

Community VISION Project

Planning PDX's future through a shared community-based vision

community visioning n.

the process by which a community sees or conceives its future. A collaborative effort involving all Portland citizens, leaders and officials in shaping:

1. a plan for the future we'd like for our city
2. how we prioritize what issues and projects to tackle
3. how citizens are involved in our city

community visioning asks us all to participate by attending a meeting in your neighborhood, partaking in forums and/or special visioning events or just answering a questionnaire.) **Community Visioning** must be forward thinking, open, inclusive and committed to strong partnerships and community participation, as we work toward creating our collective future.

WHY DO WE NEED A VISION?

Every day, headlines bombard us with issues that threaten our ability to maintain and enhance our collective quality of life. Many community organizations feel frustrated that the city doesn't seem to respond to their needs.

Right now, there are more needs than resources. Portland City leaders and staff share Portlanders frustration, wishing they had more time and money so they could do more to solve the mounting challenges facing our community.

A community vision can help prioritize the kinds of actions needed to create the city that we want. By having a very large "discussion", that is asking ourselves and each other what we want and need as a community, we can create consensus on what we want most for our future. Then, we will be able to prioritize the kinds of actions needed to energize all sectors of the community to come together on workable solutions.

Doesn't Portland have a Vision?

Yes. It's out of date. Nearly 15 years have passed since Portland government and our community last engaged in a "big picture" look at the future of our city. Portland has changed significantly since then. Today we are a much more diverse community. Many of us and our neighbors were not here 15 years ago. A drastically changed community such as ours needs to re-assess and plan accordingly. The Community Vision Project will be massive. With your help, we can tackle this much-needed exercise.

PORTLAND HAS DONE MORE THAN MOST COMMUNITIES TO BECOME A LIVABLE PLACE.

For over 15 years we've been busy achieving much, including:

Revitalizing
our Inner city
Neighborhoods
& Downtown

Expanding our
Parks and
Transportation
systems

Improving
Water Quality
in the
Willamette

Reducing the
higher levels of
Crime of the
1980s

Today, new challenges test our quality of life.

CHALLENGE:

The Portland region is expected to gain an additional ONE MILLION people and 600,000 jobs in the next 20 years, potentially straining our environment and existing neighborhoods.

CHALLENGE:

Housing costs are rising much faster than incomes are threatening the next generation of homeowners, and, limiting the housing choices of thousands of Portlanders, many of whom are leaving for more affordable areas.

CHALLENGE:

Increased ethnic diversity will help make Portland a considerably better place. It will also call on us to rethink the way the City provides services and educates its children.

How can a new Vision fix our problems?

Who better than citizens to fix our problems and prepare for a rapidly changing future?

However, we must face housing, transportation, crime, education, cost of living, environmental and cultural challenges and problems by working together as a united city.

Each and every one of us.

The Vision will help us by posing basic questions and seeking your answers as to who we are and what we want to be. Getting to a clear direction of where we want to go as a community is what it's all about.

FIRST We'll learn what Portlanders such as you value about what we have now *and what we want for the future.*

NEXT We'll present some choices to help shape options for the future and shape our collective vision.

FINALLY, The Vision, once developed, will act as a roadmap, helping prioritize actions and investment and energizing the way we work together to make change.

Who will create Portland's vision?

The Vision will be the product of the people of Portland. THE VISION COMMITTEE, a diverse group of volunteers, tapped by the Mayor's office to help manage this huge undertaking, will ask you for and learn your values and aspirations for the future.

The VISION COMMITTEE will be talking to tens of thousands of Portlanders from all walks of life.

THROUGH SCHEDULED EVENTS, WE'LL MEET UP IN OUR:

Neighborhoods	Commercial Districts	Places of Residence
Worship Houses	Social Spaces	Community Centers

We must have full participation from EVERYONE to make Vision Portland as wildly successful as it can and should be. In essence, as Portlanders, we will ALL work together to build the city we want our children and future generations to grow up in.

YOU will help us focus and prioritize The feedback you and your neighbors give will let us all know, on a very real level, what's important *to you* and to the collective "us" as citizens of the Rose City. Each Portlander's feedback will be a voice in the chorus that will be the final vision plan. It is our hope and desire that the process alone will revitalize our civic community, getting everyone talking and thinking about our city.

It's time to re-tap into Portlanders creative energy. Original ideas and solutions are flowing in every neighborhood, school, and social setting. Great ideas are advanced in our growing small businesses and community organizations all the time. Many of these ideas can help shape a better Portland, one that speaks to the needs and desires of its citizens. We need to hear from you!

Ok, so...how can I become involved?

Right now, THE VISION COMMITTEE (the diverse group of community leaders entrusted with managing the Vision Portland process) is building the outreach plan. We are relying on you and the greater Portland community to help.

YOU CAN PARTICIPATE BY ACCESSING THE PROJECT'S CURRENT WEBSITE:

<http://www.portlandonline.com/mayor>

You'll have many opportunities to participate in forums, workshops, voting, art projects, festivals, etc. We want to hear your ideas for involving people. Contact your local place of worship, club, community organization, friends, workplaces, and help start a conversation about Portland. Invite your friends to help sponsor an event and help make the voices of all Portlanders be heard. Phone **503.823.7838** for more information or email us at: **plvision@ci.portland.or.us**.

What's different about this outreach effort?

While we'll hold forums and workshops (stay tuned!), we'll employ a variety of not so traditional approaches, too. We'll go to where people are—in *your* local communities, at *your* workplaces, clubs, community organizations, etc.

We'll try new and different ways of connecting with people. We'll do our best to keep information clear and well-adaptable for different audiences. This will be *anything but* a cookie cutter approach to outreach.

Portland is well known for its high community involvement, as well as its planning efforts. However, there's still plenty of room for improvement.

GRANTS!

We're not just talking about doing things differently, we're putting our money where our collective mouth is and funding community organizations-based outreach.

- We want to facilitate the use of innovative new ideas, your ideas!
- We want community groups to take the lead on how to engage people.

Check out the Mayor's website for a grant application. Tell us your idea(s).

<http://www.portlandonline.com/mayor>

Information will be gathered through

- surveys
 - voting
- direct comments
- artistic representations
- other creative forms

What will happen with all the information collected?

1. THE VISION COMMITTEE will review and distill the information coming from the community.
2. After the citizenry of greater Portland have given their input, the Vision Committee will help shape the development of key choices for Portland's future. Information from the public outreach campaign coupled with wide and deep research will inform choices.
3. The general public will be once again be asked to weigh in, this time, to address the choices in a manner that serves to address the fundamental question: WHAT KIND OF CITY DO WE WANT?
4. After the Vision Committee develops the vision, the public will be asked to comment once again.

When will the vision be complete?

The actual vision document and "road map" will be developed in the winter of 2007.

Once developed, Portlanders will have a chance to review prior to City Council adopting the final vision in the spring of 2007.

The "final" goal in the visioning process will be to invite other community organizations to adopt the vision.