
CULTIVATING JUSTICE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE: A LEARNING TOUR OF PORTLAND



[The Coalition of Communities of Color](#)

The Coalition of Communities of Color addresses the socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism, and inequity of services experienced by families, children and communities. Comprised of 18 members, CCC organizes communities for collective action resulting in social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice and prosperity.

[Native American Youth and Family Center](#)

As a family of numerous tribes and voices rooted in sustaining tradition and building cultural wealth, NAYA has served Native youth and families and provided culturally specific programs for more than 50 years. NAYA works to address inequities in the health of Portland's Native community, and to uplift and sustain diverse traditions while modernizing programs and services to meet the needs of the native community.

[APANO Communities United Fund](#)

APANO unites Asians and Pacific Islanders to build power, develop leaders and advance equity through organizing, advocacy, community development and cultural work. The Jade District, an APANO program, focuses on improving a 10-block area in Southeast Portland. Under APANO's management, the Jade District prioritizes its residents' needs for affordable housing, accessible transit and green spaces, creating a safe, sustainable community.

[Verde](#)

A licensed general contractor, non-profit and social enterprise that activates the green economy, Verde brings new environmental investments to Portland's neighborhoods, involves community members in the planning and building of these investments, and ensures that low-income people and people of color directly benefit from these investments.

MORE ABOUT THE COALITION

Portland, Oregon is home to the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC), an alliance of culturally-specific community-based organizations – including APANO, Verde, and the Native American Youth & Family Center (NAYA) – that advance racial and environmental justice through policy analysis and advocacy, culturally-appropriate data and research, and leadership development in communities of color.

Recently, CCC won a campaign to pass a [series of bills](#) in Oregon that includes reduced energy rates for low-income households, funding for home energy efficiency upgrades, and the 100% Clean Energy Standard that requires utilities to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. And the coalition collaborated with the community and Multnomah County's Health Department to publish a [storytelling zine](#) that blends art and data in an accessible way to create a fuller, more detailed picture of the ways that climate change impacts Multnomah County's communities of color and empowers frontline communities to use these data to influence policy.

In the northeast Portland Cully neighborhood, a highly diverse and majority low-income community, the coalition support numerous community-led efforts at the intersection of climate justice and health equity. NAYA brings the Native community closer to the land on the northern edge of the neighborhood which is largely industrial. Its food sovereignty project and [community garden](#) foster the connection between people and land, and are part of a vision to reclaim land and create a space where Native American traditions and practices are honored and celebrated.

Together, Verde and NAYA are working with community members to transform a former landfill into a 25-acre park. Cully Park includes a [Native gathering garden](#) and provides a space for the community to gather, host cultural celebrations, and engage in Indigenous land practices.

The Jade District, a diverse neighborhood in Southeast Portland, is home to many immigrants and refugees with over 140 languages. Known for its international cuisine and close-knit community, the district is also known to be a neighborhood where residents experience stark economic and health disparities compared to the rest of Portland. APANO's leadership is bringing their community together to envision and build a safer, healthier and joyful district for all to enjoy.

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

Learn more about:

- [The relationship between climate justice and health equity](#)
- [How to accelerate investments at the intersection of climate change, health and equity](#)
- [The Kresge Foundation's Climate Change, Health & Equity initiative](#)