



Small Grant Recipients

Spring 2023



presented and celebrated by:

Portland Parks Foundation

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.



**We help
people
help parks.**

PPF's Small Grants Spring Cycle

This Spring, PPF received over 20 applications for our Small Grants, a grant program aimed at benefiting programs, projects, and general operations of local organizations bringing communities to parks and improving our parks. This cycle 12 organizations each received a \$2,000 grant thanks to partial funding from Portland Parks & Recreation's Community Partnership Fund and a generous bequest from Nancy Hebb Freeman.

From this cycle's 12 recipients, we see some continued, foundational work of ongoing programs, as well as new growth and initiatives taking root in communities. Four of these projects are partnering with PP&R's Free Lunch + Play or Summer Free for All, which seeks to provide engaging activities and a good lunch to students around the city who otherwise would be food insecure outside of school year provisions. Many of the programs and organizations you'll see below are developing essential community assets (gardens, food sources, places for rest and reflection), strengthening ties and stewardship of city parks. And lastly, you'll see a few partners focusing specifically on Portland's waterways as a connector of people to people and of people to a sense of place.

To learn more about PPF's Small Grants Program [click here](#).

Congratulations to all of our recipients! We're excited to partner with you and make Portland's parks and green spaces more accessible, more exciting, and more deeply appreciated.

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| Bookmobile Babe | Friends of Pier Park | Rose City Rollers |
| Black Parent Initiative | Independent Publishing Resource Center | Roseway Heights Middle School PTA |
| Columbia Slough Watershed Council | Municipal Eco Resiliency Project | Sail2Change |
| Friends of Brooklyn Park | Prose Before Bros | Ukrainian Foundation |

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Bookmobile Babe

Program: Free Summer Reading Camp

In partnership with PP&R's Free Lunch + Play

The Bookmobile Babe team is easily recognized by their unique bookmobile in which employees and volunteers drive to different areas of Portland and the surrounding areas to provide book exchanges, after-school programs, school literature and learning activities, and community programs. The goal of Bookmobile Babe is to provide both free physical books and free literature activities to children in low-income areas and children of marginalized communities to increase their access to books and the joy of reading.

During the summer, Bookmobile Babe partners with PP&R as part of its Free Lunch + Play program - for the sixth year in a row - to offer a free, 8 week (1 day/week) summer program at Lents, Columbia, and Gateway Discovery Parks.

This PPF grant will help Bookmobile Babe by providing them with much needed funding in order to expand their summer reading camp from 1 to 3 parks this year. This year they have a new Japanese Fire Truck bookmobile, and the grant will help pay for operation and driver costs.



To learn more and support their work [click here.](#)

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Black Parent Initiative

Program: Family Fun Day and Concert in Alberta Park
In partnership with PP&R's Free Lunch + Play

Since 2006, the mission of Black Parent Initiative has been “to educate and mobilize the parents and caregivers of African American, African, Black, and African American Multiracial children to ensure they achieve success.” Today, BPI is the only culturally specific, community-based, nonprofit organization in Oregon focused solely on supporting Black and African American families with children ages 0-18 in the state of Oregon.

BPI is once again bringing community, culture, family, and fun together as they host a Family Fun Day and Concert in The Park at Alberta Park on August 17, 2023 in partnership with PP&R's Summer Free For All. This free and open to all event will feature JuJuBa, a Nigerian Afrobeat's group as the main artist, interactive options (including STEAM activities, face painting, arts and crafts, and more), back-to-school supply giveaways, family resources, and great food.

PPF's Small Grant will help support activity materials and resources, live musicians and entertainment, community outreach, and documentation of the event.

To learn more and
support their work
[click here.](#)

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Columbia Slough Watershed Council Program: Bilingual Paddle Program

The Bookmobile Babe team is easily recognized by Columbia Slough Watershed Council (CSWC)'s mission is to protect and enhance the 60 miles of lakes, wetlands, and slow-moving channels that make up the Columbia Slough through community engagement, education, and restoration. Their efforts focus on supporting communities that have been marginalized and teaching the next generation of stewards how to get involved in the environment through education and stewardship.

