

Featured Work of SE Uplift Jan 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019

Please note that the narrative section of this report contains links to SEUL newsletter articles, documents, video, and other media.

1. Anti-Hate Work

SE Uplift continued as an integral part of Portland United Against (PUAH), a coalition of 70 organizations committed to addressing hate.

SEUL staff Mireaya Medina and Muz Afzal continued to allocate significant portions of time to supporting the work of PUAH, including producing the PUAH monthly newsletter, assisting with planning the PUAH quarterly gatherings, serving on multiple committees, representing PUAH at community events, and in other leadership capacities.

SEUL staff represented PUAH at the Cleveland Cares rally in response to several racist incidents at the local high school.



At the State of Oregon Attorney General's Hate Crimes Listening Session hosted by United Oregon, SEUL staff helped recruit individuals who had experienced acts of hate, particularly from the unhoused community, to share their difficult stories.

SEUL executive director Molly Mayo provided testimony to City Council on

behalf of SE Uplift for the PUAH Report in January 2019. The testimony can be read in this link to the SEUL newsletter: <http://www.seuplift.org/?newsletter=se-uplift-testimony-in-support-of-portland-united-against-hate>.

SE Uplift met with PUAH in January to discuss the possibility of entering a fiscal sponsorship partnership, and PUAH staff met with SEUL executive committee and SEUL board to further discuss this opportunity. In April the SEUL board of directors voted to pre-approve fiscal sponsorship with PUAH should PUAH decide that SEUL was a good match for this partnership. In May, PUAH chose to proceed with the fiscal sponsorship, and plans for fiscal sponsorship and office space from SE Uplift beginning July 1, 2019 were formalized.

2. Small Grants Program Activities January through June

The Community & Civic Engagement Small Grants provide up to \$4,000 to support projects that empower and involve community members to shape and create their communities. The goals of

the grant program are to increase the number and diversity of people involved in the community, build community capacity and increase community impact on public decisions and community life. This year SE Uplift provided \$27, 165 to fifteen community projects from funds specified for this purpose from the Office of Community and Civic Life. Outreach was conducted through social media and electronic newsletter, direct outreach to community partners, outreach to potential applicants, in person promotion and distributing flyers at events and key community locations. Applicants were supported through one-on-one grant application support meetings and two grant workshops attended by 38 community members. SE Uplift received 33 grant proposals requesting over \$99,000. [Fifteen grant recipients](#) were selected by a committee of six community volunteers and approved by the SE Uplift Board of Directors in March 2019.

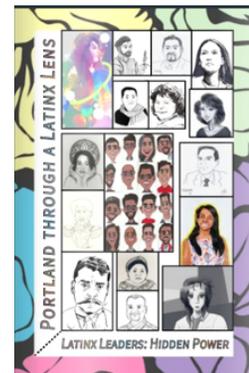
Numerous projects from this new grant cycle have already been completed from March to June, and they are described below.

Renters' Rights Workshop: In partnership with Community Alliance of Tenants the Mount Scott-Arleta Neighborhood Association presented a 2-hour training to help community members understand how to become better equipped at locating, securing and retaining affordable housing. Free food, childcare and interpretation were provided in an accessible location to encourage attendance by communities that most needed the training.



Portland Through a Latinx Lens:

Through a series of workshops and interviews the project engaged with and promoted the voices of Latinx individuals. Vignettes are available online for viewing and have been published in a print zine. In the future they will culminate in an art exhibit which will be shown throughout the city. This medium



will serve as a conduit to amplify the voices of Latinx community members in Portland-- highlighting their lives, challenges, joys, passions, and grit.



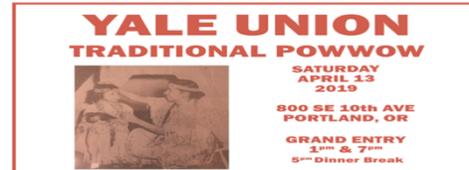
Linden Tree Mosaic: The Czech School of Portland organized with the Czech community to create a placemaking community project for the Czech minority in Portland. The final project is a glass mosaic mural of the Czech national tree that is installed at the Brentwood Darlington Community Center. The project involved Czech elders and has created a sense of belonging and awareness for the Czech families living in Southeast Portland.



