and interviews to identify those advancing equity in the CC and whose needs the City should be prioritizing.

Through our engagement, VF Planning identified the following 11 themes as integral to developing equity in the CC. We used these themes to develop recommendations:

Engagement Themes



The existing conditions research, engagement roundtables and interviews highlighted the core themes above as requiring immediate attention and solutions. After evaluating our themes through a series of technical memos, we formed a Recommendations Matrix.¹ VF planning listened to CC community members, advocates, and leaders, summarized their needs, and now proposes 12 recommendations.²

¹ Method of prioritizing recommendations by consistency with engagement themes Recommendations Matrix

² These recommendations are not official language set forth by PBOT and BPS and are recommendations of VF Planning.

RECOMMENDATIONS


Initiative	Lead Organization	Themes	Prospective Partners
Fund Biannual Equity Summit with Community Leaders	BPS, PBOT	Governance, Engagement, Perception	Coalition for Communities of Color
Create an Equity Dashboard	BPS	Accessibility, Perception, Governance	ACHIEVE Coalition
Add a Land Acknowledgment to the City Website	City of Portland, Office of Tribal Affairs	Cultural Representation, Engagement Governance,	Tribal Liaisons, Oregon Native American Chamber
Fund CBO's Doing Equity Work	Prosper Portland	Accessibility, Cultural Representation Engagement, Funding, Jobs/business, Perception, Safety	Venture Portland
Bolster and Amplify Cultural Events and celebrations	Office of Civic and Community Life (OCCL)	Accessibility, Cultural Representation, Engagement, Governance, Jobs/Business, Safety	Portland Parks and Recreation, PBOT, Prosper Portland, Travel Portland
Designate Old Town as a Cultural District	PBOT, BPS, Portland Parks and Recreation	Cultural Representation, Jobs/Businesses, Houselessness, Housing, Funding, Engagement, Perception, Safety	JAMO, OJM, OTCA, Portland Chinatown Museum and Lan Su Garden
Build a Park and Play Parking Garage	PBOT, BPS	Perception, Accessibility, Engagement	Harper's Playground, Portland Parks Foundation,
Invest in Green Spaces on the Eastside	PBOT, BPS, Portland Parks and Recreation.	Governance, Accessibility, Cultural Representation, Engagement, Funding, Perception, Safety	Portland Parks Foundation, Central Eastside Industrial Council, Depave Portland, Friends of Trees, Friends of the Green Loop
Support Transit Options for Disabled People	PBOT, Portland Streetcar, ODOT	Accessibility, Engagement, Perception, Transit Development	Ride Connection, TriMet, Disability Rights Oregon
Develop Clusters of Social Services Across the City	Multnomah County, Joint Office of Homeless Services, Prosper Portland	Houselessness, Governance, Accessibility, Safety, Jobs/Business	Go Lloyd, Street Roots, Central City Concern, Blanchet House, Friends of the Green Loop, HRAC, Outside In, Right 2 Survive
Expand Provision of Service Hubs For Houseless Populations	Joint Office of Homeless Services	Accessibility, Funding, Houselessness, Jobs, Safety	City Team, A Home for Everyone, PHLUSH
Equitable Transit Oriented Development	Prosper Portland, PBOT, BPS	Accessibility, Funding, Safety, Transit Development	Home Forward, 1000 Friends of Oregon, TriMet, REACH CDC
Develop a Central City Community Center	Portland Parks and Recreation	Accessibility, Cultural Representation, Engagement, Houselessness, Jobs/Business, Perception, Safety	YWCA, Friends of the Green Loop, Central City Concern

RECOMMENDATION PROFILES




1. EQUITY SUMMIT

A. FUND A BI-ANNUAL EQUITY SUMMIT WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS

Strategy		Description	
Convene a biannual equity summit led by equity leaders, who are representative of marginalized populations and are reflective of residents' needs		A day-long conference with two-hour segments each covering different equity issues with the goals of improving City transparency on issues and related projects, developing community-inspired accountability measures, and brainstorming and funding innovative policies and projects to stimulate progress. Segments will include issues such as houselessness, transportation, or community spaces.	
Benefits		Action Items	
Governance, Engagement, Perception 		Find funding source to pay for paying participants Identify and book a location for event Develop advertising for the event Identify equity centered organizations to participate Send event information and invitations Develop City Auditor/City Budget Office presentation on current conditions	
Lead / Possible Lead Org	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Office of Equity and Human Rights BPS + PBOT	Medium	Medium	\$\$-\$\$\$
Community Partners: Coalition for Communities of Color			

1. EQUITY SUMMIT


B. CREATE AN EQUITY DASHBOARD

Strategy		Description	
Equity Dashboard		Create and regularly update a public-facing dashboard that describes equity goals, progress towards achieving those goals, & contact information for dedicated staff.	
Benefits		Action Items	
Accessibility, Perception, Governance 		Determine action items from public engagement Build a dashboard that outlines equity-related goals, a timeline for adoption, a progress tracker, and the contact information for responsible staff Assign a staff member to regularly update and be point-person for questions	
Lead / Possible Lead Org	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
BPS	Medium	Medium	\$\$-\$\$\$
Community Partner: Portland State University			




Bob Cronk Photography


2. ADD A LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THE CITY WEBSITE

Strategy		Description	
Add a land acknowledgement to the City's home page		Acknowledging colonization and historical harms to Indigenous people is an important step in furthering a dialogue between indigenous people and the City to repair past harms, center their lived experience and acknowledge their wisdom and attachment to the land.	
Benefits		Action Items	
Cultural Representation, Engagement, Governance 		Contact local tribes through the City's tribal liaison office to write a culturally sensitive message that acknowledges past harms. Consider adding a glossary of key terms and a "Why this is important" section	
Lead / Possible Lead Org	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
OMF, Tribal Relations	Short	Low	\$
Community Partners: Tribal Nations			

3. PILOT YEAR OF FUNDING CBO'S


Strategy		Description	
Pilot year of funding CBOs doing equity work		Pilot a year where the city funds CBOs doing equity work in the CC to determine if this is a financially nimble way to scale projects. Include specific benchmarks to prove success and measurable outcomes to strive for, for example: increased tourism by x percent, x new businesses in specific geography, improved resident perception as captured by pre/post surveys, etc.	
Benefits		Action Items	
Accessibility, Cultural Representation, Engagement, Funding, Jobs/business, Perception, and Safety 		Engage with coalitions outlined in this report to gauge interest in program Determine where funding will come from Write RFP for participants Assign staff member to be point-person Fund CBOs Monitor program Write report of results Determine whether to institutionalize program or not	
Lead / Possible Lead Org	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Prosper Portland	2 years	Medium	\$\$-\$\$\$
Community Partners: Venture Portland			

4. BOLSTER AND AMPLIFY CULTURAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS


Strategy		Description	
Amplify cultural events and celebrations in the Central City		This strategy would honor different voices from the city and region by supporting public celebrations planned by community-based organizations. This is important because it would highlight cultural heritage in a public way, share joy, and connect residents from inside and outside the CC. It could also be a time to remember past mistakes so as not to repeat them.	
Benefits		Action Items	
Accessibility, Cultural Representation, Engagement, Governance, Jobs/Business, Safety 		Engage with CBOs to learn of events that could be supported. Create a placemaking grant for cultural events. Develop criteria for what constitutes a cultural event. Promote such events to the rest of the city.	
Lead / Possible Lead Org	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Office of Community and Civic Life	Short - Medium	Low - Medium	\$\$
Community Partners: Portland Parks and Recreation, PBOT, Prosper Portland, Travel Portland			



5. DESIGNATE OLD TOWN AS A CULTURAL DISTRICT

Strategy		Description	
Designate Old Town as a Cultural District with recognition of the neighborhood's history.		This would look like additional support for Old Town cultural institutions. Care to avoid displacing existing residents will be crucial. Old Town cultural institutions envision a tourist and educational hub for the city and region.	
Benefits		Action Items	
Cultural Representation, Jobs/Businesses, Houselessness, Housing, Funding, Engagement, Perception, Safety 		Develop a plan, conduct outreach, work with cultural institutions and other stakeholders	
Lead / Possible Lead Org	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
	Medium	Medium	\$\$
PBOT, BPS	Short- Medium	Medium - High	\$\$
Community Partners: Japanese American Museum of Oregon, Oregon Jewish Museum, Center for Holocaust Education, Portland Chinatown Museum, Lan Su Chinese Garden, Mercatus, My Peoples' Market, Portland Business Alliance, Travel Portland			