PPF's \$2,000 grant will support this year's Bilingual Paddle Program. In 2022 CSWC hosted 33 free paddling events, 23 of which were exclusively for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color participants, 3 were in Spanish, and 2 were in Ukrainian and Russian. At these events, the goal is to create a safe space where marginalized groups feel welcome exploring and learning about the watershed. Having events in the language people are most familiar with makes for an easy introduction to the watershed.

In 2023, CSWC will continue partnering with the Slavic Community Center, Verde, and Vive NW, to offer events in multiple languages while also conducting outreach to find more community-based organizations to partner with through this program.



To learn more and
support their work
[click here.](#)

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Friends of Brooklyn Park General Operating Support

The mission of Friends of Brooklyn Park (FOBP) is to provide the Brooklyn neighborhood and the Portland community opportunities to engage, learn, and explore Brooklyn Park; fund and operate a summer program serving youth; and create a welcoming and safe park for the Brooklyn neighborhood and the greater community.

Every summer, FOBP's big lift is to put on an inclusive Summer Youth Program. The program engages youth in healthy games, activities, and crafts, provides a safe space to explore their interests, and teaches participants the value of community, the park, and each other. The Brooklyn neighborhood does not have a community center or library — Brooklyn Park is what brings the community together, whether it is FOBP's summer youth program, their ice cream social, potlucks, or movies in the park.

This grant will help FOBP to continue to build and grow their community connections through their Summer Youth Program.



To learn more and
support their work
[click here.](#)

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Friends of Pier Park General Operating Support

Friends of Pier Park's (FoPP) mission is to maintain, enhance and advocate for the 85-acre North Portland Park, making it inviting, vibrant, enjoyable and safe for every visitor. FoPP offers lots of opportunities for visitors to engage with the park's resources including maintaining pool access and use, Earth Day clean-ups, Intergenerational AARP NeighborWalks, and creating bilingual Discovery Walk materials to learn more about the park's many acres.

Recent expansion of FoPP's capacity has meant that they've been able to invest in new programs like Next Door Nature, engaging local kids and students in educational programming, and their Understory Installation Program, which has planted over one thousand native plants in the last two years.

Funding from PPF will support organizational resilience by helping to provide more translated and printed materials for events, stipends to student workers from Roosevelt High School, develop fundraising efforts, and connect with the broader community.



To learn more and
support their work
[*click here.*](#)

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**Independent Publishing
Resource Center**



Independent Publishing Resource Center (IPRC) Program Support

In partnership with PP&R's Free Lunch + Play

The IPRC's mission is to provide affordable access to space, tools, and resources for creating independently published media and artwork, and to build community and identity through the creation of written and visual art. They democratize publishing by facilitating the work of emerging artists and writers and uplifting vital voices to bring their vision out to their communities.

As a community arts center, the IPRC facilitates methods of bringing creative processes that are usually done in the studio out into the community. This summer, they are partnering with PP&R's Free Lunch + Play, hosting four arts activities in July and August. Check here for the schedule which will be announced in late June.

PPF's grant will help the IPRC purchase the necessary art supplies and support their hardworking facilitators.

To learn more and
support their work
[click here.](#)

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Municipal Eco Resiliency Project General Operating Support

The Municipal Eco Resiliency Project (MERP) strives to build a local network for food production and distribution using sustainable methods in order to address inequalities in access, help people become agents of their own sustenance, and create a base upon which community members can exercise food autonomy. MERP uses urban farming as a tool to build community and support movements for food and climate justice. They currently operate 7 urban farming co-op projects, with plans to add more in the near future. Their mission involves empowering community members through education, collecting and distributing food through mutual aid, and creating community by connecting urban farming groups and promoting amazing work that is already being done in these areas.

