



Metro Central Community Enhancement Program Committee Application

Cecilia Estraviz

Northwest Industrial Business Association

8549 SW Laurel Leaf Lane

Portland, Oregon 97225

May 4, 2023

Please describe your connection to the communities in the grant area boundary, or your interest in serving those communities.

For the last four years, I have worked for LIFT UP (Lift Urban Portland) which is a food security nonprofit service NW and Downtown Portland. During this time, in addition to laying roots in the NW/Downtown area through our work, I have had the opportunity to engage my community in a different way through my participation in NIBA (Northwest Industrial Business Association). I have been a board member for three years with this past year being elected to Vice President. The opportunity has allowed for greater community and business engagement in the Industrial area with both small and large businesses. From conversations regarding safety, transportation, air quality, and walkability, I have learned about the needs of our direct community from a variety of representatives who all live, work, or visit the area frequently. Additionally, I have worked with and sat on a grant committee with members from NWNW (Neighbors West Northwest) and OCF (Oregon Community Foundation) reviewing community centric grants that directly impact our NW industrial boundaries.

Members of the Metro Central Enhancement Committee contribute a wide variety of complementary skills and experiences. Please describe any relevant knowledge, professional and/or lived experience that you would bring to the committee, including knowledge and experience about environmental justice or protecting the environmental quality of communities.

I am one of those rare Portlanders who can say they have lived in this city their entire lives. While I love this city and the many different and special things that make us so unique, I also am a huge proponent of growth and development in our community. As someone who works each day to redirect food that would otherwise be thrown away into the hands of neighbors who greatly rely on the assistance, the acknowledgment of how we each participate in the chain of food waste and its environmental impact is so important to actually changing the landscape of its impact on our communities, especially those who self-identify as BIPOC or seniors (a community often looked over!). I feel fortunate to have grown up the daughter of a Mexican immigrant in a single parent household because my experience and perspective have challenged me to be a stronger advocate for my community. The value of community works is that it is rooted in community, with neighbors and residents who understand its landscape. I feel fortunate to do this work in partnership with NIBA because all community members voices are valuable and often want the same things for their neighborhoods.

Please explain how you keep informed and aware of the community's diverse needs and priorities.

Active participation! Being a well-informed citizen is sometimes more than reading the news and being aware of what bills/laws are happening at the state and local level. Being a NIBA board member has taught me so much about transportation impacts/streetcar advancements in NW Portland and its impacts on residents, workers, and business owners in the area. Sitting on the grant committee with OCF allowed me to visit several NW nonprofits and not only learn and see their work but allocate future spending to create sustainable programming. Working with housing agencies on tenants' rights and the creation of future housing has challenged me to understand how the city council process and legislative process works and the many steps/permits required along the way. To engage your community is to learn about your community and I have often found being a part of the conversation is how I not only stay informed but teach others on how to get involved and make their voices heard as well!

Summarize any relevant experience in working or collaborating with people whose background is different than yours.

I am fortunate enough to work in a position where I regularly engage with community members whose experiences and backgrounds are so diverse and different from my own. In contrast with being a board member and VP of NIBA with many businesses owners whose upbringing is just as different and varied. I feel grateful to have a strong understanding of each of those communities needs and recognize how we can work together to make our neighborhoods safe and welcoming for all residents.

The committee evaluates grant proposals in part on the project's and/or organization's efforts to advance equity through projects that benefit underserved communities and build their capacity to improve their own communities. What knowledge and experience do you bring in understanding how programs, services and grant dollars can benefit underserved communities?

For the last six + years I have worked in nonprofits with a focus on food justice and immersed myself in the multitude of reasons community members often seek public services. I work directly with my co-workers on helping write grants that will further develop our work and empower our neighbors to sit at the table with us and help guide our future programming. I have always felt with community-based grants, recipients should be the loudest voices in the room since they are the reason, we as organizations continue to do this work. I have seen the direct impact of grant dollars and how beneficial they are to both large and small organizations. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to write several grants for NIBA (Northwest Industrial Business Association) in partnership with Venture Portland.



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Portland, OR 97232-2736
oregonmetro.gov

Do you now have or anticipate any conflicts of interest that might require you to excuse yourself from the review of any potential project? Please explain. For example, do you or a family member work for or serve on the board of an organization that might seek a grant from this program? Are you a consultant that might be interested in submitting a proposal for the type of work that this program funds? This does not disqualify you from applying for the committee, but you will not be allowed to review any projects that you have a conflict with.

As the current Vice President of NIBA (Northwest Industrial Business Association) and Operations Manager at LIFT UP (Lift Urban Portland) any grants submitted by either organization would be conflicts of interests and need to be reviewed and processed by other committee members.

NORTHWEST INDUSTRIAL

BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



Noelle Dobson
Program Manager
Community Enhancement Grants
Oregon Metro
600 NE Grand Ave
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Dear Noelle,

On behalf of the NW Industrial Business Association, we would like to formally endorse Cecilia Estraviz for the open position on the Metro Central Enhancement Grant Committee.

Cecilia has served on our board for several years with exuberance and consistent follow through on both regular board work as well as special projects and grants.

Cecilia works full time for NIBA member organization, Lift Urban Portland as their Operations Manager. Cecilia's work at Lift UP is critical to their mission to reduce hunger and improve the lives of low-income Northwest and Downtown residents. In addition, she has experience in both writing grants as well as being on the TAC 405 grant committee for NIBA.

The NIBA board is confident that Cecilia will be an excellent Metro central enhancement grant committee member as well as an excellent representative for the NW Industrial Neighborhood.

Sincerely, NIBA Board and officers

Chris Crever – President
Cecilia Estraviz – VP
Craig Hamilton – Scribe
Greg Madden – Treasurer
Kenny Houser – Board member
Harold Hutchinson – Board Member
Barbara Macnab – Board Member