

April 10-13, 2022

# GREATER PORTLAND LEADERSHIP Nashville Best Practices Trip



## Overview

For more than thirty years, Greater Portland's civic leaders have been traveling together to other cities and regions seeking tools to improve outcomes in our place. The past year has been challenging for Oregonians as we came together to face the intersecting crises of the COVID pandemic, the racial justice reckoning of the Black Lives Matter movement, and the climate crisis, including wildfires in our state. For Nashville, these crises were compounded by natural disasters and even a Christmas morning bombing that shook their downtown.

Over the decades, we've worked to ensure our trips are more intentional, effective, and inclusive. Now, as our region finds itself in transition --at a crossroads, some would say-- it's more important than ever that we invest as a learning community in increasing our capacity for addressing the various challenges we face, including population growth and housing affordability, congestion and transit investments, and deepening social and economic inequality. Let's journey together to Nashville, Tennessee for a three-day deep-dive into policies & best practices exploring what's working and what's not there and discovering which tools they can share to help Portland grow smarter.

## The questions driving our trip

1. Like Portland, Nashville's biggest challenges are the result of its success. How is Nashville addressing issues of affordability, gentrification, education, and transportation even as it recovers from the COVID pandemic, especially for BIPOC residents and small business owners?
2. Why has Nashville been so successful in attracting headquarters and business expansion? Why, in the same state, is Memphis stagnating and Nashville so dynamic?
3. What is the relationship between Nashville's economy and access to opportunity with the city's identity as an arts & culture hub? How has the young professional component, which is a major factor, changed the ethos of the city? How has the COVID pandemic and the movement for Black Lives Matter affected Nashville's investments in arts & culture?
4. Tennessee's tax system was called "the most regressive in America" by The Atlantic. What is the current thinking about how to remediate this?
5. Effective, equitable governance is a pressing issue for most cities and regions. Portland is considering a change to its city governance model. What lessons can Nashville share with Portland about its move to a consolidated government (Metropolitan Government of Nashville) in the 1960s. How are women and BIPOC leaders shaping the Nashville of the future?



## What's included in my trip fee this year?

We've worked hard over the years to create robust executive-level programming and secure travel deals for participants at a fraction of the cost of standard package tours. In the wake of COVID, costs are fluctuating but we're keeping your fee the same in 2022 as we offered in 2019: **\$775 per person**.

This fee includes:

- A curated schedule of meetings and programs with leading experts from Nashville who can share policies and best practices most relevant to your work
- New online schedule platform (easier access! real time updates! more info about presenters!) + access to our [Greater Portland Best Practices Slack](#)
- Sunday evening welcome reception with hor's d'oeuvres, breakfast and lunch Monday through Wednesday, and a Monday evening banquet
- Group transportation related to the program (charter bus, public transit, shuttle)

What's not included:

- Airfare to and from Nashville or ground travel from Nashville airport to your hotel.
- Lodging and meals not specified above
- Additional special offerings including concerts or the Wednesday afternoon bicycle tour

## Venue

We have 50 rooms reserved at our group rate in the 21C Museum Hotel in downtown Nashville, but you need to [reserve early to ensure you get one at the special rate](#). Our conference hotel will be our home base for this best practices trip, so please try to stay nearby even if you opt to stay elsewhere.

## Packing for study tours

October is one of the best times of year to visit Nashville. We're planning to spend plenty of time exploring Nashville outside a motor coach or conference room. Nashville's business attire is slightly more formal than Portland's (what city's isn't?) but please dress for comfort and flexibility. Prepare for rain but expect abundant sunshine and average temperatures in the warm (57°F to 78°F) range. Nashville has a vibrant nightlife, with temps rarely dropping below 50°F this time of year, so a sweater or light jacket should be sufficient.

## Want to reserve your spot or sponsor this event?

Spaces are limited, so don't wait. Please contact Deborah Johnson [djohnson@melvinmark.com](mailto:djohnson@melvinmark.com) or Randy Miller [randy@producerowllc.com](mailto:randy@producerowllc.com)