



Multnomah County Economic Justice Community Discussion

April 29, 2023



DCHS North Star:

Every person

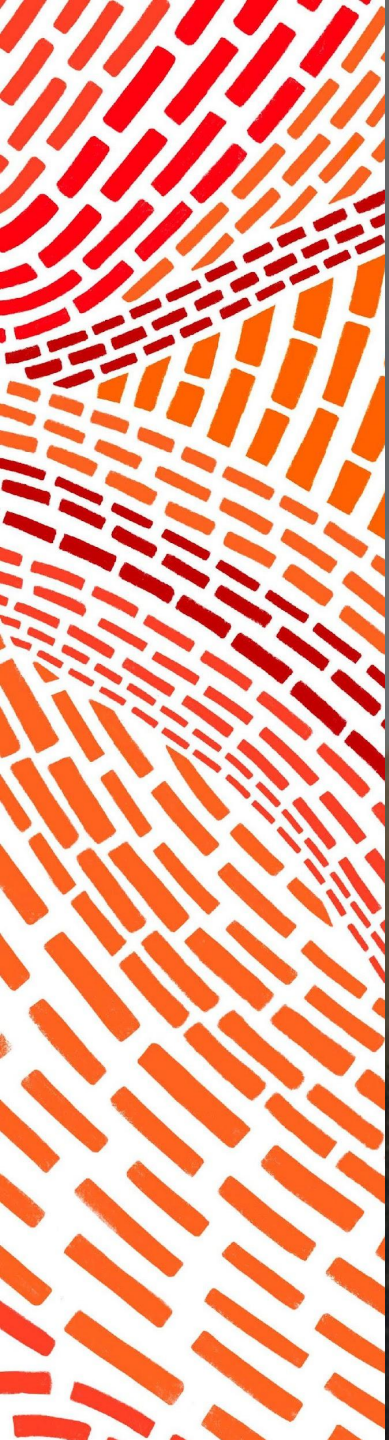
– at every stage of life –

has equitable opportunities to thrive.



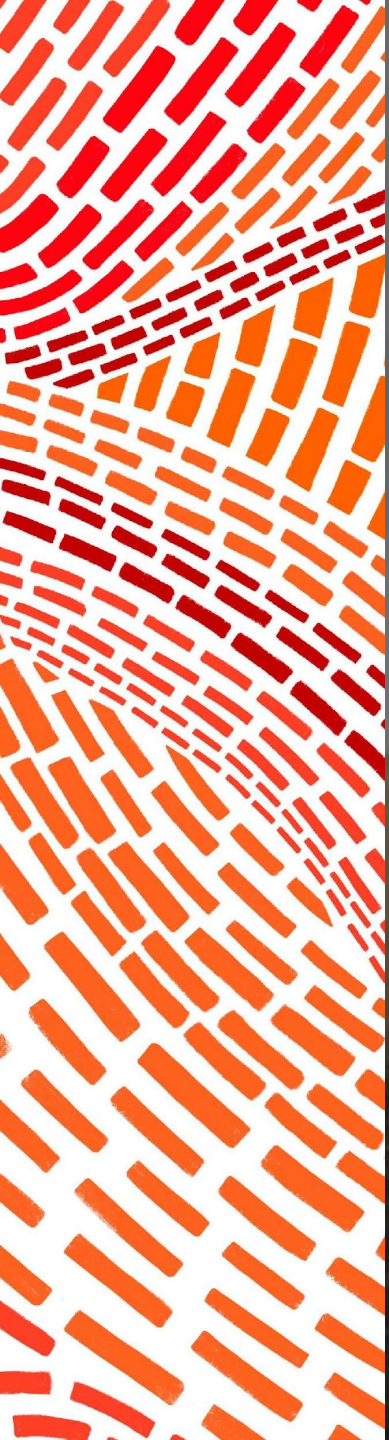
Agenda for Today

Time	Agenda	Location
8:30am	Registration	Entrance Hall (1st Floor)
9:00am	Opening Session	Auditorium TH 122
10:15am	Break	
10:30pm - 12:30pm	Small Group Sessions	See Room #s
12:30pm	Lunch	TH 112 & patio
1pm	Closing Session	Auditorium TH 122
2pm	Gift Card Distribution	Entrance Hall



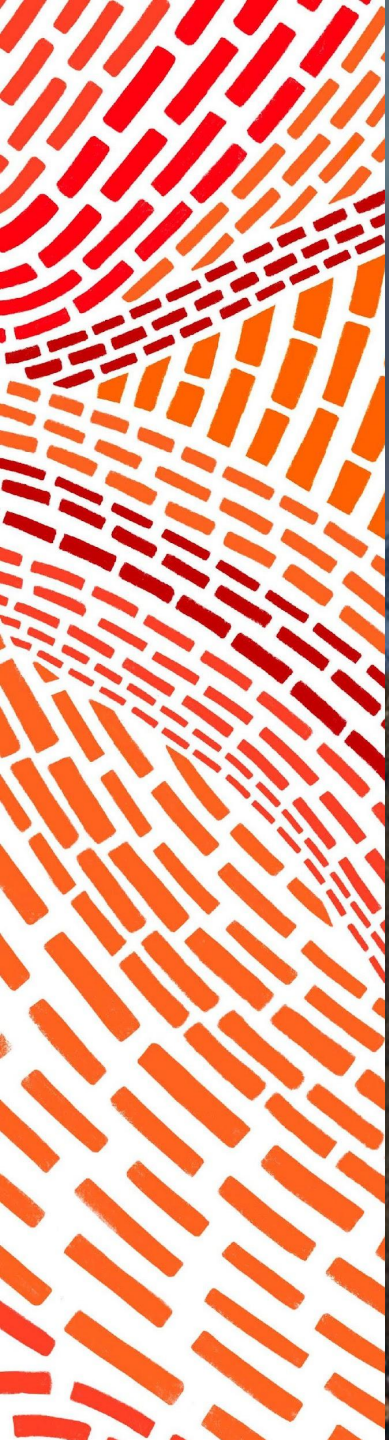
While land acknowledgements are intended to be respectful, they oversimplify complex tribal histories and fail to recognize the ongoing impacts of colonization that tribal communities continue to live with to this day.

