

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 or Randy Miller randy@producerowllc.com

Sponsors



*Want everyone to see your name and logo here?
Please let Randy or Debbie know ASAP!*

Planning Team

Name	Organization	Area	Contact Info
Emily Meshumar	Greater Portland, Inc	Economic Development, Business Recruitment, Professional Sports	
Randy Miller	Produce Row LLC	Planning Lead, Logistics, Public Safety	
Sarah Iannarone, Henry Miller, Anouksha Gardner	The Street Trust	Transportation & Urban Development Policy, Indie Music	
Deborah Johnson	Melvin Mark	Logistics Lead: Meals, Lodging, Ground Transportation in Nashville, billing	
Brian Forrester	Lumina Co.	Entrepreneurship, Nashville Liaison	
Dr. Jon Fink	Digital City Testbed Center at PSU,	Urban Sustainability, Vanderbilt University	

Itinerary

Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Please bookmark this page and check back frequently for updates. [You can join our Slack](#) for conversation with your trip organizers and attendees.

Unless otherwise specified, events will be held at and site visits will depart from and return to our conference hotel: **21C Museum Hotel, Downtown Nashville, 221 2nd Ave N, Nashville, TN 37201 | Phone: (615) 610-6400**

Sunday April 10 :: Arrival + Kickoff

Time	Event / Topic	Presenter	Location
12-6 pm	Registration		21C, Main Gallery
4:00	Downtown Orientation Walking Tour	Walk Bike Nashville	Departs from hotel lobby
6:30 - 7:30	Welcome reception with light hors d'oeuvres	Randy Miller	21C, Gallery 2
7:30 - 8:00	Keynote Speaker: Nashville from a 30,000 ft view	Bill Purcell , Former Mayor of Nashville (1999-2007)	21C, Gallery 2

Monday April 11 :: Nashville's Economy

Time	Event / Topic	Presenter	Location
7:00 am	Breakfast		21C, Main Gallery
8:00 - 8:30	Presentation: Economic Overview, Greater Nashville	Ralph Schulz , CEO Nashville Chamber	
8:40 - 9:10	Presentation: Economic Overview, State of TN	TBD , TVA	
9:15-9:30	Coffee break		
9:45 - 10:15	Presentation: Economic Overview, City Level	Courtney Pogue , City of Nashville	
10:30 - 11:45	Panel Discussion: Bipartisan Commitment to Economic Development	TBD , Collier Carl Sprules , Alliance Bernstein	

		Courtney Ross , Amazon	
12:00 - 12:30	Presentation: State Economic Development Overview	Bobby Rolfe , Commissioner State Economic and Community Development	
12:30 pm	Meet in lobby, walk to Assembly Hall	.4 mi walk from hotel to food hall, approx 10 min	
1:00 - 2:00	Lunch: Assembly Food Hall		5055 Broadway Pl, Nashville, TN 37203 Vouchers given to everyone for a variety of vendors, but we have one central place to eat
	Walk to Ryman Auditorium	Directly across the street from the lunch venue	
2:00 -	Ryman Auditorium	David T Buttrey	116 5th Ave N, Nashville, TN 37219
3:00 - 4:30	Panel Discussion & Site Visit: Entrepreneurship at the Nashville Entrepreneur Center		41 Peabody St, Nashville, TN 37219
4:30 - 5:00	Return to hotel (charter available)		
5:00 - 6:30	Afternoon social time, reception with light hors d'oeuvres		21c, room TBD

Tuesday April 12 :: Grappling with the Challenges of Growth

Time	Event	Presenters	Location
7:00 am	Breakfast		21C, room TBD
8:30 - 9:30	"Innovations in Public Safety: Treating Mental Illness as a Health (not criminal) Issue"	Portland DA Mike Schmidt , Portland & Nashville DA Glenn Funk	
9:30 - 9:45	Coffee Break		
9:45 - 11:00	"The Future of Transportation in	Steve Bland , WeGo Public	

	Nashville” Moderator:	Transit Diana Alarcon , City of Nashville DOT Ashley Northington Moving Forward Nashville	
11:00- 12:00	Capturing the benefits of your local indie music scene - a conversation moderated by Meara McLaughlin, Music Portland	Butch Spirriden , Visit Music City Portia Sabin , Music Business Association	
	Charter Bus out of City Center		
	Lunch		
	Mobile Workshop: Data Science for Smart Cities: Gentrification Analysis Group	Vanderbilt University	
	Charter bus back to hotel		
5-6 pm	Afternoon social time, reception with light hors d'oeuvres		21C, room TBD

Weds April 13 :: Wrap Up, Debrief + Ride Around

Time	Event	Presenters	Location
8:00	Breakfast		21C, room TBD
9:30	Panel Discussion: Professional Sports & Tourism		
10:30	Facilitated Debrief Session		
12:00	Lunch		
1:00-3:00	Bike Tour	Walk Bike Nashville	21c Hotel Lobby

Presenter Headshots and Bios

[forthcoming]