



## **South Park Blocks Master Plan Community Advisory Committee**

June 20, 2019, 5:30-8:00pm

1900 SW Fourth Avenue - Room 2500 C



### **Agenda**

- 5:30 Welcome and Introductions
- Introduction Warm-Up Activity – To mark the summer solstice, what is your favorite summertime place or activity?
  - Agenda Review
  - Meeting summary review and approval
- 5:55 Public Comment
- 6:05 Progress Updates
- TAC meeting, walking tours, Community Open House
- 6:15 Reflections on Walking Tours
- What did you see, learn, understand, question?
- 6:30 Break
- 6:40 Racial Equity Plan Discussion
- 7:00 Opportunities and Challenges
- 7:55 Next Steps and Evaluation - + Δ
- 8:00 Close Meeting

#### **Administration**

1120 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 1302  
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**PORTLANDPARKS.ORG**

Nick Fish, Commissioner  
Adena Long, Director





**South Park Blocks Master Plan Project  
Community Advisory Committee**



Gaylen Beatty

Julie Bunker

Portland's 5 Centers for the Arts

Michelle Comer

Travel Portland and My People's Market

Jessica E Engelmann

Nicholas Fazio

Lisa Frisch

Downtown Retail Program, Portland Business Alliance

Randy Gragg

Portland Parks Board and Portland Parks Foundation

Amber Holland

Portland Farmers Market

Keith Jones

Friends of the Green Loop

Amanda Keasberry

Mack McFarland

Center for Contemporary Art & Culture,  
Pacific NW College of Art

Melinda McMillan

David Newman

Friends of South Park Blocks

Stephanie Parrish

Portland Art Museum

Wendy Rahm

Downtown Neighborhood Association

Kathy Russo

Judy BlueHorse Skelton

Native American Community Advisory Committee,  
PSU Indigenous Nations Studies

Maya Sykes

St. Mary's Academy Student

Andrew VanDerZanden

Oregon Historical Society

Mason Wordell

Savahna Jackson

PSU Indigenous Nations Studies Student

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## Community Advisory Committee Group Process and Agreements

### Community Advisory Committee

This advisory committee represents a diversity of expertise, skills, backgrounds and viewpoints.

#### Advisors are expected to:

- Listen carefully to each other;
- Fully consider community needs, ideas, and feedback; and
- Work together to recommend a community-supported park design that reflects neighborhood priorities and citywide goals.

#### Developing Recommendations

- Recommendations should represent a broad base of collective wisdom about what will best serve our city and the local neighborhood.
- The committee will work to reach full agreement on guidance and recommendations, using a consensus process that respects the perspectives and contributions of all advisors.
- Whenever possible, the group will forward recommendations that are supported by the full group. If full agreement is not possible, the committee will use a three-quarters majority vote to finalize recommendations. In the case of a majority vote, a minority report will be submitted along with the CAC recommendation.
- The suggestions, advice, and recommendations of the CAC will be provided to the project staff and the Director of Portland Parks & Recreation for consideration. Final decisions will be made by the PP&R Director.

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## **South Park Blocks Master Plan Community Advisory Committee**

### **Ground Rules & Agreements**

- ✓ Speak honestly and respectfully
- ✓ Listen to understand
- ✓ Respect the views and opinions of others
- ✓ Keep an open mind
- ✓ During discussions, allow everyone the opportunity to speak once before speaking twice.
- ✓ Use discussion to clarify information, not advocate for your position.
- ✓ Consider the needs and concerns of the local community, the larger city and the city's place in the world.
- ✓ Lead with racial equity
- ✓ Leave time for people to process and ask questions
- ✓ Facilitators to lead the group through difficult or uncomfortable situations
- ✓ Silence is okay
- ✓ Be aware of personal biases
- ✓ It's okay to be raggedy
- ✓ Focus on ideas rather than people
- ✓ Focus on challenges as opportunities for problem solving



**South Park Blocks Master Plan**

**Community Advisory Committee Meeting #1**

Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 5:30pm – 8:00pm

PSU Smith Memorial Student Union, 1825 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97201

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Gaylen Beatty, Julie Bunker, Michelle Comer, Jessica Engelmann, Nicholas Fazio, Lisa Frisch, Randy Gragg, Amber Holland, Keith Jones, Amanda Keasberry, Mack McFarland, Melinda McMillan, David Newman, Stephanie Parrish, Kathy Russo, Judy BlueHorse Skelton, Maya Sykes, Mason Wordell

**Committee Members Absent:** Wendy Rahm, Andrew VanDerZanden

**PP&R Staff:** Adena Long, Tate White, Barbara Hart

**Facilitators:** Kristen Bishop (LCA), Zachary Johnson (LCA)

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Welcome & Introductions**

Barbara Hart of Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R) opened the meeting at 5:35pm by welcoming CAC members. CAC members were asked to introduce themselves and answer the question “what connects you to the South Park Blocks?”.

