

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!