



**Camp Odyssey**  
**'An Experiential Journey Transforming Youth into Emerging Leaders'**

**Declaration of Cooperation**  
**March, 2012**

**Background**

In Portland, Oregon in 1988, Mulugeta Seraw, a 28 yr. old Ethiopian Portland State University student, was murdered by a gang of skinheads. Portland, and indeed the State of Oregon, was forced to examine itself and the culture that created a community where this type of act could occur.

In response, a group of community leaders from the state's American Leadership Forum (ALF) Class III initiated an experimental week long youth camp, creating a safe place for participants to struggle with, understand, and respect differences. Camp Odyssey, originally planned for only three years, instead ran for twelve, serving over 1000 youth (and adults) from every ethnic, socioeconomic and geographical background in the Pacific Northwest. While partly informative, Camp Odyssey participants explored their own biases, addressed society's 'isms', and experienced the painful impact of oppression. Faced with many challenges and unable to sustain itself independently, the twelfth Camp Odyssey brought the journey to a halt.

In 2010 a group of former campers, passionate in their belief that the transformative experience that Camp Odyssey was for them has a place in the lives of youth today, decided the dream was still worth pursuing. That vision and promise of Camp Odyssey is to:

- Create a safe place for honesty and shared experiences
- Open courageous conversations on social justice issues
- Develop allies, networks and partnerships
- Ensure broad and inclusive representation
- Mobilize youth's passion to advance their ideas of a just world

In December 2010, Governor Ted Kulongoski, responding to a request from The Piece and the University of Oregon School of Law focused on the ongoing racial disparities in health care, education, and the juvenile justice system, and the increase of hate crimes from 2006-2009, designated Camp Odyssey as an Oregon Solutions project. He appointed former State Senator Margaret Carter and Tom Fuller of Shiels Oblatz Johnson, Inc., as co-conveners to carry the project forward. Current Governor John Kitzhaber affirmed his support of the value of Camp Odyssey in Oregon, and has continued the designation of Camp Odyssey as an Oregon Solutions Project.

## Camp Odyssey Oregon Solutions Team

The purpose of the Oregon Solutions team was to develop a governance structure to ensure the long term sustainability of Camp Odyssey. To this end, the Oregon Solutions team sought to achieve the following objectives:

- Secure a stable, permanent venue for the camp that provides a safe, conducive environment that would be supportive of the work and goals of Camp Odyssey
- Create a system of youth recruitment that would ensure camper enrollment to meet the demographic targets and diversity formula necessary for a vibrant camp
- Develop a neutrally administered evaluation system to track the impact of the Camp, its programming, and areas needed for improvement
- Development of a business plan which would detail a governance model for board recruitment and development, financial stability and infrastructure to sustain the camp over time

The Oregon Solutions team includes members of the Camp Odyssey Board of Directors, Senior and current ALF leaders, youth leaders from camp XIII, and other key stakeholders. The full roster and biographies of Camp Odyssey Oregon Solutions Team members is attached as Appendix A. Funding for Oregon Solutions project management was provided by; NW Health Foundation, US Bank and United Way/Janus.

The kick off meeting for the Oregon Solutions team was held in June 2011. The entire group met 6 times over the next 10 months with subcommittees devoting extensive work in between meetings to accomplish targeted objectives. Those committees were: venue, outreach and recruitment, program evaluation, and business plan development. The business plan that was developed incorporates the products of each of the other sub-committees and is attached as Appendix B.

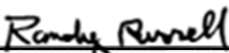
In addition to the commitments made in this Declaration of Cooperation, team members spent many hours sharing information and building relationships with key stakeholders and partners.

**This Declaration of Cooperation, while not a binding legal contract, is evidence to and a statement of the good faith and commitment of the undersigned parties. The undersigned parties to this Declaration of Cooperation have, through a collaborative process, agreed and pledged their cooperation to the following findings and actions:**

### Camp Odyssey Project Commitments:

#### Venue:

Oregon State University and the 4-H Center is committed to host Camp Odyssey during the summer of 2012. They are committed to continue exploring serving as an on-going, stable venue for camp odyssey.


