

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

RESOLUTION OF METRO COUNCIL, ACTING )	RESOLUTION NO. 13-4455
AS THE METRO CONTRACT REVIEW BOARD, )	
FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING A SOLE )	Introduced by Chief Operating Officer Martha
SOURCE CONTRACT WITH THE CENTER FOR )	Bennett in concurrence with Council
INTERCULTURAL ORGANIZING )	President Tom Hughes

WHEREAS, pursuant to ORS 279A.060 and Metro Code 2.04.010 the Metro Council is designated as the Public Contract Review Board for the agency; and

WHEREAS, Metro Code 2.04.062 requires Council approval for contracts awarded without competitive bidding when it has been determined that the goods or services are available from only one source; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Intercultural Organizing (CIO) has developed a Pan-Immigrant Leadership and Organizing Training (PILOT), which is a unique program that enhances the skills, analysis and organizing ability of emerging immigrant and refugee leaders across cultural groups, building long-term relationships between diverse immigrant and refugee communities in Portland and increasing the capacity and voice of new communities to affect change; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Operating Officer has determined that developing a partnership with the CIO to include a parks and natural areas element to their PILOT program will improve Metro's ability to connect with other community-based organizations and is in the best interests of Metro; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of the Chief Operating Officer, CIO will assist immigrant and refugee community members to connect with the region's natural areas, build understanding of parks and natural areas, train emerging immigrant and refugee leaders on the public policy, legal structures, government agencies, and volunteer community actions that protect the region's environment, and develop recommendations on culturally specific community engagement practices; and


WHEREAS, CIO offers Metro a unique perspective because it has applied for Metro grants and can provide Metro with insight on the barriers to funding faced by organizations that work with underrepresented communities; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Procurement Officer believes that CIO's specialized experience and unique qualifications warrant the use of a sole source contract, that it would be impractical to conduct a competitive solicitation process to procure a consultant having such expertise; and that such action is in accordance with the Oregon state law providing for sole source procurements (ORS 279B.075) and Metro Code Section 2.04.062; and


WHEREAS, Metro Code Section 2.04.062 provides that Metro may award a contract for services without competition when the Metro Contract Review Board determines that the needed services are available from only one source; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council acting as the Metro Contract Review Board authorizes the Metro Chief Operating Officer to negotiate and execute a sole source contract with CIO for the purpose of developing a partnership with CIO to add parks and natural areas to their PILOT program.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 19 day of September 2010

  
Tom H. ... Council President

Approved as to Form:

  
Alison R. Kean, Metro Attorney

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 13-4455, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENTERING INTO A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH THE CENTER FOR INTERCULTURAL ORGANIZING**

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Date: September 19, 2013

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#### **BACKGROUND**

If approved by the Metro Council, this resolution will enable staff to enter into a sole source contract with the Center for Intercultural Organizing. The purpose of the contract is to develop a partnership whereby CIO will add a parks and natural areas element to its PILOT leadership program and will also help Metro connect with other community based organizations. More specifically the following project purposes are defined for the project:

- Help immigrant and refugees to connect with the region's parks and natural areas, as well as the regional government that works to protect and enhance the region's natural environment.
- Build understanding of parks and natural areas for participants in CIO's Multnomah and Washington County leadership development programs.
- Train emerging immigrant and refugee leaders on the public policy, legal structures, government agencies, and volunteer community actions that protect the region's environment.
- Develop recommendations on culturally specific community engagement practices for Metro regional government.
- Provide opportunity for hands-on learning through site visits and strategic convening.
- Develop working and ongoing collaboration between Metro and CIO

This project started following the most recent round of Nature in Neighborhood grants. Program staff conducted outreach to reach new organizations that had not applied before, in particular organizations that represent underrepresented, low income people or people of color.

The outreach was successful in that eight new applicants that directly serve underrepresented, low income people or people of color submitted proposals. As part of program evaluation, program staff learned that many of the organizations that did not receive grants this round were new to the program and did not have the depth of background with Metro and with parks and natural areas to successfully compete for grant funds. This was especially true for organizations that didn't have existing natural areas, parks or conservation education programming. Around this same time CIO reached out and asked about other possibilities for working together. After some initial conversations, the opportunity for collaborating on offering Metro, natural areas and parks education to CIO's PILOT leadership development program was identified.

