



NORTHEAST COALITION OF NEIGHBORHOODS
2016 - 2017
ANNUAL REPORT

cover photo courtesy of David Beller at Grow Portland

Letter from the Executive Director

At the start of the fiscal year, NECN's priorities were re-stabilization, creating sustainable internal systems and rebuilding relationships with our community. In recent years, the organization underwent rapidly recurring staff and board turnover, hindering both NECN's programming continuity and financial oversight. In addition to hiring and training staff, including a new permanent Executive Director, we focused on professional development and employee retention. We also prioritized a thorough review of our finances and reorganized our accounting systems and budgeting procedures.

The systemic turnover of staff and leadership provided a considerable challenge but also opportunity. The previous staff model was financially unsustainable, add to that multiple consultant contracts, recruitment and hiring costs NECN was headed into a \$20,000 budget deficit at the end of fiscal year 2015-2016. Through rightsizing our staffing model and investing in retention we closed our current fiscal year with a \$3,611 surplus.

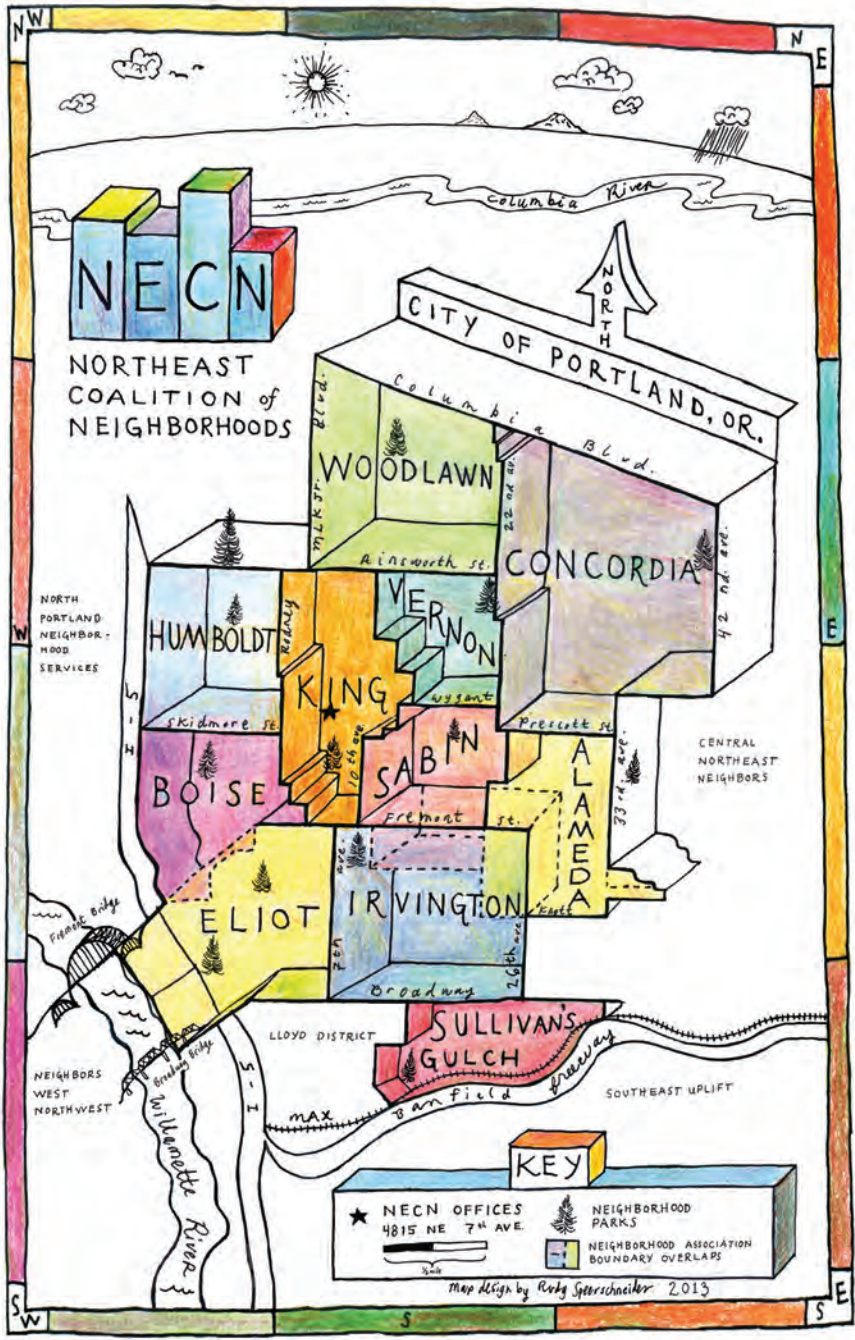
As you will see in this report, we managed to correct our financial position while creating new programming, cultivating new partnerships and engaging in meaningful advocacy for our district. The most notable being the launch of our community newspaper Hey Neighbor! This hodgepodge of stories from local residents, businesses and community groups goes to approximately 30,000 people in our district four times a year. That represented a 510% increase in outreach. One of the most important reasons we wanted to implement this project was a concern that overreliance on social media was leaving a lot of people out of our civic dialogue.