Director Adena Long welcomed the group and thanked them for their involvement. She shared her commitment to inclusivity and public participation embodied in the CAC’s central role in shaping the future of the South Park Blocks.

Kristen Bishop, facilitator with Lois D. Cohen Associates (LCA), reviewed the meeting agenda.

**Public Comment**

Tim Davis, a community member, commented that parks throughout Portland were often inactive apart from major events, that neighbors are afraid to walk in the South Park Blocks, that people should be prioritized over cars, and that PP&R should turn on fountains.

**Goals, Roles, & Group Agreements**

Barbara reviewed the South Park Blocks Master Plan Goals and the CAC Goals. She explained the use of consensus-based decision making rather than voting, and the use of red, yellow, and green cards to signify people’s support for ideas, proposals, and recommendations.

Barbara then reviewed the PP&R Group Agreements and Ground Rules and invited CAC members to pair off to discuss any modifications or additions they would suggest the group discuss. Kristen opened a group discussion of suggested changes and additions. The following ground rules were reviewed and discussed by the CAC:

*Initial list:*

- Speak honestly and respectfully



- Listen to understand
- Respect the views and opinions of others
- Keep an open mind
- During discussions, allow everyone the opportunity to speak once before speaking twice
- Use discussion to clarify information, not advocate for your position
- Consider the needs and concerns of the local community and the larger city

### *Additions:*

- Lead with racial equity
- Leave time for people to process and ask questions
- Facilitators to lead the group through difficult or uncomfortable situations
- Silence is okay
- Be aware of personal biases
- It's okay to be raggedy
- Focus on ideas rather than people
- Add to end of last item on initial list...the larger city, and the city's place in the world
- Focus on challenges as opportunities for problem solving

This amended Group Agreements and Ground Rules list was approved in its entirety by the committee.

Committee members asked for more information about PP&R's Racial Equity Policy. Staff will provide this information at the next CAC meeting.

### **Project Overview**

Tate White (PP&R project manager for the master plan) provided a project overview that included information about the site plan and context, master plan goals, governance structure, the consultant team, and the project timeline. She then answered the following questions and comments from CAC members:

- Will any work be done on Ankeny or O'Bryant Squares?
  - *The scope for this master plan is limited to the South Park Blocks due to the funding source. The CAC can, however, think about connections between the South Park Blocks and the Mid/North Blocks*
- Is there a specific development that we are trying to interface with?
  - *We want to consider all adjacent development (existing and planned) in thinking about the park block's future and how they relate to their surroundings. A Design Commission process led to the developer of the nearby Broadway Tower committing to build an affordable housing complex, provide funds for a master planning process for the South Park Blocks, and provide funds for improvements to the park block closest to the development. However, the master plan itself is not focused on this tower or single park block.*
- Can you clarify where the master plan area is?
  - *We are looking at the twelve South Park Blocks from Salmon down to I-405.*



