LIHNAPO's Community Involvement Plan

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A. Community Involvement Plan

Low Income Housing for Native Americans of Portland, Oregon (LIHNAPO) is a small community development corporation serving the urban Indian community of the Portland metropolitan region. ORCA (Organizing Resources for Community Action) members approached LIHNAPO to determine their interest and need for a strategic plan to help address the multiple issues confronting urban Indians. The goal of a strategic plan is to identify LIHNAPO's future direction and organizational goals and to develop community development strategies.

Background

ORCA recognizes that community involvement is critical to the success of any community based planning effort. Therefore, a community involvement plan is a necessary part of the effort to develop a strategic plan for LIHNAPO. While the plan is for an organization, and not the community directly, it will affect the community LIHNAPO serves by shaping the organization's decisions about future projects. It is important to have LIHNAPO's constituency and possible community partners identify issues that are a priority for the organization to address. The underlying philosophy of this community involvement plan is to provide opportunities for input throughout the process, incorporating a community outreach effort LIHNAPO already has in place as required by the Administration of Native Americans (ANA) Housing Grant.

The community involvement plan includes a combination of techniques to engage the community including stakeholder interviews, a community meeting, questionnaire and an open house.

Preliminary Consultation

ORCA was formed to fulfill Planning Workshop requirements for the Masters of Urban and Regional Planning program at Portland State University. During the preparation of the community involvement plan ORCA worked closely with the
staff and board members of LIHNAPO to develop a Community Involvement program that would be culturally sensitive and that would provide a useful model for LIHNAPO's future community involvement needs. While it is understood that community involvement strategies should reflect the goals of the planning process being initiated, and not be used simply because they worked in a different planning process it is also important that young organizations, such as LIHNAPO be provided with simple tools that can be utilized in a wide range of projects. We believe that this community involvement plan can be successfully adapted by LIHNAPO staff for many of their future planning efforts.

**Major Issues**

Major issues were identified during preliminary staff and community interviews:

- **Affordable housing** - This issue is an obvious task facing CDC's. LIHNAPO must decide on specific housing models and strategies for developing those models from the community. Specific housing types identified at previous community meetings were: transitional housing, senior housing, general affordable housing, homeownership and a mixed-use community village concept.

- **Economic Development** - Traditionally money leaks out of the Native American community because the resources they need are not Native American owned and there is not a concentrated effort to stop leakage's. LIHNAPO would like to find opportunities for economic development strategies within the community.

- **Organizational Development** - LIHNAPO is a new CDC and is in the process of gathering community input to generate a set of priorities for action. They must make the transition from a small volunteer-based organization to an effective non-profit developer. This requires community support and external training. They would also like to establish linkages with other organizations to strengthen and build organizational capacity.
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- **Cultural needs** - LIHNAPO understands the need to create culturally relevant projects for the Native American community to help foster a sense of community.

- **Community Center** - Staff, board and key stakeholders expressed an interest in having a community center as a place where all urban Indians come together for their mutual benefit.

**Level of Interest**

The Native American community is traditionally very community oriented, but due to the dispersal of Native Americans throughout the metropolitan area and different tribal backgrounds interest in community projects is expected to be only moderate. To reach a variety of community members the community involvement focus will be on interviews.

**Level of Controversy**

Any community, whether geographically or culturally based, faces challenges when they attempt to gain consensus about what program areas to devote their resources to. The only expected substantial disagreement is surrounding the Delta Park project. This project is a cultural center/Pow Wow center that must be culturally relevant for several different tribes.

**Decision-Making Process**

The basic community involvement steps will be:

1. Informing the community about LIHNAPO's efforts, gathering community input, conducting a SWOT analysis, gathering information about possible Native American models for LIHNAPO.

2. Identify alternative strategies for LIHNAPO's direction and develop evaluation criteria.

3. Make recommendations.
Community Participation Activities

Informing the community about LIHNAPO's efforts, conducting a SWOT analysis and gathering information about possible Native American models for LIHNAPO.

Because this is a new organization it does not have a broad base of community support. Community involvement efforts will be undertaken not only to gather community input, but also to educate the community about the organization. A second objective is to gather information for a SWOT analysis from interviews, input from meetings and a questionnaire. This analysis is expected to aid the group in development of alternative organizational strategies and evaluation criteria for these alternatives by looking at internal strengths and challenges and external opportunities and threats. Lastly, information will be gathered nationwide from other Native American organizations who have developed models for community centers that could help formulate alternative strategies for the organization's focus. The community participation activities during this phase include the following:

1. Conducting interviews with staff, board members, and a tenant to identify strengths of the organization and identify challenges it faces.

2. To identify other stakeholders in the community.

3. Conduct stakeholder interviews to identify external opportunities and threats.

4. Conduct interviews with other Native American organizations nationwide.

5. Participate in two community meetings introducing ORCA's strategic plan and gathering community input on possible program areas for LIHNAPO such as a housing plan and a cultural center.

6. Distributing questionnaire to find out community strengths and challenges.

Identify alternative strategies for LIHNAPO's organizational direction and develop evaluation criteria.
This stage will use all data gathered from the previous steps, in addition to other information gathering done in conjunction with the community involvement process, to develop alternative strategies for the organization's focus and select evaluation criteria. It will incorporate current organizational goals and objectives with those heard from the community. It will use the SWOT analysis to identify areas that may have been overlooked and avoid directions that may not be appropriate for this community. It will use data gathered from existing models and programs to suggest comparable programs providing an analysis of LIHNAPO's capacity to develop a community center in relation to existing programs.

1. Present alternative strategies to staff and board for feedback and identifying additional alternatives for consideration.

2. Work with staff and board on to develop evaluation criteria.

3. Conduct a community meeting/open house to inform the community about the background in developing the alternatives, what criteria was chosen and why. The community will then be asked to provide additional alternatives that may have been overlooked. The community will then be asked to:

   **Make recommendations**
   This stage will ensure that the community is made aware of the possibilities and limitations that the organization is facing and ask for their input regarding which alternatives would be acceptable to the community. There may be several alternatives chosen for long term goals and short term goals. Community input will be vital to the direction that LIHNAPO ultimately chooses.

1. Continue the community meeting/open house with evaluation and voting on preferred alternatives. This meeting will also provide the opportunity for citizens to find out about other homeownership programs, other Native American organizations, etc. with booths and representatives. This meeting is meant to provide information and gather input.
2. Work with staff and board to discuss the alternatives and possible implementation strategies for these alternatives. The organization will ultimately be left to decide how it will pursue those goals and objectives.
B. Community Involvement Methodology & Overview

ORCA recognized that community involvement is critical to the success of any community-based planning effort. LIHNAPO's constituency and possible community partners were included in our planning effort to help us identify issues that are a priority for the community. (See Appendix for Community Involvement Plan) Therefore, a community involvement component was a necessary part of the effort to develop strategies for LIHNAPO. While the plan is for an organization, and not the community directly, it will affect the community LIHNAPO serves by shaping the organization's decisions about future projects.

