

from hope to change

COALITION FOR A LIVABLE FUTURE

mobilizing for equity

2009 REGIONAL LIVABILITY SUMMIT
MAY 20, 2009 PORTLAND, OR

REPORT ON PROCEEDINGS





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About the Coalition for a Livable Future

The *Coalition for a Livable Future* unites over 100 diverse non-profits and businesses and hundreds of individuals to promote healthy and sustainable communities. By connecting issues, people and organizations, CLF empowers communities to take action together to shape the big decisions affecting the Portland region's future. The Coalition was created in 1994 by a diverse group of Portland area nonprofit organizations, including land use and transportation organizations, affordable housing providers, social justice groups and conservationists.

Since its formation in 1994, the Coalition for a Livable Future has worked to empower its member organizations to find a common focus and forge partnerships by making clear the strategic linkages between and among the wide range of issues involved in creating a sustainable and just future for the Portland-Vancouver region.



About The Regional Livability Summit

The Regional Livability Summit is an annual gathering of community leaders from across the four-county metro area to network and share experiences and insights, build new partnerships, and strategize about how to move sustainable development to the next level in our region.

The Summit provides a unique forum for sharing big ideas and smart strategies with established and emerging leaders from across many disciplines as well as private, public, non-profit and academic sectors. The Summit serves as a key annual convention as we build a movement for sustainability with full inclusion.

About the 2009 Summit

This year's Summit focused on tapping the palpable sense of hope and possibility emerging from communities across the metro area, despite being in the midst of unprecedented crises. The program was designed to generate systems thinking, collaboration, inclusion and accountability. These are the things that underpin CLF's Regional Equity Action Agenda – a blueprint for increasing equality in our region as we strive for a sustainable future (read more about the agenda at www.equityatlas.org).

The Summit aimed to spark conversations to achieve a collective agenda for change - change for a "just sustainability". It focused on solutions that are inclusive of all members of community, solutions that tackle root causes of our problems, solutions that bring forth the dream of health, sustainability, and equity.

Days of Equity Action

New to this year's Summit were the Days of Equity Action which provided community members an opportunity to take the next step forward for regional equity and spend time bridging our divides, strengthening our communities, and building a more equitable region. Participants engaged in one-day service or advocacy projects hosted by CLF member and partner organizations, and helped to begin to fulfill the vision of a region where opportunity and sustainability are shared by all.

Who Made the Summit Happen?

The Summit Planning Committee

The Summit program was designed by a talented and committed group of volunteers and CLF staff. They include:

Ron Carley - CLF Co-Director

Jill Fuglister - CLF Co-Director

Janet Hammer - PSU Social Equity and Opportunity Forum

Kathy Hammock - CLF Program Assistant

Desiree Helliger - WSU Center for Social and Environmental Justice

Nuin-Tara Key - CLF Summit Intern

Tricia Tillman - Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Multicultural Health

Special Thanks to our Volunteers

Patrick Belzberg, Michael Bidwell, Aaron Brown, Erin Copley, Kyle Curtis, Julia DeGagne, Katelin Delaney, Noah Eaton, Carolyn Glass, Emily Hill, Amanda Hess, Carrie Jones, Lisa Kendall, David Kennedy, Emily Lieb, Maggie Maggio, Lee Mercer, Cooper Morrow, Madeline Murphy, Ginny Peckinpaugh, Ben Rhiger, Jane Rosenstein, Emily Ryan, Shane Sasnow, R.E. Szego, Shelyne Tillman, Marion Warfield, Amanda Wilson





Daytime Program

Opening Keynote with Julian Agyeman

“Toward a Just Sustainability”

Leadership Response Panel

“Equity on the Ground: Structural Change in Turbulent Times?”

Morning Breakout Sessions

Breakout discussion groups focused on Equity Action Agenda initiatives and topics that were developed in CLF’s Regional Equity Atlas Project. Breakouts focused on developmental or action-ready campaigns and projects within the region that address systemic causes of inequities in access to built environment resources and opportunities for health and prosperity.

Hello Neighbor Presentation with Julie Keefe

Robert L. Liberty Regional Leadership Award Presentation

2009 Recipient: *Linda Robinson*

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Afternoon Sessions provided participants with additional opportunities to hear about regional campaigns to address inequity and build upon current efforts to improve opportunities for all.