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Russell, Site Manager

#### Financial pledges from organizations and individuals:

Linh Ngo, The Piece Board of Directors Co-Chair and Odyssey alumni, pledges \$500 annually to The Piece (dba as "Camp Odyssey") for three years (2012, 2013 and 2014) conditioned upon successfully securing a camp venue on an annual basis.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linh Ngo

Kellie Holloway, The Piece Board Secretary and Odyssey alumni, pledges at least \$300 annually to The Piece (dba as "Camp Odyssey") for three years (2012, 2013 and 2014) conditioned upon successfully securing a camp venue on an annual basis.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kellie Holloway


Amirah Said, Board Member & Regional Youth Coordinator, and Odyssey alumni, pledges \$30, and volunteered time as board member, youth leader coordinator, year-round program assistant, and staff member, annually to The Piece (dba as "Camp Odyssey") for two years (2012 and 2013) conditioned upon successfully securing a camp venue on an annual basis.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amirah Said

Gloria Gostnell, Camp Odyssey Advisory Council member and ALF class III alum, pledges \$500 annually to The Piece (dba as "Camp Odyssey") for three years (2012, 2013 and 2014) conditioned upon successfully securing a camp venue on an annual basis.

*Gloria Gostnell* (GG)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria Gostnell

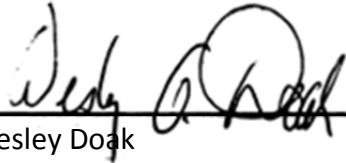
Dennis Morrow, Camp Odyssey Advisory Council member and ALF class III alum, pledges \$100 annually to The Piece (dba as "Camp Odyssey") for three years (2012, 2013 and 2014) conditioned upon successfully securing a camp venue on an annual basis.



---

Dennis Morrow

Wesley Doak, ALF class III alum, pledges \$100 annually to The Piece (dba as "Camp Odyssey") for three years (2012, 2013 and 2014) conditioned upon successfully securing a camp venue on an annual basis.



---

Wesley Doak

William Raw, Co-Chair of the Board of Directors for The Piece, pledges \$200 per year for 3 years to Camp Odyssey and commits to serving on Board of Directors of The Piece for a period of 3 years (2012, 2013, 2014).



---

William Raw

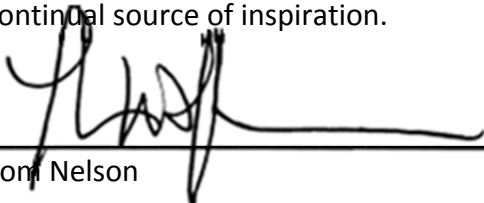
Doug Honma, Treasurer of The Piece, commits to contribute to The Piece, in the amount of \$1,000 over the next 3 years, beginning in 2012. He also commits to continue to serve as the organization's Treasurer through 2014, pending reelection by the Board of Directors. This contribution is made in honor of Richard T. Honma, whose encouragement to pursue one's passions and understanding of how injustice reaches beyond its direct victims has motivated his son towards a path of public and community service.



---

Doug Honma


Tom Nelson, Camp Odyssey Advisory Council member and ALF class III alum, commits to contribute to The Piece, in the amount of \$500.00 per year for 3 years, beginning in 2012, contingent on the operation of the Camp in that year. This contribution is made in honor of Tom's parents, whose lifelong courage in standing up for victims of oppression provides a continual source of inspiration.



---

Tom Nelson

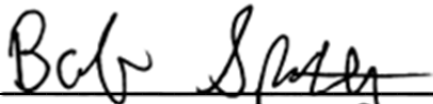
Nicole July Potter, Programming Chair of The Piece, commits to contribute to The Piece, in the amount of \$300 per year for the next 3 years, beginning in 2012 and contingent on Camp operating each year. She also commits to continue to serve as the organization's Programming Chair through 2014, pending reappointment by the Board of Directors. Nicole's contribution is in honor of her parents, Michael and Melissa Potter, whom instilled her deep passion for social justice.



---

Nicole July Potter

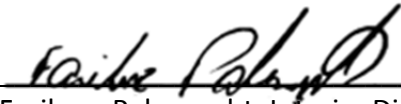
Standard Insurance Company ("The Standard") commits to contribute \$7,500.00 per year to The Piece (dba as "Camp Odyssey") for three years (starting in 2012), contingent upon successfully securing a camp venue on an annual basis. This funding is intended to provide support for five Camp Odyssey students per year.



---

Bob Speltz, Public Affairs Director

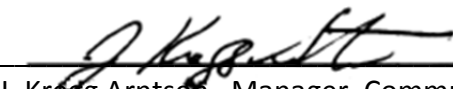
Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) commits to send up to three youth and contribute up to \$4,500.00 per year to The Piece (dba as "Camp Odyssey") for four years (starting in 2012), contingent upon successfully securing a camp venue on an annual basis.