Taller de Formacion Política (Political Training Workshop): Yankuik Horizontal was awarded a grant to host a three day political training workshop in Spanish for community members. This course educated community members on the democratic government system in the US and was designed to provide basic tools to build leadership and participation within the public decision making process. Click on the video below for SE Uplift's debut on Univision as the workshop instructor promotes the training.



SKY Hopinka: Yale Union presented a new project titled SKY HOPINKA: A Traditional Powwow, coordinated by a team of experienced Powwow organizers. The Powwow uplifted native voices and allowed community members to experience Native American Culture without cultural appropriation.



Benson High School Geometry Program: In 2018, Benson High School was awarded a grant for their Benson Polytechnic High School Tech Geometry Class which teaches applied geometry through community building projects. Students used their geometry knowledge to build outdoor seating and a stage for Portland Mercado. The project connected Benson students with their community and enhanced Portland

Mercado's ability to serve as a central community gathering hub in Southeast Portland. This project was celebrated at a party at Portland Mercado on June 10th.



3. Houseless Advocacy

SE Uplift staff engaged in a variety of ways to provide resources to the community related to the housing crisis and the humanitarian crisis of houselessness.

Point in Time Count: In January, SE Uplift staff participated in the Point-in-Time count of unhoused community members in Portland. This count is conducted by over 100 volunteers conducting surveys of unhoused individuals and provides a snapshot of the individuals and families experiencing houselessness in our community. The data collected ensures our eligibility from federal and state agencies so that the City of Portland, Multnomah County and community organizations can continue providing services to unhoused neighbors. SE Uplift staff conducted surveys at the Main Library, Midland Library, Ecumenical Ministries and St. Francis Church. We shared our involvement with important effort in our newsletter:

<http://www.seuplift.org/?newsletter=se-uplift-supports-point-in-time-count>.

Doers Gathering: A SE Uplift staff member worked with the six other coalition offices, Office of Community and Civic life and the University of Oregon Agora School of Journalism to host the Doers Gathering. This event brought together organizations and individuals who contribute to community driven solutions to addressing Portland's housing crisis. Ten "doers" or organizations actively engaging in working with the unhoused community were highlighted and two of them were selected for grants based on a community vote. The event included small group sessions, and 3 of the 10 break-out sessions were facilitated by SE Uplift staff members. Cascadia Clusters, Rahab's Sisters, Sunnyside Community House and Right to Survive were recruited by SE Uplift to be presenting members at the gathering. We furthered raised community awareness of these incredible organizations in our newsletter:

<http://www.seuplift.org/?newsletter=the-doers-gathering>

SE Uplift staff further addressed resources for individuals who are unsheltered, and raised awareness of community efforts to address the houseless crisis in newsletter articles featuring nonprofit partners Community Alliance of Tenants, Rahab's Sisters, and Agape Village. Follow the links to access these articles:

<http://www.seuplift.org/?newsletter=supporting-agape-village>

<http://www.seuplift.org/?newsletter=community-alliance-of-tenants-cat>

<http://www.seuplift.org/?newsletter=se-portraits-rahabs-sisters>

4. Social Justice Trainings

To aid the community in improving skills around inclusion, to promote understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion, and to provide resources for individuals and groups with different levels of awareness of power and privilege and systems of oppression, SEUL hosted numerous free workshops from January through June.

Conversation Projects hosted by SE Uplift and facilitated by Oregon Humanities included:

"Beyond Invitation: How do we create Inclusive Communities?"

"Why DIY? Self-Sufficiency & American Life"

"Can We Get Along? Examining our Personal Experiences of Connection & Community"

"Everyone Can Be A Leader: Exploring Non-Traditional Community Leadership"

"Race & Adoption"

We held workshops with professional trainers such as "Conflict Resolution & Empathy Training," "Anti-Bullying Training" and "Disability Justice." For Pride month we hosted a showing of a gay cult classic comedy. A series of four trainings for the SE Uplift board of directors were provided by Momentum Alliance to build understanding of racial and social issues. Additionally, SEUL hired Cliff Jones to facilitate the newly formed SEUL DEI Leadership Team.

We offered the following newsletter articles to the community to educate on a variety of issues including women's rights and to promote local social justice organizations.

<http://www.seuplift.org/?newsletter=international-womens-day-is-friday-march-8th>

<http://www.seuplift.org/?newsletter=portland-meet-portland>

<http://www.seuplift.org/?newsletter=breaking-bread-breaking-cycles>

<http://www.seuplift.org/?newsletter=portland-launches-booksnotbarsor-campaign-a-new-initiative-to-halt-pipeline-to-prison>

<http://www.seuplift.org/?newsletter=voz-workers-rights>

SEUL also provided building space to host a variety of social justice workshops held by partners in our small grants program, such as several PDX Through a Latinx Lens workshops and the Taller de Formacion Politica.

