

Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race

Presented by the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association

2023

兔年

Year of the Rabbit

4721



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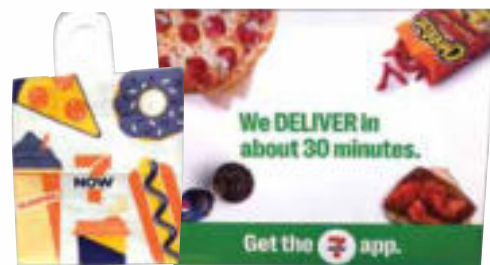
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Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race

June 10-11, 2023
Tom McCall Waterfront Park



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35 Years and Counting!

The Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association (PKSCA) is very excited to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Sister City relationship and 34 years of dragon boat racing in Portland. Our connection with the City of Portland and the Portland Rose Festival Foundation is just as strong as it was in 1988. We continue to welcome teams back from the pandemic and new teams that have dedicated months of practice in the slow return of Spring to Portland. But as Portlanders know, one of the first signs of Spring is always the return of the fully-dressed dragon boats to the Willamette River.



2023 has brought changes to the race committee. Tom Crowder and his wife, Cara Lee dedicated 25 years to the dragon boat race, each year spending countless hours as a coach for many teams, and as Race Director for the past 19 years, as well as serving on the Board, of which 5 of those years as President. This year Tom has decided to retire as Race Director and I am very grateful for the years of dedication he and Cara Lee have given to this organization. There are not enough words to express our gratitude and wish them the best in their well-deserved retirement.

In Tom's place, I would like to welcome Richard Bursch as our new Race Director. He has been involved with the PKSCA Dragon Boat Race Program for numerous years as a team member/tiller for one of the teams. He also has been on the Board, helped Tom during the last few years, and served as an active member of the race committee. I have no doubt Richard and the team will continue putting together a great event and ask for your full support to Richard and his new leadership team.

Lastly, a huge thank you to all our corporate sponsors, committee volunteers, my fellow PKSCA Board Members, and of course to our teams (and your race weekend volunteers). Without all of you, this event would not happen. Here's to another 35 years of dragon boat racing on the Willamette!

Chi-Chao Chen
President, Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland



Dear Dragon Boat Racers,

Welcome to the 2023 Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races! This year's races demonstrate our community's continued resiliency and commitment to supporting the sister city relationship between Portland and Kaohsiung.

The races are a celebration for all Portlanders and as the Mayor, it is my pleasure and honor to welcome all the visitors, volunteers, and participants who make this spectacular waterfront tradition remarkable.

The first dragon boat race in 1989 was made possible through the hard work and commitment of the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association (PKSCA). The Dragon Boat Races have become an integral part of the City of Portland's culture and each year, when we see the colorful boats launched in the Willamette River, we know that summer is on the way.

Portland is especially pleased to welcome the visiting delegation from Portland's Sister City, Kaohsiung. Taiwan's presence during the Rose Festival season doesn't go unnoticed and reflects the strong ties between our two cities. This unique and famous event allows us to gain a greater vision for the global community to which we all belong.

The spirit of global engagement is a big part of what makes the Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races a tremendous sporting event that symbolize Portland's commitment to reaching beyond our borders and showcasing to the world, all that is best about our city.

The City of Roses is with you all the way!

Sincerely,

Ted Wheeler
Mayor of Portland



高雄市政府
Kaohsiung City Government

March 3, 2023

Dear Dragon Boat Racers and Portlanders,

On behalf of Kaohsiung City, I would like to extend my sincerest greetings. The annual dragon boat race always attracts many teams to participate in the event. Since 1989, the dragon boat race has been part of the activities of the Rose Festival series, which is of great historical significance to Kaohsiung and Portland. This year also marks the 35th anniversary of the sister city relationship between the two cities. Thanks to the efforts of the City of Portland, citizens, civic organizations and the Portland Kaohsiung Sister City Association (PKSCA), our long-lasting friendship has remained strong despite the challenges of the pandemic.



I would also like to thank Portland again for its long-standing enthusiasm for hosting dragon boat races and I am convinced that the success of the event results from the assistance of the participants, the volunteers, and the PKSCA, and most importantly, the support from the City of Portland. This demonstrates the importance that Portland places on Kaohsiung.

This February, we were honored to receive the delegation from Portland. In addition to attending the Kaohsiung Lantern Festival, the delegation also had a courtesy call with the city government and visited the new attractions in Kaohsiung, such as the Pier 2 Art Center, the Great Harbor Bridge, the Neiwei Arts Center, and the renovated Shoushan Zoo. I would like to invite all friends from Portland to visit Kaohsiung in the future and see the changes and progress of Kaohsiung city.

Once again, I would like to thank the devoted staff for arranging this event. I wish this event a smooth and great success and everyone can enjoy this festive feast to the fullest.

Sincerely,

Chen Chi-Mai
Mayor of Kaohsiung

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Phone (503) 823-4120 • Fax: (503) 823-3588 • MayorTedWheeler@PortlandOregon.gov

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No.2, Sihwei 3rd Road, Lingya District, Kaohsiung City, 802721 Taiwan (R.O.C)
Tel : + 886-7-336-8333 Fax : + 886-7-335-2669 <https://www.kcg.gov.tw>



高雄市政府
 KAOHSIUNG CITY COUNCIL



Dear Dragon Boat Racers and Friends,

On behalf of Kaohsiung City Council I am thrilled to invite you to participate in upcoming 2023 Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race! The event promises to be an exciting day of competition, camaraderie, and fun.

Dragon boating is a centuries-old tradition and was first introduced to Portland in 1989 from Kaohsiung by the Sister City Association, we feel proud to see our Kaohsiung style dressed-up dragon boat fleets have been racing up and down the Portland downtown Willamette River over the years since it has become one of the expecting activities nowadays for people who take part in Rose Festival.

Also we sincerely pay highest tribute to all teams of paddlers who working together to propel a long narrow boat through the water, with a drummer setting the pace and a steersperson guiding the vessel. It's an exhilarating activity that requires strength, agility, and teamwork, and we are looking forward to your coming to witness the strong friendship between Kaohsiung and Portland altogether.

Let's join the exciting 2023 Dragon Boat Race. Your participation and enthusiasm will be driving forces throughout the Rose Festival and great supports for Kaohsiung and Portland. Wish you a great success.

Sincerely,

康裕成

Yu-Cheng Kang
 Speaker of Kaohsiung City Council

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Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle
 One Union Square, Suite 2020
 600 University Street
 Seattle, Washington 98101 U.S.A.
 Tel: (206) 441- 4586 Fax: (206) 441- 4320

May 4, 2023



Dear Dragon Boat Racers and Friends,

On behalf of the Republic of China (Taiwan), I'd like to thank and send my best wishes to the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association (PKSCA) for organizing the 2023 Dragon Boat Race, highlighting the annual celebration of the Portland Rose Festival.