---

Fariborz Pakseresht, Interim Director

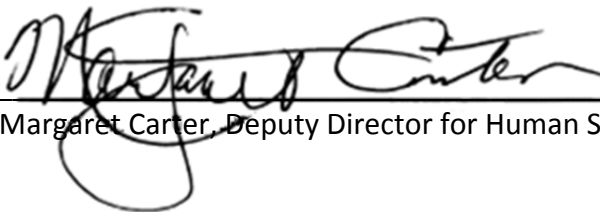
Portland General Electric agrees to provide \$3,000 to sponsor two campers for Camp Odyssey XIV provided the camp venue is in Oregon.



---

J. Kregg Arntson, Manager, Community Affairs & External Communications

The Oregon Department of Human Services working through Margaret Carter will identify three foster care youth to participate in Camp Odyssey each summer for three years. Funding at the rate of \$1500/youth will be sought each year and provided as available.



---

Margaret Carter, Deputy Director for Human Service Programs


Pacific Power agrees to provide \$3000 to sponsor two campers for Camp Odyssey XIV provided the camp venue is located within Oregon.

---

Lilisa Hall, Director, Strategic Partnership Outreach

**Recruiting and/or outreach commitments:**

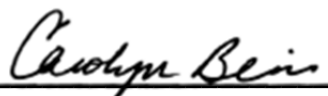
The American Leadership Forum (ALF) pledges to consider Camp Odyssey as a priority program for its leadership network outreach efforts and will provide ongoing information regarding Camp Odyssey to ALF senior fellows to solicit resources, contacts, and linkages for the next five years. The ALF Service Opportunities committee commits to serving as the conduit to the ALF network for Camp Odyssey staff/board.

 CHAIR ALF

---

Robin Teater, Executive Director

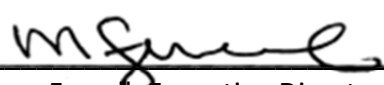
Oregon Mentors will commit to raise awareness about Camp Odyssey with youth men and women through Oregon Mentors' statewide network of 90 mentoring programs for three years. Should Camp Odyssey decide to develop an electronic mentoring program for alumni, Oregon Mentors will provide access to the latest research on electronic mentoring and technical assistance.



---

Carolyn Becic, Executive Director

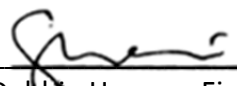
Maslow Project is committed to doing outreach to the youth in our local program as well as youth in Southern Oregon on behalf of Camp Odyssey, in an effort to get at least 2-3 youth from Southern Oregon to attend camp. Maslow Project also commits to loaning one of our junior employees, trained to work with a diverse population of youth, as a camp staff person this summer for one session, contingent upon that person's application and availability for Camp Odyssey.



---

Mary Ferrell, Executive Director

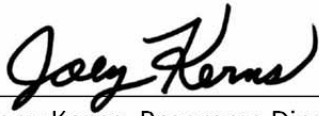
Debbie Hansen, Field Supervisor at Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) will sit on the marketing and Outreach committee for Camp Odyssey for three years (2012, 2013, 2014).



---

Debbie Hansen, Field Supervisor

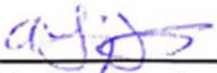
Joey Kerns, Programs Director of Equity Foundation will help to market the Camp Odyssey opportunity with the Foundation's LGBTQ youth and their youth organizations network.



---

Joey Kerns, Programs Director

Adrienne Livingston, Executive Director with the Black United Fund of Oregon will help to market the Camp Odyssey opportunity with the Foundation's minority youth and their youth organizations network.



---

Adrienne Livingston, Exec. Director

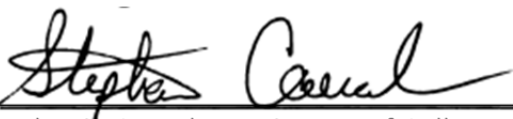
The Medford School District (MSD) commits to work with Camp Odyssey to further Odyssey's vision to create a just and equitable society, where individuals are respected as human beings, and where we can all live without fear. MSD specifically commits to work directly with Camp Odyssey to recruit campers from Medford schools and will work in conjunction with Camp Odyssey to recruit campers from other schools in the region.



---

Brad L. Earl, Chief Financial Officer

GEAR UP commits to work with Camp Odyssey to identify appropriate students from their rural based schools to participate in Camp Odyssey each summer for the next three years. GEAR UP will work with Camp Odyssey staff to determine the number of students to participant and the funding mechanism for these students.



---


Stephanie Carnahan, Director of College Access Programs, Oregon University System

The Inn Home for Boys commits to providing 1-2 staff members and up to 3 youth to Camp Odyssey, as available, per year starting in 2012. Screening and selection of youth and staff members is reserved by Camp Odyssey.

