



### **Mission statement** (from “Town Square” white paper)

To engage OPB’s audience in a participatory experience on the radio and the Web, with a transparent editorial process that explores the culture, ideas and issues that make the Northwest a unique place. This is our “Town Square.”

### **How we describe ourselves** (posted on the “About Us” page on Think Out Loud’s website)

#### **What is *Think Out Loud*?**

We're still working on the one sentence answer — the version we'll trot out at parties when asked where we work. It might be that we're the radio show about the Northwest where you always hear something interesting. Or perhaps the radio show that listens. Or maybe: the radio show with a Northwest heart, a global head and internet fingers. The fuller answer, of course, takes a bit longer. We're a daily show about politics and global issues, music and sports, books and the environment — anything and everything that can sustain an energetic hour of live, unscripted conversation. And, crucially, we're a web site that feeds into — and off of — that radio conversation.

*Think Out Loud* has grown out of the desire to create a space in Oregon and southwestern Washington for civil, engaged, far-ranging civic dialogue. There are news shows, and newspapers, and plenty of places to go if you're looking for opinion, but if you want to hear — and take part in — a daily conversation informed first and foremost by experience, you're out of luck. On the air and on the web, *Think Out Loud* strives to be a show in which listening *to* each other is more important than talking *at* each other.

We want to create a space where surprises are welcomed, entrenched views are challenged, and a globally concerned conversation is expanded by a regional lens. And we want you to hold us to this standard.

We want to hear from you: about show topics and guest suggestions, about articles we may have missed and sites we have to see. We want to hear about your passions and your concerns, your curiosities and questions. We want to know what we're doing right and, even more importantly, what we can do better.

So: welcome. We hope you'll stay a while, commenting and calling and questioning and listening. And who knows: Maybe you can even help boil all of this down in one sentence.