

HOUSING

Coming Home for Proud Ground

Diane Linn to guide nonprofit housing provider

Proud Ground is counting on Diane Linn for her more than 30 years of experience in the private, public and non-profit sectors as the group's next executive director.

Linn, a former chair of the Multnomah County Commission, was named executive director of the local housing provider this month and will start work in December.

She has extensive experience working with diverse communities—and much of this work has



Diane Linn

taken place in Portland. For the past five years, she was the executive director of Ritter Center, in Marin County, Calif. which provides a wide range of services for low-income

and homeless individuals and families. During her time with Ritter, Linn doubled the budget and expanded services significantly.

"I am so excited to return to Portland, my home town, to become the executive director of Proud Ground. Having the opportunity to bring my experience as a nonprofit director back to my favorite city is truly thrilling," Linn said.

Proud Ground's board chair Elaine Albrich, is enthusiastic about Linn's hire, "We believe Diane has the exact set of skills and experience necessary to lead Proud Ground in our next stage of development and growth. She's smart, savvy, and strategic; the board is impressed not only with her deep experience, but with her strong grasp of the

issues surrounding nonprofit homeownership work."

Traci Manning, director of the Portland Housing Bureau, shares the organization's enthusiasm.

"Proud Ground is an important partner in creating first-time homeowners and prosperous communities. I am excited to see Proud Ground continue to grow under Diane's leadership," Manning said.

Linn acknowledges that there were some missteps during her time as county chair from 2003-2006, and said important lessons were learned.

"While my time as county chair was an unmitigated challenge, I am proud of my leadership for marriage equality, SUN Schools, reducing homelessness and reforming the mental health system," she said.

Linn said she was fascinated by the mission of Proud Ground, using the innovative model of shared-equity to offer the dream of homeownership to moderate and low-income families.

"What's particularly appealing is that these homes are permanently affordable, serving future generations of homebuyers. This is a win-win model that our whole community can get behind," she said.

Linn's resume includes serving as director of Portland's Office of Neighborhood Involvement. Her civic engagement includes volunteer work, being an active parent in the public schools; and promoting parks, libraries, schools, transportation and planning, and affordable housing.

Grants to Help Home Buyers

Neighborhood LIFT supports dream of home ownership

The winter holidays are coming early to Portland as a major financial services company is joining with the city of Portland and two nonprofit agencies to help 227 moderate-income Portlanders buy homes.

Wells Fargo, NeighborWorks America and Portland Housing Center joined Portland Mayor Charlie Hales last week to announce a \$5.15 million Portland NeighborhoodLIFT program.

"This public-private partnership has the potential to make a huge difference to Portland residents and neighborhoods," Hales said.

The program is designed to pro-

vide down payment assistance and homebuyer education programs in areas most impacted by the financial crisis.

The program will include a free homebuyer event Dec. 13-14 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., both days, in Hall C at the Oregon Convention Center. Prospective homebuyers can register and learn more about the program at neighborhoodlift.com or by calling 866 858-2151. Pre-registration is encouraged, although walk-ins will be welcome.

Attendees will first need to obtain pre-approval for a mortgage loan from a lender approved by the Portland Housing Center. They will then have up to 60 days to finalize a contract to purchase a home in Portland in order to receive 15,000.

A recipient will not have to repay the grant if they stay in their home for five years. They are also required to participate in a

homebuying education session with Portland Housing Center, which will determine eligibility and distribute the funds to homebuyers.

"Portland was deeply affected by the housing crisis. While today mortgages are available at historically low interest rates, many

families are still unable to purchase a home because they struggle with making the down payment," said Wells Fargo Region President Don Pearson. "NeighborhoodLIFT can help local homebuyers realize their dreams of owning a home."



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