Meeting people where they are at in a fun, engaging way about difficult topics, I think embodies the spirit of where NECN has progressed throughout this year.



Adam Lyons, Executive Director

In 12 months NECN went from a \$20,000 deficit, to ending 2017 with a \$3,611 surplus. At the same time, our engagement went from 1,600 people a month to 20,000. All the while with a leaner staff model



About NECN

Founded in 1975, Northeast Coalition of Neighbor-

hoods (NECN) is an independent nonprofit organization comprised of 11 neighborhoods in inner North and Northeast Portland, Oregon.

Edna Robertson and Sharon McCormack founded Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods in 1975. Originally established as part of the Model Cities Initiative, NECN was designed to be a strong component of the Portland Neighborhood System, in order to address community issues and create effective solutions at a grassroots level.

The Coalition is governed by a Board of Directors, which allows 11 representatives from Neighborhood Associations (NA), 3 representatives from community organizations/businesses, and 3 community leaders who represent



under-engaged populations. Our four-person staff provides resources and services to our members, and runs a variety of programs that support neighbors' collaborative efforts to shape the future of our neighborhoods.

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN) increases neighborhood livability through highly inclusive civic engagement and grassroots community building. NECN believes in creating healthy communities by engaging citizens to become directly involved in determining how their neighborhood evolves. Our primary areas of focus are civic engagement, issue advocacy, volunteer leadership development and community project support.

NECN is one of seven neighborhood coalitions in Portland, which are affiliated with the City's Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI).

NECN BY THE NUMBERS

- 11** neighborhoods
- 11** representatives from neighborhood associations
- 3** representatives from community organizations/businesses
- 3** representatives from community organizations
- 7** neighborhood coalitions in Portland

The seven district coalitions, 95 Neighborhood Associations, and 40 business associations work with community groups and residents on a variety of issues that affect life in our neighborhoods, including land use and transportation, crime prevention and safety, schools, and housing.

NECN STAFF

Adam Lyons
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



adam@necoalition.org, 503.388.5070

Adam provides overall management to the organization, engages with Directors from the other six Neighborhood Coalitions, and facilitates relationships with community partners. Born and raised in NE Portland, Adam spent the last seven years managing shelters and subsidized apartment buildings for both men and families with children throughout Portland. Service work has always been his passion. He is also a basketball, running and general outdoors enthusiast.

Jessica Rojas
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL
ENGAGEMENT MANAGER



Jessica@necoalition.org, 503.388.5030

Jessica is a 3rd generation Oregonian, raised in NE Portland. She provides technical assistance, advocacy support, and training for community and environmental groups in N/NE, including Neighborhood Associations. Prior to this position, she worked on the development of watershed restoration projects and best equity practices in granting.



Laura Becker

PLANNING & OPERATIONS MANAGER

laura@necoalition.org, 503.388.6088

Laura manages NECN's operations, finances, and equipment and space rental. She also coordinates NECN's Board and Community Committees, providing research and staff support. Contact her with any questions, and she will get you pointed in the right direction. Laura is a nonprofit operations and governance guru and is passionate about Portland's unique neighborhoods and pedestrian advocacy.



Fran Ayaribil -

GRANTS & FISCAL SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR

fran@necoalition.org, 503.388.9188

Fran coordinates NECN's Fiscal Sponsorship and Community Grants programs, providing technical support, trainings and financial oversight. She also works on special projects involving community initiatives. Her professional background spans the corporate, academic and non-profit sectors in Portland.

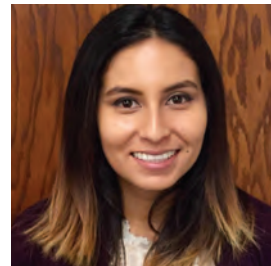


Stephanie Sanchez

CONFLUENCE AMERICORPS

Stephanie joined NECN last September as the Community Environmental Coordinator, an AmeriCorps Fellow position, for the Green King Collaborative. She worked with Architects Without Borders to engage local schools and community members in redesigning King School Park. She also held environmental restoration events for community volunteers to plant native plants in the bioswale and green spaces adjacent to the neighborhood facility.

Her experience gained while at NECN resulted in her selection for an 18-month Philanthropy NW Momentum Fellowship, and she now works for a foundation in Spokane, Wa.



