Memo

Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2022

To: Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Pilot – Program Design and Review Committee

From: Capital Grants Pilot team

Subject: Options for consideration: Community Engagement for Brainstorming ideas phase

Purpose

The Program Design and Review Committee represents the community[i] and clearly details the process steps. The purpose of this memo is to outline potential options ways to engage community members to brainstorm ideas during the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Pilot.

This is not a comprehensive list of options, but rather a select few options to begin the conversation. Metro is constrained by the legal and fiscal constraints around the use of Parks and Nature Bond funding.

Background

Participatory Budgeting (PB) processes engaged the community through: Design the process (Program Design and Review Committee), Idea Collection, Project Development, Community Vote, and Project implementation. Idea Collection occurs after the Committee has produced a guidebook which establishes the rules specific to this process, and is where the general public (as defined in the guidebook) are invited to participate in brainstorming ideas for projects. This activity often takes the form of idea generating events and/or online idea submissions. The purpose is to provide the public opportunities to share their passion and lived experience, and to provide an accessible venue for them to share their ideas for what type of projects that should be created, This is also an opportunity to provide general education on the process, the funding, and what the process hopes to accomplish, and to recruit participants for engagement in subsequent phases.

This event can take many forms and is adaptable depending on the funding mechanism, program process, and community needs and desires. The vast majority of contemporary programs provide opportunities for both in person and online participation, and many processes have prioritized investing in civic technology[1] platforms for online engagement as a tool for transparency and broadening access. This is a relevant precedent for this project where, due to COVID-19 concerns, large in-person gatherings are discouraged for public health reasons. Some examples include community engagement efforts during the brainstorm idea phase include Community Workshop, design charrette, tours, treasure hunt and design competition.

The ultimate contours of such an event, whether online or in-person (or a combination of both), will be determined by the Program Design and Review Committee, in adherence with the 2019 Metro Bond legislation. The Committee may choose one of these options, modify or combine them, or present alternates. The goal is the same: for the target community to brainstorm ideas for funding through this program. Those ideas are then developed into projects and returned to the community for a final vote.

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[1] Civic technology is a dynamic field that provides numerous digital platforms specifically designed for Participatory Budgeting processes,

Considerations for community engagement

The Committee will be responsible for defining the goals and criteria of the idea solicitation phase of the project within the boundaries established by the PN Bond framework and then outlining a community-centered process for idea generation. Their responsibilities will include determining how ideas are submitted, how the community is engaged, how broad accessibility is achieved, and what kinds of projects will be considered. This section expresses some of the important considerations the Committee is asked to address:

Project Eligibility

What is the Target community (e.g. youth, people with disabilities, no target community)?
- Note: The targeted community cannot be a protected class (i.e. based on race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, etc.)
- How does choosing a target community affect the kinds, size or complexity of potential projects?
- Will there be recruitment for additional Committee members (or a sub-committee) representative of the target community?

What is the theme (e.g. Neighborhood Spaces, Newcomer, Youth)?
- Would the Committee propose different themes for a menu of options?
- How would the Committee would seek feedback from residents on menu of options?
- How would the Committee select theme for the Capital Grants Pilot?
- Would the Committee create a structure for choosing future potential themes?

Submission

How are ideas submitted?
- Balancing online submission and in-person events and engagement
- Who can submit ideas?
- How does choosing a target community affect this balance?

How will the community be engaged to solicit, support and provide feedback on proposed projects?
- Ensuring broad accessibility to process and ideas (accommodation for language or mobility differences)
- Meaningfully engaging the target communities
- How does choosing a target community affect engagement priorities and principles?

Established community guidelines

The PN Bond language established the legal guidelines for community engagement and community focus or themes.

Who will be engaged in the Capital Grants Pilot?

The Capital Grants Pilot will engage community groups, nonprofit organizations, schools, park providers, soil and water conservation districts and others in neighborhood projects that benefit people and nature. [ii]

Who can apply for the Capital Grants Pilot? [iii]

Capital grants are intended to support community-driven initiatives; therefore, partnerships are key to a successful proposal. Tribal governments, public schools, non-profits, community-based organizations, local governments and special districts can apply for grants.

