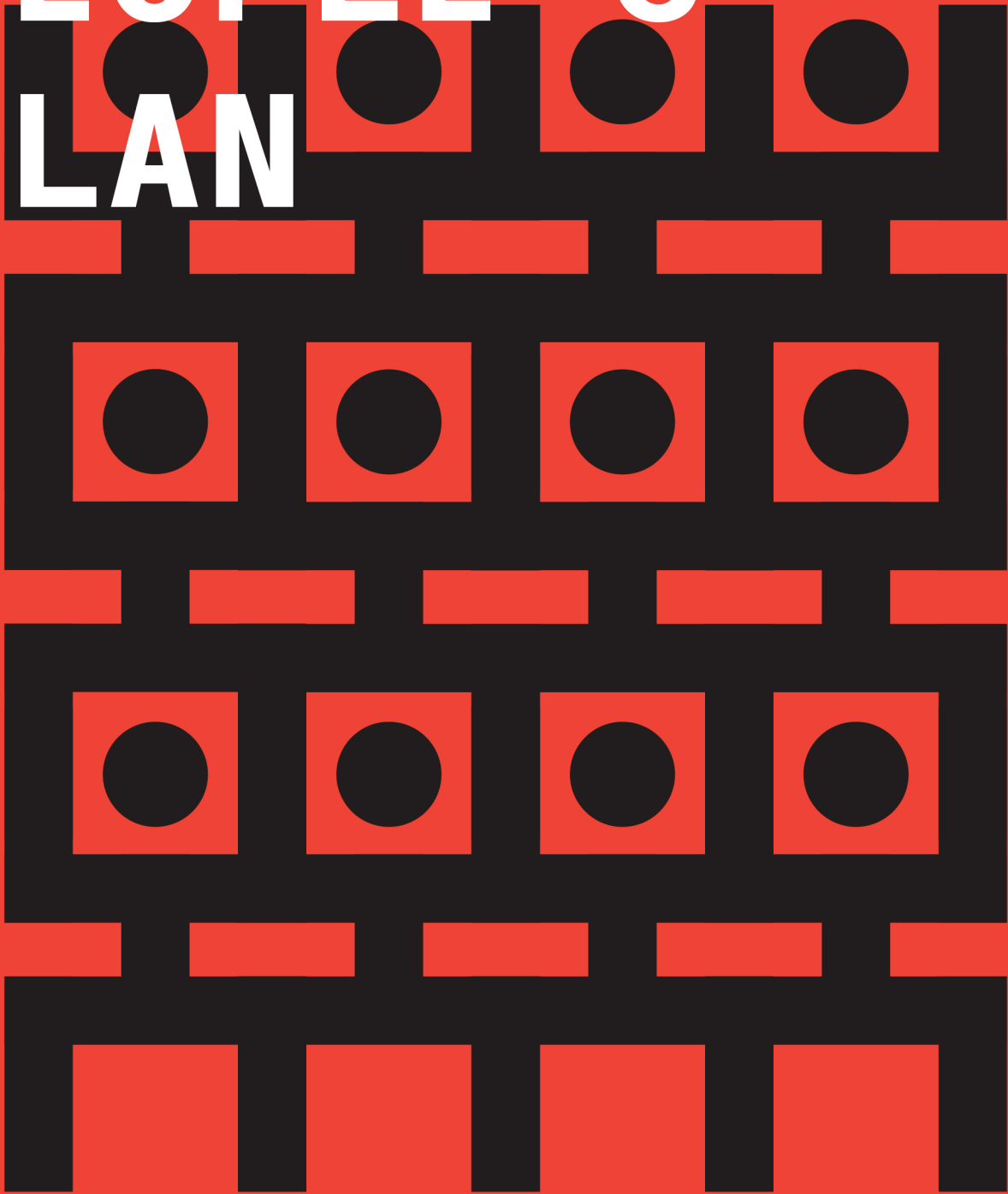


PAALF PRESENTS



THE PEOPLE'S PLAN



TOPIC AREA SECTION:

ENVIRONMENTAL AND JUST SUSTAINABILITY: ADDRESS
CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH RACIAL JUSTICE



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LETTER FROM PORTLAND AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP FORUM CO-CHAIRS

The concept of a Black Utopia, one that promotes and fosters a Black community that taps not only into its legacy of resilience but is truly one afforded the opportunity to thrive, can be a symbol of hope. Not a hope that is shaped in wistful “what ifs...?,” but a hope that is connected to true possibility. The People’s Plan seeks to contextualize the data used by policy makers in the City of Portland and the State of Oregon, by juxtaposing the understanding of where we, the Black community, are and where we could be. The People’s Plan recognizes that it is not enough to re-illustrate the disparities facing our communities in the areas of health, education, housing, administration of justice, environmental justice, etc. There needs to be space for, and an ongoing conversation regarding, what the Black community could be with the elimination of barriers. What would be our ideal expression and realization of community?