For the past several months, program staff from natural areas, equity and conservation education worked with CIO to refine this idea and develop the proposal before the Metro Council.

Once the parks and natural areas levy was approved by the region's voters, staff recognized the opportunity to use this effort as an early action learning experience. This contract is structured to enable staff to begin implementation of levy programs, and honor the commitment the Metro Council made to equity, as one of the region's desired outcomes.

Due to the cultural diversity of CIO's members, leaders and staff, and partnerships with other community-based organizations, this project will serve to provide Metro insight into engaging a number of newcomer communities, the lessons learned from which can be incorporated into other Metro projects, including shaping of the levy's community partnership effort.

- CIO is uniquely positioned to bring other community based organizations, large and small, to the table to discuss future partnerships with Metro.
- CIO has applied for Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods grants, and the organization has insights into the barriers of the current grant process for community based organizations who work with underrepresented communities.

The Center for Intercultural Organizing is providing \$10,000 in additional, staff time as an in-kind donation to the project.

### **Metro's Equity Strategy Program**

In 2012, Metro committed to developing an agency strategy for advancing equity as one of the region's desired outcomes. In our role as service provider, convener and investor in the region, Metro is committed to identifying the institutional barriers that stand in the way of advancing equity.

Metro's Equity Strategy Program provides an opportunity to strengthen existing and build new partnerships with communities most impacted by disparities. Bringing equity to the forefront of our work can help ensure a thriving, prosperous region by creating a place where everyone has access to the opportunities that provide the quality of life for which our region is known.

A key aspect of Metro's Equity Strategy Program is the investment in community partner capacity building. For stakeholders to actively engage as partners in Metro's Equity Strategy Program, it is critical to ensure that they have the knowledge and relationships to examine and shape Metro's role – as an agency – in advancing equity in our programs, policies and services. Given the diversity of community partners Metro aims to engage through this process, a one-size-fits-all approach to capacity-building will not suffice; some partners have voiced an interest in receiving a "Metro 101" training, while other partners want to work more collaboratively to identify how to build capacity around specific areas or topics.

In support of these existing Metro commitments, the proposed Sole Source Contract allows Metro to support a pilot Community Partnerships project effort through collaboration with the Center for Intercultural Organizing.

### **About the Center for Intercultural Organizing**

Founded and led by immigrants, refugees, and people of color, the Center for Intercultural Organizing (CIO) is a nonprofit working to build inclusive, multiethnic communities. CIO is uniquely positioned to assist Metro to train, outreach to, and engage a diverse range of underrepresented populations—with an emphasis on immigrants, refugees, and communities of color - as a pilot implementation program under Metro's equity goals. CIO has a proven track record for developing policies to improve access to government for ethnic minority residents and to increase civic engagement of immigrants, refugees and people of color. The organization has conducted similar work recently for the Aloha-Reedville Study and Livable Community Plan (2012-present) City of Beaverton (2009-present) and the City of Portland (2005-present).

Strengths of the organization include:

- A strong, diverse base of immigrant and refugee leaders from Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties from various cultural backgrounds (over 70 countries of origin represented)
- An ongoing, yearlong leadership development program for first generation immigrants and refugees with over 120 graduates since 2008
- A skilled multilingual, multi-ethnic staff and Board with experience in public policy, community organizing, training, and civic engagement strategies
- Experience breaking new ground in program design and implementation
- Considered a national model in its field

## **ANALYSIS/INFORMATION**

### **1. Known Opposition**

None known.

### **2. Legal Antecedents**

None known.

### **3. Anticipated Effects**

If adopted by the Metro Council, staff will proceed to enter into a sole source contract with the Center for Intercultural Organizing.

### **4. Budget Impacts**

The contract will be for \$25,000 funded with proceeds from the Parks and Natural Areas levy.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Chief Operating Officer recommends adoption of Resolution No. 13-4455.