

Neighborhood associations are the officially recognized voice and the heart of neighborhood activities and events. The city's 95 neighborhood associations are the vehicles by which the citizens of Portland may effectively participate in civic affairs and work to improve the livability and character of their communities. The board of each neighborhood association actively works to reflect the issues and needs of their membership.

Each neighborhood association is self-governed by citizen-written bylaws, which state the boundaries and criteria for membership, and outline processes and procedures for functions such as voting, considering proposals and handling grievances.

### **Recognition of Neighborhood Associations**

In order to be officially recognized by the City of Portland, neighborhood associations must meet the following requirements as outlined in the Standards for Neighborhood Associations:

- **Boundaries:** Each neighborhood association must have clearly stated boundaries in its bylaws. The minimum size of a neighborhood association is 100 acres and 200 households.
- **Membership:** Neighborhood association membership shall be open to any person who lives and/or owns property or holds a business license within the boundaries of the neighborhood. Additional provisions for membership may be outlined in the association's bylaws.
- **Non-Discrimination:** A statement must be included in each neighborhood association's bylaws indicating that they will not discriminate against individuals or groups in any of their policies, recommendations or actions.
- **Bylaws:** An up-to-date set of bylaws must be maintained and on file with SE Uplift and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement.
- **Open Meeting & Public Records Requirements:** Neighborhood associations shall abide by these requirements as outlined in the Standards.
- **Grievances:** Each neighborhood association's bylaws must include provisions to resolve grievances that may be filed against the organization.
- **Dues:** Membership dues may not be collected, however voluntary contributions may be accepted.
- **Involving Business District Associations:** Participation of businesses and business district members shall be encouraged in meetings and other activities.

### Benefits of Recognition

As recognized entities, neighborhood associations are entitled to the following services and privileges:

- Public outreach by citywide bureaus: Listing of board members in the Office of Neighborhood Involvement Directory, which is used by bureaus citywide for public outreach.
- Official notification: City agencies are required by City Code to provide notification on all matters that fall within the neighborhood association boundaries, in regard to planning, policy and livability issues.
- Free appeals filing against land use decisions: Neighborhood associations are able to appeal any land use decision on behalf of the neighborhood, free of charge. This typically costs \$250 for individual entities.
- Funds to support communication activities: Neighborhood associations within the SE Uplift coalition area, are granted a total of \$20,000 from the City of Portland. Allocation for each neighborhood association is determined by the number of households within its geographic boundaries.
- Support services: Each affiliated neighborhood association will receive assistance from SE Uplift as well as support from the city's Crime Prevention office.
- Listing of events and meetings: All neighborhood association event and meeting dates and locations are listed free of charge on SE Uplift and ONI's PortlandOnline website. Each month, an up-to-date listing of activities citywide is sent to community newspapers.