



Oregon Solutions – Humboldt School Declaration of Cooperation February 2009

Project Sponsors: Portland Public Schools, City of Portland – (Schools Family Housing Initiative) and Bureau of Planning, Portland Development Commission, Housing Authority of Portland

Project Conveners: Representative Chip Shields and Lorenzo Poe

Preface

The Humboldt neighborhood is located in inner North Portland, generally bounded on the west by Interstate 5, on the north by Ainsworth Street, on the east by Rodney Avenue and on the south by Skidmore Street. In 2000 over 6,500 people occupied 2,500 households, with 27% of population under 18. Humboldt School is a pre-K through 8th grade school located in the neighborhood that has lost significant enrollment in recent years. Only 44% of the eligible students in Humboldt neighborhood attend Humboldt School.

Humboldt has a dedicated staff, strong leadership, and committed community partners that support its educational and outreach efforts. Humboldt was selected by the State of Oregon and the Reading First Center as a Beacon School because of success in the K–3 reading program. The school has numerous partnerships and programs to serve its students. The Humboldt staff is committed to moving students forward with an approach that is based on four principles: rigorous, relentless, relevant, and relationships.

The City of Portland, including Mayor Potter’s Office, the staff of the Schools Family Housing Initiative, and the Bureau of Planning, along with Portland Development Commission, Housing Authority of Portland, and Portland Public Schools realized the importance of working together in the Humboldt neighborhood to ensure that investments in housing, community development, and education are coordinated, creative, and positive for the neighborhood and the school. March 28, 2008, Governor Kulongoski designated this effort as an Oregon Solutions project in order to strengthen the ties between schools, communities and families in a way that will benefit students and the neighborhood. He appointed Representative Chip Shields and Lorenzo Poe as the co-conveners of the project, to connect and strengthen the efforts of many diverse entities working in the Humboldt neighborhood.

The mission of Oregon Solutions is to develop sustainable solutions to community based problems or opportunities that support economic, environmental, and community objectives through partnerships between government, business, non-profit and civic organizations. Oregon Solutions utilizes a collaborative approach to develop integrated, community-based solutions, bringing all stakeholders to the table, including permitting agencies, funders, and organizations offering technical assistance. This approach has

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helped to leverage investments, expedite the project, break through barriers, identify valuable partners, and elevate the visibility of the project. The final step of the Oregon Solutions process is for all partners to sign a Declaration of Cooperation or agreement that commits their time and/or resources to the project. The agreement becomes the mechanism of governance for the project.

Project Description

The Oregon Solutions project team agreed on taking steps toward ensuring Humboldt School as a “center of the community”. The team chose to explore ways to offer more recreational and learning opportunities for the students of Humboldt School and for the community by improving school property while increasing the safety of the children. The project team would focus its energy on three areas of priority including: building and programming for a Learning Garden; improving the playground and adjacent property for recreation; and increasing the capture rate within the Humboldt neighborhood by first surveying the residents to better understand the neighborhood’s relationship to the school and how the residents make decisions about where to send their children to school. The school staff also identified some technology needs for the school.

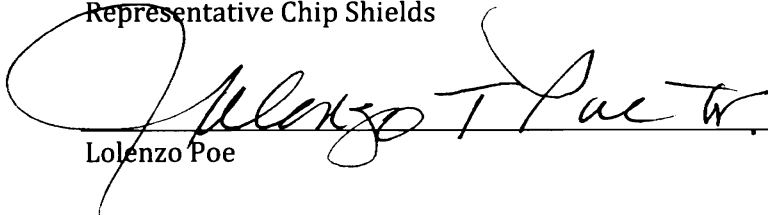
Background materials for the team include: *Humboldt Housing Infill Study: Opportunities and Potential Impacts on Student Enrollment*, Prepared for PDC by Winterbrook Planning; the *Mary Reike Growth Plan*; and *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)* recommendations. Understanding how to improve the safety for school children was key in this process. This project will help to implement *Safer Routes to Schools*. The team is also exploring a future planning-design charette to incorporate CPTED principles.

Team members have agreed to commit resources and time to implement the project. The commitments are outlined below.

Commitments and Signatures of Contributing Team Members

Co-Conveners Representative Chip Shields and Lorenzo Poe committed to raise \$1,000 each for Humboldt School

Representative Chip Shields



Lorenzo Poe


Humboldt School

Humboldt School staff and administration will:

- Work with the subcommittee to administer a Bureau of Environmental Services grant for the Learning Garden.
- Work with LCREP to continue programming for the Learning Garden
- Work with Housing Authority of Portland on programming for the Learning Garden
- Work with partners to implement Safer Routes to School

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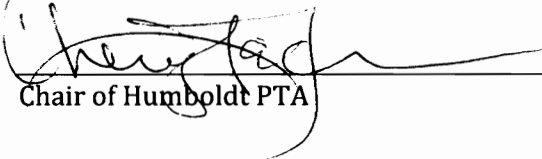
- Work with partners to administer a survey of the Humboldt Neighborhood
- Explore the opportunity to work with community partners to alter the right of way adjacent to the recreation field south of the school.


STUDENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

Jamila Williams, Principal

Humboldt PTA will:

- Will work with the Office of Neighborhood Involvement in a training on outreach and in conducting a survey the neighborhood residents about Humboldt School



Chair of Humboldt PTA

Humboldt Neighborhood Association

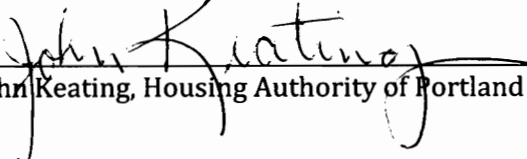
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Paul Anthony, Chair of Humboldt Neighborhood Association

Housing Authority of Portland (HAP)

Housing Authority of Portland will work with the Oregon Solutions team/subcommittee to implement the Master Plan and Learning Garden.

