

## How can you provide input on the Resource Access Center?

*You can get involved in three ways:*

- 1** **Community Advisory Committee** will provide input to the boards of the Housing Authority of Portland (HAP) and Transition Projects on specific development elements of the center. This 30-member group represents a wide cross-section of neighbors, businesses, and service providers. All meetings are open to the public and agendas and minutes are on the HAP website.
- 2** **Design workshops**, sponsored by the CAC, will provide a forum for neighbors and interested parties to offer input on master planning of the block, orientation of retail and public spaces along the street, protection of views to historic Union Station and more. Saturday, May 17 and Saturday, May 31, from 9 am to noon at the Port of Portland Commission Room, located at Northwest Second Avenue and Everett Street in Old Town.
- 3** **Good Neighbor Agreement** process will invite neighbors located within two blocks of the center to participate in the development of an agreement. A good neighbor agreement typically covers such issues as communication, safety, health, security, crime prevention, loitering and litter control, an advisory committee and a mediation agreement. Mid-June date and location to be announced.

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# Plan to End Homelessness to Emerge in Brick and Mortar

*You're Invited to Participate in Design, Planning Processes*



A cornerstone of Portland and Multnomah County's 10-year plan to end homelessness will be put in place soon with the help of neighbor and public input.

You're invited to participate in a series of design workshops for the Resource Access Center, a project envisioned in the 10-Year Plan published by the Citizens Commission on Homelessness in December 2004. The public design workshops will take place on May 17 and May 31. (See schedule.)

Other opportunities for public input include a Community Advisory Committee, which held its first meeting in late April and is sponsoring the design workshops. Neighbors in the immediate vicinity of the center also will be invited in mid-June to provide input into a Good Neighbor Agreement.

**RAC** The Resource Access Center Development

*Neighbor*

**UPDATE**

## What is the Resource Access Center?

When completed, the development will feature an access center to connect people to resources to help end their homelessness.

## Where will the center be located?

The center will be located between the Greyhound Bus terminal and the main U.S. Post Office on the currently vacant block known as Block U, bounded by Northwest Broadway and Sixth Avenue, and Northwest Hoyt and Irving streets.

## Who is behind the center?

The City of Portland asked the Housing Authority of Portland to develop the property and Transition Projects, Inc., to operate the on-site services. The location in north Old Town results from February and March 2008 decisions by the Portland Development Commission and the City Council, after substantial public input. PDC was charged with siting the facility and will assist with Urban Renewal financing for construction. The city, through the Bureau of Housing and Community Development, will help to ensure on-going operational support.

## What will the new development contain?

The new development will actually include four major elements under one roof:

**The Resource Access Center.** The center will contain 9,000-square feet of ground floor space for extensive services designed to transition people out of homelessness. This includes space for basic services such as showers, restrooms and laundry; space for individual assessment and housing assistance; and meeting and class rooms.

**Men's Transitional Shelter.** The men's transitional shelter will replace the current 90-bed shelter located in Old Town/Chinatown. The new shelter will serve the same number of individuals, but with more adequate space for sleeping, eating and services.

**Affordable Housing.** Approximately 150-200 units of affordable rental housing will provide a range of housing options, including supportive housing for those ending homelessness.

**Retail Services.** Street-level retail space will enable the development of micro-enterprise and other businesses that will benefit both neighbors and RAC clients.

The building also will house the administrative offices of Transition Projects.

## What does the Resource Access Center replace?

The new center will offer many of the same shelter facilities and services currently offered by Transition Projects at 475 N.W. Glisan St., about one-and-one-half blocks away. However, the new location will offer improved services, such as enhanced kitchen and shower facilities in the shelter. And it will provide some services and facilities the current location cannot support, due to space constraints, aging and outmoded infrastructure. For example, the new building will provide lockers, computers with Internet access for job and housing search, and separate dining and sleeping areas for the shelter residents. None of these is available in the current location.

The new building also will include a new internal waiting area. This will allow people to line up for services inside the building, off the street and out of the elements.

## What is the policy foundation for the center?

In December 2004, the Portland City Council and the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners adopted *Home Again, A Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Portland and Multnomah County*. This plan was developed by the Citizens Commission on Homelessness with a mandate from the city and the county to find permanent solutions to our region's problems of homelessness. The plan recommended nine action steps, the third of which called for a new resource space to improve access to homeless services. The Resource Access Center implements this step.

## What does access mean to a homeless person?

The Resource Access Center will provide a place to:

- take a shower and wash clothes
- provide an address to give potential employers
- meet with services providers about employment, housing placement, veteran's benefits, and other specialty areas
- receive support to help break the cycle of homelessness.



## Design and Environment Among Building Criteria

Designers of the new Resource Access Center will create a building that is as aesthetically and environmentally sound as it is functional. We have asked the architects to design a beautiful, functional building that will be a credit to Portland and will help change the face of homelessness in our community. Holst Architecture, which will provide architectural and engineering services, was chosen not only for the quality of their work, (see examples illustrated here) but also for their passion for this project and desire to work with the local community. We'll seek certification for the building under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program as a high-performance green building.



## Resources

- City of Portland Bureau of Housing and Community Development, brief introduction to ending homelessness, includes link to full 10-year Plan: <http://www.portlandonline.com/bhcd/index.cfm?c=30140>
- Transition Projects Inc., downloadable document on Resource Access Center: [www.tprojects.org/pdfs/access.pdf](http://www.tprojects.org/pdfs/access.pdf)
- Housing Authority of Portland - Resource Access Center <http://www.hapdx.org/resourceaccesscenter/>

## Public Involvement Schedule

Monday, April 28	Community Advisory Committee (CAC) orientation meeting
Saturday, May 17	CAC/public design workshop
Saturday, May 31	CAC/public design workshop
Monday, June 16	CAC review of housing program
Mid-June TBD	Good Neighbor Agreement kickoff

## Key Development Milestones

April 2008 through May 2009	Design/permitting phases
June 2009	Begin construction
September 2010	Construction completed.

## For more information

Housing Authority of Portland  
[www.hapdx.org](http://www.hapdx.org)  
Pamela Kambur (503) 802-8508  
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[www.tprojects.org](http://www.tprojects.org)  
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[felledge@tprojects.org](mailto:felledge@tprojects.org)

## How can I help?

The Resource Access Center will provide ongoing opportunities for the public to help people end their homelessness. Opportunities will include providing and serving meals in the 90-bed shelter, volunteering to tutor and mentor in a skills program, supporting a client-run business, and donating clothing. Your ongoing support will ensure that no one has to remain homeless in Portland. For more information about volunteer opportunities, please contact Transition Projects' Volunteer Coordinator at (503) 823-4926, ext. 4. For information about donating items, please contact Transition Projects' Development Director at (503) 823-4930, ext. 205.