

# Johnell McArthur Bell

PO Box 66476 ● Portland, OR 97290 ● Phone: 503-501-7640 ● Johnellmbell@aol.com

---

## Recent Professional Experience

**TriMet**, August 2011-present

***Director, Diversity & Transit-Equity***

- Direct agency's nationally recognized Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and small business programs
- Direct agency's Title VI strategy, compliance and monitoring efforts
- Direct agency's Transit Equity efforts, including proposing mitigations and developing community engagement processes
- Civil Rights Officer for the Agency charged with developing internal and external diversity, equity and inclusion efforts (supplier diversity, strategic diversity, ROI of diversity)
- Advise executive team, board of directors and key stakeholders on Transit -Equity, Civil rights and small business policy
- Liaison to Federal Transit Administration on matters pertaining to Title VI, DBE and Environmental Justice policies

**Selected Accomplishments:**

- Selected out of national pool of candidates to serve on Title VI national synthesis panel for National Academies of Science
- Created a \$1.3 million dollar discounted fare program to help low-income people afford transit services

**United States Senate, U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley**, January 2010-July 2011 Portland, OR

***Multnomah County Field Representative***

Serve as the Senator's liaison in most populated County in the State of Oregon to city, county, regional and legislative governments; higher education, school districts, community and constituency groups, including, environmental organization, small and local businesses, communities engaged in civil and human rights, non-profit organizations and federal agencies.

Receive and process federal appropriations requests for each fiscal year and monitor regional developments and opinions regarding the Senator's ongoing priorities and committee assignments.

**Selected Accomplishments:**

- Facilitated the Senator's involvement in advocating on behalf of MWESB/DBE contracting opportunities
- Managed and maintained proactive relationships with government bodies and elected officials in Multnomah County
- Point of contact on sensitive policy issues including Portland Water Variance & Reservoir covering, Sellwood Bridge and Willamette River Superfund Clean-up
- Successfully secured appropriations for projects in Multnomah County

**Office of Chairman Ted Wheeler, Policy Aide/Community Liaison**, December 2006- September 2008

Developed and managed strategic relationships with business, government and community stakeholders; Delivered remarks to the public and media on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors; Supervised and managed large, multimillion dollar initiatives and developed/implemented public policies related to economic, business, and workforce development.

**Selected Accomplishments:**

- Created the County's Economic Development program to coordinate Multnomah County's economic development efforts and relationships
- Spearheaded E-government initiatives including the revamp of the county's website, the creation and hiring of the county's first web manager and the development of policies for web content
- Successfully involved business and community stakeholders' input into the Chair's Executive Budget
- Chair's Liaison to Commission on Children, Youth and Families; East Portland Action Plan; Information Technology Department and the Citizen Involvement Office

**Health Department, *Health Equity Initiative, Policy Analyst*, March 2009- December 2009**

Contributed to the writing and editing of equity, diversity and inclusion training tools and policy documents and managed complex projects and managed staff in manager's stead.

**Selected Accomplishments:**

- Coordinated Equity Policy consortium representing community-of-color organizations
- Co-drafted the initial Equity and Empowerment Lens (racial justice focus) tool, to reduce inequities faced by communities of color

**Office of Mayor Tom Potter, Portland, OR**

**Outreach & Engagement Coordinator and Project Manager, March 2006-December 2006**

Served as the Mayor's lead on "Community Connect", a project which increased the participation of communities of color in the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) by working with diverse communities, community-based organizations and elected officials. Led efforts to gather input on community participation in city government, resulting in recommendations that were unanimously approved by City Council, leading to the creation of programs and policies formalizing community of color representation in decision-making.

---

**Additional Experience**

- Outreach & Engagement Coordinator, Columbia River Crossing Project
- Coordinator of Outreach, Multnomah County Federal Summer Food Program
- Student Representative, Board of Directors, Portland Public Schools
- Academy for Educational Development, Co-Director, Youth Innovation Fund
- Co-Chair, CCFC, Multnomah County School Age Council
- Intern, Governor Ted Kulongoski, Office of Education, Revenue & Workforce policy

---

**Education**

**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY—Portland, OR**

Bachelor of Science, **Business Administration**

*Focus: Management & Leadership Development*

**PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY, HATFIELD SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT—Portland, OR**

**Executive Master of Public Administration**— Expected completion, Spring of 2013

Awards & Recognition

- University Club of Portland, Graduate Fellowship
- National Forum For Black Public Administrators, Inaugural National Recipient, Hon. Maynard Jackson Scholarship
- Oregon Community Foundation, Inaugural Recipient, Gregory A. Challié Public Service Scholarship

---

**Professional Memberships**

- Member, National Forum for Black Public Administrators
  - Member, American Association of Public Transportation officials
  - Member, University Club of Portland
  - Member, Portland City Club
  - Member, Conference of Minority Public Transportation Officials
-

---

## Board and Committee Service

- **University Club of Portland Foundation**
  - Board Member, 2012-Present
- **American Leadership Forum, Oregon**
  - Board Member, 2011-Present
  - Senior Fellow, Class #23
- **Black Parent Initiative, Portland, OR**
  - Co-Founder and Board Secretary, 2007-2010
- **Centers For Airway Science**
  - Vice President, 2010-present
  - Board Member, 2000-present
- **Start Making A Reader Today (SMART) Program**
  - Public Ambassador, 2004-2006
- **JustPortland**
  - Co-founder and Board Member, 2008-2009
- **Portland Schools Foundation**
  - Committee Member, Excellence in Education Awards, 2004
- **Portland/Multnomah Progress Board,**
  - Board Member, 2006-2007
- **Portland Campfire**
  - Board Member, 2007-2009
  - Evaluation & Program Committee
- **City of Portland Human Relations Committee**
  - Committee Member, 2007-2008
- **Portland Public Schools Citizens Budget Review Committee**
  - Member, 2001-2005

---

## Presentations

### **Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) Community Needs Assessment Conference**

- Topic: *Community-Government Engagement*; October, 2010

### **Western Campus Compaq Annual Award Dinner, Portland, OR**

- Topic: *Keynote— "leadership & service to community"*; October, 2007

### **Bioneers National Conference, San Rafael, CA**

- Topic: *Appreciative Inquiry*; October, 2004

### **Oregon Department of Education, Closing the Achievement Gap Conference, Portland, OR**

- Topic: *Parental Engagement*; January, 2006

### **Portland State University, Second International Institute on Partnerships Conference**

- Topic: *Community-Government Partnerships*; May, 2011

### **Center for Intercultural Organizing leadership Conference, Woodland, WA**

- Topic presented: *Health Equity & Policy Advocacy*; June, 2009

### **National Service Learning Conference, Orlando, FL/ Long Beach, CA**

- Topic: *Youth Development*; March, 2004 & 2005

### **Wholeschooling Conference, Portland, OR**

- Topic: *Community-Schools Partnership*; March, 2006

### **Western Campus Compaq, Bellevue, WA**

- Topic: *Service-Learning*; April, 2006

### **Oregon Transportation Summit, Oregon Transportation Research Center**

- Topic: *Transit Equity*; September, 2012

### **National Academy of Sciences, National Transit Institute**

- National Synthesis Panel, Title VI