



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Land Conservation and Development

635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150

Salem, Oregon 97301-2540

Phone: 503-373-0050

Fax: 503-378-5518

[www.oregon.gov/LCD](http://www.oregon.gov/LCD)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Sadie Carney, 503-383-6648, [sadie.carney@dlcd.oregon.gov](mailto:sadie.carney@dlcd.oregon.gov)



### **Oregon's Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee Awards 2023 Achievement in Community Engagement Awards**

SALEM – The State's Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee (CIAC), staffed by the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) helps to ensure widespread public involvement in all phases of the planning process. The committee is pleased to recognize three Oregon land use planning projects with its 2023 Achievement in Community Engagement (ACE) Award. The ACE Award recognizes land use planning projects that support and expand best practices in community engagement.

#### **This year's Most Outstanding Project award goes to Springfield, Oregon for the city's American Indian and Alaska Native Engagement project.**

This engagement effort sought to capture and define the interests of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) community members. The results of this engagement are both near and long-term. They are being used to inform an action plan for the Willamalane Parks and Recreation District in the short term. In addition, City of Springfield staff intend to use the guidance long term, as the city updates its inventory of wetlands, riparian corridors, and wildlife habitat under statewide land use planning [Goal 5](#) next year. Stephanie Tabibian, an indigenous planning consultant from the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, helped elevate the unique relationship to the land and perspectives of indigenous community members, through roundtable conversations led by community elders. These conversations were designed to help planners better understand the lived experience of AI/AN residents within the community and how public policies, planning processes, public spaces, natural areas, programs, and communication can support or diminish AI/AN participation and representation in them.

#### **CIAC Members gave two additional project of special significance awards to Multnomah County Libraries and Deschutes County 2040.**

##### **Project of Special Significance:**

To guide the design for two new libraries in North Portland and Albina, Multnomah County Libraries and LEVER Architecture led more than 30 community organizations serving priority populations in a community-based design effort. Event organizers provided gift cards to focus groups and student design cohorts, and they provided food and free books at in-person events to support families and caretakers. In a community that has been deeply impacted by the racial inequity of urban renewal projects, and has a history of redlining and exclusion laws, libraries are recognized as a community asset that can build and recognize culture, create safe and accessible places, and reflect a community-driven process.

The project team recognized the value of early engagement, and incorporated community feedback at every stage of the project. LEVER Architecture and Multnomah County integrated

community priorities and feedback into the design principles that served as guideposts to track overall project success.

**Project of Special Significance:**

The community engagement strategies used for Deschutes County's update of their county comprehensive plan are a model for excellent engagement at many levels. The county coordinated with more than 20 community organizations and engaged with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs over many months, using traditional and innovative engagement techniques that reached both urban and rural audiences. County staff encourage youth and families to participate with incentives such as raffles, food, and prizes. Acknowledging their vast project area, county staff developed a "meeting in a box" that traveled with them around the county, containing everything needed for small scale engagement. They used it in unique rural settings such as barns, grocery store parking lots, homes, libraries, and fire halls. Over eight months, county staff used their engagement goals and an analysis of priority population to reach county residents in both casual and more traditional settings. The project team behind this work used pioneering techniques, new technologies, and innovative ways of reaching people who have not traditionally engaged in land use planning.

The ACE Award recognizes organizations and individuals who have actively promoted and implemented the values of Oregon's Statewide Planning Goal 1 through an outstanding community engagement strategy. All projects recognized with an ACE Award make innovative use of resources, build partnerships across and throughout the community, and intentionally engage historically marginalized and underserved communities.

"This year's ACE Award applications were among the strongest we have received. We learned about projects led by tribal governments, about strong work conducted by large and small jurisdictions, and about pioneering efforts being made to educate, engage, and build trust in communities. Every single project submission is worth celebrating," said CIAC Chair Leah Rausch. "In sharing and celebrating these projects, we hope to elevate the importance of impactful and achievable community engagement that captures community voice and spirit in land use projects."

The Land Conservation and Development Commission has committed to uplifting and celebrating the values of Oregon's Statewide Planning Goal 1 (Citizen Involvement) through the ACE Awards and other activities. The tenets of the ACE Award support the commission's commitment to the ongoing improvement of community engagement throughout Oregon.

"The ACE Awards celebrate projects that learn from our past and empower community voices for a more equitable future. It's essential for cities, counties, and land use planners to acknowledge the influence of U.S. history on Oregon's land use planning system," said Land Conservation and Development Commission Chair Anyeley Hallova. "Regrettably, our focus on protecting working lands, resource conservation, and responsible growth often overlooked questions like 'Who does this benefit?' and 'Who has been excluded?'" She continued, "History reveals that economic and quality of life benefits have disproportionately favored certain groups—those who are white, wealthy, and hold power. These awards shed light on what is possible when we engage a whole community and embrace the past."

**Oregon's statewide land use planning program** — originated in 1973 under Senate Bill 100 — protects farm and forest lands, conserves natural resources, promotes livable communities, facilitates orderly and efficient development, helps coordination among local governments, and enables community engagement.

The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) administers the program in partnership with local jurisdictions. A seven-member volunteer citizen board known as the [Land Conservation and Development Commission \(LCDC\)](#) guides DLCD.

Goal 1 of the statewide land use planning program is to increase the public's understanding of and involvement in land use planning. Required in [ORS 197.030](#), the commission's Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee (CIAC) makes recommendations to the commission and local governments to help improve public involvement in land use matters across the state. Visit the [CIAC page](#) to learn more about the committee.