MERP is currently in a growth phase, expanding their reach, funding and programming. They have recently established a hub of operations in the Lents neighborhood, called the Steele Magnolia House. This community hub serves as their administrative office as well as a demonstration site for urban farming technologies and methods, and a community space to hold meetings and free educational workshops for the public.

PPF's grant will go towards planning the extension of new community workshops, materials, and events featuring BIPOC leaders in urban farming and climate justice.

To learn more and
support their work
[click here.](#)

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The Freedom Festival



Prose Before Bros

Program: The Freedom Festival at Peninsula Park

Prose Before Bros is a group of passionate book lovers and community builders. Started in 2018, PBB is a community for women of color who are underrepresented and often ignored (especially in the literary world) and gives them a space to be seen and heard. Their mission with The Freedom Festival is to celebrate and acknowledge how literacy became a powerful weapon in the fight to end the enslavement of Black people in the United States. Freedom Festival takes place annually during Juneteenth weekend. They recognize that books and reading have been integral in liberation and this festival was created to honor, uplift, and celebrate literature by Black Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and tells their stories. This festival is the first and only Black Book Festival in Portland and the Greater PNW. This year they are building off the success of their inaugural year in 2022.

PPF's Small Grant will support all event operation needs, including park permit fees, event rental equipment (tents, table, chairs, sound equipment, etc.), author sponsorships, marketing materials, and food vendors. The grant will ensure sustainable funding for future Freedom Festival events.

The Freedom Festival took place on Juneteenth (June 19) in Peninsula Park and included a community book swap, book drive to PDX Books to Prisoners, Multnomah County Library card sign ups, a children's reading hour, author talks with local black authors, zine book making craft station, literary information booths, and more.

To learn more and support their work [click here.](#)

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Rose City Rollers

Program: Skatemobile Lunch & Play

In partnership with PP&R's Free Lunch + Play

The Rose City Rollers' (RCR) mission is to serve women, girls, and gender-expansive individuals who want to play the team sport of roller derby, connect with an inclusive community, and realize their power both on skates and off. RCR has significantly impacted the roller derby community, transcending beyond the sport itself. Through its commitment to inclusivity and diversity, RCR has created a safe and welcoming environment where people from different backgrounds can unite and thrive.

With PPF's support, RCR will attend 10 Free Lunch + Play events in parks throughout Portland with their Skatemobile, providing an opportunity for youth who are LGBTQIA+, low-income, experiencing food insecurity, and anybody with marginalized identities to participate in RCR's programs to get active and stay active. The funds provided by PPF will allow RCR to reach an additional 100+ Portland youth this summer.

To learn more and support their work [click here.](#)

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Roseway Heights Middle School PTA

Project: Roseway Heights Middle School Garden

Roseway Middle School PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. The renewal of this abandoned garden will provide students and community members with a place to rest, reflect, and gather, in a neighborhood with few green spaces.

The PTA recognizes that students are still recovering from the interruptions and trauma of COVID and the tumultuous past couple of years at Roseway Middle School. With new leadership and celebrating 100 years, the students are energized to build community and school identity. This garden will be a symbol of renewal and reinvestment that will honor, engage, and empower our families and community with an open and inclusive space.

PPF's \$2,000 grant will go towards rebuilding and renewing the garden, focusing on repairing the fence and installing hardscaping honoring the student population's cultural arts (Vietnamese mini-scaping space, Mexican tiles), maintaining a labyrinth for mindfulness and meditation, and establishing a native shade plant area.

To learn more and support their work [click here.](#)

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SAIL2CHANGE
FRESH WIND FOR YOUTH

Sail2Change

Program: Summer Maritime Access Program

Sail2Change (S2C) is a nonprofit organization, aspiring to improve community equity by empowering historically under-served and under-represented youth through full scholarship access to trauma informed and carbon neutral outdoor education. These activities include sailing and watersports, stewardship, environmental education, STEM education, mentorship and tutoring as a catalyst for equitable academic opportunity and maritime industry employment.