The Portland African American Leadership Forum strives to be an organization that brings leaders together to address the needs of our community, and the individuals and families it is comprised of. As an organization, we aim to be clear that the term “leader” can accurately be applied to the mother who advocates for her child; to the community elder who continues to remind us of the journey; to our organizational executives and CEOs. PAALF recognizes we need the multitude of our collective voices at the table in order for us to realize meaningful change in our community. The work we need to do is not something that can be done in a vacuum. Therefore, we seek a variety of inclusive ways in which to engage our community members to participate and benefit from the work of PAALF.

The goal of the PAALF People’s Plan report is to empower the voices of all of our Black community’s leaders. Through this lens of empowerment, we recognize it is our community’s right to shape the way our community looks, feels, and how Black people of Portland experience it. Through the unapologetic assertion of our voices we will be the ones to shape the policies that impact our Black community. Anything that lacks the breadth and depth of our collective voice will fall short in the policies that seek to foster a Portland the Black community has truly shaped and designed. It is incumbent for the Black community to continue to push for our voices to be heard and our recommendations to be actualized. PAALF will continue to be a part of this clear mission to create the space for the elevation of our voices and experiences to be heard.

Robin M. Johnson, MS
Executive Committee Co-Chair
Portland African American Leadership Forum



PAALF VISION

The Portland African American Leadership Forum envisions a world where people of African descent, enjoy the rights, resources and recognition to be a thriving, resilient and connected community.

PAALF MISSION

The Portland African American Leadership Forum helps our Black community imagine the alternatives we deserve and build our political participation and leadership to achieve those alternatives.

Preface:
VALUES & ORIGINS

“The first act of a free people is to shape its world in its own image and interest. And it is a statement about their conception of self and their commitment to self-determination.”

**KWANZAA PRINCIPLE -
KUJICHAGULIA**

Over the past two years, the Black community has been galvanized to action by the crisis of police violence in Portland Oregon and around the country. As we’ve gathered to bear witness and to organize, the community has clearly spoken for a racial justice that addresses not only the violence of policing and mass incarceration, but also the violence that is poverty, displacement, disenfranchisement, and anti-Black racism in all of our institutions. Setting “equity goals” in government is not enough: we need accountability and we need our own unapologetically Black voices demanding racial justice.

**A PEOPLE’S PLAN ADDRESSES THE ISSUES WE
PRIORITIZE, AND WE DETERMINE ITS GOALS
AND STRATEGIES.**

The People’s Plan lays out a vision of a thriving, empowered Black community and asserts the right of Black people to be in and shape community, whatever neighborhoods we live in, from the North to the Numbers. This document frames a Black community policy agenda and advances community-initiated projects as a powerful tool for organizing, advocacy, and implementation.

The PAALF People’s Plan gives us the opportunity to answer as a collective of Black citizens and organizations, “What does Portland’s Black Community want, and what does it propose to move forward?” The People’s Plan provides a framework for transformative change within our beloved community. The Portland African American Leadership Forum, as the steward and champion of this effort, has provided the support and space for these important conversations to take place.

HOW WE GET TO UTOPIA: DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY VISION

While traditional planning models often intimidate community members through complex urban planning language and rigid government processes; the People's Plan approach was to engage the Black community on their terms to ensure that the solutions are informed directly by Black Portlanders.

Between May 2015 and May 2016, PAALF People's Plan team held and participated in twenty-six community events, engaging over 400 Black community members, using numerous engagement approaches. The project team convened members of the Black community through PAALF committee meetings; community visioning sessions; Monday meetups at black-owned restaurants; partnering community events like Good in the Hood and Urban League East Portland Resource Fair/Celebration; and the Kaleidoscope Community Conversation in partnership with Sharita Towne.

Visioning towards a community health and resilience is often difficult for communities that have been confronted with continuous barriers. Moving from simply naming the issues to collectively building solutions represents an empowering transformation in the community engagement process. In this way, the People's Plan engagement furthered community power building and created new collective social power. The visioning sessions asked the attendees five questions relating to their experience living in Portland, Oregon. The following are the five questions that were asked of participants:

1. If Portland was an Utopia, what would the African and African-American Community look like?
2. What does the current African and African-American community look like?
3. How do we get to Utopia?
4. If you had to pick three priorities for the People's Plan to focus on, what would they be?; and
5. Where can you be Black in Portland?

In addition to a robust engagement process, the People's Plan conducted community-based participatory research, and other data collection, which included: community surveys on issues and engagement preferences; physical assessment of sites throughout Northeast and East Portland; review of past plans for their impact on and potential for the Black community; best practices research; and development of model policy and project concepts.

This research informed the creation of plan, and was synthesized with expert knowledge and refined by the PAALF leadership. Our recommendations come from an iterative interaction of the expressed desires from the community and the input from policy and programmatic experts.

