

# CITY OF PORTLAND CHARTER COMMISSION COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

## Purpose

The following document is a framework that describes the Charter Commission's vision and approach to community engagement. Commissioners will use this framework and their adopted values to co-create engagement strategies for Charter Review.

## Our Vision

The Charter Commission reviews and recommends amendments to the city's constitution (or charter). The Charter Commission has the power to refer our recommendations to the ballot for Portlanders to consider.

Successful community education and engagement in charter review produces recommendations that Portlanders vote for because the recommendations create a new Portland government shaped by a community vision of a city that works for our diverse, vibrant community and priorities their needs.

In addition, we expect that our community education and engagement will

- Amplify all of Portlanders' voices in city government and grow our democracy
- Promote transparency and public trust in local government
- Increase public awareness and understanding of how our city works
- Maintain and build new relationships between the city and community that last through time
- Create new equitable pathways for Portlanders to engage in public processes
- Increase city government responsiveness and responsibility to account for its actions

## Values and guiding principles

The Charter Commission adopted a set of values that reflect the values developed by the City of Portland and adopted by City Council in 2020. The Charter Commission's community education and engagement work will reflect those values and we will

- Adhere to, and expect to be held accountable to, our core values of anti-racism, equity, transparency, communication, collaboration, and fiscal responsibility.
- Be transparent with the public about how we gather information, deliberate, and make decisions and we recognize our privilege as a Charter Commission and the heightened responsibility for clear, consistent, and accurate public communications.
- Build on community momentum, act with urgency, and pace our work in consideration of community capacity to participate.
- Develop equitable public education and engagement strategies that eliminate barriers to participation, are culturally specific and relevant, delivered through trusted mediums, and compensate community for their expertise.

## Objectives

The following objectives are informed by the Charter Commission's values and guiding principles. The Charter Commission commits to tracking and measuring these objectives and revising as needed:

- We will have continuous communication and return to communities at each phase, so they know they were heard, and understand how their ideas were used and informed our decision-making and we will not repeat the pattern of extractive interaction.
- We will collaborate and build partnerships to co-create and implement a sustained and iterative community education and engagement strategy because communities have knowledge, relationships, and expertise that government lacks.
- We will invest our education and engagement resources in communities that have been traditionally left out of City Hall and city decision-making including Black, Indigenous, people of color, people with disabilities, immigrant, and refugees, and the LGBTQIA+ community.
- We will support multiple, diversified pathways to hear from communities and support the development and delivery of culturally appropriate education and engagement opportunities that cannot be replicated with a one-size-fits-all approach.