For years, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Seattle has been dedicated to strengthening the bilateral ties between Taiwan and Oregon; the PKSCA, in tandem, plays an important role- through active participations in the annual Portland Rose Festival and organization of many other cultural events- promoting Taiwanese image in the Portland Metropolitan Area and deepening people-to-people exchanges between the Taiwanese and the other communities.

With PKSCA's determined effort to continue the annual event, TECO in Seattle is honored to be a part of the fiesta by sponsoring the 2023 Dragon Boat Race. Based on our continued coalescence and cooperative commitment to the sister-city relations since 1987, along with supports from city governments of Kaohsiung and Portland, I am confident that the lasting friendships with Portland, Oregon and the US shall deepen and thrive.

I wish the event every success and hope to extend the momentum and accomplish more prosperities with PKSCA in the many years to come.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. C. Chen
 Director General



Dear Dragon Boat Race Participants:

Welcome to the Portland Rose Festival annual Dragon Boat Race produced by the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association.

The Portland Rose Festival would not be the same without the Dragon Boat Race. This exciting two-day event, filled with color, art and the athletic skill of more than 40 teams including local, national and international representatives, is one of the reasons the Rose Festival is considered one of the top festivals in the world by the International Festival and Events Association. The race, along with a full slate of other events, attracts more than two million people to the City of Roses annually.

We especially want to thank the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association board and volunteers for their vision, dedication and expertise. Our annual exchange visit to Kaohsiung continues to be both educational and exciting and we value the friendships we have made. The Portland Rose Festival is truly fortunate to partner with such a dynamic group.

Thank you for your participation in the Dragon Boat festivities. We hope you will take time to enjoy some of the many other Rose Festival events as well and join us as we all Focus on Fun!

Sincerely,

Contesa Diaz-Nicolaidis, President



Marilyn Clint, CEO



23 February 2023



Dear Dragon Boat Racers and Friends,

It has been long established that the cultural exchange and communication for many years continues and strengthens the relationship between The City of Portland and Shu-Te High School. Over the years with this outstanding delegation visiting opportunity, our students have gained and developed both international and life changing experiences.

Additionally, the cares of home stay families have been given continuously to leave long lasting memories to our students. The Shu-Te High School performances in the Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade, the David Douglas School District, and the Monday Night Performance have always been a great success. We would like to offer our deepest appreciation to the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association, Portland Rose Festival Foundation and David Douglas School District which have aided in the multi-party cultural communication throughout the Rose Festival activities.

Finally, because of pandemic We miss you for three years. We are very glad this year we can participate Portland festival activities again. So we wish all the best to all the members of the Portland Rose Festival and the dragon boat racing teams of this season and have a huge success in the coming Dragon Boat Racing event.

Best Regards,

Dr. Yuan Hsiang Chu

Chairman of the Board of Shu-Te Vocational High school

Ching -Mei Chen

Principal of Shu-Te Vocational High school

Thank you 2023 Sponsors... From the Board of Directors

Chi-Chao Chen

Sponsorship Program

On behalf of the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association (PKSCA) Board, I would like to take this opportunity to again thank and recognize our 2023 community sponsors listed below. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit association, PKSCA relies on individual and corporate donors to help fund events and programs that support our mission. The Board has created a scholarship fund in the name of one of our Board Members that passed away, The Richard Cole Scholarship Fund (RCSF) that will be dedicated to providing scholarships to students of Shu-Te High School and students in the Portland area. Any funds given RCSF will be given out in Scholarships, the more we receive the more we can give.

This year we wish to thank and are proud to announce that the following businesses located within our community have agreed to help sponsor our event, thus providing the financial stability to meet our commitment to the community. 7-Eleven; Alaska; Daimler; Quailhurst Vineyard Estate, LLC; The Portland Rose Festival Foundation; the Tapei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle (TECO); and Washman Car Washes. Look for their flags on the boats, banners in the bowl area, and their ads in this booklet. We also want to thank our Patrons, Gresham Sportscare, OnPoint Credit Union, Plaid Pantry, UPS, The Royal Rosarians, and Taipei Cultural Office in Seattle for their financial support. We are very pleased that the majority of our previous sponsors have elected to continue in their support of this popular community event and helping us to meet our Mission. We would encourage all of you, when possible to support these wonderful Sponsors and Patrons.

If you are interested in joining our team of Sponsors or Patrons and/or forming a dragon boat team next year, please contact: One of our Board Members or send an email to: info@pkasca.net or send a letter to:

Dragon Boat Sponsorship Program
P.O. Box 80404
Portland, OR 97280

We will be very happy to contact you and talk about our program and what we do in the community.



Use this code to make a donation to the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association.



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QUAILHURST
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駐西雅圖台北經濟文化辦事處
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle



2022 Recipient of the \$1000 Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association Scholarship

Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association (PKSCA) is proud to announce Szu-Hua (Christy) Ho as their 2022 Scholarship Winner. Christy was a Mountainside High School graduate from Beaverton, Oregon. She is currently attending California State University in Fullerton, CA and is studying Computer Science. Congratulations from the board of PKSCA.



Back row, left to right, Clyde Travis Jim Stahl, Mike Bostwick, Chi Chen, Joseph Lu, Richard Bursch, and Tom Crowder. Front row, Fred Wong, and Ken Ma. Not shown Lannette Ong, Susie Ho, Gene Chin, Lance Hamel, and Paul Lin.

Board of Directors Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association

Board Officers

Chi-Chao Chen
President

Clyde Travis
Vice President

Jim Stahl
Treasurer

Lannette Ong
Secretary

Board Members

Mike Bostwick

Richard Bursch

Gene Chin

Tom Crowder

Lance Hamel

Susie Ho

Paul Lin

Joseph Lu

Ken Ma

Fred M. Wong

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Mike Chang, Rob Hungerford,
Steven Louie, Dr. Eng Lock Khoo

The Year of the Rabbit

1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2023

To outsiders, the Rabbit's kindness may make them seem soft and weak. In truth, the Rabbit's quiet personality hide their confidence and strength. They are steadily moving towards their goal, no matter what negativity the others give them.

With their good reasoning skills and attention to detail, they make great scholars. They are socializers with an attractive aura. However, they find it hard to open up to others and often turn to escapism.

Excerpt from: <https://chinesenewyear.net/zodiac/rabbit>



2023 Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Delegation at the Mayor's Luncheon in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. 2019 Queen Mya Brazil and her parents along with the Rose Festival Director Escort Linda Gunselman, Royal Rosarian Prime Minister John Danielson, PKSCA President Chi Chen, and Kaohsiung City Council Speaker Yu-Cheng Kang.

Volunteer & Vendor Appreciation!