To maximize the impact of investments, projects must demonstrate strong partnerships between community-based organizations and public (non-federal) agencies. [iv]

The final capital asset must be publically owned. Tribal governments, non-profits, and community-based organizations would have to partner with a state/local/federal government to be eligible for the Capital Grants. Tribes may not considered a public entity under Oregon law, for purposes of the lending of credit prohibition that applies to general obligation bond proceeds. As requested by Metro's tribal relations specialist, Metro may or may not be eligible to be a beneficiary of the Capital Grants as a partner to tribal governments.

Should the Capital Grants Pilot focus on a particular community (e.g. youth, people with disabilities)? [v], [vi]

Participatory budgeting efforts often define a particular community.

Recommendation
The committee could then decide whether to focus the pilot funding on building projects that benefit youth or the general population.

Legal guidance
Youth and people with disabilities are not considered a suspect class and are considered low scrutiny. For example, the City of Seattle and the City of Boston have both used youth as the community of choice for their programs.

Considerations
- Participatory budgeting is considered a tactic to promote democratic values and civic engagement.
- Youth and/or people with disabilities are a smaller subset of the general population. Participants may be more familiar with the people, needs and project ideas.
- Limits scope, and potentially the overall budget, for the Capital Grants Pilot.
- Aligns with Metro's interest in serving people with disabilities, but these grants are not recommended for ADA improvement projects legally required by Metro.

Participatory Budgeting Glossary[vii]

Participatory Budgeting (PB)*:* Participatory Budgeting is a deliberative democratic process where ordinary community members design and vote on projects using a portion of a public budget.
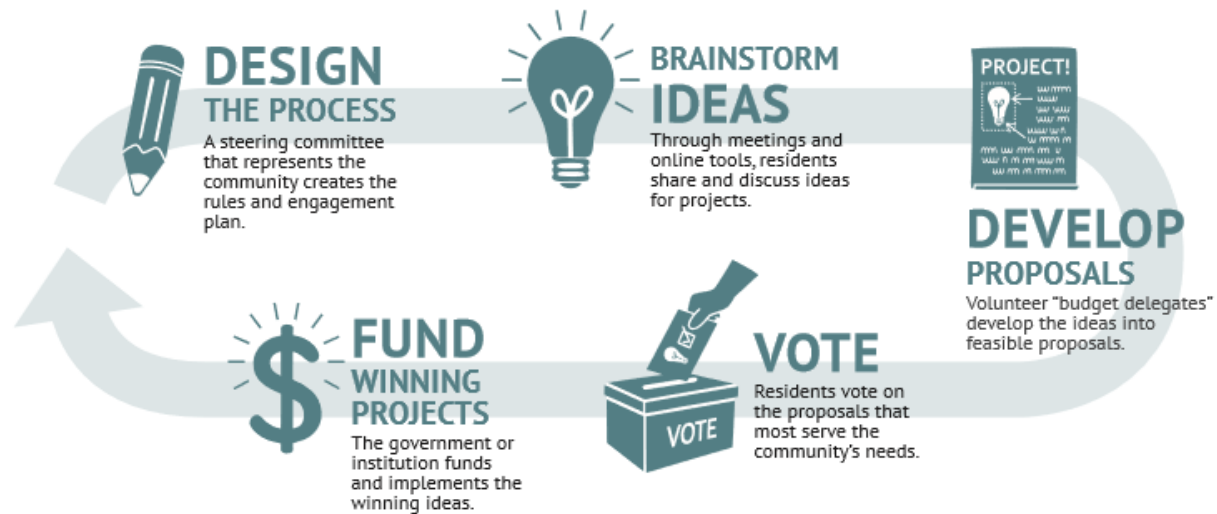

Figure 1: The Participatory Budgeting Cycle. Source: https://www.participatorybudgeting.org/what-is-pb/

Design the process

Community-based Steering Committee (For the Capital Grants Pilot, the Program Design and Review Committee)*:* A paid, representative committee of community members throughout the region who develop a *Process Rule Book*. Additionally, they oversee the process, can support outreach efforts, and can be involved in program evaluation.

