

# East Portland Action Plan (EPAP)

## Civic Engagement Subcommittee – May 15, 2018 Notes

Purpose:	To organize cultural + language specific civic engagement workshops, share curriculum, advocate for ongoing funding, and advise on East Portland cultural + language specific issues and projects.
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**1. Introductions:** Frida Christopher, Humberto Marquez Mendez, Iore Wintergreen, Natalya Sobolevskaya, and Galina Nekrasova.

**2. Next meeting: June 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30 PM**

**Facilitator:** Adriana Govea

**Notes:** Frida Christopher

**Food Gatherer:** ?

**Reporter at the General EPAP:** ?

**Clean Up:** ?

### 3. Accomplishments & Strategic Priorities:

**E.** Engage ethnic communities in neighborhood activities; provide overhead funding for translation/language and childcare services to remove barriers and improve messaging and invitations. (CB.1.2)

Andrea and Emily (and in the past Natalia and Anna) represented the Civic Engagement Subcommittee on the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) Budget Advisory Committee and actively advocated for funding for translation/interpretation/childcare accommodation services. In fiscal year 2017-18, ONI received an “Add” package to the ONI budget request for \$100,000 specifically for ONI.

The Office of Equity and Human Rights staff met with Civic Engagement Subcommittee and EPAP members advocated for overhead funding for translation/accommodation services. We also had special meetings with Andrea Valderrama (Mayor’s Office), she recently said it was very likely that the Mayor would include in his Recommended Budget that each bureau would allocate .5 - 1% of their budget to language/accommodation

services (interpretation/translation/childcare/transportation), because Mayor Wheeler supports the recommendation. Andrew Scott (Director of Budget Office) was against the .5 - 1% allocation – he wants it to be a directive from the Mayor’s Office, not a budget allocation. He remained unconvinced by arguments for the % allocation and seems to have been effective in his counter-advocacy.

Director of the Budget Office (Andrew Scott), announced he is leaving the City, so we may have more success next year. *By the way, the following bureau Directors recently gave their notice to leave the City: Planning and Sustainability, Transportation, Parks & Recreation.*

Frieda is the EPAP Representative to the City-wide Budget Committee. She explained that the Budget Office reviews budget proposals at each City bureau and office Work Session. The Mayor reviews proposals and gives final approval – this fiscal year instead of the .5% allocation he was “supporting”, he requested \$75,000 for language/access services for ALL of the City bureaus and offices (\$25,000 less than what was allocated for ONI last fiscal year).

Do we want to keep the .5% allocation a strategic priority for next fiscal year?

There are differing opinions on if this should continue being a strategic priority for Civic Engagement:

- Galina thinks providing easy access to interpretation makes people lazy because they don’t make learning English a priority.
- Natalya disagrees, she believes some people have various obstacles to learn the language. She poses the question that since the Mayor did not support this, is it worth our time to continue advocating for this?
- Lore states that advocating for funding from the City is a process and takes time. The history of this group has shown that change doesn’t come quickly, that you need to stay consistent and strong.
- Frieda says that now that Andrew is leaving there might be more flexibility in getting this approved for next fiscal year’s budget. We can start by tracking when and where people aren’t being provided interpreters and use it to advocate for overhead funding.
- Galina, believes that we need interpretation, but we also need to teach people the English language. Our communities need to think how to organize English classes for people who need to learn it, because then it becomes a vicious cycle. She thinks we need to

continue fighting but we also need to seriously think about how to organize these classes.

