



Joey Pope Award for Parks Leadership

2023 Nominees

presented and celebrated by:



Portland Parks Foundation

Vision

People flourish with thriving parks. We help Portland communities create more equitable access to nature, play, health, and places of connection.

We help people help parks.

Mission

The Portland Parks Foundation mobilizes support to improve Portland's system of parks, natural areas, and public spaces.

We believe in the power of these places to strengthen communities, address historic inequities, and create a sense of belonging for everyone in Portland.

We seek transformational change by listening to communities and rally resources and opportunities to help realize their vision.

We collaborate with individuals, community groups, organizations, and institutions to develop long-term, sustainable improvements to the livability and beauty of our city.

We work to create the broadest possible access to recreation, creativity, education, and play in our parks and open spaces.



Joey Pope's volunteerism on show.

The Joey Pope Award for Parks Leadership

The Joey Pope Award for Parks Leadership is granted to an emerging leader, organization, or initiative to promote greater innovation and accessibility in Portland's system of parks and open spaces. The honoree receives a \$10,000 grant to advance their work plus customized technical assistance in partnership with PPF.

Guided by the belief that parks and the outdoors are for everyone and an essential part of life in the Northwest, Josephine (Joey) Pope has devoted over four decades of her life to activism, philanthropy, and leadership in making Portland's parks system more accessible to all. Her work has ranged from developing the Hoyt Arboretum Visitors' Center in the 1980s to establishing Holly Farm Park in the '90s to launching the effort to establish Leach Botanical Garden as the "Arboretum for the outer east side." Joey chaired the Vision 2020 Task Force to create the 20-year blueprint for Portland's parks system and was founding chair of the Portland Parks Foundation. In partnership with Joey and the Pope Family, the Portland Parks Foundation has established The Joey Pope Award for Parks Leadership in 2022.

The Portland Parks Foundation (PPF) is proud to celebrate another year of nominees - all leaders in their own right. PPF received 11 nominations from across Portland. As the reader will see, these nominees show off the diverse ways Portland's parks and green spaces can be ameliorated for the sake of all Portlanders - through shared music and dance, through food justice, through wellness- and trauma-informed recreation, through collective education and knowledge sharing, through caring for tomorrow's seeds, and through tending to tomorrow's adults, today in their youth - be it on the trail, on a bike, or hands dirty, tending the earth.

This award is made possible by the Pope Family and by more than 200 donors whose generous contributions created the Josephine Pope Fund for Parks Leadership.

AWARDEE Black Futures Farm

Black Futures Farm is both a community-building and production farm, where they grow meaningful relationships alongside vegetables, fruits, and herbs. They work on 1.15 acres with 17 different fruit trees, vegetables, flowers, medicinal and cooking herbs in the Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood, unceded Clackamas and Multnomah First Nations Territory. Black Futures Farm is a program of the Black Food Sovereignty Coalition, and their main goal is to heal the connection between Black people and the land. They achieve this by cultivating a healthy place for the Black community to gather in joy.

Innovative, Intentional Programing & Advancing Equity

Everything Black Futures Farm provides promotes intentional, experiential learning opportunities for farm workers and volunteers to better understand the history of land stewardship and their relationship to the land and community. Starting in May and ending in October, every Sunday is Black Sunday, a day for Black-identified folks to gather, celebrate, learn, and grow together. To deepen its vision, the farm is currently innovating programming based in wellness, clean energy and culturally affirming practices. These programs center the land as the source of knowledge, healing, and hope, and challenge white-centered and conservationist ideals around the environment.



Support this work and learn more:
<https://blackfutures.farm/>

NOMINEE

**Brent
Atchley**
Push Movement

Brent Atchley is the Founder and Executive Director of Push Movement, a non-profit which promotes holistic, peer-based pathways to recovery, developed from the culture of skateboarding, and open to individuals in all stages of change. Brent is a Portland native, professional skateboarder and identifies as in recovery. He believes that everyone should have equal access to recovery services and believes strong mentoring empowers sustained sobriety. You can see Brent mentoring youth at p:ear, Outside In and Harmony Academy, and when he isn't mentoring kids, he is out around Portland with Push Movement participants promoting health and community.

**Partnering to Increase Equitable
Access to Recreation**

While Brent's work is focused on personal relationship building, it stretches to have a community impact. His mentorship puts him in close contact with community members seeking deeper personal development, and is able to promote access to needed resources. Through his partnerships, he has advocated for wheelchair access at the Burnside Skatepark, worked with the Oregon Food Bank to provide food at Push events, and worked with PBOT on activation of their pocket plazas.



NOMINEE

Green Lents

Green Lents' mission is to cultivate a thriving, resilient, and environmentally just Lents community through engagement, education and collective action. From beginning as a community group in 2009, to formalizing as a nonprofit in 2012, they have been dedicated to providing opportunities for leadership development, community building and organizing, education, placemaking, urban habitat restoration and stewardship in and around the Lents neighborhood. Their goal is to engage the diversity of their community to ensure inclusive accessibility, grow a neighborhood resiliency model that builds power and does not leave behind the community's most vulnerable members.

