

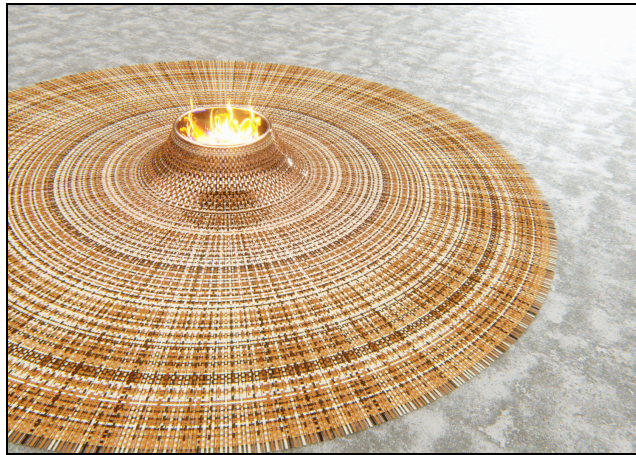
**Summary Report**

**Outreach to Communities of Color and  
Culturally-Specific Groups**

**Proposed Beaverton Arts and Culture Center**

Consultants Bill Flood and Erin Moran

June 16, 2015



*A Fire Rug for Domestic Gathering by French designer Stephanie Langard that evokes the feeling of communal fire for gatherings*

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## Charge and Methodology

In early 2015 the Beaverton Arts Commission contracted with consultants Bill Flood and Erin Moran to engage ethnic and culturally-specific community members in discussion about how they could best utilize and feel welcome in a proposed Beaverton Arts and Culture Center. Both consultants have considerable experience working with and/or on behalf of these communities in Beaverton.

Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District (THPRD) and the Beaverton School District (BSD) also invested time and resources in this project, along with the commitment to continually make their facilities increasingly welcoming to communities of color. We hope that findings will specifically benefit the City, THPRD, and the Beaverton School District.

Why reach out to communities of color in Beaverton? This diverse population contributes greatly to making the city a vibrant, unique Oregon community. The 2014 City of Beaverton Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan identifies that:

- one in three people living in Beaverton identify as a person of color, compared to just one percent of the population that was recorded as non-white in the 1970 census;
- almost one in four people in Beaverton were born outside the U.S. and twenty-eight percent speak a language other than English.

Beaverton's diversity is increasingly being considered a community asset. Reaching out to people of color, and other culturally-specific groups, to hear their ideas on how to make a proposed arts and culture center integral to community cultural life in Beaverton just makes good sense.

Our approach to outreach included an online survey, interviews with individuals, and facilitated discussions with groups.

## Findings

The Beaverton Arts Commission has on-file a summary of interviews, notes from each of the group discussions, and detailed results of the on-line survey. Appendix A lists names of individuals interviewed and group discussions.

Below is a summary of the findings per each of our primary questions.

### ***How many people responded through the survey, interviews, and group discussions?***

<b>Number responding</b>	<b>Methodology</b>
63	On-line survey
135	Group discussions
17	Interviews
215	Total (with some overlap between respondents that completed the on-line survey and also participated in group discussions)

### **Ethnic and culturally-specific groups represented**

It is not possible to precisely identify the number of ethnic and cultural affiliations represented; some people did not describe their affiliation(s) and others identify with multiple groups, but clearly at least 30 different groups are represented in the 215 people, and the number is most likely well over 50. Following are groups that are definitely represented (as specifically identified by respondents).

Bengali, Indian, Kudrati, Sri Lankan  
 Canadian  
 Caucasian: German, Irish, Swiss, Italian  
 Chinese, Cantonese, Singaporean, Taiwanese, Mandarin  
 Filipino, Hawaiian, Tahitian, Maori, Tongan  
 Israeli  
 Japanese  
 Jewish  
 Korean  
 Latino, Mexican American, Aztec  
 Muslim, Islamic, Iraqi, Arabic-speaking  
 Native American  
 Queer  
 Slavic  
 Vietnamese  
 Some identified with more than one culture  
 Some did not indicate cultural affiliation(s)

***Do you live in Beaverton?***

Not all people answered this question, but of those that responded a significant majority (over 70%) live in Beaverton. Others live in Washington County and the region.

***What art forms, cultural practices, celebrations do you or your community engage in?***

Responses varied widely, as one might expect. Many responses clustered around similar art forms shared with the wider non-ethnic-specific population including performances (primarily music, theater, dance), visual arts (including film), and a consistent call for gallery space. Festivals, celebrations, ceremonies based around holidays, seasons and religious and cultural traditions also ranked very high, as well as the practice of traditional arts, crafts, and handwork.