6. BUILD A PARK AND PLAY PARKING GARAGE PLAYGROUND

Strategy		Description	
Develop more family and child-friendly spaces in the Central City by utilizing underutilized space.		Develop more child focused, family centered spaces in the Central City by converting the top floor of parking garages into playgrounds. The Central City is lacking spaces for families to play, live and thrive; Park and Plays have proven to be an incredible way to build family-friendly urban green spaces. (See Nordnhaven Park & Play in the Promising Practices for more info.) The basic principle of an active parking garage is the idea of an accessible and recreational roof offered to local inhabitants and visitors alike. Visibility and accessibility are therefore essential when creating a living roof.	
Benefits		Action Items	
Perception, Families(Accessibility), Engagement 		Review and compile possible facilities feasible for conversion. Begin line of communication with parking structure owners	
Lead / Possible Lead Org	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
PBOT, PBS, Portland Parks and Recreation	Medium	Medium	\$-\$\$
Community Partners: Harper's Playground, SmartPark			




Nordnhaven Park and Play, Copenhagen - See Promising Practices for more

7. INVEST IN GREEN SPACES ON THE EAST SIDE


Strategy		Description	
Increase greenspace and playspace on the Eastside of the Central City		Reclaim vacant lots, right of way, dead end streets, and long term parking spaces to repurpose roadway and concrete space into depraved, planted, and programmed community green spaces. Support community garden or other supportive and free greenspace community programming. Community representatives emphasized the importance of having inviting and accessible community spaces in the Central City which are welcoming to all. (Governance, accessibility, cultural representation, engagement, funding, perception, safety) Existing Conditions. The Central Eastside of Portland is an urban heat island, and is lacking tree coverage. The Central Eastside has 1 park, the Eastbank Esplanade which is mostly paved, and lacks green and recreational space.	
Benefits		Action Items	
Governance, Accessibility, Cultural Representation, Engagement, Funding, Perception, Safety 		Determine work plan for green placemaking in the Central City in the short, medium and long term. Establish cost estimates for reclaiming ROW to depave the Central City and create green places and spaces. Deploy placemaking grant funds for temporary and popup green, cooling, and shade spaces to assist with heat island effect.	
Lead / Possible Lead Org	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
PBOT plaza working group, BPS, and PP&R	6 months (parklets) - 5 years (street vacations)	Medium	\$-\$\$\$
Community Partners: Depave Portland, Friends of Trees, Friends of the Green Loop, Verde			

8. SUPPORT TRANSIT OPTIONS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE LIVING IN THE CC


Strategy		Description	
Build and invest in transportation options in the Central City to increase accessibility and mobility.		<p>Fare-less Fridays, Transit subsidies, No fare on Fridays, Paratransit one-click Request System.</p> <p>Focus on the high concentration of older adults and folks with disabilities living downtown, particularly in the Pearl.</p> <p>Older adults and people with disabilities coming into Central City from elsewhere in the region to access services. Within the Central Ccity there can be first/last mile barriers for these groups.</p>	
Benefits		Action Items	
Accessibility, Engagement, Perception, Transit Development 		Implement Monthly Fareless Fridays in the Central City. Investigate other one-click paratransit systems that have been successful in other cities.	
Lead / Possible Lead Org	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Trimet, PBOT, Portland Streetcar, ODOT	Medium	Medium	\$\$
Community Partners: Ride Connection			




9. DEVELOP CLUSTERS OF SOCIAL SERVICES ACROSS THE CITY

Strategy		Description	
Develop clusters of social and supportive services across the city. Start with a pilot in the Lloyd District.		Develop smaller clusters to lift the burden from Old Town and Downtown. Social services to support unhoused people is needed in other neighborhoods.	
Benefits		Action Items	
Houselessness, Governance, Accessibility, Safety, Jobs/Business 		Conduct outreach, scout new locations, provide capacity funds, train houseless individuals to provide peer support and resources	
Lead / Possible Lead Org	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Joint Office of Homeless Services & Prosper Portland	Medium	High	\$\$\$
Community Partners: Go Lloyd, Street Roots, Central City Concern, Blanchet House, Friends of the Green Loop, HRAC, Outside In, Right 2 Survive			


10. EXPAND PROVISION OF SERVICE HUBS FOR HOUSELESS POPULATIONS

Strategy		Description	
Develop service hubs across the CC that provides houseless populations with free services to achieve basic needs		Service hubs in central locations in neighborhoods that include restrooms, hand-washing stations, free laundry coupons or access to washing machines, trash receptacles with regular pick-up, drinking water and access to food, and cooling/warming stations for extreme weather events	
Benefits		Action Items	
Accessibility, Funding, Houselessness, Jobs, Safety 		Engage with houseless individuals & providers to understand needs and identify locations Identify and/or provide funding to service providers to develop hubs Develop work plan to hire houseless individuals as consultants	
Lead / Possible Lead Org	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Joint Office of Homeless Services	Medium	Medium	\$\$
Community Partners: Street Roots, Central City Concern, Blanchet House, Friends of the Green Loop, HRAC, Outside In, Right 2 Survive			

11. DESIGN ETOD DEVELOPMENT WITH AFFORDABLE FAMILY-SIZED, AND ADA-ACCESSIBLE UNITS

Strategy		Description	
Provision transit oriented and affordable housing options which supports families and residents with disabilities.		Convert existing housing or other buildings, or construct new housing units which are transit oriented, affordable, and ADA accessible or family sized. Equitable, affordable, and convenient transit development (both the transit system itself and transit-oriented development) that responds to the needs and preferred modes of communities who are most reliant on transit options. (Transit Development, Accessibility, Housing) Affordability of housing surrounding transit is important. Existing Conditions - Housing stock in the CC is aging, and often not ADA compliant.	
Benefits		Action Items	
Transit Development, Accessibility, Housing, Engagement, Safety 		Consider incentives and regulations that ensure when transit-oriented development is built, it includes family-sized, accessible and affordable units.	
Lead / Possible Lead Org	Time-frame	Level of Effort	Cost
Prosper Portland, PHB, Home Forward, BPS, Trimet, PBOT	Long	High	\$\$\$
Community Partners: Reach CDC			

12. DEVELOP A CENTRAL CITY COMMUNITY CENTER

Strategy		Description	
Central City Community Center		A Parks and Recreation developed public community center, easily accessible to everyone in the CC. Our engagement illuminated the desire for more community connections, green space and gardens, places to gather and celebrate different cultures, safe and fun places for families with children to hang out without having to purchase anything, and public showers, laundry and bathroom facilities. Key to this idea is ongoing, reliable funding for programming, maintenance and staffing.	
Benefits		Action Items	
Accessibility, Cultural Representation, Engagement, Houselessness, Jobs/Business, Perception, Safety 		Community outreach to confirm people living in the targeted area are interested Research funding options that prioritize robust ongoing programming RFP for firm dedicated to universal design, ecological responsibility and sustainability, & informed by various cultures Plan to link to multi-modal transportation Prioritize designers from a variety of cultural backgrounds, especially Indigenous Identify and contact program partners who would engage in the day-to-day work of the community center Collaboratively design programming that is culturally informed, equity-focused, trauma-informed, and prepared to meet the needs of both high-functioning and struggling individuals	
Lead / Possible Lead Org	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Portland Parks and Recreation	Medium-Long	High	\$\$\$
Community Partners: YWCA, BPS, Prosper Portland, REACH-Multnomah County Health			

CONCLUSIONS

We listened to our stakeholders and found 11 themes running through our conversations. Some of our suggestions are easy, low-hanging fruit, some are innovative, and some are complicated, but all would improve equity in the Central City. Our recommendations are a direct reflection of our love and service to the City of Portland and we feel honored to be a part of shaping the future of our home.