Process Rule Book (For the Capital Grants Pilot, the Guidebook)*:* The *Process Rule Book* is the public facing document that describes how the process works, the values and goals, and detailed rules for how to engage in the different steps of PB. Additionally, it provides educational information on the source(s) of funding, the legal limitations/requirements, and process specifics such as how much money will fund how many projects; what happens if there are tie votes; who votes, voter credentialing, etc.

Brainstorm ideas

Idea Collection: The step of the participatory budgeting process where community members brainstorm ideas about what type of projects they would like to see in their community. These often take the form of neighborhood assemblies and a period for online idea collection on civic tech platforms. This step will last approximately one month and results in general ideas about categories of projects.

Additional Resources[viii]

Below you will find a list of additional resources funding applicants may wish to consult as they identify and prioritize projects and otherwise meet the bond measure criteria. Metro will add to this list as additional resources become available.

[Metro 2019 Bond Measure to Protect and Connect Nature and People (Relevant text in Exhibits A and D)](#)
[Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#)
[Community Engagement in the 2019 Metro Parks and Nature Bond Measure](#)
[IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum](#)
[Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership](#)
[Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)](#)

[The Oregon Parkland Map application](#)
[Intertwine annual trail count program](#)
[Construction Careers Pathways Regional Framework](#)

Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan

In June 2016, the Metro Council adopted an agency-wide [Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.](#) The Metro-wide strategy focuses on goals that cross all areas of Metro's   work. In August 2017, a Parks and Nature team began creating a department-specific plan. Finalized in   spring 2019, [the plan](#)includes a series of actions to help institutionalize racial equity in our work   and involves every staff member and team.

Sample rule books[ix]

[NYC 2019-20](#)
[Bayview Community-based Transportation Plan PB](#)
Nashville
Philadelphia

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[i] PBO graphic
[ii] Resolution No. 19-4988, Exhibit D.
[iii] Resolution No. 19-4988, Exhibit D.
[iv] Resolution No. 19-4988, Exhibit D.
[v] Memo, Policy Framework Capital Grants Pilot, September 27, 2021.
[vi] Memo, Policy Framework Capital Grants Pilot, September 27, 2021.
[vii] Adapted from Participatory Budgeting Oregon glossary of August, 25 2021.
[viii] Local Share Handbook, March 2021.
[ix] Adapted from Participatory Budgeting Oregon glossary of August, 25 2021.

Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Pilot

Program Design and Review Committee

Community (Group) Agreement

As established at January 18, 2021 Capital Grants Pilot Program Design and Review Committee meeting

- We're not expecting perfection: invitation to speak in draft
- Intent vs. Impact: Intention is important, but we attend to impact first
- WAIT: why am I talking/why aren't I talking
  - Move up, move up
  - Take space, make space
- We are all learners and teachers
- Professional expertise isn't privileged over lived experience and wisdom
- Expect nonclosure: this work is going to continue and live on, and not every meeting will end with a resolution
- Committee members and staff commit to being as transparent as possible, including on our opportunities and limitations
  - Limitations might not actually be limiting!
- Hold a brave space
  - Speak truth to power
- We commit to working towards goals – same team, and here together
- Be open to new ideas, approaches: lots of things are possible!

Group Decision Making framework

As established at January 18, 2021 Capital Grants Pilot Program Design and Review Committee meeting

Modified Consensus:
- Aiming for outcomes that everyone can agree on (even if it's not your favorite)
- Putting time limits on discussion, to encourage more succinct comments
- Creating a threshold for a recommendation: if we don't reach consensus, a ¾ majority of the group (5 members) voting in favor constitutes a recommendation
- Facilitator uses tools (First to 5, or surveys outside of meetings, stepladder technique) to gauge levels of agreement and help move discussion forward

PCEF

PCEF update in response to recent news coverage

As we begin a new year, we want to acknowledge the recent reporting by The Oregonian relating to a grant the PCEF program awarded earlier this month.

