



# Portland Parks Foundation

## Small Grant Recipients



Fall 2022

The Portland Parks Foundation's **Small Grant Program** awards financial support to community-based organizations within the city of Portland who foster equitable access to our urban parks, natural areas, community gardens and community recreation centers. The program was founded on a generous bequest from Nancy Hebb Freeman, an artist, hiker and lover of Portland parks.

Our motto is “**We help people help parks**” because we know that our parks support so many of our personal and community needs. Parks can improve mental and physical health, serve critical green infrastructure functions, contribute to economic development, act as links in transportation networks, host cultural and social activities, and help give communities a sense of place.

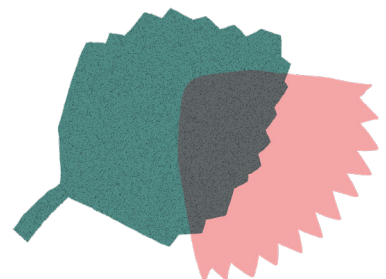
Yet many Portland residents still lack equal access to parks that feel welcoming and safe. They struggle to find well-maintained parks that are designed and programmed to meet their particular needs, based on input from their community.

With our small grants, PPF focuses on the people and organizations working to fill these gaps. We intentionally prioritize organizations supporting low-income populations, communities of color, and other historically marginalized groups.

Grants are reviewed and selected by a community-led review committee.

**This fall, 12 grants were awarded for a total of \$24,000.**

Thank you to Portland Parks & Recreation Community Partnership Program and U.S. Bank for helping to support PPF's 2022 Small Grants Program.



# Black Food Sovereignty Coalition

The Black Food Sovereignty Coalition is a collaborative hub for Black and Brown communities to strengthen community food systems, transform cultural spaces, and conserve resources. One way the coalition achieves this mission is with the Black Futures Farm, located in the Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood.

Black Futures Farm blends community-building and farm production with the goal of healing the connection between Black people and the land. To reach this goal, Black Futures Farm holds Black Sunday events, a day for Black-identified folks to gather, celebrate, learn, and grow together.

PPF's \$2,000 grant will support Black and POC artists in creating banners and signs for the farm and their farmers markets stand.



## Dance United



Dance United brings people together through diverse music, dance and art. They focus on creating free or low-cost community centered events through three primary programs: music in nature, multicultural dance festivals, and dance your science. The goals of these programs are to provide free, outdoor events that combine environmental education; multicultural music and dance in nature; connect music and culture from around the world; mentor and highlight immigrant and BIPOC artist; and provide afterschool workshops that integrate science and culture through dance.

PPF's \$2,000 grant will support Dance United's general operating, to continue their work of bringing the community together through multicultural outdoor events and youth workshops.



# Haki Community Organization

Haki Community Organization is an advocacy, education, and empowerment resource for Swahili-speaking East African immigrants and refugees. Prior to the pandemic, Haki regularly organized trips for youth and their families to explore and access Portland Parks. They brought youth to the Southwest Community Center at Gabriel Park to play soccer and access the outdoor and indoor recreational activities. These “Park Day” activities were driven by the belief that providing activities for physical health helps prevent and lower gang participation, as well as provides a space for families to build community.

PPF’s \$2,000 grant will help restart Haki’s youth programming, previously shut down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The funding will support transportation and entrance fee costs, and help rehire local soccer coaches to guide their Friday night soccer games and lessons.



## Parkour Visions

Movement and play are critical for our physical, mental and social health. Lack of time, location and transportation, social and culture context, emotional concerns and cost can often create major barriers to accessing movement and play. Parkour Visions offers community-specific programming and class scholarships to help people overcome these barriers.

Parkour utilizes obstacles to navigate space creatively and/or efficiently. Requiring no specialized equipment allows the art to be practiced anywhere in the natural or urban environment. It is an all-ages sport that can be practiced collaboratively, competitively, or independently.

PPF’s \$2,000 grant will help Parkour Visions provide free or reduced-cost classes for 12 additional students in Portland parks.

# Push Movement

Push Movement’s mission is to promote holistic, peer-based pathways to recovery – built from the culture of skateboarding. While this organization primarily helps people in their recovery journey, they also focus on youth prevention. Through working with youth skaters, Push Movement has coordinated with houseless youth to help support program tenants by creating a safe and accessible space for participants to explore different parks around the Portland Metro area.

One of the curricula they offer is a monthly youth skate program at various skateparks in the greater Portland area. This programming allows the younger generation to experience Portland Parks, offering a creative outlet through play, while promoting health and fitness.

