

# Why this development? Why now?



## A community unites to uplift lives & livability...

### To protect our most vulnerable citizens

Our nation's economic downturn will have local repercussions. Prior to the economic crisis, 2,000 people were estimated to use Portland streets or shelters to make it through the night. Local experts expect this figure to rise and now estimate that some 40% of our homeless residents will die prematurely on our streets if they do not secure housing. Homelessness is a public health problem that can be solved.

### To invest in a safe downtown

Portland's SAFE Committee has affirmed that day-access space is crucial to meeting the needs of homeless citizens. They are struggling to find such space that can be used while the RAC is being built. Committee members are counting on the RAC and have worked closely with designers to incorporate internal queuing space and crime prevention design.

### To replace and add affordable housing in the downtown core

The RAC will provide 130 new, energy-efficient studio apartments to meet housing needs in the neighborhood. These units will provide quality homes for people moving from the streets and shelters into housing who can benefit from co-located services, as well as supplementing downtown's workforce housing. Seventy of the apartments will replace the Grove Hotel Apartments—the site of a new mixed-use development that will include an Asian marketplace.

### To build on community consensus

Many disparate interests have come together to support this project as a critical component of the Ten Year Plan adopted by Portland and Multnomah County. The Portland Business Alliance, homeless advocates, the Portland Police, business and neighborhood associations have all participated in the design of the building and the development of the programming. These interest groups, often divided on homeless issues, formed a coalition of the willing, determined to improve the current services and to design a building that meets multiple community goals.

### To leverage community investments

Funders have also rallied to this vision. PDC has pledged \$29.5 million, which will leverage \$15 to 20 million of additional public and private funds, including a capital investment by the Housing Authority of Portland. Any delay in moving forward will erode the buying power of public investment as construction costs rise.

### To create jobs and stimulate revitalization

The RAC's construction will create approximately 125 jobs over an 18-month period. A project goal is to hire 25 homeless Transition Projects clients during the course of construction and to target \$5.5 million for work by firms owned by minority, women, and/or emerging small businesses. Moreover, the RAC's construction will keep development moving forward in Old Town/Chinatown, which will help position the neighborhood for a rebound from the economic downturn and pave the way for continued investment and revitalization.



#### Community Advisory Committee representation:

Co-chairs: Bud Clark (TPI) and Harriet Cormack (HAP)

Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association

Housing Authority of Portland Board members

JOIN

Nearby residents

Old Town/Chinatown Neighborhood Association

Old Town/Chinatown Business Association

Pearl District Neighborhood Association

Portland Bureau of Housing and Community Development

Portland Business Alliance

Portland Development Commission

Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement

Portland Police Bureau

Portland Public Market

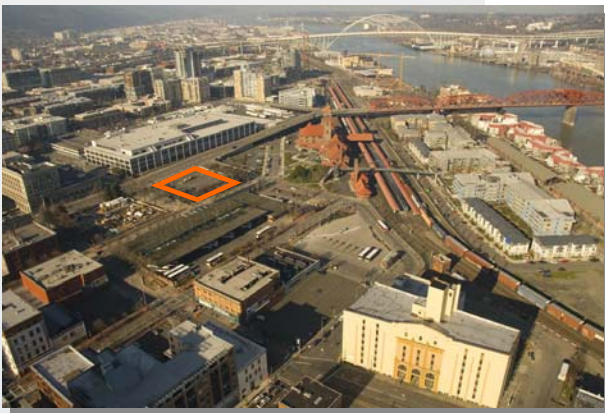
SAFE Committee

Sisters of the Road

Tri-Met

Transition Projects clients and Board members

Veterans Administration



CITY OF  
PORTLAND, OREGON  
BUREAU OF HOUSING AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

