INTRODUCTORY LISTENING SESSION

Planning for the Center for Tribal Nations and Waterfront Education Park at the OMSI District, Portland, Oregon

DATE / TIME
March 31, 2021 | 1:00-3:00 PM (PST)

➢ Who Should Attend:
✓ Native Serving Organizational Leadership
✓ Economic Development & Finance Staff
✓ Cultural & Educational staff
✓ River Health and Restoration
✓ Tribal Natural Resource staff
✓ Housing Directors and staff

➢ We Want to Hear Your Ideas!

Registration link for this Introductory Listening Session [required]:
https://atnitribes.org/center-tribal-nations/
OVERVIEW

With funding assistance from a Metro planning grant, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians (ATNI), Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), Prosper Portland, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES), and many other partners are initiating an 18-month planning process to engage tribes, tribal organizations, and the Portland metro area Native American community to seek their ideas, identify needs, and explore development opportunities for the Center for Tribal Nations and Waterfront Education Park at the OMSI District in downtown Portland. OMSI is the private property owner in the district and wishes to seek input on how to design, advance, and develop this property. The OMSI property includes 23 acres total of which 18 acres is available for new development with 3 million square feet of new usable space.

The Center for Tribal Nations (CTN) at the OMSI District project seeks to leverage the redevelopment of the OMSI property to model a new partnership between OMSI, tribal and intertribal organizations, and the City of Portland to restore the Native American community’s presence on the Willamette River and address our shared challenges of sustainability, resilience, and inclusion. Envisioned as an integrated package of buildings, infrastructure, and riverfront restoration, the initial concept for the Center for Tribal Nations may include:

➢ Office and meeting space for tribal and intertribal organizations
➢ Gathering, community event, and ceremonial space
➢ A community commercial kitchen and dining area
➢ Affordable and market rate housing
➢ Waterfront education park and restoration of the OMSI District’s ⅓-mile riverfront
➢ Native owned businesses, retail, and food space
➢ Education, workforce development, and training
➢ Healthcare, community services, and daycare
➢ Hotel and lodging
➢ Other opportunities to be identified

For Phase One of the planning process ATNI, CRITFC, OMSI, BES, and planning partners will conduct a series of seven “listening” sessions in the first five months (Jan-May) to introduce the project components and timeframe, identify needs, issues, opportunities, develop ideas and concepts, and prepare a summary report and recommendations. The listening sessions will be conducted using virtual meetings like Zoom and other communications media. We will also offer a survey to gather input and ideas.

ATNI has additional information on their website at https://atnitribes.org/center-tribal-nations which includes previous planning efforts, the Metro planning grant, partner organizations, and an overview of the 18-month planning process.

In sum, the goal for this Metro’s generous planning grant is to undertake an inclusive planning process that turns this exciting vision into a financeable package of development projects that will constitute the first phase of OMSI redevelopment. Grant funds will be used to undertake the following activities:
➢ A community engagement process to enlist both the regional Native American community and local community stakeholders throughout 18-month planning effort;
➢ A feasibility study to create concept-level designs, engineering systems, and financial pro formas for the CTN, the hotel, education, and housing elements;
➢ A conceptual study for the Waterfront Education Park integrated with the City’s river restoration design effort; and
➢ A feasibility study for shared district systems to ensure that the Center for Tribal Nations, OMSI, and the remaining developable district parcels achieve deep sustainability.

Project Partners

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI)  www.omsi.edu
OMSI is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to inspire curiosity by creating engaging science learning experiences for students of all ages and backgrounds.

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI)  https://atnitribes.org/
ATNI is a consortium of over 50 tribes in the Pacific northwest including the nine Tribes of Oregon. Nearly all intertribal organizations in Portland are affiliate members of ATNI.

Prosper Portland  https://prosperportland.us/
Prosper Portland focuses on building an equitable economy by investing financial and human capital to serve the city and its residents.

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC)  https://www.critfc.org/
CRITFC coordinates management policy and provides fisheries technical services for the Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Nez Perce tribes.

Bureau of Environmental Services (BES)  https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/29323
BES manages Portland's wastewater and stormwater infrastructure to protect public health and the environment.

For more information or to provide additional input, please contact:
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