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

TO: BLACK COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Portland Black family, this People's Plan emerges from your words, your dreams, and your fierce advocacy. It attempts to assemble the demands and actions that we as community identified as most meaningful. Perhaps the most important finding in our planning process is that the Black community feels fragmented, disconnected, and disempowered. Through the organizations, campaigns, and initiatives listed here, we can begin to identify and create the spaces to come together, fight together, and thrive together.

TO: ALLIES

Many People of Color and White folks want to work towards a city in which Black Lives Matter. It can be challenging to identify starting points for countering white supremacy and anti-Black racism in yourself, your communities, and institutions that may serve you well. It can be challenging to identify places of solidarity in your own struggles for justice. As you read this document, you will find a clear articulation of an agenda and priorities from Portland's Black community that you can connect with your work and struggle. We invite you to become more than just an ally, but rather to be active accomplices, with the Black community in the shared struggle for liberation for all.

“There exists a fiercely unrelenting desire to achieve total liberation, with the land and, together. At some point there is a “we”, and we most likely will have to work together. ...we need to know who has our backs, or more appropriately: who is with us, at our sides? ... When we fight back or forward, together, becoming complicit in a struggle towards liberation, we are accomplices.”

ACCOMPLICES NOT ALLIES,
INDIGENOUS ACTION MEDIA

TO: PUBLIC OFFICIALS, ELECTEDS, GOVERNMENT AND PHILANTHROPIC ACTORS

Here in the Portland region, our local governments, schools, and philanthropic organizations have pledged to seek racial equity in their work. So far, those promises have fallen short of achieving real and meaningful change for the Black community. There have been some important advancements in policy at the city level - most notably, Ban the Box - but in other cases, action has been delayed in favor of studies or prolonged advisory processes. It is time to gather the political will and begin the transformation of our public and nonprofit institutions. This document articulates the needed changes and lists the partners for your work. Once you have read it, you will not be surprised by the demands of the community for your response.

In August 2016, the Movement for Black Lives released its powerful platform for achieving Black humanity and dignity in the U.S. These demands - to end the war on Black people, provide reparations for harms done, to defund racist systems and reinvest in Black futures, for economic justice, and for community control and political power - are nothing short of transformational. If you are wondering how to enact this platform for Black Lives locally, the People's Plan begins to point the way.

“..we are going to have equal rights and justice in our own country or we will restructure their function and ours.”

JESSE WILLIAMS, ACCEPTING THE 2016 BET HUMANITARIAN AWARD

TOPICS ADDRESSED BY THE PLAN

This plan is divided into chapters representing specific issue areas. While of course these issues are inter-connected, the organization of this plan allows you to look with focus into the issues separately. Each chapter can be read individually, but when linked together they represent a larger platform for advocacy.

In each chapter, you will find:

VISION

The vision describes the goals that PAALF and its community partners are currently working towards in a particular subject area.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The problem statement describes current conditions, including inequalities and disparate impacts, affecting the Black community in a particular subject area.

ADVOCACY AND ACTION

Through discussions with community, from grassroots to those in leadership positions, we have identified the most critical changes we still need in policy and law in order to achieve our visions. These are causes that PAALF supports, and hopes you will join in advocating for at the local and state level.

EMERGING IDEAS

The ideas for actions and programs emerged from community conversations and were identified as projects to be initiated by the community. These aspirations require your leadership! We encourage those who are sparked by these ideas to create connections and collaborations, knowing these concepts have strong support in the community and from PAALF.



“WE NEED TO GO BACK TO BEING LIKE A VILLAGE AND EVERYBODY KNOWS WHERE EVERYBODY IS. WHEN WE’RE POWERFUL AND WE’RE PROUD OF IT, THAT YOU CAN OWN IT, THAT’S PART OF OWNING IT AND KNOWING. THERE’S A POLITICAL OFFICE, THAT ARE IN CITY HALL, IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT. WE SEE US AS PART OF THAT POLITICAL BASE. WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE THAT SENIOR SUPPORTS AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE ALSO CAN HAVE DISCOURSE IN A COMMUNITY THAT CAN COME UP WITH A COMMON GOAL OF BLACK EMPOWERMENT. WE WANT TO BE EMPOWERED. WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY WILL BE AN OWNERSHIP, HOMEOWNERSHIP, AS WELL AS RENTAL , WHERE WE WANT TO SEE ACTUALLY BEING PASSED DOWN AND WE’LL SEE CURRICULUM AND THAT YOU’LL BE ABLE TO SEE A STRONG FAITH AND COMMUNITY WELL AS APART OF

