



For Immediate Release

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Portland Saturday Market Press Conference May 16, 2009

APRIL 17, 2009— Portland Saturday Market will hold a celebratory press conference on May 16 from 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. at the Market's new Waterfront Park home near SW Ankeny and Naito Parkway. The event will include a ribbon cutting ceremony led by Mayor Sam Adams and a processional from the old site to the new space led by the Lions of Batucada.

The new Park facility along with the new Legacy Fountain, are part of a \$10 million Waterfront Park Improvement project funded in a collaborate effort of the Portland Development Commission, Portland Parks and Recreation, Portland Parks Foundation and the Port of Portland. The facility includes an 8,000-square-foot open-sided pavilion, a cantilevered deck over looking the river and a circular plaza containing the fountain. As part of the City's Sustainability program there is a bio-swale to capture the rain runoff. The site was design to encourage interaction between the fountain element and the market, and will have the effect of creating a vibrant, custom designed space for the market to operate in for years to come. The improvements to this section of the Park, as well as the move of PSM into the park were direct recommendations of the Waterfront Park Master Plan, drafted in 1974 when the market was in its infancy.

"Speaking on behalf of all 350+ members here at Portland Saturday Market I would like to thank the City of Portland for their steadfast commitment to Saturday Market. Through the generous financial support of PDC, our on-going partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation and the hard work of the many citizens involved we are celebrating the opening of this wonderful new addition to Waterfront Park. By providing a new space for emerging artists and entrepreneurs, the Market Plaza and Legacy Fountain will help secure the continued success of Portland Saturday Market while honoring the historic roots and great diversity of people who helped shape our City along the banks of the Willamette River."- Paul Verhoeven, Executive Director Portland Saturday Market

About Portland Saturday Market

A Portland tradition since 1974 the Market is the largest arts and crafts market in continuous operation in the United States. It is held every Saturday and Sunday from March through Christmas Eve at SW Ankeny + Naito Parkway. The Market has over 350 vendors who generate about \$8 million in gross sales annually and attract over 1 million visitors to the historic Old Town district of Portland each year. All items sold at the Saturday Market are required to be handmade by the person selling it, and a product review committee of members juries each new item against a high standard of quality. The market is accessible by TriMet's MAX line which stops within the market at the Skidmore Fountain stop. Make a \$25 purchase and receive a free TriMet ticket or a two hour parking validation at any Smart Park garage.

In addition, the market has two holiday events:

The *Holiday Artisan Market at Pioneer Courthouse Square*- Dec. 8 thru Dec 11

The *Festival of the Last Minute*, which runs daily Dec. 17 – Christmas Eve.

The **Portland Saturday Market** is a non-profit membership organization which provides an environment that encourages the economic and artistic growth of emerging and established artisans. Central to this mission shall be to operate a marketplace. That marketplace, and other market programs, shall honor craftsmanship, design innovation, marketing ethics and authenticity of product.

For more information visit www.PortlandSaturdayMarket.com

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