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Lew Bowers Professional Biography

Lew Bowers is the Central City Division Manager for the Portland Development Commission (PDC). PDC is a special purpose government entity whose mission is to bring together resources to achieve Portland's vision of a diverse, sustainable community with healthy neighborhoods, a vibrant urban core, a strong regional economy, and quality jobs for all citizens. With a 50-year record of successful initiatives, an annual budget of about \$262 million, and 220 staff, PDC is widely recognized as one of the most successful public development agencies in the country.

As the Central City Division Manager, Lew is responsible for translating Portland's comprehensive and central city plans into reality. This entails the planning and implementation of comprehensive central city revitalization projects. Core functions of the Central City Division are redevelopment plans and strategies, predevelopment work and client assistance, development projects, public infrastructure projects and urban renewal area management and coordination. This position is responsible for managing six urban renewal districts, a budget of \$94 million, 24 staff and 125 active projects, of which 54 are classified as "major".

Current or recent projects include the \$140 million renovation of the historic Meier & Frank Department store into a new Macy's topped by a 4-star hotel and destination restaurant; renovation of the transit mall to include light rail, through auto traffic and rejuvenated ground level activity along the 20 block length; predevelopment study on building the first high-rise building to meet the "Living Building Challenge" which means using only the solar power which falls onto the site, only the rain water which falls onto the site and handling all of the waste water on-site; revitalizing the Old Town/Chinatown area by building a new home for the 30-year old Portland Saturday crafts Market, a historic renovation for the Portland campus of the University of Oregon and a new headquarters for Mercy Corps.

Lew has over 25 years experience in urban redevelopment having previously worked for the City of Eugene Oregon and New Haven Connecticut.

He has a Masters of Public and Private Management from Yale School of Management and a Bachelor of Arts from Yale College. He also teaches a course on Downtown Development for Portland State University.



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