Yet, due to the short timeline of the project and limited budget the community involvement process was severely constrained. ORCA began the process unfamiliar with the community and without a clear understanding of which participation techniques would effectively provide needed insight and information about Portland's urban Indian community. Therefore, the project team did preliminary interviews with LIHNAPO staff to determine a culturally relevant participation process. The techniques decided upon included telephone and in-person interviews, a brief questionnaire to be distributed at a previously scheduled LIHNAPO community meeting and an open house. The techniques were chosen because of their ability to educate community members and stakeholders about the process while gathering necessary information about the issues relevant to LIHNAPO and the urban Indian community.

Interviews

A total of 28 interviews were conducted by the members of ORCA. These interviews were held with: a resident of Ceel-ocks Manor, LIHNAPO staff and board members, LIHNAPO funders, staff of the North Portland Neighborhood office, Native American community leaders, representatives of Native American organizations locally and nationally, and other community members identified by LIHNAPO staff and ORCA. Whenever possible interviews were held in person with the exception of out-of-state interviews. Interview times ranged from 15 minutes to one hour.
Board and Staff
Twelve board and staff members were interviewed. Interview questionnaires were designed to create professional biographies and gather organizational background information about LIHNAPO. In addition, due to their active participation in the urban Indian community, they were asked general questions about the larger Indian community in Portland. These questions were designed to gather information to determine internal strengths and challenges and external threats and opportunities to LIHNAPO. They were also asked to identify other Native American organizations they have linkages with, how to reach the Native American community and to identify potential funding sources.

Native American Community Members/Organizations
Six members of the Native American community were identified as having direct linkages with LIHNAPO. These individuals were asked the same general questions asked of staff and board members regarding the urban Indian community in Portland. The data gathered was consistent for both types and were combined in the summary.

Funders
Two funders who currently work with LIHNAPO were chosen to be interviewed because of their status as respected members in the Portland metropolitan community and their experience with the community development profession. They were asked questions about the general funding climate and asked to provide specific recommendations for LIHNAPO.

St. Johns/Kenton Neighborhoods
Two staff members of the North Portland Neighborhood office were identified as community stakeholders which could provide information on the strengths and challenges of the Kenton and St. Johns neighborhoods. In addition, some Native American community members provided valuable information about these neighborhoods. This information was combined in order to provide a more holistic view of this area.
Native American Program Models
Representatives of six programs with models similar to LIHNAPO’s interests were interviewed nationwide in order to provide examples for LIHNAPO. These included; Villa de Clara Vista, a local Hispanic housing project and community center; the Minnesota finance agency, a homeownership program that emphasizes mortgage training for Native Americans; the Denver Indian Center; the Minneapolis Indian Center; the Michigan Urban Indian Center; the Southern California Indian Center; and the Indian Center in Nebraska. Additional information about community and cultural centers was collected from the internet.

Questions included; what community do they serve, what their funding sources are and programs they offer. We also inquired about square footage, number of rooms and number of employees.

Evaluation:
Interviews were an extremely successful technique for gathering information needed for this project. The number of interviews was extended from 16 to 28 because of the wealth of information provided. The primary drawback of the interview process was the time required to conduct and document interviews. If time allowed more interviews would have been conducted as ORCA staff continued to uncover valuable sources of information relevant to the urban Indian community.

Overview of Stakeholder Interviews (Board, Staff and Community Members/Organizations):
- The main themes expressed about important aspects of Native American values or culture included family, seniors and/or elders, tradition and culture and community. Several of the respondents felt housing should be culturally relevant accommodating the extended family and helping to create a sense of community. Many felt that the construction process should include ground blessings, a traditional Native American ceremony, and that housing designs should reflect importance of family and community to Native Americans.
Respondents stated that the best ways to reach the community were media, mailings and Pow Wows respectively. Other suggestions included word of mouth, other organizations, person-to-person contact and phone contact.

Overwhelmingly, respondents saw LIHNAPO’s role now and in the future as a developer and provider of affordable housing. Other roles included developing and managing a community center, acting as a role model for the Native American community and helping building a sense of community. They also suggested that LIHNAPO form partnerships or form linkages with other organizations. One respondent stated that linkages within the Native American community could build cohesiveness and strength.

Respondents stated lack of community or community conflicts as the primary challenge facing the Native American community. There is currently a lack of communication between organizations and the community itself. Respondents also said there are concerns about insufficient gathering spaces which might be used to build community. Such a gathering place could be used as a location for all Native Americans organizations.

Concerns were raised regarding the loss of cultural values and traditions. Some respondents also felt that certain aspects of Native American culture itself was a challenge, particularly in relation to the problems some Native Americans find with urban living and the conflict between the reservation lifestyle and the urban lifestyle.

The lack of housing, jobs, services and low education levels for urban Indians were also identified as challenges to the community as well as misunderstanding and stereotyping by the non-Indian community.

Culture was identified as the Native American Community’s greatest strength. A strong Pow Wow circuit provides a way for Native Americans to come together for social, spiritual and cultural reasons.
Another strength mentioned is the sense of community among urban Indians. Although the community may be divided over some issues in times of need they come together to form a strong bond. This is strengthened by the organizations that serve the community needs. Youth and elders were also seen as a strong part of the Native American community.

- When asked about their vision for the urban Indian community respondents said; building community, strengthening organizations, improving services and creating a better environment.

- Challenges that respondents felt LIHNAPO faces as an organization include: funding, organizational development and competition for funds and resources. Projects are also seen as a challenge with the lack of good land and implementation difficulties.

- Strengths of LIHNAPO clearly lie with the Executive Director’s hard work and vision, the commitment of the board and the completion of Ceel-ocks Manor.

- Respondents goals for LIHNAPO focus on housing projects and organizational stability.

- Respondents saw a community center as a space for organizations and service providers, a general gathering space for Native Americans and a place for cultural/special events. It could include housing, sports and youth programs. They felt it could beneficially impact the surrounding neighborhood by educating the community about Native Americans and could provide a link with that community.

**Overview of Kenton/St. John's Neighborhood Interviews**

- The North Portland Neighborhoods mission is to improve the safety and livability in North Portland by providing citizens with the skills they need to strengthen their neighborhood.
Youth activities identified ranged from little league to the police activities league. One respondent mentioned that youth suffers greatly in Kenton. The closing of the Boys and Girls Club is seen as very negative.

Recommendations for reaching local community members include: personal contact, local papers, school newsletters, attendance at events, and development and distribution of outreach materials.

Challenges facing these two neighborhoods include: affordable housing and land, poor quality of existing low-income housing, racial issues, low employment wages and loss of jobs, neighborhood association struggles, alcohol and drug abuse, environmental issues and community changes, such as conflicts between new people and long-time residents. Other issues included Columbia Villa which is perceived as separate from the neighborhoods and Rivergate's heavy truck traffic and untapped commuter markets.

The greatest strengths include: civic involvement and well organized community groups, good quality homes, a good business district, a new water treatment facility in the industrial area and the environmental activists.

There are two senior meals programs in this area; Portsmouth Loaves and Fishes and Meals on Wheels.