PPF’s \$2,000 grant will help fund skate board equipment and staffing costs for their monthly youth skate program in 2023.



# Scott School Basketball

The Scott School Basketball Program uses basketball to create a positive after school environment to develop physical and social skills, and self-esteem for children. Scott School is located in the Cully neighborhood and has a large population of low-income and students of color. The program is volunteer run, however there are costs associated with league fees, uniforms and equipment.



The goal of the program, coached by long time physical education teacher and basketball coach, Ken Lee, is not to win games but to ensure all students are included – developing team cooperation and individual growth.

PPF’s \$2,000 small grant will help defer some of the registration fees for children, decreasing barriers to participation.

# SMART Reading



SMART Reading envisions an Oregon where all children meet their potential through reading. Reading is an early gateway skill that paves a path for future success, for the individual and the whole community. SMART Reading realizes this vision by giving children access to free books and organizing volunteer-led shared readings.



PPF's \$2,000 small grant will support two summer book giveaways at local parks, where SMART Reading will distribute free books and food for 100 children at each event.

The giveaway will specifically offer books to low-income, students of color and other historically marginalized students. Children can select from a wide range of books, featuring characters of color, culturally-inclusive content, and books in languages other than English.

## Tiger Tiger: A Celebration of the AANHPI Community

Tiger Tiger: A Celebration of the AANHPI Community was created as a space of healing and coalition-building in response to increased violence against the AANHPI community and businesses. Tiger Tiger's mission is to reassert the dignity, humanity, and right to belong for AANHPI in the greater Portland Area. The event creates a space for the AANHPI community to share issues that demand action, imagine solutions and ideals, and empower through unification and spiritual healing.

On Saturday, July 15, 2023, Tiger Tiger, Oregon's largest AANHPI celebration, will take place in Fernhill Park. This free event will feature 5 AANHPI-led musical acts, an interactive mural, and 8 AANHPI food vendors.

PPF's \$2,000 small grant will help increase the AANHPI food options and pay for longer performances, adjustments that were made in response to their 2021 attendance survey feedback.



# Vanport Placemaking

The goal of Vanport Placemaking is to protect and share the cultural history of the people who inhabited the Delta Park site. Many visitors to the area don't know the history of the land, home to Native Americans for thousands of years followed by a city of over 40,000, with many culturally diverse communities. Marking this site with permanent signs and sculptures helps tell these stories.

PPF's \$2,000 small grant will support the purchase of an audio box dedicated to telling the stories of the Delta Park site residents, increasing overall awareness and access for visually impaired individuals. The audio box will share stories of the tribal nations and their cultural heritage and the many stories about the Black community in Vanport.



## Ventura Park PTO

The mission of Ventura Park Elementary PTO is to support Ventura Park Elementary by enriching student education, and creating a sense of community. The school garden aims to build community by creating nature spaces that are welcoming to the broader community and are accessible to all.

The garden program at Ventura Park Elementary is in partnership with Grow Portland. The garden teacher, supported by Grow Portland, brings students into the garden with dedicated, culturally specific programming – allowing all students at the school to attend garden classes monthly.

PPF's \$2,000 grant will help fund the garden teacher role and expand garden programming into the community by inviting the neighborhood into the garden twice each fall and spring for garden parties.



# Wild Diversity



Wild Diversity's mission is to create a personal connection to the outdoors for Black, Indigenous, all People of Color (BIPOC) & the LGBTQ2S + communities, through outdoor adventures and education. One major area Wild Diversity aims to meet this mission is through their youth programming, where they provide hands-on events conducted entirely outdoors.



In 2023, Wild Diversity is expanding their youth programming to include workshops for BIPOC families with elementary aged children. Topics will include plant and animal identification, cooking and hiking in the outdoors, navigation, camping basics and making art with nature. Starting in late spring, Wild Diversity will offer 10 evening and full-day family workshops for 10-20 participants.

PPF's \$2,000 small grant will help cover staff time to develop the workshops.

# Willamette Riverkeeper

Willamette Riverkeeper works to protect and restore the Willamette River, providing access to a safe, healthy river for everyone. Each year, the organization hosts "Spring For Your River" clean-ups. The cleanups run from Earth Day to the end of May, spanning several locations throughout the valley. In 2022, Willamette Riverkeeper successfully ran 6 volunteer cleanup events, cleaning 64 yards of trash and 13 yards of invasive plants.

In 2023, Willamette Riverkeeper hopes to increase the number of cleanup events from the previous year. PPF's \$2,000 grant will support their effort in funding more Portland-based clean-ups.

