Director Park Opening
Talking Points

• Let’s hear it for Swing Papillon! They’ll be back in just a short while!

• My name is Nick Fish. I have the honor of serving as Parks Commissioner for the City of Portland, and MC of this event.

• Thank you all for coming out to celebrate the grand opening of Director Park, Portland’s newest park.

• It wouldn’t be a fall afternoon in Portland without the rain. Thanks to Portland’s own ShedRain for donating the umbrellas. ShedRain is a family owned company that has become one of the largest importers of umbrellas and rainwear in the US. Looking at that sky, boy has this company found a home.

• Also thanks to the Portland Parks Foundation which donated the funding for this celebration.
• Over ten years ago, Mayor Katz embarked on a vision for Portland’s downtown district - one that would complement Pioneer Courthouse Square and serve as a connector with the North and South Park Blocks.

• Imagine – Vera wanted to tear up a parking lot and build a paradise!

• Ten years later, this project is a model of public-private partnerships. The secret to its success in the all-star cast who came together to conceive, fund, and build it.

• Two civic leaders - Tom Moyer and Jordan Schnitzer - stepped forward and made this vision possible. Thank you Tom and Jordan for your extraordinary generosity (point them out in the audience).

• A world class design team, led by renowned landscape architect Laurie Olin, from the architectural firm of Zimmer Gunsul Frasca,
designed this great space. And **Greg Baldwin** worked his magic behind the scenes.

- A top notch Project Team managed the project—lead by Parks Director **Zari Santner**. The team included **Allison Rouse** of Portland Parks & Recreation and **Eric Jacobson** at the Portland Development Commission.

- A dedicated **Citizen Advisory Committee** helped us ensure that the public space we celebrate today will serve Portlanders for generations to come.

- **Surrounding businesses** have been stalwart in their support and their patience during the long construction period.

- Several of the businesses surrounding the park are participating in tonight’s event – including **Art Media, Elephant’s Deli, Pastini, and Regal Cinemas**. These kinds of activities bring people together - and that’s what a piazza is all about!
• We are excited to welcome everyone back - to enjoy this new park, to eat at neighboring restaurants, to shop at nearby retailers and to explore Portland’s cultural district.

• **The Portland Development Commission** has been instrumental in revitalizing our downtown core. Director Park is a shining example of their best work.

• I am pleased to introduce PDC Commissioner **Charles Wilhoite**. Charles wears many hats... head of the Portland Business Alliance, managing director for **Willamette Management Associates**, and community volunteer.

  **Charles Speaks for 3 minutes**

• Thank you, Charles.

• This is a **new model for an urban park in Portland** - a piazza - complete with movable furniture, a restaurant, **Violetta**, and an on-site park attendant.
• Visitors to Director Park will enjoy regular **programmed events** - from multi-cultural performances to chess tournaments and poetry readings. The possibilities are **endless**.

• None of this would have been possible without **Tom Moyer’s** generosity. Tom donated the land and an **additional $1 million** toward the park’s development.

• It is my pleasure to introduce **Vanessa Sturgeon** of **TNT Development** to say a few words on behalf of Tom Moyer.

  **Vanessa Sturgeon speaks for 2 minutes**

• Thank you, Vanessa.

• Over 100 years ago, a visitor to our city once wrote, “It is becoming more clearly realized that every inhabitant **owes** to his or her city **certain duties**. Among them is that of making the city **more beautiful to live and work in**. And while there are many things which many contribute to the beauty of a great city, one of the greatest is a **comprehensive system of parks and parkways**.”
• That visitor was John Charles Olmstead. And those words are the preamble to the 1903 Portland Plan.

• Over 100 years later, it was The Portland Parks Foundation which brought together two Portlanders who embraced Olmsted’s challenge of making this city more beautiful to live and work in: Tom Moyer and Jordan Schnitzer.

• I’d like to introduce Rich Brown, my friend and Chair of the Portland Parks Foundation, who will in turn introduce Mr. Schnitzer.

Rich Brown speaks for 2 minutes

Jordan Schnitzer speaks for 4 minutes

• Thank you, Jordan.
• In Portland, we love our fountains. And fortunately, the Portland Water Bureau is expert in maintaining them.

• Thanks to David Shaff and his team at the Water Bureau for helping to design Teachers Fountain and for agreeing to maintain it for future generations.

• And credit goes once again to Jordan Schnitzer, who proposed that we name the fountain in honor of teachers.

• This is the first public space in our great City which honors teachers. Am I am especially grateful – since I am married to a teacher!

• Parks and schools share a common trait: they are both great laboratories of democracy – they are the dynamic community hubs where our culture, and our future, incubate.
• I’d like to invite Rebecca Levison, President of the Portland Association of Teachers, to join us here at the podium for the dedication.

• In 1966, at the dedication of the Lovejoy Fountain, Ira Keller proclaimed: “May there be lots of love and lots of joy in this park.”

• Today, with the help of the dance company BodyVox - and Michael Curry’s beautiful backdrops – let’s celebrate the love and joy in this new park. It’s time to take the wraps off Teachers Fountain and to officially open Director Park!