OUR BOARD

2016-2017

OFFICERS:

CHAIR:

Paul Van Orden

TREASURER:

Loulie Brown

SECRETARY:

Brendan Mortimer

PARLIMENTARIAN:

Daniel Pirofsky

NECN BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

ALAMEDA:

Dave Johansen

CONCORDIA:

Donn Dennis

ELIOT:

Jere Fitterman, Jeri Bee

HUMBOLDT:

Kym Jeka

SABIN:

Lauren Gross

SULLIVAN'S GULCH:

Daniel Pirofsky

VERNON:

Brendan Mortimer

WOODLAWN:

Dennis Kennedy

AT-LARGE:

Loulie Brown, Sabin CDC

AT-LARGE:

Roslyn Cunningham, SEI

AT-LARGE:

Shirley Minor

AT-LARGE:

Paul Van Orden

NECN adopted new bylaws in June 2016 which changed the composition of the board. By decreasing the number of Neighborhood Association representatives from two to one per neighborhood and establishing up to six at-large members, we greatly diversified the voices around the table.

"We greatly diversified the voices around the table"

As of our June 2017 elections our board now includes seven neighborhood representatives and six at-large members that live and work in the district and represent nonprofits and grassroots advocacy groups including Self-Enhancement, Inc., and Portland Bus Lane Project.

New board members have already stepped up into leadership positions and filled out our Executive Committee for the first time in two years.



ActiveSpace

NECN has a small staff and a large office and meeting space. We leverage every square foot to provide smaller community groups with work stations, office amenities and meeting space, etc. The following is a list of our office partners:

Grow Portland is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing opportunities for urban food production in Portland. www.growportland.org



Good in the Hood is a nonprofit organization, staffed entirely by volunteers who create the Good in the Hood multicultural festival and parade in our district every year for the past 25 years. www.goodinthehood.org



Togo Core is a non-profit charitable trust providing culturally appropriate support to communities from Togo and other African countries, building leadership, and raising awareness on health, education, and safety. www.togocore.org



Portland Tenants United works to end and mitigate the impacts of displacement caused by no-cause terminations and unjustified rent increases, and to ensure fair and equitable access to safe and secure housing in livable communities for all.



[Facebook.com/portlandtenantsunited](https://www.facebook.com/portlandtenantsunited)

The Village Coalition is a network of advocates, activists, and houseless villages and individuals committed to combating homelessness from many sides of the issue - from designing villages and sleeping pods, to changing negative perspectives, and to find land and partner organizations to facilitate safe shelter creation. www.pdxvillagecoalition.org



GRANTS & FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

Neighborhoods Small Grants Program 2016-2017

NECN has a small grants program that annually provides six grants of \$2,000 each to community based organizations through a thorough application process. Management of the grants and technical assistance is provided throughout the year.

NECN continues to monitor the progress of grant awardees through on-going communications and progress reports. NECN staff went out in the field for targeted outreach to recruit new applicants from more than 25 community locations

within the inner north/northeast service area.

Marketing literature and information have been disseminated via web-sites and other social media, as well as, our on-line newsletter and print, quarterly newspaper.

Staff provides and presents information at scheduled community meetings, Neighborhood Association meetings other community forums. NECN held a Grants Workshop on January 26, 2017 for interested applicants.

NECN received 29 applications in 2015-2016. This represents a 56% increase in grant applicants over the past 5 years. NECN dedicated additional funds in our grants program for 2016-2017 to provide 2 additional grants!

Small Grants Selection Committee

The Neighborhood Small Grants Evaluation Committee represents a diverse group of individuals, including: community residents, community leaders and NECN Board members. Each year, NECN recruits new volunteer members onto the Evaluation Committee, usually comprised of 6 - 10 individuals. The committee members commit to receiving training and independently scoring between 25-35 grant applications before the committee meets to discuss and



2017 Small Grant Awards Reception

make final decisions on actual grant awards. The training includes an in depth review of the funding criteria, application review process and scoring mechanisms; as well as, an overview on the dynamics of "implicit bias" as related to the grants evaluation process.

Grants Equity Collaborative

NECN participates in bi-monthly meetings with representatives from other grant making organizations in Portland. This group focuses on improving access to historically underserved groups by discussing and addressing barriers.

Partners include Metro, Meyer Memorial Trust, East Multnomah Water and Soil Conservation and

several others. The participating organizations have increased to a total of 17.

Recent areas of focus include: organization wide focus on equity policy, procedures and metrics; challenges with grants evaluation committees and identification of “equity indicators” in application verbiage.



Fiscal Sponsorship of Community Projects 2016-2017

NECN includes in its programming the opportunity to support community-based initiatives. The following is a list of our current projects:

King Backpack Program

– provides week-end lunches to eligible students at King Elementary school.

Sabin Community Association – NECN provides fiscal sponsorship for entire NA. Individual projects tracked separately.

