



Portland Parks Foundation

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PRESS RELEASE

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PASEO

A Community Gathering on the South Park Blocks 4-10pm on Friday, August 27, 2021 1-10pm on Saturday, August 28, 2021

(PORTLAND, OR) – [The Portland Parks Foundation](http://ThePortlandParksFoundation.org) (PPF) is proud to present [Paseo](http://Paseo.org): a two-day community gathering in the South Park Blocks to boldly reawaken downtown. A unique new take on a downtown arts festival, Paseo will honor and amplify the grassroots aid groups serving the Portland community. It will feature music, spoken word, visual arts, artisans, and food vendors, and other creative arts. It is PPF's way of celebrating our 20th anniversary. Paseo will showcase the creativity and resilience of the city's diverse communities in the verdant setting of our oldest parks.

The concept of Paseo was developed through a series of conversations "[Reimagining Downtown](http://ReimaginingDowntown.org)" with nationally known thought leaders on spatial justice and public memory. PPF followed these with small, intensive "Think Tank" discussions with Portland-based BIPOC artists, arts leaders, and mutual aid groups, among them, Lift Urban Portland, Friends of Noise, The Numberz, Darrell Grant, Anthony Hudson, the Portland Art Museum, Converge 45, MusicPortland, Creative Laureate Emeritus Subashini Ganesan, and others. What evolved is a new model for a downtown arts festival: a trauma-informed healing event designed to honor our city's diverse artists, community advocates and mutual aid groups.

Paseo will bring to the forefront established and grassroots mutual aid groups like Blanchet House, Lift Urban Portland, Community Power Pods PDX, Meals on Us, P:ear, Snack Bloc, and many others who serve our communities with innovative, person-to-person programs. Paseo will feature music, spoken word, theater, dance, and visual arts installations. There will be food and market stalls/carts with a focus on BIPOC vendors. Woven into all will be tabling, info stations, and call-outs of various kinds to many of the grassroots aid groups that have worked so hard for our community.

With PGE leading as presenting sponsor, Paseo is generously supported by more than 35 other contributors, among them, The Miller Foundation, The Standard, City of Portland, Melvin Mark, Moda, US Bank, North Star Civic Foundation, Howard S. Wright Construction, Umpqua Bank, ACME, Prosper Portland, Portland Business Alliance, Nike, Portland State University, and Northwest Natural. Oregonlive and Willamette Week are among the media sponsors.

The list of participating artists and vendors will be released in early August. The event is open to all and free to attend. Covid-19 protocols will be announced in advance of the event.

Bring your family and friends. Let's take a walk – together.

WHAT: Paseo

WHERE: South Park Blocks, 1436 SW Park Ave, Portland, OR 97201

WHEN: 4-10pm on Friday, August 27, 2021

1-10pm on Saturday, August 28, 2021

EVENT PAGE: paseopdx.org