

# Expo Future Historical Significance and Memorialization Committee Recommendations Report

November 2024

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Expo Future Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee (HSMC) guided the community input process and drafted the resulting recommendations of how to represent and memorialize the histories and cultures associated with the Portland Expo Center site. Committee members volunteered their time, talent, insightful questions and thoughtful comments, with a generosity of spirit that set the tone for our work. We extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every committee member for their lasting and valuable contributions.

More than 140 members of urban Indigenous, Japanese American and Vanport communities generously shared their perspectives during interviews, virtual conversations, in-person workshops and online input. Partner organizations, including Epworth United Methodist Church, Japanese Ancestral Society of Oregon, Japanese American Museum of Oregon, Portland Japanese American Citizens League, Vanport Mosaic and others provided outreach to their respective communities and hosted many of the workshops. Formal and informal community ambassadors also provided outreach and encouraged community participation in this process. The HSMC and project staff gratefully acknowledge everyone who contributed to the process of developing these recommendations. We cannot thank you enough.

Metro staff similarly deserve our deepest appreciation. Handling such sensitive subject matter requires care, professionalism, and empathy, and we appreciate that these qualities appeared in every part of your work.

Last, we thank the consulting team of Start Consulting Group and Trash for Peace, whose focus on community voice and inclusion never wavered.

With gratitude,

Lynn Fuchigami-Parks and Ed Washington, Co-Chairs



HSMC co-chair Lynn Fuchigami-Parks



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## DEFINITIONS AND TERMS USED THROUGHOUT THE REPORT

The Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee utilizes the following definitions:

**Campus:** The entirety of the 53-acre Expo Center property, including its land and buildings. *See also: Site*

**Expo Center:** a Metro-owned 53-acre property in North Portland that includes five exhibition halls that total 333,000 square feet of indoor space, more than one million square feet of outdoor space, land along the Columbia River and 2,500 parking spaces. *See also: Campus and Site*

**Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee (HSMC):** A 14-member advisory committee who guided the process of developing recommendations to memorialize and represent the histories and cultures tied to the Expo Center. Committee members included volunteer representatives from the three communities connected to the Portland Expo Center (specifically urban Indigenous, Japanese American and Vanport communities) in addition to business leaders, Tribal and non-Tribal government representatives, representatives of partner organizations, and Metro staff.

**Historically marginalized communities:** Groups who have been denied access and/or suffered past institutional discrimination in the United States. The terms “historically marginalized” and “marginalized populations” describe groups of people that systems of power have excluded because of their age, race, class, abilities, ethnicity, gender, immigration status, or any other identity not represented by the dominant culture. Marginalizing people blocks them from rights, opportunities and resources to which those in the dominant culture have easy access.<sup>1</sup>

**Impacted Communities:** Urban Indigenous, Japanese American, and Vanport communities, the three primary groups with significant historical ties to Expo Center and its surrounding land and water.

**Japanese American Community:** Japanese Americans, including people unjustly incarcerated at the Portland Assembly Center (now Expo Halls A, B and C) and later sent by the federal government to concentration camps or forced to move outside the established military zones during World War II.

**Memorialization:** The act of commemorating the past and preserving history. HSMC welcomes the preference articulated by urban Indigenous Community members that the actions of *memorialization* and *representation* must always appear together. This preference affirms that Indigenous Peoples have both a historical and continued presence today at the Expo Center. At the same time, urban Indigenous communities expressed the importance of capturing and honoring Indigenous connections to the land, river and area since the beginning of time, or time immemorial. The Japanese American and Vanport communities also expressed the feeling of

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<sup>1</sup> Metro Inclusive Language Style Guide

historic and continued connection to the site. As a result, HSMC now refers to this work and recommended actions as *memorialization* and *representation*.

**Representation:** active inclusion of present-day voices and perspectives of Impacted Communities. Drawing on input from urban Indigenous communities, *representation* will always appear with *memorialization*. Use of both terms conveys that each community has history tied to the site, along with a vibrant present and future presence. HSMC now refers to this work and recommended actions as *memorialization* and *representation*.

**Site:** The entirety of the 53-acre Expo Center property, including its land and buildings. *See also: Campus*

**Urban Indigenous Community:** Indigenous People living in the urban greater Portland area who may also be affiliated with one or more Tribes. A large urban Native American population with an estimated 58,135 Native Americans, representing more than 380 Tribal affiliations, lives in Portland.<sup>2</sup> Sovereign Tribal Governments also hold distinctive connections to the site but are not included in this definition, although members of these Tribes who live in the greater Portland area may be included as part of the urban Indigenous Community. *See also: Tribes*

**Vanport Community:** A multi-racial, intersectional community and its descendants (including Black people, particularly African American, Japanese American, Indigenous, Mexican American, other Asian American and white working-class people) who lived in the City of Vanport at the time of the Vanport Flood and experienced displacement and loss in its aftermath.

**Tribes:** Federally recognized Tribes with distinct ancestral connections to the greater Portland area, including the Expo Center and surrounding area. Consultation and engagement with interested Tribes about the Expo Future project is occurring separately through a government-to-government approach coordinated by the Metro Tribal Affairs Program. Recommendations from tribal consultation will be summarized in a separate report to Metro.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/roots-portlands-native-american-community>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Expo Future project is working to memorialize the historical and cultural significance of the Expo Center site and to redevelop the venue to provide much needed space for sports competitions that range from local and regional to national and international in scope. Metro's commitment to upholding the historic significance of the site led to the formation of the Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee in 2023. HSMC recommends that Expo's future include memorialization and representation of Impacted Communities: urban Indigenous, Japanese American and Vanport Communities, the three primary groups with significant historical ties to Expo Center and its surrounding land and water. Each community has a profound historic and ongoing connection to the Expo Center site. HSMC's recommendations reflect both the pain of their histories and the joy of and pride in their ongoing community presence. HSMC engaged directly with survivors, descendants and community members significantly connected to the site's history. The engagement process included virtual and in-person workshops, storytelling sessions, interviews, and online input, with more than 140 participants representing urban Indigenous, Japanese American, and Vanport Communities.

HSMC's recommendations derive directly from the aggregated input that was offered consistently by each community. Together the recommendations illuminate key themes expressed in the engagement process. Ideas and specific recommendations consistently mentioned by a single community or across communities appear in Appendix A: Recommendation Implementation Strategies.

HSMC's community-informed recommendations are organized into eight categories. Key recommendations include:

- **Art:** Create monumental, highly visible art installations and performances that reflect the histories and cultures of Impacted Communities. Community artists must be engaged in creating this artwork.
- **Buildings, Facilities & Design:** Use a community-centered design process for any new construction or renovation, particularly concerning Hall A, which holds deep historical significance as the location of Japanese American incarceration. Create a centrally located, multi-use community/interpretive center for cultural gatherings, healing and storytelling to celebrate Impacted Communities and Tribes' cultures and histories. Conduct additional analysis of and community discussion about Hall A to determine the feasibility of reuse or deconstruction and to reach agreement about what should be done with the hall. Use the languages of Impacted Communities to name physical features of the site.
- **Community Access:** Develop policies that provide low or no-cost access to the Expo Center for Impacted Communities to the extent feasible, including expanded opportunity for the Communities to host cultural events, sporting activities and other gatherings that celebrate these communities.



- **Economic Development Opportunities:** Create economic opportunities for Impacted Communities by prioritizing them for vendor, contractor and business development roles at the Expo Center. Develop a community benefit fund to support memorialization and representation projects and for grants or other activities for Impacted Communities, Tribes and historically marginalized communities.
- **Educational Programming & Stories:** Develop a long-term interpretive plan to identify programming and interpretation strategies that incorporate the histories of Impacted Communities throughout the Expo Center campus in multiple ways. Include sharing stories of forced removal, displacement, survivance and resilience. With urgency, identify and provide resources to record and preserve aging Elders' stories and histories from all Impacted Communities.
- **Metro Accountability:** Metro must continue to engage with Impacted Communities and Tribes and be transparent in its decision making as it develops plans to implement the recommendations. This transparency includes detailing strategies for creating inclusive, accessible programming designed to honor the histories of the Impacted Communities, fostering partnerships, ensuring that Impacted Communities benefit from the project's undertakings and affirming they will not be tokenized in memorialization and representation or in any sports development at the site. Some recommendations will require additional community input and analysis; all will require funding. Metro must explore all available funding sources in good faith and exhaust all potential options as it assesses the feasibility of each recommendation.
- **Natural Spaces:** Restore the site's ecological health by introducing native plants and leading with Indigenous land stewardship and stewardship principles. Create cultural gardens, interpretive trails, and gathering spaces, and ensure access between Expo and the Columbia River waterfront for Indigenous Peoples and members of other Impacted Communities. The space should support healing and reflection. Prioritize opportunities to return land to Indigenous Peoples and Tribes.
- **Sports:** Sports at the Expo Center can be used as a platform to share the histories of Impacted Communities by integrating culturally significant sports or sharing stories of how sports provided joy and resilience to Impacted Communities. To the extent feasible, equitable, low-barrier access to sports facilities for Impacted Communities should be readily available.

The Expo Future project presents Metro with a distinctive opportunity to create a lasting space for education, introspection and celebration. Opportunities abound to feature the historical and contemporary significance of the Expo Center site and land throughout the entire campus. Learning these histories should help visitors recognize recurrences of racism and harm in their contemporary lives and encourage them to resist such policies and practices.

## INTRODUCTION

Indigenous People and Tribes, Japanese Americans and Vanport Flood survivors and descendants are distinctly and deeply connected to the land and buildings constituting the 53-acre site of Metro's Portland Expo Center and its water and surrounding areas. Their experiences reflect historical trauma, but they also manifest resilience, pride, and even joy in their ongoing relationship to the site. These are the stories we must tell on the Expo Center campus.

Indigenous Peoples and Tribes have inhabited the lands now known as the greater Portland area since time immemorial. Colonization of the region by Euro-Americans in the nineteenth century brought to Indigenous Nations new trade and global interconnections, but also disease and violence. This colonization culminated in the formalization of policies designed to displace, assimilate, or exterminate Indigenous Peoples.

During World War II, the American government, with support from local authorities, forcibly removed Japanese Americans from their homes. Nearly 4,000 Japanese Americans were unjustly incarcerated at what is now the Expo Center site.

In 1948 the Vanport Flood obliterated the multi-racial City of Vanport—constructed by Kaiser Shipyards to house thousands of wartime workers, including many Black people and other people of color. The flood took lives as well as homes, leaving families devastated and in need of support.

The stories of these communities, unfortunately, remain only minimally memorialized and represented. A small plaque in the lobby of Hall A marks the incarceration of Japanese Americans. A few artifacts in Hall E reflect life in nearby Vanport. Expo Center staff have supported organizations representing Impacted Communities where possible. *Voices of Remembrance*, a public art installation at the TriMet Expo Center MAX station, commemorates the incarceration of Japanese Americans, but has been temporarily removed by TriMet for restoration. Reminders or markers of Indigenous Peoples' longstanding relationship with the land and the river are wholly missing.

The committee's recommendations broadly provide opportunities for members of the urban Indigenous, Japanese American and Vanport Communities and Tribes to reconnect with the land and nearby water, bringing opportunities for healing and restoration.

Metro's Tribal Affairs Program consults and engages with sovereign Tribes who hold ancestral connections to the greater Portland area. The Tribes have expressed desire to work with Metro to protect and enhance all the areas under its supervision, including the Expo campus. It is accordingly imperative to consult with Tribes through the Tribal Affairs Program as this project continues; the Tribal Affairs Program plans additional conversations and consultation with Tribes about Expo Future in 2025. The inclusion of "Tribes" throughout indicates areas for future consultation and collaboration and does not reflect the formal input of Tribes in the preparation

of this report. Metro’s Tribal Affairs Program will bring forward separate recommendations to also be utilized by Metro in its future actions and endeavors at the site.

## **HISTORICAL CONTEXT FOR IMPACTED COMMUNITIES**

### **Note to the reader**

The information in this section is intended to provide context about those identified as Impacted Communities in the Expo Future Project. You are encouraged to research and learn more about these groups’ long, complex histories in the region, including the ways federal, state and local government policies and racism led to discrimination and harm inflicted on them. Organizations represented on the HSMC, including the [Japanese American Museum of Oregon \(JAMO\)](#), [Oregon Historical Society \(OHS\)](#) and [Vanport Mosaic](#), offer excellent resources.

The phrase “Impacted Communities” is used in this report to refer specifically to urban Indigenous, Japanese American and Vanport Communities and their descendants.

Racial discrimination, segregation, settler colonialism, xenophobia, forced removal, forced displacement and institutional racism harmed Impacted Communities connected to the Expo Center site. Governmental policies and actions culminated in the forced removal and displacement of each group. Despite these harms, Indigenous, Japanese American and Vanport communities continue to maintain their connections to the site.

### **Indigenous Peoples**

Indigenous Peoples, Tribes and bands have lived in this region since time immemorial. The lands now known as the greater Portland metropolitan area are part of the aboriginal homelands, traditional use areas and trade networks of numerous Tribes. For millennia, Indigenous Peoples resided throughout the Willamette Valley and along the Willamette and Columbia Rivers and their tributaries in traditional villages, permanent communities and seasonal encampments. The Tribes and their communities stewarded the land, fished and hunted and gathered food, fibers and medicines. They had deeply complex societies, with thousands of years of accumulated knowledge that aided their reciprocal stewardship and care for the land and its resources. The first Euro-Americans to travel the area enjoyed hospitality in the long cedar houses of populous, permanent Chinookan villages on both sides of the Lower Columbia. Euro-American traders, trappers and later settlers profited from these cherished resources and lands; they also severely interrupted Indigenous People’s livelihoods and culture, as they brought disease, violence, and white supremacist genocidal policies to the region. Across multiple communities and Tribal confederations, the survivors of these policies prevailed, and continue to act as sovereign Tribal Nations maintaining their care for these homelands.

An estimated 58,135 Native Americans, representing more than 380 Tribal affiliations, comprise the Urban Indigenous Community in greater Portland.<sup>3</sup> Indigenous People make their homes in Portland by choice but also as a result of mid-twentieth-century policies that terminated the federal government's recognition of Western Oregon Tribes and spurred assimilation of Tribes broadly through relocation to urban areas. Today, the Urban Indigenous Community and Tribes continue cultural and traditional practices and ways of life, maintaining connection to the land and rivers and important First Foods such as salmon and wapato once abundant on the Expo landscape.

