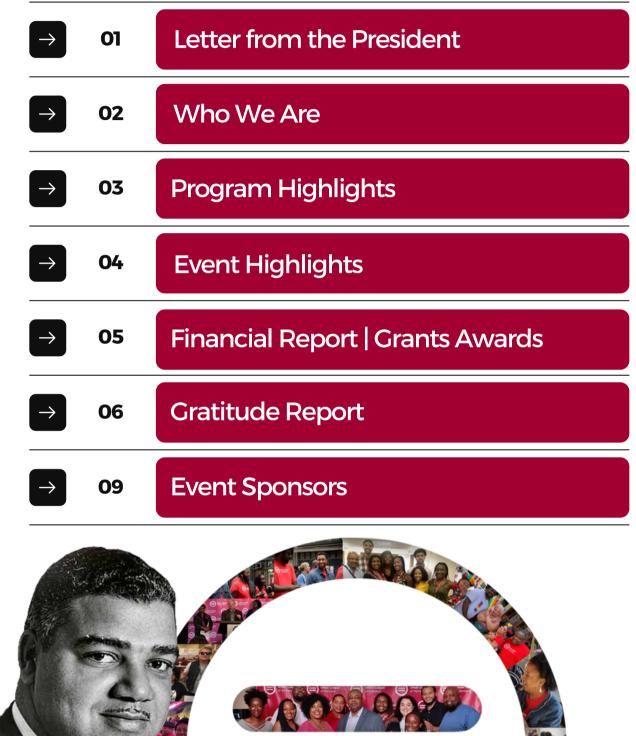
# Urban League<br/>of PortlandANNUAL<br/>REPORT

0.

**Empowering Communities. Changing Lives.** 

# Table of Contents



# Letter from the President



### Dear Friends, Members, and Supporters,

As I reflect on this past fiscal year, I am proud to share the Urban League of Portland has shown up to serve, advocate, and empower communities across Oregon and Southwest Washington. Through culturally-specific programs and partnerships, we have worked to expand opportunities for Black communities, foster economic justice, and address critical needs in advocacy, financial empowerment, health, housing, community outreach, and youth and family programming.

We continued our commitment to racial and economic equity. Our team has engaged with local and state leaders to influence policies impacting access to housing, business development resources, and educational opportunities. Through our partnerships, we have amplified the voices of our community to secure policy shifts that support our mission.

We supported hundreds of community members in building their financial skills and resources. Our Small Business Navigator Program, for example, has provided training, mentorship, and capital support to entrepreneurs in the Portland Metro Area and beyond. This work directly supports economic mobility and sustainability for small business owners, positioning them for long-term success. We have provided youth mentorship, job readiness training, and educational support to young people and their families. These programs equip our youth with essential skills and build a foundation for lifelong achievement. Through our focus on education and empowerment, we are investing in the future leaders of our community.

We provided accessible care and resources for our aging community members. This year, we continued partnerships with local healthcare providers to offer screenings, health education, and resources that support wellness and quality of life. These efforts are tailored to meet the unique needs of our seniors, ensuring they have access to essential services and support. We've reached thousands, housed and unhoused, engaging them to learn their specific needs and then meeting them where they are. Through permanent support housing, short term financial assistance, rapid rehousing programs, and our community outreach team, we have built stronger connections and offered practical support.

This year, we also introduced the Whitney M. Young Jr. Giving Society, recognizing donors who give \$500 or more annually. With this society we honor and connect with those who sustain our work and share our vision for a thriving community. Benefits include special impact updates, giveaways from our partners, as well as invitations to special events, with me and our esteemed board members, including our Whitney M. Young Jr. Reception, the first of which to be held in the spring of 2025. Whitney M. Young, Jr. was born in 1921. He was a leader in the civil rights movement who worked for social justice, including employment equality, and economic development across so many fields. From NASA to the Boy Scouts of America, from architecture to engineering he worked to ensure that Black Americans had access to education and careers in various sectors. A social worker by trade, he advised Presidents, marched with Dr. King, and most special to us, was the National Urban League's President and CEO from 1961 until his untimely death in 1971. Young believed in the need for systematic change across all areas of American society. His influence is deeply ingrained in the work we do every day at the Urban League of Portland, so we have chosen to honor his legacy as we show appreciation for our supporters. When you give to the Urban League, you are furthering our mission and continuing the same work Young fought passionately for.

Our accomplishments reflect the dedication of our staff, members, and community partners, and the unwavering support of our donors. As we look ahead to our 80th year, despite the challenges we face, I am encouraged by the path we are on together. Thank you for being a part of our work, for supporting the Urban League of Portland and for your commitment to empowering communities and changing lives.

With gratitude,

Vkenge Harmon Fohnson

President and CEO Urban League of Portland

### **Our Mission**

The Urban League of Portland's mission is to empower African-Americans and others to achieve equality in education, employment, health, economic security and quality of life.

### **Our Reach**

We provide services throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington.

### **Our Work**

Through culturally-specific programs and wrap around services, our wholistic approach addresses the areas of:

- Advocacy and Civic Engagement,
- Financial Empowerment,
- Health and Senior Services,
- Housing.
- Community Outreach,
- Workforce Development,
- Young Professionals, and
- Youth and Family Programming.

### WE ARE NUMBER ONE!





**Our Locations** 

The Urban League of Portland has been voted the #1 best Non-Profit to work for in Oregon in 2023 and 2021 and #2 in 2022!