5. Land Use and Transportation Program

Monthly meetings with educational speakers are planned by SEUL staff to increase the ability of local people to take positive action in their communities related to land use and transportation issues. These monthly events draw approximately 30 people--chairs of neighborhood association land use committees and others wanting to better understand the many development changes happening in our area.

Land Use and Transportation Committee focuses on building community capacity to engage in Oregon's 2019 Legislative Session

SE Uplift's Land Use and Transportation Committee (LUTC) continues to meet monthly

and engage all 20 neighborhoods in this opportunity to learn and discuss relevant land use and transportation issues in Southeast and citywide.



The focus of the last 6 months at the LUTC has been to build community capacity and leadership for statewide land use and transportation advocacy during the 2019 state legislative session. The Neighborhood Planning Program Manager strategically leveraged the 2019 session to highlight and share local advocacy efforts, share structural and process information about how the legislature works and why it matters, and introduce new community partners such as the Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT), The Street Trust, and The 82nd Avenue Coalition.

We continue to maintain a strong partnership with the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Bureau of Development Services, and Portland Bureau of Transportation by partnering to share information on current plans and issues: Better Housing By Design, Design Overlay Zone Amendments, Pedestrian Master Plan, Neighborhood Contact Code Update and more.

Meetings continue to be supplemented with one on one mentorship of neighborhood land use representatives, written articles, and updates on current projects, important community events, and training opportunities. Click on the following newsletter articles for more information:

<http://www.seuplift.org/?newsletter=oregons-legislature-is-in-session>

<http://www.seuplift.org/?newsletter=community-advocacy-highlights-whats-happening-in-southeast>

<http://www.seuplift.org/?newsletter=oregon-2019-legislative-update>

Over the last 6 months, the LUTC has been able to maintain a monthly average attendance of 25 people and have over 50 percent of our 20 neighborhoods in attendance, thus able to share relevant information back to their community.

Housing Justice/ Single Family Zones Training

In June 2019, the Land Use and Transportation Committee launched a 3-part Learning and Discussion Series on Single-Family Zones. This session has been a long time coming and a lot of thought and foundation laying has gone into it. The Neighborhood Planning Program Manager recognizes that the housing crisis is in everyone's sight and on our minds. There are a number of funding and policy efforts the City of Portland, region, and state have done to address this issue.

Most recently, with the Residential Infill Project (RIP) and statewide House Bill 2001 generating state and national attention, we felt compelled to weigh in on the conversation in a productive way. We created a forum to discuss these policy proposals in a safe and productive way that looks at more than just current policy proposals, but also gives context into the current situation and a less know history of our zoning system and policy. The first session launched June 2019 with an overview of the history presented by the Fair Housing Council of Oregon. More updates to come next reporting period!



Land Use Presentations on Community Resiliency

The Neighborhood Planning Program Manager conducted two community presentations on SE Uplift and community resiliency over the last six months. The topic of community resiliency is becoming a more relevant focal issue in land use planning as community concern grows in the areas of emergency preparedness and climate change. Requests from Professor Thuy Tu at the University of Oregon's Portland Campus and Portland Community

College SE Campus's Safety Committee resulted in two tailored presentations that outlined how SE Uplift directly and indirectly builds and supports community resiliency via its mission and programming. The invitations also resulted in new and stronger community connections and partnerships. For example, a member of the PCC Safety Committee is soon to join the SE Uplift board of directors, contributing to community partnerships, connections, and resiliency.

Community Advocacy Efforts

Over the last six months grassroots advocacy has been exploding in the SE Uplift coalition area powered primarily by dedicated volunteers and a little guidance and support from SE Uplift's Neighborhood Planning Program. SE Uplift neighborhood volunteers, turned local advocates, have been joining together to make streets safer for walking and biking, transit more accessible, and the air cleaner for all Portlanders.

SE Uplift Neighborhood Land use & Transportation Advocacy Efforts

Our neighbors have been busy! Collecting data and information - building support through neighbor outreach and partnerships - advocating for funding, policy change, and more to make our SE neighborhoods safer and healthier places to walk, bike, take transit, and thrive.

