



*Portland's 2020*

# **CHARTER COMMISSION Council Work Session**

## *Agenda*

### **Overview of The Charter Commission Process**

Shoshanah Oppenheim, Office of the CAO

### **Overview of the City's Charter**

Maja K. Haium, City Attorney

### **Lessons Learned from Previous Commissions**

Anita Yap, 2010 Charter Commission Chair &  
Shelli Romero, Charter Commission Member

### **Community Conversation on Equitable Governing**

Collin Jones, City Club Board of Governors

### **Why Does This Matter to Community?**

Andrea Valderrama, Coalition of Communities of Color

*City of Portland's core values to guide  
our decision – making and shape our  
workplace culture*

**Equity**

**Communication**

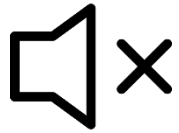
**Transparency**

**Collaboration**

**Anti-racism**

**Fiscal Responsibility**

# Virtual Meeting Etiquette Reminders



Remember to mute your computer when you're not speaking.



Have a question during the presentation? Use the chat room.



Raise your hand if you want to say something during the discussion.

**A COMMUNITY  
CONVERSATION ABOUT**

*three principles*

**Equity.**  
**Engagement.**  
**Representation.**

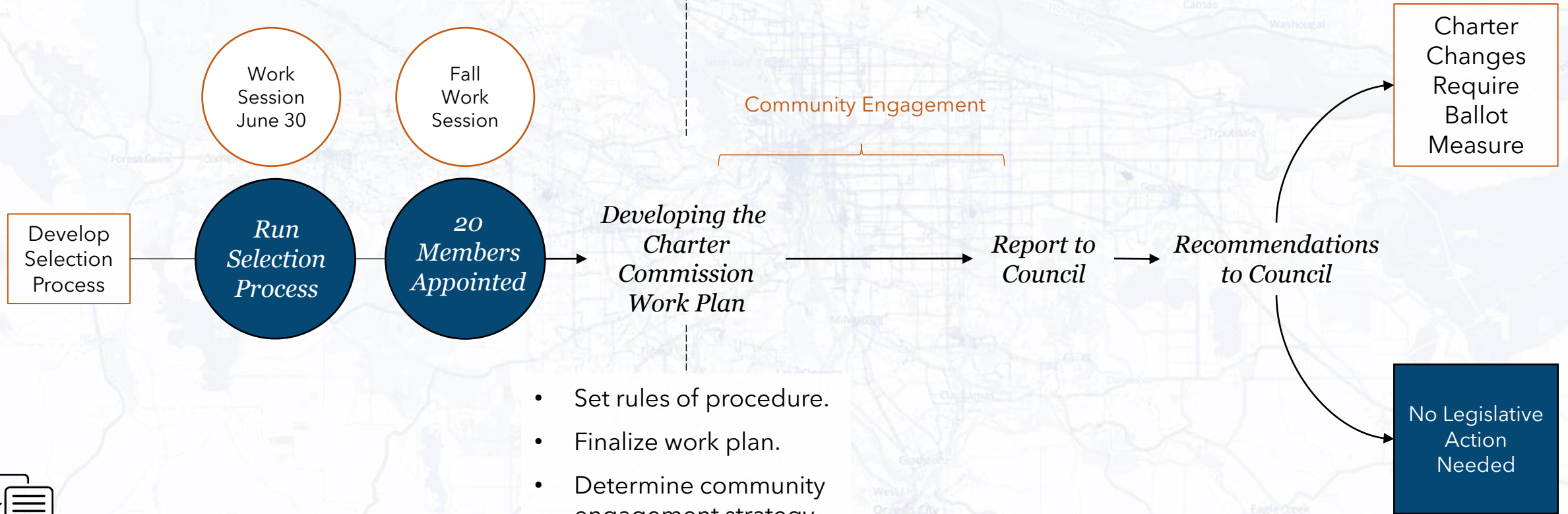
Portland's Charter  
Form of Government  
Voting Methods  
Structures of Power  
District Representation  
Council Size  
Economic Impact  
Duplication of Services  
City Challenges  
What's Next ...

