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2010

Outcomes Summary

Metro Central Enhancement Grant
Program

December 2010

About Metro

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy, and sustainable transportation and living choices for people and businesses in the region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges and opportunities that affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to making decisions about how the region grows. Metro works with communities to support a resilient economy, keep nature close by and respond to a changing climate. Together we're making a great place, now and for generations to come.

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METRO CENTRAL ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

2010 project highlights

The people who live and work here are the best source of ideas about important public investments. That is why Metro solicits grant proposals from residents, nonprofit organizations, schools, community groups and others that want to strengthen their communities and make them more sustainable. Grants act as a catalyst by encouraging individuals and organizations with good ideas to step forward and get involved.

With support for grass-roots projects, Metro helps make neighborhoods safer and more livable by giving residents tools to fix up their homes and improve their property values, protect habitat, encourage outdoor opportunities for kids and families, and support skills training programs so that people can get good, steady jobs. The right investments today can make a difference for our children and our future.

The Metro Central grant program began in early 1991 with the opening of the Metro Central Transfer Station, 6161 NW 61st Ave., Portland. Funds are generated from a 50-cent surcharge collected on each ton of garbage processed at the Metro Central transfer station. Monies compensate the community around the facility

During the 2010 funding cycle, Metro invested \$105,000 into 27 local neighborhood improvement projects. Monies were awarded to local organizations that deliver aid to local residents and to groups that look after our natural environment. Special consideration was given to applicants with matching funds and partnerships that leverage other support. In some instances, the choice was to get the most out of what we have by maintaining and enhancing some existing programs. It will cost more tomorrow if we do not address problems today.

Projects align with one or more of Metro's funding goals (FG 1 – 8):

1. rehabilitation, upgrading or direct increase in the real and or personal property owned or operated by a nonprofit organization with Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) status
2. the preservation or enhancement of wildlife, riparian (streamside) zones, wetlands, forest lands and marine areas, and improve public awareness and the opportunities to enjoy them
3. improvement to, or increase in, recreational areas and programs
4. improvement in the safety of the area
5. improvement of the appearance, cleanliness or environmental quality of the area neighborhood
6. benefits to youth and seniors
7. benefits to low-income persons

8. recycling opportunities

The 2010 grant cycle marks the 19th year funds have been awarded through the Metro Central program. During that time, more than \$3.1 million has been invested in 316 neighborhood improvement projects. Through partnerships with local organizations, Metro is able to support bold new ideas and help maintain programs that respond to vital needs in the community.

This report offers highlights from some of the projects funded in 2010 in relation to Metro's programmatic goals. For more information about these or other projects, or for details about Metro's grant resources, visit Metro's website (www.oregonmetro.gov/grants). Metro is proud to help inspire real change by awarding grants to support local improvements – large and small. Congratulations to our 2010 award recipients on project accomplishments. There is much of which to be proud, and still much work to be done.

FUNDING GOAL 1

Rehabilitation, upgrading or direct increase in real and or personal property owned or operated by a nonprofit organization with Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) status

Grantee: Golden Harvesters

Award: \$11,500

Last year, a record number of Oregon families turned to emergency food sources for help. In North Portland, one relatively small and entirely volunteer-driven nonprofit was poised to respond. With funds from Metro for a new walk-in cooler and two new upright freezers, Golden



Harvesters food pantry distributed 110,600 pounds of foodstuff to families, elders and disabled meeting Federal poverty guidelines. The additional storage space increased the amount of fresh produce, dairy products and frozen foods for members from 35 to 50 lbs each visit (twice a week), and allowed the organization to enroll 305 new member households. Instead of spending close to \$1,200 on repairs to the old cooler, this year Golden Harvesters has additional storage for 1,200 lbs of frozen food alone.

FUNDING GOAL 2

Preservation or enhancement of wildlife, riparian zones, wetlands, forest lands and marine areas, and improve public awareness and the opportunities to enjoy them

Grantee: Forest Park Conservancy

Award: \$7,500

Break out your boots and dust off your pack - a 5,400-acre park beckons. Sheltering an ancient forest and the headwaters of more than a half-dozen creeks and streams, Forest Park provides essential habitat to an estimated 112 species of birds and 60 species of mammals. Offering 70 miles of nature, hiking, running and biking trails, it serves an outdoor classroom where thousands of people experience nature. Volunteers have always played a critical role in restoring, maintaining and improving the natural area and trails; the Forest Park Conservancy coordinates the majority of that work. Metro invested in the organization's outreach efforts to help create a larger, more sustainable pool of park stewards and help add new crew leadership to support the growing number of volunteers. As a result, a new hike program brought five different school-aged groups to explore the area, and twice-a-week work parties and other special volunteer events brought in more.