Days of Equity Action

Participants engaged in one-day service or advocacy projects hosted by CLF member and partner organizations, and helped to begin to fulfill the vision of a region where opportunity and sustainability are shared by all.



2009 Robert L. Liberty Award Recipient, Linda Clingan (right) with Martha McLennan (left)

“What happens to neighborhoods when your neighbors aren’t your neighbors any more?”



Hello Neighbor Portrait

Who attended the Summit?

This year’s Summit brought together almost 400 participants from non-profit, private, and public sectors, and across a wide spectrum of diverse interests and backgrounds – including conservationists, advocates for affordable housing, economic development, urban design, transportation alternatives, education, public health, and social justice. Participants also included leaders from the faith community, students, teachers, and community leaders, elected officials and concerned residents from across our region.



Excerpts from the Keynote Address by Julian Agyeman

“In recent years it has become increasingly apparent that the issue of environmental quality is inextricably linked to that of human equality. Wherever in the world environmental despoilation and degradation is happening, it is almost always linked to questions of social justice, equity, rights and people’s quality of life in its widest sense.”

Environmental Justice is a framework for intergrating class, race, gender, environment and social justice concerns. There are two distinct but interrelated dimensions of environmental justice:

- Local activist level – vocabulary for political opportunity, mobilization and action.
- Government level – policy principle, that no public action will disproportionately disadvantage any particular social group.

Ways to strive for “Just Sustainability”

The “Just Sustainability Paradigm represents the nexus between environmental justice and sustainability theories and practices and effectively reframes Environmental Justice by highlighting the pivotal role that justice and equity could and should play within contemporary sustainability policy and planning discourses; BUT does not negate real Environmental Justice struggles.”

Spatial Justice emphasizes

- Access and accessibility in urban spaces
- Freedom of movement and citizen’s rights
- Access and accessibility in rural spaces



Julian Agyeman also addressed the idea of how we measure community wellbeing and the potential for moving away from traditional economic measures, like GDP, and towards a more comprehensive measure of well-being. This could help move toward a just sustainability.

Well-being is one of our most important ends, as individuals and as societies. Community well-being is about a combination of life satisfaction, how well they are functioning and whether they are realizing their full potential, and their relationships with one another and among communities. As part of this third component, he talked about an intercultural city vs. a multicultural one. Inter-cultural cities are those that aim to focus on diversity advantages and encourage relationships between different cultures.

“Sustainability is, at its very heart, a political construct rather than a technical or scientifically objective notion. The policy goal of sustainability can be usefully understood as what might be termed an ‘over-arching societal value’. In this sense, it is more akin to notions like ‘freedom’, ‘justice’ or ‘democracy’ than to a specific policy commitment.”

Julian Agyeman

Julian Agyeman Bio

From London to Australia to the US, Julian has been a government advisor, academic, and activist. Currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University, Agyeman was co-founder of the Black Environment Network in Britain. With degrees in botany, geography, conservation policy and environmental education, Julian navigates the intersection of environment and society, expanding our thinking about the possibilities for a just sustainability.



Leadership Response Panel

“Equity on the Ground: Structural Change in Turbulent Times?”

Thank you to the Following Panelists:

Lynn Peterson – Moderator

Chair, Clackamas County Commissioner

Ronda Chapman-Duer

Washington County Sustainability Coordinator

David Hu

Gifford Pinchot Natural Forest, US Forest Service

Charles Hudson

*Manager Public Information Office,
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission*

Robert Liberty

Metro Councilor, District 6

Ed McNamara

Turtle Island Development

Ramón Ramírez

*President, Píneros y Campesinos
Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN)*



Panelists came together to provide local perspective and leadership on what has been happening and what needs to happen to redesign systems in support of equity and a just sustainability at this unique moment in time. They addressed the current economic crises that society is grappling with and how to catalyze the structural change necessary to achieve an equitable sustainability, as well as the key opportunities that exist in our communities.

“The panel was great representation of REAL people working on REAL issues and stumbling along with the rest of us as well.”

Summit Participant

“Loved the range of voices and views.”

Summit Participant



Breakout Sessions

Eighteen breakout discussions covered innovative ideas and forward-thinking work happening throughout the region for healthy, sustainable and inclusive communities. Breakouts focused on developmental or action-ready campaigns and projects which aim to address systemic barriers in access to built environment resources and opportunities for prosperity that perpetuate regional inequity.