PCEF's mission is to address climate change while advancing racial and social justice. The climate crisis disproportionally affects people with low incomes and people of color. Systemic racism, misogyny, and ableism have long excluded the most impacted communities from participation in climate work and meaningful benefits from climate programs. The scale of response necessary for Portland to address the climate crisis demands that no group be left out. Creating parity in access to climate mitigation funds is a climate imperative. The reporting by The Oregonian brought to light potential financial fraud and performance risks the PCEF program must manage.

For an update on the grant award that was the subject of The Oregonian investigation, please review Commissioner Rubio's statement.

PCEF follows standard best practices for review in government grantmaking in nearly every aspect. The program conducts similar due diligence as other public grantmaking programs across the nation. The primary exception is that, in addition to funding well-established organizations with a track record of success, PCEF also awards funding to new and emerging organizations. The program's review process did not require additional due diligence for new or emerging organizations and The Oregonian's reporting highlighted the potential hazards of that approach. We are now looking at how we adapt our future review processes to better address the risks associated with granting to new and emerging organizations.

While other grantmaking entities may decide not to fund new or emerging

organizations, we are constantly learning how to better manage risks associated with practices we see as necessary to combat systemic inequity and climate change.

We are thankful to The Oregonian for their investigative reporting and committed to implementing increased risk mitigation measures moving forward while equally ensuring these measures do not recreate or extend systems of oppression and exclusion. We will provide an update in late January/early February on changes to our grant review process for applications in the request for proposal (RFP) round that closed on November 30, 2021. There will be additional due diligence and process changes to address the risks exposed by The Oregonian but applications from new and emerging organizations will still be considered for funding.

As we approach our third year of existence, we continue to learn, adjust, and grow to better steward public resources to reduce GHG emissions and advance racial and social justice.

January 5 PCEF Grant Committee Meeting

When: Wednesday, January 5, 2022, 6 - 8 p.m.

What: At this meeting, the Grant Committee will:

- Discuss additional risk assessment and review processes for grant applications
- Hear an update from the reporting and evaluation subcommittee

How: You can join the meeting starting at 6 p.m.
To **view** the meeting:

- Via Zoom

Meeting ID: 816 6015 0677

Passcode: 454715
Option to Join by phone: 669-900-6833

- Via YouTube livestream

Get full meeting details

The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access and will make reasonable accommodations, modifications, translation, interpretation or provide other services. When possible, please contact us at least three (3) business days before the meeting at 503-823-7700 or use City TTY 503-823-6868 or Oregon Relay Service 711. 503-823-7700: Traducción o interpretación | Chuyển Ngữ hoặc Phiên Dịch | 翻译或传译 | Turjumida ama Fasiraadda | Письменный или устный перевод | Traducere sau Interpretare | Письмовий або усний переклад | 翻訳または通訳 |

Public Information

Metro

Chatbox: host-only chats (Committee and Staff).

Raise hand: used by Committee only.

Video: on for Committee only.

Microphone: public members muted unless asked to speak by Committee or Staff.

Recording: this meeting is being recorded.

Captioning: this meeting is being captioned.

Public Comment can be emailed to: Community.Investments@oregonmetro.gov

- **Committee meetings open to the public**

- **Public asked to observe and listen**

- **Opportunities for public engagement available in other forums**

What additional questions do you have about Bond Funding and Project Development?

addressed is that Metro can't use Project Development dollars (to fund Metro business?) because bond language and the Oregon Constitution do not permit it. So a question for the Committee is how do we creatively fund

What is working well about our meetings to facilitate your participation and engagement?

What needs to change about our meetings so that you can participate/ engage differently?

JL: As we approach decision-making pts, it might be useful if we could jump into smaller groups then bring in for larger discussions. But could be logistically challenging...