HOUSING PLANNING SE

WHERE EVERYBODY CARES ABOUT EVERYBODY ELSE
WHERE WE SEE EVIDENCE OF OUR CULTURE AND IT'S
WE CAN SEE AND UNDERSTAND WHAT BLACK CULTURE IS.
WE ARE PEOPLE THAT LOOK LIKE US THAT ARE IN
GOVERNMENT, IN STATE, CONGRESS, SENATE, THAT
WE'RE TAKING CARE OF OUR ELDERS, WE'RE MAKING
PROGRAMS THAT TAKE CARE OF THE ELDERS IN OUR
A WAY THAT WE CAN AGREE TO DISAGREE AND STILL
RESPECTMENT, THAT WE AS A COMMUNITY ARE GOING TO BE
AN ECONOMICALLY MIXED COMMUNITY, WHERE WE HAVE
THE ABILITY TO SEE THAT MULTI-GENERATIONAL WEALTH, WHERE IT'S
CULTURAL ENCLAVES THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE,
WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, BECAUSE THAT'S THE BACKBONE AS
PART OF OUR IDENTITY. ʘʘ

SESSION. 14 MAY 2015.

Environmental Justice Is Racial Justice Preface

By Desiree Williams-Rajee

“...the lasting power to provide for that which nourishes us and is fundamental to our long-term survival.”

Sustainability is globally understood as a social justice movement where people’s human rights are advanced through equitable economic development and care for the environment. The United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals “to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.” Around the world, this is a movement led by Black and Brown people.

Then why, in the City labeled the most sustainable in the U.S., are Black people not at the helm of this conversation? A long legacy of national and local racism that is deeply entrenched in institutional practices and policies have served to effectively discriminate, disempower, disenfranchise, and disinherit Black people from the benefits of sustainability programs and policies. In Portland, sustainability has become synonymous with whiteness, privilege, and exclusion.

But what does sustainability mean? At its core are just two simple words “sustain” and “ability”. To be sustained means “to last”, “to be enduring”, it comes from the same word as “sustenance,” which are the essential things that provide nourishment and are fundamental to our survival. “Ability” means to “have the power”. We can translate sustainability to then mean “the lasting power to provide for that which nourishes us and is fundamental to our long-term survival.”

This definition of sustainability brings us closer to that which ties us together as a collective of Black people: our common ancestral heritage from advanced societies of indigenous people on the continent of Africa. In comparison to the environmental and human degradation and devastation caused by a half century of colonization, Black people had the power to exist for millennia without causing irreversible harm to the earth. These advanced sustainable livelihoods are now the source

of interest of elite researchers and scientists, trying desperately to reclaim the wisdom of the past to correct a broken present.

It is from Africa that our relational world view is derived, where life is seen as a collection of harmonious relationships, where health is achieved by maintaining balance between the many interrelating factors in one's circle of life. These relational values still hold true today, we can witness this at any place or worship, picnic, or Sunday family dinner. But we are also in a tenuous relationship as we as Black people struggle to exist in an American culture still motivated by colonial thinking where conquest, ownership, individual needs, and immediate gratification predominate. The psychological results of this tension have been devastating - mental health issues, chronic stress related diseases, and violence plague our communities.

Our version of sustainability must find solutions by remembering the value systems of our ancestral past, prioritizing community over the individual, prioritizing our future generations while honoring our past, and prioritizing that which empowers us to independently provide for and protect what nourishes us: food, housing, clean air, water, and land, and a tightly woven fabric of cultural bonds within community.

Sustainable solutions will always need to have a systemic approach that applies the rules of both justice and self-determination. We must hold accountable the institutions that have served to dehumanize and disempower us by demanding the correction of past harm in addition to the prevention of future injury. Concurrent to this, we as a community must operate with a sense of hope and vision, if not for ourselves, for our children. We must cultivate relationships so we can trust that those not working directly with us are not working against us. We must organize and build the elements of community that serve our holistic physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, based in our identity as Black people, today and into the future.

Desiree Williams-Rajee
Portland, OR 2016



ENVIRONMENT AND JUST SUSTAINABILITY

ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH RACIAL JUSTICE

“ We want a self-determining community living in stewardship with the natural environment. ”

ENVIRONMENTAL AND JUST SUSTAINABILITY VISIONING SESSION. 23 JUNE 2015.

VISION STATEMENT

In recent years, the conversation in urban planning and development has centered on sustainability and thinking “green.” However, a long legacy of national and local racism in institutional practices and policies has served to effectively discriminate, disempower, disenfranchise, and disinherit black people from the benefits of a healthy environment and sustainability programs and policies.

A *truly* sustainable city is both ecologically and socially healthy. It provides clean air, clean water, and clean land with opportunities for access to green space, public transportation, healthy foods, and safe recreation to all residents. A truly sustainable city places greater emphasis on environmental justice than pretty design features, urban development incentives, and bike lanes to be enjoyed by wealthy residents. Sustainability cannot only be for the privileged. Sustainability has to be just and equitable.