Green King Initiative – Project involves using community volunteers and partners to de-pave and construct storm water management systems, using na-



tive plants and providing environmental education.

King Neighborhood Association – NECN provides fiscal sponsorship for entire NA. Individual projects tracked separately.

Albina Neighborhood Tree Team - New fiscal sponsored project as of July 2016.

COMMUNICATIONS

Neighborhood E Newsletter

Receiver Estimate: 1,600

NECN newsletter illuminates community events, activities, and opportunities in the district. It provides information about the city, community groups, and businesses.

Newspaper Publication: *Hey Neighbor!*

Our quarterly newspaper was started to build community, increase activism, and build awareness. Content is centered on the work of nonprofits, community groups, and small businesses in our district.

The publication was first sent to 6

neighborhoods that didn't have their own newspaper, but has since grown!

In the second issue we delivered to 6,000 additional households and increased saturation in additional neighborhoods!

In 2016-2017 NECN went from solely interacting through our e-news to an average of 1,600 subscribers, to averaging 20,000 engagements per month through *Hey Neighbor!*

WINTER 2017
ISSUE 1, VOL. 1

Receiver Estimate:
10,485 households

Stories shared: 13

Free ads shared: 3

Local events/opportunities
shared: 7



**SPRING 2017
ISSUE 2, VOL. 1**

Receiver Estimate:
16,095 households

Stories shared: 10

Free ads shared: 4

**Local events/opportunities
shared:** 12



In every issue we've increased local participation and have had more individuals writing their own stories!



Doug Decker, Summer 2017's Resident Spotlight, is pictured here in front of his historic home.



Monique Lopez, Apache and Mexican, of Oregon Inter-tribal Breastfeeding Council, with 3 of her children at Unity Farms.

**SUMMER 2017
ISSUE 3, VOL. 1**

Receiver Estimate:
16,318 households

Stories shared: 11

Free ads shared: 9

**Local events/opportunities
shared:** 24



NEIGHBORHOODS



Community Collection Events

Community Collection Events are a partnership made between Neighborhood Coalitions, the City of Portland, and Metro to build capacity and invest in community waste reduction and reuse. Put on by volunteers within the Neighborhood Associations, the events prioritize recycling and reuse over disposal.



This year NECN assisted ten neighborhoods **in nine community collection events!**

Metal Recycled: **15.43 tons**

Onsite reuse items exchanged: **911**

Number of dropboxes filled: **38.5**

Bikes collected: **15**

Items of clothing collected: **414**

Technical Support and Funds

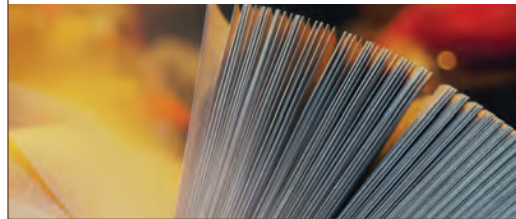
NECN provides assistance to our 11 Neighborhood Associations in various ways. Each year our neighborhoods receive Coalition Funds to increase capacity within their organizations.

NECN also provides two types of insurance to indemnify members against potential liability. Additionally, any assistance whether with State or Federal compliance, NECN works to aid any request.



Neighborhood Elections Support

NECN staff assists with facilitating Neighborhood Association's elections. Support includes printing necessary documents (roster, bylaws, map of neighborhood boundaries) and facilitating election in compliance with bylaws and ONI standards.