Summer – Fall 2020

## BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

Winter 2020 – Jan/Feb 2022

## CHARTER COMMISSION REVIEW PROCESS

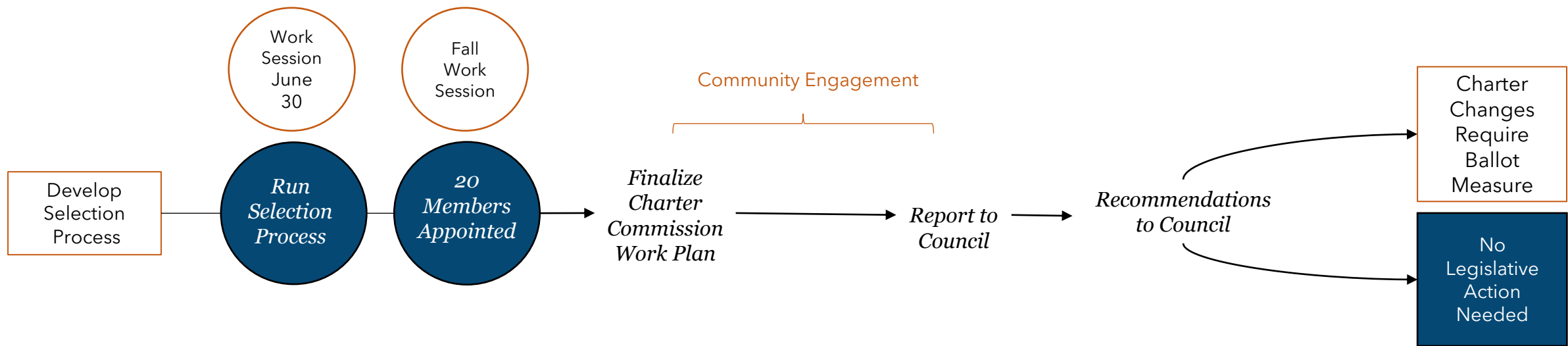


- Set rules of procedure.
- Finalize work plan.
- Determine community engagement strategy.



three principles

Equity.  
Engagement.  
Representation.



# *the selection process*

## WHAT IS REQUIRED?

- The Commission is comprised of 20 individuals
- Each City Council Member appoints 4 individuals to the Commission

## WHAT ALIGNS WITH OUR PRINCIPLES?

- Application process open to the public
- Broad outreach about the opportunity
- Remove barriers for participation



# CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION: One City Approach

Common Application

Mayor  
Wheeler

Comm.  
Fritz

Comm.  
Position 2

Comm.  
Hardesty

Comm.  
Eudaly

COUNCIL REVIEW  
Qualified applicants based on Council criteria

*shared effort  
unified equity lens  
consistent criteria  
cohesive Commission*

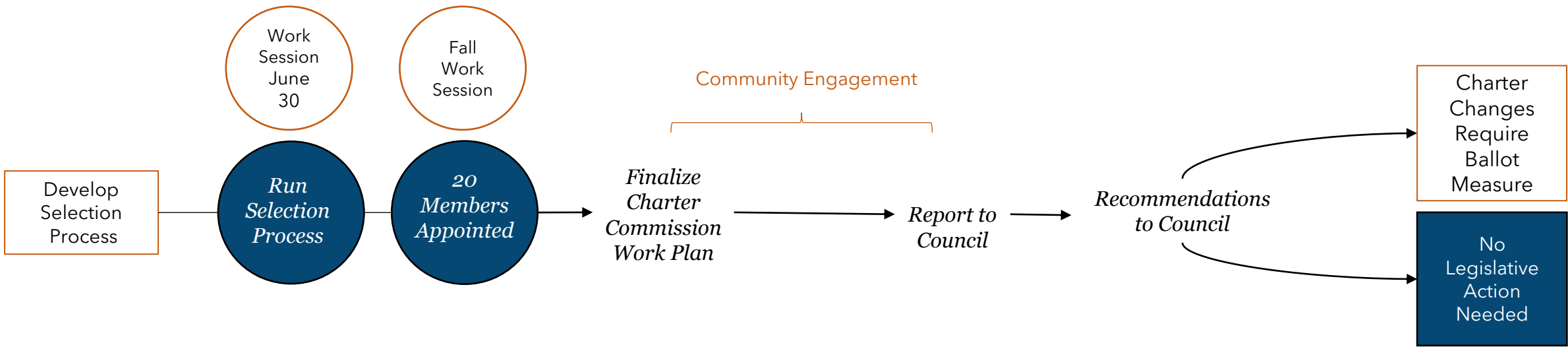
One City  
One Approach



*three principles*

Equity.  
Engagement.  
Representation.