Richard Bursch, Race Director

Without the year-round efforts of individuals, teams, and other groups the Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race would not happen. Since June of last year more than 60 volunteers have cleaned, repaired, and painted the boats. Dozens more worked quietly planning the race and getting equipment ready. Additional volunteers have moved the lockers to the RiverPlace Marina, moved the boats out of storage to Willamette Park, and paddled the boats from Willamette Park to RiverPlace Marina. On race days more than 200 volunteers fill their assignments as dock managers, judges, information staff, marshals, race officials, race result tabulators, runners and start and finish line crews.

Many organizations and individuals lend their support to this event. The Portland Rose Festival Foundation sanctions the event. The City of Portland Parks and Recreation Bureau, the Fire Bureau, and Transportation Bureau all provide support and services. As part of our storage lease agreement, Zidell Marine Corp. provides a location for captains' meetings, the paddlers' clinic, and the volunteer training session. Cathy Brunscheon furnishes the start boat and Bob Hansen furnishes the finish line boat. Fred Harding with his sons spend two days in his boat retrieving flags. Fred Harding also transports finish line equipment to and from the race site. Mike Walker provides an inflatable boat for Jim Hansen to transport. Vicki Sekiguchi, Butch Everett, and Rick McLaughlin tow the boats to and from the river and support boat maintenance. A & B Towing & Recovery provides boat towing for the Starlight Parade. Rapid Response Bio Clean donates the portable toilets and trash and recycling services for this year's event. The Little River Café supplies sustenance and much appreciated facilities. The Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary monitor river traffic on race day in conjunction with the Portland Harbormaster. The Marriott Residence Inn and Marriott Downtown Waterfront offer special rates for dragon boaters and the Kimpton RiverPlace Hotel allows us in their front yard for the weekend.

Months before race weekend numerous individuals are busy. Stephanie and Clyde Travis work together to design and produce this race booklet. Susie Ho and Larry Stewart who take many wonderful photographs for Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association (PKSCA) throughout the year. Susie Ho, Larry Stewart, and 7-Eleven will provide lunches and water for all volunteers both days. We would also like to thank 7-Eleven for our volunteer T-shirts this year. They will also supply lunches for the Shu-Te High School Mt. Hood trip, as well as coupons, a case water for each of the families, and pizzas for the Shu-Te students during the Monday night performance. Ken Ma is responsible for managing the dozens of contracts and permits necessary for this event. Lead Volunteers are: Volunteer Coordinator and Marshaling and Escorts, Maxine Davison; Registrar, Angie Chen; Fred Harding, finish line setup; Mike Bostwick, start boat; Johanna and Mary Root, finish boat; Clyde Travis, dock supervisor; Sylvia Ayala, computer/command tent; Mariah Davison, volunteer tent. These individuals are on site all race weekend and spend additional time preparing equipment and training volunteers prior to the event. Tom Crowder, Former Race Director, has continued his invaluable support for our event.

This year many additional volunteers have stepped up and need to be acknowledged. Doug Williams has taken on maintenance tasks, Gale Zimmerman has stepped up to support Doug, Megan Kunze and Aaron Bocanegra have seen to our social media presence with Megan also sourcing vendors, and Amy Stevens has joined us to help with other duties on the Race Committee.

We are extremely grateful for and extend thanks to all the volunteers and support organizations. We also want to thank our sponsors for their support. Finally, as you, the team members and spectators, meet the volunteers in action, please take a moment to give them your personal thank you, as well.



The Legend of Dragon Boat Racing

The Dragon Boat Races are the most popular early summer activity in the Orient wherever Chinese cultural influence prevails. It is the most important part of the Twan-Wu Festival, the fifth day of the fifth month on the lunar calendar.

According to legend, during the Warring States period 475-222 B.C., the state of Chu had a high ranking minister of great talent and genius named Chu Yuan. To the west, the state of Chin was determined to seize the state of Chu. For this reason, feigning a desire for friendly diplomatic ties, the state of Chin invited King Huai to Wukuan, to draw up a treaty. King Huai did not heed Chu Yuan's cautionary advice and consequently was kidnapped by Chin soldiers and died in the state of Chin. King Huai's eldest son, King Hsiang, not only failed to consider avenging his father but acted obsequiously toward the state of Chin. In addition, he believed a slander advanced against Chu Yuan and banished him.

On the fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar, Chu Yuan reached the bank of the Mi Luo river. There, the wise, sad hero committed suicide and threw himself into the river. When the people of Chu heard this, they feared the fish in the river would eat Chu Yuan's body. Thronging into boats, they rowed out to the middle of the river and threw great quantities of rice into the water to feed the fish, thus hoping that Chu Yuan's body would be left alone. The search for his body has evolved into present day dragon boat races and the ritual of eating "Tsong Tze," sticky rice cakes wrapped in bamboo leaves.

The Twan-wu Festival also signals the change from spring to summer and can be traced back to the Chou Dynasty as a folk festival. In the distant past, farmers depended solely on the rain to water their crops. On this festival day, farmers prayed for the "Dragon of the Clouds" to send rain. They also prayed for the "Dragon of the Seas" to calm the ocean and rivers as floods were common when the mountain snow began to melt. Above the doors of their houses, they hung up long, swordlike leaves of the water willow and mallow to disperse evil spirits. Siung-Huan Powder, arsenic sulfide, was used as a pesticide around the house. The red powder was also used to touch the foreheads of boys to give them protective powers. In Japan, Twan-Wu became boy's day which appears to be connected to this ancient ritual. Through the ages, many stories and fairy tales have evolved about this special day, but none surpasses the excitement and fun of the dragon boat races.

2022 Finalists

Women's Division 1

- 1: Amazon Dragons.....2:44.80
- 2: OWLS Dragonflies 2:51.91
- 3: SnapDragons2:54.29
- 4: River City Dragons.....2:55.33

Women's Division 2

- 1: The Valkyries..... 2:55.75
- 2: Dragon Riders.....2:56.69
- 3: Miss Fit Dragons 2:57.14
- 4: The Love Boat3:05.91

Mixed Division 1

- 1: CCBA.....2:33.09
- 2: Dimples.....2:34.55
- 3: Ripple Effect.....2:40.87
- 4: Team Taiwan 2:42.24

Mixed Division 2

- 1: DTNA Semi Dragons 2:34.87
- 2: Dragon Fever 2:41.59
- 3: No Teacher Left Behind.....2:44.87
- 4: U Dragon U 3:30.77

Mixed Division 3

- 1: Alaska Air Flying Dragons 2:40.87
- 2: Jammin' Salmon 2:49.22
- 3: Stroke of Luck2:53.85
- 4: Dragon Guardians..... 2:57.38



Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association's History

Richard Cole, Ph.D.

The Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association was founded in November 1987. The Portland City Council officially approved Kaohsiung as Portland's Sister City on May 11, 1988. At Mayor Clark's suggestion, the original six member board, comprised of President Dr. Eng Lock Khoo, Gene Chin, Steven Louie, Liu Chi, Judith Reese, and Ted Schneider, was enlarged to fifteen, in order to represent the many facets of the metropolitan community. During the Association's first goodwill mission to Kaohsiung, Commissioners Dick Bogle and Mike Lindberg signed the sister city agreement with Kaohsiung's Mayor Nan Cheng Su on Oct. 11, 1988. To signify the cities mutual tie with the Pacific Ocean, the Association presented a unique gift, a freshly caught, 36 pound Tillamook Bay Chinook salmon.