## **Japanese Americans**

When the United States entered World War II, Executive Order 9066 authorized the military to exclude people of Japanese ancestry, including U.S. citizens, all of whom were required to register and report for incarceration. Japanese Americans were incarcerated at the Pacific International Livestock Association (now the Expo Center) and other facilities/locations across the U.S. The federal government converted the Association's livestock exhibition halls (now known as Halls A, B and C) and accompanying lands into a makeshift detention camp known as the Portland Assembly Center. Threatened by armed military and barbed wire, nearly 4,000 Japanese Americans from Oregon and Washington, including children, lived en masse with the stench of animal manure, flies and extreme temperatures from May to September of 1942. They were then transferred to remote concentration camps throughout the US. The United States government robbed more than 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry of their homes, livelihoods, friends, belongings and dignity. Although most were U.S. citizens and many served in the military during World War II, they and other Japanese Americans were greatly impacted by these racist acts perpetrated by the government.

The United States government formally apologized to Japanese Americans in 1988 with the signing of the Civil Liberties Act after a congressional commission report found the incarceration was due to "race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership." The indignity, dispossession, and violation of civil rights due to the World War II incarceration reverberates in the Japanese American Community today as its members continue to struggle with intergenerational trauma.

## **Vanport Community**

The City of Vanport began as thousands of Black, Chinese American, Indigenous, Mexican American, and low-income white communities relocated to Oregon for wartime job opportunities. The Housing Authority of Portland's racist policies and attitudes did little to accommodate this diverse population influx. Accordingly, Henry Kaiser's Oregon Shipbuilding Corporation constructed 10,014 housing units in 110 days on diked marshland north of Portland, calling the city Vanport.

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/roots-portlands-native-american-community>

Vanport became “the nation’s largest wartime housing development, a site for social innovation, a lightning rod for racial prejudice, and the scene of one of Oregon’s major disasters.”<sup>4</sup> It offered housing, racially integrated schools with Black teachers, childcare, community centers and other amenities. At its peak, 40,000 residents lived in Vanport. An estimated 25 to 40 percent were Black, making Vanport the largest Black settlement in Oregon. Approximately 900 Japanese Americans also settled in Vanport as they returned from incarceration and faced with continued discrimination.

On Memorial Day, 1948, Vanport flooded when a nearby railroad dike failed. The city was destroyed and 15 people died in the flood. All 18,500 residents were displaced <sup>5</sup>, including 6,300 Black residents.<sup>6</sup> Despite government reassurance that the dikes around Vanport would hold, the Vanport Flood destroyed the entire city within a day.

When survivors sought housing in Portland after the flood, they faced ongoing segregation, redlining and racist policies of the Housing Authority of Portland. This was especially true for African Americans, who could only seek limited housing in segregated Black neighborhoods of North and Northeast Portland. More than 50 years later the Housing Authority’s successor, Home Forward, apologized for “its racism and negligence in its management of Vanport and its poor treatment of African Americans in the flood’s wake.”<sup>7</sup> The reverberations of the Vanport Flood are still felt today by greater Portland’s Black community and members of other communities who survived the disaster.

Throughout HSMC’s engagement process, many members of the Impacted Communities insisted that these stories be shared so that others can understand and resist similar harms today and in the future. Community members further emphasized that Metro’s representation of these histories must include the breadth of communities’ histories and experiences, which encompasses far more than the injustices done to them. The HSMC affirms the importance of creating spaces and opportunities to connect with history and culture of the site and its surrounding land and water.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/vanport/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.oregonhistoryproject.org/articles/essays/the-vanport-flood/>

<sup>6</sup> Geiling, N. (2015, February18). How Oregon’s Second Largest City Vanished in a Day. *Smithsonian Magazine*. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/vanport-oregon-how-countrys-largest-housing-project-vanished-day-180954040/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://projects.oregonlive.com/publishing-prejudice/flooded-forgotten>

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## HSMC's role and process

In February 2023, Metro Council and the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission unanimously supported the Expo Future project, whose two primary objectives are to

1. Recognize Expo Center's Hall A as a site of national historical significance and meaningfully memorialize the site's history of forced displacement during World War II and the Vanport Floods, as well as the site's pre-colonial history and importance to Indigenous Peoples.
2. Leverage Oregon's status as an international powerhouse in the sport and outdoor industry and pivot Expo's future redevelopment as a community-centric destination venue that prioritizes amateur, professional, and recreational sports.

Since its inception, HSMC's primary efforts have focused on a) learning more about each Impacted Community's history and connections to Expo, b) framing the community engagement process, and c) developing recommendations to equitably and impactfully honor the historical and contemporary significance of the Expo Center and surrounding areas. These recommendations are rooted in feedback from communities that are connected to or have been impacted by the Expo Center site and include strategies on how to strengthen the connection of Impacted Communities to the land, water and Expo Center campus.

To support HSMC's work, Metro retained Milwaukie, Oregon-based Start Consulting Group, which specializes in equitable and culturally inclusive engagements. Start Consulting Group partnered with Trash for Peace, a local nonprofit organization that has developed the gold standard of culturally competent engagement and community design systems rooted in equity and inclusion. Start Consulting Group began working with HSMC in December 2023, helping committee members define and implement community engagement strategies and develop its recommendations.

The consultant team worked cooperatively with HSMC to develop strategies to engage members of Impacted Communities in the memorialization and representation process. These strategies included a series of virtual discussions, interviews and in-person workshops, each of which was tailored to specific Impacted Communities. Many HSMC members served as ambassadors and connections to community members in the engagement process.

HSMC offers 46 recommendations to honor the historical and contemporary significance of the Expo Center campus, along with their respective implementation strategies. The goal is to honor the past and present experiences of Impacted Communities, to create access and opportunities to facilitate reconciliation and to provide opportunities to engage with visitors on the site.

## Overview of engagement process

Following HSMC's approval of the engagement process, staff and consultants extended approximately 200 invitations to representatives of the three Impacted Communities. Metro's Tribal Liaison provided guidance on culturally appropriate engagement with the Urban Indigenous Community. The consultants conducted individual interviews, virtual workshops and in-person workshops with 37 participants from the Japanese American Community, 16 participants from the Vanport Community and 30 participants from the Urban Indigenous Community. Participants included survivors of the Portland Assembly Center and Vanport Flood and their descendants. Metro also gathered 34 online responses from those unable to attend these sessions.

**Virtual Workshops:** HSMC sponsored virtual workshops for the three Impacted Community groups, each consisting of up to 12 participants. This expansive process allowed for in-depth discussion and feedback gathering. Metro staff shared the overview of the Expo Future Project and the importance of memorialization and representation of Impacted Communities. Impacted Community members who participated shared their values and connections to the site. Participants shared recommendations that are interwoven in HSMC's recommendations.

**In-Person Workshops:** Three in-person workshops took place in July, August and September. Each workshop presented visuals and activities specific to each Impacted Community. Metro staff provided an overview of the Expo Future project, then HSMC and Impacted Community Ambassadors described the importance of honoring and giving representation to the Impacted Communities. Workshop activities included mapping "The Expo Future We Want," review of community-specific memorialization and representation examples, and opportunities for participants to share their ideas in small group discussions.

**Interviews:** Virtual and in-person individual and small group interviews provided another way for Impacted Community members to participate. Interviewees shared their understanding of the historical significance of the Expo Center site, their personal stories and connections, and specific recommendations.

Following workshops and interviews, Start Consulting compiled and presented all community engagement data and input to HSMC for members to use in development of their final recommendations. Start also completed an initial draft of this report, which was later refined by HSMC.

Community input provided the foundation for HSMC's recommendations. These recommendations aggregate and highlight key themes and suggestions. HSMC also captured ideas or specific recommendations proposed by one or more communities for further consideration. These can be viewed in Appendix A: Recommendation Implementation Strategies.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

During the process described above, HSMC developed for Metro’s consideration recommendations to honor the historical and contemporary significance of the Expo Center site and land, stewarded by Metro, through appropriate memorialization and representation strategies. These recommendations stem from the vision of HSMC members, combined with input gathered from Impacted Communities through direct engagement. The following recommendations are not presented in order of priority. Each recommendation holds its own merit and is equally endorsed by HSMC. The recommendations are straightforward, and the following points should be considered respectively as they are reviewed:

- **Memorialization and Representation:** urban Indigenous participants expressed concerns about the word "memorialization," which can suggest a sense of remembering the past or honoring people and events that no longer exist. The group strongly advocated pairing "memorialization" with "representation" to show Indigenous Peoples are acknowledged as living, thriving communities today. As one participant noted, "representation is a perfectly good word that does not make it sound like [Indigenous People] are extinct." "Memorialization" alone can support the past harms and structures of erasure of Indigenous People.<sup>8</sup> Throughout the recommendations, references to "memorialization" therefore are consistently paired with "representation" (except where specific to HSMC’s committee name) to reflect this perspective.
- **Funding and Feasibility:** HSMC recognizes that some recommendations will require additional community input, analysis, and planning and that Metro must identify funding sources and determine the precise feasibility of each recommendation. It asks Metro to explore all such funding sources in good faith and to exhaust all potential options as it assesses the feasibility of each recommendation.
- **Community-Specific Recommendations:** Impacted Communities share a variety of recommendations tailored to their specific needs, while some recommendations tie directly to specific communities. Given that recommendations are not mutually exclusive, however, it should be assumed that any of them can be relevant to all groups.
- **Collaboration with Other Agencies:** Some of the feedback received relates to land and facilities owned by other government entities. HSMC encourages Metro to collaborate with these agencies to honor the histories of Impacted Communities and, where possible, work towards meeting the shared recommendations.

The 46 recommendations from HSMC and informed by members of Impacted Communities are presented in eight major categories: Art; Buildings, Facilities, & Design; Community Access; Economic Development Opportunities; Educational Programming & Stories; Metro Accountability; Natural Spaces; and Sports.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.grandronde.org/press-media/press/indigenous-peoples-in-oregon-and-beyond-are-decolonizing-maps/>



## Art Recommendations

Art holds a culturally crucial power to tell stories, celebrate culture, and create a sense of community. Art that represents each individual Impacted Community, or Impacted Communities collectively, can thereby honor the people and histories.

- A. Create spaces at existing and new Expo Center facilities for performing arts and for display of a variety of flexible and permanent artworks that convey the histories and cultures of the Impacted Communities. Artwork at the site must be free and available to view whenever possible.
- B. Convey histories and cultural memory through a variety of monumental, engaging artistic media and other activities throughout the campus, both indoors and outdoors. Metro should learn from each Impacted Community and Tribes what art means to them, and publicly demonstrate that in its art installations. Impacted Community members and Tribes must be engaged in the selection, development, curation and/or performance of art at the site. Both temporary and permanent monumental artwork must be evident throughout the campus and connect with other interpretation materials and installations across the site.
- C. Develop an interpretive framework to coordinate art and its interpretation.

## Buildings, Facilities, & Design Recommendations

The Expo Future Project provides an opportunity for Metro to honor the diverse histories of Impacted Communities and Tribes while constructing a permanent space that is welcoming, sustainable and accessible. A recurring theme throughout engagement was the desire to achieve space for healing and gathering for Impacted Communities and ultimately to build a dedicated space for celebration. Anyone who visits the Expo Center should immediately recognize the historical significance of the campus and surrounding land.

- A. Use a community-centered design process for building preservation, restoration, renovations or new construction. Involve Impacted Community members in the design and planning process and hire designers and contractors from Impacted Communities.
- B. Memorialization and representation features must be prominently distributed and highly visible throughout the site, rather than concentrated in one area or structure.
- C. Create a multi-use community/interpretive center for Impacted Communities to celebrate diverse cultures and histories, to recognize the resiliency, strength and perseverance of the Impacted Communities, and to have a place where these communities' members "have a place to belong." This center could occupy a new structure or be placed within Hall A to accommodate celebrations, events, large community gatherings, arts, storytelling, presentations, cultural practices, entrepreneurship and similar activities. Impacted Communities should be given preferential access that is routine, affordable, predictable

and frequent, while being a place for healing and connection. The space should be centrally located and visible on the campus and of a minimum size and configuration to support the functions and activities identified here and in the planning process. Impacted Community members should be closely engaged in the design and development of the space.

- D. Hold additional community conversations, engagement and fact-gathering to inform and determine what should be done with Hall A. Input and opinions about what to do with Halls A, B and C varied widely. Additional data and intersectional conversations among members of Impacted Communities may provide stronger agreement about potential uses and actions for the structure. Seek professional assessment of the structure's condition and cost estimates for potential renovation, preservation and deconstruction for potential use as the envisioned community center described above. Share this information with Impacted Communities and seek agreement about future actions, uses, operations and maintenance for Hall A, including uses for the site and its materials consistent with their historic importance. Prioritize transparency and healing in the decision-making process regarding Hall A so decisions do not cause additional harm.
- E. Work with Urban Indigenous Community members and Tribes to determine best use of the portion of the Expo site next to the Columbia River. *See also: Natural Spaces recommendations.*
- F. Incorporate each Impacted Community's cultural aesthetics into facility design, along with design elements that celebrate the Impacted Communities, the land and the water. Design new structures that blend with and reflect the land and water of the site.
- G. Use names and languages specific to Impacted Communities throughout the Expo Center, including naming physical features (lands, roads, walkways, buildings, etc.) and in art. Utilize communities' languages in naming and interpretation.
- H. Emphasize sustainability (a project guiding principle) during redevelopment by, for example, sourcing materials primarily/exclusively from the Pacific Northwest and repurposing any deconstructed materials from the site.

## Community Access Recommendations

Engagement participants and HSMC members emphasized the importance of making the Expo Center more accessible to Impacted Communities and other communities at low or no cost, to the extent feasible, by developing policies that offer subsidized or free access to campus spaces.

- A. Work with Impacted Communities to design spaces for community events, workshops, gatherings and learning/education that support engagement and empowerment of Impacted Communities. *See also: Buildings recommendation C.*
- B. Work toward a subsidized, free or low-cost community access program to the extent feasible for cultural, community, and history-related events and other appropriate Expo

Center events. This is imperative with events held for or by Impacted Communities and should include updating scheduling and booking policies to improve community access. This framework should create accessibility, identify eligible community groups/populations and types of access (facility rental and event admissions). It should also be analogous to discount pricing structures offered at other Metro facilities. A community advisory committee or program, similar to the Oregon Zoo's Community Access Program, should inform this framework, further define who is eligible to receive this economic benefit and provide guidance on ways to support Impacted Community access to the site. The committee may provide recommendations to Metro staff, and staff should explore potential sources necessary to offset proposed subsidies and/or fee reductions.

- C. Expo Center Future Guiding Principles and values should be upheld and built into Expo Center scheduling policies. *See also: Appendix D*

## **Economic Development Opportunities Recommendations<sup>9</sup>**

To create a more inclusive and equitable future for the Expo Center, it is essential to provide meaningful economic opportunities for communities historically connected to and impacted by the site. The following recommendations focus on wealth-building, business development, and workforce training, with an emphasis on prioritizing those directly affected by or connected to the site's history. These initiatives aim to ensure that Impacted Communities, including Indigenous Peoples, Japanese Americans, Vanport-impacted families and others, have access to long-term opportunities that promote economic empowerment and cultural representation. Additionally, the recommendations propose strategies to support arts, culture, and memorialization and representation projects through sustainable funding mechanisms.

