

The Williams & Russell CDC Board Opportunity

The Williams & Russell Project is seeking members to serve on its newly formed board of directors. The Williams & Russell Project is a Community Development Corporation (CDC) operated exclusively for charitable purposes and to continue the work of the Williams & Russell Project Working Group.

The Williams & Russell project is a collaborative effort between a community-based Williams & Russell Project Working Group (PWG), Prosper Portland, Legacy Health and the City of Portland. The project involves Legacy Health returning to the community a 1.7-acre vacant block at North Russell Street and North Williams Avenue. Historically, the site once was part of a thriving community that housed the majority of African Americans in Portland and Oregon. Institutional racism made it illegal and difficult to own land as a minority, and with few options beyond the least desirable areas of Portland, African Americans primarily settled in the northeast quadrant of the city. Given the area's long-standing history of African American residents and businesses, the City of Portland, Prosper Portland and Legacy Health decided early on that the property should be returned to the community and that its development would be a community-led project with significant community outreach. The community-elected Project Working Group (PWG) was established to define and drive a community-centered visioning and development process.

The site was previously referred to as the Hill Block, which is the historic name of the building that once occupied the site and served as the center of the African American commercial district from the 1940s to the early 1960s.

The Williams & Russell CDC's primary purpose is to build and manage a piece of property for the benefit of Portland's Black community and for the benefit of those who were displaced by the construction of Legacy Emanuel Hospital. The Board of Directors will preside over management of the affairs and business of the Williams & Russell CDC.

The Board will include seven to fifteen representatives from community based organizations, Black business owners, Heritage individuals who were either displaced or their families were displaced by the construction of the Legacy Emanuel Hospital and community-at-large members.

Ideal board members are deeply connected to Portland's Black community, possess a notable amount of time spent serving, building up and/or living in Portland's Black community and have demonstrated past board experience and/or experience with nonprofit organizations.

Board of Directors Member Responsibilities:

- Meeting Attendance (must attend 75% of scheduled meetings)
- Know, adhere-to, champion and enforce board bylaws
- Review minutes and financial reports, maintain a fiscal responsibility with regard to the CDC's financials
- Take on an officer position and/or serve on a board committee
- Support CDC initiatives personally and professionally if appropriate
- Follow through on assignments previously committed to
- Disclose conflicts of interest and work to mitigate risk of any conflicts declared

If you are interested in being considered for The Russell & Williams Board of Directors opportunity, please submit the following to contact@williamsrussellcdc.org no later than 11:59 p.m. Monday, May 24, 2021.

- Statement of Interest
- Resume and/or List of community involvement

If you have questions or would like further clarification regarding this opportunity, please send an email to contact@williamsrussellcdc.org.