Many of S2C's participants have never been to the local parks and waterways they frequent, and by visiting in a group setting, it helps ease young people into new experiences and to learn new skills and teamwork. As part of their sailing lessons, youth participants explore the Willamette River and are able to experience their hometown in a new way. Throughout these activities, they visit Sellwood Riverfront Park, Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, and sail downtown to the Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

Funding from PPF enables S2C to offer programming to a larger number of youth and to increase outreach about their full scholarship programming.



To learn more and
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Ukrainian Foundation

Program: Ukrainian Seniors Club,
“Chervona Kalyna”

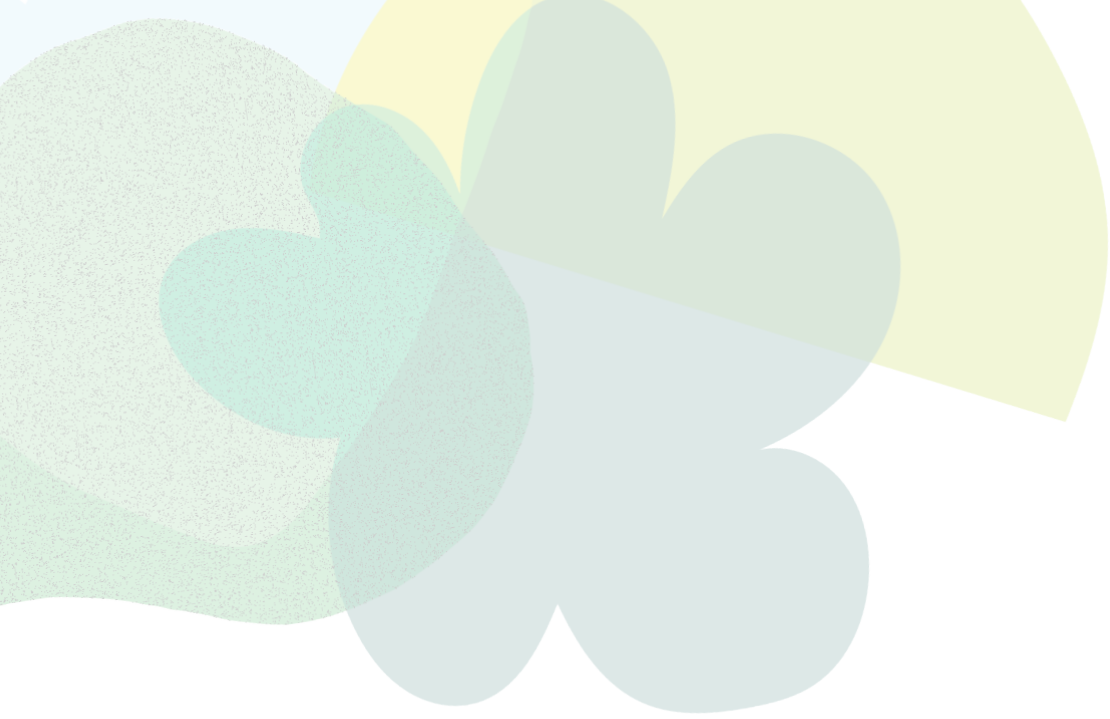
The Ukrainian Foundation’s mission is to promote Ukrainian culture in the United States; to unite and empower the diverse Ukrainian community through advocacy, representation, education and peer support; to provide necessary services in partnerships and collaboration with their community partners; and to assist Ukrainian newcomers with integration into mainstream society.

The Foundation’s senior club, “Chervona Kalyna” gathers refugees and immigrants from Ukraine, most of whom are low income and do not speak English. PPF’s grant will enable the club’s seniors to visit various gardens within the Portland Metro area that are currently inaccessible to them due to lack of money to cover entrance fees and lack of transportation.

Additionally, in Ukraine, many seniors enjoy spending time outdoors, both in their own gardens and in nature, and mushrooming and wild berry picking are very popular activities. The Ukrainian Foundation is hoping to expand their programming by learning how to forage with seniors in the Portland area through local classes.



To learn more and
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Portland Parks Foundation

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