Community Meetings and Questionnaire

Two community meetings were scheduled for December 21, 1996 and January 25, 1997. The purpose of these meetings was for LIHNAPO to obtain community input on five housing plans as required by the grant from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA).

Community Meetings

The first meeting was scheduled as part of a NIVA Christmas party. Community meeting time was lost due to the nature of the event and late arrivals.
LIHNAPO’s Project Coordinators introduced themselves and the ORCA team, explained the mission of LIHNAPO, their current projects and passed out a questionnaire asking community members to rank the importance of the five different housing projects; affordable housing, homeownership, transitional housing, senior housing and a community village.

The second meeting was scheduled by LIHNAPO staff to review the housing plan. At this time, ORCA had an opportunity to circulate a questionnaire (see appendix) and build a mailing list. 27 people attended the meeting. In addition, ORCA staff served as recorders of the information gathered during the community meeting. This assisted LIHNAPO staff and provided ORCA with a detailed record of people's comments (see appendix). These responses were used in the development of alternatives.

**Questionnaire**

21 people responded to the questionnaire. LIHNAPO staff recommended keeping the questionnaire simple and easy to read. ORCA accommodated this by using a large, easy-to-read font and multiple choice check-boxes (see appendix). The questionnaire was not intended to be used as a method of gathering quantitative data, rather it was used to gauge community interest and get a sense of community strengths and challenges. This information will be used for the SCOT analysis.

**Evaluation:**

The community was very responsive at the second community meeting and provided valuable information. If time allowed an additional community meeting would have been useful to present ORCA’s planning intentions, gather feedback on the process and start developing alternative strategies sooner. The questionnaire gathered valuable information and was received by the community very well. The questionnaire was handed out at the beginning of the meeting which increased the number of responses, but had the disadvantage of gathering community input before the respondents participated in a discussion about LIHNAPO’s possible projects.

**Overview of January 25th Meeting:**
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• Native Americans attending the January 25th community meeting were the most concerned about transitional housing for their community. This included short-term/semi-permanent housing for Native Americans arriving from the reservation, youth, students, housing for crisis situations, seasonal housing and housing for the homeless.

• Senior housing was also an important issue. Meeting participants were concerned about isolating seniors through senior-only housing. They felt that it was necessary to accommodate and integrate their elders in family housing. They acknowledged that seniors may have certain needs, but senior/elders are an important part of their community; providing daycare for the children, educating the community about Indian ways and overall creating a sense of community for Native Americans.

• Community/mixed use housing was thought to be advantageous because it could offer Native Americans housing and lifestyle choices while also building community. Meeting participants had several ideas for this type of development including economic development strategies and providing community gathering space.

• Some participants felt that LIHNAPO could serve as a service center providing information for jobs, housing, services, etc. They felt the need for a connection between services and organizations within the urban Indian community.

• The Delta Park/cultural center project held concerns regarding ownership of the land.

• Other issues centered around the need for support, planning and keeping the community involved.

Overview of Questionnaire

• 12 Questionnaire respondents received a flyer in the mail announcing the meeting. Others heard of the meeting through a family member, friend or saw the flyer posted at a local Indian organization.
• The top three strengths of the urban Indian community identified by the questionnaire respondents are; first, tradition (cultural and religious), second, family and third, community gatherings. Other strengths respectively are; elders, Indian organizations, youth and sports activities.

• Respondents identified the top three challenges for the urban Indian community as; first, affordable housing, second, drug or alcohol use and third, both education and jobs. Other challenges respectively are; health care, child care, unity and poverty.

• Respondents felt the top three services that LIHNAPO should offer are; first, housing, second, employment services and third, office space for Indian organizations. Other responses respectively are; a place to hold Pow Wows, a place for senior activities, a place for youth, a sports facility and a place to sell Indian crafts.

• 15 respondent’s felt it was important to have all the above services in one place. Seven selected inner southeast Portland as a good location, five selected northeast Portland, and five selected North Portland.

Open House

The Open House was a community event held on Saturday, February 22 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Activities included discussion of the alternatives to be included in the draft Strategic Plan and a potluck dinner. This was a forum for LIHNAPO and ORCA to provide information to the community, allow the community to review and comment on project alternatives, and to generate community support for LIHNAPO. ORCA and LIHNAPO attempted to draw a broad range of community members to the Open House. A community service announcement was made on KBOO and participants at the last community meetings and board members were telephoned.

Observations at the previous community meeting provided valuable feedback on how to run the open house. It was determined that the community needed more background information about LIHNAPO's projects and limitations as to what
they could realistically accomplish. Therefore, general information on how CDC's operate, housing and the economy was provided before four project alternatives were presented to the community. The participants were then asked to provide input about what each alternative could include and what they liked and didn't like about them. Participants were asked to come up with evaluation criteria to be used in the selection process. They then voted for an alternative.

**Evaluation:**
Unfortunately, a date was selected that conflicted with a Pow-Wow held down state the same day. While turnout was low, valuable comments were received by the participants in attendance.

Overall the open house was very challenging. Participants had a diversity of wants and needs. Some were very focused on open space and land ownership while others wanted to discuss Delta Park, an item that was not included in the agenda or goals of the meeting.

The education component of the meeting was validating for many. Participants gained an understanding of the regional issues and how they fit into them. Yet, there was a lot of information presented. It was difficult finding the balance between providing information the community requested and not over burdening them with facts and statistics. ORCA felt that it would have been helpful to have more graphics in the presentation such as pictures of the different alternatives (i.e., Ceel-ocks Manor, Albina Corner, a local Community Center, etc.) and graphs. The community did not produce any criteria. ORCA discovered that the community did not want to make decisions on how to decide, rather they just wanted to decide. If time allowed the process could have been modified and improved for a second open house.

**Overview of Meeting:**
- Housing only was the first alternative presented to the community. Open House participants felt that this type of project should offer large apartments in a secure environment. They would like to see it located near shopping and transportation, accessible to everyone, and well maintained. They felt potential residents would rather see extra money spent on washers and
dryers were a necessity item while dishwashers or garbage disposals were considered luxury items.

Participants liked the community building and support that could occur in this type of project. They were concerned over location and the stigma associated with low-income housing. They requested that LIHNAPO let the community know the difference between affordable housing projects and low-income housing projects. There was one vote for this alternative.

- Housing with community extras was the second alternative. Participants suggested that this project include; a fitness area, library, meeting room, garden, picnic area, play area and sweatlodge.

Participants also liked the possibilities that this type of housing would offer the community. They felt it would help create shared assets for the community, promote cultural identity while supporting families. They were concerned about security issues and the safety risks of community spaces such as children's play areas. They would like to see a project such as this stay Indian managed and used to keep assets in the community. There were two votes for this alternative.

- Combined housing and commercial space was the third alternative. Participants suggested this project include; a health clinic, space for the elderly, a child development and daycare center, social services, a mobile school and a Native American library. They didn't feel that there necessarily had to be one building for all these services - office space and housing could be located in separate buildings.

