



DEI Committee
September 26, 2024
Via Zoom

Meeting Notes

Attending:

Elena Amaya – Hoyt Arboretum Friends (HAF)
Nina Avila – Hoyt Arboretum Friends (HAF)
Meghan McCloskey – Explore Washington Park (EWP)
Chirona Silverstein – EWP
Hallie Wilkerson – EWP

DEI Partner Updates:

HAF-

- Field trip season, focusing on relationships with Title 1 Schools
- Piloting multiple visits with 1st, 2nd, & 7th grade children
- Implementing new strategies for Spanish translations
- Develop and train educators to feel better equipped to talk to the field trip groups
- STEM equity training
 - STEM Equity Ally: Meet Me at the Intersection of Power and Privilege
- Increase in attendance rates at events focused on community partners
 - Family Forest Day

EWP-

RTO Program

- 6100 TriMet passes distributed
- Connected with many community partners through tabling events, local advertising, media ads, and postcards in partnership with PPR
- RTO Hub has 5.8k visits

- Creation of Spanish video in partnership with ViveNW
 - Located on RTO website

EWP received preliminary data from TriMet regarding the program, which indicated that 28% of the passes were used, with 8% being scanned at Washington Park. It is important to note that many passes were given to community partners, that may have not been handed out to individuals yet.

This program is funded by a 2-year grant through Metro RTO and ends at the end of next fiscal year with an opportunity to renew a third year. EWP has been in discussion with Metro regarding a long-term partnership.

DEI Shuttle Pilot

An outline was provided prior to this meeting regarding EWP's DEI Shuttle Program. The discussion is opened for feedback and concerns regarding the outline.

HAF does not support the current name of the program as it feels politically incorrect. Considering the mission of the project may help steer the name in a different direction. Otherwise, HAF feels positive about the outline and program. There are many questions regarding timeline of the tours and how the venues will be involved and collaborated with.

EWP is open to discussing a name change that can be brought back to the DEI Committee once more members are present. It is important for it to be differentiated from the Washington Park Free Shuttle.

This program has been piloted with ViveNW where the group had a full day in the Park and visited multiple sites. Unfortunately, the group did not have enough time for Hoyt Arboretum, and they are scheduled to return in December for this opportunity. However, the goal of this program is to shift towards providing transportation to and from the Park for a specific program/event occurring at the venues.

EWP is currently looking into grant opportunities to help fund this effort. For the current fiscal year, there is \$10,000 for this program and the process of allocating these funds to the venues remains undecided. This discussion will be brought back to the group once more committee members are present.

HAF would like to stay in communication regarding this effort. Many of their field trip groups receive surveys/feedback forms after visiting the Arboretum and these resources can be shared with EWP to help build this program.

The group revisits the topic of the what the shuttle should be named. The “Washington Park Community Connector” will move forward at this time and feedback will be collected by the other venues to make adjustments if needed. EWP may utilize emails for feedback between now and the next committee meeting, which will include a holiday get together, and a formal meeting in January 2025.