



OFFICE OF
**Community
& Civic Life**

Promote the common good

Bureau Advisory Committee Meeting



VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING



Tuesday, January 11th, 2020



5:30 – 7:00pm

2021-2022 Civic Life BAC Members:

Leina Gonzalez Baird, Daniel Franco-Nunez, Jose Gomez, Josee Kangabe, Manijeh Mehrnoosh, Stan

Penkin, Kimberléa Ruffu, Christina Weinholz

ABSENT: Meikelo Cabbage

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
2. REVIEW MEETING AGENDA
3. PUBLIC COMMENT (SEE BELOW)

NOTES:

Introduction of Josee Kangabe, our newest BAC member!

4. REVIEW PROPOSED PROGRAM BUDGET CHANGES

Proposed Program Budget

Given the demographic for 2035, to be ready, a city that will be much more diverse, younger, there will be more languages spoken, more people that weren't born here as well as the disability community being a perennially neglected one. When you have a society with chronic hardships (homeless, poverty), those exasperate the challenges for folks with disabilities—the disabling elements of the pandemic as well.

Civic Life 2022-2023 one-time funding asks: Welcoming Week, \$28K for outreach, translation, materials, communications, event costs associated with our National Welcoming Week activities.

District Coalition Offices \$316K: this amount represents \$250,000 for small grants and \$66,000 for base budget increases.



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Our ONE TIME asks are to restore the prior reductions and will include a note that we hope to ask for these funding levels as ongoing items in future years.

QUESTION: *I agree with the strategy, but wonder if bureaus ask for one time year after year, essentially making it ongoing?*

Yes—fairly common to ask for one-year every year. For example—the guidance is is for “one time” or a pilot program. Serial “one time” asks, very small and also large asks that happen every year. Serial one times—joint office of homeless services (6-7M every year), indication from council it’s supportive, and would like to do that ongoing when it becomes more permanent.

QUESTION: *Can you speak to the “base budget increases”.*

The DCO are funding entirely by general funds, the 66K would top it back up not last year, but the year before—before the 5% cut. For personal, administrative, only to the DCO budgets, not being distributed throughout the bureau.

QUESTION: *I had talked to DCO staff and they said their staff weren’t getting raises, and said it wasn’t in the budget. Merit based raises, etc—that is why I was wondering.*

We are asking our financial analyst what is the number for COLA? So we can be best informed on how to allocate. These are the general amounts, these 66K is the add back that is for one time. Salary stats are up to their boards, if the DCO could award raises by shifting funds for that.

QUESTION: *I thought the \$316K that was specifically for grants? Need to detail out what we are talking about? Maybe I’m wrong, maybe it’s my ignorance. I don’t understand what this is exactly we are talking about.*

Each program will need to ask for money for every year. \$316K is about restoring funding for the Neighborhood Outreach and Support. The 28K is for the Immigrant and Refugee programming line item.

Last year, that \$316 at first removed, then \$250K was restored, one time only for THIS fiscal year. (so it’s been operating with \$66K this year). So we are asking to do that again this year—to restore to that level and make up for the \$66K cut from last year. What is additional is the I&R program, adding money for welcoming week, it’s important, it’s necessary – we are going to say we’d like for these to be ongoing as well to set up the conversation for years to come.



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Less good news: PINCH POINTS:

Costs are rising for rent, technology, vehicles, insurances and security services among others.

A new key staffing augments have also increases our General Fund. For example we hadn't initially planned for the Southwest Neighborhood District Services Coordinators but the Council decided to organize that way.

What are the most logical adjustments? We need another \$100K or \$300K cuts—we don't to reduce service level or impact individual employees, we do have grant programs, Diversity Civic Leadership Program, Constructing Civic Dialogues, Disability granting program, also the small grants program in the Neighborhood Outreach and Support. We could maintain service levels, but the fund that would be going out to be reduced?

Reflections on reducing grant amounts as a temporary measure? We are doing a strategic planning process. Reflections on adding only \$28K to I&R programming but \$316,000 to DCO. How can we better equip our DCO to serve Immigrant and Refugee communities, members of the disability community and Black, Indigenous and other communities of color?

There is a tension between supporting the already empower and supporting the most vulnerable with basic needs.

There is a tension between supporting the most vulnerable with basic needs and supporting the most vulnerable with engagement. Helping to release their capacity to pressure, advice, educate, advocate, those basic needs that are the most important to address. Not providing direct services, rather, resources to build leadership capacity.