In place of a land acknowledgement, Ecotrust staff—and especially the Native staff—are asking you to support Indigenous communities by taking action. We ask that you:



While land acknowledgements are intended to be respectful, they oversimplify complex tribal histories and fail to recognize the ongoing impacts of colonization that tribal communities continue to live with to this day.

In place of a land acknowledgement, Ecotrust staff—and especially the Native staff—are asking you to support Indigenous communities by taking action. We ask that you:




**1.
Give land back to Indigenous
communities.**



2.

Protect the environment and salmon. Tribal cultures depend on them.

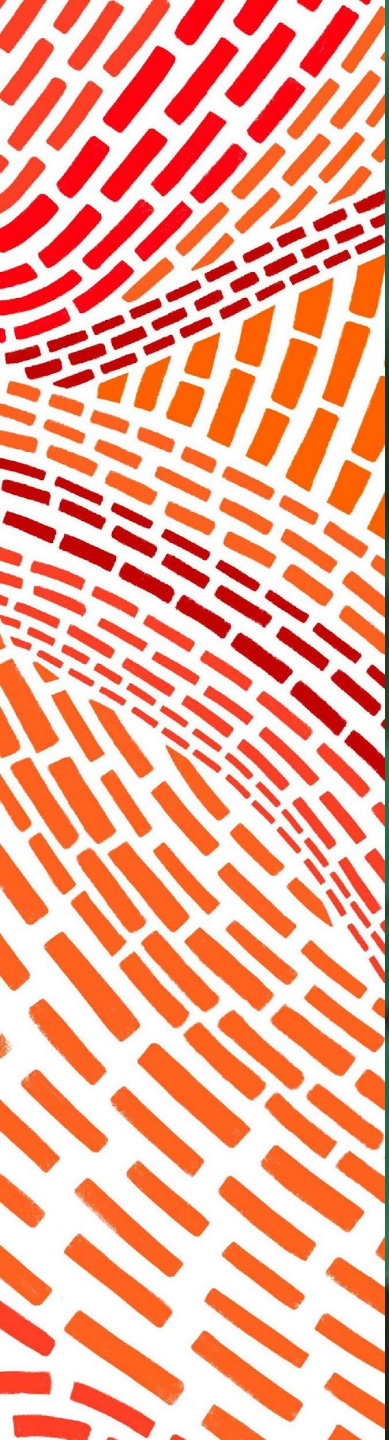


3.

Insist that the United States respect tribal sovereignty and uphold its trust responsibility to tribes, which includes appropriate levels of federal funding to support tribal needs.

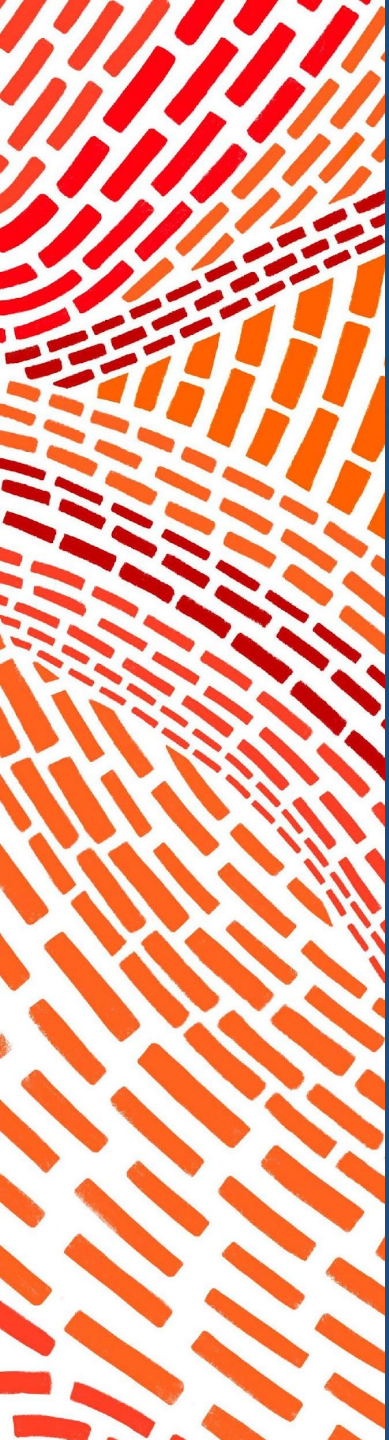


Many promises to tribes still need to be kept.