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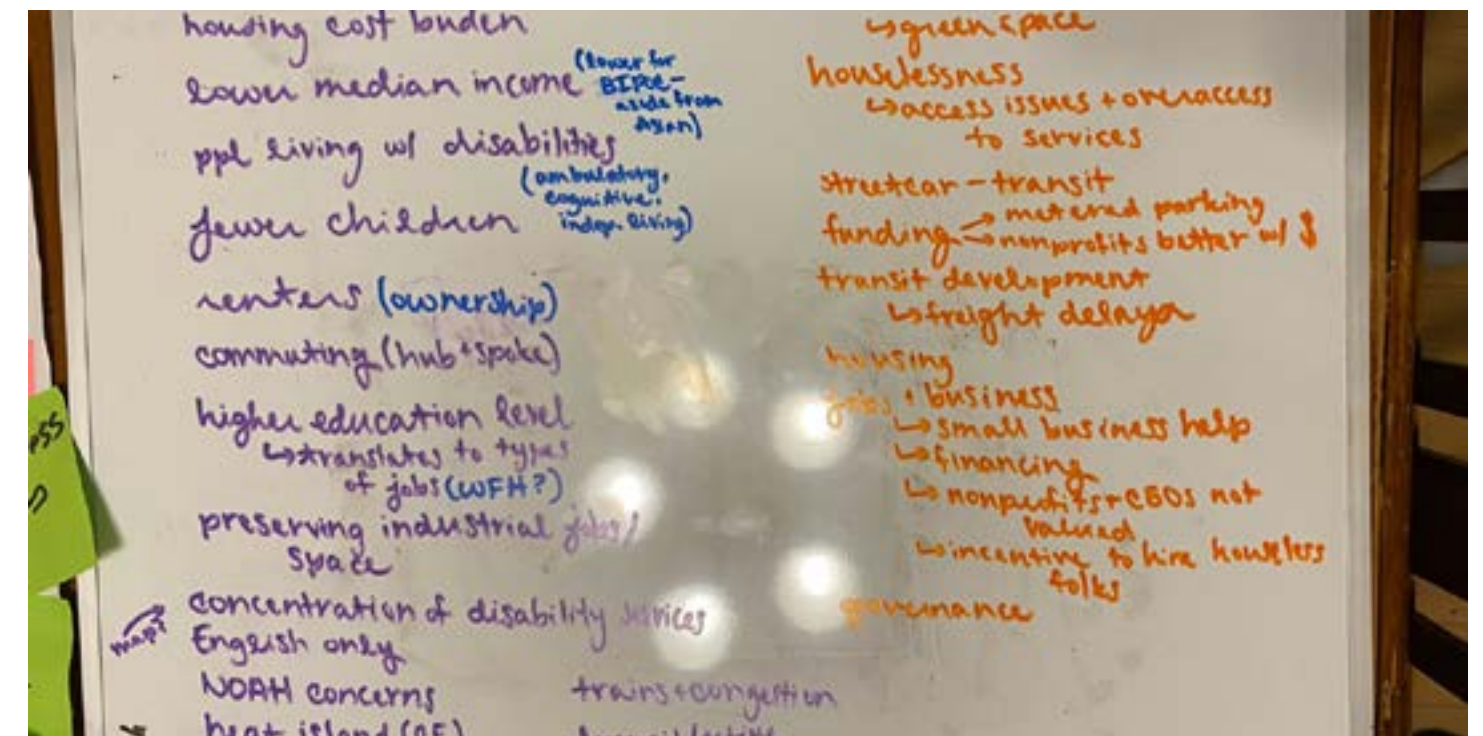
APPENDIX 1: PROCESS

After each interview and roundtable, a member in attendance wrote a memo to distill down the key points. The VF Planning team made note of key themes that recurred and narrated the equity concerns related to those themes. One team member then collected the roundtable memos while another collected the interview memos. Each team member looked for overlapping comments and distilled these comments into themes. They also took note of other key points that felt important (either due to time focused on the topic or matching up to other parts of the project like existing conditions).

Once the main themes were determined, another team member went through the data again and pulled out themes to validate our first round of theme identification. This was done to increase inter-rater reliability and to try to mitigate bias. Other topics that came up in engagement but did not fit within the themes or were not heard multiple times are included in our Additional Key Points section. We felt it valuable to report these key points as specific efforts that advanced equity or provide insight into understanding equity issues.

Once these themes were distilled, the team came together with the themes and subtopics on sticky notes. We also pulled in brainstormed recommendations (including those we had heard directly during the engagement process). We moved themes, subtopics, and recommendations around to try to understand how they could connect to each other. We then returned to the themes and adjusted any of our subtopics.

Lastly, our key themes were aggregated across all engagement methods and transitioned into goals on which to rate our recommendations made to clients which we feel will advance equity in the Central City. Through this method, we link what we learned through our engagement to substantiate our recommendations and ensure we are making efforts on what we heard is important according to equity leaders.





APPENDIX 2: STAKEHOLDER DIRECTORY

Central City Focused

ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE	AREA OF FOCUS
AfroVillage	LaQuida "Q" Landford	Visionary	Houselessness
Albina Vision Trust	Winta Yohannes	Executive Director	Community Development; Racial Equity
Bike Loud PDX	Cathy Tuttle	Board Member	Transportation
Broadway Corridor	Sarah Harpole	Project Manager, Prosper Portland	Economic Development
Broadway Corridor	Roger Gonzales	Project Manager, Prosper Portland	Economic Development
Bureau of Planning and Sustainability	Troy Doss	Planning and Sustainability Senior Planner	Governance
Bureau of Planning and Sustainability	Rachael Hoy	City Planner	Governance
Central City Concern	Mercedes Elizalde	Public Policy Director	Houselessness
Central City Concern	Billy Anfield	Advocacy Coordinator	Houselessness
Central City Concern	Gary Cobb	Community Outreach Coordinator	Houselessness

ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE	AREA OF FOCUS
Central Eastside Industrial Council	Kate Merrill	Executive Director	Economic Development
Central Eastside Industrial Council	Avery Morris	Program Manager	Economic Development
Don't Shoot Portland	Teresa Raiford	Founder	Racial Equity and Justice
Friends of Green Loop	Keith Jones	Executive Director	Transportation; Placemaking
Go Lloyd	Ophelia Cavill	Transportation Demand Management (TDM) and Outreach Program Manager	Transportation
Healthy Communities PDX	-	-	Racial Equity; Housing; Economic Development
HRAC (Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative)	Marisa Zapata	Director of HRAC	Houselessness
Japanese American Museum of Oregon (JAMO)	Mark Takiguchi	Interim Deputy Director	Social Justice; Japanese American History; Education
Lan Su Chinese Garden	Elizabeth Nye	Executive Director	Placemaking
New Avenues for Youth (SMYRC)	Chelsea Varnum	Director of LGBTQIA2S+ Services	Houselessness; LGBTQIA+ voices
Oregon Chinese Coalition	-	-	Chinese American voices
Oregon Jewish Museum & Center for Holocaust Education	Judy Margles	Executive Director	Social Justice; Jewish History, Education
Outside In	Bill Aronson	Support Services Director	Houselessness; LGBTQIA+ voices; Youth
P:ear	Beth Burns	Executive Director and Co-Founder	Houselessness; Youth
Portland Chinatown Museum	Anna Truxes	Interim Executive Director	Social Justice; Chinese American History, Education

ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE	AREA OF FOCUS
Portland Housing Bureau	Jill Chen	Housing Investment and Portfolio Preservation Manager	Housing
Portland Rescue Mission	Eric Bauer	Executive Director	Houselessness
Prosper Portland	Amy Nagy	Development Manager	Economic Development
Prosper Portland	Berk Nelson	Project Manager	Economic Development
PSU Queer Resource Center	Murph Murphy	Director of Queer Student Services	LGBTQIA+ voices
Right 2 Survive (R2S)	Ibrahim Mubarak	Executive Director	Houselessness
Right 2 Survive (R2S)	Lisa Fay	Chairperson	Houselessness
Sisters of the Road	-	-	Houselessness
Street Roots	Kaia Sand	Executive Director	Houselessness
Sunrise PDX	-	-	Climate; Transportation; Environmental Justice; Youth
Taking Ownership PDX	Randal Wyatt	Executive Director	Housing
The Street Trust	Sarah Iannarone	Executive Director	Transportation; Climate; Environmental Justice
The Street Trust	Madi Carlson	Community Engagement Manager	Transportation; Climate; Environmental Justice