The overall goal of the breakout sessions were to:

1. Identify what is happening in our region to address issues of 'just sustainability' and equity.
2. Provide participants the information or tools needed to engage in these campaigns and projects.
3. Identify the key next steps and players we need to collaborate with in order to support this work and the efforts to promote just sustainability throughout our region.



Morning Breakout Topics

Session 1: Good Green Jobs for All

Session 2: Organizing for Equity and Sustainability in the African American Church: a caucus of clergy from Portland and Vancouver

Session 3: Crossing the River, Bridging Divides?

Session 4: "Unbreakable Bridges: White allies building inclusive communities by eliminating racism" (Part I)

Session 5: Voices of Homelessness: A Qualitative Research Project from Sisters Of The Road

Session 6: Bridging the Green Divide: Supporting Green Jobs with Your Group's Environmental Spending

Session 7: Building the Global City: Toward an Inclusive, Multicultural Community (a roundtable discussion)

Session 8: Organizing for Equity in Education

Highlights From Morning Breakouts

Session 1: Green Jobs for All

Session Leaders:

Connie Ashbrook, *Oregon Tradeswomen*

Tony DeFalco, *Verde Energy*

Yalonda Sinde, *Yalonda Sinde Consulting*

Desiree Williams-Rajee, *Center for Diversity and the Environment*

Key Points

- Dispel myths of who environmentalists are – we are all environmentalists.
- Create clear link between environmental justice and the green jobs movement.
- Promote success for women in the trades.
- Breakdown occupational segregation.
- Make sure equity is front & center, not an afterthought.
- Focus on federal stimulus funding to create new jobs for people of color, not just support what already exists.
- Need a comprehensive analysis of current state of equity.



- Create partnerships with communities of color to prepare the entire workforce for green jobs.
- Leverage success to build new initiatives. E.g., Chicago Green Corps specifically targeted people of color & low income toward job development.
- Ensure opportunity for all to take part as a community in Portland's Climate Action Plan – 6 town halls in Portland this summer.
- Offer benefits to all of your workers, including same sex families.
- Support three bills in OR legislature: 894, 895, 896 – to promote construction equity.
- Make sure community based organizations are at the table when government is making policy decisions.

Session 2: Organizing for Equity and Sustainability in the African American Church

Session Leaders:

Bishop Robert Andrew, *St. Jude Apostolic Church (Portland)*
Rev. Cliff Chappel, *District Superintendent, Church of God in Christ (Portland)*
Rev. H.B. Daniels, *Pastor Daniels Memorial COGIC*
Rev. Marva Edwards, *New Life AME Zion (Vancouver)*
Rev. Levi Harris, *Community AME Zion (Vancouver)*
Rev. Leroy Haynes, *Allen Temple CME (Portland)*
Charles Smith, *NAACP Education Co-Chair (Vancouver)*
Rev. Antoinette Rochelle, *Community AME Zion (Vancouver)*

Key Points

- The Church has traditionally played a central role in equity and education, but is divided primarily by economic injustice.
- The main obstacle to organizing around equity and sustainability is that the central issues have not been accurately identified, or recognized in a direct manner.
- The City and other agencies can help, but the Church must take primary responsibility.
- There is disconnect between faith and community networks – limited dialogue between groups and organizations.
- Create a church “211” service as outreach mechanism – provide information on critical support services.
- Create a convening body to help identify and define primary problems first hand.
- Partner with local jurisdictions in the solution-making process.
- Foster connections with synagogues and mosques, not just churches.

Session 3: Crossing the River, Bridging Divides?

Session leaders:

Leslie Carlson, *Portland/Multnomah Sustainable Development Commission*
Sylvia Evans, *REPOWER*
Mel Rader, *Upstream Public Health*
Vivek Shandas, *Assistant Professor of Urban Studies and Planning, Portland State University*

Key Points

- Process has overlooked health impacts of CRC especially for those most impacted by heat and air pollution impacts in the region: renters, Hispanic communities, low-income communities; and especially lung disease related illnesses.
- Substandard housing conditions contribute to asthma and other lung diseases.
- 300 – 3,000 feet from freeways should be off limits for building.
- Capitalize on opportunities within the Regional Transportation Plan to influence project.
- Create more opportunities to share information and build allies and connections.
- Consider a systems approach to advocacy – pressure at the federal level.