Our community must lead in addressing climate change through racial justice. Climate change presents challenges never before seen in modern history, and we must make changes to live within the limits of our precious ecosystem. Those changes must be made with racial equity at the forefront. The tools of environmental justice and self-determination have never been more needed in the sustainability movement. Realizing environmental justice is a key component in community-building, community health and revitalization in the black community from the historically Black neighborhoods in North/Northeast Portland to East County.

Urban farming and community gardening initiatives are a means of connecting Black people to healthy food and its origins. These urban agricultural opportunities also provide the skills training, internship and job opportunities, and community empowerment needed to combat negative effects of serial displacement.

The green economy holds much promise in creating career pathways and living wage jobs while constructing and fixing and aging, out-of-date municipal infrastructure. Black people want the opportunity to participate on equal footing in employment and in business opportunities that heal our environment and provide for their families.

Many Black Portlanders wish to see more green buildings and ecologically sound development in their neighborhoods. Green infrastructure and development may be a means of mitigating many of the spatial inequities and additional energy cost burdens that burden low-income people and communities of color.

Equitable access to public transit, green spaces and parks, is vital to helping our community remain resilient while dealing with the effects of gentrification and displacement. Public investments in environmentally conscious transportation options and green space within the city must serve all Black people, from inner N/NE neighborhoods to East County.

Free transit for low-income Black peoples must become a priority, with a longer term goal of free transit for all. Public transit is one of the most equitable public investments we can make.

Our children deserve to grow, learn, and thrive in an environment safe from toxic lead, air pollution, chemical runoff, and other environmental hazards.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

There are known health and economic disparities between Black Portlanders and others that require the pursuit of both environmental justice and equity in sustainability. Race makes a difference in the geography of poverty in the city, as well as the relationships between disadvantaged families and access to opportunity including public transit access, the availability of healthy and affordable foods, and opportunities for healthy outdoor recreation.

Environmental justice is a movement led by communities of color and low income people experiencing environmental injustices: polluted air, soil and water; unsafe housing, roadways, sidewalks, and bus stops; inequitable investments in housing, green spaces, active transit and mass transit; and disproportionate impacts due to climate change. Many of these problems arise because our communities are not participants in the decision-making process that produces these results. Environmental justice challenges the mainstream environmental movement to address systemic and historical causes of these environmental problems, and is a community-driven movement to restore justice to our communities.

Low-income and communities of color in the Metro area continue to feel the prevalence of polluted waterways, toxic hazards including four Superfund sites, and other environmental issues. Environmental burdens, such as landfills, toxic-emitting facilities, and other environmental hazards are disproportionately located near disadvantaged groups in the Portland area, presenting significant threats to the health and wellness of the Black community.

The Black community has been unfairly burdened with unmitigated air quality issues from industrial and mobile sources. Further, our communities have suffered displacement, largely to areas with limited transit options and often increased pollution. In addition to bearing the burden of environmental pollution, the Black community has largely been excluded from addressing these challenges through sustainable solutions, whether jobs associated with renewable energy, green infrastructure development, or the cycling industry to name a few.

ACTIONS AND ADVOCACY

THESE ARE CAUSES THAT PAALF SUPPORTS. WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO JOIN US IN ADVOCATING FOR THESE LOCAL AND STATE POLICY CHANGES.

Safe, efficient transportation options must be available in all Black neighborhoods, connecting people to jobs and education via transit, walking, biking, and rolling.

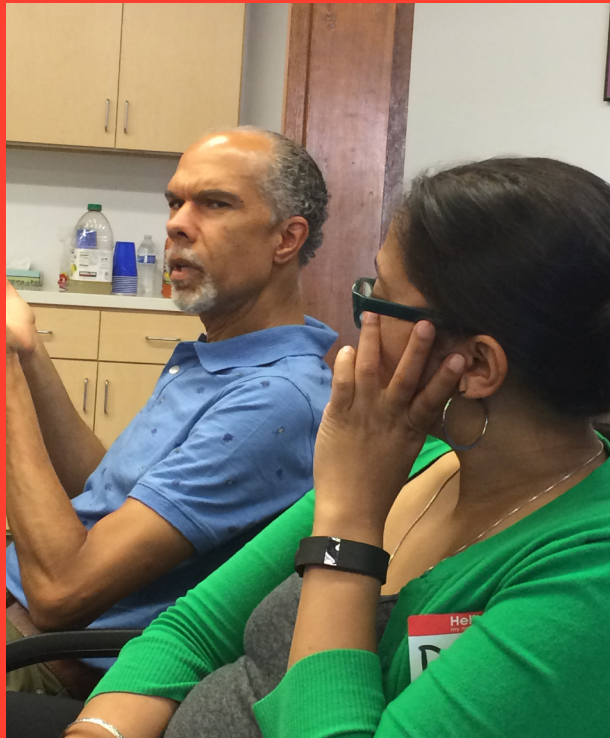
Metro, TriMet, and Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) should assemble a transit justice task force made up of Black Portland residents, and members of other vulnerable groups, that is responsible for analyzing current data on transit access and developing solutions to enhance equitable access.