City/Metro-Wide

ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE	AREA OF FOCUS
Action Communities for Health, Innovation and Environmental Change (ACHIEVE) Coalition	James Demry	Community Health Specialist	Racial Equity; Black voices
Action Communities for Health, Innovation and Environmental Change (ACHIEVE) Coalition	Charlene McGee	Program Manager	Racial Equity; Black voices
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon	Kim Lepin	Co-Executive Director of Culture and Communications	Advocacy, Asian and Pacific Islander voices
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon	Amy Hwang Powers	Co-Executive Director of Programs	Advocacy, Asian and Pacific Islander voices
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon	Allie Yee	Co-Executive Director of Finance, Operations, and Development	Advocacy, Asian and Pacific Islander voices
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon	Todd Struble	Community Development Director	Advocacy, Asian and Pacific Islander voices
BikePortland	Jonathan Maus	Founder, Editor/Publisher	Active Transportation
Brown Hope	Cameron Whitten	Chief Executive Officer/Chief Healing Officer	Black voices
Business for a Better Portland	Ashley Henry	Executive Director	Economic Development
Charter Commission, Community Engagement Cohort	-	-	Governance
City Council Candidate; Equitable Giving Circle	AJ McCreary	Candidate	Governance
Home Forward	Michael Buonocore	Director	Housing
Home Forward	Julie Livingston	Senior Project Manager	Housing

ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE	AREA OF FOCUS
Imagine Black	Ashley Weatherspoon	Afro-Ecology Organizer	Civil Rights, Black voices
Impact NW	Jana Hak	Director of Housing & Safety Net Services	Houselessness
JOIN	Katrina Holland	Executive Director	Houselessness
Joint Office of Homeless Services	Shannon Singleton	Interim Director	Houselessness
mercatus pdx	Amanda Park	Entrepreneurship and Community Economic Development	Economic Development
Metro, Committee on Racial Equity	Ernesto Oliva	Member and Unite Oregon Washington County Chapter Director	Racial Equity
Metropolitan Alliance for Workforce Equity	Kelly Haines	Member, Worksystems	Economic Development
Metropolitan Alliance for Workforce Equity	Michael Burch	Member, Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters	Economic Development
Office of Community & Civic Life	Michael Montoya	Interim Director	Civic Engagement
Office of Equity and Human Rights	Jeff Selby	Interim Director/Communications Manager	Equity
OPAL	Lee Helfend	Organizing Director	Transit; Climate; Environmental Justice
Oregon Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association	Neil Lee	President of the Board	Chinese/Chinese-American voices
PBOT Active Transportation & Safety Team	April Bertelsen	Transit Modal Coordinator	Active Transportation; Transit
PBOT Active Transportation & Safety Team	Renata Tirta	Programs Section Manager	Active Transportation; Transit

ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE	AREA OF FOCUS
Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) Committee	-	-	Environmental Justice
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiative Inc. (PCRI)	Jeremy Jostand	Director of Housing Development	Housing
Portland Forward	-	-	Civic Engagement
Portland Indigenous Marketplace	-	-	Economic Development
Portland Neighbors Welcome	Athul Acharya	Board Member	Housing
Portland Parks Foundation	Randy Gragg	Executive Director	Open Space
Portland Parks Foundation	Jessica Green	Operations & Program Director	Open Space
Portland State University	Judy Bluehorse Skelton	Assistant Professor; Indigenous Nations Studies	Native American voices
Portland State University	Lisa Bates	Professor, Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning	Housing
Portland State University	Walidah Imarisha	Director of the Center for Black Studies and Assistant Professor in the Black Studies Department	Black voices, Racial Equity
Portland Street Response	-	-	Houselessness; Safety
Q Center	Ian Morton	Executive Director	LGBTQIA+ voices
Q Center	Levi Moon	Program Coordinator	LGBTQIA+ voices
Ride Connection	Julie Wilcke Pilmer	Chief Executive Officer	Transit; Transportation
Ride Connection	John Whitman	Planning Supervisor	Transit; Transportation

ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE	AREA OF FOCUS
Transition Projects	Tony Bernal	Senior Director of Public Policy and Funding (co-interim Executive director)	Houselessness
Travel Portland	Jeff Miller	Chief Executive Officer	Economic Development; Tourism
Urban League of Portland	Tia Sherry	Director of Development	Civil Rights; Economic Development
Verde	Candace Avalos	Executive Director	Environmental Justice
Voz	Estefanía Ponce-Domínguez	Labor Rights Organizer	Workers
Welcome Home Coalition	Molly Hogan	Executive Director	Housing
Welcome Home Coalition	Jessica Mathis	Regional Organizer	Housing
Wisdom of the Elders	Teresa Montana	Executive Director	Native American voices

Statewide

ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE	AREA OF FOCUS
1000 Friends of Oregon	Brett Morgan	Transportation and Metro Policy Manager	Transportation
1000 Friends of Oregon	Alexis Biddle	Great Communities Program Director	Placemaking
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 75	David Kreisman	Communications Director	Workers
Blue Green Alliance	Ranfis Villatoro	Oregon State Policy Manager	Climate; Environmental Justice
Coalition of Communities of Color	Marcus Mundy	Executive Director	Social Justice; Civil Rights; BIPOC voices
Community Alliance of Tenants	Kim McCarty	Executive Director	Housing
Community Alliance of Tenants	Ianda Allen	Tenant Advocacy & Organizing Director	Housing
Disability Rights of Oregon	Meghan Moyer	Public Policy Directory	Disability Rights
Oregon Tradeswomen	Iliana Fontal	Director of Programs and Strategic Impact	Economic Development; Workers
Oregon Walks	Izzy Armenta	Transportation Justice and Communications Manager	Transportation
Oregon Native American Chamber	James Alan Parker	Director of Operations	Economic Development; Indigenous voices