KH: I agree with JL. I feel myself being influenced by other people's ideas and discussing in smaller groups helps me flesh things out a little bit more.

Suggested language for "targeted populations"

"Neighborhoods that have been historically redlined, underinvested, and/or gentrified..."

"at risk for gentrification"

"at risk for further gentrification"

past Metro projects used "targeted nature-deficient areas, affordable housing, and/or low-income communities"

"projects led by residents who hold marginalized identities"

I like this a little better: "projects led by people who identify as holding marginalized identities."

What information do you want (or need) to...

Finish establishing this group?

Add your sticky notes here (use the toolbar on the left of the screen to add in notes!)

I would like to use some of our time to do a deep dive into a couple case studies from PB processes done in other places. I'd like more context to see how it has worked before.

JL: Do we want to form demographic subcommittees or specific issues committees? It may be good to have this as an option if that need arises...

Execute the program design process?

JL: Specific definitions/glossary (e.g., equity vs. equality) + infographic to serve as "reminders"

More "zoom outs" to see where each meeting is fitting into the overall process. I find myself feeling disoriented.

JL: Accountability steps for ensuring community needs come first (vs. our own biases). Is there community input in each step?

JL: Discuss monitoring and evaluation methods. It's useful to have an understanding how we'll measure performance as we are structuring the product.

What topics are important for us to explore together? What do you want to learn more about?

KH: How jurisdictions navigate Bond restrictions.

JL: Civic technology! Getting community input about preferred information platforms. And does Metro staff have capacity to build multilingual web surveys/apps to crowdsource?

consequences of stepping out of legal parameters

Are there any adjustments we should make to our group agreements?

Add sticky notes here!

can we add a 5-15 minute break in the middle of each meeting?

The memos aren't very easy to understand and are lengthy. Providing questions/pointers on the purpose of us reading would be helpful or what to look for would help.

Not have agendas that are too packed. Leaving ample time for group conversations on difficult topics that can be hard to understand.

Leaving some flexibility for a more natural flow of conversations

Meeting summary

Meeting:	Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Pilot Program Design and Review Committee Meeting #3
Date:	Tuesday, February 1, 2022
Time:	4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Place:	Zoom
Purpose:	Review Process Goals, Discuss Capital Grants Precedents, Develop Process: Overview and Idea Generation
Outcome(s):	Refining and prioritizing goals and values, deeper understanding of the capital grants process and precedents, developing a process for community brainstorming events or activities

Attendees

Committee Members
Kevin Hughes, he/him, City of Hillsboro Parks and Recreation Department
Jairaj Singh, they/he, Unite Oregon
Blanca Gaytan Farfan, she/her, East County Rising Community Projects
Jeffrey Lee, he/him, (City of Portland, BES)
Theresa Huang, she/her, Urban Greenspaces Institute

Absent: *Anthony M. Bradley, Alisa Chen*

Staff
Amanda Hudson, Participatory Budgeting Oregon (PBO)
Humberto Marquez Mendes, Metro
Crista Gardner, Metro
Brandon Goldner, Metro
Gabrielle Brown, Metro (PSU Fellow)
Allison Brown, JLA Public Involvement
Ariella Frishberg, JLA Public Involvement

Absent: *Andrew Scott, Metro; Mychal Tetteh, Metro*

Welcome and Introductions

Allison Brown, JLA Public Involvement, started the meeting by welcoming attendees and reviewing Zoom tools and etiquette. Crista Gardner, Metro, gave a land acknowledgment. Committee members and staff briefly re-introduced themselves and Allison reviewed the agenda. Allison asked if there were any corrections that needed to be made to the past two meeting summaries. There were no comments or corrections from committee members.

Review Process Goals

Amanda Hudson, PBO, led the group in a discussion using a virtual whiteboard tool with the purpose of reviewing the initial goals discussed at the previous meeting and prioritizing/refining the list. A pdf of this whiteboard can be found at this link.