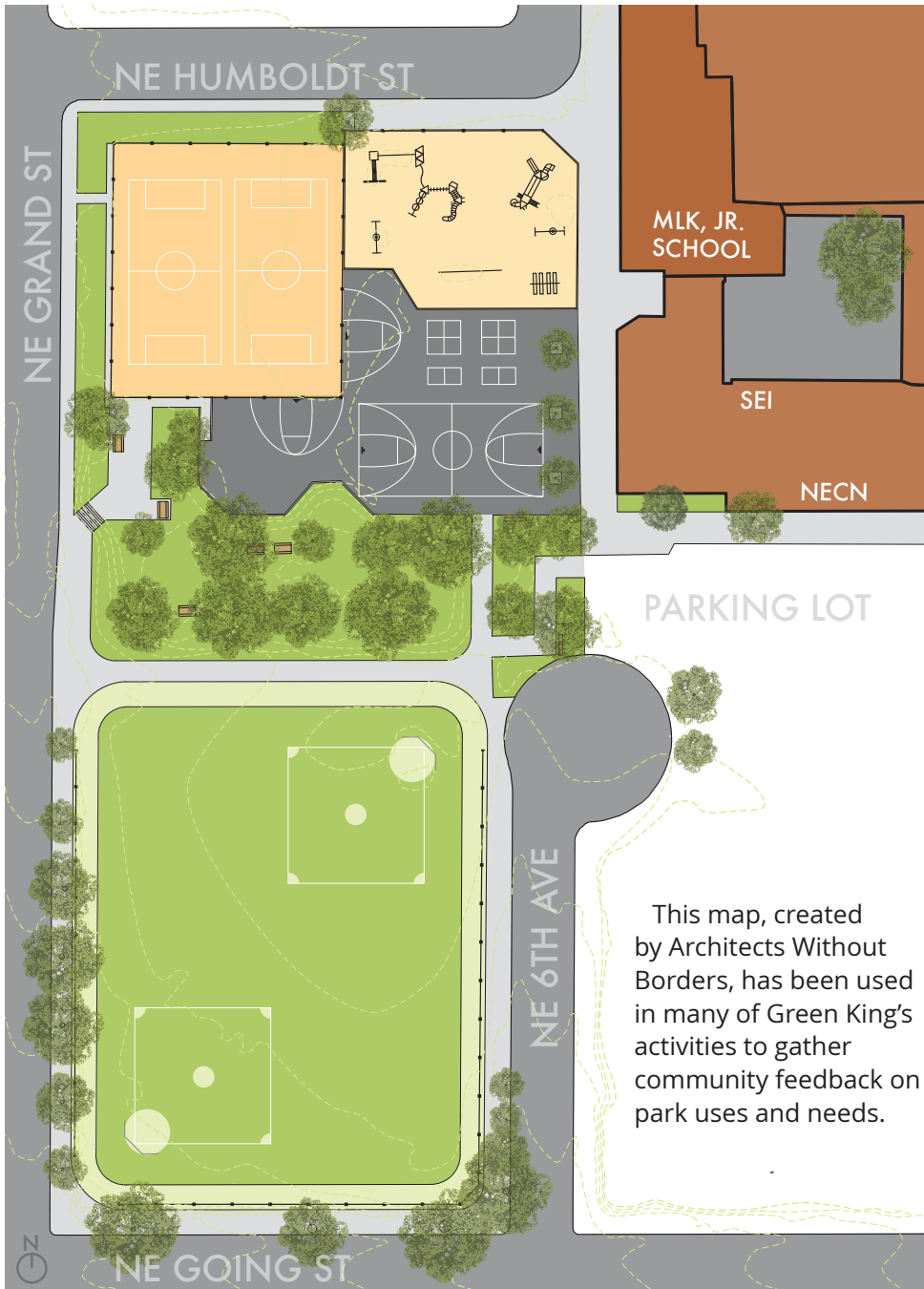
Sullivan's Gulch Trail

NECN is attempting to relaunch the ambitious idea of building a pedestrian and bike pathway from the waterfront to around I-205. We discussed the project with Metro who has signaled interest in the plan.

There have been tentative commitments from Providence and PBOT of

around 1.25 million each. The total cost would likely be around \$50 million and would take 5-10 years to be implemented. However, early analysis has indicated that this would be the most heavily used trail in the city.





This map, created by Architects Without Borders, has been used in many of Green King's activities to gather community feedback on park uses and needs.

SPECIAL PROJECTS: GREEN KING



Students provide feedback for King Park Redesign



Green King volunteers and parents of students at park redesign site visit

Green King Collaborative

The Green King Collaborative (GKC) is a collaborative effort to implement an incremental design plan for the sustainable and smart growth oriented beautification of the King School Park grounds.

The elements include the redesign of the Tennis Courts into Soccer Courts (through a grant from the Portland Timbers) and may incorporate Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)



elements in partnership with Office of Neighborhood Involvement's (ONI) Crime Prevention Program to address public safety.

Elements regarding social entrepreneurship on the King School grounds are also being introduced.

“Elements include the redesign of the Tennis Courts into Soccer Courts (through a grant from the Portland Timbers)”

A Confluence Environmental Center AmeriCorps member, housed in our office, has been coordinating this project with the support of our staff and local leaders. Closely partnering with Architects Without Borders, Green King has held community gatherings to have design-centered activities.

SPECIAL PROJECTS: CLEAN START PDX

Central City Concern Pilot Project

Last Spring, NECN and members of Eliot neighborhood met to discuss trash and livability issues in our inner northeast neighborhoods. Eliot has seen an increase in litter and debris related to the Moda Center and homelessness. We initiated talks with Central City Concern about their Clean Start Program.



Clean Start has existed in the downtown corridor as 'Clean and Safe' for many years and has been recognized for its success. Clean Start employs individuals who have experienced homelessness and pays a living wage with benefits. Employees are also given vocational training, case-management and increased access to services. Job duties include trash and litter pickup, biohazard disposal, graffiti removal and various other issues related to livability.

