



**NORTHEAST COALITION
OF NEIGHBORHOODS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods Awards \$13,710 in Grants for Diverse, Community-driven Projects

Portland, OR - On Monday, January 7, 2013, the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN) Board of Directors approved grant funding of \$13,710 for a total of eleven community projects as recommended by the Neighborhood Small Grants Evaluation Committee.

The overall goal of this grant program is to provide neighborhood and community-based organizations the opportunity to build community, attract new and diverse members, and sustain current membership.

The following projects are excellent examples of how people in inner north and northeast Portland are working together to improve the quality of our neighborhoods by building community, increasing volunteer capacity and forging new organizational partnerships:

Chess for Success After-School Programs

Chess for Success

Granted \$1,695

Chess for Success will provide after-school chess clubs in six schools in Northeast Portland: Boise/Eliot/Humboldt, Sabin, Faubion K-8, Vernon and Woodlawn K-8, teaching and training community volunteers to assist in the clubs. Chess for Success brings together diverse students, teachers and volunteers, providing a safe haven for students after school.

Community Maps for Churches

Concordia Neighborhood Association Wellness Committee

Granted \$1,143

This project will lead to the creation of digital and hardcopy maps of food pantries and other social services within or near Concordia Neighborhood. The maps will be used by low-income individuals and churches serving those in need. In addition to the creation of the map, volunteers will develop an asset mapping "how to" guide for other neighborhoods and organizations to replicate across the city.

Establish a Bee-Friendly Garden Program in Sabin

Sabin Community Association

Granted \$1,100

This program will expand awareness of the role and importance of pollinators in our natural world and encourage neighbors to model and adopt sustainable gardening practices. This would be done through a backyard tour of 12-15 yards in Sabin, provide hands-on education opportunities. It will add more front yards to

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Alameda | Boise | Concordia | Eliot | Grant Park | Humboldt | Irvington | King | Sabin | Sullivan's Gulch | Vernon | Woodlawn

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a self-guided tour and training of Sabin middle school students to interview residents to capture the "story" of their gardens.

International Plastic Quilt Project

Create Plenty

Granted \$1,195

The International Plastic Quilt Project is a youth art project designed to create awareness of plastic waste and consumption, and to motivate youth to become proactive in their communities and the world. Over 500 students will collect plastic waste from their immediate environments and design a 12-inch quilt square to be combined with other squares, ultimately creating a plastic "quilt."

Summer in September Jambalaya Festival & Barbeque

Meals on Wheels People

Granted \$1,695

The Summer in September Jambalaya Festival started as a small fundraising dinner in 2006. This event now brings together many neighborhood and civic organization volunteers to support the Martin Luther King, Jr. Loaves and Fishes Center. Grant funding will help with event rentals and food purchases.

Harvest Festival and Volunteer Recruitment

Our 42nd Avenue

Granted \$1,505

Volunteers will canvass the neighborhood on behalf of Our 42nd Avenue Neighborhood Prosperity Initiative to create better connections between area residents and the planning process for the development of the district. Grant money will be used to buy food and drink from local businesses for canvassers.

Community Building Events for the Left Hand of Darkness

Portland Playhouse

Granted \$895

Portland Playhouse will host community building events in conjunction with their upcoming theatrical production *Left Hand of Darkness*. Grant funding will support promotional materials for a pre-matinee panel discussion, post-show "talkbacks" and two special events: An Evening with Ursula LeGuin and Cupcakes with Bitch Magazine.

Community Listening Project

PreSERVE Coalition

Granted \$1,195

Funding will support three listening sessions to gather input from older African Americans on their health concerns, barriers to health and ideas for community-based activities that promote health. This project engages a diverse group of volunteers to work on projects that promote a healthy and sustainable community.

PLOT + SCHEME: The Broadway Corridor Charrette

Sullivan's Gulch Neighborhood Association

Granted \$895

A multi-neighborhood, one-day program will provide an opportunity to learn about the Broadway Corridor and its impact on NE neighborhoods, small businesses and regional development. The Sullivan's Gulch Neighborhood Association will host a forum for participants to consider new ideas and collaborate on creating the future of this corridor.

Trash for Peace*Trash for Peace Summer Youth Program***Granted \$1,195**

Trash for Peace will hire four low-income youth interns to lead workshops, recruit participants and collect materials for making art installations. Trash for Peace educates and trains the next generation to build community, foster acceptance and create identity by engaging them as leaders in the execution of community improvement projects.

Woodlawn National Night Out 2013*Woodlawn Neighborhood Association***Granted \$1,195**

Woodlawn Neighborhood National Night Out celebration is a vibrant and inclusive outdoor party, bringing together neighbors in making Woodlawn a safe and welcoming place for all residents. This event will have food and entertainment for all ages including a deejay and clown.

A selection committee, comprised of seven community members, met in December 2012 to consider sixteen grant proposals requesting a total of \$26,851. The committee ranked projects based on potential for the broadest impact in the community. The grant selection committee unanimously recommended the above projects for funding, believing the Neighborhood Small Grant Program adds great value to the community and to the neighborhood associations within our coalition area.

Funds for this granting program were allocated from the City of Portland's Office of Neighborhood Involvement to the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods for the 2013 Neighborhood Small Grant Program granting cycle. Businesses and individuals interested in further supporting community-based projects such as those listed above may make donations of any amount to the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods.

NECN serves as one of seven district coalitions advancing neighborhood livability in Portland through highly inclusive civic engagement. We believe in creating healthy communities by engaging citizens to become directly involved in determining how their neighborhood evolves. NECN fulfills numerous functions: gathering place, idea and project incubator, and outreach service provider connecting community members to resources from agencies and organizations. Our 12 neighborhoods are: Alameda, Boise, Concordia, Eliot, Grant Park, Humboldt, Irvington, King, Sabin, Sullivan's Gulch, Vernon and Woodlawn. For more information, please visit the Coalition's website at necoalition.org.

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