



February 24, 2020

Raahi Reddy
Director, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Program
Metro
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Dear Ms. Reddy:

I wanted to write this letter of appreciation for Metro's efforts to support community based organizations (CBOs) serving communities of color. Meyer Memorial Trust believes that race is often a determinant of social, economic and political inequities, and that it is critical to prioritize support for people of color, Indigenous communities and immigrants and refugees, especially if they experience intersecting oppressions.

Our recent interactions with Metro staff in the DEI, Parks and Communications departments have made clear that we share an interest in assessing our collective investments to encourage civic participation among CBOs that serve communities of color. Along these lines, we have benefited from Metro staff's participation in emerging conversations that Meyer has hosted among a mix of philanthropic organizations and governmental agencies interested in encouraging civic engagement among communities of color. Through our grant making and in other ways, we hope to encourage a more inclusive and participatory democracy as a means to transforming structures, policies and practices that perpetuate exclusion and inequities.

Metro's intentional approach to co-design plans with CBOs increases the likelihood of success and connects with our belief that efforts to achieve racial equity must be defined and led by the people most impacted by oppression. Like other forms of systems level change, we have been learning that encouraging civic engagement takes time. With this in mind, we appreciate having the opportunity for continued collaboration with colleagues at Metro.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dahmesh Medora'.

Dahmesh Medora
Building Community Portfolio Director