In the course of talking to Central City Concern we learned that the price for one full-time employee was between \$83,000 - 90,000 per year. This was obviously a steep hurdle. We also learned that Central Eastside Industrial Council (CEIC) was contemplating a similar project. NECN decided to pitch a pilot project

that would bring Clean and Safe to the inner-east side roughly encompassing Eliot neighborhood, half of Lloyd and about a third of Central Eastside.

"NECN secured firm buy-in from community groups, business and government all in a period of a month and a half"

NECN began to advocate for this pilot project to various actors at the City and County, including ONI who were very positive about the idea and pledged \$40,000 if NECN could get the business community involved. After a meeting with CEIC, NECN secured firm buy-in

from community groups, business and government all in a period of a month and a half.

Meanwhile the Mayor's office pledged an additional \$20,000. Several meetings later and after full fleshing out the proposal, the full City commitment was at the requisite \$90,000 to initiate the pilot project.

In coordination with Central City Concern, the pilot project is now called Clean Start PDX and the grant allocation passed City Council unanimously on June 14. NECN holds the grant contract from the City and works with Central City Concern on implementation and management, the project went live in August 2017.



SPECIAL PROJECTS: OUR ENVIRONMENT



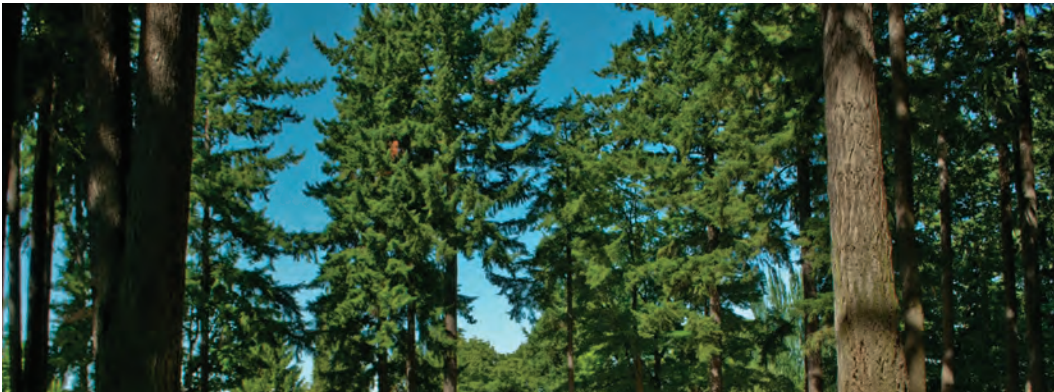
Portland Harbor Superfund

NECN hosted six community meetings on the EPA proposal to clean up the Portland Harbor. Two of these meetings were in Spanish. We also advocated in front of City Council for additional time to do meaningful outreach to underserved communities. We partnered with VOZ, Sierra Club, Willamette River Keepers, Verde and more to do outreach to a wide variety of communities and created a mailer to advertise the events to thousands of



households in our district.

Eventually the City of Portland chose to support a more robust clean up option.

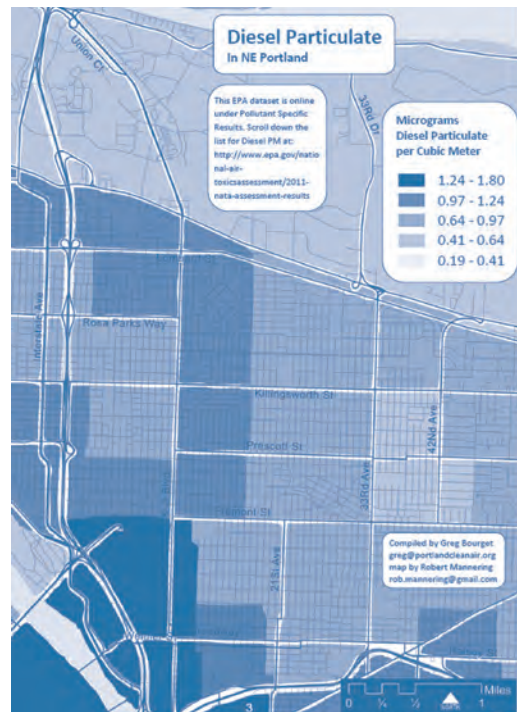


Portland Clean Air

NECN staff collaborated with **Portland Clean Air (PCA)**, a clean air advocacy group to discuss opportunities to address air quality in relation to land use topics, our others points of interests for the neighborhoods.

Staff worked with PCA to publish an unfiltered diesel truck map of our district and is currently working on asbestos/ air quality issues in relation to house demolitions. Staff have worked to connect community members who could host PCA air monitoring equipment on their properties to gain air quality samples.

NECN also partnered with PCA to create a Diesel Pollutant Dinner to educate community members on the current situation regarding poor air quality to community members, as well as potential state bills that would address the problem. Among those speakers was Senator Fredrick who spoke about the history of the area regarding pollution and disinvestment.



