

Neighborhood
Partnerships

A Path to Abundance

Identity Statement and Strategic Intentions

AN INVITATION

“A small minority of our species hoards the excess of resources, creating a false scarcity and then trying to sell us happiness, sell us back to ourselves.”

– adrienne maree brown

HISTORY AND CONTEXT

Since our inception in 1990, Neighborhood Partnerships (NP) has worked to improve the material conditions for our neighbors and communities who experience the impacts of the false scarcity of late-stage capitalism. False not because people are not experiencing real economic insecurity, but false because it is an artificial, intentional, and inequitable distortion of the real material abundance of our state and country.

Over thirty years, our organization has worked to create conditions for change: we began by supporting the vital place-based work of community development corporations in the 1990s; we continued by building a housing policy coalition that unites people under the belief that every Oregonian deserves a safe and stable place to call home; and we

have expanded economic resilience and stability through the work of the Oregon IDA Initiative across our state.

Starting in 2017 the organization embarked on a journey of learning and consciousness raising necessary to integrate racial equity in our work. As we built awareness and skills, it became clear that to get different outcomes from unjust economic and housing systems, racial equity would need to be central to all our practice and work. This understanding was reinforced by the renewed public attention to relentless extrajudicial murders of Black people and the disproportionate impacts of the COVID pandemic on Black and Indigenous people, and other people of color (BIPOC). With our first executive leadership transition in 15 years, it felt important to come together to clarify our direction amidst a changed world.

OUR STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Knowing that our current capitalist economy, based in white supremacy and patriarchy, was designed to exploit and extract, we also know that these systems and structures can be redesigned to support, to redistribute, and to uplift our communities.

But, like many in the nonprofit industrial complex, NP is often driven by reactivity, and the urgency built into nonprofit business as usual, jumping from emergency to emergency. While we held hope for a different future, our strategic planning process gave us the opportunity we needed to slow down, clarify our vision, and discern how our organization could contribute most effectively to getting there.

We began with the fine-grained detail of the work we engage daily, in our policy advocacy and organizing, our coalition work with our many partners, our administration and granting work with IDAs.

We considered how work had shifted, and what we had been taught by the transformational time we are living in. We asked ourselves what values bring us to this work, what values do our community partners center, and how do our practices and values shape our understanding of how change happens.

Centering race equity, and bringing an equity lens to our developing vision, we slowed our process repeatedly, to reflect, to dialog, and to listen. Were the words we were putting on paper careful, clear and simple, and reflective of the emergent, responsive practice we are engaged in? All our staff brought their lived experience, skill, and commitment to this process, as did our board members. We solicited feedback from key partners in the work. From this sometimes exhausting, sometimes fun, grounding and generative process we have emerged with a new strategic vision and mission for our work.

OUR IDENTITY STATEMENT AND STRATEGIC INTENTIONS

This strategic vision, mission, values, and theory of change will empower and remind us of what we need to embody as we fulfill our mission in service to reaching a culture and economy of abundance. These strategic intentions prepare us to be nimble in the face of the cascading economic, housing, climate, public health, and political crises we face. As we plan for change and transformation, we have identified practices and approaches that allow for flexibility and adaptability, enabling us to respond in an emergent way to constantly changing circumstances. Our annual practice of revising and redirecting work plans and priorities will be enriched by the north star we have established.

WE GIVE THANKS

This document was truly a labor of love that builds on the sweat and work of those that have come before us. We give thanks to the land, our ancestors, and to leaders, particularly BIPOC individuals and communities who have been doing this work and visioning,

who have helped show us the way forward. We give deep thanks to our people: our amazing Neighborhood Partnerships staff, our Board of Directors, our community partners, and to the UPRISE Collective who supported our planning process. Thank you for showing up and bringing your full selves to this process.

LET'S JOIN TOGETHER

This vision seeks to be a star on the horizon to guide our work. But we cannot reach even a little way to that star alone. This is a call to all who seek a thriving future, in our nonprofit industry, our public and private sector partners, among our community partners: Let's work together in movement to realize the promise of our country of freedom and liberation for all. Let us move even beyond freedom, into abundance and thriving. As from the founding of our organization, the change we seek is only possible together in collaboration and partnership. We invite you to join us.

In partnership,



Carlos David García
Executive Director

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VISION



VISION

We envision a culture and economy of abundance where everyone thrives. This universal thriving is made possible when all have enough and are nourished by a sense of belonging, interdependence, and love among people, communities, and the land.