- A. Where permitted by law, create and publicize new policies to support ongoing wealth-building opportunities for Impacted Communities at Expo. Such opportunities may include allowing cultural marketplaces, food catering and concessions sales, and business development services to support Impacted Community groups. When developing these policies, work with Impacted Communities to further define who is eligible to participate in these opportunities.
- B. Where permitted by law, ensure that members of Impacted Communities receive priority selection for employment and contract opportunities at Expo (such as

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<sup>9</sup> HSMC acknowledges the concerns expressed by the Urban Indigenous Community that economic development opportunities differ among cultures and communities above and beyond monetary or job opportunities. Health, restoration and wellness of the land and the well-being of family and community also signify wealth for Indigenous Peoples. Urban Indigenous Community also voiced concerns regarding recommendations for natural resources restoration, which could be inequitably implemented.

construction/maintenance, arts, design, and vending), followed by COBID-certified firms, members of other marginalized communities, then the general public.

- C. Develop a community benefit fund to support wealth-building, arts and culture programming, and educational activities at Expo Center for Impacted Communities, Tribes and historically marginalized communities. Direct a portion of the fund to memorialization and representation projects, which should include their maintenance and operation, and a portion to grants or other activities at Expo Center. Potential funding sources could include an Expo Center parking surcharge, ticket/rental fee surcharge, grant funding or sponsorships. Specific uses of these funds, consistent with this recommendation, and governance of the fund will need to be defined during the fund's development. This fund should be developed and governed by a committee of members of Impacted Communities with support of Metro staff. *See also: Arts, Community Access, and Educational Programming recommendations.*
- D. Develop business and youth workforce training/development opportunities at the Expo Center with an emphasis on opportunities for businesses and youth from Impacted Communities.

### **Educational Programming & Stories Recommendations**

*"They should have something [memorialization] around Vanport, it's a sacred area. Let the people know what happened at Vanport. Tell the truth about how many people died in the flood."*

*-Vanport community engagement participant*

Stories and histories must be built into the Expo Center campus to reflect the full breadth of its historical and contemporary significance. The following recommendations focus on creating educational and interpretive opportunities that honor the resilience and rich cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples, Japanese Americans and Vanport residents and descendants. Metro hopes that by prioritizing these narratives, the Expo Center can become a place of healing, education, and reflection, where visitors can engage with the power of place and the ongoing connection between the land and the people. These recommendations aim fully to tell American and Portland history, emphasizing multicultural and

intersectional perspectives, while ensuring that the past's hard truths are told for the purpose of healing and preventing future harm.

- A. Develop a long-term interpretive plan to identify programming and interpretation strategies that tell the stories of all Impacted Communities and includes relevant HSMC recommendations. The interpretive plan should take a comprehensive approach to telling the site's many histories, stories and people's inextricable connection to this place despite

forced removals. Stories of Impacted Communities must be given priority in the development of the plan. Engage members of Impacted Communities in the development, ongoing evaluation and revision(s) of the plan.

- B. Integrate the histories and stories of the site and the land Metro stewards throughout the campus. Presentation of the histories and cultures of Impacted Communities and Tribes should be immersive, experiential, and multisensory.
- C. Develop educational resources to share the Impacted Communities' histories and cultures connected to the site by working with professional educators and community organizations from Impacted Communities.
- D. Identify and provide urgently needed resources for Impacted Communities to preserve stories of survivors, families, and others impacted before venerable Elders are lost. Resources could include funding, personnel, and guidance for Impacted Communities to record their own family history and story at the Expo Center. These oral histories should not be collected by Metro, but rather should be collected by community groups like Vanport Mosaic and the Oregon Historical Society and should then be shared publicly but only with written permission of the Elders/storytellers from Impacted Communities and their families.
- E. Highlight stories of sports and recreation within Impacted Communities in programming and storytelling at Expo Center. *See also: Sports recommendations.*
- F. Use educational opportunities to encourage Expo guests to engage with history, connect the past to the present and future and highlight intersectionality among Impacted Communities.
- G. Make certain that the interpretive plan recognizes that these histories of forced displacement are not outliers, but rather typify American history, which, from the inception of colonization, included many racist and xenophobic forms of displacement. This interpretive plan should be multilayered and multicultural and should recognize the great achievements of people from Impacted Communities who represent their communities in civic roles and continue to care for the land and water. Finally, we must honor the civic rights of all people.
- H. All educational programming needs to tell hard truths with the purpose of healing and ensuring the past harms at the site do not happen again. Education must include how greed, racism, fear, colonialism and capitalism guided government decision-making and caused harm to Impacted Communities. The stories should strive to make the invisible visible while highlighting the strength, joy, pride, resilience and abundance of Impacted Communities.
- I. Expo Center infrastructure should support technology-based interpretive strategies throughout the campus.

## Metro Accountability Recommendations

For as long as Metro owns and manages the Expo Center site, including the land and natural resources it stewards there, Metro remains morally and publicly accountable to the communities who suffered injustices there at the site. To fulfill this responsibility, it is not sufficient to tell the stories of those who have been historically displaced and marginalized; Metro must also prioritize those people and their descendants in the design and decision processes.

The following recommendations detail strategies for creating inclusive, accessible programming designed to honor the histories of Impacted Communities. By amplifying their voices and experiences, Metro can ensure that the Expo Center becomes a place where the past is acknowledged, the present is enriched and the future is shaped by resilience and representation. These efforts are intended to foster healing, education and a deeper understanding of the land's cultural and historical significance, while challenging and reshaping dominant narratives about Portland and American history.

- A. Provide regular and ongoing communications and community engagement in advance of and after major decision points to ensure community-centered design throughout the next phase of the planning process and beyond.
- B. Create an ongoing project governance committee with representation from Impacted Communities that works in partnership with Metro to advise and provide oversight to memorialization and representation and to ensure these goals and recommendations are being met.
- C. Work collaboratively with Impacted Communities to honor their experiences, concerns and valued principles by taking direction and listening.
- D. Partner and collaborate with Impacted Communities to honor and uplift the histories of the site without tokenizing or otherwise exploiting communities for Metro's commercial or financial benefit.
- E. Create organizational agreements between Metro and partnering organizations or communities to provide certain rights/access to the use the space at the Expo Center or other Metro property. *See also: Community Access recommendations.*
- F. Provide Expo Center staff with ongoing cultural competency training and education about the site's varied histories.
- G. Avoid fostering lateral oppression by siloing Impacted Communities in engagement or other areas as the project moves forward. Create space for stories, learning and connection across communities.
- H. Transparently communicate the process Metro will use to make decisions about these recommendations. This should include a communication plan shared with all Impacted Communities that details how to achieve a balance between memorialization and

*“Recognition is not representation.”*

representation of the three primary Impacted Communities, Tribes and partners and how efforts to educate about the historical and cultural significance of the site will be funded.

- I. Ensure that Native community and Indigenous connection to place are given the appropriate acknowledgement/representation in this project. *See also: Natural Spaces recommendations.*
- J. Where feasible, incorporate HSMC recommendations into the next phase(s) of the Expo Future project. If recommendations cannot be fully delivered at the Expo Center, Metro should provide reasoning and communicate why that is not possible and/or what alternatives it is considering. Metro should consider additional input from the Impacted Community members when deciding an alternative. Metro should leverage partnerships to implement community desires and seek to implement community desires in other Metro spaces or programs when not possible at the Expo Center.
- K. The Committee recognizes that some recommendations will require additional community input, analysis and planning and that Metro will need to identify funding sources and determine feasibility of each recommendation. It asks Metro to explore all available funding sources in good faith and exhaust all potential options as it assesses the feasibility of each recommendation.

## Natural Spaces Recommendations

To truly honor the history and cultural significance of the Expo Center and the land it occupies, it is crucial to prioritize Indigenous stewardship and ecological restoration of the land at the Expo Center. These recommendations emphasize sustainable stewardship, climate resilience and the reconnection of communities to the land and water, with Indigenous input leading the way. By integrating native plants, cultural gardens, accessible trails and connections to the Columbia River, these efforts aim to restore the landscape's ecological health while also providing opportunities for Indigenous Peoples, Tribes and Impacted Communities to reestablish their deep and sustainable connections to the site.

- A. Explore and prioritize immediate and long-term viable opportunities to return land to Indigenous Peoples and Tribes. Return land stewardship and availability of First Foods safe for human consumption to Indigenous Peoples at the Expo Center campus and across Metro's properties. *See also: Metro Accountability recommendations.*
- B. Prioritize sustainable and climate-friendly stewardship of the site and the site's ecology. Restore and heal the land through a process that culminates in healthy water, soil, plants, and bioswales, starting with Indigenous input and priorities while providing opportunities for Indigenous People to lead stewardship at the campus. Restore plants that are native to the region to restore the environment, support reflection and healing, and allow future generations to remember what the area looked like before colonization.

- C. Collaborate with Impacted Communities to create centrally located and culturally appropriate natural spaces, outdoor gardens, art installations, and other gathering spaces, to support gatherings, events, learning, healing, reflection and interpretation. Work to provide access to restored landscape, garden and outdoor gathering spaces in a manner that will be open and free of admission fees to the extent possible. Design of these spaces should be led by Impacted Communities and partners.
- D. Establish trails to create access and connection to nature, trees, water and elevated viewsheds of neighboring wetlands and beyond the campus itself that activate the full campus and draw visitors to learning opportunities and outdoor art. Incorporate wayside interpretation to create a self-guided experience of the site's past, present and future.
- E. Restore the connection between the main Expo Center site and the Columbia River waterfront with a pedestrian crossing or bridge across Marine Drive to connect the Expo Center to the Regional Trail Network and provide water access for community-specific uses, particularly for Urban Indigenous Community members and Tribes.

## Sports Recommendations

Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination.

- Nelson Mandela

Impacted Communities and HSMC members emphasized that Sports has played a significant role in the histories of the Impacted Communities. Their recommendations converge with the Expo Center's potential future sports-related uses and, importantly, highlight the deep connections these communities have to sports. Sports and playing games provided a sense of normalcy and an escape from the monotony of incarceration for Japanese Americans. Indigenous Peoples invented lacrosse, and residents of Vanport recalled the pleasure and sense of belonging that playing sports brought to their everyday lives.

- A. Stories about Impacted Communities should be visible at Expo Center events and facilities. Stories can reveal the intersection of sports with Impacted Communities. *See also: Educational Programming recommendations*
- B. Establish a framework to provide community benefit by providing Impacted Communities with preferential access to the Expo Center's sports facilities such as offering low barrier sport opportunities.
- C. Integrate the sports played by Impacted Communities into facility design and events at Expo.



# APPENDICES

## Summary of appendices:

- Appendix A: Suggested Implementation Strategies
- Appendix B: Compilation of Community input
- Appendix C: Expo Future Project Guiding Principles
- Appendix D: Expo Future Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee Values

## Appendix A: Suggested Implementation Strategies

During the Expo Future community engagement process, participants offered multiple general and specific ideas for ways to represent and memorialize the histories and cultures associated with the Expo Center site. Many of those ideas were offered repeatedly and are represented in the HSMC’s recommendations. Other suggestions were specific to a particular community or offered a specific strategy for implementing a recommendation. Those specific strategies are captured here.

The following implementation strategies provide additional context and potential guidance for how to implement the recommendations. Implementation strategies are shown with the corresponding HSMC recommendation. Not all HSMC recommendations have implementation strategies. Most strategies come from direct community input with edits made for clarity only.

The following considerations should be given as the strategies are reviewed:

- Some recommendations include built-in implementation strategies and are listed as standalone recommendations.
- Certain implementation strategies may appear across multiple recommendations and categories due to their broad applicability and relevance to various goals.
- Not all implementation strategies apply to every Impacted Community. Further engagement is encouraged.

<b>Art</b>	
<b>HSMC Recommendations</b>	<b>Suggested Implementation Strategies</b>
<p>A. Create spaces at existing and new Expo Center facilities for performing arts and for display of a variety of flexible and permanent artworks that convey the histories and cultures of the Impacted Communities. Artwork at the site must be free and available to view whenever possible.</p>	Engage with each Impacted Community and Tribes to understand what “art” means to each and be as inclusive as possible of those art forms.
	All art installations and artistic performances that represent Impacted Communities’ history and culture should be “for us, by us,” i.e., selected and developed or performed by members of Impacted Communities.
	Provide interpretative materials so that people can learn about and understand the art and the artists behind it. Include a cumulative “catalog” of performances that have occurred on site to offer insights into the history of the site and the history of performances at the site.
	Integrate/offer musical performances at tournaments and other events to highlight Impacted Communities’ cultures.
<p>B. Convey histories and cultural memory through a variety of monumental, engaging artistic media and other activities throughout</p>	Create a designated artist fund to support artists to create, exhibit, perform, and teach at the Expo Center.