**Beaverton Resource Center** Providing walk-in services in Housing, Workforce, Health, and Healthy Aging Programs.



**Rejuvenation House** Housing, Health and Career services for women exiting incarceration.



**Hattie Redmond Apartments** Permanent Supportive Housing



Urban League Senior Center Meals, activities, transportation, and support for elders and disabled adults.



Jamii Center Oregon's first 24-hour emergency shelter serving African Americans.



Russell Office Urban League of Portland's historic headquarters.

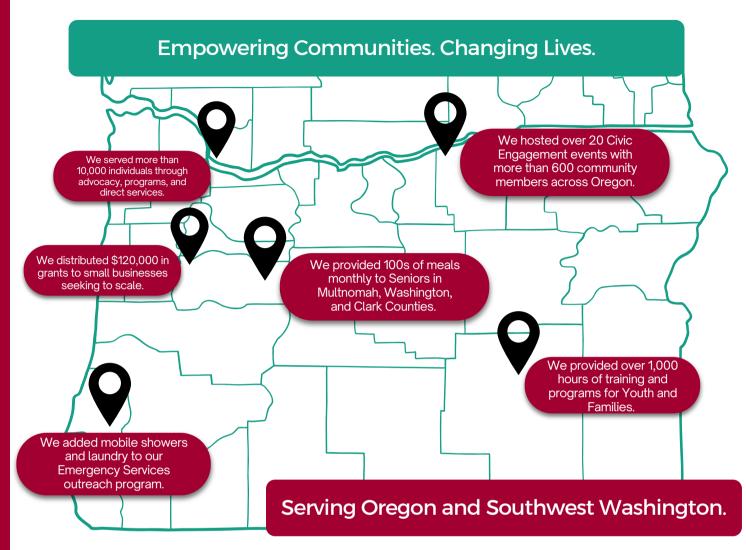
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- Andreas Moppin: Board Treasurer | Principal, Osanyin Consulting
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- Honorable Margaret Carter Retired | Former Member of the Oregon State Legislature

**Renaissance Commons** Permanent Supportive Housing

02

# **Program Highlights**



# What Makes Us Different

- **The Jamii Center:** We opened the first culturally-specific emergency and transitional housing program for the African American community in the Pacific Northwest.
- While many Urban League affiliates serve one city, the Urban League of Portland serves all of Oregon and SW Washington.
- We follow a *Housing First* model for wrap-around services and programs.
- We hire **staff with lived experience** who approach this work with a culturally competent lens.
- Our Senior Center is the **only Black, culturally-specific senior service program in Oregon**.





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# **Event Highlights**

Board Chair Dr. James Mason poses with Urban League staff after distributing holiday meals. Feed the Folks provided hundreds of meals in Portland and Salem in 2023.



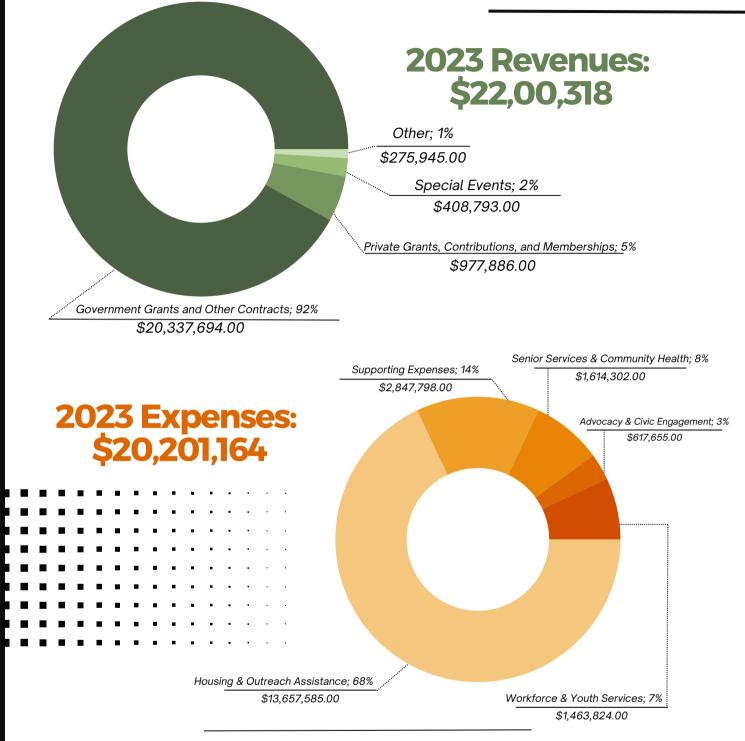
Our 2023 Equal Opportunity Day Award Dinner Honoree Rukaiyah Adams, CEO of the 1803 Fund. During an inspiring fireside chat we heard from two women who grew up in Portland and how it shaped the leaders they are today.

 Image: Contract of the contract

04

# **Financial Report**





# **Foundation Grant Partners**

- GoWest Foundation
- Meyer Memorial Trust
- Miller Charitable Fund of OCF
- New Seasons Market
- Northwest Health Foundation
- OCF Joseph E Weston Public Foundation
- OnPoint Community Credit Union
- Oregon Jewish Community Foundation
- Paul Liebman Family Foundation
- Wells Fargo (FHLB Des Moines)



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

# **Gratitude Report**

Thank you to those of you who make this work possible! Donors listed from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. \* Denotes members of the Urban League of Portland.

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