Participants like the convenience this alternative offered. It would be walking distance to shopping and transportation and it would hold more people than the other alternatives. They felt it would be a good option for elders and youth. They were concerned that a building like this would be hard to secure and that safety would be an issue. Some participants felt uncomfortable with the idea of offices under housing and opening up the community to the general population. This alternative did not receive any votes.
A community center was the fourth alternative. Participants were the most excited by the possibilities of this alternative. They were very inventive with what should be included in this option. Ideas ranged from the library concept to gym space with showers and a kitchen. They felt that a community center should have some land for multiple uses such as softball and/or camping. They suggested several housing options.

Some participants were concerned about the idea of including temporary housing for youth and free spirits in a community center design while others like the idea. It was suggested that a community center offer a place to volunteer and/or work for lodging. Primarily, they liked the idea of all organizations coming together in one place.

There was concern about isolating elders if senior housing was offered in conjunction with the community center. They felt there was a need for children to learn to care for elders and a model such as this could provide that opportunity. Issues surrounding security were mentioned as well as access for visitors. The participants felt this project could be located near a LIHNAPO housing project. Lastly, they would like this project to be able to pay for itself. This alternative received nine votes.

The community also participated in the selection of evaluation criteria and mentioned other issues they would like to discuss at future community meetings. (See appendix)

Recommendations For LIHNAPO's Future Community Involvement

- Draft interview questions with small coordinating group. Have LIHNAPO board, staff and volunteers conduct and transcribe interviews and do preliminary analysis.
- Provide options for kids at meetings such as coloring books
- Define what affordable housing and low-income housing means for LIHNAPO
- Be aware of language, make it simple
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- Use visuals to provide information
- Make sure everyone knows the goals of the meeting and the process for achieving these goals.
- Go over agenda at the beginning of the meeting
- Be flexible
- Write all participants comments down
- Make sure presentation space is large enough
- Have a sense of closure at the end of meetings
- Schedule a break in community meetings
- Address issues brought up at the last meeting
- Community committees are needed to discuss details of projects
- Newsletter to inform the community of LIHNAPO’s activities and solicit feedback
C. Guidelines and Tips for the Community Involvement Process

Roles for community meetings, open houses and focus groups:

- **Facilitator:**
  Stimulate, organize and synthesize the thinking of the groups so that it can reach consensus without ridiculing, arguing or ignoring anyone's point of view. Facilitators should know their material and avoid any unproductive tangents. They must keep the discussion moving and ensure that everyone has a chance to speak. It is not necessary to reach consensus in most cases, rather, it is important that everyone feels their opinions have been heard and are valid.

- **Moderator:**
  Guide, organize and stimulate the thinking of the groups without revealing their opinions or prejudices.

- **Recorder:**
  Take notes visible to all participants. Shows all participants that their opinions are being given credence and permanence by writing them down. Must be able to assimilate diverse ideas rapidly and accurately. They are the servants, not the masters of the process and should not make a habit of holding up the process because they cannot keep up.

**Also:**

- Facilitators/Moderators and recorders must establish ground rules ahead of time.
- Be flexible
- Keep a sense of humor

**Ranking Alternatives at an Open House:**
After you have a small group discussion you can pass out dots to each participate and then invite them to rank the alternatives starting with their
first choice (deciding if you want to let them rank their second and third choices). When they are done you can collect their notes and have them report back to the larger groups on how things were rated and any significant discussion points - giving them a time limit.

**Tips for Presentations:**

- Remember your purpose
- Decide what information listeners need to know
- Know your audience:
  - Number of people
  - Age, gender, occupation
  - General knowledge of subject
  - Common opinions or biases
  - Specific focus or special interest
- Practice more than you think you need to.
- It should take 90 sec. to 2 min. to read a double spaced typed written page.
- Be self-confident - never apologize
- Use personal pronouns such as we, us, or our
- Use metaphors, analogies and anecdotes
- Use logic and reason not emotion

**Visual Aids:**

- Concentrate on the audience not the material
- Never use material you have to apologize for
- If you refer to your handout make sure everyone has it.
- If you don't refer to you handout pass it out after the presentation.
- Color code handouts if you have several sheets
- Probably 1/3 of the audience will lose their handouts
- Only have visual aids that enhance - not overpower the presentation

**Equipment Checklist:**

- Extra projection bulbs
- extension cords
- chalk, marking pens for paper and plastic boards
- name tags
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- several varieties of tape
- pencils, pens and writing pads
- scissors
- more than enough agenda and other handouts

D. Stakeholder Interview Summary

18 stakeholder interviews were completed from December 1997 to February 1997 by ORCA in order to gain insight into LIHNAPO’s internal strengths and weaknesses, accumulating knowledge and information about the Native American community as well as what it threats and opportunities are.

The following questions were asked of staff, board and community stakeholders. The responses have been edited for length, but otherwise appear as they were heard by interviewers.

What are some important aspects of Native American culture or Native American values that should be part of LIHNAPO projects?

Family

- Family is critical to an Indian's well-being.
- Kin base is stronger tie than being members of same race
- Families must be considered in all projects, even with single occupancy units. There must at least be family space
- Housing with large kitchens because families gather there.
- Remember the extended family cultural identity and family unit
- Including children
- 3-4 families in one house. It is important to make units with larger living/kitchen/guest areas, and to keep the interior spaces feeling large and open.
- Family
- Children

Seniors/Elders

- Work with those elders which can cross tribal boundaries.
- Look at Native American alternative policies such as Council of Elders and banishment policies
- Lots of grandparents raise their grandchildren for a period of time (this is normal and usually not due to the parents having financial, substance abuse or other problems)
- Senior units that accommodate a family
- Wants to put senior housing with youth center so youth can consult with elders.
- Seniors should be priority in housing projects.
Tradition/culture
- Find the balance between traditions and today's society. Tradition is that you give away anything someone asks for. Today's society take everything you can, not just what you need.
- Use of traditional ceremony, blessing, involving the whole community in the project through ceremony (like at the ground breaking or grand opening), if you leave this part out you will lose the support of the traditional community members.
- Spiritual rituals associated with home building, blessing the ground, etc. to work into housing development.
- Being proud of heritage and culture.
- Ground blessings and prayers at meetings.
- Spirituality, prayer.
- Needs to be flexible and sensitive to the cultural needs and habits of Indian People.
- Circles are a sacred symbol and would be nice to incorporate into the design of housing projects, but it is often hard to get past constraining budget priorities.
- Cultural needs and family needs should be central elements in Native American lives and activities.
  - Various religious aspects, recognizing ways of life and the seasons, when the berries come in, when the salmon comes in. Some tribes especially emphasize the Sun Dance.
  - Culture
  - Tradition.

Sense of community
- It is important that everyone has a say (has input).
- the concept of helping, sharing, and volunteering.
- There is a strong communal attitude.
- Taking care of your own.
- Consulting with the community.
- Community.
- Helping, sharing, caring, providing.
- Projects should be built to have community space and/or exposure. Courtyards would be especially appropriate.
- Housing projects, especially for Seniors, should be near the community center.