COMMITTEES



Safety and Livability Team (SALT) Meetings

The Safety and Livability Team (SALT) meetings were held monthly on the 3rd Monday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Meetings sporadically drew attendance from the majority of the 11 neighborhoods within NECN's district as well as at large representatives from the broader community. SALT members gathered to exchange information and advice, learn about Coalition-wide issues and advocate collectively.



Land Use and Transportation Committee (LUTC)

The Land Use and Transportation Committee (LUTC) meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Meetings regularly draw attendance from the majority of the 11 neighborhoods within NECN's district as well as at large representatives from the broader community. LUTC neighborhood representatives gather to exchange information and advice, learn about Coalition-wide issues and advocate collectively.

NORTHEAST ACTION TEAMS (NEATS)

Parks NEAT

NECN is working with other east-side coalitions to establish a Park's NEAT. Committee members who are interested in advocating for parks improvements are encouraged to attend.

According to Commissioner Fritz a Park's committee is essential to gain better access to System Development Charge money.



Public Safety Advisory Committee NEAT

In collaboration with the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, Portland Police Bureau and the District Attorney's Office, NECN convened a Public Safety Advisory Committee. The monthly meeting is an opportunity for residents to talk to decision makers about public safety concerns. Meetings also include guest speakers from houseless advocates to non-profits specializing in reducing recidivism in our district.



Neighborhood Emergency Team NEAT

Currently we have an on-going Neighborhood Emergency Team NEAT which focuses on coordinating emergency response in the event of a disaster. Katy Wolf, who works at Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, is a member of the Boise Neighborhood Association and is leading this effort.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Community Justice Event

Last October, NECN convened a Community Justice Reform Conversation, facilitated by Resolutions Northwest.

Black Lives Matter, Unite Oregon, Partnership for Safety and Justice, Oregon Justice Resource Center, and NAACP participated in a fish bowl panel discussion on *“What would a community look like if it was safe for everyone?”*

SEI/NECN

Neighborhood Cookout

Last Summer, NECN and Self Enhancement, Inc. (SEI) hosted a community block party barbecue to address the issue of gun violence with speakers from the Office of Youth Violence, SEI, NECN and others. There was also a performance by Maverick Mainstage, starring children from the neighborhood.

Know Your City: Hidden History of Albina Tours

NECN partnered with Know Your City to create the immensely popular Hidden History of Albina walking tours.

The tour focuses on the rich cultural African American history of the neighborhood which is quickly being eroded by displacement and gentrification.



Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church, part of the walking tour, is the only church in Portland where Martin Luther King Jr. preached. (City of Portland Archives)



Good In the Hood Event and Parade

NECN's parade contingent was the largest ever at the 25th annual Good In the Hood Multicultural festival. In addition to our entire staff and Neighborhood Association volunteers, friends and colleagues from other coalitions and many elected officials helped us make signs and proudly walked with their neighbors to support what turned out to be a safe and successful festival with record turnout.

Community Dialogue: Race & Gentrification in NE Portland

In collaboration with Portland Playhouse, Resolutions Northwest, and Homegirl Consulting, NECN convened a community dialogue about race and gentrification in Northeast Portland. The community was enabled to have a productive conversation about a difficult subject. These dialogues are on-going.

Community Dialogue: Fade 2 Black

NECN co-sponsored "Fade 2 Black", an opportunity for community members who identify as Black, African American, and/or of African diaspora to have facilitated conversations around topics that resonate with the referenced community.

This event was conceived and planned in relation to community feedback from the earlier collaborative community forum participants such as Portland Playhouse, Resolutions NW and Homegirl Consulting.

This tour enables newcomers to Northeast Portland to understand the context of their new home.

Legislative 101 with NAACP

NECN partnered with NAACP to put on an educational session on the state legislature. Speakers discussed how bills make it through the system and the best methods to advocate for an issue or bill.



"This tour enables newcomers to Northeast Portland to understand the context of their new home"

PARTNERSHIPS

NECN shared resources, opportunities, jobs as needed, in our media outlets and individual reach outs, to build community solidarity:

Big Tent Air Toxics*

Village Building
Convergence-
City Repair 


RACC 
BARK 

Audubon
Society 

Beyond Toxics 

Metro 

Bureau of
Environmental
Services 

East Multnomah
Soil and Water
Conservation
District 

Urban League 

Native
American Youth
and Family Center 

Native American
Rehabilitation
Services 

Portland Housing
Bureau 


Prosper Portland 

East Portland
Action Plan 

Unite Oregon 

Resolutions
Northwest 


Columbia Slough
Watershed Council 

Interfaith
Movement for
Immigrant Justice
(IMIrj) 