PBOT must prioritize improvements to make it safer to walk, bike, and ride transit in East Portland and provide increased transportation options to transit poor areas. Commit to Complete Streets in East Portland neighborhoods where Black people have been displaced.

Ensure that Vision Zero goals are met with racial equity at the forefront. Begin the redesign of streets in the lowest income neighborhoods where communities of color disproportionately face dangerous conditions. Ensure that policing strategies to reduce crash fatalities do not disproportionately impact Black and brown drivers, walkers, and cyclists through inequitable increased traffic enforcement.

The City, County, Metro, and TriMet must include anti-displacement plans, projects, and resources to ensure that new transportation investments do not create housing displacement for low-income folks and renters. These entities must coordinate plans and budgets to prioritize affordable housing preservation and new construction as part of transit oriented development in neighborhoods.

City, County, Trimet and School districts must continue to fund, and seek additional resources for, youth transit passes to support Black young people



HOW DO WE GET TO TAKE OVER A UTOPIA? ^{ZIP CODE!}

BREAK OUT OF SCARCITY MINDSET —
CANNOT PLAY IN THE DOMINANT SYSTEM'S RULES

Blavity - online tool / digital Black PDX
INVENTORY OF RESOURCES — what tools do we already have?

WHAT ARE THE MODELS?
↳ not Oakland! is it Jackson?

FEELING ENTITLED TO BE HERE → Empowerment

OWNERSHIP + BUILDING IT OURSELVES

↳ barriers? — owning stuff knowing how — remembering how we didn't know — like landing circles — psychology

we must survive

PO SHINES & Taborade IS A MODEL — (CED) ENVIRO/HEALTH

LEARN THE MODELS/TOOLS UTILIZE THE UNDERGROUND ECONOMY + SPIRITUALITY

If Portland was a UTOPIA, what would the AFRICAN and AFRICAN AMERICAN community look like? ^{Maximize our potential as IND, + commy}

OWNERSHIP / COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP ^{Basic needs we meet}

SELF-DETERMINED COMMUNITY — LIVING IN STEWARDSHIP WITH NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND IT — ^{HUMAN DIGNITY} ^{Good job Food}

A RECOGNIZABLE COMMUNITY — WHERE DO YOU GO TO FEEL FAMILIARITY?

URBAN FARMING ↔ close knit in city, tech-agriculture

URBAN AG — PEOPLE ARE SKILLED IN IT, ACCESS TO IT, CHILDREN GROW UP KNOWING IT — AS OUR GRANDPARENTS DID

KIDS HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD — IN NH; connect @ food origins + nutrition

EVERYONE HAS ACCESS TO HIGHEST GREEN BLDG / PASSENGERS

MORE BLACK PEOPLE! WE NEED A THRESHOLD POP —

Bubble of Black professionals (small) → then you see \$\$\$\$ @ good in the hood! — targeted

Black night spots don't stay around.

ECON BASE — JOBS + EMPLOYMENT — LESS STRATIFICATION!

NOT BEING A STRANGER IN YOUR OWN N HOOD

A RADIO STATION! — tool for connection + info broadcast

IS UTOPIA A CLOSED SYSTEM... ^{ALL ECON. RES. WORK TOGETHER}

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND JUST SUSTAINABILITY VISIONING
SESSION. 23 JUNE 2015.**

in their education, employment, and personal development goals that require mobility. Expand YouthPass from PPS High School students to all youth in the TriMet service area.

Ensure land uses and the physical appearance of neighborhoods support the wellbeing of our community with minimal impact on the earth. Plan for equitable urban development where ‘sustainability’ features support and enhance Black lives.

Access to nature and recreation is important for all Black neighborhoods. Portland Parks and Recreation must focus on serving not only the inner east neighborhoods that have experienced gentrification, but also those neighborhoods to where our community has been displaced to in East Portland. Parks programming and infrastructure investments should be made equitably across the city.

Portland’s Department of Urban forestry should focus tree planting in underserved neighborhoods such as East Portland to meet the needs of African-Americans that has experienced displacement.

Access to healthy food options, community gardens, and urban farming initiatives within the Black community is vital. Bureau of Planning and Sustainability should incorporate racial justice as a guiding principal in the Urban Food Zoning Code update.

Bicycle infrastructure must meet the needs of Black riders who use bicycles as a low-cost form of transportation, Black youth and families, Black recreational riding. Partner with community-based organizations that work for racial equity in cycling, such as Community Cycling Center and the Rosewood Initiative.

Environmental justice enforcement

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality must work to reduce exposure to airborne pollutants from industrial activity, transportation, and energy production within the Black community by establishing and working according to racial equity goals. Oregon DEQ should also focus time and

resources in understanding and remediating brownfields within the Black community.