First, committee members were asked to share if there was anything missing from the list that they'd like to add.

Committee Member: I really liked the New York rulebook, which included a goal about expanding civic engagement. I think Metro has a real opportunity to develop new community leaders. I added in the goal to cultivate and activate community leaders who haven't been involved in the past.

Committee Member: Previously, we heard about how participatory budgeting can help smaller organizations get funding as opposed to those larger organizations who already have a great deal of capital. I'm not sure how that fits here, but I think it's important to prioritize building capacity for those smaller organizations to participate.

Committee Member: We've talked about engaging community through this work, but I don't think we've really defined what communities we are centering with this work. Different communities are going to require different tactics for engagement and outreach, so really knowing who we are prioritizing with this project.

Metro Staff: One of the goals could be that the communities being served are well defined.

Metro Staff: Humberto will speak more to this later, but the community engagement for the Parks and Nature Bond work centers BIPOC communities.

Next, Amanda asked the group to chart the current goals on a chart with tangibility on the x-axis and importance on the y-axis. Several members of the group asked for clarification for what is meant by "tangibility." Amanda clarified that this was not about the potential success of achieving the goal within the duration of the project, but whether the goal is measurable and if someone who was not in the room would be able to understand the goal. Based on this discussion, the four goals that rose to the top were:

- Establish which communities we're centering this project on
- Increase transparency in decision making processes
- Develop goals - with community led processes - and figure measurable outcomes to set our process up for success.
- Develop new community leaders

Presentation: Capital Grants Precedents

Crista Gardner and Humberto Marquez-Mendez, Metro, gave a presentation on Capital Grants process and precedents. The slides for the presentation can be found here. The committee is currently in the "Design Process" phase, focused on designing the process for brainstorming ideas. This process over the next three months will help to design a guidebook for soliciting ideas from the community.

Committee Member: What is the definition of "public assets?"

Metro Staff: It has to be owned by a non-federal, government agency. There are a few other requirements specific to Oregon as well, including more complex regulations around Native tribes. A "capital asset" is a physical thing that can be owned. There are differences between capital "assets" and capital "costs."

Crista shared examples of past community-led projects from 2006-2016. Humberto reviewed the community engagement framework Metro has been using for the 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Measure. Crista then covered a little bit more about the brainstorming ideas phase of this process. She emphasized some of the information found in the memos shared with the committee members prior to the meeting. While Metro does have guiding questions for the brainstorming phase, the geography for this work has not yet been set. The hope is that this committee can help create a process for the entire Metro region that can be adapted for a more specific geography as needed.

Discussion: Process Overview and Idea Generation

Amanda led the next part of the discussion using the virtual whiteboard again. This activity and conversation focused on developing a process for community brainstorming events or activities.

Committee Member: Can you clarify this part? It says it can't be based on a protected class, but then adds that it can focus on people with disabilities. Could we not focus an event on a specific neighborhood because we're trying to reach a certain community?

Metro Staff: Protected Class is defined by federal and state law. Oregon law protects based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, and a few other things. Basically, civil rights law does not allow you to target communities based on membership in one of those classes. There are other communities you can target though, based on mutable characteristics, like youth. You can also use analogs, like focusing outreach on low-income folks, which may, due to structural racism, include a higher number of people of color. [Gabrielle added that she is a Hatfield Fellow and does not speak for Metro].

JLA Staff: What is an analog?

Metro Staff: Analogs are things that track together. Like being a person of color is correlated with poverty, largely due to systemic racism. [For example] In the City of Portland and the metro region as a whole, the youth population skews towards non-white populations and BIPOC communities. So targeting youth is another way of essentially getting at targeting BIPOC communities without specifying race or another immutable factor, which would be a violation of civil rights law.

Committee Member: So are we not allowed to say that we want to target neighborhoods with higher concentrations of BIPOC folks or low-income folks?

