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**CONTACT:**

Allison McGillivray

503-509-9719

[allison@weinsteinpr.com](mailto:allison@weinsteinpr.com)

Jeannette Shupp

971-717-6895

[jeannette@restoreoregon.org](mailto:jeannette@restoreoregon.org)



***A Valentine Gift to the City: Restore Oregon and the Portland Diamond Project Team  
Up to Re-TURN the Historic Jantzen Beach Carousel to Portland***

*Just in time for Valentine’s Day, these two organizations are showing their shared love for this iconic, historic carousel by partnering to create a permanent home for it in PDP’s new ballpark development*

**Portland, Oregon (February 11, 2020)** -- [Restore Oregon](#), a statewide nonprofit preservation organization dedicated to saving Oregon’s historic places, and the [Portland Diamond Project \(PDP\)](#) today jointly announced that they have secured a new home for one of [Oregon’s Most Endangered Places](#), the 1921 Jantzen Beach Carousel, through an innovative partnership. The two organizations will join forces to incorporate this historic attraction into PDP’s plans for a Major League Baseball development in Portland.

“After thoroughly vetting multiple strong proposals, it was clear that in addition to meeting our stringent site criteria, PDP shared many of Restore Oregon’s principles and goals,” said Peggy Moretti, executive director of Restore Oregon. “Both organizations value Portland’s long and unique history. Both appreciate the artistry and legacy of the Jantzen Beach Carousel, and both are committed to ensuring that the carousel remains accessible and affordable for Portland families and visitors for generations.”

Partnership with PDP achieves both of Restore Oregon’s original goals for the carousel: to ensure the carousel’s long-term viability and to find a responsible new home and steward for it. Now, with Restore Oregon’s expertise in historic preservation and PDP’s innovative leadership, both organizations will collaborate to ensure the long-term preservation and operation of the carousel. PDP is currently conducting in-depth site studies to evaluate the feasibility of a baseball stadium and an adjacent mixed-use development, ultimately creating a new entertainment district that is accessible to all Portlanders. Over the next year, Restore Oregon will launch a full-scale restoration of the carousel’s 72 horses to ensure its longevity for another 100 years.

PDP founder and president Craig Cheek added, “Locating the carousel adjacent to the ballpark supports our mission of creating an inclusive, family-friendly and accessible ballpark district. This effort is so much bigger than baseball — it is about making Portland a better place for all to live. Preserving the carousel—a wonderful civic asset — was an opportunity we simply couldn’t pass up.”

Along with funding from PDP, the ongoing [Re-TURN the Jantzen Beach Carousel campaign](#) will be supported in part by a generous gift from PDP charter investor and retired CEO of Platt Electric Harvey Platt, his wife Sandy, and their family.

“We are so pleased to support the effort to bring the Jantzen Beach Carousel back to life,” said Harvey and Sandy Platt. “As parents and grandparents, over the years we have loved watching families come together to enjoy two great bonding experiences: a day at the amusement park featuring a vintage carousel, and a day at the ballpark watching our favorite team. It is our hope that someday a fully-restored carousel will greet kids of all ages near the entrance of our new Major League ballpark.”

When Restore Oregon first accepted donation of the carousel in September 2017, they formed a Blue Ribbon Committee of leading citizens and launched the [Re-TURN the Jantzen Beach Carousel](#) campaign, tasked with restoring the carousel and securing a permanent home for it. Last spring, Restore Oregon published a [Request for Expressions of Interest](#) (RFEI) generating responses from property owners, developers, architects, and government agencies throughout the Portland Metro area.

“The carousel was an unexpected gift to Restore Oregon from its former owners, and a rare opportunity for us to take real, tangible ownership over the fate of a historic landmark,” remarked Moretti. “Many people are familiar with our advocacy efforts and deep knowledge base, but to be able to take on a project with such historic significance and shepherd it to its new home personally has been deeply fulfilling to the passionate team of historic preservationists here. It was important that we choose a partner that can provide a bright future for this meaningful landmark, and we have found the ideal partner in the Portland Diamond Project.”

The late Portland City Commissioner, Nick Fish was both a champion of the carousel and a beloved member of the Re-TURN the Jantzen Beach Carousel Blue Ribbon Committee. “The Jantzen Beach Carousel is a Portland treasure,” said Jamie Dunphy, Sr. Policy Director for the late Commissioner, who was an early supporter of the effort to bring MLB to Portland. “Thanks to the generosity of the PDP team, it will be shared with generations of Portlanders to come. In the four years since Commissioner Fish ‘found’ the missing carousel, he and I worked closely with the incredible staff and volunteers at Restore Oregon to find it a forever home – we couldn’t have hoped for a better outcome. Portlanders have stepped up with their own time and money to preserve and celebrate this piece of Portland history. Commissioner Fish would remind us that nothing is inevitable about Portland’s success. We must fight to save the things that make this place special and forge new paths away from those that weigh us down. Today’s announcement would make the Commissioner very proud.”

“Commissioner Fish was always a visionary and highly instrumental in shaping Portland for the better. I share his commitment to preserving a treasured piece of our City’s culture and history,” Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said. “Imagine the future memories that will be made with the carousel, in combination with a future Major League Baseball stadium. The potential for economic growth, revitalizing communities, and tourism is significant.”

Restore Oregon recognizes that it takes a village to re-turn a historic carousel, and acknowledges those that made this two-year effort possible, including [SERA](#), [PLACE](#), [KPFF Consulting Engineers](#), [P&C Construction](#), [Gensler](#), [Kimco](#), [Historic Carousels Inc.](#), and [Weinstein PR](#). Their generous donation of professional services demonstrates the local business community’s commitment to making this historic, yet new, destination possible

for Portland. In addition, this effort was made possible by grants from the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#), [Kinsman Foundation](#), [Oregon Parks and Recreation Department: Oregon Heritage Commission](#), [Oregon Cultural Trust](#), [National Carousel Association](#), [Juan Young Trust](#), [Schwemm Family Foundation](#), Keller Foundation and [Oregon Community Foundation](#).

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**For high-resolution images of the Portland Diamond Project design concepts for the Jantzen Beach Carousel’s Re-TURN, view our [press kit](#).**

**To learn more about the Jantzen Beach Carousel, the Blue Ribbon Committee, and the Re-TURN the Carousel Campaign, please visit [restoreoregon.org](#).**

**Over the next year, Restore Oregon will continue to restore the carousel. Please support this effort by donating at [restoreoregon.org/carousel](#).**

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**About Restore Oregon**

Founded in 1977, [Restore Oregon](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve, reuse, and pass forward the historic places that reflect Oregon’s diverse cultural heritage and make our communities vibrant, livable, and sustainable.

We advocate for effective policies and incentives, deliver education programs, and directly intervene to save endangered places that matter to their community. Learn more at [www.restoreoregon.org](#), [Facebook.com/RestoreOregon](#) and [Instagram.com/RestoreOregon](#). **#returnthecarousel #restoreoregon**

**About Portland Diamond Project**

The [Portland Diamond Project \(PDP\)](#) is the organization behind the effort to bring Major League Baseball to Portland. Founded by former Nike vice president Craig Cheek, PDP functions to build support for the MLB to Oregon movement by involving all communities throughout Portland (and the state) in the process of creating a ballpark (and adjacent district) that is inclusive and accessible to all—proving Oregon is better with baseball.

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