



## Bureau Advisory Committee Meeting



VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING:



Tuesday, March 16th, 2021



5:30 – 7:00pm

### 2020-2021 Civic Life BAC Members:

ATTENDED: Leina Gonzalez Baird, Katherine Couch, Daniel Franco-Nunez, Jose Gomez, Stan Penkin, Kimberléa Ruffu, Meron Semere

ABSENT: Manijeh Mehrnoosh (excused) Christina Weinholz (excused)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
2. REVIEW MEETING AGENDA
3. PUBLIC COMMENT (None)
4. CBO RECOMMENDATIONS: See attached slides from Angela Butel from City Budget Office (CBO).

Review of General Fund reduction and add backs. More add backs than reductions, now CBO reviews and put forward recommendations to get the City's budget balanced. Based on a framework that incorporates:

- City Financial Policy
- City Core Values
- Adopted and established priorities
- Performance metrics

Note: Decision Packages VS Base Budget: General fund Base Budgets (No DPS) represents about 90% of the budget, Decision Packages are about 10%.

CBO Review—Civic Life:

- Internal adjustments to align budget to priorities
- Investments in data, technology, performance

CBO Recommendations on Decision Packages:

- Required 5% Reduction— 495,985
- East Portland Community Office Add Back 66,400 (Partially Recommended--Rent costs for move)
- Constructing Civic Dialogues Realignment \$251,681 (Not recommended)



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- One-Time Graffiti Support \$530,240 (One time Recommended)
- Recreational Cannabis Tax Cannabis Emergency Relief Fund \$900,000 (N/A--not general fund)

### QUESTION:

*There are a few line items I would like to understand better. Neighborhood outreach and support 9% cut? Community Safety taking cut? I support large increase in graffiti. Communications is asking for 20% more and a 10% increase for Youth.*

Neighborhoods program support has 3 different parts. There was a 5% cut to the Nonprofit DCOs “base funding” (just like Civic Life); 5% cut to the City-Staffed DCOs; and elimination of small grants funding for community groups through DCOs. Neighborhood is the largest program in Civic Life (3M), so take a proportional cut--each office received between \$13K-24K cut. There are no separate small grants funding this current year, so a \$103K cut was proposed for small grants funding to community groups through DCOs next year. This is because administratively--what it costs to get the grants out the door—is very inefficient to process through the bureau, and the impact is not as great as other strategic efforts. Volunteer groups appreciate small grants program but note that many didn’t happen this year with COVID. The small grants program was created to meet community needs, but we are yet to fully examine our largest investments. The DEI approach of adding a few dollars at the end in small grants reflects thinking from decades ago. We instead need to examine the largest our the bureaus investments and leverage those dollars.

There were reductions in the Community Safety program: a Supervisor I position was eliminated which also includes related Phone/computer; and overtime allocation.

Cannabis did not get cut because its funding is not part of the general fund, but note that it is funding the lion’s share of the bureau’s technology investment 75%, (the other 25% split across 5 other programs).

Civic Life kept some programs entirely intact—Multnomah Youth Commission (MYC) has such a small allocation, so cutting 5% has a disproportionate effect on the program. The program is adding back a Community Service Aide.

Civic Life will continue to work with neighborhoods in DEI work--every community Civic Life works with needs that kind of support and encouragement. The *bulk* of the grant funding needs to have the DEI lens, not just the last dollars. Constructing Civic Dialogues are a way to provide those training opportunities, including to Neighborhood Associations. Civic Life is pushing to increase those trainings



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and to other orgs as well. CBO has not recommended this add-back/realignment request for funding next year. <https://www.portland.gov/civic/ccd>

### **QUESTION:**

*Federal relief package? Is there any way to take that into consideration?*

The City certainly will consider relief dollars in the FY 21-22 budget. Those resources are one-time in nature, so can't really use for on-going. But can potentially use them for one-time like for graffiti, that will free up general fund for other requests. City Council will be starting that conversation at the April 1<sup>st</sup> work session.

### 5. BUDGET EQUITY TOOL: DISCUSS POTENTIAL PRESENTATION AT BUDGET WORKSESSION MARCH 30

The BAC discussed ideas for a BAC presentation during the Civic Life budget review at the March 30 budget worksession. Suggestions reviewed:

- What has worked, what can be improved?
- Suggestion to present on the general process the BAC has used, as well as an opportunity to discuss the Budget Equity Tool with City Council. There is a lot of equity talk in the city, this is an opportunity to discuss the work that goes behind it.
- One obstacle is Council's process for voting on grants above the 5K threshold—this seems like this is just a power play/micromanaging and doesn't really improve the outcomes. Another obstacle and/or opportunity is the Advisory Bodies and Commissions and their use of unpaid volunteers. An example: During the COAB, then-community member Jo Ann Hardesty shared that she did not appreciate that PPB were on the clock during those committee meetings and community members were not—they were volunteering. Change policies restricting stipends of more than \$500 year. If "they" made the rule, "they" can change the rule. Civic Life convenes a citywide committee examining the stipend issue (with OEHR, BHR, CAO)...and will give BAC members more background on that prior to your presentation.
- Another issue is the City's Equity Tool. In order to elevate the equity work, examining the disparate impact on smaller bureaus with smaller budgets of continued budget cuts potentially could be an opportunity to uphold the City's Core Values. If the City engages in continued budget reductions, smaller bureaus (especially ones focused on the Core Values of anti-racism and equity) could be protected from these cuts. Civic Life is committed to making everything it



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does part of equity work. All of the decisions are based in that. It's a part of the water that the bureau swims.

- This is not the first time the BAC has grappled with qualitative and quantitative; we have often focused on matters of equity.

### **QUESTION:**

*If there are smaller/equity focused bureaus is it possible to sustain their work to exempt them from the 5% cuts? If policies are in place that make equity difficult, let's review and resolve those things.*

Most bureaus are doing equity work, so it might be a question of how there can be an exemption for one bureau and not for another. But, the conversation is an important one and is worth asking the question. Note: Mayor's guidance based on size fewer than 30 employees, such as Office of Equity and Human Rights and Government Relations. Before BAC members present to council--suggestion that a draft of bullet points be sent to other BAC members to review before going to council. Reminder that this is BAC's time to present—and talk more about their idea of the equity proposition.

If Civic Life was to get the \$480K cut back, we wouldn't necessarily put it back in the same place but rather reinvest in other places related more to Core Values and community that BAC has identified. It's not as simple as "don't cut", rather reinvest. Let's work on how to discuss this during a budget work session.

The form of government has impacted equity in budgeting. Charter reform committee in session this year. Many Council members have voiced their interest in this topic this time.

Collective conversation—a wholistic approach to equity is the only way to get there. Fracturing is the problem, not seeing the whole and relationships and makes it hard to get to the conversations about equitable outcomes. How can there be equitable investments without having a deeper and broader connection?

BAC members presenting to Council will send out bullet points for review and discuss. Suk will present first for an overview of the budget request, then BAC members present their pieces.

### 6. MAY MEETING

BAC members discussed potential agenda topics for May:



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- Why does the neighborhood services program receive so much money? Coalition and N/A start to incorporate DEI work. Why are there not requirements for members of N/A regarding implicit bias, micro aggressions, etc.. What infrastructure is there to help members with that work? Grant agreement contracts reference working with diverse population but no specifics. Needs to be spelled out in much greater detail. Could grant agreement include more specificity? Can we examine N/A's against the context of all our civic engagement programs and all the ways we see Civic Engagement in the City. A primer would be good. BAC members volunteered to shape the conversation.
- Would like to learn more about Code especially regarding Civic Engagement models, evolution, and focus on N/A and added community groups. (Code related to that.) Code "lite" presentation? Why does it matter what is written down? Code in service to communities we need to support—review code change report.



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2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
3. REVIEW MEETING AGENDA
7. PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

### NOTES:

8. CBO RECCOMENDATIONS: See attached slides from Angela Butel from City Budget Office (CBO).  
Review of General Fund reduction and add backs. More add backs than reductions, now CBO reviews and put forward recommendations to get the City's budget balanced. Based on a framework that incorporates:

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### CBO Review—Civic Life:

- Internal adjustments to align budget to priorities
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### CBO Recommendations on Decision Packages:



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### **QUESTION:**

*There are a few line items I would like to understand better. Neighborhood outreach and support 9% cut? Community Safety taking cut? I support large increase in graffiti. Communications is asking for 20% more and a 10% increase for Youth.*

Neighborhoods program support has 3 different parts, there was a 5% cut to the Nonprofit DCOs (just like Civic Life) Neighborhood is the largest program in Civic Life (3M), so take a proportional cut--each office received between \$13K-27K cut. There are no small grants this year, so a \$103K cut was for small grants to community groups—not for DCOs, but for community orgs. This is because administratively--what it costs to get the grants out the door—is very inefficient to process through the bureau, and the impact is not as great as other strategic efforts. The small grants program is needed but note that many didn't happen this year with COVID. The small grants program was created to meet community needs, but we are yet to fully examine our largest investments. The DEI approach of adding a few dollars at the end in small grants is a decades old, we instead need to examine the largest of the bureau's investments and leverage those dollars.

There were reductions in the Community Safety program, a Supervisor I position was eliminated which includes (Phones/computer) and overtime allocation.

Cannabis did not get cut because it is not part of the general fund, but note it is funding the lion's share of the technology investment 75%, (the other 25% split across 5 other programs).