Other
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- Working within bureaucracy to get grants.
- Taking care of the earth/conservation.
- LIHNAPO has an asset base no other Native American organization does—that's why they were asked to work on Delta Park.
- Being honest
- It is important to challenge the stigma of Indians as poor, reservation-based individuals.
- No trailers, create permanent quality housing.
- High quality design and products.

What is the best way to reach the urban Indian Community?

7 Media
- Portland Indian News, Talking Circle
- Native-oriented newspaper
- PSA's
- TV ads
- "community calendars" on various channels
- Community announcements on TV
- Radio stations (KBOO, Z100).

6 Mailings
- Mailing lists
- Flyers
- Direct contact by mail
- Updated mailing lists and central place to get on the list for information
- Newsletter
- Surveys

5 Pow Wows

4 Personal contact
- Get out knocking on doors
- Go out and talk to the elders in the community, gives you some credibility
- Go into their settings and invite real dialogue
- Be kind and courteous, and treat people like human beings, then you'll be able to encourage involvement.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

3 Other organizations.
- Through weekly Bow and Arrow Club meetings
- Flyers placed at different organizations

2 Potluck
- potluck and have a forum for community discussion

2 Word of Mouth
- Moccasin Telegraph

2 Phone
- phone pyramids.
- Calling

What role do you see LIHNAPO currently serving in the community?

9 Housing
- To build low-income housing.
- To keep units full, whether residents are Native American or not
- Provide housing
- Developing housing
- An advocate for housing issues for the Native American community.
- Providing a link for the community to come together through housing, and as a major developer of housing.

3 Community Center
- Managing a community center
- Building a Native American Community Center before people lose interest

3 Building Sense of Community/Community model
- A CDC must develop an effort to reach the expanded community. Must make diplomatic contact with political leaders and seek awareness and advice without taking over.
- role model, ability to achieve goals
- bringing community together
2 Form Partnerships/Coordinate with other organizations

- they could partner with a social service agency or have a spin off of LIHNAPO or start a new organization that will deal with Native American social services.
- Coordinate work with other Indian

Other
- Pay their bills
- Keep their tax credits
- Teach Indians how to manage money and build good credit history
- Too much diversity comes problems.
- Interest in these projects goes down over time, and that morale should be kept high.
- LIHNAPO could build small at first, creating something that could be added to over time.

What role could LIHNAPO play in the future?

Housing
- more housing
- Low income housing.
- transitional housing.
- Low-income housing on a larger scale.

Other
- Economic development.
- don't get sidetracked managing the finances of a youth center, etc.
- Referral service to be a link to the community.
- Senior
- youth
- Continue growing

What are the biggest challenges facing the urban Indian community in the Portland Metro area?

Lack of community/community conflict
- Community is very unorganized
- There are lots of family squabbles and the squabbles affect business decisions
- Lack of communication in the Urban Indians community
- Unity
- Lack of communication among organizations
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

- Often undermining one another
- Indians need to be more competitive and collaborate more together
- Lack of community visibility, and a need to reinstate former services.

Lack of a gathering place for people and organizations
- Community center
- Need for a place to congregate
- Place where seniors can meet with seniors
- Cultural center.
- Urban Indian culture has difficulty implementing programs.
- Need for a Family Resource Center, or Community Center, or Indian Center.
- The Native American agencies need to get together and form an alliance, ensuring more stability, cooperation, and economies of scale in terms of renting office space and other facilities.

Cultural challenges and loss of culture
- Many Urban Indians have lost their ancestry
- Youth are losing interest in cultural and community traditions and values.
- For Native Americans it is not what you have but what you share - what you give away.
- A good paying job may not be important if it takes you away from your culture
- If their basic needs are met they do not consider themselves impoverished, they are more comfortable with an unstable income
- Mobile, nomadic group, so the people are always changing, so you need to complete a project fast for them to see the benefit
- Lack of initiative
- They have the vision but something in their culture makes it difficult for the vision to happen.

Urban living
- Accommodating a different way of living life from the larger community.
- Struggles between urban and reservation native Americans
- Urban Indians are often alienated from the reservation
- Native Americans come to the city and are not sure they will stay, then 10 years down the road they are still there and renting
- No safety net when they get to the city - cultural or economic
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

Housing
- Affordable housing
- Transitional housing is a big need for Native Americans as well as others in Portland.
- Transitional housing for people who come here reservations looking for work and don't find it as easily as they thought and become homeless, those who are evicted and need to get back on their feet - not necessarily tied to drug and alcohol issues.
- Housing is most critical.
- Affordable housing
- Housing affordability
- Homelessness
- Emergency services combined with housing

Services
- Lack of services for teen pregnancy, drug abuse, etc.
- Lack of aftercare treatment services
- Childcare
- Senior health issues
- Community has a high level of chemical addictions, the NARA facility is overloaded. The community needs a 90 day-6 month facility for rehabilitation, which would ensure greater stability in the community and adequate treatment time.

Employment
- Jobs
- Training
- Unstable employment
- Lack of employment.
- Self-powered employment strategies

Education
- Undereducated, especially the population that moves in from the reservation where the schools are not too good - education is valued by most Native Americans.
- Low education
- Education
- Education for the community in the metropolitan setting.

Stereotyping/racism from larger community
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

- Racial stereotypes of landlords, funders, etc. that Native Americans are alcoholics, have unstable employment and fear of radicalism
- Also racism is a big issue, especially in terms of discrimination and stigmatizing of the members of the community by landlords, social service agencies, and other members of the general community.
- Educate landlords about Indians.
- Many Native American activities are still associated with alcoholism and fighting Negative stereotyping is a big problem

Other Challenges
- People do not have but so much free time to volunteer
- There is a limited number of Native American qualified with business expertise to be involved in the community.
- Tied to assistance
- Key players are phasing out and that new people are moving in, still learning the ropes losing some connections in the process
- Changes in block grant and federal funding
- They do things behind closed doors. They have not established the political savvy necessary to get ahead in federal or local funding
- Poverty level.
- Gang problem with many Native American young people.

What are the greatest strengths of the urban Indian community in the Portland Metro area?
Culture
- They do not necessarily distinguish between tribes in this desire to help
- Spiritual
- Ethic minded
- They are silent, but strong
- Having many different tribes is a strength.
- Commonalities - ex. connection to the land.
- Culture
- Prayer which ends with statement “we are all related”
- Awareness of Native American culture
- Cultural preservation is a priority among Portland’s Native American Community.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

- Tribal diversity.
- Culture and Tradition.
- Keeping the culture alive.
- A family oriented culture
- A strong, well-attended and organized Pow-wow circuit
- The metro area has a strong annual Pow-wow circuit.