MISSION

MISSION

Neighborhood Partnerships works with communities across Oregon to develop human-centered and emergent solutions to immediate harms, and to power liberatory and transformative change through organizing, policy advocacy, and narrative change. We center those most impacted by racial, housing, and economic injustice, directing our energy and resources toward building community power, knowledge, and capacity.



PRINCIPAL GOALS

Capacity and Sustainability

Organizing and Advocacy

Narrative Change

Equitable and Liberating Systems

1



Capacity and Sustainability

We build organizational capacity and fiscal sustainability to support changemaking across our work.

2



Organizing and Advocacy

We work to build direct and trusting relationships with communities impacted by economic and housing injustice through organizing and advocacy. We center these communities to share our platform, identify solutions, and grow power to create transformational change.

3



Narrative Change

We power narrative change work in solidarity and collaboration with those most impacted by racial and economic injustice. With community, we will identify harmful narratives about race, poverty, and resource. We will co-develop and spread new liberating narratives critical to dismantling systemic oppression.

4



Equitable and Liberating Systems

We strive toward equitable, liberating, human-centered systems and structures that are simple, transparent, and work for people. We shift away from systems and structures that are needlessly complex, create barriers, and perpetuate harm.

OUR VALUES

OUR VALUES

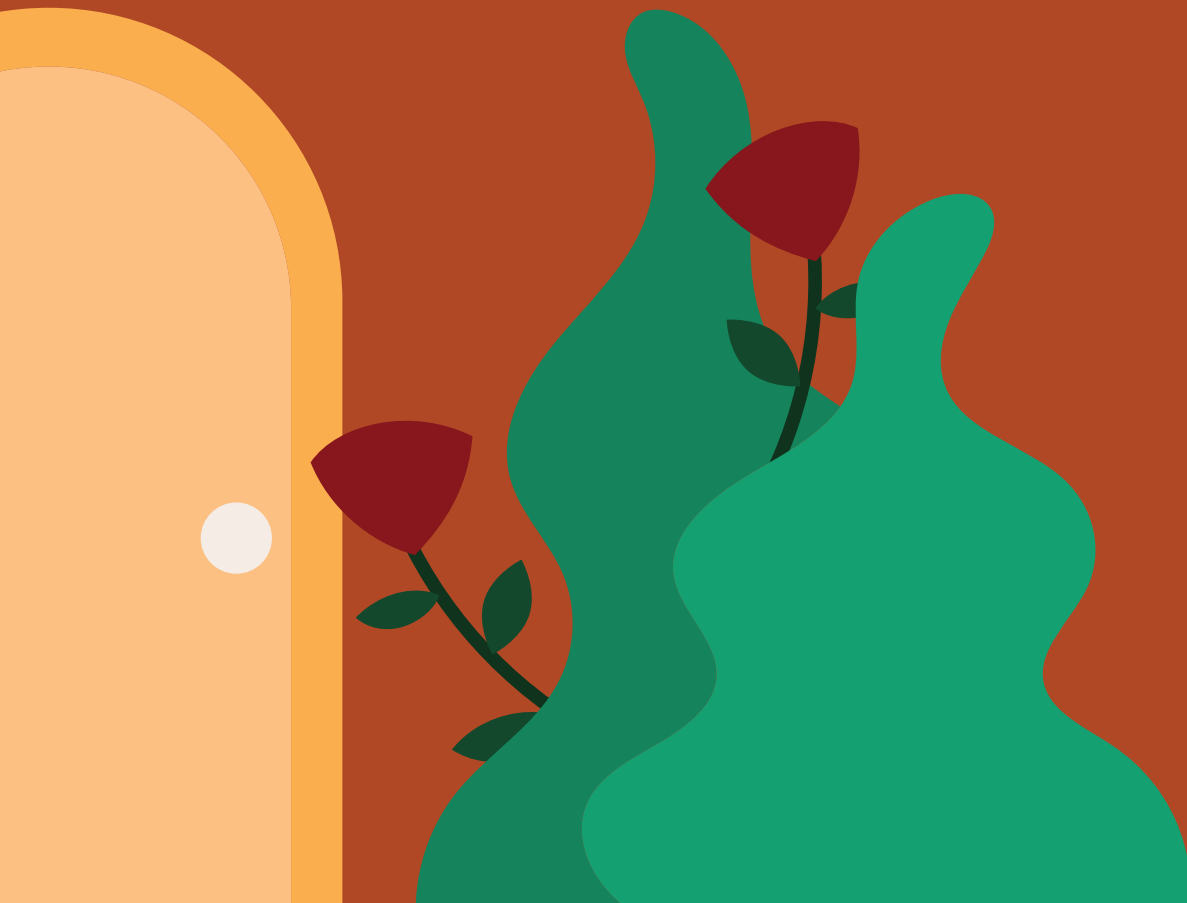
Well-being and Abundance

Belonging

Transformation and Liberation

Healing and Reparation

Collaboration and Organizing



Well-being and Abundance

We act from the understanding that there is economic and material abundance sufficient to support the core and priority physical needs for health and well-being: clean air and water, healthy food, housing, and safety.