- Lore points out that Galina never used to share with the group until there was an interpreter provided. She also shares that EPAP Grants consistently fund English as a Second Language and Citizenship workshops in various languages.
- Natalya says that she agrees with Galina about the classes, but that is more of a grants conversation, as an EPAP Civic Engagement Subcommittee, we need to advocate for our community. Lore agrees that our job as EPAP and this Subcommittee is to provide guidance to the City and other governments. We are not a social service committee. EPAP can continue providing grants to fund these services but we don't provide the service directly. If you want to be involved in providing these classes, Lore can connect you to the organizations and projects doing the work.
- Lore asks the group if we are all committed to advocating for language/accommodation services across all the committees and groups that we are all a part of, as this is what it will take to make this happen. There did not appear to be strong support from the New Portlander Committee or the City Office of Equity and Human Rights.
- Frida proposes that we continue making this .5% allocation of overhead funding a strategic priority for next fiscal year.

**ACTION:** It was approved by full consensus to keep E. as an EPAP Strategic Priority.

**F.** Increase funding and technical assistance for organizations to establish two new ethnicity/languages every two years and strengthen existing ethnically-based Community Health Worker programs. Establish racially and ethnically representative community oversight of Community Health Worker programming (*EC.4.4 and SN.6.2*)

Lore asks the group if advocating for the culturally-specific Community Health Worker program will continue being a strategic priority for next fiscal year.

- When people go through the program and get their certification, they can get paid for the hours they work if hired by a health agency.
- To get a culturally-specific program implemented, culturally-specific partners help with recruitment. If this group is asking for the program

to reach more cultures, are these members willing and able to help with recruitment?

- Natalya brings up that there aren't enough members present today to decide if we have time to make this a priority for the subcommittee.
- Galina shares that it's hard for people to commit to 90-hours of training (so it makes it hard to recruit). Galina says that if she commits to this, she would like to know who the trainers are.
- Natalya says that we should revisit this next meeting when there are more communities present.

Lore asked the group if there is something else in the EPAP document for which this Subcommittee would like to advocate. Natalya suggests that it would be important to revisit the community-related Action Plan items, to help us consider new advocacy. Lore will add the Action Plan Community-Building items to these notes and we will discuss this further next month.

It was raised that this Subcommittee is not limited to only the Community-Building items and Subcommittee members may want to look at other parts of the Action Plan, such as Housing, Economic Development, Parks...

#### **4. Dinámica**

We moved about physically and each shared what "revolutionary" means and how he/she/they are a revolutionary (something Galina called lore during the meeting).

#### **5. Preparation for Annual Report to City Council**

Natalie from El Program Hispano has agreed to present to the City Council hearing. She will talk about:

- Success of advocating for Multnomah County Capacitation Program that held a Community Health Worker training that was Arabic-language and cultural-specific.
- Fiscal year 17 - 18 successful advocacy that got ONI \$100,000 for a translation, interpretation, childcare accommodation fund.
- Our lack of success to get .5% overhead funding in the Mayor's budget for fiscal year 2017 – 18 Budget. Frieda says that we should stress that the City needs to have overhead funding for language/access services and use the following example: Division Midway Alliance asked for a Burmese interpreter for the City's budget

hearing at David Douglas (with 2-day notice) and the City did not accommodate this request.

- The diversity of our Subcommittee due to the language/childcare/transportation accommodations provided.
- Appreciation for the impact the EPAP Civic Engagement Grants have had on the community.
- *After the meeting, Frieda reminded us to share our advocacy to make real the City's support for Sanctuary by providing legal aid services. The Mayor allocated \$500,000 in the fiscal year 2018 – 19 Budget.*

Lore shared the agenda for the Annual Report to City Council.

## 6. Announcements

- **ACTION:** Lore said that she will invite the EPAP Grants Review Committee to the next Civic Engagement meeting, so we can discuss the different perspectives on the review criteria and allocation of funding. This won't be something that will be brought up to City Council. Natalya suggests that to City Council we can at least address the impact that our grants have in the community.
- La Consejeria regional de arte y cultura (RACC) esta ofreciendo un taller bilingue para artistas para aplicar para becas. El taller sera el 2 de junio en el Teatro Milagro. Communicate con Humberto Marquez para mas información [hmarquezmendez@racc.org](mailto:hmarquezmendez@racc.org) –
- RACC Bilingual (English/Spanish) Grant Writing Workshop for Individual Artists on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Teatro Milagro. Contact Humberto Marquez for more information [hmarquezmendez@racc.org](mailto:hmarquezmendez@racc.org)
- David Douglas School District will be sharing their Human Resources (HR) strategies to diversify their workforce – they have been working hard to change systems and improve their hiring practices.
- Next meeting: **June 19, 2018**  
If you want to be on the agenda or need childcare or interpretation, please contact lore at: 503.823.4035 or [lore.wintergreen@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:lore.wintergreen@portlandoregon.gov)

