



# Metro Vision for Justice and Belonging

## Reimagining Policing, Security and Incarcerated Labor Project

This vision articulates Metro's desired future for the greater Portland's public safety and justice systems and defines Metro's role – as a convener, funder, employer, service provider, destination, policy-maker and planning agency- in creating more just systems and spaces of belonging. While our vision is for all people to thrive, and to have agency over their own lives – we recognize that Black, brown, Indigenous, queer, trans/non-binary, immigrant, youth in foster care, people with disabilities, people experiencing houselessness, and people with other marginalized identities have been particularly harmed by police violence, aggression, and discrimination, as well as incarceration and disinvestment. We center these communities as we work towards these visions.

### **Policing and Crisis Management**

Our vision is that the region's public safety system is not predicated on state-sanctioned violence and fear, it de-centers police as a primary tool for creating safety, and it works for and is accountable to Black and brown communities at all intersections of identity. Metro manages crises using unbiased, de-escalatory and trauma-informed approaches and without the use of violence.

### **Safety and Security**

Our vision is that all staff and visitors feel like they belong in Metro's parks, destinations and spaces and are safe from harm and discrimination. Security is relational, created through mutual respect and community relationships rather than intimidation. Safety personnel reflect and are accountable to the diverse communities they serve and have the tools, training and support they need to be successful. All staff share in the responsibility for promoting belonging and reducing harm.

### **Use of Incarcerated Labor**

Our vision is that the region's justice system is rooted in restorative justice and healing. Metro does not benefit from exploitive labor but gives people exiting incarceration, and others impacted by the criminal legal system, opportunities for economic stability and agency. Metro uses our influence to improve the economic conditions of people experiencing incarceration. Metro respects the rights and dignity of everyone who works with us and works to provide them living wages and fair working conditions.

### **Houselessness and Criminalization of Poverty**

Our vision is that all people in the region have safe and stable housing. Metro manages houselessness using a compassionate, trauma-informed approach, connecting people with the services and supports they need while minimizing further trauma and harm. Metro and the region de-criminalize poverty by minimizing the use of fines, tickets, fees, displacement and other unjust enforcement tools that disproportionately harm people experiencing poverty and create pathways to incarceration.

### **Prosperous and Stable Communities**

Our vision is that the region builds long-term community safety through transportation, housing, parks and economic justice, rather than policing and incarceration. Metro uses its influence to dismantle historic and ongoing tools of oppression, like policing transportation and fare enforcement, and discriminatory code enforcement and unfair housing practices. Metro centers community stability, healing and generational joy for, and as defined by, Black, trans, and other marginalized communities in our plans, policies and investments across our housing, land use and transportation efforts.