

2012 Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council Call for Applications

The City of Portland and Multnomah County seek interested community members to serve two-year terms on the Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council. Those interested in being considered for a January 2012 appointment should complete the following application and submit it by October 21. Resumes or curricula vitae are optional.

The Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council provides policy advice to local governments on food-related matters that impact land use, health, the environment, jobs, access, and other relevant issues. The Council currently consists of 15 members who are appointed by Portland Mayor Sam Adams and Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen.

Priorities for 2012 are expected to include:

- the availability of healthy, affordable food to all residents;
- food justice;
- urban food production and distribution/land use policies;
- expanding the networking role of the Council;
- the capacity of local communities to engage in healthy food practices; and
- food system strategic planning.

Food Policy Council Positions

The position of Council member will require expertise in one or more local food-related issues such as local agriculture, food security and access, nutrition, food business and industrial practices, community food education, land use, urban food production and distribution. Equally important is the Council members' ability to work together to create policy advice that takes into consideration the impact of current and proposed policies on the entire local food system.

The criteria that the Commissioners use for selecting members include:

- Commitment to a two-year long term requiring regular attendance and participation in monthly meetings (4:00–6:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month); active membership on at least one subcommittee of the Council that will generate a work plan with specific goals; and attendance at a half-day retreat in January 2012;
- Ability to generate policy action items for the Council to pursue;
- Capacity to bring specific food system relationships and resources to the effort, as well as potential to represent diverse sectors of the local food system and/or the community at large; and
- Lives or works predominantly within Multnomah County.

The Portland Multnomah County FPC website can be found at:

<http://www.portlandonline.com/bps/index.cfm?c=42290>

Applicants will be notified of the City/County decision by November 17 and individuals nominated to the Council will be invited to the December 8 Food Policy Council meeting.

Thank you for your interest. For more information, please contact Steve Cohen, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, steve.cohen@portlandoregon.gov; Katie Lynd, Multnomah County Sustainability Program, Katie.lynd@co.multnomah.or.us; or Rachael Banks, Multnomah County Health Department, rachael.m.banks@co.multnomah.or.us.

Interest Form for Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council

*The purpose of this form is to obtain information for use in making appointments to the Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council, and to assist the City and County in making inquiries concerning the qualifications of applicants for appointment. Please note that information provided in this document is **public information**, with the exception of the confidential section. (Information in the confidential section will only be disclosed as required by law.) If you have a recently prepared biography or resumé, please attach it to this form*

Please return application, resumé and any additional information to:
Office of Neighborhood Involvement, 1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 110, Portland, OR 97204
Applications can also be submitted by email to: patrick.philpott@portlandoregon.gov

To help ensure equal access to programs, services and activities, the City and County will reasonably modify policies/procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Call 503-823-2030 or 503-823-4000 with such requests.

Name: Kyle G. Curtis
First *Middle Initial* *Last*

Mailing Address: 912 NE 79th Ave.

Occupation: Food Policy Specialist

Daytime Phone: 971-570-5006 Email: kylecurtispx@gmail.com

Biography/Resumé Attached? X Yes ☐ No

List education, including degree(s) earned:
Portland State University, December 2010
Masters of Public Administration
Focus on sustainable food policy

The Evergreen State College, June 2000
Bachelors of Communications
Focus on film and video production

A. Reasons for wanting to serve on this group:
I am interested in food policy issues, particularly in how healthy food is interconnected with other social issues such as healthy communities, education, and energy issues. Due to this interconnection, equity issues regarding food access is of concern for me, as a lack of healthy food is the first of many negative social indicators. In Portland, certain underrepresented groups, classes, and geographic areas have less access to healthy food than others, and that shouldn't be acceptable. The Food Policy Council considers this disparity, conducting research and collecting information in hopes to develop policy to address these inequities. I look forward to providing my skills and experience to the Food Policy Council to help address the problems regarding access to healthy food for all of Portland's residents.