Innovative Programming and Coalition Building

The Green Lents' team is as wide as their community. They have created unique opportunities for neighbors to not only learn about natural ecologies, but they have created a connective tissue across issue areas. Their projects include a Community Tool Library and Resource Hub, Gardening Aids such as garden swaps and seed sharing, tending the Malden Court Community Orchard. Additionally, their work provides youth internships, extended pollinator habitats, and community organizing around air quality and livability in a community that has been historically marginalized and under-funded.



NOMINEE

Jayanika Lawrence

Friends of Zenger Farm

Jayanika (Jai) Lawrence is the Youth Education Program Manager at Friends of Zenger Farm, where they lead a team of 7 educators. Zenger Farm's youth programming provides low-barrier access to environmental education, particularly to the outer Southeast Portland neighborhoods surrounding Zenger Farm. Jai's educational approach seeks to challenge traditional exclusionary practices, focusing instead on building connections to the natural world, increasing awareness of ecology and biology, and providing trauma-informed nature-based curriculum.

Culturally-Informed Approaches and Partnerships

After hearing feedback from Zenger Farm's neighborhood members, Jai and their team helped develop more culturally responsive family programming, uplifting culture, herbalism, and land stewardship. Honoring natural cycles, Jai helped develop monthly activities dependent on what seasonal resources are available, including spring gardening, nature crafting, canning and fermentation, summer gardening, and seed saving. Their work has also brought Zenger into partnership and alignment with Indigenous knowledge and histories, native plant ecosystems, and emergent labor practices to sustain staff's health and time.



NOMINEE

Dean Dickinson

Skaters for Portland Skateparks

Dean Dickinson has been advocating for public skateparks in Portland for over 20 years. He served on the Skatepark Leadership Advisory Team, helping the City create their Skatepark Master Plan. Dean Dickinson is a board member for Skaters for Portland Skateparks, a nonprofit whose mission is to maintain safe, fun and challenging skateboarding zones which are freely accessible to every skateboarder. Dean collaborates with the City of Portland to help all extreme sports athletes access public skateparks and leadership opportunities. Within Portland Parks, Dean has helped bring 8 public skateparks to Portland.

Increasing Access and Building Partnerships

Through his leadership at Skaters for Portland Skateparks, Dean advocates for skateparks to be more inclusive of different groups, activities, and ability levels. Dean's relationship with the City of Portland, various neighborhood associations, non-profits, local design/build skatepark construction teams, and community members allows him to collaborate, address community needs, and bring skateparks to underserved communities.



Support this work and learn more:
<https://zengerfarm.org/>

NOMINEE

**Juntu
Capistrano
Oberg**

Northwest Trail Alliance

Juntu Capistrano Oberg is a current Board Member and President Emeritus of Northwest Trail Alliance (NWTa). NWTa is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advocating for trail access for all; promoting responsible biking, and building, maintaining, and riding sustainable trails. After learning to ride a bike as an adult, Juntu quickly discovered the joy that comes with not only being outside, but being outside on a bike, on trails. Since then she has dedicated her time with NWTa to creating robust off-road cycling opportunities close to the urban core for kids to find this joy in their own neighborhood.

**Increasing Partnership
and Equitable Access**

When not working on programming for the young participants, Juntu has initiated and strengthened NWTa's partnerships with numerous community organizations, land managers and regional partners to advance trail access. Recognizing that historically marginalized groups' barriers to outdoor recreation activities are multi-faceted, Juntu's work at NWTa has promoted equity by ensuring that training and coaching could be acquired through low-cost programming and scholarships, even procuring a loaner fleet of bikes and helmets through community donations. But, Juntu has also been devoted to ensuring that more NWTa volunteers and instructors are women or BIPOC, so that communities often marginalized from programming can see themselves actively represented on bikes and on the trail.



NOMINEE

Maritza Oropeza Kritz

Latino Outdoors Portland

Maritza Oropeza Kritz is a volunteer Environmental Educator and Ambassador with Latino Outdoors Portland. Spurred on by the lack of access to outdoor experiences in her youth, Maritza is compelled to remove barriers for youth of color to hiking and environmental education. For the last three years Maritza has worked with the United States Refugee Resettlement program in Portland, leading outings to help immigrants and refugees get outdoors. As a Latino Outdoors leader and Ambassador, she hopes to provide underprivileged youth and BIPOC access to the freedom that the outdoors brings, all while advocating for the conservation of the natural world.

Advancing Equity and Coalition Building

For two years, Maritza has organized a snowshoeing trip partnered with Mount St. Helens Institute to introduce youth to winter recreation. This last year she partnered with Every Child PDX to extend the opportunity to youth in the Foster Care System. Latino Outdoors Portland partnered with Surf Rider Foundation last year to organize a beach clean up and kayaking trip on the Oregon Coast. For many of the participants this was their first time kayaking.



