

## **Budget Advisory Committee 2016 Values Statement**

### **We are transformative leaders.**

Our work addresses the intersectional roots of oppression, and redefines systems of power. Change comes through both individual and collective transformation. As we do the work, we will practice the values and refine our skills as leaders.

### **We offer expert knowledge.**

We are the experts on what is needed in our communities. By virtue of being community members, we are uniquely qualified to make recommendations that will be impactful and serve a greater vision. We offer a level of authority that is inherently a shift in power by amplifying the active and meaningful voices of the communities that Multnomah County serves.

### **We uphold racial justice.**

We recognize that both the physical and mental health of people of color, and the survival and well-being of communities of color, are matters of justice. As a government body, we recognize the trauma (both historic and present) that our communities suffer at the hands of government agencies; still, we seek to repair and restore a sense of safety and justice. By balancing scientific knowledge, practical experience, and the wisdom and beliefs of those we serve, we advance the critical process of healing.

### **We operate with dignity and respect.**

We honor the humanity of those who participate in this work as well as the community members impacted by the work. We consider community partnerships essential in designing long-term, effective solutions to public health challenges. We view numbers not only as necessary tools for designing equitable budgets and policies, but also as representations of real, tangible impacts on the day-to-day lives of our friends and neighbors.

### **We believe in inter-cultural intelligence.**

We bring a diverse, multi-lingual, inter-generational approach to knowledge-seeking. In evaluating equity, we seek the voices of those missing from the discussion. We hold self-evident the wisdom of communities and value their judgements as equal to ours. In order to facilitate community participation to the greatest extent possible, we consider barriers to inclusion such as language, transportation, childcare, and food insecurity and strive to see the need for these crucial access tools reflected at the budget level. We are a malleable entity and realize that the best way to serve those that are to be impacted positively is to change as needs arise.

### **We hold ethics at the core.**

We build trust by investing time into our relationships, showing respect by being clear with our purpose, process and intent. We bring self-awareness to ourselves as individuals and our body as a whole in ensuring congruence and a seamless integration of word and action. Serving ethically and consistently is a principle goal of ours as we seek to build a bridge of interconnectedness and interdependence between ourselves and those we serve.