B. List skills, knowledge or affiliations that would be relevant to the Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council:

GIS mapping skills

Experience reading and summarizing federal and state legislation, and local ordinances

Legal research

Statistical analysis, including SPSS software

C. List work or volunteer experience that would add to your expertise for this Board/Commission

| Dates (from/to) | Employer or Volunteer Activity | Responsibilities |
|------------------|---|---|
| 1/2010 – 12/2010 | Multnomah Food Initiative | Instrumental in planning 2010 Food Summit attended by 200 participants. Transcribed Food Summit notes and provided summary to Multnomah County as paid on-call contracted employee. Facilitated table discussion at workshop regarding social equity issues. |
| 2010- 2011 | Multnomah County's ACHIEVE Initiative | Work with diverse stakeholders to identify available resources and develop potential strategies to improve the access of nutritional foods to Multnomah County's African-American population. |
| 2010-2011 | EastCo FoodDiveristy Group | Meet on a monthly basis with interested neighbors and committed food advocates to improve the food and gardens infrastructure in Portland east of the I-205 freeway. Originally started out of the East Portland Neighborhood (EPNO) office, the group has expanded to include regular participates from Gresham and eastern Multnomah County. |
| 4/2011 – 7/2011 | Community Environmental Services, Portland State University | Awarded Miller Foundation funding through the Institute of Sustainable Solutions for <i>Educate, Access, Thrive: Underserved Populations and Healthy Food (EatUp)</i> , a social equity and community food systems project which examined access to healthy food within the Portland State University EcoDistrict, used ArcMap 10 GIS to create district-level food system maps, collected information through partner collaboration and community survey research; created food equity and access model to use in other districts. Awarded competitive contract from Metro Regional Government to examine the region's |

food donation infrastructure, identify barriers to surplus food collection and evaluate Metro's role; performed policy analysis, survey research, and facilitation of related workshop at Multnomah Food Summit.

D. List your experience working on diverse teams or committees:

Multnomah Food Initiative- As a graduate student, I volunteered with the planning of the Multnomah Food Summit. In this role, I met weekly with the planning committee which was comprised of County staffers from the Sustainability and Health Departments. Besides these diverse County policy lenses, the staffers also hailed from diverse cultural backgrounds, which provided to me tremendous insight of different culture perspectives regarding food issues and how food can also serve as a cultural commonality. This experience resulted in me getting involved with Multnomah County's ACHIEVE initiative.

My experience with the Multnomah Food Initiative also inspired me to approach Highland Church, one of the area's largest African-American churches, to host a community food forum regarding food access issues in East Portland that I facilitated. This forum resulted in nearly 50 community members from local food buying clubs, farmers markets, Highland's non-profit service provider, and urban agriculture advocates sharing a discussion about information and data I shared about access to healthy food in East Portland.

E. Briefly describe your experience and/or interest in advancing effective food policy.

I feel that I touched on this question in my discussion of my experiences with the Multnomah Food Initiative and collaborating with community food forum at Highland Church. Currently, I am administering a program that I helped develop in partnership with the Multnomah County Aging and Disability Services and the Montavilla Farmers Market that connects low-income seniors with fresh farm direct food from farmers markets. The Market agreed to designate funds to match those paid by seniors at the local Loaves & Fishes center, and by pooling these funds together and seeking the best deals by market vendors- who are more than willing to provide deals for the seniors we are shopping for- I am able to piece together bulging \$5 bags of fruit and produce that the seniors are only paying \$2.50 for. The inspiration for this came from my experience helping manage the farmers market and seeing seniors struggle to make their way around the site's gravel lot. While the market wanted to increase outreach efforts to seniors, I thought it would be an efficient use of time and effort if seniors came to the market and didn't have a good time, they wouldn't return. This project has only happened for two weeks, and all the participants have paid cash, but ideally this program will be used by seniors on SNAP, which will address the low redemption rates by seniors on SNAP. As it is, the bags they are receiving address the perception that farmers markets are "too expensive" and are not for low-income shoppers, and the farmers and vendors are moving more product that they would be without this project.

My signature affirms that all information contained herein is true to the best of my knowledge, and that I understand that any misstatement of fact or misrepresentation of credentials may result in this application being disqualified from further consideration.

Signature: Kyle Curtis **Date:** Sept. 19, 2011

KYLE CURTIS

912 NE 79th Ave. * Portland, OR 97213 * (971) 570-5006

kylecurtispx@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Masters of Public Administration, Sustainable Policy focus, Portland State University, 2010
BA in Communications, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA 2000

AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Award of Achievement, Outstanding Community Service, Portland State University, 2010
John Kitzhaber Public Health Leadership Award
(as a member of the Multnomah Food Initiative steering committee), 2011