- Comment: Once the master plan is complete, there is only funding for implementation of improvements to a portion of the area.
  - *We are keeping this in mind throughout the process. This plan provides an opportunity to identify necessary improvements and add them to PP&R's Capital Improvement list, which will make it easier to act on them in the future when funding options become available. Funding for implementation beyond the contribution by the Broadway Tower developer is currently unidentified.*
- To clarify, are we planning for just one block?
  - *The master plan is for the entire South Park Blocks. There is identified future funding for implementing improvements on the block between SW Columbia and Clay Streets. Funding and implementation for the rest of the blocks will be a future step.*
- Are we thinking about design standard implementation?
  - *We're going to see how we can use the master plan to influence, if not create, design standards. PP&R master plans are not typically codified but are approved by City Council.*
- Where does this fit into scope of the City's master plans?
  - *Most PP&R master plans are for new parks. We have a unique opportunity with this master plan to work with an existing park. Another example of this is the recently completed Washington Park Master Plan. Although the two parks are quite different especially in size, there is a similar level of complexity involved with the South Park Blocks.*
- Will this master plan pave the way for agreement among bureaus?
  - *We hope this will be a success story of aligning visions of bureaus like the Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), Bureau of Environmental Services (BES), and other bureaus and partnering agencies. The Technical Advisory Committee is made up of representatives from these groups and will help create an aligned plan for coordinated implementation.*
- What are the components of the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA)?
  - *The developer funding was not technically from a CBA. This was a special public benefit required by the Design Commission. The full public benefit package includes funding for the Master Plan, approximately \$200,000 worth of improvements on one park block, and a building with affordable housing units.*
- Will we learn about PSU's Master Plan?
  - *The consultant is reviewing PSU's Master Plan and it is important for context. This could be discussed at the joint CAC/TAC meeting. PSU is also working on an open space plan, which will also be considered.*
- What are the typical steps in developing a master plan?
  - *The initial technical investigation is important. Before that, we engage in a scoping process with the bureau and stakeholders to consider what is working, what is not, and what should be looked at. This sets the stage for identifying goals, opportunities, and challenges. A technical review is conducted where we dig deeper into the physical and contextual aspects. We remain focused on*



*engagement throughout the process. A series of design alternatives is developed, usually three, and presented to stakeholders and the community for feedback. We then pick one of the designs or create a hybrid option for further refinement.*

### **Discussion**

Zachary Johnson, facilitator with LCA, led the group in an issues/opportunities activity. Group members were asked to write down issues and opportunities on sticky notes. All responses are attached at the end of this summary. Zach then led a group discussion where CAC members stated one of the issues and one of the opportunities they identified.

### **Next Steps**

Tate provided information on the next steps in the CAC process. Doodle Polls will be sent out to schedule times for walking tours of the Park Blocks and for the next CAC meeting, which is anticipated to occur in May. Overall, the CAC process will consist of 5 to 6 meetings over the course of a year.

### **Wrap Up & Evaluation**

Kristen thanked everyone for participating and asked for feedback on positive aspects of the meeting as well as things that should be changed for future meetings. The following feedback was provided by CAC members:

+

- Appreciated the ground rules and being able to modify them
- The packet of background information was useful

Δ

- More breaks
- Better food (more dinner items)
- Email questions in advance so CAC members can think about them

Kristen closed the meeting at 8:00pm.

## Opportunities

- Improve active recreation opportunities in the South Park Blocks
- Real opportunity to involve youth! So many schools/campuses adjacent to this.
- Promote passive learning about history, environment
- Programming entity like Pioneer Courthouse Square to make stuff happen
- Planning & designing for climate resiliency & low maintenance (long term lack of \$\$\$ for high maintenance)
- Create vibrant diverse & resilient ecosystem in heart of city for all species
- Access for all to urban greenspace & nature
- Can churches be engaged?
- Design for aging population
- Active engagement
- Think about climate change when considering landscaping & park features: i.e. fountains, trees, ground cover, fossil fuel usage
- Leverage this CAC to develop community
- Trees! Can they be native? Should they be climate resilient? Diverse? Big or small?
- Community gathering space enhancement
- Pet friendly vs. ecologically relevant
- Gathering place for communities
- More public activities
- More nature in urban setting
- Build new ideas on historic foundation
- Vegetation & gardens planted for food
- Designing for future modes of mobility (scooters, bikes, etc.)
- Design for cars now & a minimal car future
- Meaningful placemaking for residents and visitors
- Economic equity
- Art!
- Partnerships! Great education & cultural & religious institutions up and down the blocks
- Intimate scale of the park blocks, feels human
- Engage PSU students at unified sports events
- Design for a bigger vision than originally planned for
- Share Portland's story (areas of interest and education)
- Bring outlying communities together
- Rethinking conventional large city park/boulevard design & use
- Connections to Director Park and beyond
- Improve urban forest health—don't plant any more elm
- To ultimately have more cultural events in the "cultural district"
- Cultural equity
- Comprehensive approach to livability: safety, design, vitality
- Urban design @ the edge. It matters!
- PSU student design planning, engagement with Green Loop class
- Inclusion of houselessness needs
- Public amenities
- All weather use—is this possible?
- Neighborhood amenity to regional attraction
- Activation—events & activities
- Opportunity to make the area more family friendly. The farmers market already does this. How to build off of this in other ways? *Ad hoc* community center?
- Connecting the outer blocks surrounding the park blocks. Are there development opportunities that could bring in more money?
- Focus on food—a new model for how cities eat and feed themselves
- Opportunity to bring more focus to the cultural district
- Environmental equity
- Be "pro-working class", making the park work for working class communities and people in poverty
- Make a bold statement about climate change & people-focused cities
- Public art
- Engage surrounding business/non-profits as resource (funding augmentation)
- Innovative usage for aging population/disabilities
- Collaboration with homeless shelters
- Opportunities to connect to past histories and indigenous futures
- Accessibility for all: abilities, age, race, economic level
- Ecological diversity
- Cross cultural identity
- Create a useful space for gathering of community for everyone
- Beautiful area (even more than it already is)
- Tourism
- Enhanced gathering place
- Sustainable design
- Support PP&R ecologically sustainable landscaping initiative
- Partnerships—ways to encourage & support them
- Resilience/earthquake response