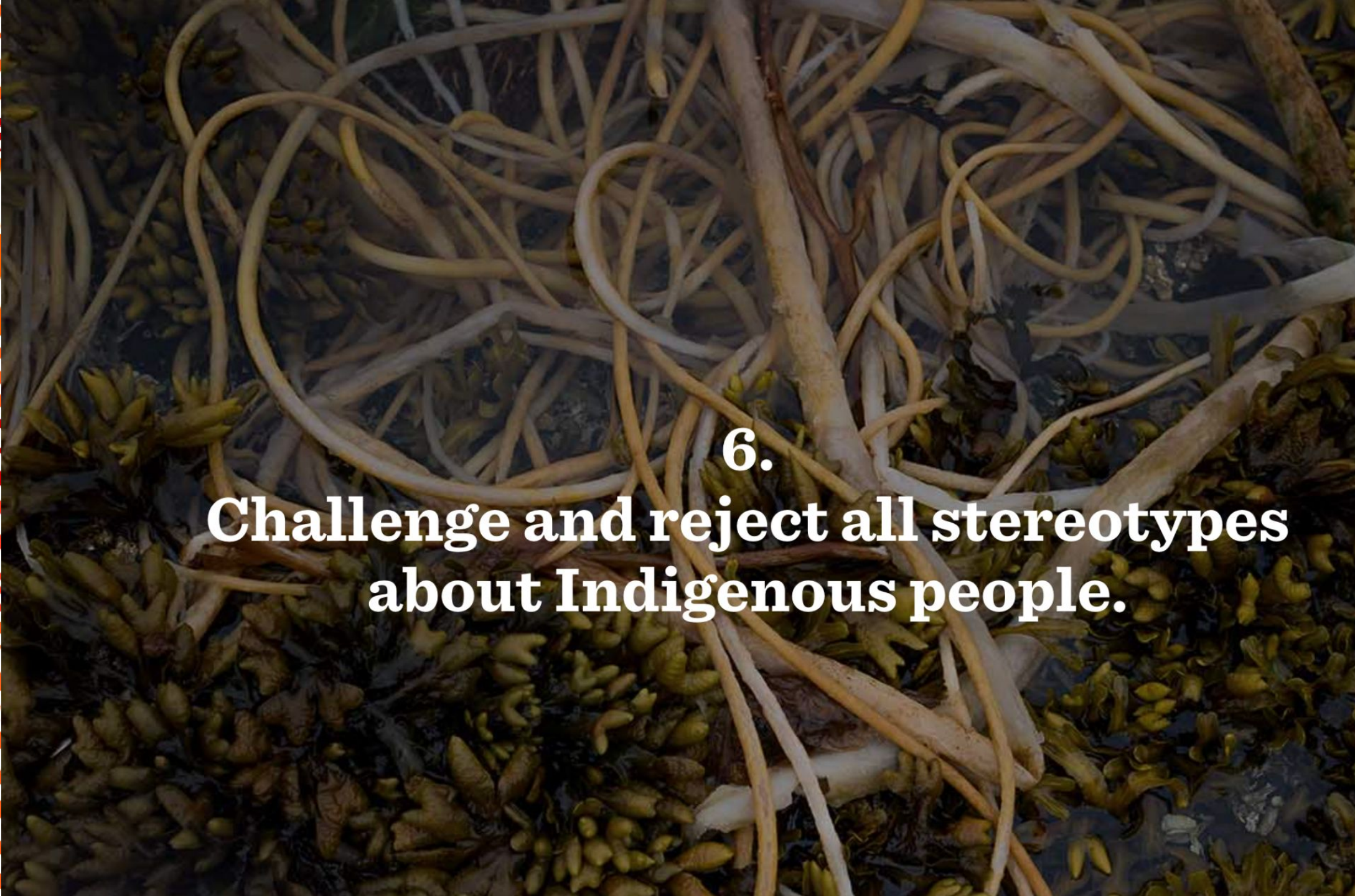
4.

Elect officials and judges that understand tribal governments, relationships, and law.

