



For Immediate Release

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**Venture Portland Continues to Grow Portland's Economy with
New Round of Neighborhood Business District Grants**

PORLAND, Ore. – April 5, 2012 – Venture Portland is excited to announce the distribution of \$25,150 in grants to Portland's neighborhood business districts for projects ranging from signature events to strong membership campaigns and district identity development. These impressive projects, occurring between April and September 2012, strengthen Portland's economic well-being, focusing on key initiatives spearheaded by Portland's neighborhood business districts city-wide. Venture Portland grants help business districts leverage an additional \$151,208 in private investment, a more than six-to-one match.

"This round of grant applications was exceptional," said Alison Stoll, Venture Portland's Grants Committee Chair and Parkrose Business Association Delegate. "I can't wait to see the impact these dynamic projects have on Portland's neighborhood business districts throughout the entire city, some of which can already be seen by the business associations' ability to leverage impressive investments from external sources that exceed \$150,000."

Grant awards were evaluated and determined by Venture Portland's grants committee, comprised of Venture Portland board members and community stakeholders. This round of grants exclusively funded business district work to accomplish specific benchmark achievements. These benchmarks help business districts meet key milestones to build strong, vibrant and financially stable business district associations. Funded projects range from Portland's iconic summer street fairs and sidewalk sales to dynamic membership drives and business networking and education seminars – economic development that can be seen and enjoyed by Portlanders immediately.

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"Venture Portland grants help make Portland's neighborhood business districts healthy connected places to live, shop, dine and play," said Brian Alfano, Venture Portland's Vice President and South Portland Business Association Delegate. "It really is incredible to see the direct economic results from these projects as they grow our local economy by building awareness, increasing sales and boosting job creation in Portland's neighborhood business districts city-wide."

A complete list of grant funded activities and events are below.

Business District	Activity	Dates
42 nd Avenue	Third Annual 42 nd Avenue Street Fair	Aug 26
82 nd Avenue of Roses	Membership Growth Campaign	April 1-Aug 31
Alberta Street	Small Business Seminar Series	Monthly
Beaumont	Fremont Festival	Aug 4
Belmont Area	"Discover the District" Membership Campaign	April 12-July 1
Division/Clinton	20 th Annual Division/Clinton Street Fair	July 28
Hillsdale	Hillsdale Street Banners	April 1-Aug 31
Historic Mississippi	Fourth Annual Cirque Du Cycling	June 16
Kenton	Third Annual Kenton Street Fair	May 20
Midway	Membership Drive and Open House	April 1-June 12
Midway	End of Summer Cruise-in	Sept 16
Multnomah Village	Building Strong Membership Drive & Mixers	June 1-Sept 7
NE Broadway	NE Broadway Summer Super Sale	July 20-22
Woodstock	2012 Community Pride/Beautification Project	June

The awarding of funds during this grant cycle marks the completion of Venture Portland's inaugural year of its revamped and robust grants portfolio. The updated portfolio effectively diversified the organization's grants into three funding streams – allowing business districts to apply for: Economic Development Grants for up to \$6,000 each, available once each year; Benchmark Grants for up \$2,000 each, available twice annually; and Start-up Support Grants, one-time funding for emerging districts, available for up to \$250 throughout the year.

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In FY 2011-12 Venture Portland granted almost \$70,000 in funds for 31 business district projects, leveraging more than \$250,000 in additional private investment. Since 1995 Venture Portland has granted nearly \$1 million to fund 363 business district projects. These funds leveraged almost \$3 million in private investment in neighborhood business districts.

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 30 diverse business districts city-wide that collectively represent local, regional, national, and international demand for goods and services. For more information visit ventureportland.org.

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