The current 750 million dollar EPA cleanup plan does not do enough to address the needs and concerns of marginalized and impacted communities. The EPA must include the voices of our community in their remediation plan. Work with community organizations such as the Portland Harbor Community Coalition to make sure that affected communities are heard and to bring new green jobs into communities of color.

Equitable access to green programming

Programming, education, and initiatives must be provided in ways that include outreach into the Black community, Black-community specific information and communication, and capacity building for participation in climate change preparation and GHG reduction efforts. As the City of Portland/Multnomah County Climate Action Plan is implemented, continue to include racial equity metrics and accountability to the Black community.

Energy efficiency, weatherization, seismic.

Ensure sufficient funding for weatherization programs targeting and maintaining affordable housing.

Support resources for households to access financing for weatherization, retrofit, and seismic upgrades with grants and loans to lower-income homeowners and those who cannot increase their debt load.

Emergency preparedness plans in the Black community

Portland Bureau of Emergency Management and the Multnomah County Office of Emergency Management should conduct planning in the Black community that recognizes not only the need for targeted outreach, education and assistance in developing individual disaster readiness plans, but provides resources for those whose financial means limit their ability to prepare. PBEM should commit both time and resources to assisting our community in creating community emergency plans for under-served neighborhoods and for nonprofit organizations that serve Black people and families.

CURRENT PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

This is a list of resources. We hope that if you are interested in environmental justice, you will support and take-part in these programs and projects.

Outdoor Afro

Outdoor Afro has become the nation's leading, cutting edge network that celebrates and inspires African-American connections and leadership in nature. Their mission includes helping people take better care of themselves, our communities, and our planet!

Blueprint Foundation

Members of the Portland Chapter of the historically Black Fraternity Phi Beta Sigma founded the Blueprint Foundation. The organization exposes Black urban youth to vital learning opportunities, including those in science and technology (STEM).

Environmental Professionals of Color, Portland Chapter

The Portland Chapter of the Environmental Professionals of Color Network is a growing community of leaders of color across the Portland area at work on a vast array of critical environmental issues, from habitat conservation to environmental justice to upstream public health.

EPOC's vision is to grow and strengthen representation of people of color in leadership roles in the environment space by facilitating leadership skills, building community and networking, providing connections to jobs and internships, and encouraging innovation and partnerships across projects, program, and organizations.

OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon

OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon builds power for environmental justice and civil rights in our communities. The organization organizes low-income communities and people of color to achieve a safe and healthy environment where we live, work, learn, play and pray. Their mission is to identify and create opportunities for meaningful participation in decision making.

iUrban Teen

iUrban Teen is a STEM+Arts education program that brings together underrepresented teens and young adults for career exploration and mentoring.

Coalition of Communities of Color, ReDefine Environmental Justice

With the ReDefine Environmental Justice campaign, CCC reports that any environmental or climate initiative must lead with racial and economic equity, prevent harm, provide benefit, and ensure inclusive and accountable decision making. These principles are applied in the 2016 policy advocacy document.

EMERGING IDEAS

Urban farming and gardening training.

Programs and curriculum on consumption choices to support a sustainable Black economy.

Programs and curriculum on promoting recycling and reuse.

Emergency preparedness planning in Black communities.





**BLACK!
BLACK &
BLACK?**



CONCLUSION

You have just finished a significant work by the Black Community of Portland, The People's Plan, that captures our collective empowered voice. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan stated, "We the people – it is an eloquent beginning. But when The Constitution of the United States was completed on the seventeenth of September in 1787, I was not included in that "We the people." In this speech, Jordan goes on to say that she is included now through a process of amendment, interpretations and court decisions. Black sisters and brothers, We have been included, but where is the Plan? The People's Plan addresses for the Black Community of greater Portland what that inclusion looks like in many important areas.

The voice of the Black community has been prevented, discounted and generally ignored; however today PAALF through the People's Plan seeks to unite and empower the voice of the Black community. Our voice has and will continue to rise as we speak in a collective voice about those things promised to us and are rightfully ours. Who knows best what our community needs? Our community. Barbara Jordan states, "What people want is very simple – they want an America as good as promised." Portland must rise to this occasion and opportunity to see that nothing less than what the collective empowered voice and minds of the Black community speaks will suffice.

To the Black Community and allies to action, this is not just another report issued and not used. I encourage you to first read and reread the People's Plan. Find that area(s) of your choice, passion, expertise or interest and begin to dialogue with other like minds moving towards action. Moreover, as we speak within our circles, let us do so in a collective manner. Finally, this collective empowered voice will call for some flexibility as we move forward with the Plan, though some may want to add or delete from it, if we could allow it to serve as a framework for our working together and not lose sight of our goals, let's flex to attain those goals. PAALF will continue to be a part of this collective and empowered voice of the Black community of greater Portland willing to actively participate, shaping our future and to make this better than promised – better than thought! Forward – that's our mantra.

The Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel
Co-Chair Executive Committee
Portland African American Leadership Forum



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PARTICIPANTS

THIS PROJECT ENGAGED OVER 400 BLACK COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

BELOW ARE THE NAMES OF A FEW BLACK PORTLANDERS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE COMMUNITY SESSIONS:

INTISAR ABIOTO , ANDERSON , CAROLINE ADJOU ASSUMAN, ETTA ASSUMAN, ETEMA BANKS, IFANYI BELL, JACKIE BUTTS, FAYE BURCH, TORY CAMPBELL, NICK CHRISTENSEN, DAVID DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL BLACK STUDENT UNION, KAYIN TALTON DAVIS, ANDREA DEBRAM, LAKINDRA MITCHELL DOVE, LAKEITHA ELLIOTT, LLONDYN ELLIOTT, SHANAQUEWA FINNEY, MAXINE FITZPATRICK, LAUREN GARRETTE, N. JANINE GATES, TANEISHA GRANVILLE, SAM GOLLAH, CAT GOUGHNOUR, JAMAAL GREEN, SUEZET HOOURD, MELISSA HICKS, EDWARD B. HILL, SOLOMON IBE, MARGARET JACOBSEN, DWAYNE JOHNSON, BESHURA KAME, TONY LAMB, ORCHADIA KADI MCLEAN, LISA MATHIS, DEBRA MAYFIELD, ROBIN MAYFIELD, ANDRE MIDDLETON, RENEE MITCHELL, GRACE NEAL, EBONY OLDHAM, NICOLE PARKER, NIC W. PHILLIPS, D'ANGELO RAINES, LISA SAUNDERS, DONOVAN M. SMITH, LUC SMITH, JAMES SNEED, DORIS STEVENSON, ANTWOINE THOMAS, FELICIA TRIPP, DAMON I. TURNER, NYANGA UUKA, DESIREE WILLIAMS-RAJEE, PASTOR ROBIN WINSER, GREG WOLLEY, AND SEKOYNIA WRIGHT.

HISTORY OF PAALF

The African American Leadership Forum is a movement of African-American leaders and stewards across five metropolitan areas – the Twin Cities, Portland, Seattle, Des Moines, and Tacoma – that is committed to the revitalization and sustainability of a vibrant African-American community. We are united in the belief that we can do more together than separately. We recognize that in order to achieve enduring, positive, change in our communities we need a truly transformative agenda; one that is exciting and fresh; one that challenges the status quo and changes the game.

The Portland African American Leadership Forum (PAALF) is one of the national African American Leadership Forums created out of Minnesota’s African American Leadership Forum established in 2007. PAALF was established in 2009 by a Steering Committee of 20 local African-American leaders with significant professional experience in advocacy, social services, government affairs, fundraising, economic development, public education and health care. PAALF’s mission is to solve issues that challenge the Portland African-American community in a unified and collaborative way. PAALF’s primary goal is to enforce an action agenda that improves the health and wellbeing of local African-Americans. Its’ work addresses the unique and interrelated issues of poverty and disparities that challenge us as a community.

PAALF VALUES:

The following values are based on the 7 Principles of Ma'at, the Kemetic laws of righteousness.

Truth is honesty, sincerity, and authenticity in our words. When we speak truth we are bonded to its wisdom and morality. Truth of who we are as Black people, our ancestry, our traditions, has been stolen from us, yet the truth of our bond persists. We will both reclaim and speak our truths as a people, and uphold our integrity by seeking the truth in ourselves and one another.

Justice occurs when one's humanity has been restored, enabling equal pursuit of opportunity to fulfill one's potential. To be just is to see the humanity in others, to honor it and to fight for it as if it were your own.

Propriety to act with propriety is to act with humility and accountability towards those we serve and honor. First, we must honor and serve our ancestors and elders who have sacrificed and paved the way for us. We must honor and serve our children and unborn generations, and our responsibility to create for them a future that is better than our present. We must honor and serve our community, particularly those whose voices are least heard and hurting most. We must honor and serve the organization as a means by which to accomplish the changes we need.

Harmony is achieved when the diversity of our community effectively works together towards common goals. We practice inclusion; everyone is valued for their unique contributions. Our strength is in our ability to come together across our differences.

Balance The practice of balance is not binary, it is multi-disciplinary. It is the effective management of the range of diverse characteristics, interests, and issues that we face. It is the ability to be nimble and adaptive. It is the ability to simultaneously see the forest from the trees and the trees from the forest, the short-term obstacle and the long-term goal.

Reciprocity to do unto others as you would have them do unto you requires empathy and compassion. This is the glue that bonds our connections as a community. To be reciprocal is also to model the highest standards thereby influencing others to achieve the same.

Order consistency, transparency, clarity of expectations, and operations rooted in the highest moral standards create the structure by which order can be attained. Order is preserved through personal and group accountability. Good order is the outcome of effective organizing and power building.



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