Volunteer Organizational Memberships

- **Steering committee, Multnomah Food Initiative.** Instrumental in planning 2010 Food Summit attended by 200 participants. Transcribed Food Summit notes and provided summary to Multnomah County as paid on-call contracted employee. Facilitated table discussion at workshop regarding social equity issues.
- **Nutritional Access subcommittee, Multnomah County's ACHIEVE Initiative.** Work with diverse stakeholders to identify available resources and develop potential strategies to improve the access of nutritional foods to Multnomah County's African-American population.
- **Member of Portland Commissioner Nick Fish's Growing Opportunities (GO!) Team.** Serve on advisory board that meets bi-annually to provide input and advice to Councilman Fish on ways to expand community gardens and increase urban agriculture outputs in Portland.
- **EastCo FoodDiveristy Group.** Meet on a monthly basis with interested neighbors and committed food advocates to improve the food and gardens infrastructure in Portland east of the I-205 freeway. Originally started out of the East Portland Neighborhood (EPNO) office, the group has expanded to include regular participants from Gresham and eastern Multnomah County.

EXPERIENCE

Office and Administrative Experience (2007-present)

Community Environmental Services, Center for Urban Studies, PSU, food policy specialist (2011): awarded Miller Foundation funding through the Institute of Sustainable Solutions for *Educate, Access, Thrive: Underserved Populations and Healthy Food (EatUp)*, a social equity and community food systems project which examined access to healthy food within the Portland State University EcoDistrict, used ArcMap 10 GIS to create district-level food system maps, collected information through partner collaboration and community survey research; created food equity and access model to use in other districts. Awarded competitive contract from Metro Regional Government to examine the region's food donation infrastructure, identify barriers to surplus food collection and evaluate Metro's role; performed policy analysis, survey research, and facilitation of related workshop at Multnomah Food Summit.

Montavilla Farmers Market, board member/ assistant market manager (2009 - 2010 seasons); supported administrative and on-site operations for neighborhood farmers market; recruited and managed volunteers; developed the Market's outreach strategy; established and maintained good working relationships with staff, community partners and stakeholders to diversify Market's client base; organized and facilitated a community forum to discuss barriers to accessible healthy food. Portland, OR.

Multnomah Food Initiative, steering committee member/ volunteer coordinator (2010); served on steering committee; reviewed and critiqued Multnomah Food Report- a county report of regional food systems; develop content with food policy makers for the Food Summit – an event for policy makers, stakeholders, agencies, public officials, and the public interested in food systems. Portland, OR.

Rep. Earl Blumenauer's district office, intern (Sep. 2009- Jan. 2010); effectively handled constituent services during four-month internship through written, oral, and telephone communication skills; responded to constituent emergencies seeking immediate congressional assistance. Portland, OR.

Aldrich Law Office, legal filing specialist (2008- 2009); responsible for the filing system, following practices and procedures of a professional legal office. Portland, OR.

Portland State University (PSU) Research and Teaching Experience (2007-present)

First Stop Portland, student ambassador (May 2009- present); provide administrative support for custom-designed Study Tours of Portland for international delegations; create content for briefing books of information distributed to presenters and delegates; assist in development of First Stop's brand and visual image for both online and print materials; lead roundtable debrief sessions with visiting Study Tour delegates; provide content for *Learning Portland*, First Stop's informative guide book to Portland; First Stop Portland is a Miller-funded program operating out of PSU's Institute of Metropolitan Studies, for the promotion of the processes and practices that create Portland's livability. Portland, OR

Toulon School of Urban Studies and Planning, teacher's assistant (Winter term, 2010); provide technical assistance to undergraduate Community Development class, in conjunction with Portland Sustainability Institute to vet PSU's proposed Climate Action Plan; create the survey tools to collect and measure data provided by students; help create the curriculum for students to monitor and track their carbon output. Portland, OR

Summer Sustainability Series, graduate research assistant (Spring and Summer terms, 2008); provide administrative support, program promotion, coordination and outreach and for the *Sustainability in the Urban Built Environment* conference; recruit international conference attendees; compile information for catering, transit routes and planning logistics. Portland, OR.

Hatfield School of Government, teacher assistant (Winter terms, 2007 and 2008); contribute to development, implementation and administration of undergraduate Political Science policy course; provide technical assistance to instructor and curriculum support to students; contribute to course content through research of literary and media resources. Portland, OR

School of the Environment, research assistant (Summer and Fall terms, 2007); conduct research for Environmental Science project which examined the correlation between county environmental regulations and industrial pollution; perform Internet research, data collection and data entry; provide essential support for university-funded study on sustainability practices and violations. Portland, OR

Media Experience

Worked in film, video, radio, and social media production, and published letters to editor, editorials, and feature stories in various newspapers in Washington, Alaska, and Oregon.