



PROMOTING DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION

HONORING LATINX & HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

*Mayor Wilson proclaims September 15 - October 15, 2025, to be Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month
See the city's statements below (adapted from www.portland.gov)*

Portland is home to over 70,000 residents who proudly identify as Latine, Latinx, Latino/a, Hispanic, Native, Indigenous, Afro-Latino/a, Blacktino/a, Chicano/a, Mestizo/a, or with their country of origin, each of whom enrich our cultural, social, and economic life.

Under the City's new form of government, the Portland City Council reflects broader representation from diverse communities, helping the voices of historically underrepresented groups—including the Latine community—be included in civic decision-making.

The Latine community contributes immeasurably to Portland's strength and resilience—not only as the backbone of agricultural and service industries, but as educators, artists, environmentalists, health care providers, engineers, entrepreneurs, organizers, lawmakers, faith leaders, parents, children, and visionaries who shape the future of our city.

Portland is a sanctuary city that is committed to protecting and supporting families and individuals seeking refuge, peace, and a better future—not out of privilege or leisure, but out of necessity, hope, and survival.

The city of Portland, as part of its core values, reaffirms its commitment to stand firmly against racial injustices, and any attempt to antagonize, harass, or displace community members based on the color of their skin, language spoken, or country of origin.

Across the nation, members of the Latine community are facing unprecedented levels of racial profiling, violence, and unjust detainment, sometimes being forced into prisons or detention centers under inhumane conditions, separated from loved ones, and stripped of the right to live in the places they call home.

The Latinx PDX Employee Resource Group stands in solidarity with Black, Indigenous, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, immigrant, refugee, and other marginalized communities who continue to face systemic discrimination, erasure, and underrepresentation both locally and globally.

The Latinx PDX Employee Resource Group also stands with victims of genocide, forced displacement, famine, war, and rising authoritarianism worldwide, recognizing that global struggles for justice are interconnected with local commitments to equity.

The Latinx PDX Employee Resource Group remains committed to working alongside City bureaus, community partners, and civic leaders to dismantle systems of oppression, expand access to representation, and ensure that all communities can engage fully and meaningfully in Portland's civic life.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PORTLAND

While Portland strives to serve and uplift its Latine and immigrant communities, the ongoing dehumanization, terror, and uncertainty caused by ICE and the Trump Administration continues to inflict profound damage to the metropolitan region that we serve. Stay tuned with what's going on around you, and how we can continue to learn, stand with, and celebrate Latine and immigrant communities.



STRONGER TOGETHER

**SAT, OCT. 25
10:00-11:30 AM
VIA ZOOM**

Learn how to stand with immigrant families during times of crisis, explore ways to strengthen safety and belonging in Oregon, and connect with resources from local community organizations.

ISA PEÑA
Innovation Law Lab

ROMEO SOSA
Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition

Logos: OSTI, INNOVATION LAW LAB, PIRC, UN

The Stronger Together event unites interpreters, language-access professionals, and community leaders to support immigrant and refugee communities in Oregon. Hear from [Isa Peña \(Innovation Law Lab\)](#) and [Romeo Sosa \(Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition\)](#), with [Amanda Wheeler-Kay \(OSTI\)](#) as moderator. Click on the image to register for the event.



[Portland Is a Sanctuary City](#)



[Know Your Rights, Federal Reporting Resources, and Workers Rights](#)



[Consulado de México en Portland](#)



[Resources for Immigrants and Refugees](#)



[Immigrant & Refugee Resource Brochure](#)



[Free Legal Services for Immigrants & Refugees \(240 languages\)](#)

Check out resources by clicking on the image above.



El Tigre FEST

SATURDAY - SÁBADO
OCT. 4, 2025
11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Cook Family Park

El Tigre Fest is Tigard's annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, honoring Latino culture, Filipino History Month, music, food, and community. This free, family-friendly festival brings together the heart of Tigard for a full day of connection, celebration, and cultural pride.



Portland Is Taking Steps To Revoke an ICE Facility's Land Use Permit

City officials say they've uncovered 25 prolonged detentions in violation of its land use permit, which could provide an opening to shut down Oregon's only ICE facility.

Hundreds protest at ICE building after Trump's announcement of troop deployment to Portland

Click on the news titles to learn more.

The [Portland Latin American Film Festival \(PDXLAFF\)](#) serves the community as a non-profit cultural promoter under the guidance of the Hollywood Theatre. We are dedicated to showcasing perspectives of Latin American culture through an exploration of Latin film and increasing the visibility of Latin American cinema locally. PDXLAFF presents films with universal appeal that can be enjoyed by native Spanish, Portuguese, and English speakers, and other lovers of the Latin culture.

PORTLAND IS A SANCTUARY CITY. WHAT EXACTLY DOES THAT MEAN?