# *the workplan*

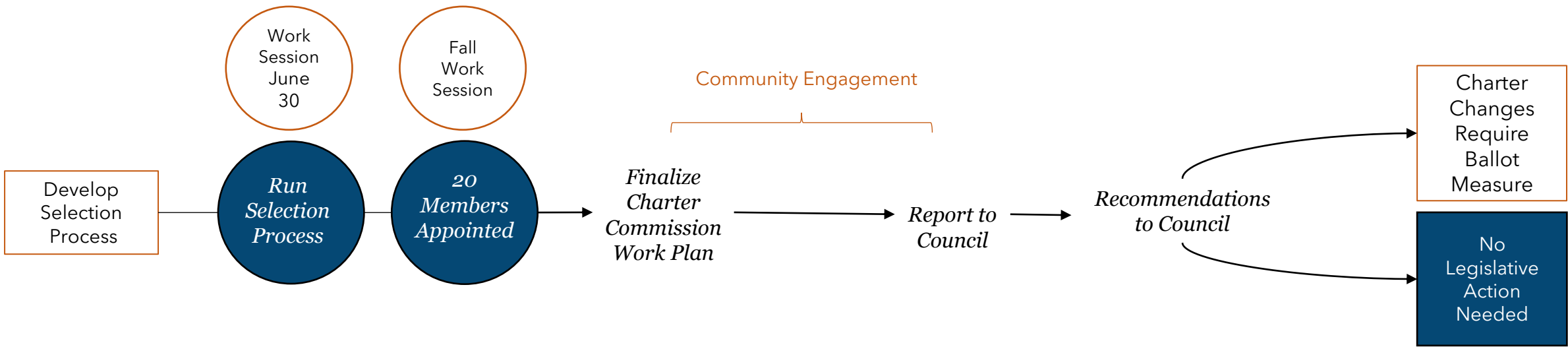
## WHAT IS REQUIRED?

- Commission sets their own rules of procedure
- Council may request review of specific sections
- Commission review shall not be limited

## WHAT ALIGNS WITH OUR PRINCIPLES?

- Empowering Commission
- Reflecting issues raised by the community
- Improving how the Council functions
- Considering economic and community impacts due to the form of government
- Resolving structural challenges





## *Fall council work session*

- Types of government - limitations and opportunities
- Representation and leadership - size of Council and district elections
- Voting methods - ranked choice, district
- Successes and challenges of other cities that have transitioned from commission forms to other forms of government



*next  
steps*

## **Launch selection process**

- Share with partner organizations, community members
- Commit to timeline

## **Launch Communications Plan**

- Share information about the Commission how to be involved and informed

## **Plan for 2<sup>nd</sup> work session**

- Solicit additional topics areas of interest from Council

## **Understand Council priorities**



*meet the  
team*

## **Giyeon Kim & Shoshanah Oppenheim**

- Strategic Project Managers in OMF

## **Diana Shiplet**

- Administrative and Program Support

## **Maja K. Haium**

- City Attorney

## **Francisca Garfia & Laura Oppenheimer**

- Office of the CAO Communications Team

# Portland Charter 101

Maja K. Haium, City Attorney

# *City of Portland's Charter*

**Q:** Where do city governments derive their power?

**A:** The City's Charter, which is a written grant of authority by the people of Portland to the City of Portland authorizing the City to exercise the rights specified.