Session 4: “Unbreakable Bridges: White allies building inclusive communities by eliminating racism”: (Part I & II)

Session leaders:

Robert Marino, *Bainbridge Graduate Institute*
Judith Mowry, *City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement*
Jeri Williams, *City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement*

Key Points

- Motivation for training sessions came from creative brainstorming/listening session – idea emerged touched upon how whites can become good allies.
- There is frustration that there is no place for dialogue or engagement around community dynamics.
- Need for community dialogue to shift towards greater equity.
- Importance of accepting different ways of thinking about and approaching problems that people of color bring to the table.
- Crucial to recognize differences in communication styles, understanding of rights and relationship with government.
- Importance of supporting, rather than taking over organizations and/or initiatives led by people of color.



Session 5: Voices of Homelessness: A Qualitative Research Project from Sisters Of The Road

Session leaders:

Heather Fercho, *Sisters Of The Road*

Katherine Moore, *Sisters Of The Road*

Key Points

- There are barriers to access to resources and services that should be easily accessible – uncoordinated service providers; redundant paperwork; declining availability of public assistance (federal, state, local levels); lack of affordable healthcare are some of the key issues.
- Clear the path to accessing housing and ensure employment and training opportunities for those who are able to work (advocate and support jobs for people who have previously been incarcerated)
- Don't blame poor people for being poor – not understanding the causes of homelessness, the scope of the problem, and the barriers to ending homelessness create additional and difficult barriers.
- Laws and ordinances have been passed that unjustly penalize the homeless population. This includes anti-camping, anti-panhandling, and sit-lie.
- Make ending homelessness a city/national priority.
- Ensure people have access to community and positive interactions while they are experiencing homelessness.

Session 6: Bridging the Green Divide: Supporting Green Jobs with Your Group's Environmental Spending

Session leaders:

James Allison, *Portland Bureau of Environmental Services*

Michelle Bussard, *Forest Park Conservancy*

Scott Fogarty, *Friends of Trees*

Alan Hipolito, *Verde*

Key Points

- Continued growth of a collaborative model and greater cooperation between NGOs, for profit businesses, and government at all levels, can have a substantial economic impact in protecting the environment and economic growth (particularly for low-income residents) simultaneously.
- By building partnerships with other groups, such as Friends of Trees and the City of Portland, which contract with Verde to provide native plants for their restoration and tree planting efforts, Verde has been able to expand its program, providing more jobs to low-income people.
- The City of Portland should share their contracting methodology as a recommendations tool kit with for-profit and not for profit organizations.
- Importance of supporting minority-owned businesses in environmental restoration contracting work.
- Importance of limiting the use of and education on the use of pesticides in restoration work.



Session 7: Building the Global City: Toward an Inclusive, Multicultural Community

Session leaders:

Andrea Cano, *Latino Network*

Ronault LS Catalani, Refugee and Immigrant Affairs, *Office of Human Relations, City of Portland*

Kayse Jama, *Center for Intercultural Organizing*

Ramón Ramírez, *President, Píneros y Campesinos Unidos Noroeste*

Aimee Santos-Lyons, Race and Gender Justice Field Organizer and Trainer, *Western States Center*



Key Points

- Immigrant populations in Portland are facing serious discrimination and livability issues, including not feeling safe; not being able to find livable wages, good schools or healthy communities; and being afraid of the deportation.
- Immigrant populations are unique and different. They cannot be lumped as “one people” but need to work together to affect change and create a new vision of sustainability.
- Immigrant populations are not at the decision-making table to affect policy change.
- Immigrant populations must do “inventory”—look within their community and understand what cultural capital they have.
- Must work together to create a multi-ethnic vision of sustainability.
- Need to negotiate at the policy-making table. This includes forming C-5s, PACs, and going old fashioned, one-on-one organizing. Need to participate in lobby days in Salem.
- Need to include businesses into movement. Businesses need to stand up and say how much they depend on their immigrant workers.
- Need for “kitchen-table” discussions where the underlying values about quality of life are identified.
- Need more cultural-sharing events.
- Recommended reading: Northwest Community Foundation Report, UofO “Understanding Immigrant Experience in Oregon.”