---


Jamie Nash-Sedda, Program Director

Latino Network commits to educating the youth in our programs about Camp Odyssey and sending up to three student participants in 2012.

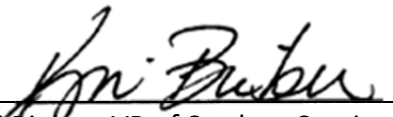
  
Andrea Márquez, Senior Manager, Family and Youth Engagement

**Education, in-kind support or other types commitments:**

Janus Youth Programs pledges to support The Piece with administrative support and technical assistance in various areas that would help this organization and its programs to develop the infrastructure necessary to be sustainable such as: financial management and accounting; grant writing and fund development; advice to the Board of Directors; program operations; and assistance connecting The Piece with community resources and potential vendors when relevant and available.

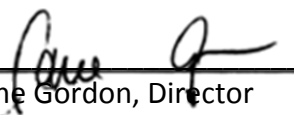
  
Dennis Morrow, Executive Director

The Oregon Leadership Institute (OLI) of Rogue Community College (RCC) commits to educating the youth in our local program about Camp Odyssey and doing outreach to the larger OLI network on behalf of Camp Odyssey. The program instructor of OLI RCC will participate on the Camp Odyssey curriculum feedback group and will support program logistics as time allows.\*

  
Kori Bieber, VP of Student Services  
*\* Detailed agreement between OLI & The Piece is attached*

The Appropriate Dispute Resolution program at the University of Oregon School of Law commits to the following:

- To help recruit student interns from the Conflict and Dispute Resolution Master's degree program and the Law School;
- To design and deliver conflict resolution curriculum through workshops and trainings; and
- To invite staff and youth to relevant events that occur year-round (for example, the Forgiveness workshop and special speakers and events focused on diversity).

  
Jane Gordon, Director



Metro Regional Government supports the efforts of Camp Odyssey and commits to the following:

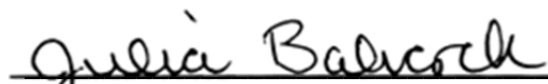
- Providing meeting space in the Metro Regional Center for The Piece, the Camp Odyssey Board of Directors, and Advisory Council.
- Provide camper reunion space at Blue Lake, Mason Hill, or Oxbow Parks, the Oregon Zoo or other Metro facilities as available.
- Provide recycled Metro paint, as available, for campers to use in volunteer projects at summer camp, or when approved, at other locations.
- Coordination with Metro’s Diversity Manager to share recent and emerging knowledge in areas of mutual interest.
- Consideration by Metro Leadership to serve in one or more advisory roles for The Piece, the Camp Odyssey Board of Directors, or Advisory Council.
- Access to Metro’s environmental educators for consultation on issues related to environmental education, sustainability or appreciating and understanding natural areas.
- Access to Metro’s volunteer coordination if Camp Odyssey officials desire a volunteer event to organize and inspire campers, their families or friends.



---


Paul Slyman, Director, Parks and Environmental Services

For program evaluation, Julia Babcock (on behalf of NPCC) and Shannon Myrick (on behalf of OYA) will work with Camp Odyssey for a period of three years to continue to build and refine the current program evaluation process. Primary goals for this three year commitment are to (1) evaluate the programming (2) provide technical assistance in the use of the evaluation findings and (3) identify an appropriate academic researcher partner that shares the philosophy of Camp Odyssey and engages in respectful and inclusive research.



---

Julia Babcock, NPCC



---

Shannon Myrick, OYA


Oregon Solutions commits to reconvening the project team in approximately 9 months from the Declaration of Cooperation signing ceremony. The reconvening is an opportunity to check in on implementation of all commitments and to provide the team an opportunity to review the team goals (if/as needed).



---

Jim Johnson, Acting Director

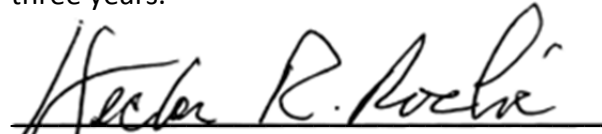
The Multicultural Center (MCC) at Portland State University reaffirms its recognition of Camp Odyssey as a community partner, and will work collaboratively with the latter to support its programmatic and other needs.



---

John Joiner, Coordinator


Hector Roche, Namaste: Organization Transformation, will provide consultation and facilitation services for The Piece related to Board Development, strategic planning, and team building for three years.



---

Hector Roche

United Way will continue to support Camp Odyssey's work by providing volunteers and financial sponsorships as available; promoting their youth development diversity and inclusion work; and providing a venue free of charge for their year-round gatherings in Portland.



---

Maria Rubio, Vice President - Strategic Programs