



**“NEIGHBORHOOD VOICES” YOUTH-LED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT  
FOR GPCOG’S E. BAYSIDE BROWNFIELD AREA WIDE PLANNING (AWP) PROCESS  
December 2016**

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) is looking to get feedback from East Bayside stakeholders on opportunities, needs and priorities surrounding a few vacant spaces in the neighborhood. Because the spaces may be contaminated, they can be more challenging to clean up and reuse. GPCOG received funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to work with the community to develop a plan that would guide local government, developers, community groups and residents regarding the steps needed to clean the spaces, bring them back to productive use, and create opportunities for accessing and building wealth and prosperity for all stakeholders in the area.

GPCOG is partnering with local community based non-profit Cultivating Community to get input from residents and stakeholders in the East Bayside neighborhood, on how cleanup and reuse of those and other similar sites could benefit the community most. Cultivating Community’s “Neighborhood Voices” cohort of teens will lead this community engagement work through a series of “pop up” community encounters happening at high-traffic locations across the neighborhood during the months of December 2016 and January 2017. The cohort will report out their findings from these pop-up encounters to the Brownfield Area Wide Planning Advisory Committee, which GPCOG convenes quarterly, at the end of January.

**PROJECT GOALS**

- Engage a diverse group local Portland teens in an educational, interactive community engagement project that will collect the voices, thoughts and feedback from East Bayside residents most frequently missing in planning processes.
- Train these local teens to develop and implement fun, interactive, “light touch” community engagement strategies to ensure a representative cross-section of neighborhood voices are informing a planning process focused on East Bayside.
- Present this community feedback to GPCOG and the Brownfield AWP Advisory committee, to be incorporated into the final Area Wide Plan, and to inform strategies and action steps for implementation going forward.

**YOUTH OUTCOMES**

- Learn about Brownfields, environmental justice, and how to obtain feedback from neighbors and community members



- Identify high-traffic community venues and events at which to connect with residents and conduct approximately 100 feedback conversations in East Bayside
- Sort and analyze the information/data received from those conversations
- Learn skills in and practice presenting and public speaking
- Create a Photo Voice slideshow (collect and share images from conversations in slideshow)
- Conduct culminating presentation to GPCOG, AWP Advisory Committee, and local stakeholders and families

***PROPOSED OUTREACH/ENGAGEMENT VENUES, EVENTS, DATES, TIMES***

- Targeting high-traffic locations and times when a diverse cross-section of East Bayside residents and visitors of all ages might be encountered in their day-to-day travels
- Late December 2016 through late January 2017
- After school hours on weekdays 3:30-6:30pm
- Mornings or afternoons on weekends
- Small folding table and two teens per pop-up event
- Up to 3 questions will be asked of each participant
- Each “touch” lasting no more than 5 minutes
- Participation is invited but completely voluntary

[The Root Cellar](#)

94 Washington Street

[Portland Adult Education](#)

353 Cumberland Avenue

[East End Community School](#) (outside the front doors during After-School Rec Program)

195 North Street

[Maine Muslim Community Center](#)

118 Anderson Street

[Opportunity Alliance Early Childhood Education Center](#)

Boyd Street in East Bayside

*\*If you have ideas about other venues or events we should add to this list, we would welcome your suggestions! Please email Anna Sommo at [anna@cultivatingcommunity.org](mailto:anna@cultivatingcommunity.org)*