FUNDING GOAL 3

Improvement to, or increase in, recreational areas and programs

Grantee: Audubon Society

Award: \$5,000

Affectionately referred to as, "the bat roost," Audubon's education center is not exactly a secluded place where winged mammals might find a quiet corner to hang upside down and sleep. In fact, the 1,000 sq. ft. area is usually a blur of activity where more than 30,000 community members pass a year on their way to summer, spring and winter break camps, attend trainings to become volunteer sanctuary tour guides, or sift through research materials in a well-used library. Metro grant funds replaced severely worn linoleum and carpet with durable and sustainable pre-finished bamboo flooring. Volunteers logged 196 hours helping out on the project.



FUNDING GOAL 4

Improvement in the safety of an area

Grantee: Josiah Hill

Award: \$2,000

Bisphenol A Perfluorinated chemicals. Phthalates. Hard to pronounce, harder yet to imagine these are common household toxics found in canned food, upholstered furniture and rubber duckies. In response and out of concern for the community's safety, Josiah Hill III Clinic used Metro's grant award to carry out its Healthy Homes Healthy People Healthy Environment project. Targeting low income families of color living in older, potentially substandard housing that are even more vulnerable to higher exposures to these pollutants and toxins (Multnomah County, 2000), Josiah Hill recruited and trained bilingual community leaders to work with 10 families to identify and minimize hazards, change behaviors and address structural issues their homes. Educational materials were designed and printed in three languages, distributed to more than 350 families at numerous events and community fairs. Related workshops are scheduled for this year.

FUNDING GOAL 5

Improvement of the appearance, cleanliness or environmental quality of the area/neighborhood

Grantee: Neighbors for Clean Air

Award: \$2,000

Parents want their kids to get the best education available. Some diligently research local options which is when Mary Peveto made a startling discovery: seven schools in her neighborhood were ranked in the bottom 2 percent nationally for air pollution due to nearby toxic industrial emissions. A self-proclaimed "accidental activist," Mary and other Northwest Portland parents were enraged and determined to do something about it. Metro's funds helped Neighbors for Clean Air launch an interactive website where visitors could map odors, find a direct link to the state's odor complaint system, get key information about risks of air toxics and sign an online petition and get regular updates. Understanding that air pollution disproportionately affects low-income communities and populations of color, the group has presented at other community meetings and offered assistance addressing common concerns. Advocacy has attracted other partner organizations, amassed hundreds of signatures on a petition asking the state to adopt stricter regulations, and led to collaboration on a statewide health survey.



FUNDING GOAL 6

Benefits to youth or seniors

Grantee: Irvington Covenant Community Development Corporation

Award: \$5,500

Hard hat, safety vest, goggles, gloves. Sound like a complete set of tools for a professional in the building trades? Think again, or better yet, ask one of the 13 teenagers that participated in Constructing Hope's week-long pre-apprenticeship program. From classroom lectures, guest speakers, site visits and hands-on practice, minority youth from low-income families learned it will take a mix of trade and life skills to successfully compete for and secure a family-wage job in an industry currently lacking diversity. Whether their interest lies in becoming a carpenter, a millwright, pile driver, cement mason, welder, or heavy machine operator, a strong work ethic and professional conduct are essentials. So what about that dreaded high school math class? According to several participants, an absolute necessity!



FUNDING GOAL 7

Benefits to low income persons

Grantee: Theodore Roosevelt Woman's Scholarship Association

Award: \$2,500

Ever since her freshman year at Roosevelt high school in North Portland, Emily Walters knew that if she wanted to pursue her dream of becoming a medical professional, she would need a financial scholarship. "If you do your best in everything, it pays off in the end," she said. Fortunately for Emily and other dedicated students, there is a Theodore Roosevelt Woman's Scholarship Association to help them pursue their dreams. Metro's grant was used to send one senior class valedictorian to Oregon State University, where she qualified for an additional scholarship worth \$20,000 a year.



FUNDING GOAL 8

Increase recycling opportunities

Grantee: Community Warehouse

Award: \$2,500

The method used by the Community Warehouse is really quite simple: collect from donors with more than they want and give to others in need. The results from this straight-forward approach are stunning – each week 65 families get essential items to turn their house into a home. Clients, from more than 90 local social service agencies, include women escaping domestic violence, the elderly, people with mental and physical disabilities, refugee families from all over the world, youth and adults recovering from substance abuse, and the working poor. A dedicated group of volunteers takes regular shifts (32,400 hours donated in 2010 alone) and a contribution from Metro ensures that warehouse operations continue seven days a week.