<p>the campus, both indoors and outdoors. Metro should learn from each Impacted Community and Tribes what art means to them, and publicly demonstrate that in its art installations. Impacted Community members and Tribes must be engaged in the selection, development, curation and/or performance of art at the site. Both temporary and permanent monumental artwork must be evident throughout the campus and connect with other interpretation materials and installations across the site.</p>	<p>Host an ongoing artist in residence program as a way of teaching art, skills, and culture.</p>
	<p>Include space for artists to work, exhibit, meet, and perform, in addition to a recording studio for capturing history and musical artists.</p>
	<p>Include gallery space for artists in residence or those using the studio space.</p>
<p>C. Develop an interpretive framework to coordinate art and its interpretation.</p>	

<p><b>Buildings, Facilities &amp; Design</b></p>	
<p><b>HSMC Recommendations</b></p>	<p><b>Community-Suggested Implementation Strategies</b></p>
<p>A. Use a community-centered design process in building preservation, restoration, renovations or new construction. Involve Impacted Community members in the design and planning process and hire designers and contractors from Impacted Communities.</p>	
<p>B. Memorialization and representation features must be prominently distributed and highly visible throughout the site, rather than concentrated in one area or structure.</p>	<p>Have a common thread throughout the campus that ties back to memorialization and representation (e.g., as visitors traverse into different buildings, they are connected back to Hall A).</p>
	<p>Reflect or exhibit history of the site at Expo Center entry points (e.g., Torii Gate or include highly visible markers such as an archway that visitors walk through or install three main “gates” representing the three Impacted Communities that is highly visible as visitors drive onto or enter the campus).</p>
<p>C. Create a multi-use community/interpretive center for Impacted Communities to celebrate diverse cultures and histories, to recognize the resiliency, strength and perseverance of the Impacted Communities, and to have a place where these communities’ members “have a place to belong.” This center could occupy a new structure or be placed within Hall A to accommodate celebrations, events,</p>	<p>Build a Long House with a Native curator/steward for the site for Indigenous Peoples to gather.</p>
	<p>Include multi-use spaces with an auditorium and space for celebrations and events.</p>
	<p>Include a shared commercial kitchen and freezer/refrigeration space for Impacted Community vendors to sell culturally specific foods to sports complex attendees and events.</p>

<p>large community gatherings, arts, storytelling, presentations, cultural practices, entrepreneurship and similar activities. Impacted Communities should be given preferential access that is routine, affordable, predictable and frequent, while being a place for healing and connection. The space should be centrally located and visible on the campus and of a minimum size and configuration to support the functions and activities identified here and in the planning process. Impacted Community members should be closely engaged in the design and development of the space.</p>	<p>Include space for a performing arts center for storytelling music, drama, dance, photos, and audio presentations. <i>(See Arts recommendations)</i></p>
<p>D. Hold additional community conversations, engagement and fact-gathering to inform and determine what should be done with Hall A. Input and opinions about what to do with Halls A, B and C varied widely. Additional data and intersectional conversations among members of Impacted Communities may provide stronger agreement about potential uses and actions for the structure. Seek professional assessment of the structure's condition and cost estimates for potential renovation, preservation and deconstruction for potential use as the envisioned community center described above. Share this information with Impacted Communities and seek agreement about future actions, uses, operations and maintenance for Hall A, including uses for the site and its materials consistent with their historic importance. Prioritize transparency and healing in the decision-making process regarding Hall A so decisions do not cause additional harm.</p>	
<p>E. Work with Urban Indigenous Community members and Tribes to determine best use of the portion of the Expo site next to the Columbia River. <i>See also: Natural Spaces recommendations.</i></p>	
<p>F. Incorporate each Impacted Community's cultural aesthetics into facility design, along with design elements that celebrate the Impacted Communities, the land and the</p>	<p>Include the cultural aesthetics from each Impacted Community.</p> <p>Consider a children's playground and spaces within the site and design elements. <i>(See Natural Spaces recommendations)</i></p>

<p>water. Design new structures that blend with and reflect the land and water of the site.</p>	<p>Incorporate and reflect the cultures of Impacted Communities and Tribes connected to the site to existing buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paint the existing buildings to look like the land that it once was.</li> <li>• Ensure structures blend with and reflect the land and water of the site.</li> <li>• Install murals that are a large visual signal to the significance of the buildings (Halls A, B, and C) and celebrate people to remember history.</li> </ul>
<p>G. Use names and languages specific to Impacted Communities throughout the Expo Center, including naming physical features (lands, roads, walkways, buildings, etc.) and in art. Utilize communities' languages in naming and interpretation.</p>	<p>Request to "Please consider: 'Perseverance Road' from the main highway leading north."</p>
<p>H. Emphasize sustainability (a project guiding principle) during redevelopment by, for example, sourcing materials primarily/exclusively from the Pacific Northwest and repurposing any deconstructed materials from the site.</p>	<p>Repurpose any deconstructed materials throughout the site to let things continue to live on or return the timbers to Indigenous community.</p>

<p><b>Community Access</b></p>	
<p><b>HSMC Recommendations</b></p>	<p><b>Community-Suggested Implementation Strategies</b></p>
<p>A. Work with Impacted Communities to design spaces for community events, workshops, gatherings and learning/education that support engagement and empowerment of Impacted Communities. <i>See also: Buildings recommendation C.</i></p>	<p>Create a feeling of coming home and healing at the Expo Center.</p>
<p>B. Work toward a subsidized, free or low-cost community access program to the extent feasible for cultural, community, and history-related events and other appropriate Expo Center events. This is imperative with events held for or by Impacted Communities and should include updating scheduling and booking policies to improve community access. This framework should create</p>	<p>Update scheduling and booking policies to improve community access.</p>
	<p>Create a Community Advisory Committee or program, such as the Oregon Zoo's Community Access Program.</p> <p>Annual day of remembrance for Japanese Americans incarcerated at the Portland Assembly Center, victims of the Vanport flood, Obon, Min Yasui Day, and other significant events.</p>

<p>accessibility, identify eligible community groups/populations and types of access (facility rental and event admissions). It should also be analogous to discount pricing structures offered at other Metro facilities. A community advisory committee or program, similar to the Oregon Zoo’s Community Access Program, should inform this framework, further define who is eligible to receive this economic benefit and provide guidance on ways to support Impacted Community access to the site. The committee may provide recommendations to Metro staff, and staff should explore potential sources necessary to offset proposed subsidies and/or fee reductions.</p>	<p>Cultural events like Powwows, Indigenous markets, or Taiko performances, in addition to the existing events that celebrate and honor Impacted Communities like the Vanport Mosaic Festival or Juneteenth Rodeo.</p>
<p>C. Expo Center Future Guiding Principles and values should be upheld and built into Expo Center scheduling policies. <i>See also: Appendix D</i></p>	<p>When events are booked, share short and engaging informational background of the campus with event organizers.</p>

<b>Economic Development Opportunities</b>	
<b>HSMC Recommendations</b>	<b>Community-Suggested Implementation Strategies</b>
<p>A. Where permitted by law, create and publicize new policies to support ongoing wealth-building opportunities for Impacted Communities at Expo. Such opportunities may include allowing cultural marketplaces, food catering and concessions sales, and business development services to support Impacted Community groups. When developing these policies, work with Impacted Communities to further define who is eligible to participate in these opportunities.</p>	<p>Allow and support food carts to vend culturally specific foods by hosting an ongoing food cart pod or inviting food carts to events.</p>
	<p>Offer impacted and BIPOC communities the opportunity to be Expo Center’s concessions vendors.</p>
	<p>Offer space for members of Impacted Communities to sell their local or locally produced wares (food, produce, art, crafts), for example in a gift shop/gallery or at a cultural marketplace pop-up event.</p>
	<p>Cross-promote and offer “pop-up” opportunities to businesses in North and NE Portland corridors (MLK, Alberta, Williams, Kenton, etc.)</p>
	<p>Offer business development support for vendors to start and succeed by providing resources like business incubation space for food and other vendors.</p>
	<p>Give communities the opportunity to pick artists.</p>

<p>B. Where permitted by law, ensure that members of Impacted Communities receive priority selection for employment and contract opportunities at Expo (such as construction/maintenance, arts, design, and vending), followed by COBID-certified firms, members of other marginalized communities, then the general public.</p>	<p>In the logic of reparations, Metro could best honor Vanport and its lessons for today by investing in, supporting, and honoring Black and Indigenous people, Japanese Americans, other marginalized people, and the unhoused in our community.</p>
<p>C. Develop a community benefit fund to support wealth-building, arts and culture programming, and educational activities at Expo Center for Impacted Communities, Tribes and historically marginalized communities. Direct a portion of the fund to memorialization and representation projects, which should include their maintenance and operation, and a portion to grants or other activities at Expo Center. Potential funding sources could include an Expo Center parking surcharge, ticket/rental fee surcharge, grant funding or sponsorships. Specific uses of these funds, consistent with this recommendation, and governance of the fund will need to be defined during the fund’s development. This fund should be developed and governed by a committee of members of Impacted Communities with support of Metro staff. <i>See also: Arts, Community Access, and Educational Programming recommendations.</i></p>	
<p>D. Develop business and youth workforce training/development opportunities at the Expo Center with an emphasis on opportunities for businesses and youth from Impacted Communities.</p>	<p>Create an internship system at the Expo Center in coordination with other federal Japanese American historic sites.</p>

<b>Educational Programming &amp; Stories</b>	
<b>HSMC Recommendations</b>	<b>Community-Suggested Implementation Strategies</b>
<p>A. Develop a long-term interpretive plan to identify programming and interpretation strategies that tell the stories of all Impacted Communities and includes relevant HSMC recommendations. The interpretive plan should take a comprehensive approach to telling the site’s many histories, stories and people’s inextricable connection to this place despite forced removals. Stories of Impacted Communities must be given priority in the development of the plan. Engage members of Impacted Communities in the development, ongoing evaluation and revision(s) of the plan.</p>	Tell the histories and personal impacts so that past harms are not repeated.
	Share stories of the strength, joy and solidarity of the Impacted Communities balanced with telling factual stories of harms and victimization.
	Bring Impacted Communities together to learn each other’s stories, so it is not just about recreation or capital gain, it is about the land, water, and people there. (See Metro Accountability recommendations)
	Include the following themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Origin stories or stories about salmon and the river.</li> <li>b. The loyalty of Japanese Americans, especially the soldiers in the 442nd.</li> <li>c. Stories of significance of Black leadership that came from Vanport like Multnomah County’s first Black sheriff and first Black teachers in the area.</li> <li>d. Stories of Indigenous care of the land and water before it was colonized.</li> </ul>
<p>B. Integrate the histories and stories of the site and the land Metro stewards throughout the campus. Presentation of the histories and cultures of Impacted Communities and Tribes should be immersive, experiential, and multisensory.</p>	Include intergenerational learning and historical lessons.
	Provide online live programming and host a YouTube channel as an ongoing space to watch/learn.
	Use markings, signage, and other wayfinding tools for visitors to experience the historical significance and represent the Impacted Communities.
<p>C. Develop educational resources to share the Impacted Communities’ histories and cultures connected to the site by working with professional educators and community organizations from Impacted Communities.</p>	Consider collaboration with National Park Service to become an affiliate site and with an onsite park ranger in relation to incarceration of Japanese Americans at the site.
	Develop a school curriculum to educate youth, including children’s programming and activities.
	Develop a visitor tour curriculum.
	Develop an educational kit for event organizers to understand how they can highlight site histories and cultures in their event.
	Print the site’s history and stories to share on tables (dining/banquet tables, display tables, etc.).
<p>D. Identify and provide urgently needed resources for Impacted Communities to</p>	Record and share stories of Japanese American and Vanport survivors.



<p>preserve stories of survivors, families, and others impacted before venerable Elders are lost. Resources could include funding, personnel, and guidance for Impacted Communities to record their own family history and story at the Expo Center. These oral histories should not be collected by Metro, but rather should be collected by community groups like Vanport Mosaic and the Oregon Historical Society and should then be shared publicly but only with written permission of the Elders/storytellers from Impacted Communities and their families.</p>	<p>Share oral stories that talk about life, not just the Vanport flood.</p>
<p>E. Highlight stories of sports and recreation within Impacted Communities in programming and storytelling at Expo Center. <i>See also: Sports recommendations.</i></p>	<p>Intersect the story of how sports provided the Japanese American community a sense of normalcy while incarcerated at the Expo Center.</p> <p>Showcase the history of athletes associated with the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Remember Vanport residents that became star athletes.</li> <li>b. Include stories of famous Japanese American athletes and Japanese American athletes who were excluded from continuing their athletic careers.</li> <li>c. Tell the Indigenous history of stickball and lacrosse.</li> </ul> <p>Offer multiple sports facilities for high school students to access in remembrance youth activities at the time of the Vanport Flood and Japanese American incarceration at the Expo Center.</p>
<p>F. Use educational opportunities to encourage Expo guests to engage with history, connect the past to the present and future and highlight intersectionality among Impacted Communities.</p>	<p>Organize site’s stories chronologically without placing more importance on any group over another. Highlight the shared story of forced removal and how [inequities] continue now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Indigenous Peoples and land before colonization</li> <li>b. Livestock/Ranchers/Railroad (colonization)</li> <li>c. Incarceration of Japanese Americans at Portland Assembly Center</li> <li>d. Vanport (thriving neighbor, progressive social aspects, importance to the war effort, etc.)</li> </ul> <p>Engage Expo Center clients and visitors in memorialization and representation by incorporating history/memorialization/storytelling into in-event announcements and other event programming.</p>
<p>G. Make certain that the interpretive plan recognizes that these histories of forced displacement are not outliers, but rather</p>	<p>Recognize the great achievements of people from Impacted Communities who were the first to represent their communities in civic roles, continue</p>

<p>typify American history, which, from the inception of colonization, included many racist and xenophobic forms of displacement. This interpretive plan should be multilayered and multicultural and should recognize the great achievements of people from Impacted Communities who represent their communities in civic roles and continue to care for the land and water. Finally, we must honor the civic rights of all people.</p>	<p>to care for the land and water, and tie the importance of honoring the rights of all Americans.</p>
<p>H. All educational programming needs to tell hard truths with the purpose of healing and ensuring the past harms at the site do not happen again. Education must include how greed, racism, fear, colonialism and capitalism guided government decision-making and caused harm to Impacted Communities. The stories should strive to make the invisible visible while highlighting the strength, joy, pride, resilience and abundance of Impacted Communities.</p>	<p>Include the story of how greed, racism, fear, colonialism, and capitalism guided government decision making instead of policy and caused harm to Impacted Communities.</p> <p>a. Show how inequities and exclusion, like the lack of distinction between Japanese American citizens and Japanese during World War II, family separations, and how fear guided government decisions instead policy.</p> <p>b. Include the Bill of Rights to show that the violation of constitutional rights of American citizens that occurred at the Expo Center. This is an American story, not a Japanese story.</p>
<p>I. Expo Center infrastructure should support technology-based interpretive strategies throughout the campus.</p>	

<p><b>Metro Accountability</b></p>	
<p><b>HSMC Recommendations</b></p>	<p><b>Community-Suggested Implementation Strategies</b></p>
<p>A. Provide regular and ongoing communications and community engagement in advance of and after major decision points to ensure community-centered design throughout the next phase of the planning process and beyond.</p>	<p>New revenue and other resources brought about by the Expo Future project (from sports or other uses) need to go back to the community.</p> <p>Commit to community support, fundraising structures, and community access to space as part of its policy/project mission through a mission statement.</p> <p>Commit to allowing Impacted Communities to access the Expo Center at no cost with fundraising that is structured with a restorative justice aspect. (See Community Access recommendations)</p>

	Provide transparency on how this project will be funded.
B. Create an ongoing project governance committee with representation from Impacted Communities that works in partnership with Metro to advise and provide oversight to memorialization and representation and to ensure these goals and recommendations are being met.	
C. Work collaboratively with Impacted Communities to honor their experiences, concerns and valued principles by taking direction and listening.	People from Impacted Communities must guide representation of their stories and experiences and be part of future memorialization and representation decision-making processes.
	Conversations about envisioning this site and infusing Indigenous knowledge should include conversations around capitalism and it being a continued form of colonialism.
	Remember that “recognition is not representation.”
	Representation of Indigenous People must be included using their images and stories.
D. Partner and collaborate with Impacted Communities to honor and uplift the histories of the site without tokenizing or otherwise exploiting communities for Metro’s commercial or financial benefit.	Do not commercialize or tokenize Impacted Communities for the purpose of generating income for the Expo Center.
	Use caution when presenting the project so the focus is not only on the financial perspective without representation of Impacted Communities.
E. Create organizational agreements between Metro and partnering organizations or communities to provide certain rights/access to the use the space at the Expo Center or other Metro property. <i>See also: Community Access recommendations.</i>	Commitment to community support, fundraising structures, and community access to space as part of its policy/project mission through a mission statement.
F. Provide Expo Center staff with ongoing cultural competency training and education about the site’s varied histories.	The work Metro does at the Expo Center needs to go beyond a sculpture and provide commitment for [memorialization].
	Do not commercialize or tokenize [Indigenous People] for the purpose of generating income for the Expo Center. [Use caution] when presenting the project so the focus is not only on the financial perspective without representation [of Impacted Communities].
	Clarify what systems are in place to keep memorialization and representation as a central focus and maintain this even if a developer calls for change.