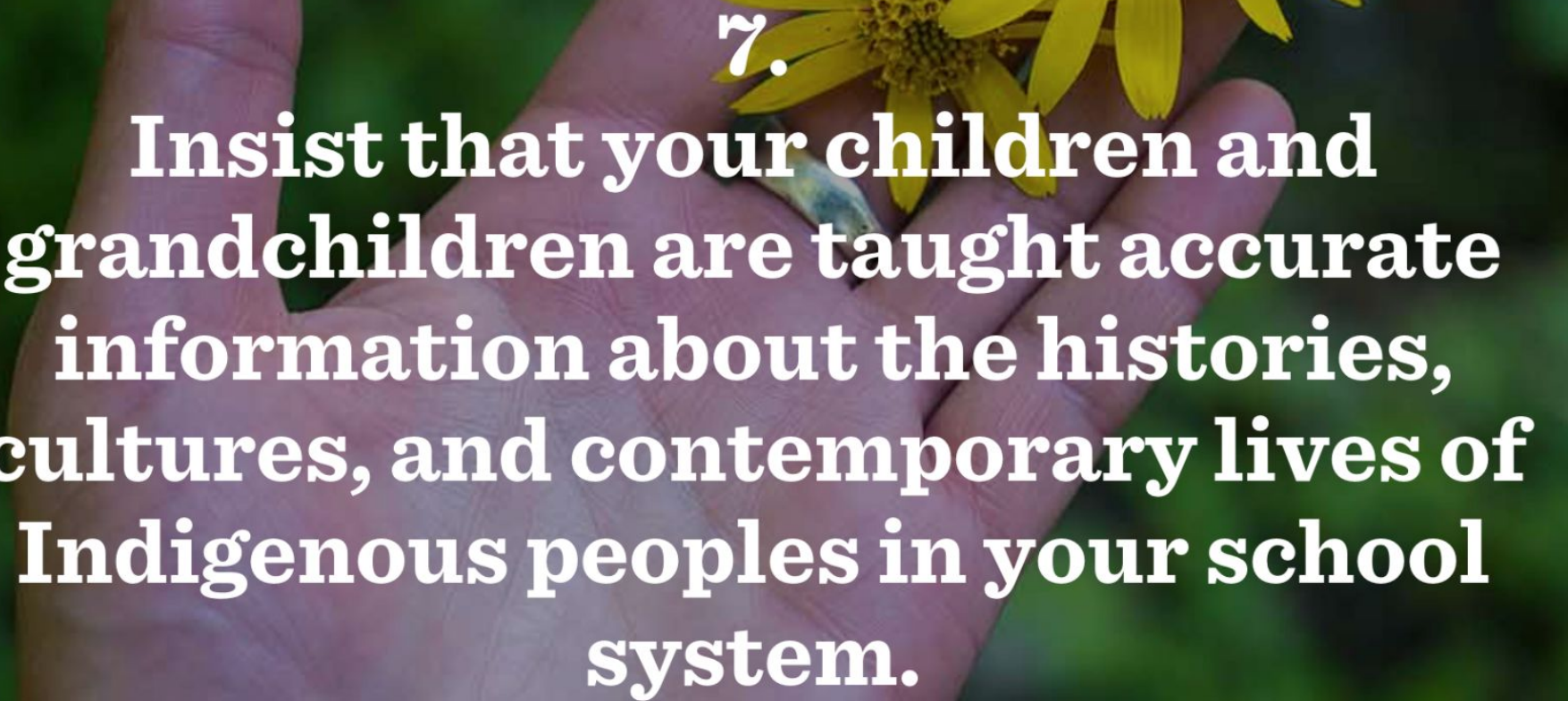
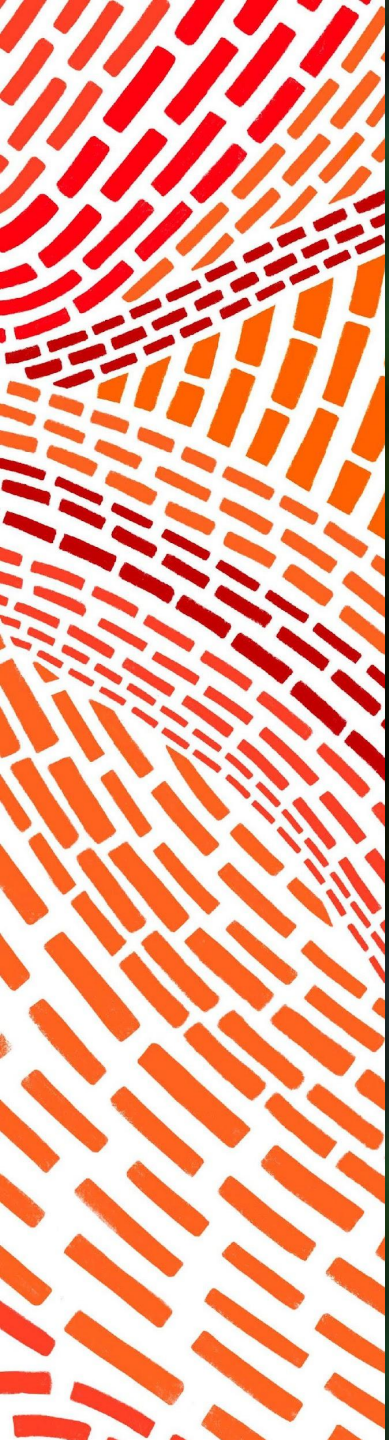