Session 8: Organizing for Equity in Education

Session leaders:

Martin Gonzalez, *Portland School Board/Latino Network/Trimet*

Armando Laguardia, *Washington State University Vancouver*

Howard Moriah, *Urban League of Portland*

Midge Purcell, *Portland Urban League*

Maria Rodriguez Salazar, *League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)*

Ashley Thirstrup, *Native American Youth Family Center (NAYA)*

Key Points

- Schools do not use available mechanisms to communicate with parents to full capacity.
- Parents lack ability to navigate the school system, especially immigrant and non-English speaking parents.



- Lack of culturally appropriate material in schools – especially for Native American youth; Lack of contemporary context- Native people are often taught as being culturally “dead”.
- Over-representation of students of color being disciplined (referrals, suspensions, expulsions) and discipline time is time not being educated, leading to students being pushed out or dropping out. Identify and make this overrepresentation transparent, create strategies to reduce it. Students, teachers & administrators need to be accountable towards addressing this over-representation. Great work on pre-K thru 3rd grade, and on high school & on to college, but big gap in middle schools.
- Portland Public Schools has not historically set any equity goals for delivering quality education to all students.
- In Clark County: Latino community has been invisible in school discussions, however there are opportunities and organizing efforts to address this issue.
- More collaboration between NAACP and LULAC needs to take place.
- Youth needs to be involved in all discussions and engaged as community members.



Afternoon Breakout Topics

Session 1: Regional Equity Atlas II: Mapping regional equity and health in the future

Session 2: Urban Revitalization vs. Urban Renewal: What's Portland Approach?

Session 3: Making Sense and Change out of Transportation Dollars

Session 4: Unbreakable Bridges: White allies building inclusive communities by eliminating racism Part 2(Continuation of Morning Session)

Session 5: Counting the Dead: Developing Protocols for Tracking the Deaths of Homeless

Session 6: Voices of Youth: Hear what youth in our communities have to say about sustainability and equity

Session 7: Home Is Where Your Health Is: Moving Forward with Health Equity and Housing

Session 8: Working on "Just Sustainability" from Inside Government: What Sustainability

Highlights From Afternoon Breakouts

Session 1: Regional Equity Atlas II: Mapping regional equity and health in the future

Session leaders:

Suzanne Briggs, *Kaiser Permanente*

Jill Fuglister, *Coalition for a Livable Future*

Meg Merrick, *Portland State University*

Nancy Stevens, *Kaiser Permanente*

Tricia Tillman, *Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Multicultural Health*

Key Points

- The Atlas should think about ways to track disaggregated health outcomes, and how to present that as social math that's interactive and understandable to the community.
- The Atlas should think about maps as a source of information to the community and to think about data in ways that aren't explicitly geographical.
- Think more radically about the way we display data. For example, look at the United Nation's use of multi-media display of data in the Rethinking Poverty

project.

- The Environmental Public Health Tracking Program (Oregon) recently broadened its focus from traditional environmental health to include built environment. If CLF had a list of things for other MSAs to track that might be useful for statewide perspective.
- As new data is collected it is important to maintain consistency with the original Atlas in some ways in order to show changes over time and trends.
- The next atlas should be created using a more participatory approach that engages disenfranchised communities.
- Reliance on data is great in a lot of ways, but bringing in stories and narrative can fill in the missing spaces.



Session 2: Urban Revitalization vs. Urban Renewal: What's Portland Approach?

Session leaders:

Rachael Banks, *Multnomah County Health Department Chronic Disease Prevention Program*

Willie Brown, *Black Citizens Coalition of Portland Neighborhoods*

Clark Henry, *City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services Brownfield Program*

Nick Kahl, *Oregon State Representative (D), District 49*

Nick Sauvie, *ROSE Community Development Corporation*

Yalonda Sinde, *Organizing People Activating Leaders*

Key Points

- Lack of affordable housing, school transfers, and urban renewal policies cause gentrification and displacement.
- Urban renewal raises the property values of an area, often forcing long-time community members to move out because they cannot afford to stay. This means that positive investments don't benefit those with greatest needs/current residents.
- Community members feel incredible hurt when they see their members displaced and their communities torn apart by gentrification.