Neighborhood Associations

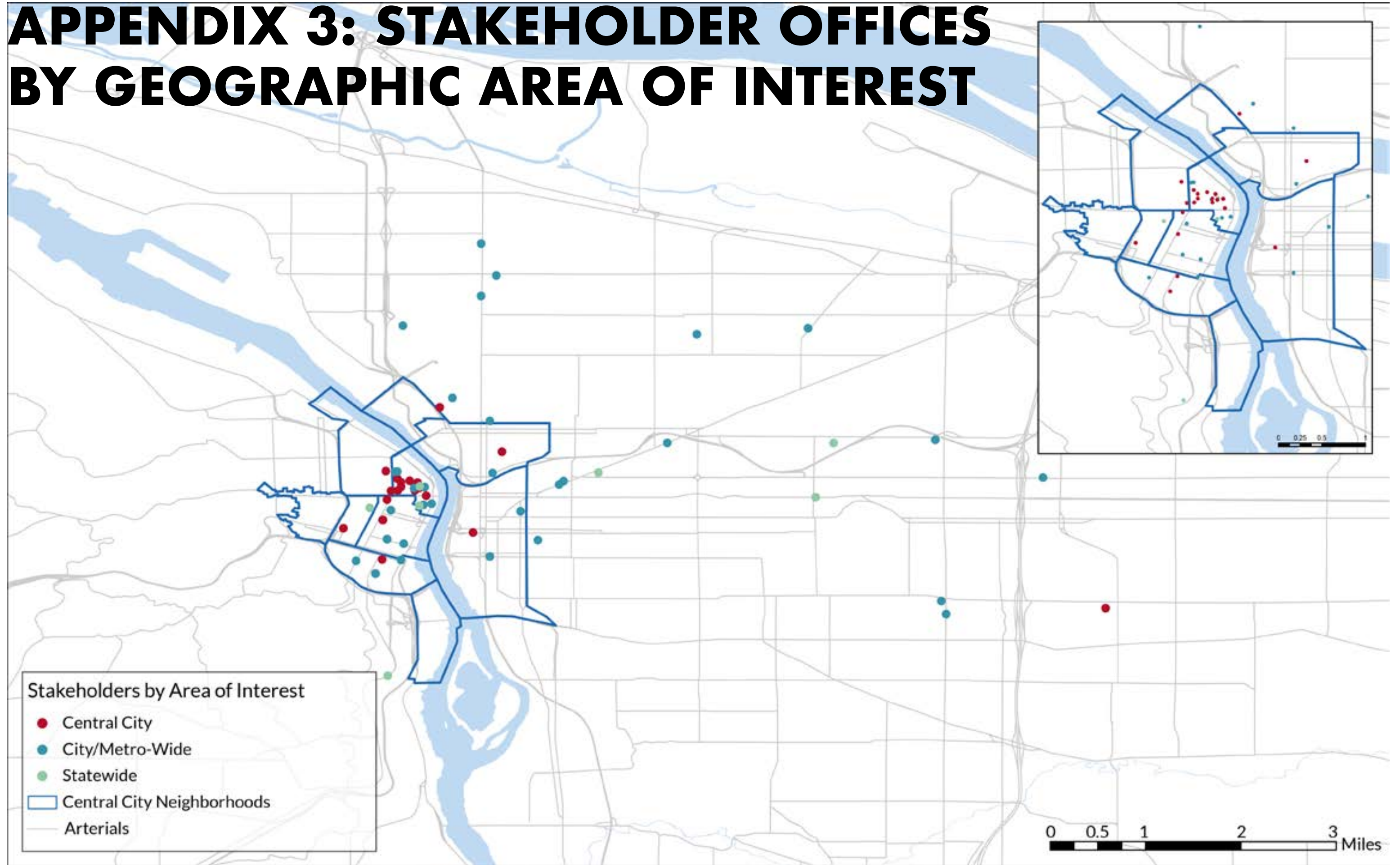
ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE	AREA OF FOCUS
Buckman Neighborhood Association	Stephen Fisher	Chair	Neighborhood; Economic Development
Buckman Neighborhood Association	Susan Linday	Chair	Neighborhood; Economic Development
Goose Hollow Neighborhood Association	Scott Schaffer	President	Neighborhood; Economic Development
Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood Association	Christopher Eycamp	Chair	Neighborhood; Economic Development
Kerns Neighborhood Association	Jay Harris	Chair	Neighborhood; Economic Development
Lloyd District Neighborhood Association	Jeremy Taylor	Chair	Neighborhood; Economic Development
Old Town Community Association	Jessie Burke	Chair	Neighborhood; Economic Development
Pearl District Neighborhood Association	Stan Penkin	President	Neighborhood; Economic Development
Portland Downtown Neighborhood Association	Walter Weyler	President	Neighborhood; Economic Development
South Portland Neighborhood Association	Pete Collins	President	Neighborhood; Economic Development

Additional Insight

ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE	AREA OF FOCUS
Southwest Corridor Equity Coalition (SWEC)	Mohanad Alnajjar	SW Corridor Community Organizer	Coalition Building
Getting There Together Coalition	Kari Schlosshauer	Strategic Communications Consultatant - Freelance	Coalition Building
Vanport Mosaic	Ariana Donaville	Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator	Social Justice; Storytelling
Sightline Institute	Steph Routh	Strategic Communications Manager	Coalition Building; Social Justice
Main Street Alliance	Dominique Sanders	Organizing Director	Placemaking

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APPENDIX 3: STAKEHOLDER OFFICES BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF INTEREST



APPENDIX 4: RECOMMENDATIONS White Paper

1.a. Fund Biannual Equity Summit with Community Leaders

We recommend that the city convene a biannual equity summit led by equity leaders who are representative of populations experiencing equity issues and are reflective of residents' needs.

This would look like a day-long conference with two-hour segments each covering different equity issues with the goals of improving City transparency on issues and related projects, developing community-inspired accountability measures, and brainstorming and funding innovative policies and projects to stimulate progress. Segments will include issues such as houselessness, transportation, or community spaces.

The purpose of this event is to create a space for the City and creative thinkers to leverage and fund non-profits and CBOs to achieve greater progress on equity issues, better include community leaders in positions of power to amplify their voices, and improve the City's accountability and transparency surrounding equity issues.

The City's role in this event will be limited in order to promote participation from groups who may be distrustful of the involvement of the City. Some participation from the City will be beneficial in informing attendees about the City's role and progress on current equity issues to frame discussion while still leaving room for innovation and creativity to make progress on these issues. Attendees representing city agencies could include the City Auditor and City Budget Office who can assist attendees in understanding key policies and budget considerations regarding specific equity topics. The City should mainly focus on identifying leaders or organizations to manage, plan, and advertise the events, provide funding as needed especially for payment of attendees to ensure they are valued, and assist in event logistics like providing food and booking a venue. Attendees should be community leaders who actively engage with equity issues in a professional capacity and philanthropic organizations focused on funding.

Each two-hour long segment will focus on a different equity issue occurring in the Central City. These could include segments on houselessness, business/employment, housing development, and parks/community spaces as examples. Details of each segment could vary, but an agenda could include:

- An introductory presentation by the City Auditor and/or City Budget Office who summarize current policies regarding equity issues, progress on policy goals and project progress, and budget considerations pertaining to them.

- Equity leader presentations of promising practices and/or success stories within each focus area.
- Brainstorming session - develop a participant-inspired list of ways the needs of people in topic area are not being met or how city goals/policies described in the introductory presentation are lacking.
- Brainstorming session - develop a list of ways in which progress can be made - new policies, projects, plans, etc. that can be pursued.
- Brainstorming session - develop proposal for City to better address focus area(s) which includes metrics to measure progress.
- Attendee presentation portion - Attendees who are pursuing a project or funding for a project will have stations set up where they can present to people, get input, pitch to philanthropists and funders, etc.

Previously held events like "[The Do-er Gathering: Portland's alternatives for housing security](#)" hosted by Portland City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's Office and the Office of Community and Civic Life provide a model for the event and whose outcomes may be a case study for which to determine the relative success of the event and how this Equity Summit can be improved. This is a good example of how an event can prioritize and achieve implementation beyond just a platform to spark conversation.

We recommend the following action items as a starting place:

- Identify successful case examples of similar events, interview people involved in the planning and implementation, and distill key takeaways from them to plan this event.
- Identify equity organizations to participate in the equity summit (start from our list).
- Identify partnering organizations to either host the event or to provide funding donations.
- Send event information and invitations to equity organizations.
- Find funding source to pay participants (Critical to establishing trust and respect for the process).
- Develop City Auditor/City Budget Office presentation on current conditions.
- Identify and book a location for event (work with attendees to find good location).
- Develop advertising for the event.

This recommendation ties into the following engagement themes: Cultural Representation, Engagement, Funding, Governance

A note about this recommendation and its benefits: While the event itself may not achieve some goals and themes heard from engagement and existing conditions, holding this event is likely to lead to progress on many, and potentially every goal and theme depending on the outcomes of the event. It is hard to measure the possible outcomes of this event, but the potential of this event to achieve many of our identified goals and themes in the future is a factor in our recommendation for this as a high priority.

We believe that the Office of Equity and Human Rights, Office of Community and Civic Engagement, Auditor's Office, Budget Office, and BPS are suited to lead on this recommendation from the public agency side. We recommend partnering with Coalition of Communities of Color to lead on the community side.

This recommendation would happen on an ongoing basis indefinitely, but to start we expect that it could take between 6 months and 5 years. It would require a medium level of effort and would have a moderate to high cost.

1.b. Create an Equity Dashboard

We recommend creating and regularly updating a public-facing dashboard that describes equity goals, progress towards achieving those goals, and contact information for dedicated staff.

A recurring theme we heard from our community engagement was a generalized lack of information on the status of projects. More clear, easily accessible, and regularly updated information hosted on a public website goes a long way to increasing trust in government systems and increasing the perception of accountability. The dashboard should include actionable items with a clear timeline to be tackled with urgency. If projects are postponed an explanation would help residents understand why. This will also be an excellent place to showcase innovative approaches, and prove transparency and accountability. It is important to communicate action or why action is not taken following engagement activity.