These groups could use additional support from interested volunteers. If interested, connect with SE Uplift's Leah Fisher today!

Passionate about an issue in your neighborhood? Connect with Leah Fisher to learn where to start.

Inner Powell Alliance (IPA):

- ✓ Focused on safe streets, improved walkability and connectivity along and across Powell Blvd.
- ✓ Supports jurisdictional transfer of Inner Powell Blvd to local control. Support for HB 2846.
- ✓ Improve economic vitality and air quality on and surrounding Powell.

Portland Neighbors for Diesel Action (PNDA):

- ✓ Focused on improved air quality, by reducing diesel emissions, particularly surrounding the Brooklyn Rail Yards.
- ✓ Supports HB 2007, The Diesel Bill
- ✓ Partnering with OPAL, Neighbors for Clean Air, Oregon Just Transition Alliance Clean Air Oregon, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and more.

Main Street Design Initiative:

- ✓ Focused on accommodating new development and higher density through quality design and honoring the community's vision.

82nd Avenue Coalition

- ✓ Focused on safe streets, improved connectivity & walkability for 82nd
- ✓ Supports HB 2846 - jurisdictional transfer of all appropriate ODOT highways to local control.
- ✓ Supports Vision Zero strategies and goals.

SouthEast In Active Motion (SEAM)

- ✓ Focused on safe streets and improved connectivity in the SEAM area via walking, biking, transit, and street improvements.
- ✓ Supports City and County health and climate goals.
- ✓ Unites SEAM neighborhoods in collective advocacy.
- ✓ Supports preventing displacement as unintended result of infrastructure improvements.

Portland Neighbors for Diesel Action (PNDA), spearheaded by the Brooklyn Neighborhood, is a local air quality group that after focusing on community awareness and a major educational forum, turned their sights on statewide diesel emission policy. They were the local advocacy behind the statewide diesel bill, HB2007 which directs the Environmental Quality Commission to adopt diesel engine emission standards for medium-duty trucks and heavy-duty trucks.

Southeast in Active Motion (SEAM) is a newly formed coalition of neighborhoods, organizations, and individuals, led by Brentwood-Darlington, that are working to rectify the long-standing transportation inequities of Mid-Southeast Portland. Driven by their mission to advocate for active transportation and infrastructure improvements in historically underserved and diverse Mid-Southeast Portland neighborhoods, they have spent their time getting neighborhoods to sign onto the group, met with PBOT officials, connected with their legislative representatives, and garnered support from BPS. The group supported BPS in a Transportation Growth Management (TGM) grant that could fund a much needed transportation area plan.



The 82nd Avenue Coalition is a longer-standing group of neighbors from Montavilla and East Portland who are focused on making 82nd Avenue less of a barrier and instead an asset to the community, connecting neighbors, businesses, and people to each other and other key

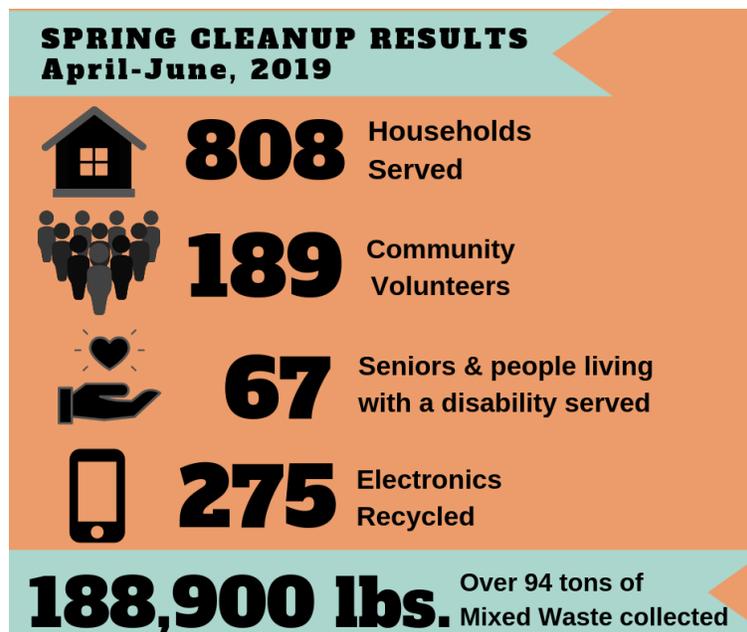
destinations in the city. Their efforts focused on House Bill 2846 and jurisdictional transfer of this roadway to allow for greater pedestrian, transit, and safety enhancements.

