

Metro is recruiting community members to serve on the review committee for the Parks and Nature community partnerships sponsorships for community-led programs. Members of the committee will recommend the allocation of up to \$75,000 in total funding for organizations and groups led by and for Black and Indigenous people, and People of Color¹ (BIPOC) seeking to connect BIPOC communities with nature. Each application may receive up to \$5,000.

These funds support programs that facilitate connection to nature for BIPOC communities. Potential activities may include leadership development of staff and community members related to connecting BIPOC communities with nature, activities and events, purchasing of equipment, IT services or hardware for online curriculum development, transportation costs or stipends for participants, and others.

It's important to have a broad diversity of experience and backgrounds represented on the review committee, grounded in racial equity analysis. People seeking sponsorships are eligible to serve on the review committee. All reviewers must disclose any financial conflicts of interest related to submitted requests. The committee, which may include Metro staff in addition to community members, will review the requests and make a funding recommendation. The Parks and Nature department director will make all final funding decisions.

Interested in reviewing applications?

Metro is looking for people with experience and expertise in community engagement and partnerships, racial equity and justice work, community events, and/or nature-based recreation, health or art programming, grant management, or related fields. Stipends for committee members will be available upon request.

Metro will select a mix of committee members that bring experience or expertise in:

- Partnerships with community groups led by and for BIPOC communities.
- Integrating a racial equity analysis into funding programs.
- Integrating a racial equity analysis into programs that connect people with nature.
- Reviewing or writing small grant proposals or sponsorship requests.

What is the commitment?

- Review approximately 30 requests in November 2021. See timeline below.
- Evaluate requests based on the information submitted: the set sponsorship criteria and the review committee's professional and collective judgment.

¹ *The Community Partnerships program recognizes the following as BIPOC communities, adapted from the Coalition for Communities of Color definition: African, African American, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latine, South West Asian and North African, Native American and Slavic. Metro includes groups that serve a multi-cultural community comprised primarily of members of the groups listed above.*

- Meet with the program manager for a committee orientation meeting in **early or mid-October 2021**.
- Attend the review committee meeting, prepared to discuss the requests on **Wednesday, December 8, 2021 from 9 a.m. to noon**.
- Develop sponsorship recommendations together with other review committee members.
- Potentially, conduct a presentation of the sponsorship recommendations to Parks and Nature leadership.
- Provide feedback to staff about ways to strengthen funding programs.

How to apply

To apply for the sponsorships for community-led programs review committee, please answer the questions below in an email (short paragraph) and send it to the community partnerships manager, Tara Sonali Miller, tara.miller@oregonmetro.gov by Tuesday, September 28, 2021.

Application questions

- **Interest.** Why are you interested in serving on the capacity-building sponsorships review committee?
- **Experience.** What lived or professional experience, knowledge and skills will you bring to the committee?
- **Availability.** In order to serve on the review committee, you must attend the committee meeting. Are you available to do so on December 8, 2021, from 9 a.m. to noon?

What's the timeline?

August 2021	Availability of funds announced.
August 31, 2021	Funding workshop, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
September 1, 2021	Funding workshop, 5 to 6 p.m.
September 28, 2021	Review committee applications due.
October 26, 2021	Requests due to Metro.
October 2021	Review committee introduction meetings.
November 2021	Committee members review applications.
December 8, 2021	Review committee meeting, 9 a.m. to noon.
December 2021	Parks and Nature leadership review and approval.
February 2022	Sponsored programs begin

Questions about the committee or the program?

For more information, please contact Tara Sonali Miller, community partnerships manager, at 503-813-7533 (voicemail only) or tara.miller@oregonmetro.gov.