QUESTION: *I touched upon last year—how can we consider to better engage the neighborhood system and the other group we are talking about, (disability,) How can we bring those closer together? Neighborhoods have been asking IN order to cut dollars, Constructing Civic Dialogues, if x amount of dollars, what impact? It's hard to fully comment to know without the hard numbers?*

QUESTION: *If we need to do certain cuts, then we have to do what we have to do to keep services to the most vulnerable. Since the neighborhood system was created, how much money has the money*



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provided to the neighborhood system? These are not welcoming meetings to people of color. It's interesting to what white folks hear vs what folks of color hear. My white colleagues say they "hear" neighborhood that they "want more diversity", but what I "hear" if we had more people of color at these meetings, we are right to hear from black and brown people. I'd like to see the city use the same opportunities that the neighborhoods have had in the past. In the last number of year, we would like to provide the same level to bi-poc led organizations. If this fiscal year, work on eliminating grants, what I'd like to see, leveling the playing field.

QUESTION: *We have to develop reactions that allow that are always focused on equity and not discrimination. This challenge is admirable. In the 4 years I've been involved, I've seen a lot of development and work on supporting the communities, this happens world wide, I work closely with Prosper Portland and Impact Beaverton. With Prosper Portland, I work with Hacienda CDC, I have a direct relationship with 3 programs, strategic plan development to strengthen food chains, been working on that for a year and a half. This year program to benefit historically underserved communities. That is most often the bi-poc community. I've also been looking for business opportunities for the Latino community. For Prosper Portland in Oct invited orgs to take part in their strategic planning, has to do with I&R, senior citizens, youth. This year there are going to be 25 councilors to develop strategic plan from 21-25th. They ask question, a lot of actions, when Michael is talking about the \$316K, Prosper Portland has been Maybe be important to engage Prosper Portland and work together. Maybe we are duplicating fund? Duplicating efforts. Just my reflection, not saying it is bad, be good to approach them and specifically run this program at Prosper Portland. Improve our outcomes, quality then we could have more resources for Civic Life to have more actions, programming.*

Yes--Prosper Portland is really focusing on the economics of the City. As a strategic line, maybe you could get together and talk. Civic Life's mission is unlike Prosper (economic Dev) our mission is Civic Engagement and community—need to stay very carefully focused, reduced barriers, increase capacity productive and positive community engagement.

East Portland has a high number of immigrant and refugee families, economic downturn pushed many bi-poc folks out to the East side. Glad to see the funding ask for Welcoming Week, not just in the back in the mind of council. They are part of Portland and welcome week brought them to the table. Every year it can be a continuous program. WE are here, we hear you. Putting action where word are. The tension between the already empowered and the most vulnerable—it is something unfortunately happens and still happens. A lot of bi-poc engagement is where we feel comfortable, I think we have to be mindful of that—just because you live in a neighborhood, not necessarily engagement in that



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neighborhood. We do have coordinators in a DC and have different grants, that is something that can empower some people, how we lead them to move forward. Crunch the numbers, food shortages, to know where resources are for families. Serve them by providing access program—many folks don't speak English, folks need interpretation (like our BAC member who is having interpretation at this meeting.)

QUESTION: *There are certainly folks on boards who don't want to do this work, important to recognize this too, makes it really challenging. BIPOC folks join a board, but others don't want to go to DEI trainings,*

QUESTION: *A lot of people who are not interested in supporting underserved communities, the worst are ones who DON'T say it. They do it in more unknown ways, blocking, etc. Why are they so against it and what can we do about it? Why are they resistant? Their power is going away? The demographics scare them? What can we do to support them to understand: this is the right thing to do?*

I would just say it 's about partnership. Crunching numbers is important, but we are meeting with our DCO offices, and apart of that agreement is scope of work. Funded yearly, specific last and this year sitting down and what is that niche, what is that metric, what is that in addition to the neighborhood associations. We are already working on that, not us vs them, but partnership. DCLs, and DCOs can come together and have an over-arching effort. This type of dialogue is happening now, how that scope of work looks like in future 2035 would look like.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

What I'm puzzled about, how measuring civic engagement, but was it really worth their time to engage? In all the conversations tonight, there wasn't much about *how* to measure community engagement. How does Civic Life plan to measure that? Mayor's guidance wants to measure cost effectiveness, what does Civic Life want to measure?

5. BAC SUMMARY REVIEW: Civic Life staff will send out for review.

6. ADJOURN



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