OMSI Center for Tribal Nations Advisory Committee Charter

FINAL VERSION - 3/31/21

Purpose and Background

The Center for Tribal Nations at the OMSI District project seeks to leverage the redevelopment of the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) property to model a new partnership among OMSI, tribal and intertribal organizations, and the City of Portland to restore the Native community’s presence on the Willamette River, and to promote in the general public a deeper understanding of the river’s ecology and history. OMSI, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), and the City of Portland are the responsible partners on this project and will be supported by a range of stakeholder groups and consultants. Over the last 40 years, the Native community has expressed a deep desire to create a new focal point for their community in Greater Portland. The Center for Tribal Nations and Waterfront Education Park seek to meaningfully restore Native peoples’ connection to the Willamette River while modeling a new relationship focused on collaboration to promote innovative solutions to the shared challenges of sustainability, resilience, and inclusion shared by Native and non-native people alike.

The OMSI Project Team seeks to host a Center for Tribal Nations Advisory Committee (CTNAC or Committee) to serve as a sounding board for the Project Team and to represent the broader Native community regarding the project. The CTNAC will help distill the input gathered through the tribal engagement process into recommendations for the Project Development Team. The Committee will advise the Project Development Team on the proposed programming, design, and development of the Center for Tribal Nations and the Waterfront Education Park. The Project Team seeks to appoint a cross-generational group of advisors who are trusted and empowered to represent the Indigenous community by providing answers to practical and philosophical questions, engaging in discussions with OMSI and Edlen & Co, the selected Master Developer for the OMSI District, providing input on design, programming, and the needs of the tribal community, among other responsibilities.

As the project evolves and entities interested in directly investing in the project are identified, the Center for Tribal Nations Advisory Committee shall serve as an intermediary body to receive and consider input from potential investors, tenants, and other user groups, while also considering the input and needs of the broader community and future generations.

Center for Tribal Nations Advisory Committee Charge:

- Review broad stakeholder input collected and distill into recommendations and direction for the Project Team
- Identify desired uses that will be part of the building program
- Establish the overarching Design Principles that will guide the design of the project
- Provide feedback to the Project Design and Development Team throughout the development process
- Provide input, along with other project partners, on the design and programming of the Waterfront Education Park (WEP)
- Balance perspectives and needs of project investors with consideration of broad and long-term community good that can be achieved through the project
**Scope of Authority**

For the duration of the planning grant, the Committee is requested to advise OMSI and the Project Team. Due to existing contractual requirements, the committee will not have the authority to represent OMSI or direct the expenditure of Metro’s planning grant funds. However, the committee will have authority to advise the design team regarding the visioning, programming, and conceptual design of the Center for Tribal Nations, resulting in a recommendation to the Project Team and OMSI. The CTNAC will also provide input into the design and programming of the adjacent Waterfront Education Park (WEP) in collaboration with a number of other project partners and stakeholders. Ultimately, the siting of the CTN will be a negotiation with OMSI as they determine the future of the OMSI district, and subject to infrastructure and financing considerations.

**Desired Committee Member Qualifications and Experience**

The OMSI Project Team will select 15-20 members to serve on the committee. Committee members should be passionate about the vision of a “tribal United Nations” that will benefit the site, the Native community, the City of Portland, and the wider metro region and Pacific Northwest.

To be selected to serve on the CTNAC, prospective members should be:

- Active within the local Native American community in order to assist with the gathering of formal and informal feedback and direction.
- Eager to assist in raising awareness and understanding of the Design and Development Team around Native and tribal traditions and issues, so that the project is effective in its efforts to address justice, equity, diversity, visibility, and inclusivity.
- Willing to participate in public relations and fund-raising activities on behalf of the CTN.
- Able to represent the perspective of physically navigating the community with a disability.
- Demonstrated leaders of their tribe, community, profession, organization or peer group, who have earned the respect of their community/peers.
- Comfortable working in an iterative, discussion-based, and collaborative setting – including occasional workshops.
- Comfortable working in a virtual environment (during COVID-19 pandemic safety protocols).

**Expertise and Representation Needed on Committee**

The Committee’s emphasis will be on ensuring representation from three key groups:

1. Tribal governments
2. NGOs in Portland Metro area
3. Tribal community members at large

Below are attributes and areas of expertise needed to ensure that a broad range of experience, perspectives, tribal affiliation, and age ranges are represented on the committee:

- Cultural knowledge and traditions
- Intertribal coordination and government relations
- Community and public relations
- Designers and artists
- Real estate development and finance
- Organizational development and fundraising
- Ecology, restoration and environmental remediation, and geology
- Sustainability, green building, and resilience
- Economic development, innovation, and entrepreneurship
- Housing development and community services
- Workforce development
- Education
- Youth leadership
- Engineers
- STEM Professionals

Committee Appointment Process

Appointments to the committee will be made by the OMSI Project Team. In the event of a vacancy, the Project Team shall appoint a new member. Any such appointment shall be consistent with the membership criteria above.

Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs

The Committee will be supported by the Project Team contracted by OMSI and the City of Portland, under agreement with Metro, who has provided the grant for project planning. Additional project support will be provided by OMSI and City of Portland staff, and potentially from other agencies that may become involved in the project. Examples include the State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Time Commitment

- Members must be committed to serving the project through the Metro Grant calendar (anticipated April 2021 – July 2022), or until the grant work is completed. Some members may continue to participate thereafter as the project is constructed pending negotiations between OMSI’s Master Developer, Edlen & Co., and project investors.
- Members must be available to attend all meetings and participate in the discussions. Meetings will occur as frequently as weekly, bi-weekly at minimum. Committee members should designate a second person who can represent the Committee member in the Committee member’s absence.
- Committee members may choose to meet more regularly as a full Committee or subcommittees.
- Due to the health concerns raised by COVID-19, all meetings will strictly adhere to public health protocols. Committee meetings will be held virtually for the foreseeable future. In the event that pandemic risks are alleviated late 2021 or in 2022 and public health restrictions are lifted, the Committee may determine whether in-person (or hybrid) meetings are desired or whether continuing with virtual meetings is preferred for the efficiency or convenience of committee members.
Committee members will be encouraged to visit the site in person. OMSI will facilitate group visits subject to public health protocols.

Members are expected to prepare for meetings on their own time. The amount of preparation time may vary depending on the issues the Committee is considering. Applicants should expect to spend approximately 2 - 4 hours a week outside the meetings on Committee business.

Roles and Expectations of Committee Members

1. Attend and actively participate in all Committee meetings and subcommittee meetings. Prepare for committee meetings by reviewing materials in advance. (Meeting materials will be distributed at least X days prior to each meeting).

2. Consider diverse perspectives in the regional and PNW Native community and bring ideas and viewpoints to share with other committee members for consideration.

3. Raise awareness of the Center’s goals and vision. Interact with tribal governments, tribal community members, intertribal organizations, and partners to develop and promote interest and participation in envisioning the CTN, identifying investors, design and development of the building and grounds, and sustainable operations.

4. Share information with local communities/organizations in which you are involved, and gather, synthesize, and convey information and perspective from those groups.

5. Review background materials provided by the Project Team to understand the issues and to gain familiarity with the array of actions and initiatives currently underway to develop the project.

6. Provide a sounding board to ensure that a variety of data and viewpoints are heard, respected, fully considered in the formulation of recommendations.

7. Review and comment on draft plan elements and documents prepared by OMSI and the Project Team.

8. Make recommendations to OMSI and the Project Team regarding the programming, design, and development of the CTN and Waterfront Education Park.

9. Voice any concerns directly, promptly, and constructively.

OMSI and Project Team Responsibilities and Commitments

1. Convene and facilitate committee meetings. Manage the process for the good of the committee as a whole.

2. Respect committee volunteers’ time and ensure that when these resources are employed they are done so effectively and efficiently.

3. Include committee members at key decision-making points/milestones throughout the process.
4. Provide a hospitable and welcoming environment to all committee members and meeting participants.

5. Develop and distribute meeting agendas and background materials in advance of meetings. Post agendas and other meeting materials on the website.

6. Develop notes from meetings and distribute them within one week of the meeting. These notes should faithfully represent areas of general agreement within the group and areas in which there are diverging viewpoints.

7. Develop draft documents for Committee review and comment. Documents will be clear, well-labelled, and will facilitate understanding, schedules, and design/engineer concepts.

8. Create a clear record of Committee decisions and recommendations for the project throughout the development process.

Guiding Principles for the Committee Work

1. Build upon past and ongoing activities that contribute to improved well-being of Portland’s Native community.

2. Develop avenues for partnering entities to participate and learn throughout the process.

3. Communicate with Committee members and also the broader Native community providing input as to how their feedback is utilized in the process.

4. Be open to input and ideas and provide timely feedback. Provide a hospitable and welcoming environment to all committee members and meeting participants.

5. Ensure that opportunities to participate in the process are equitably provided across the spectrum of all interest groups and geographic areas.

6. Respect and value differences of opinion and ideals.

7. Work to build lasting community leadership and relationships, and lay the groundwork for successful cooperation in development of the CTN.

8. Value the past and consider the future when making decisions.

9. Strive to craft and recommend approaches and solutions that are workable for a wide range of needs and interests.

10. Create opportunities to bridge communities and tribes, building upon common values.

11. Ideas and concepts developed by the Committee but not included in the project will be assembled and recorded for future consideration.
**Basis for Advancing Committee Recommendations**

The Committee will strive for consensus in making recommendations regarding the project. The group will engage in open and constructive dialogue to ensure that potential solutions are well tested and that diverging opinions are aired, discussed, and documented.

Consensus is understood by the Advisory Committee to mean that each participant is able to say:

1. I feel I have been heard;
2. I have heard others; and
3. I can support the decision of the group.

**Attachment: Schedule of Design Input and Recommendations**

The Advisory Committee will be asked to provide input or recommendations to the Project Team on important issues related to the Center for Tribal Nations and the Waterfront Education Park. The schedule and content of those recommendations are listed in the attached document.