Metro Staff: My recommendation would be that we bring it up with the Metro attorney to get clarification. That said, as Crista said, the geography question is a policy question that hasn't been solidified yet, but it is up to Metro leadership and Metro Council. What we're asking today is for you to

think about, regardless of the community we ultimately try to reach, what are the goals and values that should guide the process?

Amanda guided the group through an activity focused on two topics, with questions from the memo: Defining Community (should there be a targeted community?) and Identifying Themes (should there be different themes for potential projects?).

Committee Member: So, for themes, can that be "focusing on marginalized communities," or is that a slippery slope?

PBO Staff: I'd refer back to Metro to answer that, but for today, the themes are the ones included in the memo.

Committee Member: Could a theme be "targeting areas where there is a lack of green spaces or nature?"

PBO Staff: The question is: how do you design investments that benefit [the community]? [Themes are] a value focus that would help people build better projects. You can use a theme to build a stronger project and to create [evaluation] measures to be used down the road.

Committee Member: I think targeting those areas where there is a lack of green spaces or programming would be important, but it would be hard to figure out what neighborhood that might be because we don't have a defined geographic region.

Metro Staff: This is a pilot program. You all are building a guidebook. It is important to remember that there may be future rounds of this, so the idea is to create something that can be adapted and iterated upon for different rounds of this project. Regardless of what the theme is, the question is how do you want to structure this idea collection phase? Regardless of who it is, or where it is, how do you want to build the process for collecting ideas from community?

PBO Staff: It's about finding the sweet spot for getting specific enough that people can follow the vision but leaves enough flexibility for adaptation over time. We're narrowing in on the guide for people who are developing proposals for community outreach, something they can use to make sure they are doing it right. So what themes are going to be part of the participatory budgeting process?

Metro Staff: I want to acknowledge how hard it is to conceptualize this stuff before you know the details. This is not an easy process. We're asking you to think about who should be benefitting from something, when we don't know what the thing is yet.

PBO Staff: Absolutely. And, it's not an unprecedented process. You do know the general region, and you have a general sense of what needs to happen. There is no one best process. You can decide what the process is for this round and as long as it's transparent, you end up with a good pilot program. Because others can look at what was done, the lessons learned, and take it further.

Committee Member: I'm just continuing to feel challenged by the fact that we stated racial equity is one of our priorities, but there are limitations on whether we can explicitly say that we want to target BIPOC communities. I'm not sure how to answer this question.

Metro Staff: You're right, it is challenging. The ways that Metro has framed the community engagement around the bond is to focus that community engagement around racial equity goals. When we think about who we are engaging with this Capital Grants fund, we can think about how we are engaging BIPOC folks with this program. The difference is with the legal constraints that we can't explicitly say in the guidebook that we are differentiating between protected classes about who can receive the funding.

Committee Member: That's helpful. I was going to echo what Theresa said, but Crista's clarification makes sense. Even if we can't explicitly say it in the guidebook, a focus on racial equity is part of the DNA of the program.

Committee Member: Right, I agree that it's in the DNA of the current committee. But down the road, if it isn't explicitly set out, there will need to be accountability for the decision-makers to ensure that value remains constant.

Metro Staff: When we are talking about protected classes, what is the potential risk when government creates programs that call those things out specifically? Do you have examples of that?

Metro Staff: I can only repeat what I've heard our attorneys say. There was an example where the State of Oregon created a funding program for small business owners who were African American. The state was sued because of that program. The other guidance we've been given is that these funds are bond funds. Bonds are regulated by 2-3 legal bodies: the state constitution, the bond issuance board, and the Metro legislation. If we were to violate the laws around protected classes, we could put at risk our bond issuance – meaning future funding for not just this program, but other Metro Parks and Nature capital programs.

PBO Staff: To respond to what Theresa said about decision makers – these future decisions are not going to be made by committee, but by a vote. At each stage we will work through, and you will get to define, what the process should look like. Right now, we're looking at the brainstorming phase, where folks get to show up and share their initial ideas, the kinds of ideas that aren't totally thought through or polished. What you're determining today is the values that will guide those who build those processes for brainstorming in the future.