Support this work and learn more:
<https://latinooutdoors.org/>

NOMINEE

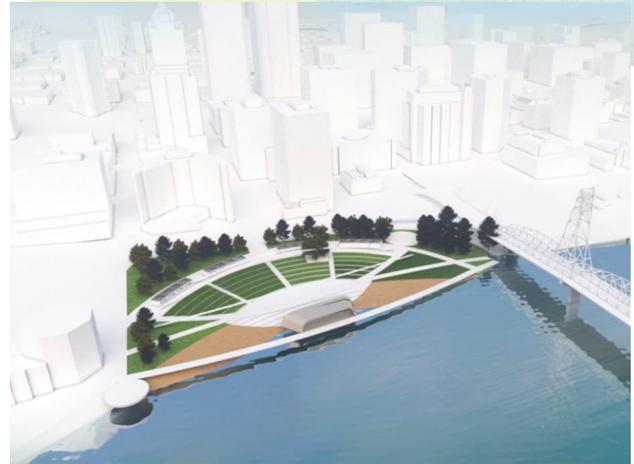
Peter Johnson

Portland Waterfront Pavilion

Peter Johnson is Board Chair and Managing Director of the Portland Waterfront Pavilion project. This new project concept reimagines the Bowl at Waterfront Park as a sustainable gathering place, connection point to place and to people, and an opportunity to focus on parks as central to the health and vitality of our city. The project aspires to create a unique space for arts, performances, classes, and cultural celebrations.

Innovative Programming and Partnerships

Peter's work has long focused on creating new experiences for those that love the outdoors, combined with his passion for photography. He created the International Outdoor Festival, the Boardrider Project, The 4Adventure Tour, and Captured52. His work with the Portland Waterfront Project is partnering with the private sector as well as cultural arts communities to create an engaging and sustainable experience informed by placemaking models which rethink public space design and activation strategy.



Support this work and learn more:
<https://www.portlandwaterfrontpavilion.com/>

NOMINEE

Prashant Kakad

Prashant Kakad has organized over 300 community events focused on world music and culture in Portland since 2009. In 2022, he started the nonprofit Dance United with board members Snehal Bodke and Liesel Svedlund in order to use music and dance to celebrate the lives of immigrants, BIPOC communities, and all people everywhere. With over decades of experience and engagement with the community, they are able to provide new, richly contextualized programming in parks and plazas that is free and welcoming to all ages.

Innovative Programming and Advancing Equity

Dance United's unique programming brings the power and energy of music and dance to new audiences. A new free after school program called "Dance Your Science" creatively combines Green Chemistry lessons with interactive dance methods to increase learning impacts for more sustainable living. Out in the community, Dance United hosts Multicultural Block Parties providing a platform for members of historically marginalized groups a place to express their culture and advance neighborhood conversation in a supportive environment.



NOMINEE

Rain Pollock

Ladies of the Rose

Rainezra is a 24-year old nonprofit and business owner who has been curating and hosting events since high school. She is driven to bring people together and inform communities about new opportunities and resources in the realm of music and performing arts. As a young mixed female musician, she spent many years not able to access the resources she needed to excel in her career as a performer. Informed by this experience, her work highlights under-21 musicians, while providing them free mentoring and opportunities. She also has a passion for providing resources to any group of minorities that do not have easy access to music education.

Developing New Approaches and Building Partnerships

Rainezra's non-profit, Ladies of the Rose, focuses its creative work on partnerships - collaborating with other businesses and non-profit organizations to connect communities. Her current work on Spring Fest Connects will be a two-day, live-music festival featuring local Portland artists of all ages and genres, from pop to punk. With drag performers, dancers, live painters, vendors and live music from over 50 performers including full bands, solo performers and DJs - the festival promises to be a unique experience.



Support this work and learn more:
Website: <https://www.ladiesoftherose.com/>

NOMINEE

Urban Nature Partners PDX

Urban Nature Partners PDX was founded in 2014 to empower youth in 3rd through 8th grade from historically marginalized Portland populations by building connections to nature and community through long-term mentoring relationships. UNP fills a gap in services for upper elementary and middle school youth in the Portland metro area by providing services that are relationship-based, long-term, culturally relevant, and driven by youth choice rather than a rigid curriculum. In 2022, UNP led 18 group outings for youth and their families around Portland, and UNP youth in total spent approximately 1,500 hours engaged in the outdoors.

Innovative Programing and Increasing Equitable Access

UNP's long-term one-to-one mentoring model allows space to develop comfort and meaning outdoors over time. By Including families, UNP's programs expand access and increase the probability that participants will feel empowered to engage with those places and activities on their own. They also work to leverage the existing programming of other community organizations to address unique needs to be an intermediary pathway to youth's comfort, growth, and success in their outdoor interests. Their goal is to uniquely prepare their participants for teen leadership and adult employment opportunities in the field.



Support this work and learn more:
<https://urban-nature-partners.org/>