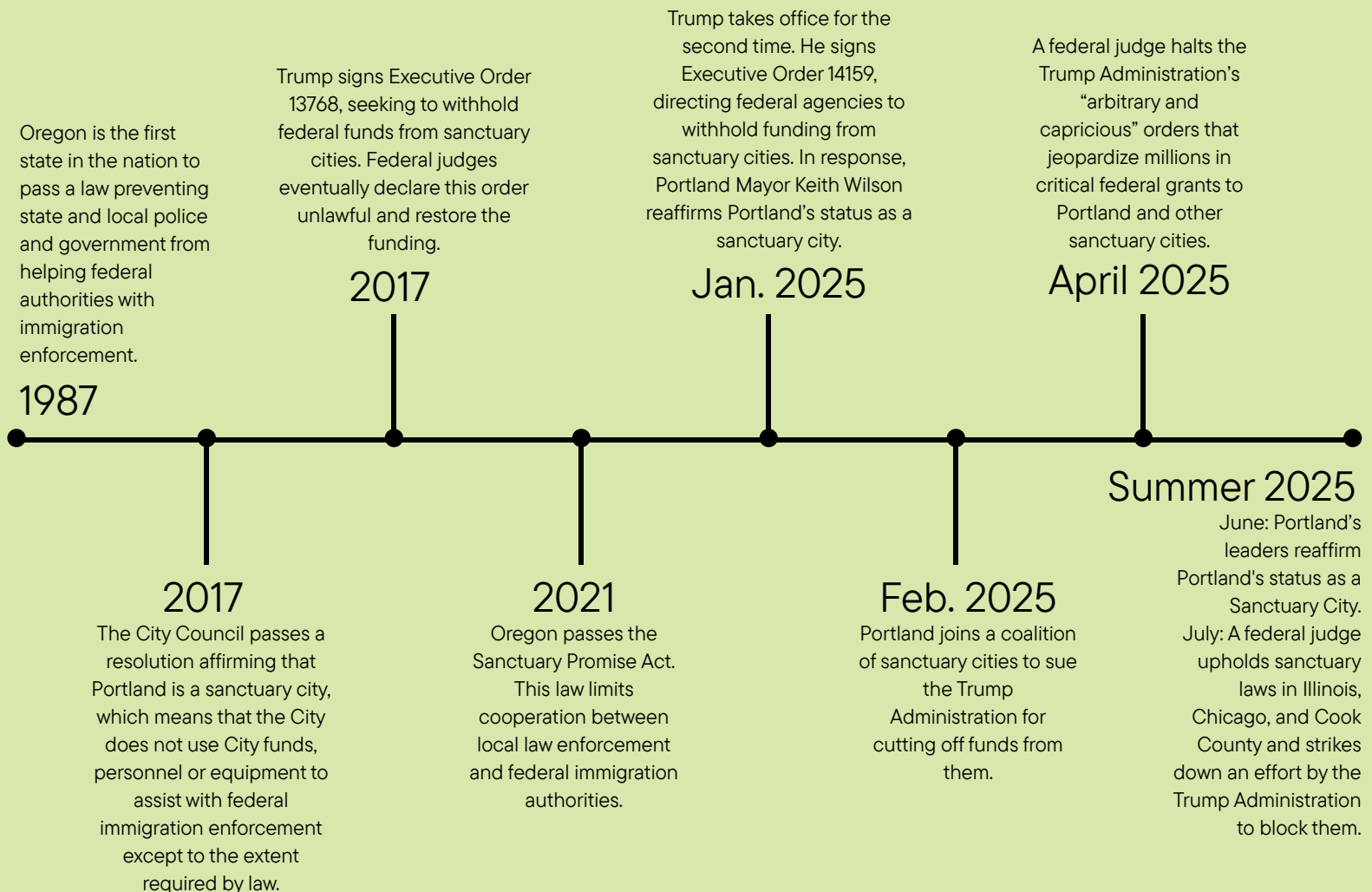
The City Council declared in 2017 that Portland is a sanctuary city. Basically, this means:

- City employees will not enforce federal immigration law. (That includes Portland police officers.)
- Portland police officers will not cooperate with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents except as expressly required by federal law.
- City dollars cannot be spent to enforce federal immigration law.
- City equipment cannot be used to enforce federal immigration law.

There's an important limit: state and federal law override this declaration. If there's a conflict between being a sanctuary city and state or federal law, we have to comply with the law.

Also, the federal government has jurisdiction to operate lawfully in Portland. That means ICE is allowed to enforce immigration law inside the city limits. The City cannot interfere with their work.

SANCTUARY TIMELINE



[find source here](#)

BGCP STAFF BOARD

Birthdays

September:

Rida Arain
Greg Washington
Amanda Rivera

October:

Terry Johnson
Ruth Rivera Perez
Rayanna Seamster
Mandy Tsang

Work Anniversaries

September:

Ruth Rivera Perez – 10 years

Renee Demke – 9 years

Terry Johnson – 5 years

Stacy Wood – 4 years

Erika Gonzalez - 1 year

October:

Danielle Ridenour – 11 years

Mandy Tsang – 6 years

Aja Harris – 5 years

Greg Washington – 4 years

Abraham Pasion – 3 years

Monty Woods – 1 year

New Staff

Marissa Cage,
Senior Director of Donor Relations
(Development Team)

Minh Liu,
Corporate Donors Strategist
(Development Team)

Megan Lewis,
Chief Operating Officer
(Executive Leadership Team)

Em Benoit – Marketing & Community Engagement
Manager (Development Team)

Andre James – Youth Development Coordinator
(Inukai Team)

Promotions & Transitions

Ruth Rivera Perez,
Senior Director of Clubhouses

Jenny Sagrero,
Inukai Club Director

Bella Bohn,
Lead Youth Development Coordinator

Aja Harris,
Blazers Club Director

Abraham Pasion,
Youth Development Coordinator - Teens