We recommend the following action items as a starting place:

- Determine action items from public engagement and existing conditions analysis; start with this report and continue with bi-annual equity summits.
- Build a dashboard that outlines the equity related goals, a timeline for adoption, a progress tracker, and the contact information for responsible staff. Possible additional categories could include ideas for how community members could help, and the allocated funding sources.
- Assign a staff member to regularly (monthly/bi-monthly/quarterly) update and be point-person for questions.

This recommendation ties into the following engagement themes: Accessibility, Perception, Governance

Many dashboards already exist, such as the [Portland Street Response data dashboard](#) and the [budget dashboard](#). It would be very helpful if these dashboards were all linked, and easily located on the website.

We believe that BPS is suited to lead on this recommendation from the public agency side. We recommend partnering with Portland State University and the ACHIEVE Coalition on the community side.

This recommendation would happen on an ongoing basis indefinitely. We estimate about 6 months to set up the dashboard and 1 year to indefinite to write engaged goals and track progress. It would require a medium level of effort. We expect low cost to set up and maintain the dashboard and moderate cost for engagement.

2. Add a land acknowledgement to the City's website

We recommend adding a land acknowledgement to the homepage of the City's website

Acknowledging colonization and historical harms to Indigenous people is an important step in furthering a dialogue between Indigenous people and the city to repair past harms, center their lived experience, and acknowledge their wisdom and attachment to the land.

We recommend the following action items as a starting place:

- Contact local tribes through the City's tribal liaison office to write a culturally sensitive message that acknowledges past harms
- Pay for this labor
- Consider adding a glossary of key terms and "Why this is important" section, as [Vancouver, BC](#) does.

This recommendation ties into the following engagement themes: Cultural Representation, Governance

We believe that the Office of Management & Finance and Office of Tribal Affairs are suited to lead on this recommendation from the public agency side. We recommend partnering with Tribal Nations and the Oregon Native American Chamber to craft a thoughtful statement.

We estimate about a year and a half to put together the land acknowledgement. It would require a low level of effort. We expect low cost to craft and maintain the acknowledgement.

3. Pilot Program: Fund CBOs doing equity work in CC for 1 year.

We recommend piloting a year where the city funds CBOs doing equity work in the CC to determine if this is a financially nimble way to scale projects.

The program would have specific benchmarks to prove success and measurable outcomes to strive for, for example: increased tourism by x percent, x new businesses in specific geography, improved resident perception as captured by pre/post surveys, etc.

Learn from [Venture Portland](#)

This recommendation ties into the following engagement themes: Accessibility, Cultural Representation, Engagement, Funding, Jobs/business, Perception, and Safety.

Expand [Covid 19 funding program](#) after progress reports confirm success

We recommend the following action items as a starting place:

- Engage with coalitions outlined in this report to gauge interest in program
- Determine where funding will come from
- Write RFP for participants
- Assign staff member to be point-person to answer questions
- Host open house at central location to disseminate information about the program
- Fund CBOs
- Monitor program
- Write report of results

- Report findings on equity dashboard
- Determine whether to institutionalize program or not

We believe that Prosper Portland is suited to lead on this recommendation from the public agency side. We recommend partnering with Venture Portland on the community side.

We estimate 3 to 5 years to get the pilot program of the ground plus 1 year for the pilot itself with the option to extend indefinitely. It would require a medium level of effort and moderate cost.

4. Bolster and amplify cultural events and celebrations

We recommend that the city amplify cultural events and celebrations to draw attention to the importance of the Central City as a cultural gathering space.

Honor cultural heritage of the city and region by supporting public celebrations planned by community-based organizations. This is important because it highlights cultural heritage in a public way and shares joy with other residents of the city. It could also be a time to remember past mistakes so as not to repeat them.

We recommend the following action items as a starting place:

- Develop criteria for what constitutes a cultural event
- Create a placemaking grant for cultural events
- Engage with CBOs to learn of current events that could be supported

This recommendation ties into the following engagement themes: Cultural Representation, Accessibility, Perception, Safety, Governance, Engagement.

It would also improve conditions for families, create more inviting spaces for historically underrepresented people, acknowledge past harms, allow for an indigenous co-design of spaces and redesign of colonized spaces, and engage and partner with anchoring cultural institutions. Furthermore, it would foster better connections between those living or working inside and outside the Central City, identify and amplify the efforts of action-oriented organizations, expand opportunities for the City to work in partnership with small businesses, non-profits, and CBOs, and improve the safety of everyone with more eyes on the street.

We believe that the Office of Civic and Community Life is suited to lead on this recommendation in terms of administration and grants. We recommend partnering with Portland Parks and Recreation, PBOT, Prosper Portland, and Travel Portland on the public agency side. We also recommend partnering with Japanese American Museum of Oregon, Oregon Jewish Museum, Center for Holocaust Education, Portland Chinatown Museum, Lan Su Chinese Garden, Mercatus, My Peoples' Market, and Portland Business Alliance in the private/community side.

We believe that this could be an ongoing effort with special attention over a 3 to 5 year timeline. It would require a low to medium level of effort and moderate cost.

We recommend starting with the following examples: [Chinese New Year at Lan Su Chinese Garden](#), [India Festival](#), [Portland Pride](#), [Time-Based Art \(TBA\) Festival](#), [Portland Jazz Festival](#), [Portland Winter Light Festival](#)

5. Designate Old Town Cultural District

We recommend designating Old Town as a Cultural District with greater support for the cultural institutions, housed and unhoused residents, and businesses in the neighborhood.

Like the South Park Blocks Connected Cultural District, Old Town should be designated a “Cultural District.” This would look like additional support for Old Town cultural institutions, streetscape care and pedestrianization, and community gathering spaces. Care for not displacing existing residents and supporting housing for houseless individuals will be crucial. An anti-displacement plan and outreach with service providers and people experiencing houselessness in Old Town would be critical to this recommendation’s success. There could be job opportunities for people living on the streets that align with uplifting the cultural institutions in Old Town. Coordination with service providers, cultural institutions, businesses, and people experiencing houselessness with a trauma informed lens will help this recommendation take shape.

Old Town cultural institutions are already doing this informally and their work should be uplifted. They envision the Cultural District as a tourist and educational nexus for the city and region. They also have great concern for the safety and humanity of their unhoused neighbors. We believe that they will be able to lead on vision that enlivens the neighborhood and provides opportunity and community to the most vulnerable residents.

We recommend the following action items as a starting place:

- Set up regular meetings with Old Town cultural institutions to develop relationships.
- Develop a plan similar to the Connected Cultural District in the South Park Blocks.
- Reevaluate existing regulations (like the Historic District designation) for equity impacts and in light of goals developed for the Cultural District.
- Conduct outreach to all existing stakeholders with special care for those experiencing houselessness. Include plans to address their needs in the Cultural District Plan.
- Adopt an anti-displacement strategy.
- Develop marketing materials with cultural institutions in Old Town.
- Perhaps develop a position to liaise between the Old Town community, PBOT, BPS, etc.

This recommendation ties into the following engagement themes: Cultural Representation, Jobs/Businesses, Houselessness, Housing, Funding, Engagement, Perception, Safety

The Central City also has low rates of children and families and this may draw in more children and families. This recommendation will support and uplift culturally important institutions in the Central City. It provides an opportunity for the city to elevate the work of a loose coalition of organizations focused on this Central City neighborhood.

We believe that PBOT, BPS, and the Joint Office of Homeless Services are suited to lead on this

recommendation from the public agency side. We also recommend partnering with Prosper Portland and Travel Portland for marketing support and the possibility of using TIF funds to support this cultural district. We recommend partnering with JAMO, Oregon Jewish Museum, Old Town Community Association, Portland Chinatown Museum, Lan Su Chinese Garden, Mercatus, My People's Market, and Portland Business Alliance on the private/community side.

We estimate a shorter 1 year timeline for designation and a 5 to 10 year process for planning, engagement, and implementation. It would require a medium to high level of effort and a moderate to high cost.

6. Build a Park and Play Parking Garage

We recommend converting an existing parking garage to a Park and Play to develop more family- and child-friendly spaces in the Central City by transforming underutilized space.

