



For Immediate Release

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**Local Neighborhood Economic Development Stays Strong
Thanks to Latest Round of Venture Portland Grants**

PORTLAND, Ore. – November 8, 2012 – This week Venture Portland distributed nearly \$30,000 to fund 12 economic development projects in Portland's neighborhood business districts city wide. Projects range from retail-focused *Localize the Season* holiday events to dynamic membership campaigns and a significant storefront vacancy reduction and business retention program – all with direct ties to our local economy. This round of grants will leverage a nearly 4-to-1 match in additional private investment, with an additional \$107,880 raised by business district associations.

"Venture Portland's grants stimulate economic development on a local level and in real time," said Alison Stoll, Venture Portland's Grants Committee Chair and Parkrose Business Association Delegate. "It's incredible to see the immediate positive impact the grants have on our local economy during this critical holiday retail period."

Venture Portland's grants committee, comprised of Venture Portland board members and community stakeholders, evaluated competitive grant submissions to determine business district grant funding. This round of grants included awards in both Economic Development and Benchmark categories. Economic Development Grants strategically focus on creating or retaining jobs, growing neighborhood business revenue and creating new businesses while Benchmark Grants focus on tactical achievements to build strong, vibrant and financially stable business districts. Economic Development grants are awarded annually and Benchmark Grants are distributed twice a year.

Many of the fall/winter grant projects focus on the exceedingly important upcoming retail period, a time to *Localize the Season* and support

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neighborhood businesses. A comprehensive list of *Localize the Season* events in neighborhood business districts is on ventureportland.org/venture-out and a complete list of grant funded activities is below.

Economic Development Grant Award

Business District	Activity	Dates
42 nd Avenue	Storefront Vacancy Reduction and Business Retention Program	November 2012 - September 2013

Benchmark Grant Awards

Business District	Activity	Event Dates
Alberta Street	Tannenbaum Madness/Shop Local Shop Late	November 23 - December 28
Beaumont	Fremont Festival of Lights	December 7
Division/Clinton	Dining on Division/Clinton Cuisine	January 13-February 23
Historic Mississippi	'Mississippi Avenue in a Box' Marketing Campaign	---
Kenton	Online Presence Refresh	---
Multnomah Village	'Golden Ticket' Shop Local Holiday Program	November 16 - December 31
North/Northeast	'Illuminating the Soul' Membership Campaign	---
St. Johns	Business Seminar Series	---
Sellwood/Westmoreland	Decemberville	December 1
Swan Island	Membership Campaign	---
Woodstock	Woodstock Winter Wonderland	December 1

In FY 11-12 Venture Portland provided \$58,075 in grants for 28 business district projects which leveraged \$320,806 in additional private investment, a more than 5-to-1 match. Since 1995 Venture Portland has granted more than \$1 million to fund 372 business district projects, leveraging more than \$3 million in additional private investment in neighborhood business districts city wide.

About Venture Portland

Venture Portland means business. Through grant funds, trainings, and technical assistance the organization invests in the smart, strategic growth of Portland's unique neighborhood business districts. Portland's neighborhood business districts comprise approximately 16,000 businesses and nearly 200,000 jobs. Venture Portland's board leadership comes from diverse business districts city wide that collectively represent local, regional, national, and international demand for goods and services. For more information visit ventureportland.org.