When the Association selected dragon boat racing as an annual cultural event, Mayor Su promptly donated two boats as a gift to the Association. A third boat was donated by the Republic of China and the fourth was purchased by the Association. All of them arrived at the Port of Portland's Terminal 6 on March 31, 1989 aboard Evergreen's container ship, "Evergoing." On April 10, the elaborately decorated boats made their debut during the "eye-dotting" ceremony which included a special Buddhist ceremony and water display by the Portland Fire Bureau's fireboat. The boats were launched from the lawn of Waterfront Park by means of a 75 foot crane.

The Association's most memorable goodwill mission occurred in October 1990, when 36 Portlanders participated in the Taiwan Area Games in Kaohsiung. Their well-publicized activities caught the attention of then newly-appointed Mayor Wu Den Yih. The following June, Mayor Wu visited Portland during the Rose Festival and officiated at the opening of the 3rd Annual Dragon Boat Races with 60 local and international teams. This year over 65 local and international teams will compete with over 20,000 people in attendance each race day.

During the goodwill mission on October 10, 1991, the 80th anniversary of the Republic of China, the Association gave Kaohsiung a state-of-the-art, US made ambulance in appreciation of their assistance in introducing dragon boat racing to Portland. In honor of the occasion, Kaohsiung donated two additional boats to the Association, one of which hangs on display at the Oregon Convention Center.

In 2007 the association donated over \$80,000 to the city of Kaohsiung for the purchase of a 4 wheel drive emergency rescue vehicle.

In 2008 the Kaohsiung Lions Club donated two new dragon boats to the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association.

In 2011 the city of Kaohsiung donated two new dragon boats to the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association.

In 2013 the association purchased two more dragon boats and the city of Kaohsiung donated two additional dragon boats. The association now has a total of eight new dragon boats in their fleet and have since retired the old fleet. 2013 marks the 25th Anniversary of the Portland Dragon Boat Race with the use of our new fleet of dragon boats.

Dr. Eng Lock Khoo was the first president of the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association. He served for nearly six years. In 1993 John Grimes became president. Mike Chang became the third president in 1994. Mike Chang concluded the Sister School Agreement between Shu-Te High School in Kaohsiung and the David Douglas School District in Portland. A sister university agreement between Portland State University and National Sun-Yat Sen University in Kaohsiung was also concluded. Ted Schneider became president in 1998. He was succeeded in 1999 by Dr. Richard Cole who served for six years. In 2005 Tom Crowder became president and served five years. In 2010 Tom Crowder was succeeded by Mack Lai and in 2015 Mike Bostwick succeeded Mack Lai and served five years. In 2020 Chi-Chao Chen became president.



Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association's Mission

Richard Cole, Ph.D.

To promote friendship and understanding between the people of Portland, Oregon and Kaohsiung, Taiwan, R.O.C. The Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association programs include:

Awakening the Dragon and Eye Dotting Ceremony

This event officially opens the Dragon Boat season each April. Monks and choir from a local Buddhist temple conduct the formal Buddhist ceremony. Also included in the event is a traditional, and colorful Lion Dance, the formal dotting of the eyes of the Dragon Boats by local dignitaries, and a parade of dragon boats around the Portland Fire Boat.

The Annual Dragon Boat Race

This two-day event takes place Saturday and Sunday on Rose Festival Parade weekend. Over 2000 team members and an estimated 40,000 viewers are involved in the largest Dragon Boat race in the continental USA. Over 95 teams compete in 50 heats each day. The event is free and a great example of a Chinese sport that began over 2400 years ago.

Participation in the Portland Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade

Each year since 1989, the PKSCA Parade unit has included: A beautiful float, music and dance group from Shu-Te High School in Kaohsiung, and a VIP convertible carrying the Kaohsiung Mayor or his designated delegation leader.

The Host Family Program for Shu-Te High School from Kaohsiung

Host families throughout the Portland area provide an American home experience for two lovely and talented musicians and dancers who stay for one week. Many families stay in contact with their students for many years and have visited with them in Taiwan and here. This is a wonderful first hand cultural experience for both the hosts and the students.

The Annual official city-to-city Goodwill Delegation Exchange

Each year an official City Delegation from Portland and from Kaohsiung visit for several days. The delegates are made up of City Officials, Civic Leaders, and members of the Sister City Association Board. These visits provide first-hand contact among civic and government leaders and increase understanding of each other's city.

Sponsored Portland Band Performances in Taiwan

Since 1995, we have sent four bands to Taiwan. In October 1995, the David Douglas High School Jazz Ensemble gave many concerts during the opening week of The Taiwan Area Games in Kaohsiung. In Nov. 1996, over 100 members of the David Douglas High School Marching Band and Tams Dance Team performed in the Taiwan International Band Festival in Taipei. In February 2004, an all-star group of 20 high school musicians and 6 dancers performed in the Lantern Parade and the Chinese New Year celebration in Kaohsiung. In February of 2005 and 2006, a 20 member Mount Hood Community College Jazz Band performed in the Kaohsiung's celebration of the Chinese New Year. These student performers are excellent ambassadors for Portland and the USA.

Sister School/University Programs

In June 1994, David Douglas School District and Shu-Te Girls' High School entered a Sister School agreement. This program involves hosting student performers and visiting teachers, and supporting performing groups. In 1998, a Sister University relationship was established between Portland State University and National Sun Yat-Sen University in Kaohsiung. Students from Kaohsiung have attended PSU, and professional communication continues between the Universities.

Outreach and Support Programs

PKSCA provides support to worthy programs and for disaster relief in Taiwan. In 1991, the PKSCA sent a fully equipped state of the art ambulance as a gift to Kaohsiung as recognition for their gift of 2 Dragon Boats. In 1999, following a devastating earthquake, a fund raising program resulted in a relief donation of over \$44,000. In 2003, \$10,000 was donated to supply face masks during the SARS epidemic. Also, every year PKSCA supports the CCBA Chinese Language School in Portland. These and other in-kind support activities are a high priority for the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association.

David Douglas & Shu-Te High School's History

Richard Cole, Ph.D.

The Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association was instrumental in establishing the first Sister High School relationship between Portland and Taiwan. On June 13, 1994, David Douglas School District and Shu-Te High School entered into a Sister School agreement at a formal signing ceremony. The signing ceremony preceded an hour-long performance of traditional orchestra and dance presented by the Shu-Te student musicians and dancers.