- Low-income communities and communities of color need to be involved in the planning process.
- We need to make sure that affordable housing is developed in urban renewal areas and that existing affordable housing is maintained.
- When you move into a new area, you should respect the culture of the existing community. We need to build respectful, caring communities and work with our neighbors.
- Further reading on Initiatives: Jacobson Center for Neighborhood Innovation's Market Creek Plaza initiative offers resident up to 20% investment take in San Diego, and Multnomah County Health Impact Statement for the Columbia River Crossing.

Session 3: Making Sense and Change out of Transportation Dollars

Session Leaders:

Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons, *Coalition for a Livable Future*
Al Bradbury, *Portland Transit Riders Union*
Mara Gross, *Coalition for a Livable Future*
Roberta Hunte, *Oregon Tradeswomen Inc.*
Dave Mayfield, *Cogan Owens Cogan*

Key Points

- We pay more for transportation than ever before: fifty percent of pre-tax income for housing and transportation. Twenty percent is for transportation.
- It's important to consider how funding decisions are made. Federal government will be looking at federal transportation funding with the reauthorization of roads coming up.
- Transportation is a basic human need: the disabled, elderly, and lower-income are often not accommodated. There are reduced services and reduced fixed-rate services due to the lack of funding.
- Rural people are especially affected by transportation cuts and hard economic time strengthens the use of public transit but while ridership is up, funding is being cut.
- The current transportation model is for the high-cost trend of meeting travel demand. There must be a paradigm shift to meet least-cost not demand. We need a commitment to meeting the target of reduced global warming.
- Engaged discussion of a "curb-cut tax" with some suggesting that individuals should pay for appropriating public space for private use.

Session 4: Unbreakable Bridges: White allies building inclusive communities by eliminating racism Part 2

See description above (Morning Session)

Session 5: Counting the Dead: Developing Protocols for Tracking the Deaths of Homeless

Session leaders:

Israel Bayer, *Street Roots*

Ryan Diebert, *Portland Housing & Community Development Ending Homelessness Initiative*

Paul Lewis, M.D., *Deputy Health Office, Multnomah County Public Health Department*

Craig Lyons, *Vancouver Council for the Homeless*

Representatives of the Women's Housing Equality and Enhancement League (WHEEL)

Key Points

- Portland has not collected numbers about homeless deaths and needs to recognize barriers facing the collection of these deaths.
- Not having # of homeless deaths leaves a hole of information when it comes to allocating resources to combat homelessness.
- Organizing actions such as dignity vigils have raised awareness around issues of homelessness and have impacted the creation of more shelters and services.
- Improve coordination and communication channels between shelters, medical examiners, homeless health care networks, and local media outlets.
- Improve coordination and communication between local jurisdictions, especially in regard to local database and tracking systems.

Session 6: Voices of Youth: Hear what youth in our communities have to say about sustainability and equity

Session leaders:

Susan Beaird, *Multnomah Learning Center*

Julie Hoffman, *Multnomah Learning Center*

4th-6th grade students from the *Multnomah Learning Center*

Eloe Gil-Williams, *Caldera Student/Film Apprentice*

Paris Hart, *Caldera Student/Photography Apprentice*

Julie Keefe, *Caldera Student Mentor*

Billy Miller, *Caldera Student Mentor*



Deborah Hodges, *Caldera Student Mentor*
Andrea Hamberg, *Groundwork Portland*

Key Points

- Programs that incorporate art, sense of place and environmental justice provide youth an opportunity to communicate the challenges they face as well as solutions in constructive, respectful ways.
- Youth participants identified the need address equity and social justice as a part of their sustainability work.
- Art programs that address issues of social equity provide youth, especially minority and low-income youth, the opportunity to creatively and constructively express themselves and communicate the challenges they face in their daily lives, as well as provide skills and trainings that can help secure future employment and career paths.

Session 7: Home Is Where Your Health Is: Moving Forward with Health Equity and Housing

Session leaders:

Lilia Alvarez, *Portland Community Land Trust*
Sonali Balajee, *Multnomah County Health Equity Initiative*

Key Points

- Multnomah County Health Equity Initiative is developing an equity review tool kit that will evaluate how programs or policies impact and burden different demographics. This is critical to understanding the social determinants of health, especially as they relate to housing opportunities.
- Realization that health equity is a new concept: just getting things going and framing how to look at it this new concept is important. Health equity dialogue needs to highlight who is burdened and who benefit from planning and development.
- New concept: include health disparities as factor in development to achieve a more equitable process.
- Jurisdictions to engage all stakeholders (more inclusive process) and need foster more public/ private partnerships in order to create and support livable communities for all.

