

# COBAAC WORKPLAN 2026-2027



## Community Engagement

In 2026-2027, COBAAC will participate in a variety of Community Engagement opportunities that will raise awareness of the Committee’s work, encourage community to bring timely accessibility issues to COBAAC public comment, and will work in conjunction with the Accessibility Department to ensure that the City is accessible to Bend’s residents and visitors.

Event	Description	COBAAC Members	Date
<b>Breaking Barriers Conference</b>	<b>Individual Member Presentation:</b> Join committee members and staff from the City of Bend’s Accessibility Advisory Committee to discuss advocacy in local government and learn about ways to get involved in your community. A panel discussion will feature committee members’ unique paths to advocacy and include suggestions on how people with disabilities, self-advocates and families can meaningfully engage with local government to ensure access and inclusive representation. The session will conclude with a community listening session, where attendees can discuss challenges and opportunities of engaging with local government, ask questions, and provide feedback about pressing current issues and local government initiatives.	Amanda Hamer John Heylin Andrew Caruana Liz Woodfin Lisa Larsen Cassandra Kehoe	April 21, 2026
<b>Sprout Film Festival</b>	<b>COBAAC Member Attendance:</b> The Sprout Film Festival’s mission is to inspire audiences, promote inclusion and support transformative filmmaking as an important part of social change. This unique event, which focuses exclusively on films that celebrate the diverse lives and creativity of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), strives to challenge assumptions and breakdown stereotypes. By	Aaron Rivers Liz Diether-Martin Stephanie Utzman	May 6, 2026



Event	Description	COBAAC Members	Date
	introducing thought-provoking, powerful films to inclusive audiences, we hope to promote acceptance, celebrate differences and shine some light to help make the invisible, visible.		
<b>Trauma-Informed Lunch + Learn</b>	<b>COBAAC / DEIA Advisory Committee Co-Hosted Lunch and Learn for City of Bend Staff:</b> Through the use of trauma informed policy and practices, City governments have the unique capacity to break cycles of trauma and hardship through their policies and practices by committing to creating environments of healing and resilience. The adoption of trauma-informed public policy is a crucial step towards ensuring that every level of government operates with an awareness of and sensitivity to trauma and its pervasive impact on individuals and communities, with special focus during this lunch and learn on trauma informed practices, specifically in reference to people with disabilities.	COBAAC Members: Amanda Hamer Liz Woodfin Stephanie Utzman  DEIA Advisory Members: Rachel Ruppel TBD	Summer 2026
<b>COBAAC Walk + Roll</b>	<b>COBAAC Hosted:</b> The 2026 COBAAC Walk + Roll is an invitation to all community to join COBAAC while we walk and roll a route designed to highlight successes in accessibility and identify opportunities for improvement and awareness to ensure our streets and sidewalks are inclusive for all users!  The third and fourth annual Walk + Roll events will designate topics pertaining to infrastructure in our City.	Carl Burnett Liz Diether-Martin  Bob Townsend	2026 & 2027
<b>Welcoming Week COBAAC Support</b>	<b>COBAAC Support:</b> Through Welcoming Week, organizations and communities bring together neighbors of all backgrounds to build strong connections and affirm the importance of welcoming and inclusive places in achieving collective prosperity. COBAAC will support the Latino Community Association (LCA) for this event.	John Heylin Liz Diether-Martin Stephanie Utzman	2026 & 2027
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Ongoing:</b> Future COBAAC Opportunities for Community Engagement.	TBD	2026 & 2027



# COBAAC 2026-2027 Initiatives and Advocacy

The following accessibility initiatives are member driven areas of advocacy set out in subcategories below:

## ***Programmatic / Policy Focus***

- Supporting individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities (IDD) access leadership positions through mentorship. Revisit COBAAC Charter to explore inclusion of IDD community within membership. Explore COBAAC's role in development of mentorship program (Amanda Hamer, Andrew Caruana and Carl Burnett).
- Explore COBAAC's role in development of mentorship program (Carl Burnett).
- Develop an engagement process for COBAAC on projects, planning, and infrastructure, throughout the city, at every agency – county level, park district, or private development. Creation of a process will streamline capacity, requirements and member availability (Ian Isaacson).
- Drafting and finalization of a formal COBAAC 'Letter of Support' template to utilize for expedited timelines to reduce editing backlogs (Aaron Rivers).
- Monthly letter campaign: COBAAC sends a timely letter each month to our City of Bend City Manager discussing timely accessibility considerations (John Heylin).

## ***General COBAAC Advocacy***

- Greater collaboration, awareness and intersection with COBAAC's work and advocacy with Bend City Council (Andrew Caruana).
- Digital Accessibility: Review WCAG best practices for digital spaces (Liz Diether-Martin).
- Increased collaboration with other areas of local government, COBAAC sponsorship and participation in ongoing initiatives (Andrew Caruana).
- Explore alternative methods for capturing public comments and feedback from community (John Heylin).
- Explore programming for White Cane Awareness Day activities, specifically for education and transportation constituencies (\*As of June 2026, no COBAAC member sponsorship).
- Creation of accessible exercise classes for people with disabilities at Bend Parks and Recreation facilities (Carl Burnett).
- Monthly features (during COBAAC meetings) of Community Partners engaging in accessibility advocacy work in our community (Liz Woodfin).
- Positive acknowledgement of community groups, organization and individuals supporting accessibility within the Bend Community (Winter Access Awards, certificate of acknowledgement) (John Heylin).

## ***Transportation and Infrastructure***

- COBAAC Participation in the Transportation Safety Action Plan Advisory Committee (Liz Diether-Martin).
- BPRD: Deschutes River Trail South Project Refinement Study Stakeholder Group (Carl Burnett).
- COBAAC Taxi Letter Next Steps: Licensing/Accessibility Taxi Workshop and Listening Session (Carl Burnett).
- Increased enforcement of ADA parking spaces/access-aisles. Exploring enforcement actions and awareness campaigns to curb wrongful parking (Stephanie Utzman and John Heylin).
  - Educational Opportunities: ADA Parking Spaces. (John Heylin)
  - Snow removal, as it pertains to ADA Parking Spaces and Access Aisles
- Explore opportunities for greater sidewalk connectivity programming, possible cost sharing initiatives with property owners and the City of Bend, in addition to snow-removal responsibilities related to sidewalk connectivity (Carl Burnett and Liz Diether-Martin).

## ***COBAAC Assigned Initiatives***

- Transit Conversation: March 2026 City Council Work Session (City Manager Eric King).
- Oregon Housing Needs Analysis (City Manager Eric King).



### **Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities & Language Assistance Services**

You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please email [accessibility@bendoregon.gov](mailto:accessibility@bendoregon.gov) or call **541-693-2198**. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1. All requests are subject to vendor processing times and should be submitted 48-72 hours in advance of events.

### **Servicios de asistencia lingüística e información sobre alojamiento para personas con discapacidad**

Puede obtener esta información en formatos alternativos como Braille, formato electrónico, etc. También disponemos de servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Póngase en contacto en correo electrónico [accessibility@bendoregon.gov](mailto:accessibility@bendoregon.gov) o número de teléfono **541-693-2198**. Los usuarios del servicio de retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1. Por favor, envíe sus solicitudes con 48-72 horas de antelación al evento; todas las solicitudes están sujetas a los tiempos de procesamiento del proveedor.