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2011 Grant Project Highlights

Metro Central Enhancement Grant
Program

December 2011



Metro | *Making a great place*

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

2011 project highlights

While economists debated the signs of a back-from-the-brink economic recovery in 2011, Metro Council gave Northwest Portland residents some sure support when it approved a \$68,500 grants package earmarked for neighborhood improvements. Funds were used for bricks and mortar capital projects at nonprofits serving the areas low-income residents, as well as for enhancing some existing programs that helped make neighborhoods safer and more livable. Special consideration was given to applicants with matching funds and partnerships that leveraged other support.

Funds for Metro's program are generated from a 50-cent surcharge collected on each ton of garbage disposed of at the Metro Central garbage transfer station in Portland's Northwest industrial area. Projects must directly benefit residents or neighborhoods around the facility, an area that stretches from Linnton in the north to the high-density Northwest Portland residential core.

People on the ground who live in those neighborhoods are the best source of ideas about important public investments. Metro's process gives local residents the authority to make decisions about allocating these funds. Metro Councilor Rex Burkholder, whose district includes the grant target area, works alongside community leaders who solicit, review and award funds for neighborhood projects. Members of Metro's committee include:

- Greg Madden (Northwest Industrial Neighborhood Association)
- Elizabeth Patte (representing the environmental community's interests)
- Larry Magee (Cathedral Park)
- John Bradley (Northwest District Association)
- Arnie Rochlin (Forest Park)
- Haze Moss (Linnton)

The 2011 grant cycle marked the 18th year Metro has invested funds in the community through the program. In that time, close to \$3.2 million has been awarded to help fund nearly 330 neighborhood improvement projects. Even if you haven't heard about these programs, chances are you or your neighbors have been touched by them.

This report offers highlights from some of the 12 projects funded in 2011. As required, projects must meet at least one of Metro's funding goals and result in the following:

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

For more information about the 2011 slate or other projects funded in the past, 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 2011 grantees on project accomplishments. There is much of which to be proud, and still much work to be done.

Karen Blauer
Community grants coordinator

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: FRIENDLY HOUSE

Award: \$10,000

Since its founding in 1926, the Friendly House has been dedicated to fulfilling a mission responsive to social concerns of the day. From the decade of the Great Depression forward, the focus has been on connecting people of all ages and backgrounds through quality educational, recreational and other life-sustaining services. Metro's funds were used to improve the safety of facilities on the three-acre campus that welcomes close to 78,000 visitors each year. This included installing new external lighting, motion sensors, safety mirrors, an identification card system, security doors and openers and refurbishing the outdoor preschool play area. Maintaining a clean, safe environment allows the Friendly House to keep its doors open and its focus where it wants it to be – on the clients it serves.



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: \$13,500

In the fight to restore Forest Park's ecological health, Metro's funds were used to by Forest Park Conservancy to offer the first-ever Crew Leader Training Program and to build greater strength, depth and breadth in the Conservancy's volunteer pool. Fruits from the training program (in which 15 people enthusiastically participated) were most evident on Earth Day when more than 300 people showed up and dug into trail maintenance and habitat restoration activities. An extraordinary increase in field crew capacity has allowed the Conservancy to achieve two other goals: launch full-fledged restoration efforts on a 49-acre site inside Forest Park proper (Pittock Acres) and on an additional 13 acres in the perimeter (Holman Wedge); and free up its Stewardship Director's time to focus attention on planning and organizing the Greater Forest Park



Conservation Initiative (a comprehensive plan to restore Forest Park and 15,000+ acres surrounding it and connecting it to the Coast Range ecological corridor).

FUNDING GOAL 3

Improvement to, or increase in, recreational areas and programs

Grantee: PORTLAND FESTIVAL SYMPHONY

Award: \$4,000

When Maestro Lajos Balogh first came to the United States in 1967, he had a dream to honor his newly found freedom by offering free classical music to the people of Portland. Since the summer of 1980, the concerts have grown into an annual summer series attracting a cumulative 400,000 attendees from around the world. The beautiful backdrop of the St. John's Bridge and Willamette River shoreline make Cathedral Park a favorite venue for concerts. Metro's funds were used to present the opening act of the 31st season there. The concert closed with more than 75 children joining the orchestra on toy instruments for a rousing rendition of Haydn's Toy Symphony.



FUNDING GOAL 6

Benefits to youth or seniors

Grantee: OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Award: \$7,100

The Student Alliance Project is a youth-led program to cultivate multicultural young leaders to become our communities' and country's next college graduates, public policy advocates, community organizers, entrepreneurs and mentors. The focus is on engaging youth traditionally underrepresented in higher education, community leadership and public policy advocacy. Metro's funds supported an eight-week Summer Youth Leadership camp during which three youth coaches mentored 23 high school and college-aged youth. Each week covered a different subject area, from "exploring the city" to "educating yourself about college," from "starting a youth-owned business" to "organizing your community." As important as the content was the opportunity for youth to share their stories, struggles and strengths, with the goal of building alliances and reducing prejudices. !



FUNDING GOAL 6

Benefits to youth or seniors

Grantee: NORTHWEST FILM CENTER

Award: \$ 7,000

Northwest Film Center's GREEN VOICES was a seven-month free program offered through the Center's Young Filmmakers Program. It paired 42 Roosevelt High School students and eight seniors from Friendly House in an extensive documentary filmmaking class. The program culminated in a series of five documentary shorts about arts education in schools, senior life, student leadership, lunch time options and waste reduction strategies. The video will be entered in youth film festivals and can be viewed on the Film Center's website, as well as on Vimeo. Metro funds paid faculty salaries, equipment and editing suite rentals, as well as marketing.

FUNDING GOAL 7

Benefits to low income persons

Grantee: SCHOOLHOUSE SUPPLIES

Award: \$7,500

Pop quiz: what program's buying power achieves a 4:1 return on Metro's investment? Answer: Schoolhouse Supplies' Tools for Schools program. At James John Elementary School in North Portland where 82 percent of students are eligible for federally-funded free or reduced lunch, Metro's funds filled back-to-school backpacks with essential school supplies for 511 students. According to teachers surveyed about the effectiveness of the program, it earns an A+ in giving children the tools - and confidence - they need to learn and achieve in school.



FUNDING GOAL 7

Benefits to low income persons

Grantee: STORE TO DOOR

Award: \$5,184

Navigating busy grocery store aisles can be challenging, especially if you're not steady on your feet, can't read the small print on products or are not strong enough to lift items off a shelf. Store to Door offers an alternative scenario by helping



seniors and people with disabilities through a weekly, low-cost personalized grocery shopping and delivery service. Metro's funds were used to fill and deliver nearly 1,000 orders for 55 mostly low-income clients in the grant target area. About 1,800 volunteer hours helped fuel this organization's powerful engine, giving clients affordable and dependable access to food, prescription medications and household items so that they can live a healthy lifestyle, as independently as possible for as long as they are able.