# Guiding Statements for Equity and Inclusion

**Office of Neighborhood Involvement Mission Statement**

Promote a culture of civic engagement by connecting and supporting all Portlanders working together and with government to build inclusive, safe and livable neighborhoods and communities.

## **Our Values**

The Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) works towards a future where the community is a full and equal decision-making partner in all aspects of the City of Portland. We serve our increasingly diverse community through promoting collective civic engagement for all people in Portland, with a commitment to transparency, compassion, and relationship building. We strive to recognize and repair the disparities that exclude and harm the people of Portland.  We strive to be authentic, accessible and accountable within government and the community. The values put forth here are intended as a guide and foundation for all our work.

(The following is an excerpt from *Standards for Neighborhood Associations, District coalitions, Business District Associations, and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement*, Adopted by City Council on July 13, 2005)

**Inclusion and Participation**

In the interest of addressing the need for participation and inclusiveness in Neighborhood Associations and increasing diversity in public involvement the District Coalitions support the participation of Portland’s diverse communities in the Neighborhood Association network including communities of people of color, renters and low-income individuals, working

families with children, immigrants and refugees, seniors, students, young adults, people with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and trans-gendered people. The District Coalitions shall incorporate into an annual work plan action steps taken to:

1. Build partnership and outreach efforts with Portland’s diverse communities and organizations which lead to community and trust building activities.
2. Provide opportunities for Neighborhood Associations to increase their effectiveness in recruiting, training and retaining volunteers and leadership from diverse constituencies to participate in neighborhood activities.
3. In partnership with the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, provide resources and assistance for making Neighborhood Association meetings and communications accessible to constituencies or individuals where assistance is either culturally appropriate or requested. This may include providing language interpretation of meetings and translation of meeting fliers and newsletters for those whose English is a second language, identifying childcare options, seeking transportation solutions and meeting locations which are accessible to people with disabilities.
4. Encourage the participation of businesses and Business District Association representatives in activities, meetings, and participation on governing bodies of the District Coalition and various Neighborhood Associations within that District Coalition’s boundaries.