5.
Invest in tribal economies

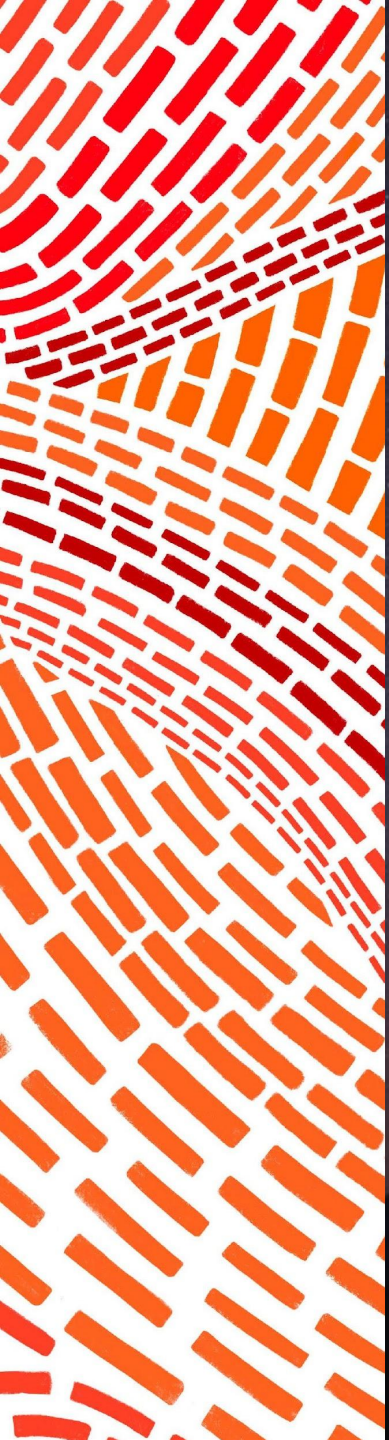





**6.
Challenge and reject all stereotypes
about Indigenous people.**



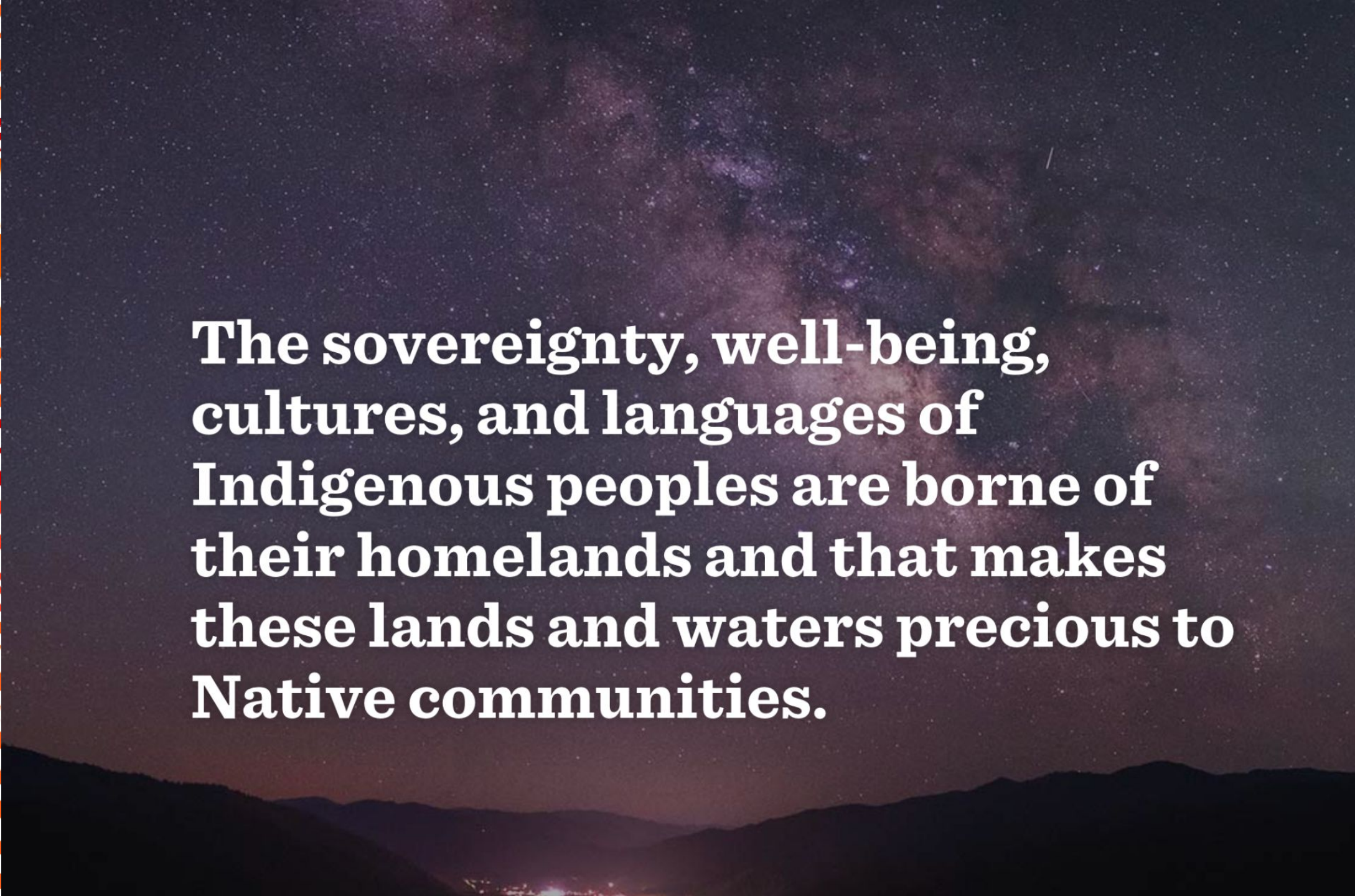
7.
Insist that your children and grandchildren are taught accurate information about the histories, cultures, and contemporary lives of Indigenous peoples in your school system.




8.
**Inform yourself about issues
impacting Indigenous communities
and speak up.**



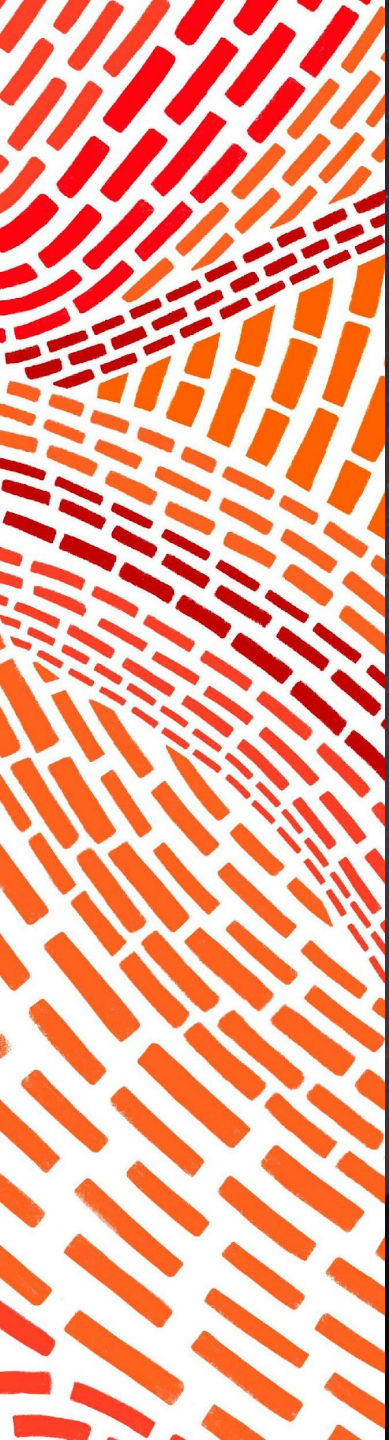
The sovereignty, well-being, cultures, and languages of Indigenous peoples are borne of their homelands and that makes these lands and waters precious to Native communities.