The idea of the sister school relationship started when the Shu-Te High School musicians and dancers performed in Portland on June, 1992. Following a stunning performance of traditional music and dance, Dr. Richard Cole, then Director of Curriculum for David Douglas School District, approached Dr. Khoo, then president of the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association, about using the David Douglas Performing Arts Center for the following year's performance. Dr. Khoo responded by asking David Douglas to coordinate and arrange for host families for the Shu-Te students. David Douglas has coordinated housing each year since. The students are wonderful representatives of their school and country. Many families continue to host them year after year. The

Shu-Te High School students perform for all 5th and 6th grade David Douglas students and sometimes have joint performances with the David Douglas High School Orchestra. They have also visited elementary classrooms. The high school Leadership Class hosts the students in many of their activities and have developed pen-pal correspondence with students in Kaohsiung.

The Sister School relationship has stimulated other activities. David Douglas teachers have spent summers teaching conversational English at Shu-Te High School. In 1995, the 20 member David Douglas Jazz Ensemble went to Kaohsiung and were hosted by Shu-Te High School. They performed at Shu-Te as well as for 30,000 people at the opening of the Taiwan Area Games in Kaohsiung. In November 1996, the David Douglas Marching Band and dance unit participated in the International Band Competition in Taipei, Taiwan.

The strong support of the School Board, teachers, principals, and district administrators assures the continued benefits and families both in Portland and Kaohsiung.



Shu-Te High Home Economics & Commercial High School with the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Delegation in March 6, 2015. Larry Stewart, Photographer.

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Since 1989, the Dragon Boat Race have been a part of the Portland Rose Festival. Thank you to the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association and the participants for joining us in another century of richness in our community and culture through the spirit of teamwork and the joy of competition.

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Team Spotlight - Dragon Rose

Coleen McIntyre



Dragon Rose has had many evolutions over the years, from one of the first all women teams to one of the most active to this date. They were one of the original teams from the beginning of our Rose Festival racing festivals in Portland. Dragon Rose has had members come and go over the years with so many solid women that have paddled their hearts out. It began as a team of many teachers, many of whom are retired now, but still paddle and race. Two original members, Jaime Anke & Debbie Dimoff, are still on the team!

Their Captain, Debbie Dimoff has been Coach and Captain for 15 years ever since her shoulder injury. When you can't paddle as much anymore and you're in love with the companionship among amazing strong women from all different walks of life, you find your best fit for the team - and Dimoff has taken this role of Coach & Captain. She recently handed the torch (or drum) over to the next generation - to co-coaches Alethea Mellor and Dayna Schoessler, while remaining Captain of the team.

The ladies of Dragon Rose have always respected and loved the companionship of other female teams. They are very competitive, yet love being on the water together with their fierce and beautiful competition. Their sponsor, Elmer's Restaurant, keeps these ladies well fed and racing on the water!

With new life and leadership the women of Dragon Rose may have pretty yellow roses in their hair, but beware - they are not as sweet as they look!



2023 Dotting of the Eye Ceremony



Susie Ho, Photographer.

2023 Team Biographies

Alaska Flying Dragons

Hard workers, on and off the water. Always positive and always quick to help each other out. Strong willed and strong hearts. We will never stop paddling and never give up. Flying Dragons forever! Proud sponsors of the 2023 Dragon Boat Race.

Amazon Dragons Paddling Club

The Amazon Dragons Paddling Club was founded in 1992 by the Lesbian Community Project. For thirty years, the Amazons have welcomed all women 16 years and older to build camaraderie, fitness and physical strength in a supportive environment. The Amazons promote positive lesbian and queer visibility, personal integrity, community service and good sportsmanship through competitive dragon boat racing.

Brew Dragons

CCBA 2023 Dragon Boat Team

Portland Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association

Thank you to the new Race Director, the Race Committee and all the volunteers for preserving the PKSCA Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races. Following a two-year absence during the World Wide Pandemic, the rainy, muddy two-day event was held in 2022, and the CCBA Dragon Boat Team won First Place in Mixed Division 1! We are anxious to repeat this year. The Team again competes as perhaps the only original team participating uninterrupted since the beginning of the event in 1989. The very founding of the PKSCA and receipt of the first donated dragon boats was through efforts of individuals from Portland's Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA). We are a recreational team and gather just for this annual event. Team members include individuals from Portland's Chinese community and friends of the Chinese community, fueled by dim sum! Most importantly though, we train hard, enjoy friendly competition and encourage promotion of the sport and goodwill through the races. We are particularly grateful to the Chinese Community, and the generosity of its businesses, associations and individuals for their continued support in this most festive, cultural exchange event. Best wishes again to all the teams this year!

Civil Serpents

Civil Serpent (*Serpents civicus*) - *S. civicus*, first identified in 1997, is a rare species indigenous to the Portland Metro Region. Individuals vary in length from 5 to 6.3 feet and display a variety of phenotypes. They are easily distinguished from other species in the genus by their well developed upper body and appendages, which they use to propel themselves through the water. Civil Serpents are a social species. Many are domesticated and work in state and local government office settings. In the wild they congregate in the early evening along the Willamette River to engage in flashy displays of athleticism in an attempt to establish dominance on the river. Occasionally they can be found in small or large groups at the local watering hole. Collectively, *S. civicus* are omnivores with a proclivity for cake.



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Daimler Truck North America (DTNA)

Daimler Truck North America, located on Swan Island, is the market share leader in the truck manufacturer industry and has been a cornerstone of Portland's economy since the late 1930's. We are a company made up of people who are driven to succeed wherever we compete, be it in building the best commercial truck solutions or in dragon boats! We are proud to be a major sponsor of the Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races and this year we will be represented on the water by two teams!

Daimler Truck Semi-Dragons:

Here we are, hear us ROAR! The Semi-Dragons were established in 2015 by our Engineering department and our Asian Resource Network. The team is made up of new and returning paddlers from different backgrounds and departments in the company, all brought together by the challenge and joy of paddling. This will be our team's 7th year racing and as always, we plan to leave it all on the water!

Daimler Thunder Trucks:

Get ready to get THUNDERSTRUCK! The Thunder Trucks are Daimler Truck's brand new freshman dragon boat team sponsored by our IT department. Our team is made up of folks from across our company that are all new to dragon boat racing. We may be a brand new team, but never count out the underdogs!

Dragon Fever

Bravo Fit

Dragon Fever is one of the original founding teams from 1989.

Ted Halton, Dragon Fever's Founder, was instrumental in bringing the Dragon Boat Race to Portland.

For the tenth consecutive years, Bravo Fit has sponsored Dragon Fever. With the mission to turn people into their own hero, Bravo Fit now owns and operates Planet Fitness locations in Oregon, Alaska and Australia.

"At Planet Fitness, we don't allow any intimidating behavior, like grunting, in our facilities," says Halton, "Here on the water is a different story. For months now, this team has been grunting, screaming, crying, and doing whatever it takes to get this boat to that finish line, first."

Each year's race weekend is dedicated to Ted Halton for his unwavering support of the dragon boating community, which he helped establish more than 30 years ago.