Native American organization's and businesses
- Native American organizations that work together
- Housing, pride in LIHNAPO projects
- Successful Native American companies and the Native American chamber of commerce
- Veterans (NIVA) give funds to urgent causes, with events, send their color guard to events, funerals, for all native Americans, not just veterans

Strong sense of community
- Urban Indian networks
- Very active core group of Native American people who work hard
- Those Native Americans who are dedicated are very dedicated, those who donate their time are very unselfish with the time they have committed
- The community will gather in a time of need, if there is an urgent issue people will pull together, advocate for each other
- Everyone pulls together to help in a crisis
- Taking care of others first
- If Indians bond together they can do anything
- Thinking of others

Youth and elders
- Elders are often more respected in an urban setting than on the reservation, possibly because they are part of what little tradition and culture there is in an urban area
- Strong emphasis on youth and elders
- Young people
- dedicated to the youth

Other
- There are large numbers of clean and sober native Americans in the area,
- Very large Native American population within the PDX area
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

- Many Native American are returning to school, and those who have are earning greater incomes.
- Willingness to try and not give up

*What is your vision for the future of the urban Indian community in the Portland metro area?*

- Population growth
- Activism and empowerment through better education
- Urban Indian organizations with a strong structure
- Better communication in the community
- More housing both transition and for seniors
- A community center rebuilding Indian programs
- A united community
- Leaders are found, Organizations get stronger
- Successes are shared with younger generation
- That the urban Indian community has met the goals of a cultural center, senior housing and transitional housing.
- Enough housing for everyone
- Drop-in center for youth
- Teach Indian culture in schools
- A collaborative, visible organization in the community. Build a stronger presence.
- Housing, services, and a place for community gatherings.
- Educate the wider community about Native inclusiveness and the need to realize we’re all part of a larger family.
- A native American neighborhood association.
- Have the community services all in one place, with facilities, transportation, services, and a consolidation of existing programs.
- More recognition for, and unity of, the people.

*What are the biggest challenges facing LIHNAPO?*

Funding
- Grant money
- LIHNAPO is underfunded
- Funding is a challenge as a non-profit
- Finding affordable land & buildings
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

• Getting $ for LIHNAPO.

  Securing funds to build more housing.

• Building resources with the non-Native American world to get more contacts and resources

Competition

• As a CDC they are competing with other larger CDC's for funding and sites

• Competition with other CDC's and low-income housing developers

Organizational Development

• Need more staff

• Keeping LIHNAPO a CDC

• Management skills

• Getting LIHNAPO as organization on solid ground

• Conflict amongst themselves.

• One past success.

• They must delegate their work.

• Must manage by example not decree.

• Someone must lead and put everything else in perspective.

• They need outside help

• Need current financials/ run more like a business.

• Transition of executive directors, figuring books.

• Establishing LIHNAPO as a strong non-profit, building in-house capacity for business and development/management.

• Maintaining a strong board

• The budgeting and financial records management must be improved.

• Keeping up with the growth of the organization. Keeping up with operations and staffing.

Projects

• The fact that they can not provide housing to everyone

• Shortage of affordable land & buildings to rehab

• ANA usually funds only tribes. If LIHNAPO doesn't do well with this grant it may hurt other urban Indian organizations as well.

• Developing maintenance standards/ maintaining properties

• Empowering tenants to care for property

• Cultural center. If done well, it would have a good effect. If done not so well, it will have an adverse affect.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

- It has no problems in housing development
- Getting land in good neighborhoods.

Other
- Personality conflicts in the Urban Indian community
- Letting the community know what they are doing
- Urban Indian culture has difficulty implementing programs.

What are LIHNAPO's greatest strengths?

Executive Director
- A totally committed executive director who is tireless, without Julie LIHNAPO can not make it, she also has a lot of contacts and knows the community
- They have dedicated leadership
- Julie is committed, has her heart in the right place, is willing to learn
- Julie and her reputation
- Julie has provided an asset base.
- Julie has put her heart and soul into LIHNAPO. She is willing to give a lot to this vision
- Without Julie's vision LIHNAPO couldn't happen.
- Persistence of Executive Director

Board
- Excellent board members with a lot of business and financial management experience.
- Good board that works well together
- Board is concerned and committed to community
- Very strong board of directors. Much stronger than it was.
- Without the board there would be no future for LIHNAPO
- Board members are superior people that truly do have the good of the community at heart.

Projects
- A proven track record, they built one project on time and under budget and it is fully rented
- Have one small project completed, and 2 in the process
- People are aware of LIHNAPO, they are aware that Ceel Locks was built
- LIHNAPO has completed one project, Ceel-locks, it was a dream and now it is a reality
- They have been successful and have a good reputation with funders
- Housing projects named after community leaders
They can bring in a project under budget, produce an excellent product and manage it efficiently.

- They have strong ties to other organizations
- They do not just serve Native American but also have geographic ties
- They have realistic goals
- Very energized
- LIHNAPO is good at looking at what is important in their heritage, balancing business with culture
- One of the more successful Native American organizations out there.
- Their problems are typical for Native American organizations
- Good reputation
- CDCs have a strong network.
- Without the CDC network LIHNAPO couldn't happen.
- Commitment (even some unseen) to the mission of the organization. People will call and offer support, including funders and other key players in the community.
- Community as a focus.

What are your goals for LIHNAPO?

Housing
- Affordable housing
- In the future, more housing and some economic development.
- Provide truly affordable housing for Indians

Other projects
- To have land for a community sweat lodge located out of city
- Managing a community center.
- Two more projects built in a 2.5 year timeline

Stability
- Stabilize funding
- A Business Plan
- Set their goals and work towards them.
- Working as a team.
- Get them in a strong financial position.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

- Get their books in order to meet generally accepted GAT requirements.
- Have audits for 1997 and get good grades to assure future funding.
- Make sure rents are paid.
- Do everything possible to make sure current and future funding is not jeopardized.

Other

- An innovative create organization that constantly strives to do better.
- Get all Indian organizations to work better together/coordinated services.

If there was a community center, or gathering place for urban Indians in the Portland area, how would see it being used? (explain that this is in addition to Delta Park)

Services/Organizations

- Emergency services (actual services and referrals, and advocacy)
- Senior services (referral, financial advice and help navigating the Social Security system, advocacy)
- Childcare for low-income families
- Food bank
- Employment services
- Centralize Indian services
- Offices for AIAP and other Native American organizations
- Place to get referral information or services
- Office space
- Services

Housing

- Transitional housing/senior housing.
- A housing project for Native American organizations & other neighborhood groups to be housed in one spot

Youth

- Youth activities (after school programs, athletics, retention and tutoring programs, counseling)
- A place for youth

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Cultural Activities/Special Events
- Large open space for cultural activities
- A gym sized space for Pow Wows
- Pow-wows.
- Other native American gatherings
- Funerals
- Weddings

General gathering space
- Use as a gathering place for Indians
- One place that the urban Indians can come for all their needs and for play time.
- A place for elders to talk with youth
- Gathering place with kitchen, hall & meeting rooms
- Activities for children and elders
- A daily gathering place for community members

Sports
- Sports activities
- Gymnasium for tournaments, bleachers, soccer/football, track

Other
- Does not think that LIHNAPO should try to develop a community center for at least 4-5 years
- It should be like the Urban Indian Center.
- Small businesses
- A gift shop
- Stop the leakage of funds outside the community.
- Need to move beyond rents and leases and into ownership.
- Playground.