We envision more child-focused, family-centered spaces in the Central City on the top floor of parking garages that have been turned into playgrounds. The Central City is lacking spaces for families to play, live and thrive. Park and Plays have proven to be an incredible way to build family-friendly urban green spaces. (See Promising Practices for more information.) The basic principle of an active parking garage is the idea of an accessible and recreational roof offered to local inhabitants and visitors alike. Visibility and accessibility are therefore essential when creating a living roof.

We recommend this as a pilot project with one of the city-owned SmartPark garages or acquiring a garage on the eastside of the Central City.

We recommend the following action items as a starting place:

- Review and compile possible facilities feasible for conversion.
- Begin line of communication with parking structure owners, or consider adapting City-owned SmartPark facilities.

This recommendation ties into the following engagement themes: Perception, Accessibility, Engagement

Through engagement and existing conditions we saw the need for family friendly housing and spaces in the Central City. Our movement roundtable highlighted the importance of more family-friendly public spaces for the perception of downtown. There are low rates of families with affordable family housing and spaces being a main issue. Household size is currently limited within the Central City.

We believe that PBOT and BPS are suited to lead on this recommendation from the public agency side. We also recommend partnering with Portland Park and Recreation for development and ongoing maintenance. We recommend partnering with Harper's Playground, Portland Parks Foundation, and private garage owners on the private/community side.

We estimate a shorter 1 year timeline for a pilot program and a 5 year process for developing a permanent Park and Play Structure with ongoing maintenance. It would require a medium level of

effort and a low to moderate cost. Placemaking grants could help fund this recommendation.

7. Invest in Green Spaces on the Eastside

We recommend increasing greenspace and playspace on the east side of Portland's Central City. The city could reclaim vacant lots, rights-of-way, dead end streets, and long term parking spaces to repurpose roadway and concrete space into depaved, planted, and programmed community green spaces. Support community gardens or other supportive and free greenspace community programming.

We recommend the following action items as a starting place:

- Determine work plan for green placemaking in the Central City in the short, medium and long term.
- Establish cost estimates for reclaiming ROW to depave the Central City and create green places and spaces.
- Deploy placemaking grant funds for temporary and popup green, cooling, and shade spaces to assist with heat island effect.

This recommendation ties into the following engagement themes: Governance, Accessibility, Cultural Representation, Engagement, Funding, Perception, Safety

Community representatives emphasized the importance of having inviting and accessible community spaces in the Central City which are welcoming to all. The Central Eastside of Portland is an urban heat island, and is lacking tree coverage. The Central Eastside has 1 park, the Eastbank Esplanade which is mostly paved, and lacks green and recreational space.

We believe that PBOT (specifically the Plaza Working Group), BPS, and Portland Parks and Recreation are suited to lead on this recommendation from the public agency side. We recommend partnering with the Portland Parks Foundation, Central Eastside Industrial Council, Depave Portland, Friends or Trees, Verde, and Friends of Green Loop on the community side.

We estimate a 6 month timeline for developing parklets and a 5 year process for establishing street vacations. It would require a medium level of effort and a range of costs depending on how involved the greenspaces are.

8. Support Transit Options for Disabled People living in the Central City

We recommend building and investing in transportation options in the CC to increase accessibility and mobility, especially one-click options. This could look like fare-less Fridays, transit subsidies, no fare on Fridays, and a paratransit one-click request system (like [Paratransit Dispatch & Scheduling Software for](#)

[Demand Response](#)).

We recommend the following action items as a starting place:

- Implement Monthly Fareless Fridays in the Central City.
- Investigate other one-click paratransit systems that have been successful in other cities.

This recommendation ties into the following engagement themes: Perception, Safety, Accessibility, Transit development, Jobs/Businesses.

There is a need to focus on the high concentration of older adults and folks with disabilities living downtown, particularly in the Pearl. Older adults and people with disabilities coming into Central City from elsewhere in the region to access services. Within the Central City there can be first/last mile barriers for these groups. 15% of people living in the Central City are living with disability- that's higher than the 11% in the greater Portland region. 5% of people living in the Central City have an independent living difficulty.

We believe that PBOT, Trimet, Portland Streetcar, and ODOT are suited to lead on this recommendation from the public agency side. We recommend partnering with Ride Connection and Disability Rights Oregon on the community side.

We estimate a 6 month timeline for establishing fare-less Fridays and a 3 year process for investigating and beginning a one-click paratransit system. It would require a medium level of effort and a moderate cost.

9. Develop Small Clusters of Social Service Across the City- Lloyd District Pilot

We recommend that the city develop small clusters of social services throughout the city. Currently, Old Town and Downtown carry much of the burden in terms of supporting people experiencing homelessness, mental health crises, and violence. Social services are needed in other neighborhoods. We heard a desire for mental health services in other neighborhoods through community engagement. We also heard that the concentration of social services in Old Town was especially problematic.

As such, we recommend a pilot cluster of services in the Lloyd District. We heard a desire for more mental health services specifically in the Lloyd District, so this neighborhood may have some community support already. The pilot program should have measurable objectives like a decrease in average travel and wait time for service users and perceptions of the involved neighborhoods.

We recommend the following action items as a starting place:

- Conduct outreach to service providers and houseless individuals focused on where they want to be and where they need support.
- Work with existing service providers (and maybe neighborhood associations) to find additional locations throughout the city.

- Work with CBOs to find funding to support these service providers as capacity and funding tends to be an issue.
- Perhaps provide job training to houseless or previously houseless individuals to help staff new locations.

This recommendation ties into the following engagement themes: Homelessness, Governance, Accessibility, Safety, Jobs/Business

Notably, the median household income is lower in the Central City and services can be distributed to meet the needs of all those in the area.

We believe that Multnomah County, Joint Office of Homeless Services, and Prosper Portland are suited to lead on this recommendation from the public agency side. We recommend partnering with Go Lloyd, Street Roots, Central City Concern, Blanchet House, Friends of the Green Loop, HRAC, Outside In, and Right 2 Survive on the community side.

We estimate a 5 to 10 year timeline. It would require a high level of effort and a moderate cost.

10. Expand provision of service hubs for houseless populations

We recommend developing essential service hubs across the Central City that provide houseless people with free services to meet basic needs. In a targeted universalism approach, this strategy that serves those most in need will actually help everyone.

This would look like service hubs in central locations in neighborhoods that include restrooms, hand-washing stations, free laundry coupons or access to washing machines, trash receptacles with regular pick-up, drinking water and access to food and cooling/warming stations for extreme weather events.

[The Hygiene Hub](#) could be expanded upon and is the outcome of the Enhanced Services District in the Central Eastside. [The City of Tacoma, Washington](#) has experimented with this idea. Harbor of Hope was [operating shower and laundry trucks](#) that many people relied on. There are many individual efforts being made, however a centralized approach to expanding these services across areas in which homelessness is especially salient would make a major difference.

We recommend the following action items as a starting place:

- Engagement with houseless individuals to understand needs and design of hubs
- Engagement with houseless individuals, houseless providers and organizations, and other community leaders to identify locations
- Identify and/or provide funding to service providers to develop hubs
- Develop a work plan that allows for hiring of houseless individuals as consultants to ensure representative and accessible design of hubs for houseless population and other underserved populations, and to open up income streams for houseless populations

This recommendation ties into the following engagement themes: Accessibility, Funding, Homelessness, Jobs, Safety.

We believe that Joint Office of Homeless Services and City Team are suited to lead on this recommendation from the public agency side. We recommend partnering with Street Roots, Central City Concern, Blanchet House, Friends of the Green Loop, HRAC, Outside In, PHLUSH and Right 2 Survive on the community side.

We estimate a 3 to 5 year timeline. It would require a medium level of effort and a moderate cost.

11. Design equitable transit-oriented development with affordable, family-sized, and ADA-accessible units

We recommend providing transit oriented and affordable housing options which support families and residents with disabilities. Existing affordable housing units can be converted and new affordable housing units can be constructed to be ADA accessible and/or family sized.

We recommend the following action item as a starting place:

- Consider incentives and regulations that ensure when transit-oriented development is built, it includes family-sized, accessible and affordable units.

This recommendation ties into the following engagement themes: Transit Development, Accessibility, Housing.