Civic Life kept some entirely intact—Multnomah Youth Commission (MYC) has such a small allocation, so cutting 10% has a disproportionate effect on the program, and the program is adding back a Community Service Aide II.

Yes, Civic Life needs to work with neighborhoods in DEI work--every community Civic Life works with every single group needs that kind of support and encouragement. The *bulk* of the grant funding needs





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to have the DEI lens, not just the last dollars. Constructing Civic Dialogues are a way to do those training opportunities, including Neighborhood Associations, Civic is pushing to increase those trainings, and other orgs, not CBO has not recommended that for this year.

<https://www.portland.gov/civic/ccd>

### **QUESTION:**

*Federal relief package? Is there any way to take that into consideration?*

It certainly will, those resources are one-time in nature, so can't really use for on-going. But can potentially use them for one-time like for graffiti, that will free up general fund for the other pieces. City Council will be starting that conversation at the April 1<sup>st</sup> work session.

### 9. BUDGET EQUITY TOOL:

What has worked, what can be improved? Civic Life is presenting at a Council Work Session on March 30<sup>th</sup> and invites members of BAC to join as part of that presentation. If members are interested, suggestion to present on the general process the BAC has used, as well as an opportunity to discuss the Budget Equity Tool with City Council. There is a lot of equity talk in the city, this is an opportunity to discuss the work that goes behind it. BAC members identified some ideas: One obstacle is Council's process for voting on the 5K budget threshold—this seems like this is just a power play/micromanaging and doesn't really improve the outcomes. Another obstacle and/or opportunity is the Advisory Committees and Commissions and it's use of unpaid volunteers. An example: COAB and COCO, disbanding, Comm. Hardesty did not appreciate PBB were on the clock and others were not—they were volunteering. Change policies to not allow to pay \$500-1K a year to "technically" become an employee. If they made the rule, they can change the rule. Civic Life does have a committee examining the stipend issue (with OEHR, BHR, CAO)...and will give BAC members more background on that prior to your presentation.

Another issue is the City's Equity Tool, in order to elevate the equity work, disparate impact smaller bureaus with smaller budgets are not faced with continued budget cuts and potentially be an opportunity to uphold the City's Core Values. If the City engages in continued budget reductions, smaller bureaus (especially ones focused on the Core Values of anti-racism and equity) could be protected from these cuts.





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Civic Life is committed to making everything it does part of equity work, all of the decision are based in that. It's a part of the water that the bureau swims.

This is not the first time the BAC has grappled qualitative and quantitative, these bureaus are always focused on matters of equity.

### **QUESTION:**

*If there are smaller/equity focused bureaus is it possible to sustain their work to exempt them from the 5% cuts? If policies are in place that make equity difficult, let's review and resolve those things.*

Most bureaus of all doing equity work, so it might be a question of how there can be an exemption for one bureau and not other. But, the conversation is an important one and is worth asking the question. Note: Mayor's guidance based on size fewer than 30 employees, OEHR and GR. Before BAC members present to council--suggestion that a draft of bullet points be sent to other BAC members to review before going to council. Reminder that this is BAC's time to present—and talk more about their idea of the equity proposition.

Perhaps not just investments into the Neighborhood Association system, the Bureau needs to get more dollars out in other ways—these opportunities could strengthens underserved communities even more. If Civic Life was to get the \$480K cut back, we wouldn't necessarily put it back in the same place, rather reinvest in other places related more to Core Values and community BAC has identified. It's not as simple as "don't cut", rather reinvest. Let's work on how to discuss this during a budget work session.

Charter reform committee in session this year, has been discussed for many years. Never been a consensus, not there seems to be support on council for it. Knows for sure there are a number of commissioners that really want to look into that.

Collective conversation—a wholistic approach to equity is the only way to get there. Fracturing is the problem, not seeing the whole and relationships and makes it hard to get to the conversations about equitable outcomes. How can there be equitable investments without having a deeper and broader connection?



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May items: N/A why they receive so much money? Coalition and N/A start to incorporated DEI work. Questions lack of requirements for members of N/A complicit biased, free emotional labor, micro aggressions. Infrastructure not there to help members with that work. Grant agreement contracts reference but no specifics. Needs to be spelled out in much greater detail. Don't know what new grant agreement looks like, it should have more specificity. Look at all of our civic engagement programs. N/A and in the context in all the ways we see Civic Engagement in the City. I would really appreciate a primer, please.

BAC member would also like to learn more about Code especially the Civic Engagement models and evolution and focus on N/A and added Comm. Groups. (Code related to that.) Code "lite" presentation? Why does it matter what is written down? Code in service to communities we need to support—review code change report. Kimberlea and Stan help shape conversation?



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