## *Charter History*

- 1851: Portland first incorporated by the territory of Oregon
- 1859: Oregon granted statehood
- 1906: Oregon voters adopt a constitutional amendment granting the people the right to draft and amend their own city charters
- 1913: Portland voters approve new charter, adopt commission form of government



# *Governance*

**Oregon Constitution;** Oregon Statutes

**Portland Charter;** Portland Code

## Function of Charter

- Creates city as legal entity
- Authorizes city powers
- Amended by Portland voters

## Function of Code

- Day-to-day operations
- Amended by City Council



# *League of Oregon Cities: Model Charter*

## **Best practices**

- Function as a city constitution
- Basic, broad fundamentals of city government
- Permit good governance and accountability
- Concise
- Avoid need for frequent amendment

# *League of Oregon Cities: Model Charter*

## **Provisions**

- Names and Boundaries
- Powers
- Council (city manager)
- Legislative Authority
- Administrative Authority
- Quasi-Judicial Authority
- Elections
- Appointive Officers
- Personnel
- Public Improvements
- Miscellaneous

# *City of Portland Charter*

## **Roughly follows best practices, with a few exceptions**

- Commission form of government
- Some day-to-day operations:
  - Fire and police disability, retirement and death plan
  - Prohibition on some weatherization
  - Accounting procedures
  - Utility franchising process, including newspaper publication requirements

*City of Portland's Charter*

# **Lessons Learned: 2010 Charter Commission**

Anita Yap  
Shelli Romero

**Independence.  
Support.  
Respect.**

## **City Council must:**

- Provide adequate support
- Empower Commission
- Respect their voices and recommendations
- Recruit diverse individuals
- Commit to independence
- Promote transparency



*City Club of Portland:  
Community Conversations  
& A Change Moment*

Colin Jones

# Voting for Change Since 1933.

City Club of Portland established.

1916

1913

Portland's commission form of government adopted

1933

Research Reports **recommend change:** Adopting a council/ city manager form of government

1958

Initiative Petition defeated.

1966

Research Report **recommends change:** Adopting a strong mayor-council; Resulted in Coalition of civic groups advancing an Initiative Petition

1999

Research Report **recommends change:** Finds that the Commission System "Inhibits more coordinated and effective management."

2002

Initiative Petition 26-30 defeated. Proposed a hybrid district-at large Council.

Measure Study: **Vote No. Recommends changes,** but following a Charter Review process, not by Initiative Petition

2007

Initiative Petition 26-91 defeated. Proposed strong Mayor & Chief Administrative Officer, appointed by mayor and confirmed by Council.

Measure Study: **Vote No.** Found issues with the proposed Strong Mayor form of government.

2019

Research Report: **recommends change.** Adopting a larger, council/manager form of government, elected by districts.

