The Age-Friendly Portland Initiative

September 30, 2014

Healthy Aging Alliance Conference
Why Plan for an Aging Population?

The world, the U.S., Oregon, and Portland are aging:

• Between 2010 and 2030, while our region’s population will grow by 35% overall, the number of people 65+ will grow by 106% (Metro, 2009)

• We ALL are aging, but little planning has occurred

• In 2006, World Health Organization (WHO) began its Global Age-Friendly Cities project
Portland is a Leader in the International Age-Friendly Cities Movement

2006-2007: PSU Institute on Aging research on behalf of Portland as only U.S. city among 33 cities in World Health Organization’s (WHO) Global Age-Friendly Cities project; guided by local advisory council

2010: Application for membership in WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities

2011: Official acceptance into WHO Network

2011-2013: Advisory Council meets, develops Action Plan; consultation with WHO, AARP on indicators of age friendliness

Oct. 2013: City Council approves Action Plan
Framing the Issue

• Build on strengths not only needs

• Age-friendly communities strive to:
  • be enabling
  • be inclusive
  • be equitable
  • focus on the life course and intergenerational interdependence

• “An age-friendly city...is friendly for all ages and not just ‘elder-friendly’.”
  – WHO Global Age-Friendly Cities: A Guide, p. 72
An Age-Friendly City: Domains

Built Environment

Social Environment

Transport

Outdoor spaces & buildings

Community support & Health services

Communication and information

Civic participation & employment

Housing

Social Participation

Respect & Social inclusion

Source: Suzanne Garon, University of Sherbrooke
Action Plan for an Age-Friendly Portland

- Covers all 8 domains (expands them to 10)
- Not all actions listed are new; builds on activities already underway
- Involves partnerships – public-public, public-private, private-private

Prepared by:
The Age-Friendly Portland Advisory Council

October 8, 2013
Since Approval by Portland City Council, Implementation!

- Year 1 – prioritized 3 areas:
  - Housing Options & Policy
  - Economic Development & Employment
  - Civic Engagement & Volunteering
- Meetings with City Bureau liaisons, potential partners re: various Action Plan items
- Establishing indicators for monitoring progress

www.equality.ie
Sept. 23 Event: “What are Old People For: Building A Community for All Ages”

Purpose:

• Raise awareness of the ways in which older adults do and can contribute to the community

• Raise awareness of the interdependence of the generations

• Increase intergenerational civic and community engagement

• Encourage investment in older adults as part of an economic and social capital development strategy

See agefriendlyportland.org for details
Thoughts from Key Partners

**City of Portland** – George E. Hocker, Jr., Public Advocate, Office of Commissioner Nick Fish

**Elders in Action** – Leslie Foren, Executive Director

**AARP Oregon** – Joyce DeMonnin, Outreach Director
AARP supports Age-Friendly Cities

We got started as a partner to PSU’s efforts.

Now AARP works with local officials and partner organizations around the country to identify communities for membership in the Age-Friendly Network.
The Member List
AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities

Here are just a few of our members!

**ARKANSAS**
Fayetteville

**COLORADO**
Denver

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
Washington, D.C.

**GEORGIA**
Atlanta

**HAWAII**
Honolulu

**IOWA**
Des Moines

**KANSAS**
Wichita

**MASSACHUSETTS**
Boston

**MICHIGAN**
Highland Park

**MISSOURI**
St. Louis County

**NEW YORK**
New York City

**OREGON**
Portland

**PENNSYLVANIA**
Philadelphia

**TEXAS**
San Antonio

**VERMONT**
Newport City

When will your community join?

See the complete list at aarp.org/agefriendly
Questions, Comments?

Email: ioainfo@pdx.edu

And please check out the Age-Friendly Portland website!

www.agefriendlyportland.org