All of us have the responsibility to treat them with the respect and care they deserve, and to steward them carefully for the next generations. Please do your part. Thank you.

[LEARN MORE & DOWNLOAD THIS CALL TO ACTION](#)



1) Forestland in the Siuslaw River Basin. Photo credit: Morgan Heim; 2) Salmon from a fishing trip with Keex' Kwaan Community Forest Partnership crew members and Organized Village of Kake Natural Resource staff. Photo credit: Bethany Sonsini Goodrich; 3) A stream washing over bedrock in the Siuslaw River Basin. Photo credit: Morgan Heim; 4) Maidenhair fern. Photo credit: Bethany Sonsini Goodrich. 5) Common Raven. Photo credit: Roland Dahwen; 6) Various types of kelp and algae. Photo credit: Bethany Sonsini Goodrich; 7) The Milky Way seen above the town of Hoopa in Humboldt County, Calif. Photo credit: Sean Gutierrez.




Black Lives Affirmation

I acknowledge that our Country is deeply rooted from its inception in an economy of white supremacy built on the enslavement, disproportionate imprisonment, and violation of human and civil rights of Black people, and the concentration of extreme wealth into the hands of a small, mostly white, elite power structure.

I explicitly name anti-Blackness as the root of most oppression and racism.

In doing so, I believe this begins to commit us to be better equipped to dismantle white supremacist structures, institutions, and cultures that we are working with and within.



Aaron Nigel Smith



Aaron Nigel Smith is a Grammy® Nominated musician and Billboard #1 recording artist who has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap, Winnipeg Folk Fest, Lollapooza, and Pickathon, and performed throughout South America, Europe, Asia and Africa. He was also a featured musical guest and composer for the Emmy Award winning PBS Kids show *Between the Lions* in 2008.

Aaron is an educator with 20 years of experience creating music curricula. In 2002, he founded FUNdamentals of Music & Movement, a fun approach to music classes for preschool children. He scaled FUNdamentals to a national program and sold to RockStarts in 2012. Young Audiences, The Right Brain Initiative and Arts for Learning added Smith to their teaching artist roster in 2011, and in 2013 he was named the Sunburst Teaching Artist of the Year..

Aaron and his wife Diedre, formed the non-profit 1 World Chorus with the mission of promoting peace and empowering youth internationally through the arts. More than 10000 youth in Portland, Los Angeles, New York, Kenya & Jamaica have participated in 1 World chorus programs. Aaron's simple mission is to connect and empower youth, families and communities through music and the arts.



Economic Justice

**Multnomah County Chair
Jessica Vega-Pederson**




Multnomah County Budget and Policy Process

**Multnomah Commissioner
Susheela Jayapal, District 2**



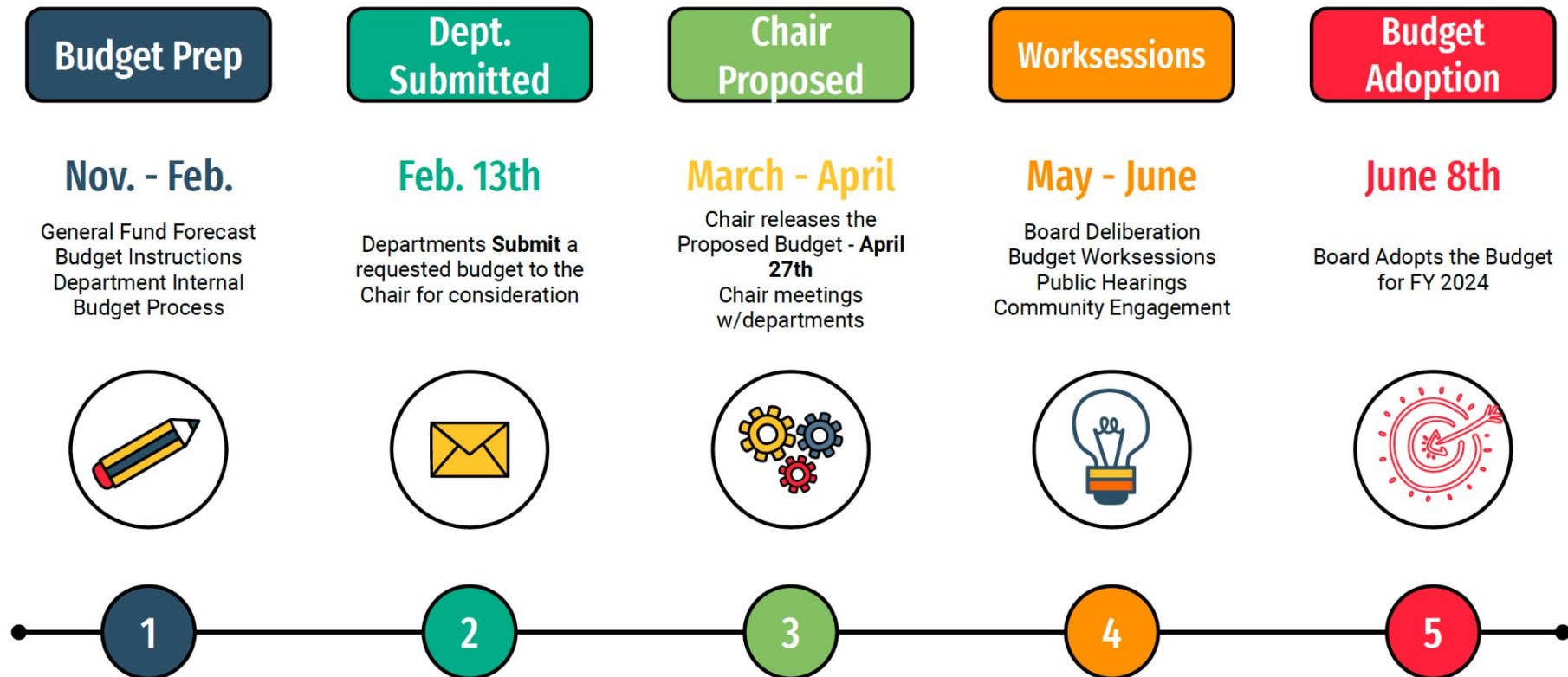
How Multnomah County Budgets (1/2)