Dragon Guardians

We're the Dragon Guardians, with the Ida B. Wells high school. On our boat, like many others, you get to go on the Willamette and get your hands wet while also building a relationship with your fellow paddlers. We're one of a few high school teams, and we're hoping to get more set up. We will practice Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4:30 to 5:30. On and off the boat, we try to build connections with each other to not only be synchronized in the boat but to succeed and have fun!

If you have any high school students that would like to see if Dragon Boating is for their school, let us know

Dragon Ladies

Vancouver, BC, Canada

The Dragon Ladies first debuted over 30 years ago at Vancouver's Expo '86, the first dragon boat festival outside of Asia. Our team remains true to our original mission of bringing together women from all walks of life, unified in the common goal of mastering the sport of Dragon Boating. Our longevity is attributed to the dedication of our veterans and is enriched by the enthusiasm of our newcomers. As one of North

America's Original Women's Dragon Boat teams, we embrace each new season to solidify our tradition of team work, competitiveness, and building friendships which we look forward to continuing for many years to come.

Dragon Riders

We are a very supportive team of women paddlers composed of over 25 years of experience and welcome new members to the team every year. All of our personalities combined make for some crazy times and endless laughter, shouting and goofiness. When this season began, we had a feeling it would be very different than any other season. We knew after two years of COVID shut down that we would have to be dedicated and work extremely hard if we wanted to be a strong and successful team of women. There is no greater feeling than paddling on the river with a great bunch of teammates. We have determinations and desire to make this season incredible.

Dragon Rose

Elmer's Restaurants

Check out our team highlight on page 24 and our sponsor, Elmer's ad is on page 20.

Dumples

The Dumples have long carried a reputation for being a strong but goofy bunch. Assembled in 2006, they were originally a breakaway team from the ZGF Ark-o-teks. Today the team is made up of paddlers with backgrounds reaching far beyond architecture and engineering. The Dumples are hard to miss during race weekend. They often have interesting choices in racing attire, they warm up to the Hokey Pokey and chant extremely loud and ridiculous mantras during the line-ups. Some people may wonder, "what the heck is a Dumble?" The short answer is that the name comes from an episode of an obscure internet cartoon. The rest of the story is now up to you to find out! Come cheer us on by the water and listen for our signature call: D-U-M-P, D-U-M-P, dump-dump DUMPLES!!!

Golden Dragons PDX

The Golden Dragon PDX Paddling Club is a group of men and women over 50 years of age who paddle year-round on the Willamette. Founded in 1996, we have roughly 200 members and typically paddle three-to four boats, usually including a recreational and a workout boat, three times each week. We rely on the generosity of the Little River Café which acts as our de facto "clubhouse" whose coffee is essential to get us going.

We're pulling for you, paddlers!

Advantis is proud to support the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association and the annual Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race.

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This year's team has an average age of 72 years! We receive excellent coaching as we ready ourselves for the two-day Rose Festival Regatta.

Besides paddling and racing dragon boats, the Golden Dragons enjoy spontaneous and planned get-togethers for hiking, skiing, kayaking, lectures, full-moon paddles, once-a-month forays to a local restaurant, biking, trail-clearing and so on; we find that this combination of paddling and other physical and mental pursuits is an awesome way to make new friends, stay in shape and enjoy yourselves!!!

Jammin' Salmon

Jammin' Salmon celebrates its 23rd year as a team, which was established in 2000. The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission was the original sponsor of the team and many of the team's members are employees or former employees of the organization. Jammin' Salmon is predominantly Native American with several allies of the Native Community.

Knuckles

The Knuckle Dragons hail from The B-Side Tavern, Portland Oregon. We have been described as comedic, charming, juvenile, boorish, churlish, insolent, crass, despicable, intimidating, and laughable (Ha!). We freely claim all of these epithets. We strip sport of its oppressive competitiveness and lay bare its base component, joy. We are truly enlightened. Every April we rise, and for ten hour-long practices relish the burning of muscles long forgotten and the splash of polluted water on our faces. We drink, paddle, and sing, laughing maniacally as we hurl ourselves into the Abyss, knowing that while we mortals crawl upon this accursed sphere like ants, in His house at R'lyeh, dead Cthulhu waits dreaming.

KP Thriving Dragons

KP Thriving Dragons is very happy to return to the Rose Festival for the 10th year! KP's 2023 team is a wonderful mixture of medical professionals, support staff, behind the scenes operations and family members. Each paddler brings their strength and dedication to our team with every stroke of water. We know that no matter where we place in the race, we will have won by coming out of this experience truly THRIVING in mind, body, and spirit. KP THRIVE!



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Lethally Blind

Liquid Assets

Liquid Assets is excited to be back for their eleventh year paddling at the Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races. Liquid Assets is excited to be back for their twelfth year paddling at the Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races.

These paddlers vary in years of dragon boat paddling experience from 6 to 27 years and range in age from 43 to 77. They come from the Portland area, Texas, New Jersey and Ohio, and from all walks of life: Program Manager/Project Respond, Filmmaker and budding Journalist, Conservation Planner and owner of an Equine Rescue Sanctuary, Retirees, Tax Program Supervisor, Senior Business Systems Analyst, Benefits/Insurance, Domestic Goddesses, Accounting, Kitten Wrangler, Pre-School Teachers, Customer Service Rep, National Sales Manager, Attorney, Business Owners, Senior Studio Manager, Capital Management Administrator, commissioner for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission/ PSU program coordinator, Biotech Industry finance and operations. A majority of the team has competed on the international level at Dragon Boat World Championships.

Although this is a diverse team, they are united in their passion for paddling and competition and having fun. They play hard and they paddle hard!

Miss Fit Dragons

Miss Fit Dragons is a team of women that like getting together with friends, enjoying time in nature, and testing the limits of their strength and endurance for fun. While still competitive and excited to win races, our primary goal is to get to the end of the race safely and satisfied that nothing was held back.

Nicole Becker, our founder, and former coach's dream was to build a space where women can appreciate their bodies and abilities where they are at and build strength and endurance from there. The Miss Fit Dragons Team has since become a living archive of our community and commitment to each other. Teammates have come, gone, and come back again - building up and reminding us of our connection to the sport and each other. Once a Miss Fit, Always a Miss Fit.

No Teacher Left Behind

No Teacher Left Behind is excited to be back on the water! In 2005 an intrepid group of educators from Lot Whitcomb Elementary School in North Clackamas School District took on the task of forming the No Teachers Left Behind dragon boat team. The team has since continued on with a core group of educators from all over the area, along with many individuals from diverse fields and backgrounds. To paraphrase the old adage, it takes a village to paddle a dragon boat.



We're an enthusiastic and supportive bunch. We love to have fun on the water and push ourselves to finish strong ("push it, push it real good!"). No matter the outcome, "We're winning!"