Equitable, affordable, and convenient transit development (both the transit system itself and transit-oriented development) that responds to the needs and preferred modes of communities who are most reliant on transit options is needed. Affordability of housing surrounding transit is important. Furthermore, housing stock in the Central City is aging, and often not ADA compliant.

We believe that Prosper Portland, PHB, Home Forward, BPS, Trimet, and PBOT are suited to lead on this recommendation. We recommend partnering with 1000 Friends of Oregon and REACH CDC on the private/community side.

We believe that this would take between 5 and 10 years. It would require a high level of effort and a fairly high cost.

We recommend starting with the example of the Ramona Apartments in the Pearl District.

12. Develop a Central City Community Center

We recommend exploring the possibility of a community center within the Central City. A possible solution to multiple issues highlighted by both engagement and existing conditions analysis is a Parks and Recreation developed public community center, easily accessible to everyone in the Central City. Our engagement illuminated the desire for more community connections, green space and gardens, places to gather and celebrate different cultures, safe and fun places for families with children to hang out without having to purchase anything, and public showers, laundry and bathroom facilities. Key to this idea is ongoing, reliable funding for programming, maintenance and staffing. We acknowledge it is easier to raise money for capital projects, but the aforementioned needs would be necessary for the ongoing success of this type of project. The possibility of partnering with a culturally specific non-profit organization could be explored, but we suggest the focus be on an intercultural space where diversity is celebrated.

We recommend the following action items as a starting place:

- Ask the people what they want! Do community outreach to determine if people living in the targeted area are indeed interested in this idea.
- Research funding options that prioritize robust ongoing programming over high tech architecture: the building should be accessible to multi-abled people, accessible by multi-modal transportation options, ecologically responsible and sustainable, and potentially informed by the various cultures that populate the area. Programming must be: culturally informed, equity-focused, trauma-informed, and prepared to meet the needs of both high-functioning and struggling individuals.
- Identify and contract designers from a variety of cultural backgrounds; Indigenous architects should be prioritized.
- Identify and contract program partners who would engage in the day-to-day work of the community center.

This recommendation ties into the following engagement themes: Accessibility, Cultural Representation, Engagement, Homelessness, Jobs, Perception, Safety.

A community center could bridge communities (both geographic and demographic), celebrate what makes us unique, encourage play and health, and weave more family-centric infrastructure into the fabric of the Central City. There are no public community centers within the Central City. Matt Dishman in Albina and Fulton Park in SouthWest are closest, but we think there are enough people in the Central City to support a centrally located center there. Additionally, this action may have the added benefit of drawing new families and community minded people to the Central City, and keeping workers in town longer after their shifts.

We believe that Portland Parks and Recreation is suited to lead on this recommendation. We also recommend partnering with BPS, REACH from Multnomah County, and Prosper Portland. We recommend partnering with the YWCA and Friends of Green Loop on the community side.

We believe that this would take between 5 and 10 years. It would require a high level of effort and a high cost.

APPENDIX 5: RECOMMENDATIONS Scoring Matrix

Goals	Recommendation 1: Equity Dashboard	Recommendation 2: Park and Play Parking Garages	Recommendation 3: Green Spaces on the Eastside of Portland	Recommendation 4: Supporting Transit Options for Disabled People Living in the CC	Recommendation 5: Old Town Cultural District	Recommendation 6: Develop Small Hubs of Social Service Across the City	Recommendation 7: Add a Land Acknowledgement to the City Website	Recommendation 8: Bi-annual Equity Summit with Community Leaders	Recommendation 9: Bolster and Amplify Events/Celebrations	Recommendation 10: Equitable Transit Oriented Development - Affordable, Family-sized Housing Units and Accessible ADA Within the Central City	Recommendation 11: Expand Provision of Service Hubs for Houseless Populations	Recommendation 12: Development of a Central City Community Center
Accessibility												
EC1: Improve accommodation of CC for families/children	x		x									
EC2: Accommodate the high concentration of people with disabilities												
G1: Inviting public spaces	x	x										
G2: Targeted universalism through more meaningful engagement and better representation in positions of power	x											
G3: Expand SS and aff. housing clusters												
G4: Convenience for greatest need populations			x									
Cultural Representation												
G1: Greater cultural representation	x											
G2: Acknowledgement and education of historic harms												
G3: Indigenous co-design of spaces: redesign of colonized spaces	x											
Engagement												
G1: Engage and partner with anchoring cultural institutions	x											
G2: Diverse listening sessions												
G3: Action and communication of process following engagement	x											
Funding												
G1: Government funding to help community planning processes												
G2: Provide capacity funding for incentivizing engagement/involvement												
G3: Implement/amend policies and regulations that foster community planning processes												
Governance												
G1: Improved City accountability and transparency on public plans/projects for public plans/projects	x											
G2: Greater innovation from the City on public plans/projects	x											
G3: Coordination and urgency on responding to major issues	x											
G4: More community leaders and equity organizations in positions of power	x											
G5: More meaningful and comprehensive public engagement from the City	x											
G6: Foster better connections between those living or working inside and outside the CC and decision makers												
G7: Identify and amplify the efforts of action-oriented organizations	x											
G8: Promote a process that emphasizes flexibility and autonomy to make decisions, then reassess and alter course as new information is learned												
Houselessness												
G1: Emphasize targeted universalism in meeting the needs of houseless	x											

Goals	Recommendation 1: Equity Dashboard	Recommendation 2: Park and Play Parking Garages	Recommendation 3: Green Spaces on the Central Eastside of Portland	Recommendation 4: Supporting Transit Options for Disabled People Living in the CC	Recommendation 5: Old Town Cultural District	Recommendation 6: Develop Small Hubs of Social Service Across the City	Recommendation 7: Add a Land Acknowledgement to the City Website	Recommendation 8: Bi-annual Equity Summit with Community Leaders	Recommendation 9: Bolster and Amplify Events/Celebrations	Recommendation 10: Equitable Transit Oriented Development - Affordable, Family-sized Housing Units and Affordable ADA Accessible Units Within the Central City	Recommendation 11: Expand Provision of Service Hubs for Homeless Populations	Recommendation 12: Development of a Central City Community Center
G2: Promote production of no-barrier housing that prevents evictions, and provides autonomy and community										x		
G3: City must develop a clear response to homelessness through engagement and coordination with houseless	x					x		x				
G4: Condemn dehumanization of houseless populations as discrimination	x					x						
G5: Prevent deaths of houseless in Old Town						x						
G6: Expand clusters of social services beyond Old Town						x						
Housing												
EC1: Decrease the currently high housing cost-burden												
EC2: Need to accommodate growth			x									
EC3: Continue to provide a high concentration of housing			x									
G1: Improve affordability in the CC												
G2: Amplify non-profit or CBO efforts in housing development								x				
G3: Expand middle-housing and family-sized housing in the CC, particularly Old Town												
G4: Expand housing for the houseless												
Jobs/Business												
EC1: Increase income opportunities to improve the low MHI in CC												x
EC2 & G1: Leverage concentration of jobs in CC to better hire houseless or people with disabilities												
G2: Expand BIPOC/immigrant-owned business connections with business services					x							
G3: Expand opportunities for City to work in partnership with small businesses, non-profits, and CBOs					x							
G4: Provide Old Town businesses with assistance					x							
G5: Expand education and childcare in the CC												x
Perception												
G1: Maintain the CC as a critical center for jobs												
G2: Work to combat perception that the CC does not support a community, families, or is unaffordable	x											
G3: Work to combat distrust of City agencies by being more accountable, actionable, urgent and innovative in their projects												
G4: Work to combat perception of overinvestment in the CC												
Safety												
EC1: Decrease heat severity, or manage effects of heat severity in the CC												
G1: Improve safety for everyone in Downtown/Old Town												
G2: Improve safety for houseless individuals												

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G3: Understand and acknowledge stories of disaster and violence, but as part of the whole story												
G4: Understand the effects of recent organized crime, and a plan to ensure safety from it												
G5: Understand who is willing to help improve safety in the CC, and a plan for them to help												
Transit/Development												
G1: Ensure that transit development and TOD responds to the needs and preferred modes of most transit-reliant communities												
G2: Prioritize affordability of housing surrounding transit												



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