

East Portland Neighborhood Office Goals and Values

Goals

EPNO's mission is to support community organizations, community members, and the thirteen neighborhood associations of East Portland as they strengthen their communities and work with local government and other organizations. Our community building and civic engagement goals are:

- increase the number and diversity of people involved in their communities
- strengthen community capacity through, for example, skills building, fostering teamwork or partnerships, and other community building activities
- increase community impact on public decisions

Program requirements

EPNO is a geographically-defined community-building and civic engagement program. The following are requirements for program activities.

- The activity must be in East Portland, be by East Portlanders, or clearly benefit East Portland.
- The activity must meet one or more of our program goals
- The activity must originate in the community or clearly support the community's efforts.
- The activity has a core working team.

General program values

- community-driven – projects and activities are initiated by community members
- responsive to community – community defines what they want to work on and how to organize
- flexible – take advantage of opportunities when they arise
- collaborative – focus on cross-communication, breaking down silos
- inclusive – open our program to engage communities currently underserved by EPNO and the City.

Considerations for supported activities

To remain flexible, responsive, inclusive, collaborative, and community-driven; staff use the following considerations to guide their work. This is about balancing the many factors that are involved in community activities.

Feasibility - Are there resources to support the activity?

- Does the group have access to the financing, skills, and equipment necessary? Can EPNO assist in connecting to missing resources?
- Does the size of the team match the scope of the project?
- Cost/benefit – How does the potential community benefit compare to the cost in resources?
- Sustainability – Should and how will the activity continue?
- Planning – How well has the activity been planned? Are goals and expected outcomes clear? Can EPNO assist in scoping the project?

Staffing - What role will EPNO staff play?

- Is the activity led by community? Is the content driven by the community?
- Is staff providing technical, logistical, or administrative support unavailable through volunteers?
- Do we currently have the staffing resources to offer?

Team-building - Does the activity build a community team or partnerships?

- Does the project foster collaboration or build capacity within a team?
- Is the activity led by the communities benefiting or impacted by the issues the activity addresses?

Balance - How does this fit into the other activities, projects, and groups we're supporting?

We strive to support a diversity of projects, activities, and groups. Balancing support for existing groups and activities with new groups and activities will increase our effectiveness at engaging a variety of people.

- Does the activity represent a different approach?
- Is it a different activity than currently supported?
- Does it represent a different advocacy issue?
- Is there leadership from groups underserved by us?
- Is the activity a limited-term or ongoing activity?
- Is the activity or group a new-to-us activity or group?