<p>G. Avoid fostering lateral oppression by siloing Impacted Communities in engagement or other areas as the project moves forward. Create space for stories, learning and connection across communities.</p>	<p>Sharing stories will prevent Metro from causing harm by causing lateral oppression or competition. Host meetings where all groups can talk to each other.</p>
<p>H. Transparently communicate the process Metro will use to make decisions about these recommendations. This should include a communication plan shared with all Impacted Communities that details how to achieve a balance between memorialization and representation of the three primary Impacted Communities, Tribes and partners and how efforts to educate about the historical and cultural significance of the site will be funded.</p>	<p>Create and share the process Metro will use to make these decisions.</p>
	<p>Share the values or factors that will guide the decision-making process.</p>
	<p>Provide clarity on how Metro will determine how to represent and be responsive to all the Impacted Communities and partners.</p>
<p>I. Ensure that Native community and Indigenous connection to place are given the appropriate acknowledgement/representation in this project. <i>See also: Natural Spaces recommendations.</i></p>	
<p>J. Where feasible, incorporate HSMC recommendations into the next phase(s) of the Expo Future project. If recommendations cannot be fully delivered at the Expo Center, Metro should provide reasoning and communicate why that is not possible and/or what alternatives it is considering. Metro should consider additional input from the Impacted Community members when deciding an alternative. Metro should leverage partnerships to implement community desires and seek to implement community desires in other Metro spaces or programs when not possible at the Expo Center.</p>	
<p>K. The Committee recognizes that some recommendations will require additional community input, analysis and planning and that Metro will need to identify funding sources and determine feasibility of each recommendation. It asks Metro to explore all available funding sources in good faith and exhaust all potential options as it assesses the feasibility of each recommendation.</p>	

## Natural Spaces

HSMC Recommendations	Community-Suggested Implementation Strategies
<p>A. Explore and prioritize immediate and long-term viable opportunities to return land to Indigenous Peoples and Tribes. Return land stewardship and availability of First Foods safe for human consumption to Indigenous Peoples at the Expo Center campus and across Metro’s properties. <i>See also: Metro Accountability recommendations.</i></p>	<p>Designate Columbia River water areas for Indigenous Peoples for fishing, reflection, and rest.</p>
	<p>Think Seven Generations in the future!</p>
	<p>Provide a space for food cultivation, agriculture, and community garden space.</p>
<p>B. Prioritize sustainable and climate-friendly stewardship of the site and the site’s ecology. Restore and heal the land through a process that culminates in healthy water, soil, plants, and bioswales, starting with Indigenous input and priorities while providing opportunities for Indigenous People to lead stewardship at the campus. Restore plants that are native to the region to restore the environment, support reflection and healing, and allow future generations to remember what the area looked like before colonization.</p>	<p>Maintain wildlife connectivity: native plants bring the community together and keeps invasive species out.</p>
	<p>Offer sufficient tree coverage to buffer the sounds of cars and combat pollution</p>
	<p>Restore plants that are native to the region to restore the environment, support reflection and healing, and allow future generations to remember what the area looked like before colonization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Include Native plants such as native huckleberry, native tobacco, and root crops to support Native people and bring back native animals; flowers; habitat; rocks; shade; water; trees; and education.</li> <li>b. Include plants that have significance to the Impacted Communities such as cherry blossoms, culturally relevant medicine, and First Foods.</li> <li>c. Include signage to provide botany/food cultivation education and interpretation that identifies the plants in multiple languages (Indigenous languages, Japanese, English, others, etc.)</li> </ul>
	<p>Consider the environmental impact of parking areas and design them to manage stormwater.</p>
<p>C. Collaborate with Impacted Communities to create centrally located and culturally appropriate natural spaces, outdoor gardens, art installations, and other gathering spaces, to support gatherings, events, learning, healing, reflection and interpretation. Work to provide access to restored landscape, garden and outdoor gathering spaces in a manner that will be open and free of admission fees to</p>	<p>Include wayside exhibits, interpretation, place markers, and a path to the Torii gate [Voices of Remembrance artwork].</p>
	<p>Provide Impacted Communities with garden space and plant a native gathering garden that supports activities like reflection, healing, exercising, and uses native and culturally relevant plants.</p>
	<p>Create a nature park and walking pathways with the names of the Ancestors as a place for healing people.</p>

<p>the extent possible. Design of these spaces should be led by Impacted Communities and partners.</p>	<p>Provide outdoor spaces where families, children, and young people can go to play or take a break. Include an option for a covered space for inclement weather.</p>
	<p>Establish a medicinal garden with medicinal/healing plants from all Impacted Communities and extend into workshops about those plants and their uses.</p>
	<p>Include a peace and reflection garden celebrating the Oregon/Portland 442 members with symbolic plantings like Amachi Rose (rose discovered at Amachi Camp in Denver, WA) and trees that survived the atomic blast in Hiroshima.</p>
	<p>Research whether Japanese farmers brought seeds with them to the Assembly Center and honor as confirmed.</p>
	<p>Include playground equipment that portrays the traditional story of Indigenous Peoples like the Suquamish Tribe’s Suquamish Shores Natural Play Area. <i>See also: Buildings, Facilities &amp; Design recommendations</i></p>
<p>D. Establish trails to create access and connection to nature, trees, water and elevated viewsheds of neighboring wetlands and beyond the campus itself that activate the full campus and draw visitors to learning opportunities and outdoor art. Incorporate wayside interpretation to create a self-guided experience of the site’s past, present and future.</p>	<p>Interpretive material should include Impacted Communities and be provided in multiple languages</p>
	<p>Create a nature park and walking pathways with the names of the ancestors as a place for healing people.</p>
	<p>Provide elevated viewing decks or viewsheds and place markers for the Columbia River, Vanport, camas fields, and wetlands.</p>
<p>E. Restore the connection between the main Expo Center site and the Columbia River waterfront with a pedestrian crossing or bridge across Marine Drive to connect the Expo Center to the Regional Trail Network and provide water access for community-specific uses, particularly for Urban Indigenous Community members and Tribes.</p>	<p>Connect the site to create access to the Columbia River waterfront with a pedestrian crossing or bridge across Marine Drive.</p>
	<p>Designate Columbia River water areas for Indigenous Peoples for fishing, reflection, and rest.</p>
	<p>Prepare the waterfront to be a canoe journey stop for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples.</p>
	<p>Explore opportunities to have culturally specific uses such as a CRUP (Cultural Resources Use Permit), special use permit for Indigenous community members to apply for a specific cultural use. [reduce barriers to accessing the site for culturally specific uses.]</p>

<b>Sports</b>	
<b>HSMC Recommendations</b>	<b>Community-Suggested Implementation Strategies</b>

<p>A. Stories about Impacted Communities should be visible at Expo Center events and facilities. Stories can reveal the intersection of sports with Impacted Communities. <i>See also: Educational Programming recommendations</i></p>	<p>Find commonality to tie the historical significance and sports topics together so they are not two distinct things, such as the history of sports — overcoming adversity.</p>
	<p>Create some way to let spectator feel the unknown – what Japanese Americans felt in Hall A, everything being taken and the shared experience of removal with Tribes and Vanport community.</p>
	<p>Offer multiple sports for high school students to remember youth activities in Vanport/Expo Center.</p>
	<p>Bring back Vanport activities like the Soapbox Derby Competition.</p>
<p>B. Establish a framework to provide community benefit by providing Impacted Communities with preferential access to the Expo Center’s sports facilities such as offering low barrier sport opportunities.</p>	<p>Offer low barrier opportunities for people to be introduced to sports.</p>
	<p>Link the site to bike paths for transportation and recreation.</p>
	<p>Install a culturally representative miniature golf course.</p>
	<p>Provide recreational fields that would bring community to the Expo Center.</p>
<p>C. Integrate the sports played by Impacted Communities into facility design and events at Expo.</p>	<p>Host Indigenous and other BIPOC sports and tournaments like lacrosse.</p>
	<p>Given the significance of baseball in Japanese American culture, install a baseball diamond as recommended by youth representatives.</p>

## Appendix B: Compilation of Community Input

During the Expo Future community engagement process, the engagement consulting team made every effort to record participants comments and input through notes and transcriptions. This appendix provides a recap of the wealth of ideas and input provided during the engagement process, along with online input. This input is organized first by community and then arranged into the initial themes that emerged during the engagement process. The cumulative input of the Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee is also included.

### Urban Indigenous Community

#### Recommendations for Representation and Memorialization

The following provides a recap of recommendations that were shared by members of the urban Indigenous community during virtual and in-person workshops, individual interviews, and online input in summer and fall of 2024. Project consultants and/or Metro staff organized the recommendations into the categories shown below. (Some categories were later refined by the Expo Future Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee.) The Expo Future Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee drew from this input and that of other communities in developing its recommendations for representation and memorialization at the Expo Center site.

#### *REPRESENTATION & STORIES*

##### Use of the word “Memorialization”

- Add use of the word “representation” “it does not make us seem like we're extinct.”
- Consider using the word “uplift” over memorialize.
- Survivance – the idea that we have survived so much in such a short amount of time in Oregon
- It's not “memorialize.” It [the site] has been here since time immemorial which is a completely different thing and we are still here and so the resiliency of the Indigenous people and the resiliency of our salmon, the resiliency of our lamprey, and the resiliency of our native plants.

##### Representation

- Representation of Indigenous people must be included using their images and stories.
- Conversations about envisioning this site and infusing Indigenous knowledge should include conversations around capitalism and it being a continued form of colonialism.
- Create a chance for healing with our Black and Asian relatives.
- Include Mexican Americans and Pacific Islanders in the conversation since they are Indigenous too.



- Want to see some kind of connection – even interracial connection, that reflects the complexities of our lives [multi-racial intersectionality]

## Stories

- Share origin stories or stories about the salmon and the river.
- Bring impacted communities together to learn each other’s stories, so it is not just about recreation or capital gain, it is about the land, water, and people there.

*Context note: “A tool of colonization in this country is to pit us against each other and that only one story can be told.”*

- Just let people know that this was a major hub for many Tribes.
- Metro does not do a good job at story telling displays – any future displays or monuments need to be done by community. Looking into the Confluence project for how they captured the story telling collection and display.

## ARTS & EXPERIENCE

### Arts

- Hire Indigenous and other artists from impacted communities to create art, murals, and sculptures.
- Include a sculpture park featuring impacted community artists.
- Incorporate music and earth sounds that have been drowned out by city sounds.
- [Sound sculptures or exhibits](#) that play music or whistles when the wind blows.
- Art installation or interpretive space so that people could share it throughout the year.

*Context note: “Big spaces, that support ongoing and changing interpretation and storytelling events and programming. Ongoing opportunity for everybody’s use and benefit and that has less potential scarcity or competition.”*

- Murals that are static or have a building with a mural that gets updated and changed and solicits artists from all of the communities.
- Include native plants, trees, and native animals in the mural that gives an accurate representation of the land before it was destroyed.
- Flags are very powerful
- Brought up at one of the meetings a totem pole, someone said “we didn’t do totem poles” then found out that we did do them, other tribes other than just coastal did them too.
- Permanent display of photos and locally produced art by local
- Totem Poles

### Signage and Markings

- Have a marker representing “the land of the [Indigenous Tribes] people you are walking.”
- Markers and representation should be highly visible and “in your face.”

- An arch that represents impacted communities that visitor walk through.
- Walking trail signs that are written in Indigenous languages and names of Indigenous plants and animals. Use QR codes for visitors to hear the correct pronunciation of the words and describe the land, plants and animals that once were there. Consider accessibility for all ages and abilities with the use of QR codes or other technology.
- Use markings on sidewalks and building such as native animal paw prints or Indigenous basket weaving patterns to show the cultures that used to live there.
- show the time and native context of the site
- Historical Markers

## Communications

- Have flyers [and other brochures] incorporate Indigenous patterns or land like basket weaving patterns, plants, animals, etc.

*Context note: "It's further than just like the aesthetics of the building."*

## Experience: Sense of Belonging

*Representatives were asked to think of a time and place where they really felt like they belonged.*

*What did they see there? What did they feel? What did they hear while they were there?*

- Lean into joy and bring back joy at the Expo Center and land.

*Context note: "[Thinking about] the Expo Center and like it's, it's role, it's potential role that it could play with like Native American community and just this idea of bringing joy and belonging."*

*Context note: "The area around the Expo Center is now hectic, stressful, and bland. It's been deprived of all its joy and love and everything that it could be."*

- Have the future of the Expo site be a place where Native people and people of color feel comfortable being in North Portland.

*Context note: "Portland, sometimes you feel like you're alone and invisible and lost here."*

- Feelings of belonging shared:
  - "Sharing land and sharing community. Being in the Native American Indigenous space, it's this idea of like everybody loves you and everybody cares for you."
  - "The feeling that you get when like you first roll up to a powwow and it's like the first song."
  - "I would love it if the descendants of my family would go there [family allotment on the reservation] and be like 'hey you know our ancestors are watching over us and they thought about us when they decided to do this, and this is for us.'"

## EVENTS & ACCESS FOR COMMUNITY

- Host Indigenous and other environmental events and fairs.
- Host Native/Indigenous markets and other markets for impacted communities.
- Make big events accessible to impacted communities.
- Host seed fairs, seed exchanges, farmers markets, or environmental food events.
- Make event space and access low- to no-cost for impacted communities.
- Programming should be both indoor and outdoor.
- Love the idea of a cultural/community center.
- A Metro Powwow – could be something really special – hard to have a space with no parking, especially for our Elders
- Multicultural night/weekend event
- Provide space for recurring community events held by member os the Indigenous community

## FOOD & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- Invite food trucks or food stations that are owned and operated by impacted communities and serve their cultural foods.
- Support impacted community-owned businesses in being successful.
- Offer the money to the people. Give grants, and scholarships to the people
- Food gardens that have Indigenous and local soul foods (see “Land, Water, and Nature”).

*Context note: “This is a way of incorporating cultural expression and cultural strength.”*

- Promote more Native and BIPOC business for events
- Give control of decisions and finances of the art and interpretation to the three identified key stakeholder communities. If the center generates revenues, earmark a portion of it to re-invest into those communities.

## BUILDINGS, FACILITIES & DESIGN

- Design and revamp building to reflect and incorporate Indigenous culture.
- Paint all the buildings to look like the land that it once was.