All the groups are making change happen by sharing information, creating collaborations, and conducting strategic advocacy with key decision-makers at all levels – state, region, and locally. SE Uplift has been there to make connections, advise on the process, answer questions, and provide other technical assistance. SE Uplift has identified these local grassroots efforts to support because they are areas within the coalition that have been historically underserved and we believe they can make a difference for their community and for neighbors who do not have the capacity to do this important work.

6. Community Clean Up Program

The Community Clean Up Program (CCE) is a partnership between district coalitions, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, and Metro. Eleven SEUL coalition area neighborhoods hosted clean-up events and two alternative waste collection events during this reporting period. This spring, the community clean-up events served approximately 808 households including 67 seniors and people with disabilities, and they involved 189 volunteers.

Over 94 tons (188, 900 lbs.) of garbage and debris were removed from neighborhood streets and households through volunteer coordinated efforts in Buckman, Brentwood-Darlington, Kerns, Laurelhurst, Mt. Tabor, North Tabor, Richmond, Sellwood-Moreland (SMILE), Brooklyn, Foster-Powell and Mt. Scott-Arleta neighborhoods.



This year also included Paint the Town Green, a multi-neighborhood litter and graffiti pickup and Tiny Villages: Electronic Recycling events. SE Uplift coordinated Tiny Villages: Electronic Recycling as an opportunity to hear stories and learn about lived experiences with displacement in communities of color while working to develop strategies around recycling and proper disposal of waste. Metro provided green cleaning kits to give to community, Mud Bone Grown gave out seeds and plant starts, Beyond Black gave an overview of issues in East county and Right 2 Survive created a presentation about tiny house village solutions to clean up areas experiencing constant transition. At this event, we collected 25 electronics, gave out 10 green cleaning kits and explored new ways to protect our communities of both housed and unhoused in East Portland.



7. Fiscal Sponsorship Program

Fiscal Sponsorship Program: SE Uplift currently provides fiscal sponsorship service to 15 neighborhoods and 3 community groups with approximately 55 distinct projects throughout the year. Projects range from enormous community picnics for National Night Out to street painting to community gardens. With several recent “graduates” from fiscal sponsorship who have become their own 501(c)3 organizations, we are proud to have opened the door for new sponsorees, and we are very excited to be working with the following newly accepted projects:

Constructing the Present LLC: This organization has two major projects that will be completed by the end of this year: gentrification healing circles, and community forums titled ‘Connecting Across Difference’. These projects are the recent recipients of the Oregon Humanities Facilitation grant. The mission is to have community centered discussions that offer resources to people of color especially in response to gentrification throughout Portland.

Portland United Against Hate: PUAH is a coalition of 70 community-based organizations, neighborhood groups, and the City of Portland's Office of Community & Civic Life addressing hate incidents that occur in Portland. As the coalition plans for functioning independent of the City of Portland beginning July 1, 2019, the required a fiscal sponsor. PUAH’s mission is “to track, respond to, and prevent acts of hate while providing the support that our communities need.” This coalition will be the biggest project that SEUL will be supporting, which makes it an exciting addition to the program. Our partnership will redefine and improve the way that we run the program for all present and future projects.

Sankofa Collective NW: Sankofa is an organization that is led and for Portland’s Black LGBTQ community. They will provide a variety of projects including membership support, Portland Black

Pride, faith outreach, advocacy, youth outreach, and mini-grants. Their mission is to “bring together our communities so that people living at the intersections of these important identities are free to be their full selves.” They will be our second biggest project that is striving for their own 501(c)(3) status in the near future. Our priority will be to facilitate and partner with them to make that transition.

8. Neighborhood Association Election Season and Other Supports

SE Uplift staff support the city-wide Neighborhood Association System through allocating staff time to each of the 20 neighborhood associations in our coalition area. Each neighborhood association has a staff assigned as their liaison who is available to provide a variety of supports. SE Uplift earmarks funds from our City grant to reimburse neighborhoods for designated amounts of outreach and communication. May and June are the months when a majority of NA elections occur. SEUL supported the neighborhood elections for most of the 18 neighborhoods holding elections this time of year, including tallying ballots for Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association, which had 300+ voters. Approximately 1000 neighborhood association members voted in 18 elections this election season. A training for new neighborhood association board members was held in June. SEUL provides extensive and much-used insurance coverage for all 20 neighborhood associations board of directors and their events.

