



2021 Annual Report

Economic Development Committee, Branch 1120-B

The Economic Development Committee has a mission going into 2022, with all of our engagements we want to prioritize a simple statement: "What is your black agenda?" Historically, we have seen that whenever there is engagement with our community, the conversations about how to support black people have been made without black people at the table. As a result, we are propositioned or are forced to engage with ideas developed in a "European mindset" that do not prioritize the actual needs of our community. Before we begin engagement with anyone that we work with, we want to know what their "black agenda" is. If they do not have one, we will give them one. If they have one and it is insufficient, we will work with these groups until it meets the standards that we have set.

Membership: DeAngelo Moaning, Jeff Strang, James Posey, Rodney King, Malcolm Ricks, Hillery Hampton, Reggie Williams

Chair: DeAngelo Moaning

Secretary: Jeff Strang

2021 Committee Activity Summary:

- Continued outreach to the City of Portland Mayor's Office
 - We have continued to engage in conversation with the Mayor's Office through Prosper Portland in prioritizing career paths for Black people in the tech industry. In these conversations, we are looking to continue our work by partnering with the Technology Association of Oregon, the Black American Chamber of Commerce, and Blacks in Tech to take Prosper Portland's "Community Opportunities and Enhancements Program," which is currently more suited to construction work, and develop a similar model for careers in technology.
- Continued outreach to black and brown contractors on infrastructure work
 - We have engaged in working with contractors across the city, working together to get more representation both in the trades and on jobsites and as a result producing living-wage jobs to our people. We also have positioned black leaders in these companies to work on the behalf of these individuals, bridging the gap between communications about needs for success with the company owners, ensuring pathways to success.
- Obtained updated Bureau of Labor and Industries database of apprentices by race and ethnic group for the past 5 years, and are analyzing numbers.
 - Example: Black carpenters (less technical) have high representation and Black electricians (more technical) have now representation.
- Help at Individual Level
 - Provided accounting and clerical assistance to 2 Black business owners to help them keep businesses and navigate government bureaucracy during COVID and disability times
 - Provided assistance to an unemployed Black man with low literacy to help him deal with unemployment bureaucracy and search for and get a new job. This also supports his wife and 6 children.



Goals for Next Year:

- The Economic Development Committee has a goal to set up a centralized server and a network of computers in the office. With this centralized server, we will have a consistent place to house our information more securely as well as the ability to create a secure computer network in our office. Many Black children and adults still do not have access to internet or computers. With this computer lab, we will have the opportunity to give these people somewhere to work and to learn in whatever capacity needed. There will be overlap with the Youth, Education, Housing and Environmental Justice Committees but the vision is that this place will be available to all of our people and create an avenue to host necessary services for our community. At this time, we already have procured 10 new computers and monitors and 5 brand new laptops and are working on a proposal to introduce the server to our office in order to tie it all together.
- The Economic Development Committee has a goal to begin hosting community conversations around fiduciary responsibility and small business development. The Economic Development Committee has a number of members that own, have owned or supplement business on a small and large scale. There is a lot of language that is deliberately made confusing as well as a very specific lockout of fiduciary knowledge for Black people. Our committee has a desire to bridge this gap by working with businesses across the city in order to engage with the community and assist with small business development.
- The Economic Development Committee would like to use the aforementioned computer lab as a place to help individuals apply for grants for business development and registration. We would also like to work with the Housing Committee in partnership with the Portland Housing Bureau and their Individual Development Account. This account assists low-income families with opportunity to save money and have that money matched by the program, as well as have specified coaching about financial systems, responsibilities, and goals. We no longer want to see "affordable housing" proposed as a solution for black families and will be working to consolidate other information regarding opportunities for home ownership in a centralized location (ideally on the NAACP website) and direct people to this portal.
- The Economic Development Committee has a goal to work with the Technology Association of Oregon and Blacks in Tech in developing a pipeline of internships for middle- and high-school students to introduce the various opportunities in tech and use these internships to lead into careers with their identified partners in the tech space.
- The Economic Development Committee will be working with contractors involved with the I-5 Rose Quarter project to ensure that the project is being used as a platform to introduce living-wage jobs in construction produced as a result of the project to Black people, and use this 5-year platform to have these individuals reach "journey" status at the completion of apprenticeship, allowing them to take these learned skills in the trades to continue work on large infrastructure projects across the city, state, or nation.

Respectfully Submitted,

DeAngelo Moaning, Chair