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COMMUNITY BENEFITS FOR ALL

Local Labor and Community Coalition releases Historic Regional Contracting Template

Portland, OR, January 7th, 2020. A local coalition, the Metropolitan Alliance for Workforce Equity (MAWE) has collectively developed a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) that is a proven model to enable women and people of color real opportunity on the over \$7 Billion dollars of green lighted Public Construction Projects forecasted in the region over the next 5 years.

Now they have released this CBA template to all major agencies in the region, including Metro, the City of Portland, Prosper Portland, Multnomah County and TriMet. The CBA has been endorsed by over 30 organizations in the region, including minority contractors, local nonprofits and major trade unions. Their position? Use this template at a regional level to ensure consistency and maximize real opportunity that has the potential to truly change the face of construction. In partnership with the Healthy Communities Coalition, they have specifically demanded that Prosper Portland and the City of Portland apply it to the \$1 Billion Broadway Corridor development.

"We all have worked really hard together to make sure the CBA has all of the right language that works on the ground for labor, for community members interested in full employment in the trades, and for minority contractors growing their capacity," states Matt Eleazer, the local President of the Bricklayers and Allied Crafts Union. "This work is not perfect, but it is the best step in the right direction to make sure Public Projects are done with high labor standards while also increasing the diversity of the workforce and contractor base."

"Both public- and private organizations have long histories of intentionally excluding people of color and women from jobs and economic opportunities in our region. Even as we make progress by some measures, too many workers and entrepreneurs face entrenched biased infrastructure that continues to harm their opportunities to make good wages and live their dreams," said Nkenge Harmon Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of the Urban League of Portland. "Public contracting should be a tool to overcome income inequality for Black, Indigenous, and other workers of color. The same is true for women and contractors of color. This CBA, informed by our coalition's deep work together, ensures real accountability on public construction projects to create long overdue economic opportunities."

This CBA has been finalized by MAWE at a time when regional agencies are working together to standardize their contracting standards through an effort led by Metro called the Construction Career Pathways Project. Owners are currently working with Metro to implement regional strategies.

The Cover letter of the MAWE CBA states:

"We encourage you to embrace the CBA template and use it on all capital projects over \$5 Million. The listed organizations endorse and recognize the power of this template to promote the diversity goals... We look forward to partnering with you on this important work."

They have specifically requested meetings with major agencies in the region to further discuss how they can adopt the CBA template on their Projects to create real opportunity in construction for the region.

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