*Is there a way that a community center could benefit both the urban Indian community and Kenton and St. Johns community members?*
- Enrich the neighborhood by bringing in business, attracting tourists, and providing an easy-access forum for non-natives.
- Especially valuable would be a facility which included presentation walls, with rotating exhibits showing various aspects of Native American History.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

- Could provide a link between the Native American and wider community. It could serve as a way to encourage involvement of community members among themselves. Education and visibility.

- Kenton and St. Johns were picked by LIHNAPO because of the Native American poverty level there. Improving housing - therefore poverty - would serve the community.

What other ways could those uses or needs be accommodated if a community center could not be developed?

- Research other locations available for community to hold events

- Provide referral services

- By stopping the leakage of money outside the community. Provide one meeting place for gathering. Perhaps get the city to donate a building.

- They could continue to address things the same way they are now, with scattered sites and services. The only way to success is through a community center or purchase of a building.

Is there anything further you would like to add?

- It's important that people recognize the work that Julie has done, She's the only initial member and has stuck it out through thick and thin. Would like to see Julie recognized for her dedication and devotion to the Native American Community.
E. Kenton/St. John Neighborhood Interviews

Interviews were completed from December 1997 to February 1997 by ORCA in order to gain insight into the strengths and challenges of the Kenton and St. Johns neighborhoods. The following questions were asked of two staff members of the North Portland Neighborhood office, LiHNAPO staff and board and general community stakeholders.

Could you describe the mission of your organization and the type of work you do there?
- Improving the safety and livability in North Portland
- Providing citizens with skills to strengthen their neighborhoods

What organizations do you work with regularly?
- Police bureau
- Office of Neighborhood Association
- Kenton Action Plan - sub-committee of the Kenton Neighborhood Association
- Community Policing Contact Office
- Kenton Business Association
- Kenton Neighborhood Association

Who do you see as key players in Kenton and St. Johns?
- Neighborhood level - John Heffelfinger
- Business association - Garland Horner, Insulated Windows (won a Spirit of Portland award for revitalization work in Kenton)
- David Meyer Eatwell - Kenton Action Plan
- The Kenton Fair Days in August - Pam Arden is a big player (works for commissioner Gary Hansen)
- Community safety - Bud and Joan Hoffman
- St. Johns Boosters who are very active, have real community spirit
- Gary Boehm St. Johns Boosters, he helps with the St. Johns Parade
- Leora Mahoney takes part in the neighborhood Foot Patrol
- Various Church groups
- PCRI (Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives)
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

What kind of youth activities are there?
- Little League
- Youth suffers greatly in Kenton
- The St. Johns Racquet Center (there are fees)
- P.A.L. (police activities league)
- Baseball
- Scouts and spring break activities

What will be the impact of the closing of the Boys & Girls Club?
- Horrible - No place else for low-income kids to go and hang out. Many programs have left North Portland, except Columbia Villa.

What is the best way to reach Kenton/St. Johns community members?
- Personal contact - door-to-door. Mailings get set aside or lost. The telephone, people can avoid. Canvassing, personal contact shows you care.
- The St. Johns Review (a local paper), contact Ty Walker at 283-5086
- The Image; Ted Ricolo at 286-9008
- The school newsletters
- Newsletters and outreach at the neighborhood level
- Attend events
- Develop outreach material and distribute

What are the biggest challenges facing the Kenton/St. Johns area?
- Housing
  - Finding affordable housing or property
  - The rapid development of the area, and the rising home prices heading up from more inner areas of NE Portland
  - Speculators building high-density, poor-quality housing
  - High concentration of low-income housing (HAP or HUD)
  - Large populations of mult-generational families living in small units
  - Poor maintenance
  - Tenants afraid to ask for change
- Racial issues
  - Low minority participation community activities
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

- Racism - even on the neighborhood association board
- Denial of white youth crime
- Suspicion that minorities perpetrate crime. Has focused on Blacks, now also Hispanics and Asians

- Environment:
  - Largest toxic dump in the state.
  - Odor abatement
  - Noise pollution
  - Air quality problems
- Neighborhood associations
  - They are ready for a fight
  - They struggle over land use/siting issues, especially social services (e.g. parole office, health center, low-income housing)
  - Don’t understand low-income people

- Alcohol/Drugs
  - Efforts to get Hooper Detox to provide services here
  - Attempts to eliminate the sale of fortified wine and beer
  - Drugs are a problem

- Employment
  - Low wages; blue collar, loss of unions, loss of jobs
  - Loss of employment base close by
  - Loss of benefits (health insurance, etc.)

- Community changes
  - Conflicts between new people and long-time residents who tolerate many problems
  - Old community is very tight knit, it keeps them separate from anyone else

- Affordable programs for youth
- The Villa (Columbia Villa) is perceived by the community as separate - even though it has tried to reach out. It has a jobs skills center, a day care center, and computers.

- Rivergate:
  - Heavy truck traffic.
  - St. Johns business people want to tap Rivergate and commuter markets.

How are Native Americans perceived?
- There don’t seem to be many Native Americans around, but there is a problem with alcohol abuse.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

What are the greatest strengths of the Kenton/St. Johns area?

• Civic involvement:
  • Long history of citizen involvement
  • Saved North (police) Precinct.
  • Support Roosevelt High School and North Precinct.
  • St. Johns parade going for 50 years is a symbol of community pride.
  • People are more willing to get involved. For example tree plantings, Kenton Park improvements, bike paths, Smith & Bybee Lakes

• Business district:
  • Medical center being built at St. Louis and Lombard.
  • Enthusiasm of the Boosters.
  • Business strip improvements.

• Good quality homes
• Industrial district has a new water treatment facility.
• Environmental activists.
• Well-organized community groups, although there is occasionally some in-fighting. St. Johns, especially, has a strong Neighborhood Association.

What sort of cultural or community activities happen in Kenton?

• Kenton firehouse where the neighborhood association holds their meetings. It will be remodeled.

Are there any senior meals programs in North Portland?

• University Park in Portsmouth
• Loaves & Fishes
• Meals on Wheels
F. Community Responses to Jan. 24 Community Meeting

Transitional Housing:
- Transitional/Housing/Homeless should be the number one priority
- Not only homeless families and individuals, but homeless youth
- Youth Shelter
- Student Housing
- Short-term housing (crisis situation)
- Help with transitional housing for adults
- Student affordable housing
- Seasonal, temporary housing
- Be aware of health issues in shared housing
- Housing availability for people arriving from reservations

Senior Housing:
- Assisted living for the elderly in their homes (services, activities, Community Health Rep.)
- Make sure elderly/ senior housing is integrated with youth and family housing
  - Community Village idea
  - Mixed community
  - Housing that creates community
- Include facilities for children/granchildren in Senior Housing. Seniors provide day care.