Miracles Club of
Portland 

MAC G Housing 


OPAL
Environmental
Justice 


EPA/ Environmental
Justice Grants,
surveys, webinars 

Portland Farmers
Market 

Portland Bureau
of Transportation 

Oregon State
Legislature Town
Halls 

Office of Youth
Violence
Prevention 

Multnomah
County Drainage
District 

Portland Parks
and Recreation 

Portland Bureau
of Emergency
Management 

Catholic Charities:
McCoy Village 

Mudbone Grown, LLC.
- Unity Farm

The
Encorepreneur
Cafe 

Marijuana Policy
Oversight Team
(MPOT)*

Port of Portland:
Community
Advisory
Committee* 

Sustainable
Infrastructure
at Evergreen 

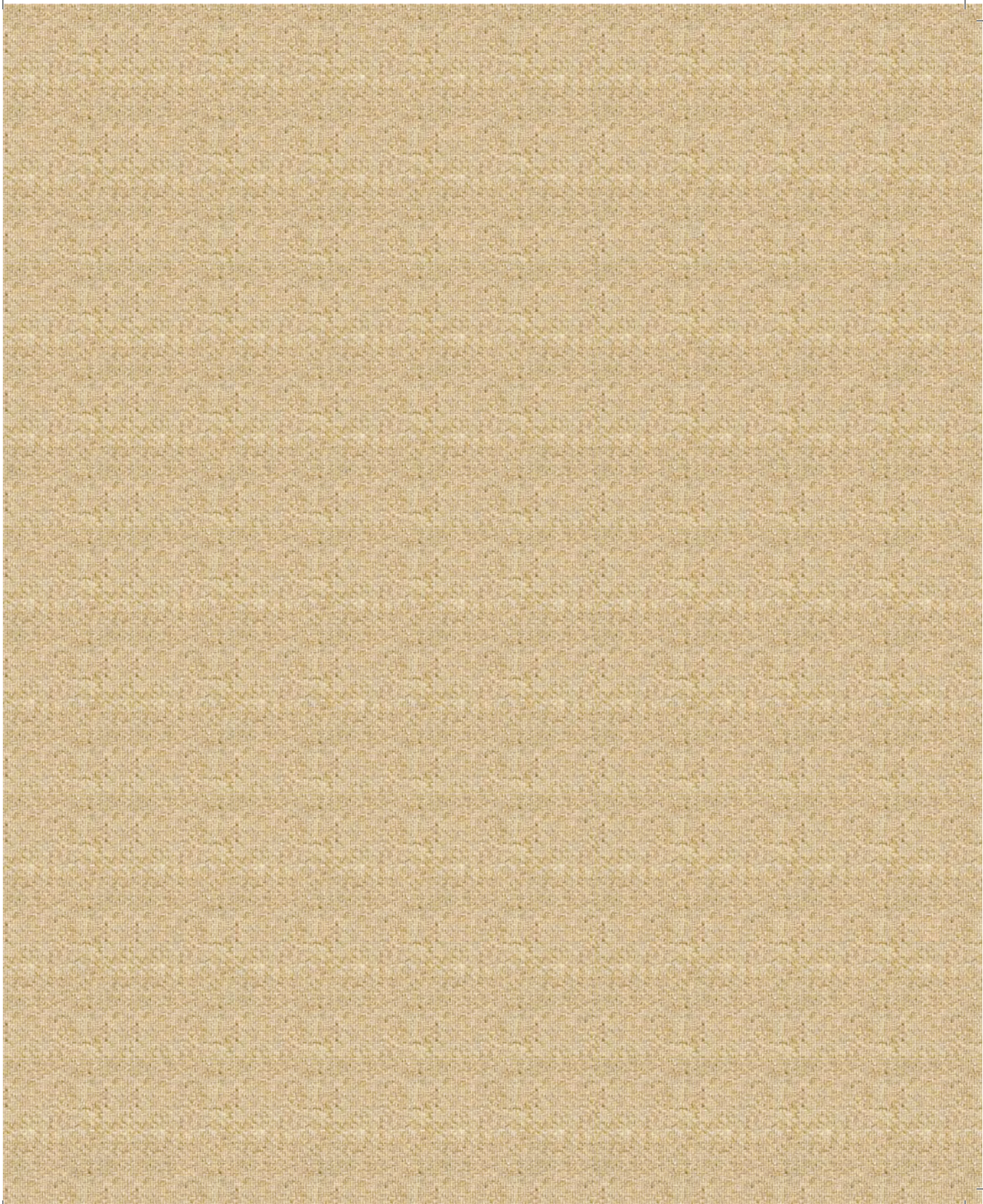
College Report -
Executive Review
Team*

Interfaith Alliance
on Poverty* 

NAACP* 

Grow
Portland
Board* 

**Partner Organizations
with NECN Staff on Boards/
Advisory Committees*



Northeast Coalition Of Neighborhoods
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