Belonging

Places and communities where we experience belonging are foundational to thriving. Belonging requires connection, support, trust, and the felt sense that we can be seen, heard, and understood. It also requires that we be resourced to provide the same space for others. Such spaces allow people the full range of expression of love, joy, and the grief of inevitable losses.



Transformation and Liberation

We work toward a just, antiracist, and liberatory culture and economy in service to all humans—Black, brown, and white, across ability, age, citizenship, class, gender, and sexuality—and to the health of the planet we are all dependent upon. Well-being and belonging are currently scarce due to inequitable, unjust, and overtly racist and harmful systems and structures.

The timescale of change extends across generations. In the immediate term, we invest in addressing the needs and harms people experience daily. For our futures, we insist that universal abundance and liberation requires visionary, emergent, and collective transformation—starting now. We commit to the generative conflict necessary to speed the pace and quality of change, and take courage, inspiration, and leadership on this long journey from Black and Indigenous communities, and other communities of color who have shown the way historically and today.

Healing and Reparation

We commit to openness and honesty with ourselves and each other to keep learning, growing, and working to end white supremacy culture and the harm and injustice it perpetuates. We acknowledge the deep and primal harms that began with the colonization of these lands, and the addition soon after of enslavement into building the capitalist economy in the United States. These have translated into systemic racism, with anti-Blackness and imperialism at its core, impacting all communities of color differently but with deep and persisting harms over time. While these harms cannot be undone for the generations who have passed, we can and must make meaningful and material investments toward healing and reparation today to achieve true justice, shared abundance, and universal liberation. We commit to supporting this work with love, resources, and energy.

Collaboration and Organizing

We commit to collaborating with our partners across Oregon to build community power, knowledge, and capacity toward our vision for Oregon. We work to proactively engage members of communities most impacted by housing and economic injustice to define, decide and work toward the solutions they want for their community.





HOW WE WORK TOWARD TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

Racial Justice and Intersectionality

Centering Those Most Impacted

Narrative Change

Change Starts at Home

Power and Accountability

A stylized, abstract graphic of a hand in shades of orange and brown, positioned in the upper left corner of the page.

Racial Justice and Intersectionality

We know that racial injustice is and was built into our economic and housing systems and structures starting before the founding of the United States. Therefore, we center equity across race and ethnicity, and center the impacts of intersectional identities—ability, age, citizenship, class, gender, and sexuality—to maintain focus on dismantling the structures of white supremacy.

Centering Those Most Impacted

Our work centers communities and individuals most harmed by housing and economic injustice. We believe these community members' lived experiences position them to identify the solutions best for them, and to develop and build the strongest strategies for change.



Narrative Change

We believe stories—narratives—shape people’s understandings of how things work, help us make meaning, and drive change. We strive to discern which dominant stories reinforce power imbalance and injustice, and which work to disrupt them. We work to make space for and listen to stories marginalized and silenced by white supremacy culture, and to follow their light toward a culture of abundance and liberation.



Change Starts at Home

Nonprofit organizations are a part of the institutional structures that maintain inequity. They also hold positional power and knowledge to help make change. They are staffed by human beings who often were or continue to be highly impacted by racial, economic, and housing injustice. Therefore, integrating equity into work structures and processes, and centering the well-being of the people who do the work, are vital in moving toward liberation.

We believe doing the inner, or personal, work is a necessary part of moving toward liberation. This requires learning and sharing experience, hard conversations, and constructive conflict, and working together to unpack white supremacist norms we have been socialized to accept as truths.

We believe that this work must be sustained and collective. We care deeply about people and believe that our practices, policies, and things we design should reflect that care. To bring love and support on the long road, we slow down, and we grow and tend our connections and relationships with one another.

Power and Accountability

We know that people's ability to get what they need to thrive is restricted by unjust systems and policy. We believe that sharing and shifting power is necessary to redistribute access and resources to rectify past and ongoing harm.

We believe that accountability to measure outcomes and impacts must be built into our practices to understand which strategies work, and whether change is happening.



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