Multnomah County's Board of Commissioners adopts an annual budget to plan for the effective delivery of services to our community and to responsibly manage the public resources that support these services. Community involvement in the budget process ensures that desired services are prioritized, while County officials ensure that the budget balances competing needs, is financially sustainable, and meets legal requirements.



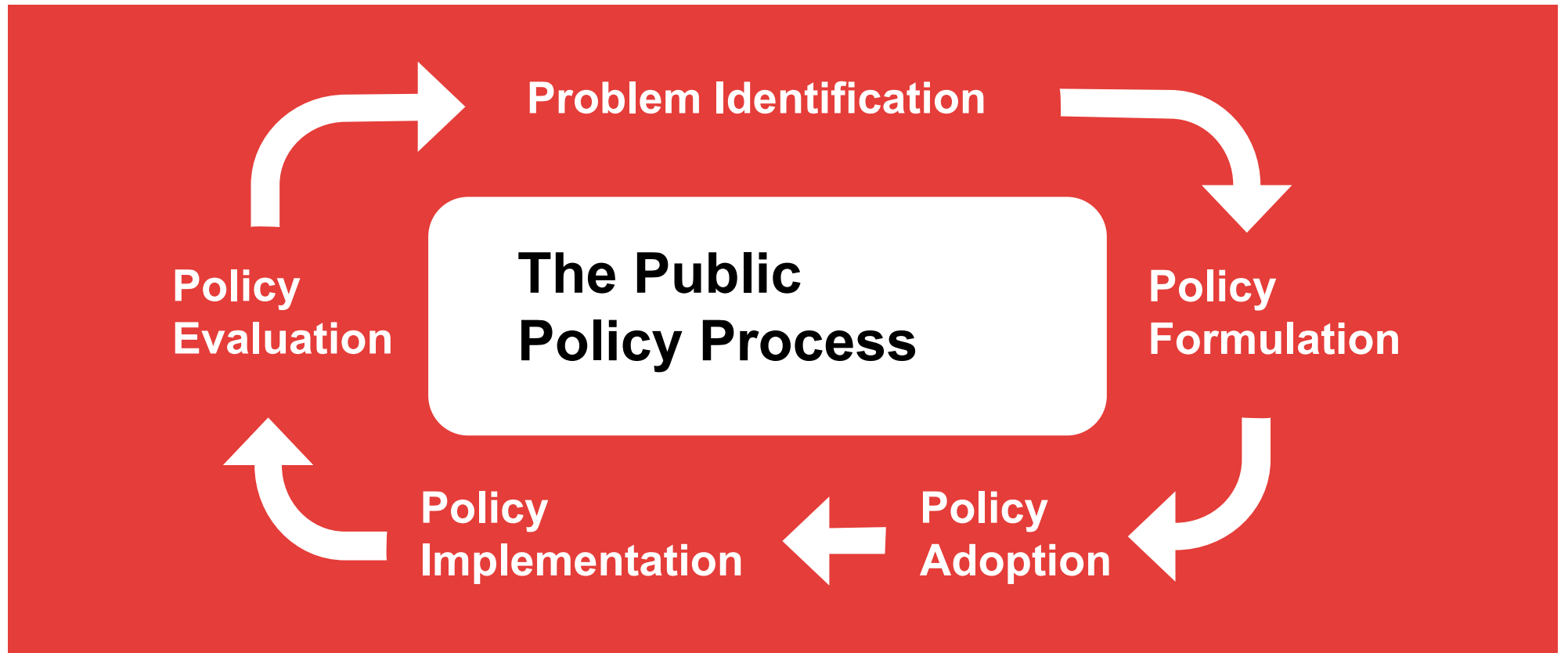
How Multnomah County Budgets (2/2)

Multnomah County Budget Process



Policy Process

Policy Making is an **ongoing process** that is continually re-assessed and revised.



What is a Public Policy?

Let's take a look at a real-life example of public policy in action:

The Challenge

Working against federal policies that harm newcomers in Multnomah County




Stakeholders & Engagement

- Government
- Non-Government Agencies
- Community Activists
- Residents
- Newer Immigrants

Multnomah County consults with community members to come up with possible solutions.