Session 8: Working on “Just Sustainability” from Inside Government: What Sustainability Coordinators Are Getting Done

Session leaders:

Molly Chidsey, *Metro, Sustainability Center*
Peter DuBois, *Clark County*
Michael Piper, *City of Vancouver Water Resource Center*

Notes Not Available





Days of Equity Action

New to this year's Summit, the Days of Equity Action offered a variety of done-in-a-day service and advocacy activities that supported the Regional Equity Action Agenda initiatives. The activities were hosted by CLF member and partner organizations. This new program provided participants an opportunity to learn about and directly engage in issues of regional equity, and support community capacity building efforts to for the long-term advancement of regional equity.

Events

Thursday, May 21:

Equity Lobby Day in Salem

Coalition for a Livable Future, Oregon Action and the Oregon Bus Project hosted a lobby day in Salem to meet with legislators to discuss:

- Health care equity
- Creation of a statewide Civil Rights Division in the Attorney General's Office

Friday, May 22:

Garden Installation at Oleson Woods

Participants built beds for a community garden with Community Partners for Affordable Housing at Oleson Woods Apartments, a service-enriched, affordable multi-family complex.

Saturday, May 23:

Ivy Removal at Fanno Creek Trail Expansion

Volunteers helped Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District remove English ivy from the natural areas surrounding a new trail connection to the Fanno Creek Trail just off of Allen Blvd.

Rosemont Bluff Work Party

Volunteers helped with restoration and maintenance at this small natural area in the heart of Northeast Portland. The event was sponsored by North Tabor Neighborhood Association.

*Urban League of Portland Social Justice & Civic Leadership Training * On Going **
Building Social Movements: Participants learned about local movements and how they have shaped the Portland community and came away with a historical understanding of social justice movements and how it relates to today.

This was the first in a series of four trainings designed to help train civic leaders in advocating for just and equitable local policies.

Friday, May 29

Youth Invasion of Portland City Hall

This exciting event promoted youth empowerment as it trains young citizens on civic involvement, city services, and more.

Saturday, May 30

Planting Day at the Imaginative Children's Garden at Gresham's Vance Park

Sponsored by People for Parks and Mt. Hood Community College Rho Theta students, participants planted both seeds and plants at the Imaginative Children's Garden.

Invasive Plant Removal at Cedar Mill Park

Volunteers helped Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District remove English ivy from the natural areas of Cedar Mill Park.

DigIn! at Oregon Food Bank

Volunteers helped tend Oregon Food Bank's Learning Garden in Northeast Portland, which grows organic produce for hunger-relief agencies.

Volunteers at Oleson Woods (Community Partners for Affordable Housing) garden installation





Next Steps in Collaboration: Moving the Equity Action Agenda Forward

How can CLF build upon the energy ignited at the Summit and continue to foster the growing movement for equity as part of our region's sustainability agenda?

As a critical starting point, we have formed a Health Equity Working Group that brings together over 20 diverse representatives from across many disciplines and backgrounds to shepherd the collaborative action of advocates and organizers to promote the Regional Equity Action Agenda. The 16 initiatives that make up the agenda represent the the next generation of public policies designed to secure healthy places, healthy people and healthy process for all communities as our region grows and changes.

In the next six months, we'll be establishing a tracking system for the community's progress on the Equity Action Agenda so that we can keep you informed and so that we can continue to highlight the importance of this work.

We also intend to get started on planning for the 2010 Summit this summer. We're aligning next year's event with the 40th anniversary of Earth Day to bring even greater visibility to our work to integrate equity into our region's sustainable development efforts.

If you're interested in receiving periodic e-mails about events, reports, and action alerts related to the Equity Action Agenda, please join the Equity Atlas listserve at www.equityatlas.org. We also encourage you to share your ideas and stories about your work for regional equity through the online forums also found at www.equityatlas.org or feel free to contact us through e-mail or phone at info@clfuture.org or (503) 294-2889.

With equity at the fore, together we can make the greater Portland-Vancouver area a resilient, prosperous, and multi-cultural region, one whose exceptional quality of life is accessible to all who live in it.

We hope you will continue to work with us in this ambitious endeavor.