NWEA Dragon Tamers

Onsemi Power Dragons

Pink Phoenix™ Heart & Soul

Pink Phoenix is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower breast cancer survivors through the unique sport of dragon boating. Teammates find strength and fun by paddling together while having the common thread of a breast cancer diagnosis – the only requirement to join the team. Our team name honors the mythical bird who rises from the ashes symbolizing rebirth and the beginning of new life. We feel this replicates where many of us find ourselves after a breast cancer diagnosis.

We are a diverse group of women: working professionals, retirees, stay-at-home moms, students, grandmothers, long-time survivors and women just recently diagnosed or going through treatment. We are 100+ members strong, representing women from the greater Portland metro area.

Formed in 1997, Pink Phoenix prides itself on being the United States' very first breast cancer dragon boat team. During the Rose Festival, Pink Phoenix sponsors an annual exhibition race celebrating sisterhood,



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survivorship and sport. In this race, experienced paddlers, first time paddlers and survivors along for the ride, join together to race on the Willamette in memory of Michele Gorman, our team's first captain. The Gorman Cup is an example of the strength and spirit we, as survivors, give to ourselves, each other and our community. We take pride in our core values as an organization which include commitment, balance, respect, welcoming, growth and celebration.

The "Pinks" are on the river 3 times a week during race season and travel to local, regional and out of state races during the race season. In April 2023, some "Pinks" participated as part of a composite team representing the Pacific Northwest at the International Breast Cancer Paddlers' Commission Regatta in New Zealand, where over 2500 women, all breast cancer survivors, from around the world competed in racing and celebrating survivorship! This season the team is also preparing to compete at the Club Crew National Championships in Sarasota, Florida in July 2023. The team loves an "away game," where bonds are tightened over board games and good conversation.

For general information about membership, sponsorship or to donate to our organization, please visit www.pinkphoenix.org. You can also follow our adventures on Facebook and Instagram.



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Portland Fire

We grew up with the tales of dragons, and had been inspired by the spirit. We had the ambition to ride the dragons one day. Now the dream comes true with this Chinese American dragon boat team — **Portland Fire!**

By training and participating in the race, we are to demonstrate strength, agility, collaboration, ability to navigate water through team work.

Power On Dragons

River City Dragons



River City Dragon's is a women's dragon boat team that was established in 2010. This year is guaranteed to be full of fun, friendship, camaraderie, sportsmanship, and competitive racing. Part of our team's magic comes from our amazing coaching and a mutual love of being on the water with the beautiful community created while keeping our eyes in the boat. We are looking forward to an exciting and awesome 2023 Rose Festival racing season!

A big thank you to our 2023 paddling families for giving us the time to do the sport we love! River City Rocks!

ROSE VILLA VIKING TEAM

Rose Villa Senior Living Community

"The Vikings hail from Rose Villa Senior Living. Our team is a mix of rowdy residents, staff, and members of Rose Villa's community. From age 86 to 30, our diverse team weathers rough waters with determination, teamwork, and fun! We are made stronger with the support of our entire community cheering us on. No race too hard, no water too cold. You will hear our cry, "Til Bardaga" (to battle)!"

Salem Water Otters

The Salem Water Otters were established in January 2018 after a group of paddlers got together with a desire to be more competitive. Starting out with only 11 women, the Otters have grown to a roster of 40 Women and Men, ages 16-70+. The 2023 season will mark our first official year with both a Women's and Mixed Team.

The Otters are a focused, fun, fierce and feisty bunch with a lot of energy and competitive spirit. We enjoy traveling to races and bringing home well-earned medals. The Otters can also be found frolicking in the forests and outback of the Pacific Northwest camping, hiking, and kayaking.

We love to laugh, especially at ourselves and are up for every challenge that crosses our path. We've also been known to be quite ferocious at times... but don't worry, we don't bite.

SMA Blues

SnapDragons

It's a beautiful day on the Willamette! SnapDragons have been paddling for 30 years! Since 1992, the Snapdragons have been having fun paddling with friends old and new. Our team represents all walks of life and is generally laid back — at least until the competition starts. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to get out on a boat with awesome women and our fantastic support crew. We've come together through family connections, work connections, and

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sometimes random social interactions (there's a story that one of our paddlers was recruited at a bar and thought it was just a bad pickup line). Whatever the background, when we come together, it's for the team to paddle as one: long, calm, and strong.

Stroke of Luck

We are a group of friends, family, coworkers, and drinking buddies that thought it may be fun to paddle together! Stroke of Luck is now rocking our Sixth year, and we are loving our time back on the river (even when raining!) and seeing our friends. With a bit of luck, tons of beer with a lot of laughter, and finally throwing in some great paddling we are going to bring home more of that coveted bling. Paddles Up!

Team Fusion 1

Team Taiwan

Team Taiwan Paddling Club was founded in 2017 by The Taiwanese Association of Greater Portland (TAGP), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with the mission to promote Taiwanese culture & heritage, and build community through the arts, sports, education, and family-friendly events. Team Taiwan Paddlers are composed of a diverse mix of Portland-area Taiwanese Americans, friends and family from across all ages, ethnicity, and abilities. Our paddlers' experience range

from first-time beginners to those who have participated in international races! TAGP and Team Taiwan Paddling Club are excited to celebrate Taiwanese culture, observe Duanwu Holiday and participate in the Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races by the Portland Kaohsiung sister city association for the fourth time this year.

Follow us on social media to stay connected and find more events.

Team Taiwan Paddling Club Instagram | @taiwanpdx

Taiwanese Association of Greater Portland Website | www.tagp.org

facebook.com/TaiwaneseAssociation.GP

The Fire Breathing Blowfish

A decidedly expressive team, the Fire Breathing Blowfish are united by a love for competition, the harmonious sound of thrashing the water in unison, and a tendency toward inappropriate behavior at inopportune moments. Noisy, joyful, and proud of having become Portland's "THAT team" in our past 10 years of competition, we hope you'll all catch the Blowfish spirit and hoist a beverage, grind your neighbor, and join us in the battle cry, **We Breathe Fire** over this wicked weekend of racy racing.

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WARNING: Do not submerge Fire Breathing Blowfish in water. We will probably have too much fun tipping the boat to care. Fire Breathing Blowfish may be hazardous to your social life. Fire Breathing Blowfish should not be used as a flotation device. Actually, scratch that. We basically are a fast-moving flotation device. Children under the age of 14 should have parental permission and due warning before engaging in conversation with a Blowfish. Unless, of course, that Blowfish is a parent of a child under the age of 14, in which case, carry on.

The Love Boat

The Love Boat is powered by fierce seawomen who are staff, volunteers and supporters of Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette (PPCW). We're flexing our muscles to raise funds and awareness for sexual & reproductive health care and education for all – regardless of who you love, your income level, your citizenship status or how you identify.

