



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

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For Immediate Release

Media Contacts:

- Beth Sorensen, PP&R Public Information Officer, 503.823.5300
- Carmen Caballero Rubio, Office of Commissioner Nick Fish, 503.823.3607
- Dina Nishioka, Public Relations Director, Hotel deLuxe, Hotel Lucia and the Sondland Durant Foundation, 503.784.9485

Over two dozen local businesses and individuals help meet challenge to save 2009 Washington Park Summer Festival

Parks Commissioner Nick Fish announces that the challenge to raise \$50,000 to match contributions from Hotel deLuxe, Hotel Lucia, and the Sondland Durant Foundation has been a resounding success

(Portland, OR) – Joined by civic leader Gordon Sondland, the CEO of Hotel deLuxe and Hotel Lucia and co-principal of the Sondland Durant Foundation, and a host of contributors, Parks Commissioner Nick Fish announced this morning that the challenge match to raise \$50,000 and save the Washington Park Summer Festival had been successful.

Over 25 businesses and individuals contributed to the call from Sondland to match his challenge to save the Festival's 2009 season. The \$50,000 in funds to match his challenge had to be committed by May 15 in order to proceed.

With a call to action from KEX Morning Update host Paul Linnman on Friday, May 8, the challenge was greeted with an immediate response from local businesses who wanted to rescue the Festival. By the May 15 deadline, businesses and civic leaders had exceeded the challenge.

"We've had an extraordinary response," Commissioner Fish said, thanking the donors individually. "The support from these businesses and individuals demonstrates how important saving this much-loved Portland tradition is for our community, especially in these tough times. This is an example of what the best kind of private/public partnerships can achieve."

"This is terrific. This is exactly what we had hoped for, said Gordon Sondland. "This shows you what a close-knit community we have and that the people of Portland care about tradition, culture and family."

The successful fundraising effort will enable Portland Parks & Recreation to present the Festival during the first two weeks of August, continuing the 60-year tradition, free of charge for the community to enjoy.

Donors

Sondland Durant Foundation
Hotel deLuxe
Hotel Lucia

Bank of America
Craig Boretz
Starlett & Stephen Brown, NW Securities Advisors LLC
City Center Parking/Greg Goodman
Dewey Dental
FutureWorks Consulting
Kaiser Permanente
Key Bank
Laborers' Local 483
The Irving Levin and Stephanie Fowler Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation
The Mark Spencer Hotel
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Star Park/Schlesinger Companies
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Washington Park Summer Festival Background

The Washington Park Summer Festival was established in 1949 by Dorothea Lensch, the first Recreation Director for Portland Parks & Recreation. The Festival ran in various forms until 1988, when budget restrictions required it to be put on hiatus at that time. The Festival resumed in 2005, when Daimler (formerly Freightliner LLC) partnered with Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) as the Presenting Sponsor of the series.

The Washington Park Summer Festival depends upon private support to offset the production costs for the free performances. The cost for presenting the Festival, which features two weeks of nightly performances, is over \$100,000. When past presenting sponsor Daimler Trucks North America was unable, due to corporate reductions, to continue to support the Festival this year, PP&R has been faced with suspending the festival for 2009.

In past years, performers have included such beloved local artists as Rebecca Kilgore, Curtis Salgado, Janice Scroggins, Curtis Salgado, Lions of Barucada, Charmaine Neville, Reggie Houston, the Portland Festival Symphony, and the Portland Summerfest Opera.

About Hotel deLuxe

Centrally located in Portland, the Hotel deLuxe - named to 2008 and 2009 Condé Nast Traveler's World's Best Hotels list - is unique with its Art Deco style/Art Moderne style complementing 350 black-and-white photographs from the Golden Era of Hollywood Film. This elegant hotel offers personalized guest service and amenities, such as a Pillow Menu and Spiritual Menu. For more information, please contact visit www.hoteldeluxe.com or contact Dina Nishioka at 503.295.2122x223. Reservations are available online or by phone at 866.895.2094.

About Hotel Lucia

Centrally located in the heart of downtown Portland, Hotel Lucia - named to 2007, 2008 and 2009 Condé Nast Traveler's World's Best Hotels list and Travel + Leisure's 500 Best Hotels in the world - offers an art-filled setting steps away from the city's best shopping, restaurants and night clubs. This comfortable hotel provides indulgent and essential amenities, including high-speed wireless Internet access, Aveda bath products, organic coffee and a "Get it Now" button on every hotel phone for the most whimsical desire or typical need. The Hotel Lucia can be found on the Web at www.hotellucia.com. Reservations are available online or by phone at 877.225.1717.

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