***What facilities are you currently using for these art forms, cultural practices, celebrations?***

Responses varied widely, but certainly faith-based sites and the Beaverton Library ranked high. People also consistently mentioned and had high regard for the PCC Sylvania Auditorium (approximately 400 seats). Other venues identified consistently include homes, Portland's Centers for the Arts, THPRD community centers, hotels/restaurants, parks, and schools.

***How could a Beaverton Arts and Culture Center best serve you? What would you like to do/experience at a proposed Beaverton Arts and Culture Center?***

Following are consistent themes from respondents:

- A place to share our cultures and experience other cultures
- Performances (especially music, theater, dance)
- Visual arts (gallery space that rotates shows among groups), a space for showing films was also noted consistently
- Hold festivals, ceremonies, celebrations, ritualized events
- Participate in classes, workshops, making of traditional arts/crafts

***What would you like to see re: physical spaces, lay-out, in or around the Beaverton Arts and Culture Center?***

Following are the primary requests:

- Large, first-class performance hall with excellent lighting and sound
- Large multipurpose room for events

- Smaller, flexible rooms for events, meetings, workshops, classes (traditional arts/crafts/handwork, storytelling, language classes)
- Kitchen, especially attached to multipurpose room
- Gallery space
- Rehearsal spaces
- Outdoor areas for festivals, celebrations, events

Detailed notes from interviews and group discussions reveal many other ideas including a café, information area, gift shop (maybe a world market), arts and culture resource library, work space rented to cultural non-profits, resource-sharing space, childcare, connections with food vendors in or outside the Center, etc.

### **What would make the Arts and Culture Center inviting and welcoming to you?**

Interviewees and group discussions consistently described a Center that attracts people (much like the Beaverton Library). Specifically:

- Affordability and access are key
- Family-centered and active most hours of the day
- Space for sharing food is very important
- A facility that visibly acknowledges the cultures that make up Beaverton through design, imagery, stories, public art
- Welcoming facility design; more than one person mentioned that circular (not a box) spaces (such as the PSU Native American Community Center) are especially welcoming. Design details can also draw from symbols, images, colors, qualities shared across the cultures of Beaverton. Interview/group discussion notes in the BAC files can help inform here.
- An open, airy, flexible design (again, like the Beaverton library) with windows that people can see through. Think flexibility, where things are mobile.
- Outdoor spaces (covered and uncovered) that acknowledge local cultural uses through design, even possibly an inter-cultural garden, fire pits for those cultures that traditionally gather around fire, seating areas, water feature, etc.
- A Center that doesn't feel like "government"...but is entrepreneurial, encourages public/private partnerships, changing, based on the needs of local groups
- Naming the Center is important...to recognize that it is owned, operated, belongs to community...example recommended: Chikipi (place of the Beaver in Kalapuya)
- Employees/workers at the Center should look like the people of Beaverton (where 49% of kids in schools are of minority populations)

## Attachment A

### Interviews and Group Discussions

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliations</i>
<b>INTERVIEWS</b>	
Baher Butti	Lutheran Community Services
Chenya Chiu	Asian Health and Service Center,
Mary Hager and Damon Keller	Painted Sky/Northstar Dancers,
Joaquin Lopez	Musician, storyteller, Latino Network,
José Jaime	Longstanding supporter of Centro Cultural, Hillsboro
Lisa Chang	Hula Halau School of Hula
Irene Konev	Slavic community
Mari Watanabe	Diversity Advisory Board
Blake Peters	German American School of Portland
Ali Houdroge	Islamic Center of Portland, Diversity Advisory Board
Kolini Fusitua	Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization
Anita Menon	Dancer
Sho Shigeoka	Beaverton School District Equity Coordinator
Kalyani Pattani	Visual artist, Beaverton Arts Commissioner
Abigail Elder	Director of Beaverton Library
Gauri Rajbaidya	Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon
<b>GROUP DISCUSSIONS</b>	
Beaverton Diversity Advisory Board	12 Beaverton residents that advise the Mayor and City Council on issues of diversity, equity, inclusion
Mayor's Youth Advisory Council	Approximately 25 Beaverton youth (majority youth of color) who advise the Mayor in issues of diversity
Beaverton Schools ESL staff	Abdi Somor Louise Wilmes Wei-Wei Lu
Asian Health and Service Center	25 staff (not all from Beaverton) working with/representing primarily Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese/Cantonese, Chinese/Mandarin, Taiwanese, Japanese cultures
St. Cecilia Catholic Church parent group	70 Spanish-speaking parents from Beaverton