- HAP will provide funds to build the Learning Garden at Humboldt School, including a new fence and a sign
HAP will provide staff from Humboldt Garden for programming at the Learning Garden.
- HAP will contribute \$5,000 for playground improvements.
- HAP will administer a survey to Humboldt Gardens residents



John Keating, Housing Authority of Portland

Steve Rudman, Executive Director of Housing Authority of Portland

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City of Portland – Bureau of Environmental Services

In addition to the grants received by Humboldt School and Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, BES will provide soil testing and consultation to implement the Learning Garden.

City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

City of Portland – Office of Neighborhood Involvement

The Office of Neighborhood Involvement is very supportive of the work happening at Humboldt School. To assist in implementing the goals of the project, ONI will offer:

1. Training and support for outreach and survey to the neighborhood
2. Technical assistance in implementing CPTED safety recommendations
3. Assistance in working with the Humboldt Neighborhood Association in a joint project with the Humboldt parents
4. Support the efforts of neighborhood residents and Humboldt school to work with community partners to alter the right of way adjacent to the recreation field south of the school



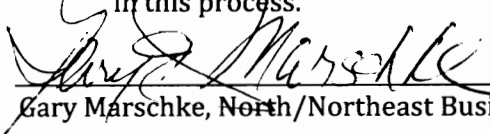
Jeri Williams, Office of Neighborhood Involvement



Celeste Carey, Office of Neighborhood Involvement

North/Northeast Business Association

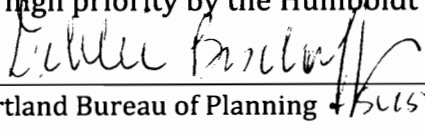
- Will convene groups of volunteers as needed to implement improvements outlined in this process.



Gary Marschke, North/Northeast Business Association

City of Portland Bureau of Planning

- Will commit to fund a \$10,000 for the Safe Routes to School traffic safety program around Humboldt School. The funds will implement improvements identified as high priority by the Humboldt staff and community.



City of Portland Bureau of Planning Sustainability

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Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership (Estuary Partnership)

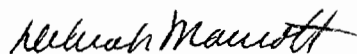
Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership will work with the Oregon Solutions team/subcommittee to implement the Humboldt Learning Garden

Building the Learning Garden

- Contract with, pay, and coordinate the services of professional Landscape Architect Michelle Mathis from Greenworks PC.
- Facilitate 2-4 school design meetings to solicit design feedback from students, teachers, and other members of the "school" community on elements they'd like to see incorporated into the design
- Develop an anticipated project timeline and budget.
- Provide a coordination link between the Landscape Architect and the Housing Authority, both in terms of design, construction specifications, and construction of the hardscape elements.
- Provide funding within our grant budget constraints for labor, construction materials, and plants.
- Help with securing permits as needed/necessary.
- Develop a maintenance plan that integrates the school, HAP and partners.
- Solicit additional project grant funding

Programming for the Learning Garden

- Provide at least three classroom lessons to participating students. Classroom lessons will project specific - and focus on stormwater, watersheds, and plants.
- Lead 10 field days with students focused on planting, trail building, grading, and other field work that can be accomplished by students. The Estuary Partnership will provide staff, lead students, provide equipment identify tasks, etc. Additional field days would be scheduled as needed.
- Promote the project on the Estuary Partnership web site, newsletters, and through press releases as appropriate.
- Work with the school to develop signage text that integrated all aspects of the Learning Garden.
- Work with students at the Learning Garden (doing maintenance, educational lessons, or other activities as appropriate) at least four times a year through the 2010-2011 school year.

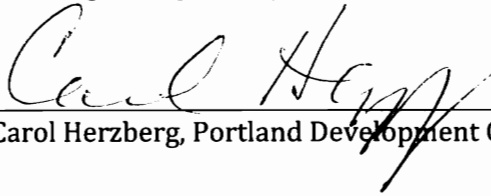


Debrah Marriott, Executive Director, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership

Portland Development Commission (PDC)

Portland Development Commission and the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area will work with the Oregon Solutions Team/subcommittee to implement safer travel connections between Humboldt School and the surrounding community.

- Will commit to fund approximately \$75,000 for the Safe Routes to School traffic safety program around Humboldt School. PDC is working with Portland Office of Transportation, Humboldt staff and the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area Transportation Subcommittee to finalize the specific improvements; the improvements will be ones identified as high priority by the Humboldt staff and community.
- Will partner with Portland Office of Transportation (PDOT) to offer additional high priority traffic safety improvements, including new signage, reduced speed zones and changes in traffic signal operations.
- Will collaborate with Portland Public Schools, Portland Parks and Recreation and the Humboldt community to investigate potential for additional recreation and green space adjacent to Humboldt School.



Carol Herzberg, Portland Development Commission

Bruce Warner -Executive Director, Portland Development Commission

Portland Public Schools

Building the Learning Garden

- Work collaboratively with Humboldt's Learning Garden Subcommittee
- Administer BES grant for soil testing
- Provide project management services, as needed, to work with other project team members for design, development, and implementation of garden project
 - Review and approve garden project in accordance with PPS Project Development procedures and PPS/City garden standards
 - Provide agreement with HAP for access by Humboldt Garden residents to the garden.
 - Provide approval consistent with PPS policy on support of garden projects on school sites
- Utilities for Garden Support
 - Locate and allow hook up to water service to the garden, primarily utilizing a cistern as a water resource, and supplementing from Humboldt's water main.
 - Identify and allow hook up to electrical service, and pay for electricity, to run the cistern pump

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