# East Portland Action Plan (EPAP) Strategic Priorities

*Fiscal Year 2016-18*

- E. Engage ethnic communities in neighborhood activities; provide overhead funding for translation/language and childcare services to remove barriers and improve messaging and invitations. (CB.1.2)
- F. Increase funding and technical assistance for organizations that desire to establish (two new ethnicity/languages every two years) or to strengthen existing ethnically-based Community Health Worker programs. Establish racially and ethnically representative community oversight of Community Health Worker programming. (EC.4.4 and SN.6.2) *Civic Engagement Subcommittee*

## **Involuntary Displacement Prevention**

### **Recommendations for East Portland**

Arabic language recommendations أدوات توصية لخطة عمل منطقة شرق بورتلاند لمنع النزوح الغير طوعي.pdf: <http://tinyurl.com/Recommendations-in-Arabic> - See more at: <http://eastportlandactionplan.org/#sthash.jFuUPN3.dpuf>

Предупреждение вынужденного переселения граждан Рекомендации для Восточного района Портленда\_Recommendations in Russian.pdf: <http://tinyurl.com/Recommendations-in-Russian> - See more at: <http://eastportlandactionplan.org/#sthash.jFuUPN3.dpuf>

Prevención del desplazamiento involuntario Recomendaciones para el este de Portland\_Spanish\_Recommendations in Spanish.pdf: <http://tinyurl.com/Recommendations-in-Spanish> - See more at: <http://eastportlandactionplan.org/#sthash.jFuUPN3.dpuf>

### **Civic Engagement Process To Be Applied**

#### **When Implementing All Recommended Tools**

As the East Portland Involuntary Displacement Prevention Tools are being implemented, it is important that the community stay involved to provide leadership and guidance on how to strategically address these community-identified issues and resource allocations.

The following\* process will actively engage the community as partners in seeking responsible and equitable outcomes in the work to prevent involuntary displacement in East Portland.

- 1) Provide a wide range of opportunities for involvement, with targeted access and inclusion in decision-making for those with the potential to be adversely affected by gentrification/livability improvements.
- 2) Foster ongoing positive relationships between communities and Municipal Governments by ensuring accountability for improving community well-being and inclusion, and by ensuring adherence to Community Benefit Agreements that should be instituted to support East Portlanders adversely impacted by gentrification/livability improvements whenever possible.
- 3) Recognize that Municipal Governments have a responsibility to plan for the needs of and engage with disparately under-served, under-resourced, and under-represented communities, and to prioritize policy mandates based on need, so as to achieve greater equity for those most adversely impacted by gentrification/livability improvements.
- 4) Expand opportunities for meaningful community engagement and require transparent, well designed, and thoughtful culturally and language specific and relevant representative and responsive public processes throughout address of the recommended tools: from issue identification, analysis, and project scoping through implementation, monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and enforcement.
- 5) Build community capacity to increase the community's meaningful participation, innovation, solution-making and leadership by allocating adequate resources to realistically accomplish this community involvement outcome.
- 6) Utilize public comment as part of an equity-based community impact assessment to promote thoughtful consideration of and mitigation for polices that cause negative disparate impacts, irrespective of intent.

\*These recommendations are a revision of the “Community-Based Anti-Displacement Recommendations” produced by several community organizations and submitted as input to the Portland Comprehensive Plan Update: February 2015.