



Metro

November 2023

Community Partnerships Program Revisioning Committee

Join the Community Partners Program Revisioning Committee!

Do you want to help improve Metro's ability to support liberatory connections to nature with BIPOC communities? Are you curious about building funding programs that are rooted in authentic, healing relationships with ourselves, each other, and the world around us?

Metro is recruiting 7-10 community members to help re-vision and design the Parks and Nature Community Partners Program, which provides funding, \$250,000 annually, for BIPOC communities to connect with nature. Committee members will:

- Participate in the committee review process for one of the Community Partnerships program's existing funding opportunities: Community-led programs grants.
- Help revision the Community Partnerships Program

About the committee review process for the Community-led programs grants

Committee members will:

- Read and score around 50 applications
- Meet with the committee to discuss applications and recommend how to award up to \$195,000 in total funding

About the revisioning process for the Community-led programs grants

Following the Community-led programs grants review, we will move into an innovative process to generate ideas and, ultimately, create a revised program structure that truly supports BIPOC connection to nature on a collective level.

This process will include:

- Connection to nature - we will participate in at least two half day outdoor experiential workshops that support participants to examine our own relationships to nature and our own wounds around connecting with nature. We will also engage in reflection and heart-felt conversations to get to know ourselves and each other.
- Community engagement - participants will be channels for the voices of our wider communities. This will involve having conversations with people in our communities about their own relationships to nature and sharing these insights with the broader committee in the program redesign process.



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- Government system analysis - participants will look at current government structures and systems in place and make recommendations for how to improve the community partnerships program, while also working within legal and administrative constraints.

This process will be highly relational and experiential - we will be engaged in reflective processes, heart-felt conversations about our own barriers in accessing the natural world, and time in the natural world with one another. It's important that committee members have a willingness to try new things, be vulnerable, empathize, work through conflict, listen well, feel, and receive feedback.

Committee recommendations will be generated from the collective interaction of individual ideas and experiences. It's important for committee members to have experience passionately holding and sharing their own ideas, while also being open to other ideas and feedback from others. This capacity to hold both/and will support the committee in creating a recommendation that is emergent from the group process and can create the best outcome for our communities. There will be limitations to what this program can do and we want to create the best outcome within those constraints.

Who should apply?

Metro is looking for people who hold:

- Curiosity about their own relationship to nature and how that might differ or relate to others' relationships to nature
- Curiosity about and desire to learn new skills around conflict and tension
- Curiosity around holding, developing, and sharing their own ideas
- Openness to other people's ideas
- Experience with uncomfortable conversations
- Experience evolving and growing what is possible within institutions, while also working within limitations
- Excitement about trying new things

In addition to the qualities listed above, Metro is looking for people with a wide variety of experience across the following areas

- community engagement and partnerships within BIPOC communities
- racial equity and justice work
- community events
- nature-based recreation, health or art programming
- grant management, or related fields



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Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Grant Review for Community-led Programs Grants:

- Review and evaluate approximately 50 applications based on the information submitted, the set grants criteria and the review committee's professional and collective judgment.
- Make funding recommendations to the Department Director Jon Blasher.
- Review committee members may still submit applications, but reviewers must disclose any conflicts of interest.
- Department Director Jon Blasher makes all final funding decisions.

Program design:

Working within the 2022 Parks and Nature Levy framework, committee members will recommend an updated program design. Department Director Jon Blasher will make the final decision about adoption of the committee recommendations.

Expectations

Members of the program design and grant review committee will be expected to:

- Serve a two-year term.
- Attend 8 meetings between December 2023 and September 2024 (locations and timelines detailed below)
- Spend an additional two to four hours per month preparing for meetings by reviewing documents and other materials, and answering reflection questions.
- Develop program materials based on the purpose, goals and criteria and other areas of the Parks and Nature Levy legislation
- Develop program design and funding recommendations together with other committee members.
- Provide feedback to staff about ways to strengthen the program administration and outcomes.

Committee stipend:

\$2,500 per person



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What's the timeline?

November 29, 2023	Committee applications due
December 8, 2023	Committee selection notification
December 19, 2023: 9am-11:30am	Virtual committee orientation meeting
December 19 – January 15	Review and score first half of applications
January 15 – February 12	Review and score second half of applications
February 12	All committee review scores due
February 28: 9:00am – 3:00pm <i>Includes lunch break</i>	Virtual review committee meeting
March 13, 9:00am – 1:00pm	In-person, outdoor, revisioning meeting
March 27, 9:00am – 11:30am	Virtual revisioning meeting
April 10, 9:00 – 11:30am	Virtual revisioning meeting
May 8, 9:00 – 1:00pm	In-person, outdoor, revisioning meeting
June 12, 9:00am – 11:30am	Virtual revisioning meeting
July 10, 9:00am – 11:30am	Virtual revisioning meeting
August 7, 9:00am – 11:30am	Virtual revisioning meeting
September 11, 9:00am – 1:00pm	In-person, outdoor, revisioning meeting

How to apply

To apply for the Community Partnerships Revisioning Committee, please answer the questions below through this [online form](#).

Application questions

- Please tell us why you are interested in joining this committee
- What is your current relationship with nature? What has been challenging for you about connecting with nature? What has been inspiring, exciting, life-giving, or healing?



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Questions continued on next page

- Tell us about how you have been and/or are currently facilitating racial justice in your communities
- What curiosities are you holding around what it means for communities of color to reclaim connection to nature?
- This process will be highly experiential and relational - we will be engaged in reflective processes, heart-felt conversations, and sharing about our own barriers in accessing the natural world.
 - Share about your experience being vulnerable in a group
 - Share about your experience advocating your own ideas while also being open to others' ideas and making collective, relational decisions.
- It's important that committee members have a willingness to try new things and receive feedback. Tell us about your relationship to receiving feedback.
- This program is funded by the Parks and Nature Local Option Levy and operated by Metro Parks and Nature. Due to factors such as the source of funding, staff capacity, and legal requirements, there will be limitations to what this program can do, and we want to create the best outcome. Share about your experience working within limitations and constraints to achieve the best outcome for the collective.
- Can you attend *all* meeting dates and times listed above?