*Context note: “The most beautiful thing you can do with the buildings is to paint them and make it look like the land in which it once was and kind of like bring that back. Doesn’t want to necessarily say it’s an “I’m sorry” letter, but that’s kind of what it feels. When you bring our land back, it’s like, hey, like this Expo Center is here and it, you know, it sucks that the land was taken away, but the Expo Center, we can utilize this space to bring culture and community in.”*

- Make facility or infrastructure adjoining.
- Acknowledge that the changes to the Expo Center will change the way people look at, use, and move through the space and the area for generations.
- Offer a dance pavilion/gymnasium

- Can the buildings and parking lot be depaved? Do we need all of the buildings? Priorities for restoration would be depaving section of the parking, stacking parking to reduce amount of ground area covered in pavement.
- Build a Long House with a Native curator/steward for the site for Indigenous People to gather.

*Context note: “Indigenous People really don't have that space in Portland to say goodbye to their relatives or to celebrate. The space available is not sacred and there is no parking available.”*

- Community center and cultural center, owned and managed by the Tribes, urban Indigenous communities. Designed with natural/'green' materials. The space would need to be cultivated in the Native way, not Metro's operating way. Bigger community space than the ones available now (PSU, etc). Tell stories of Native people, vignettes of different Indigenous people of the Pacific Northwest
- Sustainability of the materials: how will the materials be sourced? Can they be from the Pacific NW only? Can we hire Native contractors, artists and designers?
- There was a desire to maintain the old buildings in some way. Some ideas were building around the structures or reusing materials salvaged from the buildings if they are demolished. Some community members think removing the old buildings would cause the site to lose some of its historical value.
- Can the 100 year old beams [from Halls A,B, C] be utilized? How can they be restored to us?

## NATURAL SPACES

*“The Expo Center area is a damaged place. But it can be healed, and we can do that. We can do that from our heart, from our spirit, from our beings, and we can do that together. The more we come together, the more we can push back on things that try to commercialize us.”*

### Land Back

- Opportunity to give some of the land back to Indigenous People.
- The most important thing Metro can do to honor the Indigenous community and Indigenous connection to place in a meaningful way at the Expo Center site is to give it back. Otherwise, co-stewarding the site with Indigenous community would be a grateful step.

### Gardens and Plantings

- Different cultural gardens like Native gardens in the Cully Neighborhood or the Japanese Garden that are integrated.
- Walking trails and reflective spaces
- Native Gather Garden with native plants for gathering and space for activities like exercising, reflection, and healing. Include native landscaping which is easier to care for and better for the environment and to heal the land that has been damaged.

- Include Native plants such as native huckleberry, native tobacco, and root crops to support Native people and bring back native animals.
- Outdoor spaces where families, children, and young people can go to play or take a break. Option for a covered space for inclement weather.
- Playground equipment that portrays the traditional story of Indigenous People like the Suquamish Tribe's Suquamish Shores Natural Play Area.
- Restoration and healing of the land and water.

## Water

- Designate Columbia River water areas to Native peoples for fishing, reflection, and rest.
- Create space to allow the river to be a canoe journey stop.
- Create more access to the water ways and land for the communities
- Whatever it takes to have a full out canoe journey set up is what is needed: access to waterways, welcoming center, remove buildings
- There was an interest in expanding the wetland south of the Expo center.
- Restoration should aim as much as possible to restore the land to how it was prior to development. Show what the land was before it was 'developed'
- provide access to the natural spaces for food gathering, fishing, gathering of materials for art-making

## SAFETY

- Ensure safety by providing [security] cameras at the Expo Center.  
*Context note: "Taking the Max to Expo does not feel safe currently."*
- The Expo Center should be well lit to deter crime. Consider using solar or other renewable energy for this lighting.
- Install a parking garage for safety.
- Kids [and visitors] should feel safe at the Expo Center.

## SPORTS

- Host Native and other BIPOC sports and tournaments like lacrosse.  
*Context note: "If it's not represented in the sports, then why are the Native and BIPOC people here?"*
- BIPOC and Native representation should be part of deciding which sports will be hosted at the Expo Center.
- Sports for Native youth. Sports can be a good way to connect Native youth to positive outlets. The sports at Expo center should focus on bringing Native folks into that space, connecting communities with each other

## METRO ACCOUNTABILITY

- Sharing stories will prevent Metro from causing harm by causing lateral oppression or competition. Host meetings where all groups can talk to each other.
- The work Metro does at the Expo Center needs to go beyond a sculpture and provide commitment for [memorialization].
- Share funding [income] from future sports facility with the people of the land and the care of the land.
- Give groups space to do their own fundraising for the buildings they want.
- [Metro] should be accountable in more ways than just in this project. If recommendations are not fully delivered at the Expo Center, push to make them happen at other Metro spaces where resources are available.
- Actively support the federal recognition efforts of the Columbia River/Willamette River tribal communities by recognizing them yourself, as an agency
- Do not commercialize or tokenize [Indigenous People] for the purpose of generating income for the Expo Center. [Use caution] when presenting the project so the focus is not only on the financial perspective without representation [of impacted communities].

*Context note: "Hearing this other thing about sports or financial reasons and I don't necessarily know that people want to be used in order to pump up the financial perspective without being represented and I don't mean like a little plaque on the wall kind of thing. This is a very important thing because Native peoples are tokenized a lot in order to make money for other services and other things that do not connect to the land. Furthermore, if there is going to be funding that is going to come in, how much of that is going to go back to the peoples of this land or the care of this land? Somebody [sports consultants] is already determining what sports should be there and they're not BIPOC or Native. Where's the representation?"*

- Provide transparency on how this project will be paid for.

*Context note: "I'm very curious about who's paying for this. Because we can dream all we want, but if they want a hotel and a swimming pool and a McDonald's, what game are we playing? The money thing is like I need to know. I need to know, is Gates going to write a big check? Is Nike going to come down? Because, you know, obviously they could benefit, and they probably could use a second campus anyway."*

## Japanese American Community

### Recommendations for Representation and Memorialization

The following provides a recap of recommendations that were shared by members of the Japanese American community during virtual and in-person workshops, individual interviews, and online input in summer of 2024. Project consultants and/or Metro staff organized the recommendations into the categories shown below. (Some categories were later refined by the

Expo Future Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee.) The Expo Future Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee drew from this input and that of other communities in developing its recommendations for representation and memorialization at the Expo Center site.

## VALUES

*Representatives were asked what values and lessons should be upheld in the Expo Future Project.*

- Never Again. Remember the wrongs of the past and the relevancy today, and share lessons for future generations, since what happened in the past can happen again.
- The American values of the *Bill of Rights*.

*Context note: "It is not about a specific ethnic community, but it is about all of America. ...but it happened to everybody because the Bill of Rights is everybody's right."*

- Japanese Cultural Values of "Gaman", "Shikata ga Nai" and "Kodomo no tame ni" which encapsulates the response of survivors following incarceration and allowed them to endure hardship without complaint.
  - "Gaman" refers to perseverance and enduring difficult situations with patience and dignity.
  - "Shikata ga nai" means it cannot be helped.
  - "Kodomo no tame ni" means for the sake of the children.
- We are heterogeneous country and does not exclude any racial identity.
- Civil rights & civil liberties with truth + justice for all people.
- Importance of democracy!
- Importance of the place.

## REPRESENTATION

- Be truthful in the representation of the injustice that occurred at that time. Bring it to life for those who were imprisoned there and who we pay respect to now. Acknowledge the generational trauma created by incarceration of Japanese Americans.

*Context notes:*

*The Japanese American [community] is diverse. Many people do not want to dwell on the sorrow of that time but move to a positive view of where the community is now. Many people want to make sure it is not forgotten. Somewhere there is a balance."*

*You think about how communities are oppressed and most of the time it's communities of color and we need to acknowledge that."*

*It's really important to show the similarities and how the patterns kind of persist, because once we sort of recognize the similarities and the things that continue to*

*happen, you can sort of interject earlier on or put in your opinion. I think it's kind of missing from other memorializations I've been to before.*

- Tie the past to the present, make it visible and seen, then keep talking about it.
- If the road leading to the enlarged expo needs a name, please consider: 'Perseverance Road' from the main highway leading north.
- Integrate stories and representation of impacted communities throughout the entire campus. Integrated, not separate, multicultural stories will make the Expo Center a unique approach to memorialization.
- Representation should include honoring the non-Japanese Americans who “did the right thing” in support of the community during a time when this was neither the norm, nor convenient.
- Include the Bill of Rights to show that the violation of constitutional rights of American citizens that occurred at the Expo Center. This is an American story, not a Japanese story.
- Reshape the narrative of what people consider Portland’s history (i.e. what is standard knowledge) by presenting a multilayered, multicultural campus and show that Japanese American, Black, or Indigenous history is American history.
- Build in an understanding that many Japanese American youth have multiracial and intersectional identities.

*Context note: “These patterns of exclusion are shared by many different communities & people-of-color and there are shared experiences that will be powerful to connect.”*

- Have an example of WHAT the conditions were like for the Japanese incarcerated at the Expo Center [sights, smells, space, activities] - a replica that people can walk through.
- An activity of what would you pack from your home in a suitcase? What would you leave behind that is important to you.
- Honor the Nisei Vets who served in WWII

## VISIBILITY

- Memorials must be unavoidable and unable to be ignored by visitors to the Expo Center Campus.

*Context note: “No matter how beautiful, if you must seek it out, it no longer achieves an important goal – which is to confront the viewer with the history; to make viewers take pause.”*

*Context note: “If it's just a preservation in one corner of the Expo Center, it'd be really easy for everyone to come in, use the space, and leave, and never know anything about the history, if they don't have a reason to, like, engage or interact with it, or if it's not, you know, just because it's not the exact spot where everyone was, right? The main interest is somewhere else, and there's not something, you know, if we're not acknowledging the history at the entryway or at a key point of the new facility, then we're kind of just wiping that history under the rug, and not really doing it justice, in my mind. So, I don't know exactly what that engagement interaction would look like,*



*but I do think, like, the placement and how it's developed as part of the project is, you know, equally, equally important.”*

- Create awareness and teach younger generations about the historical significance of the people from impacted communities and the Portland Assembly Center.
- Tie the past to the present, make it visible and seen, then keep talking about it.

## ARTS & EXPERIENCE

### Art & Visual Displays

- Murals that are a large visual signal to the significance of the building [Hall A] and celebrates people to remember history.
- Activate the space through visual art, like the Voices of Remembrance (Torii Gate) sculpture.
- Exhibits for community rotating art space for public/everyone to remember the communities that were impacted by the place.
- Visual displays should include:
- Photographs showing incarceration conditions of the Assembly Center.
- Maps, exhibits, infographics, sculptures, paintings, statues, photographs, banners, maps, displays, documentaries, and exhibits to preserve the history of the Expo center for the Japanese American people.
- Historical pictures to compare to now (in the same spot)
- Displays, infographics to visualize the conditions to remember the overall history
- Photos of people who were there and what their lives (or their descendants' lives) are like now.
- Large digital projections about the history of Assembly Center that includes projection mapping [technology that overlays projected images onto a surface] to tell stories of people.
- Include oral histories and images in museum setting to help bring the Expo experience to the visitor.
- Change exhibits and have video loops that can be regularly updated, ensuring visitors have new and engaging experiences each time they visit.
- Music from that timeframe , oral histories, and artwork by the people who were there.

### Torii Gate: Voices of Remembrance

*Note: Metro does not own the Voices of Remembrance artwork. This work is owned by TriMet.*

- There must be a connection to Valerie Otani’s “Voices of Remembrance” art piece at the TriMet MAX Expo Station, known as the Torii Gate, to what happens at Hall A.
- Increased visibility is needed for the Torii Gate and should be connected to the Expo Center with a walking trail and landscaping with a series of memorialization pieces.
- Integrate [Voices of Remembrance, which] is really far away from where the Portland Livestock Exhibition Center is.. maybe a path or something from the MAX station where they have a map on the platform, some sculptural pieces of like a trunk. Not a lot of people are aware of it because it's so far away from the main buildings.

## Design Ideas

- Three main gates or roads for the three impacted communities at the entrance to the Expo Center that visitors cannot avoid as they enter the campus.
- 100,000 small elements fully integrated (such as sconces, horticulture, etc.) is preferred over one very large, expensive statue.
- Include Japanese and other cultural aesthetics.

## Programming

- Share a statement or announcement before sporting events that says, “this is a site where these things happened.”
- You want people to be educated and inspired. But most, most of all, you know, you want people to feel things. I want people to be touched, you know, emotionally, physically have a reaction to what they're seeing and what they're experiencing.
- Incorporate programming and features focused on youth, to include:
- Educational efforts in schools.
- Consideration for different sizes and heights in all memorialization efforts to include the perspective, engagement level, and line of vision of children and youth.
- Give special attention to areas that children may be paying attention where an adult would miss, such as footsteps or murals.
- Provide youth resources such as a coloring book on notable AAPI individuals who have contributed to American society.
- Lessons, classes, or questions for discussion to develop critical thinking with students to think about how this could happen again with various groups in society. Help students/people see how history could repeat.

## Remembrance

- Name the 3,676 survivors as an important way to honor the individuals and families who were incarcerated.
- Include the story of the Stockyards, as it impacts all the groups: 1. First Nation displacement; 2. Black cowboys and sunset laws; 3. Japanese American incarceration in conditions of stockyards.
- Speak to the joyful moments in people’s lives and not only the traumatic. Survivors found joy in tragedy, but there is a dissonance of past experience and present narrative
- Widely share the history to prevent atrocities from recurring.
- Preserve these memories while first-hand accounts are still possible. Need for these narratives to be formally documented and published, calling on educators, historians, and communities to actively engage in preserving these memories for posterity.
- Pursue remembrance legislation beyond Metro:
- Memorialization by Portland City, State of Oregon, The Oregonian, and other entities, public and private that participated in the unjust action against the Japanese Americans.
- Push for legislation which authorizes OR DOE to require teaching of Japanese Incarceration in Oregon into all social studies curriculum (currently this is optional topic for teachers to choose under social injustice).
- Photos of people who were there and what their lives (or their descendants' lives) are like now. Music from that timeframe, oral histories, and artwork by the people who were there.
- Photos, names, the Assembly Center sign or copy of, etc.

- A tangible memorialization feels appropriate — either in the form of public art, or access to benefit from the projects developed on this site. e.g. offer a part of the newly developed site to the JA community to utilize in a way that benefits their community, be it a workspace for entrepreneurs, a creative venue, commercial space for businesses to operate out of, etc.
- Educate through a replication experience what the Japanese Americans went through
- In addition of the memorialization of what was done to the Japanese residents of SW Washington and Oregon, there should be memorialization of or by Portland City, State of Oregon, The Oregonian, and other entities, public and private that participated in the unjust action against the Japanese Americans. There should be memorialization of those courageous citizens and public servants who stood up in support of Japanese Americans incarcerated at the Expo Center.