Community/Mixed Use Housing:
- A place for garden with housing/ Indian community gardens
- Give people housing/lifestyle choices while also creating and supporting community
- Providing economic development (crafts)
- Mixed uses/ don't separate projects

Service Center
- Resource Center/Providing information for jobs/services/housing etc.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

- Connections for urban Indian community.
- Indian career center
- Housing services (people arriving from reservations)

**Delta Park/Cultural Center**
- Have community village near the arbor
- Make the arbor big enough for all tribes
- Arbor facility if in Delta Park should be portable/movable to another site
- Cultural identity

**Other Housing Related Issues:**
- Affordable Housing
- Crime issues - should survey neighborhoods
- Look for property that has land for trees, space
- Crucial to own the land where projects/culture center is built
- HUD money (Native American Housing Authority)
- Manufactured homes
- Indian Trailer court
- Do assessments of housing to make sure they are well-maintained (property mgt.)

**Community Issues**
- Support! Working together
- Need future planning
- Need to let people know progress of LIHNAPO activities (newsletter)
- Low attendance at community events/ better community outreach

**Locations**
- North Portland
- Kennedy School/NE
G. Participant Questionnaire Responses To Jan. 26th Meeting

There were 21 responses to the questionnaire.

1. How did you hear of today's meeting?

12 Received flyer in the mail
5 Other
2 Through a friend (Moccasin Telegraph)
2 Indian Organizations. Which one? NARA, Columbia River Intra-Tribal Commission
1 Telephone call from LIHNAPO
0 Saw flyer posted
0 Newspaper/Radio

Other:
3 Family member
Julie Metcalf
Indian Health Bulletin Board
Renge Norcross

1a. What is the best way for you to find out about these events?

13 flyers in the mail
3 telephone
family
media
person to person
at meetings
friends
BIA
need reminders

2. What is special about the urban Indian community? Please mark the top 3 strengths.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

14 Traditions (cultural and religious)
12 Family
12 Community gatherings
9 Elders
7 Indian organizations
3 Youth
2 Sports activities

Other/Comments:
Sports Activities for everyone
All
Elders and Youth are considered family
Teaching society by example.

3. What challenges does your community face? Please mark the top 3 problems.
13 Affordable housing
10 Drug or alcohol use
8 Education
8 Jobs
6 Health care
5 Child care
4 Unity
2 Poverty

Other/Comments:
Don’t know
Not having a large housing stock for development
self-sustaining housing

4. What are the top 3 services that LIHNAPO should offer the urban Indian community?
17 Housing
9 Employment services
9 Office space for Indian organizations
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

7 A place to hold Pow Wows
6 A place for senior activities
4 A place for youth activities
3 Sports facility
2 A place for selling Indian crafts

Other/Comments:
Community Center
Community Meetings
All
Building communities for humans of all ages.
Places to come and talk, read, etc.

4a. Is it important that all these services are in one place?
Yes 15
No 3

If yes, where?
7 Inner Southeast Portland
5 Northeast Portland
5 North Portland
2 Downtown Portland
1 Outer Southeast Portland
0 Southwest Portland

Other/Comments:
The most accessible to all
Near a bus line
All
As central as possible

5. Is there anything else you would like to add? (Please use back side)
- Parents should help kids that use drugs and don’t go to school.
- Being Native American we need to be cohesive in community, as well as, in the decisions we make as a community
- Too limited services for youth, they get lost in the city
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

- Very limited services for youth and young adults (i.e. student housing, shelter homes, youth alcohol and drug services)
- LIHNAPO should concentrate on housing projects that can become self sufficient
- teen-parent building
- single parent place with job services
- community gardening
- A place for a garden
- Community consolidation to a specific geographic area. A community can be united much easier if they are already close.
H. Open House Alternatives Discussion

Alternative One: Housing Only (1 vote)

Ceel-ocks style, 3-10 units, families, estimated costs $220,00-500,000

What should it include?
- Security (fencing)
- 3-4 bedroom apartments
- Located near shopping and transportation
- Handicapped accessible
- Accessible kitchens
- A big refrigerator
- Maintenance/upkeep
  - Included in rent
  - Full time staff
  - On-site manager
- 10 units and under
- Washer and dryer rather than dishwasher

What do you like about it?
- Sense of community
- Sense of support
- Support-building

What are your concerns?
- Potential conflicts with neighbors
- Location concerns
  - Crime
- Balanced locations
  - In town and rural/suburbs
- Let community know the difference between affordable and low-income
  - Address stigma perspectives of low-income
- Provide community opportunities
  - Contractors
  - Other housing related jobs
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

- Address environmental issues
- Property ownership issues

Alternative Two: Housing With Community Extras (2 votes)
7-10 units, common outdoor space, common room with possible children's area, computers, estimated cost $7,000 - 1 million

What should it include?
- Fitness/exercise area
- Library
- Garden
- 24 hour meeting room
- Children's play area
- BBQ-Picnic area
- Sweatlodge

What do you like about it?
- Will help build community
- Will help create jobs
- Supports families
- Creates shared assets for community
- Promotes cultural identify

What are your concerns?
- Health concerns (play area)
- Security/Safety
- Stay Indian managed
- Guarantee assets stay in community

Alternative Three: Combined Housing and Commercial (0 votes)
15-30 units, commercial area close to transit, office space, meeting room with community space and computers, estimated cost 1.5 million - 2 million

What should it include?
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

- Health clinic
- Elderly gathering space
- Child development center/daycare
- Two separate buildings
- Social services
- Mobile School/alternative School
- Native American library

What do you like about it?
- Walking distance
- Convenience
- Holds more people than other alternatives
- Good for elders and youth

What are your concerns?
- Opening up community to general population
- Harder to secure
- Don't want offices under housing (separate)
- Security

Alternative Four: Community Center (9 votes)
Meeting rooms, shared office space for LIHNAPO & AIAP, gym and locker space, youth activities, elder activities, community craft store, could include housing for elders/Indian YMCA, phased project with housing first, estimated cost $600,000 to 1.5 million

What should it include?
- Library
- Bingo
- Radio
- Sauna/hot tubs
- Food bank/emergency services
- Youth living out of foster homes
- Showers
- Kitchen
- Service outlets
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

• Resource center (information and referral)
• Land for multiple uses (softball, camping)
• Locate Native American housing nearby
• Camp style housing (for Pow Wows)

What do you like about it?
• Place for free spirits to stay ($10-11 or work for room)
• Temporary housing for youth
• Having projects that feel good to work on
• Possibility for transitional housing
• Sounds accessible
• Place where all organizations can come together

What are your concerns?
• Seniors isolated (need choice to be together or alone)
• Children need to learn to care for elders
• Security
• Needs to be able to pay for itself
• Access for visitors
• Housing away from center
• Environmentally sensitive
• Transitional housing and community center together

How Does LIHNAPO Choose?

• Self sufficiency/self determination
• Control over land/decisions
• Money coming in/covering costs
• Cultural space
• Does it make funders happy
• Does it fit in your mission
• Is it a sound place to build
• Does the community want it
• Will the community use it
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

- Time - will it be quick
- Is there a deadline
- Who is able to work with LIHNAPO
- Does it fit obligations LIHNAPO has

Other Issues

- Property Management
- Counseling/services
- Delta Park