2020

Voting Methods Research Report: **Coming Soon!**



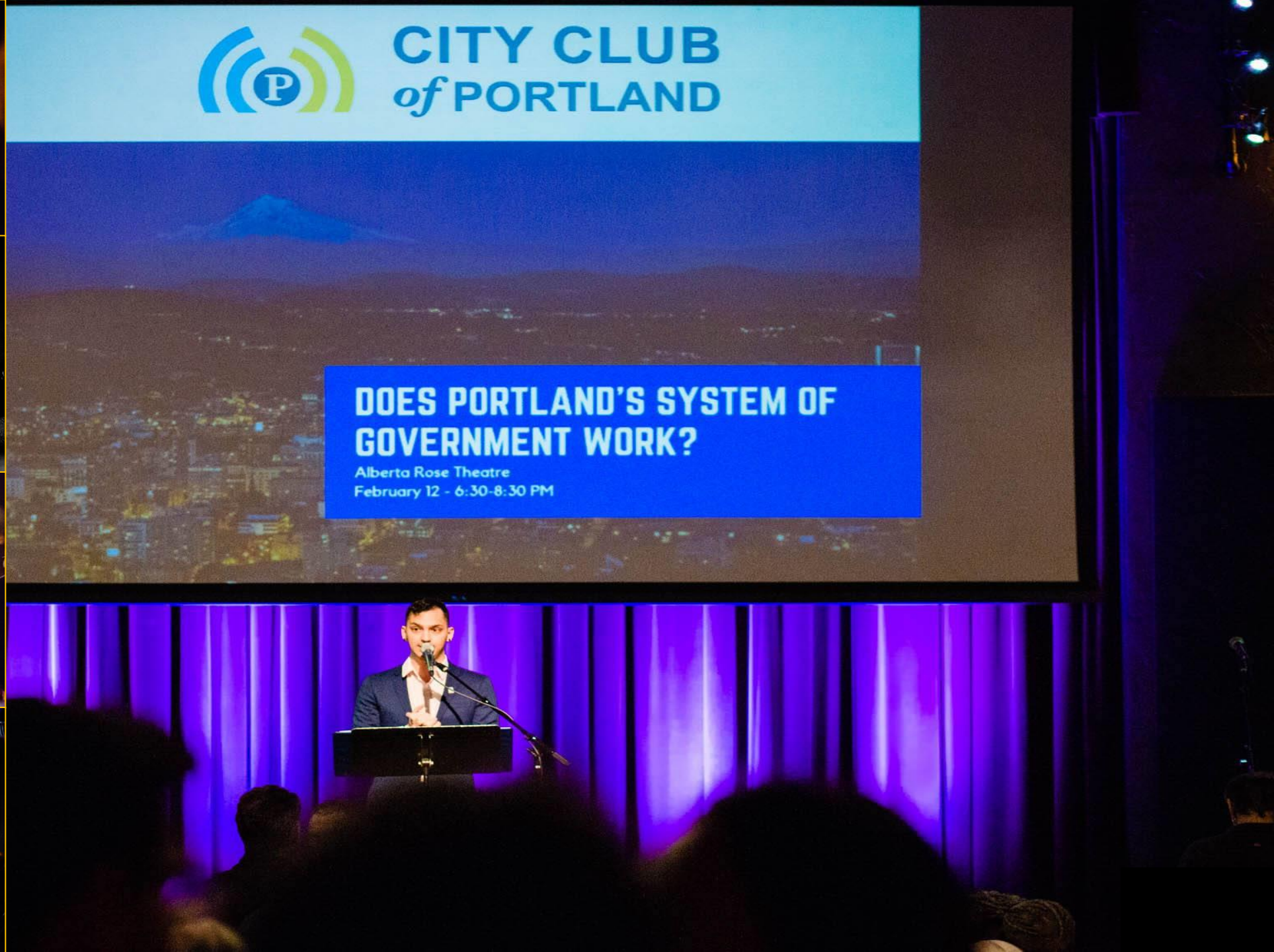
**CITY CLUB**  
*of* PORTLAND

## DOES PORTLAND'S SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WORK?

Alberta Rose Theatre  
February 12 - 6:30-8:30 PM



Comments &  
Questions





Andrea Valderrama, Advocacy Director  
Coalition of Communities of Color  
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# CURRENT STRUCTURE