## Experience

- Use digital technologies to re-create the full Assembly Center experience. This includes the unedited, visceral conditions in multisensory ways as such as the experience described by Min Yasui noting the smell of horse manure and flies. Other experiences to convey include sleeping on hay and sounds with hectic, chaotic, and hastily built [living facilities].

*Context notes:*

*Sensory memories, particularly smells, play a crucial role in recalling experiences.*

*Effectively convey the sense of fear, humiliation, and loss of freedom experienced by those detained at the Portland Assembly Center.*

- Include logistical details of those incarcerated, such as how many people moved in and out.
- Make memorialization accessible to new audiences (unfamiliar with the histories), to include:
  - Distilling “universal values” such as democracy, civil rights, and justice, to connect, create empathy, and share virtues with general audiences to understand the experience of people impacted. [See Values section]
  - Using the land/place where audiences are standing to ground events through different times, such showing foot and shoe prints where people stood to “register” for incarceration, or work boots from the Vanport shipyards to show that visitors are in a place where oppression occurred. This can provide additional opportunities for naming and sharing language and serve as a visual pathway to guide visitors, literally walking someone’s path.
  - Using multi-sensory techniques to engage, remembering that there are 5 types of visitors (explorers, facilitators, experience seekers, professionals, and rechargers) and not to forget those who are motivated to relax and rejuvenate (outdoor trails and gardens).
  - Creating reflective opportunities for processing difficult content.
  - Embedding gestures like an acknowledgement before events, within the everyday operations of the sporting center.
  - Utilizing the sports theme to talk about the histories and unity.
  - Providing interpretive and accessible information for nuanced, cultural (aesthetic) Japanese sensibilities that may get missed by general audiences.

- Something comparable to First the Memorial wall, Bainbridge and secondly the Emerging Radiance installation and to provide a community space where people could gather and host events.
- Similar to DC, honoring the nisei Vets who served in WWII, establishing significant historical and cultural dates which honor Japanese Community (past and current), and push for legislation which authorizes OR DOE to require teaching of Japanese Incarceration in Oregon into all social studies curriculum (currently this is optional topic for teachers to choose under social injustice).
- I think activities that encourage seeing similarities and shared community are the best to create meaning. Specific names of people may not mean anything to a visitor, but seeing a symbol of how many people were incarcerated would create meaning (like one crane for each person or similar). Knowing the smell of manure would create a visceral reaction, or seeing an image of people corralled together at the same spot you might stand brings the message home.
- Replica where people can walk through
- Something similar to the late Otani's work in scale and symbolism.
- I think activities that encourage seeing similarities and shared community are the best to create meaning. Specific names of people may not mean anything to a visitor, but seeing a symbol of how many people were incarcerated would create meaning (like one crane for each person or similar). Knowing the smell of manure would create a visceral reaction, or seeing an image of people corralled together at the same spot you might stand brings the message home.
- Replica where people can walk through
- Something that will live on in perpetuity and not be forgotten or ignored or not preserved and honored forever.
- Diorama of horse stalls with people in it, possibly made with wood from a stall Activity of what would you pack from your home in a suitcase? What would you leave behind that is important to you.
- Build a replica of the stalls the people were billeted there before being sent to other camps, like Minidoka.
- I would like to see photos of the families in both the Expo center and Vanport displayed the effects of incarceration and natural disasters that played into the lives of three generations of Japanese Americans.
- I think it is important to have an example of WHAT the conditions were like for the Japanese incarcerated at the Expo Center. My understanding is that they were housed in stalls used for horses/cattle. The Minidoka site in Idaho had remnants of the houses/buildings where the Japanese were housed. We got to see the land where they lived which was quite barren. The Memorial Wall at Bainbridge Island offered a tour guide, if you made arrangements. It was very informative and heart rendering at times.
- In addition of the memorialization of what was done to the Japanese residents of SW Washington and Oregon, there should be memorialization of or by Portland City, State of Oregon, The Oregonian, and other entities, public and private that participated in the unjust action against the Japanese Americans. There should be memorialization of those courageous citizens and public servants who stood up in support of Japanese Americans incarcerated at the Expo Center.
- Be truthful in the representation of the injustice that occurred at that time. Bring it to life for those who were imprisoned there and who we pay respect to now.

- Incorporate an apology and acknowledgement of the generational trauma this event created.
- Do something that engages the community, not just a plaque that people can read.

## *BUILDINGS, FACILITIES, & DESIGN*

*See also PORTLAND ASSEMBLY CENTER*

Halls A, B, and C, the Assembly Center

- The importance of Hall A as a ‘meaningful site’ to the Japanese American community needs either preservation or thoughtful reconstruction. Rehabilitate or save elements and materials from Hall A to incorporate into any new development, as was done with the Puyallup Fairgrounds partial reconstruction.
- “Retain the feelings” and “sacredness” of the physical space, regardless of preservation or partial reconstruction of Hall A.

*Context note: “...it's super important because it is so rare that we actually have a part of the original Assembly Center. That's part of that non-negotiable, whether it's rehabilitation, whether it's saving some of the structure and incorporating it into a new development, saving original elements or materials.*

- Use a community-centered design process like the Bainbridge Island Memorial.
- Gather architects, designers, landscape architects, etc. from the [Japanese American] community to form an advisory group through the “master planning” stage.

Provide Additional Facilities

- Community center to celebrate diverse cultures and history to remember the strength of the community and “have a place to belong.”
- Shared kitchen for community vendors to sell culturally specific foods to sports complex attendees.
- Performing arts center for music, drama, dance, photos, and audio presentations.
- Interpretive center from one of the remaining buildings.

## *EVENTS & ACCESS FOR COMMUNITY*

Access for Community

- A place where people will come to celebrate community (JA community banquet, Obon, Mochizuki and have an interpretive center to show and tell people what it was like for the Japanese and Japanese American people who were imprisoned there.
- Space for Community Activation through access to a multi-use-space with kitchen, an auditorium or theater with a stage, exhibition space, business incubation for food vendors, a venue for community celebrations, etc. A location for community to bring their stories and tell their stories, celebrate community (JA community banquet, Obon, Mochizuki) and have an interpretive center to show and tell people what it was like for the Japanese and Japanese American people who were imprisoned there.

- Dedicated area that is a vibrant cultural space for education and community events that rotate such as Tribal or Taiko performances to celebrate diverse culture and history to remember the strength of community.
- An annual access day for the Japanese American community to have festivals or a commemorative day.
- Offer the site to the Japanese American community to use for free or a nominal fee to celebrate our heritage (e.g. JACL, Portland Taiko, etc.).

#### Events and Programming

- Host cultural events such as Japanese American graduation banquets, Min Yasui Day, Mochizuki, Obon, or community celebrations.
- Education, programs, tours, events to honor, commemorate the Japanese American experience.
- Day of Remembrance where names of are announced like the 9-11 Memorial.
- Invite students and schools to participate in programming and learn about the history and highlight the importance of making the memorial accessible to a wide audience, not just those already interested in Japanese American history. Schools are essential for educating younger generations, ensuring that the lessons of the past reach them.

#### *ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY*

- Access to benefit from the projects developed on this site. e.g. offer a part of the newly developed site to the Japanese American community to utilize in a way that benefits their community, be it a workspace for entrepreneurs, a creative venue, commercial space for businesses to operate out of, etc.
- Also local vendors who could sell their food onsite since food is a large part of the JA and BIPOC communities
- Providing the community with a way to connect there and/or share in the prosperity. Our relatives were unconstitutionally imprisoned there—lives, businesses, and families were robbed. If descendants of those who experienced that can benefit from new developments here, and if the rest of Portland can learn something about our shared history, that is beautiful progress.

#### *NATURAL SPACES*

- A nature park and walking pathways with the names of the ancestors as a place for healing people. This could include “wall like” structures similar to the Bainbridge Island model.
- Plant restoration for future generations to remember what area looked like before colonization and include flowers, habitat, rocks, shade, water, trees, and education.
- Indigenous gardens/ community gardens that include peace and reflection gardens (celebrating Oregon/Portland 442 members) with symbolic plantings like Amachi Rose (rose discovered at Amachi Camp in Denver, WA) and trees that survived the atomic blast in Hiroshima.
- Natural spaces should be focused on what was there and is community-centered to include Urban Indigenous and Vanport communities and weaves a more holistic presentation of all the impacted communities.

- Natural space in which you contemplate Indigenous peoples, in which you contemplate the suffering of Japanese Americans and their erasure of African American communities in the area.
- Structures and place markers on walkways along with elevated viewing decks facing the Columbia River and wetlands.
- Explore community gardens and research whether Japanese farmers brought seeds with them to the Assembly Center.
- Walking path for healing people
- Parks, paths, plants restoration for future generations to remember what area looked like before colonization
- Nature park pathway with names of ancestors
- Indigenous gardens/ community gardens about what was there and be community-centered + Urban indigenous and Vanport
- Gardens, paths, rocks
- Flowers, habitat, plants, rocks, shade, water
- gardens, flowers, paths, plants, trees, rocks, education,
- Structures, placemarkers, walkways

## SPORTS

- Intersect the story of sports and how it provided the Japanese American community a sense of normalcy while incarcerated at the Expo Center.

*Context note: Youth who were interviewed connected stories of sports from their family history and the Japanese American experience as ways to tie to the sports complex's direction. Baseball diamonds and baseball have importance to the Japanese American community and at Minidoka.*

- Include stories of famous Japanese American athletes and Japanese American athletes who were excluded from continuing their athletic careers.
- Given the significance of baseball in Japanese American culture, install a baseball diamond as recommended by youth representatives.
- Recreational fields that would bring community to the Expo Center.
- Provide a cultural miniature golf course.

## METRO ACCOUNTABILITY

### Commitments with Commemoration

- Commitment to community support, fundraising structures, and community access to space as part of its policy/project mission through a mission statement. Commemoration without Expo Center/Metro's full commitment to community support would not be enough.
- If the Expo had a mission statement, looking at or editing it to include presenting the harsh realities, the ugly warts of this story is necessary, is a must.
- Organizational agreements between Metro and partnering organizations or communities to provide certain rights to the use of the space or something equally important.

- Commitment for impacted communities to access the Expo Center at no cost with a fundraising structured for the restorative justice aspect. There should be an overhead charge or like per person charge, maybe one or \$2 a head that goes into a community pot to help out with [things like] is a cultural center to hire staff and have some of the money to go back to allowing the communities to [use the space]. There needs to be a funding system within that has to be structured for this like restorative justice aspect, that then the communities who are utilizing the spaces also then giving back into this community aspect.
- Metro needs a commitment to community-centered design. Utilize the community to create the ideas rather than designing from a white heteronormative standard.
- Do something that engages the community, not just a plaque that people can read. Providing the community with a way to connect there and/or share in the prosperity.
- Truly receive and apply the input received from the interviews, workshops and guiding discussion
- Commit to involve local Japanese Sansei (Third), Yonsei (Forth), and perhaps Gosei (Fifth) generations in the creation of this project. It is imperative this project includes contributions from those impacted by the memory of Expo relocation.
- Truly receive and apply the input received from the interviews, workshops and discussions
- Demonstrate that governments are able to "do better" and not repeat the mistakes of the past.



## *PORTLAND ASSEMBLY CENTER (HALLS A, B, C)*

FACILITATOR SUMMARY: Throughout workshops and interviews with Japanese American community members, participants frequently offered ideas of what to do with the remaining buildings that formed the Portland Assembly Center. Members hold multiple perspectives, and those perspectives may vary by generation. No consensus was reached, nor was a consensus the goal of this engagement process. Project consultants offered the following summary of Japanese American community members' discussion.

### Concerns about deconstruction of Halls A, B, and C (Portland Assembly Center)

- Multiple participants expressed concerns about the risk of Hall A being removed.
- Some participants' stated reason for retaining Hall A is to ensure that there is a physical place that acts as an artifact of truth. Some voiced that they strongly oppose changing the building, who believe there will be a loss of connection with tangible evidence and connection to the tragedies that happened at the Portland Assembly Center.
- In the mapping activity, "Preserve Hall A" was listed on 4 of 8 maps; one says, "keep the original building."
- During the group share, several individuals expressed concerns about the fate of Hall A. Opinions ranged from preserving and renovating the hall completely to repurposing its materials for other uses and/or using other means to capture its "feeling" (i.e. technology or reconstruction). One participant suggested deconstructing then reconstructing the historic halls in a different location.

### The Value of Halls A, B, and C

- The Expo site is such an important place for the Japanese American community because the only other significant place for the community, Nihonmachi, only has two remaining buildings. Puyallup, Portland, possibly Santa Anita may be the only assembly centers that still have some/all of the original structures.
- Some participants expressed that the feeling and sense of place of being in ABC is incomparable and brings the story of incarceration to life.
  - The JAMO teachers' group, a mix of Japanese American, Latinx, and white teachers, said they felt a sense of connection to the structure of the old halls, but not the newer vestibule addition. The old buildings make people feel the feels. The full viewshed of A&B was meaningful to this group.
  - One participant cited the example of Min Yasui's jail cell – currently housed at JAMO – as a reconstruction that still holds power, even though it is no longer in its original location.
  - Present and future-oriented education/community activation of Hall A: one participant wanted to direct Hall A's uses beyond historic preservation, towards ways that the Japanese American community could better engage with new audiences at the sports center; this is a theme that has been echoed from other participants from other engagements.
- One participant shared that the community is at an inflection point (generationally) where many of the last survivors are passing—people with lived experience—and once they all pass, without this building/place, there will be nothing remaining for younger generations to have that direct connection to this history.

## Vanport Community

### Recommendations for Representation and Memorialization

The following provides a recap of recommendations that were shared by individuals with ties to the Vanport community in summer of 2024. These recommendations were provided during an in-person workshop, individual interviews, and online input. Project consultants and/or Metro staff organized the recommendations into the categories shown below. (Some categories were later refined by the Expo Future Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee.) The Expo Future Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee drew from this input and that of other communities in developing its recommendations for representation and memorialization at the Expo Center site.

#### VALUES & LESSONS

*Representatives were asked what values and lessons should be upheld in the Expo Future Project*

- Reconciliation
- Understanding and respecting each other's experiences
- Healing
- Resilience
- Justice
- Innovations
- Innocence and perspective of children
- Standard of coming together

#### REPRESENTATION

*"The people of Vanport should be remembered and that my family was part of Vanport."*

- Tell Vanport story in framework of how institutional and systemic power worked.
- History should be told from all aspects: the good, the bad and the ugly.
- Vanport history is not to be lost in translation.
- More Black voices – recordings in City of Portland and PSU archives.
- Integrity and respect for history as Vanport is Oregon History.
- Recognize that Vanport existed. There was a period of time that Vanport was not part of Portland history.
- The establishment of a Vanport museum would be an excellent start.
- I suggest that a more appropriate, inclusive and meaningful objective would use language such as the following: "meaningfully memorialize the site's history of forced displacement during World War II, Vanport City (the largest WWII war worker housing project in the world), and the Vanport Floods..."
- While there is overlap between "Vanport residents" and "Vanport survivors" it is inaccurate (and dismissive) of the essential wartime workers to refer to all of them -- as is often done -- as "Vanport survivors." "At the time of the flood, the population of Vanport was down to about 18,500 people."
- Many Americans of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated in WWII returned to Portland after the war and found housing at Vanport.

