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Convening on the Future of Black Thriving & Joy

Office of the President, Portland State University

Justice Oregon for Black Lives

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CONVENING

on the Future of Black Thriving & Joy

Portland State University's [Office of the President](#), supporting partner Meyer Memorial Trust's [Justice Oregon for Black Lives](#), and the convening steering committee invite you to save the date and join us for the Convening on the Future of Black Thriving and Joy.

This co-creation event aims to be an asset-based intergenerational, inter-ideological, and intercultural opportunity for listening, shared learning, and recognition of points of synergy and opportunity across the rich complexity of the black community in our area -- resulting in a shared agenda and momentum for action.

July 22, 2022 | 4:00 - 7:30pm (virtual)

July 23, 2022 | 9:30am - 4:00 pm

University Place Hotel Conference Center

(Childcare and community participant stipends provided)



GRAPHICS

PARTICIPANTGUIDE

GOALS REVIEW

This affinity/identity based/closed event focuses on the black community is part of a series of conversations with the different BIPOC communities as stated in the Time to Act plan created as a result of the October 2020 Time to Act summit. As a result of these conversations, Portland State university is seeking to discover the priorities and opportunities of our BIPOC communities and where those opportunities intersect with the assets and mission of the university and its partners. In the fall, an open macro BIPOC event will present the unique themes from each conversation, as well as the themes across communities. Allies and agents of change are invited to this macro fall event to partner with our communities, Portland State University, Meyer Memorial Trust's Justice Oregon for Black Lives, our steering committee members and other critical stakeholders to advance efforts that will ensure the thriving of our communities.

STEERING COMMITTEE AND ADVISORS

- **D'Artagnan Caliman**, *Supporting Partner, Executive Committee*
- **Michael Alexander**, *Executive Committee*
- **Sharon Gary Smith**, *NAACP*
- **Joe McFerrin**, *POIC*
- **Marcus Mundy**, *Coalition of Communities of Color*
- **Kali Thorne Ladd**, *The Children's Institute*
- **Cobi Lewis**, *Meso*
- **Ed Washington**, *Portland State University*
- **Lisa Bates**, *Portland State University*

Facilitators

- **Tracy Smith**, *Inhance, LLC*
- **Ernest Stephens**, *Morant McLeod*

Contributing Advisors

- **Pastor Leroy Haynes**

Student Participation Sponsor

- **Oregon Community Foundation** *Black Student Success*

RELEVANT TIME TO ACT INITIATIVES: *LEADERSHIP AND INFRASTRUCTURE*

Initiative 4: *Center BIPOC voices and needs*

BIPOC communities must have the agency and the space to design their future and the future of their communities. Too often, minoritized communities are cut off from the decision making tables, the resources, the relationships, networks, and the power required for true change. PSU will create structures that intentionally seek to disrupt this practice.

Primary Executive Champion: PSU President; Vice President, Global Diversity & Inclusion

Critical Stakeholders: Affinity Groups; Diversity and Multicultural Student Services; Provost; Vice President RGS; Deans Council; School of Gender, Race & Nations.

Primary Objectives: For empowered BIPOC communities to design their futures with access to critical resources to make the future reality.

Initiative 5: *Embed racial equity in community engagement activities*

Ensure that the university's mission to let knowledge serve and the presidential priority of racial justice and equity are fully integrated.

Primary Executive Champion: VP University Relations

Critical Stakeholders: VP Research & Graduate Studies; Dean CUPA; Director of Community & Civic Impact, VP GDI

Primary Objectives: Mutually beneficial and uplifting relationships between the institution and the BIPOC community. BIPOC Communities view PSU as an authentic anchor institutional and partner.

[READ THE FULL PLAN →](#)

MORE CONTEXT

The future and the thriving of BIPOC communities: A collective/community [macro] agenda-setting conversation.

As the anchor institution in Portland and as Oregon's most diverse institution with a strong reputation for community engagement and innovation, Portland State University is leaning into identity-specific and cross-affinity dialogues and discussion on the critical need for strengthening and supporting Oregon's BIPOC communities. Racial justice is President's Percy's highest priority, one of [three presidential priorities](#) including advancing equitable student success and leaning deeper into our "Let knowledge serve the city" motto for all of Oregon's communities. The future calls to us to act in the present to mitigate threats to the thriving of BIPOC communities. The disproportionate impact of job displacement due to automation; the under-resourced and leaky BIPOC talent and leadership pipeline; differing projections for post-secondary access and different success rates for different communities; the changing nature of learning and work, and the enduring racial wealth gap; much is required to ensure that technological change, demographic shifts, and BIPOC community prosperity are positively correlated now and in the future.

Portland State University recognizes that it has not always lived up to its motto to "let knowledge serve the city" where BIPOC communities are concerned and seeks to move closer to expectations, responsibilities, and aspirations through intentional action, community partnership, and accountability.

We applaud the conversations happening in different spaces across the city and state, and are encouraged by many of the important recommendations being articulated and implemented. Portland State University aims to come alongside these conversations to facilitate the development of a shared macro agenda and spur action by convening stakeholders from BIPOC communities and cultural organizations, education, community-based organizations, business, philanthropic bodies, and government entities. Recognizing that the complexity at stake will require more than any one of us, PSU aims to help us be greater than the sum of our parts by convening, synthesizing, and acting in partnership with our various stakeholders.

It is important that the future of BIPOC communities be defined and shaped by BIPOC communities, honoring the theme "Nothing about us, without us." As such, we will lean even further into our commitment to be BIPOC-centered and led in this work, and invite our BIPOC-led and serving organizations, especially those anchored in BIPOC communities, to be conversation conveners and designers. As such, we host a series of affinity-specific conversations through September 2022 and we will host a macro conversation later in the fall that synthesizes themes across conversations and elevates identity specific needs.

PSU's [October 2020 Summit](#) was themed "Time to Act" and these convenings are an extension of that work, broadening the conversation beyond our internal borders and agenda. The time to act for the future is now. The future is calling to us. We will, and must, respond.