

A Statement from the Boise Neighborhood Association Board:
December 22, 2020

References:

- Values Statement (Adopted 2016)
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/50eb6553e4b050fcaaba03a0/t/58b3582f1b631bcf559d5f5/1488148528379/BNA+Value+Statement.pdf>
- December 2020 meeting minutes:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-_QHDCr_vZbRWouX3CdaPDXVSeo6aESXKzigTsEtd9s/edit?usp=sharing

The Boise Neighborhood has experienced intense gentrification, both through gradual market change, but also through explicit exploitation of African American and indigenous community members by institutions, including the City of Portland.

As the country faces another economic recession due to the global pandemic, with the potential for a massive wave of evictions (potentially 45,000 in the City of Portland alone), those most vulnerable in our community are at risk of becoming homeless. Due to systemic oppression, the hardest hit will be communities of color, people with disabilities, elders, LGBTQA members, people with mental illness, and other marginalized community members.

2020 has been plagued with multiple pandemics - COVID 19, natural disasters from coast to coast and unceasing racial injustice. The Boise Neighborhood Association believes in Anti-Racism, which by definition, is opposition to racism in general and is intended to promote an egalitarian society in which people do not face discrimination on the basis of their race. We also support the #BlackLivesMatter core mission “to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes. By combating and countering acts of violence, creating space for Black imagination and innovation, and centering Black joy.”

With this history, current events, and knowing what may be coming, our neighbors are gravely concerned. The people who inhabit what is now called the Boise Neighborhood do not want to see their neighbors become homeless, and are in great fear that this could happen to them. We share a wish for anyone in need to receive fair and equitable support and services from institutions.

Many people in our neighborhood contribute to mutual aid and buy nothing groups, volunteer their time, donate to causes, and lead efforts to improve our community livability. While we sympathize with the frustration and anger brought on by our neighborhood's long history of injustice and painfully slow progress towards healing and repair, we cannot condone violence, vandalism or taking over property as a means to achieve social justice. We want everyone in our community to be able to lead safe and secure lives.

Wishing peace, joy and love to all, this holiday season.