## ARTS & EXPERIENCE

### Art

- Large Artwork sculptures like “The Bean” in Chicago and large vibrant paintings showing stories of all impacted communities like Historic Alberta House – painting of flood and muralist Hank Panter.
- Media/Art: theater/mid-size entertainment venue attracting entertainment.
- Statue of families coming together.
- A monument recognizing the 16 million men and women who served in WWII.

### Experience & Healing

- Recognizing pain + trauma = healing.
- Use a holistic approach to create a place of fun and community /Acknowledge people's pain and trauma but emphasize healing.
- Joy & community: Play, action, activity, connectivity, not all trauma.
- Touching people/changing lives.
- “They told us we were not that smart, well, we are that smart.”

*Context note: discussing African American builders that moved to Vanport and worked in shipyard.*

- Vanport was great but racism was not.
- Needs to be more inclusion of voices.
- Reconcile Racism.
- Beauty and place of peace.
- Memorial for the people who died in the flood.
  - Those who died in the flood, even if unnamed, also ought to be given a dedicated memorial.

### Youth Programing

- Children’s programing and activities for the public.
- Soapbox derby for youth to remember soap derby competition at Vanport.

### Signage

- Signage and way finding signs, historic markers, ghost structures that tells the history.
- A memorial for the people who died in the flood.
- Vanport name being used on the site.
- Create more awareness about the people lived here and what happened through signage.
- Plaques explaining the history of all impacted communities and large statue of families coming together to acknowledge/remember lost lives and the living and to uplift.

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- Activation, technology and consistency.

*Context note: discussing community and local business.*

- Connection to NE Portland corridors with pop-up shops for weekly programming that attracts tourism and local activation.
- In the logic of reparations, Metro could best honor Vanport and its lessons for today by investing in, supporting, and honoring Black and Indigenous people, Japanese Americans, other marginalized people, and the unhoused in our community.
- Ideally, would like for the Vanport Expo Future memorial to spur a solution-focused public conversation around housing and how we can better support the marginalized people in our Portland community.
- I would also love for this project to support current BIPOC artists and vendors, and to connect the history of this federal housing project with current efforts to provide housing to those who need it in the Portland area.

## EDUCATION & EVENTS

- Record and share stories of Vanport survivors (Urgency as folks are passing away).
- Share oral stories – talk about life, not just flood.
- Ceremonies, public programming and community gatherings to remember life of the people who have historical connection to the space.
- Tell history with Vanport audio boxes around site.
- Create and share a fuller story of how Vanport came to be with City Hall document displayed explaining why it was erased.
- A museum for families and showing the effects of the flood.
- Plaques about the history of Vanport to remember the legacy.
- Comprehensive tours of Vanport (physical and virtual). Close Portland International Raceway for this.

*Note: Portland International Raceway is owned and operated by the City of Portland.*

- Combine all the history of sites – Delta Park Site (Delta Park Powwow supports Vanport land).
- Photo exhibits of:
  - Vanport shipyard workers of various races and ethnicities.
  - Vanport residents, of various races and ethnicities, who performed other recognized essential war work (communications workers such as telephone operators, for example).
  - Vanport Rosie the Riveters – the expanded work roles women performed in the war years.
- A diorama of Vanport City (its shopping center, recreation centers, theater, hospital, fire stations, police station, library, schools, childcare ("nursery") centers, bus stops, administration building, 9,942 apartments, playgrounds, ice houses, Force Lake, Bayou Lake, etc. Surround the diorama with photos of the various buildings and detailed information about purpose/use of each one.

- A full-size walk-through furnished Vanport apartment. (8) An exhibit documenting the successful union organizing/admission efforts Black Vanport shipyard workers made to join the shipbuilding unions by conducting their meetings in the middle of the night in the hulls of unfinished ships. The stories, memories and memorabilia of the people who lived in Vanport. Audio or video clips of former Vanport residents sharing their stories ought to be an essential part of this exhibit.
- Online links to Vanport history, include planning, building, cleanup after the flood.

### *SPORTS & WELLNESS FACILITIES*

- Sport center, swimming, health & wellness program for the community and tourism.
- Multi-sports for high school students to remember youth activities in Vanport/Expo center.

## Expo Future Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee

### Recommendations for Representation and Memorialization

The following provides a recap of recommendations that were identified by members of the Expo Future Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee (HSMC). These recommendations were identified throughout the committee's meetings and brainstorming sessions. Metro staff organized the recommendations into the categories shown below. (Some categories were later refined by the HSMC.) The HSMC drew Impacted Communities' input and these committee ideas when developing its recommendations for representation and memorialization at the Expo Center site.

#### REPRESENTATION

- Use names/naming of buildings/areas that ties into and highlights impacted communities and their languages, such as the Tilikum Crossing Bridge, [which is Indigenous] by the name and the design.
- Recognize and use different languages.
- Provide a website where communities can tell their stories.

#### ARTS & EXPERIENCE

##### Art

- Host rotating art installation with different artists from different communities.
- Give communities the opportunity to pick artists; Metro/Expo staff should not select.
- [Art should show] not just history but should be relevant to today. *"Art is activism."*
- Have a designated fund for artists and focus on developing artists when pursuing artwork for the site.
- Host an ongoing artist in residence program as a way of teaching art, skills, and culture.
- Include space for artists to work, exhibit, meet, and perform, in addition to a recording studio for capturing history and musical artists.
  - A space that serves community and provides opportunity and access – perhaps a partnership with Open Signal for skills building and public access.
  - A shared space for groups'/artists' practice or meeting space, e.g. taiko, martial arts demonstrations/clinics.
  - Real studios that are used by local groups and artists with observation space
- Offer a place for school performances (choir, etc.).
- Include gallery space for artists in residence or those using the studio space; could be a cooperative model where artists display and staff the gallery. (See [Valley Arts](#) in Forest Grove)
- Integrate/offer musical performances at tournaments and other events [to highlight communities' cultures].
- Host a music festival.

## Experience

- Create a feeling of coming home and healing at the Expo Center.
- Balance confrontational [history/information] for those who are unaware with healing.
- Include a healing space.
- When events are booked, share short and engaging informational background, such as, "Your gymnastics event is here ... this is where here."
- Find commonality to tie the historical significance and sports topics together so they are not two distinct things, such as the history of sports — overcoming adversity.
- Moments of silence during events, done in a way that it doesn't become rote.

*Context note: "Land acknowledgements can start to feel unemotional."*

- Create a solemn space for personal connections where people come to listen to oral histories. Ex. Museum in Chile is about Pinochet.
- Restorative Justice.
- Create some way to let spectator feel the *unknown* – what Japanese Americans felt in Hall A, everything being taken and the shared experience of removal with Tribes and Vanport community.

## *BUILDINGS, FACILITIES & DESIGN*

- Metro Expo Center should become a destination.
- Explore the idea of a cultural center more than a "museum." It should be at least 15,000 square feet.
- Have a common thread throughout the campus that ties back to the memorialization. As you traverse into different buildings to always be tied to Hall A. If someone steps into another hall, they may not even realize that Hall A exists.
- Give an architect something that is unique to design around because Expo is a unique experience and opportunity not to follow other things.
- Repurpose and reuse building materials to let things continue to live on.
- Create a view out of the parking lot — Camas Fields, Vanport, etc.
- Get back to themes that are included in décor of buildings and quotes on walls.
- Install murals/urban art on the building exteriors and it should be cohesive. [Also in Arts]
- Architecture: make it nature-based, not a concrete jungle. Highlight PNW in landscape and buildings.
- Honor and represent the historic importance of the historic halls.

## *ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY*

- Create wealth opportunities for community members like food carts for culturally specific foods and vendors. Could be an incubator-type space where the carts are provided for vendors to utilize. Could possibly partner with Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Center, or microenterprise organizations for funding and business development support.
- Include a cultural marketplace with food, produce, culturally specific crafts/local artists.

- If there is a gift shop, sell local/locally produced wares from impacted community members, and offer business development support.
- Create a community benefit fund. Add a ticket/rental fee surcharge that would fund community-oriented restorative justice work. Direct a portion for site maintenance and portion for grants or other activities. Funds could be directed toward supporting educational/cultural activities and impacted communities, communities of color. Could be used to commission artists to produce work for the site.
- Develop youth workforce/training opportunity.

## EDUCATION & PROGRAMMING

- Provide online live programming and host a YouTube channel as an ongoing space to watch/learn.

*Context note: "Helps ameliorate lack of space for all stories to be told."*

- Consider collaboration with National Park Service to become an affiliate site and with an onsite park ranger.
- Include intergenerational learning and historical lessons.
- Link back to history using social media.
- Historical lessons.
- Have educational exhibits that connect the past to the present and highlight intersectionality in ALL buildings. This can tie in well with sports. This can include:
  - Tournaments and Harlem Globetrotters at Expo.
  - Japanese Americans died in the Vanport flood and had nowhere to go.
  - Internment of Japanese Americans.
  - University of Portland – ties to Vanport.
- Organize site's stories chronologically without placing more importance of any group over another and highlight the shared story of forced removal and how [inequities] continue into now.
  - Native Americans (Who paid the highest price?)
  - Livestock/Ranchers/Railroad.
  - Vanport (neighbor).
- Integrate technology into education through use of Virtual Reality (VR) and QR Codes.

*Context note: "Augmented or virtual reality activities need the right equipment and people to support it. (It will fail.) 'Bring your own' device is often successful. JAMO has source/info on this.*

- Activate the space and serve the community Include wayside interpretation and have a holistic plan that tells the story of all communities.

*Context note: "Don't tell [these stories] in isolation. Look for themes, create a long-range interpretive plan."*

- Develop and distribute a school curriculum to educate youth.
- Develop a visitor tour curriculum.



- Have interactive maps or kiosks that relate the history with locations and photos for Japanese American, Vanport, and Indigenous areas/waterways.

*Context note: “Map it and convey what is there. Display photos and historical information. Could also be integrated and layered. Can be GIS based, could partner with universities to develop this. Replicate it online with QR code/link.”*

- Print the site’s history and stories to share on tables (dining/banquet tables, display tables, etc.).
- Share audio in the tangible memorialization such as oral histories and provide a physical representation.
- Interactive things that show changes over time.
  - [Indigenous people and land] before colonization.
  - Vanport [thriving].
  - Assembly Center.
- Create an internship system at Expo in coordination with other federal Japanese American historic sites.

#### *EVENTS & ACCESS FOR COMMUNITY*

- Activate the space and serve the community by creating community access that is no cost or has significantly reduced fees. Consider how the space can serve community through access and a place for events, workshops, and learning.

*Context note: “If you are providing a resource that people otherwise must pay for, it moves from intangible to tangible.”*

- Host annual celebrations of history, like a celebration of Black History Month with a panel (storytellers) with themes each year. An example of a theme could be Black Excellence in the C-Suite with a Zoom link and recording for people who cannot travel or attend.
- Features should be accessible at any time/free (this has some operational considerations: bus, car, parking, parking fees, potentially building access).
- Everyone should have access.

#### *FOOD & FARMING*

- Serve First foods and rotating cultural foods.
- Share the land’s history through food.
- Have a farmers market on site and offer selling space to backyard farmers with surpluses.
- Provide a point of access for tribal-sourced foods and tell stories about those foods.
- Create a commercial kitchen to support food prep.
- Provide a space for food cultivation, agriculture, and community garden space. [Also in Natural Spaces]

## NATURAL SPACES

- Create access and connection to nature, trees, and water.
- Restore the environment and use plants with significance such as cherry blossoms, native plantings identified in Native languages, and First foods. Include signage to provide botany/food cultivation education and interpretation.
- Have a medicinal/healing garden with healing plants in which all impacted communities each have medicinal plants. This could extend into workshops [about the plants and uses].
- Build a pathway from Torii gate along with walking trails that include:
  - Timelines
  - Wayside exhibits
  - Beautification
  - Place-keeping
  - Create a flow of the timeline with visuals and show the past and future
  - Open accessibility for everyone
  - Can be guided or unguided
- Create gathering places and park spaces.
- **Think Seven Generations in the future!**
- Return of hydro-functionality of space.
- Provide a space for food cultivation, agriculture, and community garden space.
- No fountains or water features – these often fail and are expensive to repair/replace!

## METRO ACCOUNTABILITY & FUNDING

- Separate commercial activity from honoring history.
- Metro has policies for preferred vendors already, perhaps these should be region-wide?
- Money needs to go back to the community (with the increase in income from sports use).
- Don't segregate communities and allow everyone to contribute.
- Must have community engagement in the later master planning and interpretive planning.
- Identify things that are must-haves/non-negotiables in recommendations s.
- Give something to the community/people; serve the needs of the people.
- [Look for] unrestricted sponsorships/partnerships.
- State Cultural Resource Development Funds may be a source of funding.
- Consider contacting Tribes to partner with funding and/or support funding needs.

## SPORTS

- Use sports to attract people so that the stories can be told.
- Offer low barrier opportunities for people to be introduced to sports.
- Link the site to bike paths for transportation and recreation.
- Have a nighttime bike ride as a fundraiser.
- Hold a Sunday Parkway at Expo.

## VISIBILITY

- Access and scale.
- Achieve a scale that you cannot miss.
- Scale such as planting, gates, big built environment.

# Appendix C: Expo Future Project Guiding Principles

## EXPO CENTER FUTURE SCENARIO GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Updated May 25, 2022



## Appendix D: Expo Future Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee Values

The Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee recommendations are made with the intent to

- Encourage people to engage and interact with the history of the site;
- Tell each community's story authentically and honestly, including stories of displacement, through this work
- Acknowledge and learn from history to address past harms and prevent oppression and marginalization of people, today and in the future.
- Describe the histories of Indigenous, Japanese American, and Vanport communities and Tribes at the Expo Center site and recognize their vibrant present and futures
- Activate the space primarily for community-driven programming, with the permission of those affected by its history
- Foster a sense of place and belonging through representation and memorialization

In addition to the Expo Future project's Guiding Principles, the Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee holds the following values.

- Serving and building community through this project
- Providing increased access to the site for community-driven programming and groups, particularly the Indigenous, Japanese American, and Vanport communities whose histories integral to the site
- Fostering opportunities for community members to connect and hear each other's stories
- Engaging and enriching a multi-generational audience
- Continuing to be transparent and to engage community in the next phases of the project
- Including Tribes' histories and connections to the site in addition to these recommendations
- Creating economic and other opportunities for members of the three impacted communities in memorialization and other work at Expo