Using the tradition of dragon boat racing (along with awesome style and killer dance moves), we move the waters of the world towards better health and education for all. Together, we are female-identified folks making waves. **Love Boat! Love Boat! We're on top!**

The Mothership

(w)here Real Estate



The Mothership is a women's crew that is excited to celebrate our 20th year of participation in the Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races. We started in 2002 as a group of mothers at Bridlemile Elementary School. Several of us are now empty nesters and even grandparents. We gain and lose paddlers every year, but several of the original Muthers are still paddling and we have even gained a couple members from the next generation! Another thing that has remained consistent through the years is our practice schedule; we practice two days a week at 6:00 AM. We begin every year with that odd combination of excitement and dread. Then we are reminded just how lucky we are to watch our beautiful city wake up. That, along with a good workout and the company of some amazing women is the best way to start our spring days. (w)here Real Estate is fortunate enough to have two returning crew members of The Mothership. (w)here is proud to sponsor an amazing group of women embracing our city and a healthy lifestyle.

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The Valkyries

We are the women of The Valkyries, a holistic dragon boat team focused on using our collective strength for the greater good.

Our team takes its name from the Valkyries of Norse mythology, the female warriors who played a central role in escorting warriors who fought with honor and dignity to Valhalla. We hope to embody the strength, independence, and intensity of Viking women, both mythological and historical, to paddle towards victory.

Beyond our athletic goals, we are committed to personal and planetary well-being, and to using our power as a group to support other women in Portland and around the world. We paddle intentionally for justice, healing, and clean water.

With every paddle stroke, our energies unite and we are unstoppable. Val-Holla!

U Dragon U

Our team has been paddling in the Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races for 24 years! We're a mixed team, originally formed at the First Unitarian Church in downtown Portland. Over the years that initial common denominator has changed (although we still might have some UU church goers on the team) but

our team spirit remains the same. It's our mutual love of being out on the river and spotting wildlife (along with flotsam and jetsam, we always retrieve wayward plastic bottles) combined with an intense hour of exercise that unites us all.

We're a mix of ages and abilities, long-time friends and brand new acquaintances, good joke tellers (we have a new paddler who makes up limericks!) and good joke listeners, manic wildlife observers (loving the pair of bald eagles on Ross Island) three fabulous tillers and two excellent flag catchers – in other words, we're awesome!

Look for us in our neon green t-shirts. We're the ones with the happy-go lucky-attitude that does a good job of hiding our mean competitive streak. Watch out for us on the start line!

Thank you PKSCA. We LOVE dragon boating and hope it will continue forever. See you on the river!

Wasabi Special Dragons Green and Black

Special Dragons are a team of intellectually disabled athletes who want to compete with other athletes in the community. Founded in 1997, Special Dragons started racing in the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association dragon boat races over 20 years ago, and became an official Wasabi Paddling Club team in 2006. Special Dragons work hard to build physical fitness and confidence through dragon boat paddling, and racing in the Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race.

Water Dragons

Everyone remembers who brought them into dragon boating. That's the person we shake our fists at and curse for introducing us to this world; a world where we spend hours commuting to the water, a mortgage-payment worth of money on parking, and one which causes us to pour ourselves into our cars, water dripping off our noses and running down our backs. It's also the person we thank for bringing us into the fold of this amazing sport; one where age, gender, and weight, are far less important than attitude, effort and heart. Well, that's true of the Portland Water Dragons, anyway.

Our group ranges from mid-thirties to 78 years young and each one brings a necessary ingredient to our recipe. Some of our team matriarchs have been paddling for almost two decades! We are a "motley crew" sort of team that feels more like a feisty

family reunion than a group of once-was-strangers. This unlikely group of friends and athletes has been banding together over the past twenty plus years; finishing some seasons with heavy hearts and others with heavy medals.

Over those twenty years the team has found their own story, their own values, and their own vision. The team is proud to be led by a coach who insists on telling ridiculous jokes and encouraging growth through supportive words and patience. Teammates help each other improve and celebrate the growth and success of each other. The team's tiller is also a hobby pilot and he works diligently to keep us safe and on course. Team members carpool, share jokes, love happy hour and welcome new paddlers.

When we do have an opening in the boat, it's both very easy and very hard to fill that spot. It's not enough to find a great paddler or a tall, strong person; it's about who that person is. Will they fit in? Will they deliver not only a commitment to the team and give their best effort, every day with every single stroke – but will they be delightful? Will they be the kind of person that people love to sit cheek to cheek with on the boat? Will they cheer from the shore when they sit out a race? Will they delight in every success and forgive every shortcoming? If the answer is "yes" they just might have what it takes to be a Portland Water



Dragon. And if they are lucky enough to be invited to the team, they will always remember who invited them into this amazing sport with this amazing family. May everyone find a team that fits as well as the Portland Water Dragons. See you next year; you know you'll be back.

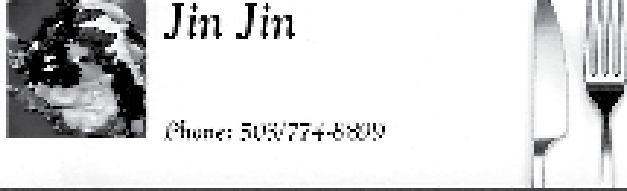
Wild Beavers

An eclectic team of paddlers, the Willamette Wave Riders reconvene every spring to perfect their unique way of riding the waves. A welcoming mix of veterans and newbies, the Wave Riders love to laugh as they cruise under the bridges looking for eagles, seals and the occasional mermaid from the awesome vantage point of a dragon boat. #Paddles up!

Wild Dragons

Willamette Wave Riders

An eclectic team of paddlers, the Willamette Wave Riders reconvene every spring to perfect their unique way of riding the waves. A welcoming mix of veterans and newbies, the Wave Riders love to laugh as they cruise under the bridges looking for eagles, seals and the occasional mermaid from the awesome vantage point of a dragon boat. We are excited to be sponsored this year by Get Control (www.getcontrol.com). #paddlesup.




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ZGF ARK-O-TEKS

Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects LLP

The ZGF ARK-O-TEKS have been proudly paddling the Willamette since 1989 and are looking forward to the races of 2023. The team has always been graciously sponsored by ZGF Architects, but our paddlers are a diverse group of Architects, Urban Designers, Landscapers, Programmers, Engineers, Botanical Devotees and every single amazing person that absolutely makes this team whole. This year our paddlers are full of cheering spirit and dedication! We will start Race weekend paying tribute to our ever-endearing team mascot, PUMML - the Pink Unicorn of Magical Love and carry that spirit to the end, to the goal, one long, strong, synchronized POWER stroke at time. Thank you Jammers! The ARK-O-TEKS are woven together by a love and respect for the water and a burning desire to come out on top. Our team keeps striving for those top spots, but regardless of how we do, you will find us doing the HOKEY POKEY with wild abandon race weekend.

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Message From the Graphic Production Designer Stephanie LaPierre Travis



It has been a privilege to work on the PKSCA Dragon Boat booklet for 22 years. Now it is time to let go of the reins and allow someone else the opportunity. Thank you to the PKSCA board for giving me this project.

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