## ***Issues***

- Green loop impacts to historical South Park Blocks
- School buses: both museums need them, green loop doesn't
- Finite space & growing population density
- Scarce funding
- Historical designation of South Park Blocks
- Plan won't get used
- Lack of commitment to vision
- Statues and fountains preclude a lot of programming
- Shaking the perception that public space isn't for everyone
- Public health & safety
- Funds for maintenance
- Cars vs. no cars
- Fountain (ecological use of water)
- Ratio of nature to other
- Trees failing
- Tree canopy: perception trees are all dying
- Public safety and public health need to be addressed
- Needles, trash, and nearby homeless camps as a deterrent to use. This is a major challenge that at the very least needs coordination w/ other agencies/bureaus.
- How to make the South Park Blocks inclusive for many, including the houseless population
- Cars—too much parking but people love the parking
- Not enough various perspectives to represent all the communities
- Funding for all the good ideas
- Safety/perception of safety
- Lack of funds for implementation
- Safety—keeping the area drug and crime free
- Parking—supports neighboring businesses and is well used
- Cleanliness & safety
- Costs—no budget
- Bad street/park behavior
- Moving people safely through the space
- Maintenance learning curve: not designing to the lowest common denominator
- Inter-agency communication
- PCPA loading dock—it's there
- Designing for continuity of "place" even though funding may be sporadic
- White people (white & men) take up too much space in conversation, recommendations, and decision making
- Lack of diversity/representation on the committee
- How to address the needs of our homeless community vs. park users. Does it have to be a dichotomy?
- The discussion of homeless populations and ideas for mitigation
- PPR gatekeeping & lack of transparency
- Lack of shared understanding of leading with racial equity
- How to make sure this process, master plan, and developments recognize the indigenous tribes native to this area and their history
- Maintaining healthy green space—clean, healthy trees & plants
- How to help farmers market—plumbing, electric, loading, etc.

## ***Issues and/or Opportunities***

- Long term maintenance. What materials do we use? What species? Resilience? Who is the steward? Funding?
- Houseless communities & need for services. Opportunity with nearby social service orgs (i.e. Outside In)
- The relationship of South Park Blocks to other parks. Different spaces for different purposes.
- Arlington Club: why aren't they here? Not invited? Didn't want to come?
- The museum's parking lot! Issue: it detracts. Opportunity: long term building, short term beauty improvement

## Community Events Schedule – Summer 2019

July 17 4:30-6:30 p.m.

### **PARTY IN THE PARK**

Meet us on Market Street

Stop in and share your ideas about the future of the South Park Blocks. Everyone is welcome! Children's activities and snacks.

August 6 afternoon

### **DESIGN WORKSHOP**

A hands-on creative workshop for advisors to develop design concepts for the future park. The draft concepts will be shared with the community later in the fall.

August 25 11a.m.- 4 p.m.

### **SUNDAY PARKWAYS**

Ride the Green Loop route, along the South Park Blocks, through Downtown and the Central Eastside.

Stop in and say hello at our project table in the park.

Mid September

### **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

To be scheduled



# Building Racial Equity Together

## ? What is the Five-Year Racial Equity Plan?

Government created and continues to perpetuate racial inequity—therefore, we must **transform it**. Portland Parks & Recreation's (PP&R's) Five-Year Racial Equity Plan (REP) provides a framework of best practices for this transformation.