Metro Staff: It can feel unsatisfying that we aren't allowed, by law, to say that we are targeting BIPOC folks with these funds. But, if racial equity is the outcome we're working toward, there are decisions we can make along the way that make that outcome more likely. These decisions started before you were seated, with the majority BIPOC selection committee, and will continue with the influence you will have on the idea collections process, the neighborhoods, the groups we reach out to, how projects are developed, how the community votes, etc.

Amanda closed the discussion by reminding the committee that the goals of participatory budgeting are about lowering the barriers to participation and expanding the opportunities to get involved. In the next meetings, the group will continue to talk about how to build outreach events and opportunities the meet the prioritized goals.
Allison asked committee members to hold their follow up questions for the next meeting.

Next Steps and Closing

Allison and Crista closed the meeting with the following items:
- Committee members can fill out a Jamboard to share feedback and comments on the meeting process.
- Please read the background documents that were sent out previously. There may be additional background materials shared prior to the next meeting.
- The next meeting will be February 15th, 2022, 4:30-6:30pm.

Allison thanked everyone for their time and the meeting ended.

Appendix A: Zoom Meeting Chat

Gabrielle: Hello!
Ariella: it's SO GOOD
Amanda Hudson, Participatory Budgeting Oregon (she/her): There is also and app for iphones
Ariella: y'all seem pretty savvy, but if anyone does have any technical issues, you're welcome to text me!
Amanda Hudson, Participatory Budgeting Oregon (she/her): [link to the mural board]
Allison Brown, facilitator (she/her): And in case you need to get in touch with me directly during the meeting.
Allison Brown, facilitator (she/her): Hi Theresa! We're working in the Mural board, link is here.
Theresa: Thanks!
 (Metro - he/him): Admin note: I found it helpful to click "Zoom Settings" in the bottom right of the Mural board and clicking "Mouse Mode" to help me navigate the board using a keyboard and mouse
Gabrielle (she/her/Mrs.) | Metro: Victoria, BC
Gabrielle (she/her/Mrs.) | Metro: https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/city-grants/participatory-budgeting.html
Humberto (he/him): hi all, I'm sorry to miss this discussion but I have to go. it was nice seeing you. thanks for your work!
Amanda Hudson, Participatory Budgeting Oregon (she/her): CARES act
Kevin Hughes | he/him: So this is like developing a program to treat heart disease without being able to say that the program is to treat heart disease. Instead we have to work on addressing the comorbidities (lack of access to quality nutrition, education about regular exercise, and stress reduction interventions). Is that kind a fair correlation?
Theresa: then can we use geography or climate impact areas etc. as targeted community?
Allison Brown, facilitator (she/her): [link to Google Jamboard]

Appendix B: Land acknowledgement

As we kick off this work on a committee charged with building on the legacy of investments in our region's natural spaces, we want to acknowledge that all of the Metro region, Oregon and the United States are Indian Land.
The greater Portland area is built upon the ancestral homelands, villages and traditional use areas of multiple Indigenous tribes and bands who have stewarded these lands we cherish since time immemorial.

The lands at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia rivers have long served as a major crossroads for the economic, social and political interactions of tribal nations for thousands of years and a place of significance in the homelands and traditional territories of many tribal nations.
We owe a special acknowledgement to the many tribes and bands and their descendants who ceded these lands in treaties with the United States.

We recognize the strong and diverse tribal nations and Native communities in our region today and offer respect and gratitude for their stewardship of these lands past, present and future.
Metro seeks to establish meaningful relationships and explore opportunities to collaborate and consider tribal priorities and interests in our work, including our parks and nature bond work.
We are building our understanding of tribal interests in the greater Portland area as we implement our parks and nature work.
As we learn more, we hope to refine Metro's approach to land acknowledgements in the future;
We recognize land acknowledgements are important and can be sensitive. We are hoping to learn more to integrate this into our work appropriately and in a good way honoring tribal interests going forward.

Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Pilot

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