9. Board of Directors Advocacy

The SE Uplift Board of Directors wrote a formal letters of advocacy related to the 2020 Metro Bond during this reporting period. An up-to-date record of letters of support and advocacy can be found on [the Board of Director’s Advocacy page on the SEUL website](#). The SEUL Board also supported a feasibility study to examine possible relocation of the Albina and Brooklyn Railyards.

10. Community Use of the SEUL Building and Meeting Space

SE Uplift has community meeting space that is made available to community members at little to no cost and we strive to invite folks of all identities to utilize this resource. We host a wide variety of groups in a safe, affordable, and inclusive space which contributes to the great work these community partners are able to engage in.

Some of our partners from January-June 2019

SPOON Foundation: SPOON has worked in 15 countries since 2007, using tools specifically designed to accommodate the unique nutrition and feeding needs of children impacted by disability and/or institutional care. Having expanded on early successes in Kazakhstan, which resulted in national changes in nutrition standards and diet, SPOON’s impact spans Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and the United States

Write Around Portland: Write Around Portland provides high-quality, participant-centered, creative writing workshops. Most of our workshops run for ten weeks, two hours per week

Breathe Oregon: Breathe Oregon is a news aggregation site, the one place you can turn to learn of all the latest issues relating to these new activists, the polluters they challenge and the elected officials and regulators that are rising to the occasion.

Portland Underground Grad School

NAMI Multnomah: NAMI Multnomah is the Multnomah County affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and one of 1,100 nationwide affiliates. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals and families with mental illness through education, support and advocacy.

Jewish Voices for Peace

OSU Beekeepers Class

FORTH Mobility: Work to advance electric, smart, and share mobility.

Sunnyside NET Team

Americans United for Palestinian Peace

The Better Angels: A BIPARTISAN CITIZENS MOVEMENT WORKING TO UNIFY OUR DIVIDED NATION - We hold workshops, debates and public presentations designed to bridge the polarizing political divide we have in this country

PDX Alliance for Self-Care: PDX Alliance for Self-Care (PDX ASC) connects marginalized and vulnerable communities with self-care resources, practitioners, education, events, and advocacy.

Rose City Rollers Roller Derby Board of Directors

Portland Meet Portland: Portland Meet Portland welcomes and befriends immigrants and refugees, engaging diverse cultures. We enrich the broader community through mutually beneficial mentoring opportunities and dialogue that promotes cross-cultural learning, enhances professional development, and builds trust.

Rafael House

And of course, numerous activities were hosted by our building partners Disability Art and Culture Project, The Portland Refugee Support Group, and Oregon Prison Project.

11. Links with City Bureaus

In addition to the historic links between SEUL and several city bureaus referenced in our Land Use and Transportation Program and Community Clean Up Events Program, SEUL demonstrated other partnerships with city bureaus during this reporting period. SEUL staff served on two committees related to the Office of Community and Civic Life: the Bureau Advisory Committee (BAC) was an application process this year and a SEUL staff member was

selected to serve, and a committee was appointed by Commissioner Eudaly after City Council passed a resolution to update City Code 3.96, which included the SEUL executive director.

SEUL also partnered with Civic Life's Crime Prevention office to hold a Public Safety 101 Training in a new project. Lastly, when Bureau of Environmental Services and the Water Bureau assessed that there was no representation from SE Portland on the Portland Utility Board (PUB), SEUL identified and referred 3 SE Portland residents to apply for this board.

12. Other Notable Activities and Outreach



SE Uplift participated in the Juneteenth Parade and Juneteenth Celebration for the first time.



We were a guest at Race Talks to talk about the many ways people civically engage.

We sponsored a Pedalpalooza Event called Gathering on the Greenways.



SE Uplift was a sponsor of the Voz Worker's Rights Fundraiser/Gala

We celebrated the one-year anniversary of our new mission statement.

Our cob benches were repaired as part of the Village Building Convergence.

SEUL staff supported cross-issue organizing through attending, tabling, or participating in the following events: Sunday Parkways, MLK Jr Breakfast, APANO Gala, Portland Mercado Cinco de Mayo, Portland Mercado 4 year anniversary, Street Trust Gala, Trans Day of Visibility, City Council Proclamation for Black History Month, DACP Leadership Cohort Graduation, and the YWCA Annual Gala, among others.