Solutions Adopted

1. Increasing funding and public support for legal services
2. Declaring Multnomah County a sanctuary community
3. Disallowing the sharing of data from Dept of Community Justice to Feds



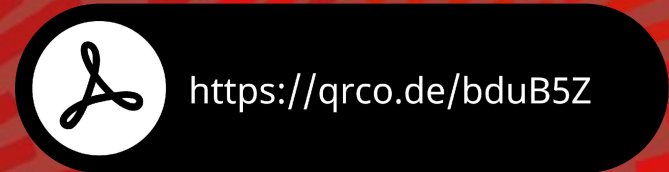
Creating an Economic Justice Blueprint for Multnomah County

Kris Smock
April 29, 2023

A Policy Blueprint to Advance Economic Justice in Multnomah County

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Department of County Human Services
Multnomah Idea Lab



January 2023

Economic Disparities in Multnomah County



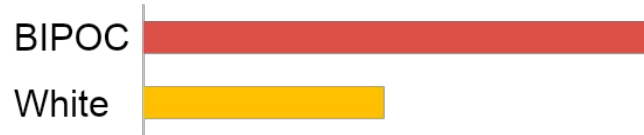
The **median income** for White households is almost **1.4 times** the median income for BIPOC households.



The **poverty rate** for BIPOC households is almost **two times** the poverty rate for White households.



The percentage of BIPOC households that have **zero net worth** is **1.5 times** the percentage of White households.



The **homeownership rate** for White households is almost **1.5 times** the BIPOC homeownership rate.





Types of Approaches to Address Economic Disparities

Economic Justice

Promote long-term systemic change to address the underlying issues at the roots of disparities.

Economic Mobility

Equip people to move out of poverty and improve their economic situation by providing pathways to increased earning potential.

Economic Stability

Assist people with limited incomes to maintain their ability to meet their household's needs.

Economic Survival

Provide direct services for people whose lack of economic resources makes it impossible to meet their human survival needs.



What is Economic Justice?

- **Long-term and ongoing work to reform policies, systems and practices**
- **Acknowledges the role of government in contributing to disparities and its obligation to repair the harms**
- **Centers the voices and lived experiences of BIPOC communities**
- **Dismantles barriers to economic prosperity and generational wealth for BIPOC communities**

Multnomah County's Current Investments






Framework for Multnomah County's Economic Justice Blueprint

Foundational Principles

The County's economic justice blueprint should focus on strategies that:

- Advance the goal of building generational wealth
 - Acknowledge County's role and potential as an instrument of repair
 - Center BIPOC communities
 - Guarantee a reasonable standard of living as a human right
 - Go beyond business as usual
- 




Implementation Guidelines

How the County implements its economic justice blueprint should be guided by a set of core values:

- **Ground the work in the voices and lived experience of impacted communities**
- **Fund BIPOC-led organizations to lead implementation**
- **Support BIPOC leadership, capacity building, and control**
- **Frame all strategies within a gender justice lens**
- **Disrupt dominant racist narratives**
- **Incorporate economic justice throughout the County's work**



Criteria for Proposed Strategies

- **Focus on strategies that are aligned with County government's role and the levers it can directly control**
 - **Identify opportunities to leverage and scale up existing County programs and investments**
 - **Focus on strategies with the potential for long-term systemic impacts**
 - **Create a cohesive package of complementary proposals that offer a holistic, multi-pronged approach**
- 

Menu of Potential Approaches



1. Strategies that build assets



2. Strategies that build income



3. Strategies that repair past harms by local jurisdictions



4. Strategies that eliminate barriers to wealth-building



1. Strategies that build assets

- **Baby bonds**
- **Homeownership**
- **Business ownership**
- **Access to capital and credit**



PROPOSAL 1

Multnomah County
Preschool for All
Baby Bonds

Pair Multnomah County's
Preschool for All program with
Baby Bonds targeted at BIPOC
participants to provide seed
funding for building generational
wealth.



2. Strategies that build income

- **Guaranteed income**
- **Tax credits**
- **Wages**



PROPOSAL 2

Multnomah County Guaranteed Basic Income

Incorporate a Guaranteed Basic Income into all County programs and services to ensure that every county resident is able to meet the needs of daily life.



3. Strategies that repair past harms by local jurisdictions

- **Formal commission**
- **Truth and reconciliation process**



PROPOSAL 3

Multnomah County Reparative Justice Commission

Establish a formal Reparative Justice Commission led by the county's Black and Indigenous communities and provide an up-front commitment of resources to fund its recommendations.



4. Strategies that eliminate barriers to wealth-building

- **Debt mitigation**
- **Fines and fees reform**
- **Protection from displacement**
- **Address barriers for people with a history of involvement with the criminal justice system**



PROPOSAL 4

Reform Multnomah
County Policies
and Practices to
Eliminate Barriers

Reform extractive and
wealth-stripping policies and
practices that create barriers to
generational wealth-building in
BIPOC communities.



Next Steps:

- Identify shared priorities for further research and development
- Assess feasibility and build partnerships
- Test strategies to infuse economic justice into existing County programs in the 2023-24 fiscal year
- Work with the Board of County Commissioners to develop proposals for the 2024-25 fiscal year



Discussion Question:

How might Multnomah County increase Economic Justice in current systems of care and services for Black and Indigenous communities?



MOON: 208

SUN: 200

STARS: 201

ROCKET: Jackson Hall 102

Breakout Sessions Begin at 10:30am