Implementing racial equity best practices will remove barriers and strengthen our connections to each other and our community—creating equitable opportunities for all.

## 🎯 PP&R's Racial Equity Plan is centered on:

1

Enhancing **services and programs** within the bureau using **racial equity best practices**.

2

Ending disparities in PP&R **hiring and promotions**.

3

Supporting an **inclusive workplace** for everyone.

4

Strengthening **outreach and public engagement** for communities of color and refugee and immigrant communities.

5

Increasing **investments and access to parks, natural areas, and services** to communities of color, low income, and refugee and immigrant communities.

6

Meeting or exceeding Citywide **contracting** goals for Minority Business Enterprises (MBE).

## Q/A Questions regarding PP&R's REP?

Please contact Art Hendricks, Equity & Inclusion Manager, at [art.hendricks@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:art.hendricks@portlandoregon.gov) or call 503-823-5247.

🖱️ Access PP&R's REP at [portlandoregon.gov/parks/rep](https://portlandoregon.gov/parks/rep)



# Vision, Design & Programming

- Build the vision on the foundation of history, respect historic designation of South Park Blocks
- Strengthen commitment to the vision and plan.
- Consider the unique offerings of South Park Blocks in relation to other parks like Director Park, North Park Blocks and beyond.
- Design for a bigger vision than originally planned
- Improve community gathering spaces for families and groups.
- Keep the intimate scale of the park blocks, it feels human.
- Rethink conventional large city park/boulevard design and use.
- Design for continuity of “place” even though funding may be sporadic.
- Provide farmers market and other users with needed infrastructure: plumbing, electric, loading, etc.
- Use comprehensive approach to design for enhanced livability: safety, design, vitality.
- Public art - statues and fountains preclude a lot of programming.
- Create all weather uses – program for all year activity and events.
- Enhance public amenities for neighbors and visitors alike.
- Share Portland’s stories through interpretation about history, culture, environment.
- Improve active recreation opportunities.
- Urban design @ the edge. It matters!
- The museum’s parking lot! Issue: it detracts. Opportunity: long term building, short term beauty improvement
- PCPA loading dock—it’s there.

# Equity & Access

- Make sure this process, master plan, and developments recognize the indigenous tribes native to this area and their history.
- Create opportunities to connect to the past – share histories and indigenous futures.
- Equity work has many dimensions including cultural, economic and environmental.
- Provide access for all abilities, ages, races, genders, economic levels, cultures.
- Use innovative design to ensure access for the aging population and those with disabilities.
- Make the South Park Blocks welcoming and inclusive, including the houseless population and need to access nearby social services (i.e. Outside In).
- The Advisory Committee needs a broader range of perspectives, greater diversity to represent more communities.
- White people (white & men) take up too much space in conversation, recommendations, and decision making.

## Community Engagement & Coordination

- Engage high school students and PSU classes in design and planning.
- Have meaningful placemaking for residents.
- Engage area churches, nearby businesses, cultural institutions, child care centers, Arlington Club and non-profits.
- Collaborate with homeless shelters and improve inter-agency communication to better address negative behaviors in the park.
- Leverage this CAC to build community, strengthen relationships around the park.
- Connect broader circle of neighborhoods, businesses and community organizations to expand park support.
- Enhance coordination between city bureaus and other agencies beyond the planning process.
- Concern Master Plan won't be used, implemented or funded.
- PPR gatekeeping & lack of transparency

## Sharing the Space

- There is finite space and a growing population needing access to parks.
- Design and promote the parks as welcoming space for everyone.
- Plan for school bus parking to support access to museums.
- Consider how the Green loop impacts the historical South Park Blocks.
- Plan for increasing use of other transportation modes like scooters and provide bike parking.
- Car parking spaces support neighboring businesses and is well used. How much space for cars is needed?
- Consider the needs of tourists - directional signs and wayfinding.

## Safety & Maintenance

- Address public safety and public health.
- Keep the area drug and crime free.
- Keep the spaces clean so everyone has access.
- Fund long term maintenance.
- Design with maintenance in mind – materials, species, durability, stewardship.
- Create a managing entity to activate the space with year-round cultural programs and ongoing maintenance.
- Address negative behavior in the park and surrounding streets.
- Consider resilience / earthquake response.