



East Portland Action Plan

February 12, 2012

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East Portland Action Plan
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Dear Youth Action Grants Committee:

It is our pleasure to write a letter of support for East PDX Youth! and their grant proposal for the project: Teen Nights in East PDX! This project is designed to bring together the voice of youth in East Portland, essential in the East Portland Action Plan's mission to support East Portland's fair share of resources.

We strongly believe that the establishment of such teen nights would encourage further collaboration amongst youth throughout East Portland. Not only would it create friendships throughout a widespread location, but it would also create a strong sense of accomplishment—recognizing that the 40% of students living in East Portland are being heard.

Currently, East PDX Youth! is comprised of ten students from David Douglas High School. In the short amount of time that this group came together, they have already done some great brainstorming on different kinds of projects that they believe are the steps to making a better East Portland. They know about and some have experienced firsthand the high crime rate that exists in East Portland. With this project, they are hoping to provide a safe and positive space for all youth in order to avoid being around negative influences or threatening surroundings. We believe that this project will definitely create remarkable changes in the students like learning to become leaders and positive role models for their peers.

As never-ending youth advocates, we vow to support East PDX Youth! through the practice of Positive Youth Development and Youth Empowerment. We will provide support to them when asked and keep open communication through the use of active listening and constructive feedback. As they go through this process, we will continue to empower them by encouraging them and being aware of the project's progress, checking in periodically about our roles and expectations without stepping over them, and trusting them to lead this project to success.

We are very excited to support this project as members of the East Portland Action Plan and simply as members of the East Portland community. Please feel free to contact Marie Manuel at (510) 825-4799 should you have any further questions or concerns about our involvement in the project.

Thank you,

Marie Antoniette Manuel
East Portland Action Plan Member

Lore Wintergreen
East Portland Action Plan Advocate