



Metro Policy Advisory Committee Application

* response is required

First Name*: Elizabeth Amira

Last Name*: Streeter

Pronouns: she/her

Occupation & Employer (if applicable): Policy advisor, State of Oregon

The Metro Policy Advisory Committee addresses policy areas that include regional transportation, management of the urban growth boundary, and protection of lands outside the urban growth boundary for natural resources, future urban zoning, or other uses. What is your interest or background in these issues, and why are you interested in joining this committee?*

My interest and background for natural resources, transportation, and zoning come from my education and professional experience.

I have an educational background in land use law and natural resources management. My education is in environmental law and environmental science with a focus on land use, sustainability, and environmental justice. I have a J.D. from Lewis & Clark, Law School with a Certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law and a Bachelor's degree from Skidmore College in environmental science. This strong educational knowledge will help me understand the discussions that happen during MPAC.

In my current job, I get to work with land use and development agencies at the state level about land use development, transportation planning, and housing needs. I get to work with others through complex issues like how to respond to a growing population while also creating ways to mitigate climate change impacts.

I'm greatly interested in how our community in the Metro region is built to thrive and grow. I have been a resident of Multnomah county for over 10 years and I've seen how neighborhoods have changed for the better over time. I want to learn and understand the decision-making behind the changes I've seen and also be a part of the decision-making as an interested community member.

Guided by input from many regional partners and informed by research, Metro has identified racial equity as the approach to ensure that all people who live, work and recreate in the Portland region have the opportunity to share in and help define a thriving, livable and prosperous place. Metro strives to cultivate diversity, advance equity and practice inclusion in all of its work. What experiences, perspectives and values would you bring to Metro's equity work?*

I have a deep understanding of and commitment to equity. In addition to my lived experience as a Black woman, I have worked with diverse community groups and organizations throughout my career.

I worked for the Urban League of Portland as their Policy and Advocacy Director where I coordinated the African-American community around important social justice initiatives and worked in collaboration with other community-based organizations, like APANO, Latino Health Coalition, and Unite Oregon.

In my job, I get to work on advancing environmental equity towards transformative change. I have experience bringing an equity framework to my work and co-creating the development of equity initiatives with community leaders. For example, I lead work within the Governor's Racial Justice Council Environmental Equity Committee where I facilitate a decision-making process with multiple government agencies and community leaders, scholars, and advocates to design and implement equity-driven policies and budget investments. Together, we have created a suite of recommendations to elevate environmental equity and address institutional and historic inequities at the state level.

I greatly enjoy working with community to co-create and implement strategic plans to advance equitable outcomes with input from interested parties and stakeholders. I have successfully accomplished this because of my strong skills in advocacy and consensus building. I know how to gain the confidence and trust among diverse community members. I am most proud of my work as staff liaison to the Environmental Justice Task Force. The Task Force is made up of community members who want to lead on environmental justice at the state level and I helped them in creating a two-year strategic plan that is on the way to completion. My experiences working with board and commission members, legislators and their staff, community stakeholders and leaders is a strength that I would bring to MPAC.

Please describe your current and past community involvement. What organizations, issues and communities have you been involved with?*

Over the past six years, I have enjoyed strategizing in a collaborative way to solve the roots problems for historically marginalized and underserved communities. I can convene community forums and coalitions to foster collaboration towards a unified action agenda. For example, while I worked at the Urban League of Portland, I got to work directly with and collaborate with culturally specific organizations and labor unions, including the Coalition for Communities of Color, Unite Oregon, APANO, SEIU, Community Alliance of Tenants, OPAL, NAYA, and AFSCME. I have continued to have these relationships while fostering new ones with other organizations like Verde and Imagine Black.

I have also worked with multiple environmental organizations in the region including the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club, Oregon Environmental Council, and Environmental Professionals of Color.

I'm also a currently part of the City Club of Portland and I am a Commissioner on the City of Portland Charter Review Commission where I get to work many diverse partners within the City of Portland.

How did you learn about this opportunity?

Online