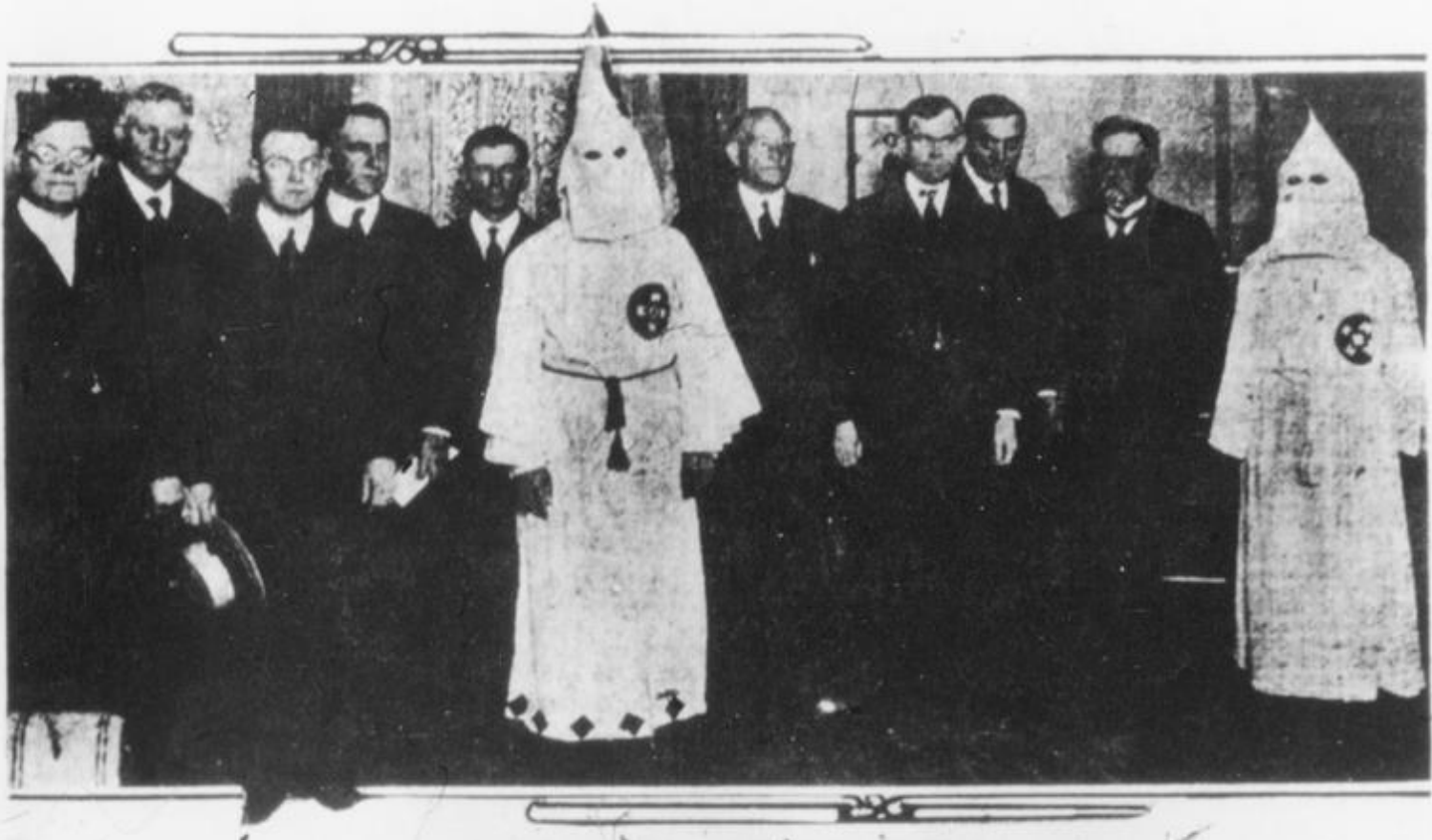
## COMMISSION FORM PRESERVES WHITE SUPREMACY

- 1867 --Portland Public Schools institutionalized segregation
- 1902 --The only officially recorded lynching in Oregon
- 1913 --Oregon constitution banned any “free negro, mulatto, not residing in this State at the time” from living, holding real estate, and making any contracts within the state.
- 1919 --Portland Real Estate Board’s Code of Ethics mandates that real estate agents not sell to individuals whose race would “greatly depreciate, in the public mind, surrounding property values.”
- 1921 --Ku Klux Klan established an Oregon chapter.





CHIEF KLUXERS TELL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS JUST WHAT MYSTIC ORGANIZATION PROPOSES TO DO IN CITY OF PORTLAND



MORAL and political clean-up will be the object of Ku Klux Klan's first campaign, the King Kleagle, ranking officer for Oregon, told a group of citizens at a meeting yesterday to which his guests were summoned by mysterious telephone messages. The King Kleagle is the sheeted figure in the center of the group. *U. S. Office of the National Safety Council*





# CURRENT STRUCTURE

## COMMISSION FORM INSTITUTIONALIZES INEQUITIES

- Disenfranchisement of BIPOC communities occurs at every level of Portland City Government
- Three people of color have served on council thus far
- Disenfranchisement of BIPOC communities who live in outer East Portland
- The commission form has also contributed to significant workloads of leadership, where responsibilities include overseeing bureau administrative, programmatic, and planning efforts in addition to legislative, and sometimes judicial responsibility, leading to challenges like reform for bureaus like PPB, Parks, and Civic Life.



# CITY HALL FOR ALL COALITION



- Leading with BIPOC, most directly impacted, to set this up for success
- It's time to address inequities from institutionalized racism and white supremacy
- Focusing on recruitment & outreach, policy, and community organizing
- We can share details of recruitment values and skills if helpful
- Advocating for meaningful community engagement throughout process





# WILL YOU JOIN US?

1. Appoint commissioners who adhere to anti racism and equitable representation as core values
2. Commit to making City Hall a place for all Portlanders
3. Ensure this process addresses issues that most directly impact BIPOC communities
4. Meaningfully engage with community and resource engagement best practices

