

Exhibit A to Resolution 26-5580

Recommended for funding

The 2025-26 Nature in Neighborhood community stewardship and restoration grants review committee recommends the following ten (10) proposals for funding to the Metro Council.

The Metro Council makes all final grant decisions and is scheduled to decide final grant awards on July 21, 2026.

Black Futures Farm HEAP: Healing, Education, Afroecology, and Permaculture

Recipient: Black Futures Farm

Grant amount: \$100,000

Project Partners: Black Futures Farm, Feed'Em Freedom Foundation, Wonderfolk, The Uprise Collective

Program summary: This project supports the work of Black Futures Farm, which is a Black-centered, urban agricultural space working to reconnect Black people to the land and inspire all people to create meaningful change through food, knowledge, culture, and outdoor experiences.

H.E.A.L. Garden: Heritage, Ecology, and Allied Legacies

Recipient: The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization

Grant amount: \$100,000

Project Partners: The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, Metro, Wisdom of the Elders, Ed Edmo, Olesya Uglova Soul-Body-Mind LLC, EarthyBirth LLC, City of Portland - Bureau of Environmental Sustainability

Program summary: This project will unite members of Metro's Indigenous, Latinx, and Slavic/Eastern European communities to create an accessible, multicultural community garden and events that foster a resilient community identity rooted in care for the land and each other.

Learning Gardens Lab Community Partnerships: Agroecology & Land Stewardship Internship and Certificate Program

Recipient: Learning Gardens Laboratory

Grant amount: \$99,946

Project Partners: Learning Gardens Laboratory, Solarpunx PDX, Portland State University's (PSU) Indigenous Traditional Ecological & Cultural Knowledge (ITECK) Center

Program summary: This project is a collaboration between Learning Gardens Laboratory, Solarpunx, and PSU's ITECK program and will co-create a paid internship and certificate program. This pilot removes economic barriers to workforce development, restores native habitats, and expands community access to land and traditional First Foods.

GoFishPI Program - Get Out and Fish with Living Islands 2026**Recipient:** Living Islands**Grant amount:** \$100,000**Project Partners:** Living Islands, Oregon State University College of Science Director of Equity and Access Kameron Kadooka (lead presenter), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Antonio Salgado, City of Portland SuperFund Education Miranda Mishan, Portland Harbor Community Coalition Cassie Cohen**Program summary:** This project engages Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities in culturally rooted fishing camps and excursions that inspire environmental stewardship, food sovereignty, and responsible, sustainable use of Oregon waterways.**Youth Growing Food and Community at Kindness Farm****Recipient:** Northwest Youth Corps**Grant amount:** \$ 45,057**Project Partners:** Northwest Youth Corps, Kindness Farm, Girl's Inc. of the PNW, David Douglas High School, Dharma Rain Zen Center**Program summary:** This project gives 56 Portland teens and leaders the opportunity to promote food sovereignty for historically marginalized communities through six weeks of activities at Kindness Farm. For their service, participants earn money, high school credit, and a solid work reference.**Dharma Rain Food Forest****Recipient:** Northwest Zen Sangha**Grant amount:** \$40,000**Project Partners:** Northwest Zen Sangha, Blueprint Foundation, Northwest Youth Corps, Bird Alliance of Oregon**Program summary:** This project will offer a series of classes and workshops for underserved populations. Events will take place on Northwest Zen Sangha's four acre campus. Learning activities will combine native habitat restoration with regenerative agriculture practices.**New Columbia Community Stewardship Project****Recipient:** Our Village Gardens**Grant amount:** \$29,997**Project Partners:** Our Village Gardens, Boys and Girls Club of Portland Metro, INCIGHT, Earth & Spirit Council**Program summary:** This project will improve wildlife habitat by removing invasive species and planting healthy ones, while working with partners to expand economic and environmental equity by connecting residents to Indigenous workshops, a leadership academy, and career pathways.**PIM Plant Plaza and Ecoroof****Recipient:** Portland Indigenous Marketplace**Grant amount:** \$75,000**Project Partners:** List of partners**Program summary:** This project will transform a 2500-square-foot parking lot to create a resilient and welcoming plaza with native plants, shade trees, living systems, Indigenous arts, and interpretive displays, and install an ecoroof.

POIC Natural Resource Pathway (NRP) Program

Recipient: Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center Inc.

Grant amount: \$60,000

Project Partners: As a member of the Branch Coalition, POIC is partnered with Friends of Trees, Portland Parks & Recreation, Portland Fruit Tree Project, the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services, Columbia Slough Watershed Council, and all other Branch Coalition members

Program summary: This project POIC's Natural Resource Pathway (NRP) programs offer low-income youth and youth of color opportunities to engage in habitat restoration and conservation, and to pursue career-track natural resource mentorship and education.

Food Sovereignty Practices Through a Disability Justice Lens

Recipient: The Uprise Collective

Grant amount: \$100,000

Project Partners: The Uprise Collective, Northwest Indigenous Food Sovereignty Alliance, NIFSA and Upstream Access

Program summary: This project utilizes cultural ecological knowledge, community partnerships and food sovereignty practices through a disability justice lens to create accessible food and traditional medicine garden spaces, as well as creating opportunities for food cultivation, preparation and preservation.