

Jeri Williams

Jeri Williams is a survivor of prostitution, gangs and drugs endured for over 20 years, and she has been a community activist in Portland for the last 15 years. She organizes and conducts public presentations on issues of environmental justice (EJ), poverty, peace, domestic violence and many other topics of social justice. Throughout her career, she has trained hundreds of community leaders and advocates, and she serves on several boards, task forces and grant making committees.

Jeri is currently the program manager for the Office of Neighborhood Involvement where she manages the contract for the Diversity and Civic Leadership projects that empower immigrants, refugee groups and people of color to take part in civic engagement with the City of Portland. She believes that the right kind of investment makes change for anyone, as it did for her.

Jeri is a member of the Klamath tribe, a mother of 3 and a grandmother of 6. She is the recipient of many prestigious awards including:

In 1997 -The Steve Lowenstein Award for serving poor and underprivileged communities by the City of Portland

In 1998 - The Matthew Gonzales organizing award for outstanding organizing by the Workers' Organizing Committee

In 2004 -The Robert Liberty Regional Leadership Award for EJAG's Oregon Steel Mills Victory

In 2006 - The Alston Bannerman Fellowship Award a National Award for organizers of color which gives the recipient \$15,000 for a sabbatical

In 2008 - The Spirit of Portland Award for working with the City of Portland and neighborhoods to address issues and obtain funding for prostituted women

Also in 2008- Portland Tribune's "Green Giant" Award for her work as an Urban Environmentalist addressing EJ issues on the I-5 projects for the last 10 years