

October 2025

Willamette Valley Visitors Association
Strategic Investment Fund Grant Request
630 Center Street NE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301

RE: City of Wilsonville/ Explore Wilsonville Wheel the World Assessment Grant Application

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing in *support of the City of Wilsonville/ Explore Wilsonville's grant application for a Wheel the World Assessment and Training*. The City of Wilsonville strives to be an inclusive community for residents and visitors alike. The mission of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is to *"advocate for equitable access and opportunity for every community member. We identify barriers to participation and inclusion, and pursue programs, policies, partnerships and ideas that remove those barriers"*. Explore Wilsonville's Wheel the World assessments and training for hotels, restaurants and attractions increase our efforts to be a welcoming and inclusive community for all.

Wilsonville, including our Explore Wilsonville tourism program, is actively working to improve inclusivity and accessibility for all, including visitors, making this the optimal time to embark on a Wheel the World Assessment. This will support Wilsonville area local businesses, such as hoteliers, attractions and restaurants attract new visitors and become more aware of the needs of travelers with mobility challenges.

The proposed Wheel the World Assessment is an essential project to become a more inclusive destination for visitors. Wilsonville is committed to working with our local hotels, attractions and restaurants to actively participate in the Wheel the World assessment and training. Our late committee member Diane Imel was a fierce advocate for the disabled community. A wheelchair user and accessibility advocate for over 50 years, she would have been pleased to support this project and stress the importance of Wilsonville becoming an accessible destination.

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee respectfully request Willamette Valley Visitors Association fund the City of Wilsonville/ Explore Wilsonville's Wheel the World Assessment and Training Grant Request.

Sincerely,

City of Wilsonville Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee