

Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race

Presented by the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association



龍年

2024

Year of the Dragon
4722



*Image from Christopher-ritter
of unsplash.com.*

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Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race June 8-9, 2024 Tom McCall Waterfront Park

The Legacy, the Inheritance, and the Cultural Significance

Springtime in Portland ushers in a flurry of activity as the city gears up for the annual Rose Festival Celebration, a vibrant showcase of the City of Roses' beauty and hospitality to the world. Among its myriad attractions is the Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race, a thrilling spectacle that has become a cornerstone of the festivities. What began as a cultural exchange initiative by the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association (PKSCA) has blossomed into a cherished local tradition, as integral to Portland's springtime as the blooming cherry blossoms gracing the banks of the Willamette River. Crafted with precision and care by skilled artisans in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, the first four traditional dragon boats embarked on a journey across the ocean and arrived on Portland's shores on March 31, 1989. These vessels, more than mere racing boats, carried with them centuries of heritage and tradition, weaving a bond between two cities thousands of miles apart. Now, the sight of the eight second-generation traditional dragon boats gliding across the Willamette has become a riveting scene, drawing visitors and locals alike to witness the boats and teams practice and race.



PKSCA's preference for traditional dragon boats over their more competitive counterparts is rooted in their profound cultural significance. With their fully decorative designs and dragon-shaped prows, traditional dragon boats reflect the rich tapestry of cultural beliefs and myths. They are used in ceremonial events such as the annual Eye Dotting Ceremony, serving as a reminder of ancestral rituals and honoring the spirits of the water and the ancient Chinese mythical creature of the Dragon. In contrast, competitive dragon boats, while sharing the same basic structure, are streamlined for speed and efficiency, they may not carry the same depth of cultural significance as their traditional counterparts. Nonetheless, both types of dragon boats play a vital role in preserving and promoting the heritage of dragon boat racing, ensuring that this ancient tradition continues to thrive in the modern world.

With that in mind, the Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race event relies on dedicated volunteers to ensure its success. Many of our long-standing lead volunteers, who have been the backbone of this event for decades are retiring, leaving crucial roles (Dock Master, Start/Finish Boat, etc) unfilled. We need passionate individuals like you to step up and fill these positions to continue the legacy they've built. Whether you have experience in race coordination, event planning, have unique technical skills, or simply love dragon boating, your contribution will make a huge difference. Additionally, we are actively seeking broader community support, including donations, new avenues of funds, and inviting new teams to join us. Every form of support, whether through volunteering, financial contributions, or team participation, is essential in maintaining the vibrancy of the Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race and ensuring its lasting impact on Portland's cultural scene. For more information, please email info@pksca.net

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 4 Portland City Mayor, Ted Wheeler
- 5 Mayor of Kaohsiung City, Taiwan, Chen, Chi-Mai
- 6 Speaker of Kaohsiung City Council, Yu-Cheng Kang
- 7 Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle; Director General, Daniel K.C. Chen
- 8 Portland Rose Festival Association President, Contesa Diaz-Nicolaidis & CEO, Marilyn Clint
- 9 Dr. Yuan Hsiang Chu, Chairman of the Board of Shu-Te Vocational High School and Ching-Mei Chen, Principal of Shu-Te Vocational High School
- 10 Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association Board of Directors / 2023 PKSCA Scholarship Award / Portland's Sister City: Kaohsiung, Taiwan / QR Code
- 11 Thank you 2024 Sponsors / Year of the Dragon
- 12 Sponsor Ads
- 14 Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association's History
- 15 Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association's Mission
- 16 Volunteer & Vendor Appreciation
- 17 Legend of Dragon Boat Racing & 2023 Dragon Boat Race Finalists
- 18 David Douglas & Shu-Te High School's History
- 24 Team Spotlight - Dragon Riders
- 25 2024 Team Biographies
- 38 Special Thanks to our Advertisers



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland



Dear Dragon Boat Racers,

Welcome to the 2024 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

1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 340 • Portland, Oregon 97204
Phone (503) 823-4120 • Fax: (503) 823-3588 • MayorTedWheeler@PortlandOregon.gov



高雄市政府
Kaohsiung City Government

April 24, 2024

Dear attendees and Portlanders,

On behalf of the citizens of Kaohsiung, I would like to extend warm greetings to you all. The Dragon Boat Race is a cherished tradition of the Rose Festival since 1989. This race holds profound historical significance for both Kaohsiung and Portland, serving as a symbolic link in our sister city relationship spanning over three decades.



Kaohsiung and Portland have shared a sister city relationship for 36 years. This February we received the delegation led by Commissioner Dan Ryan to participate in the Kaohsiung Lantern Festival. We were very pleased to welcome friends from PKSCA, Royal Rosarians, Portland Rose Festival Foundation, Curator of International Rose Test Garden, and Portland City Government. It was not only a reunion of friends but also a fruitful exchange between Kaohsiung and Portland. I look forward to promoting cooperation on rose cultivation and exchanging urban greening experience with Portland.

The deep connection between the two cities is established through historical and cultural events. This event would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of all participants, volunteers, the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association, and crucially, the support from the Portland City Government.

Again, I extend my gratitude to everyone who has tirelessly worked to unite the community and organize this event. May the race be a resounding success, and may our friendship continue to yield many more mutually beneficial outcomes for our cities.

Sincerely,

Chen Chi-Mai
Mayor of Kaohsiung

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No.2, Sihwei 3rd Road, Lingya District, Kaohsiung City, 802721 Taiwan (R.O.C)
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Dear Dragon Boat Racers and Friends,

On behalf of the Kaohsiung City Council, I am thrilled to invite you to participate in the upcoming 2024 Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race! An event that epitomizes the essence of community, culture, and competition, we extend a warm invitation to participants near and far to join us in this exhilarating celebration.

Set against the picturesque backdrop of the Willamette River, the Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Festival offers a unique blend of adrenaline-pumping races and vibrant cultural experiences. Let's witness the beauty of teamwork and feel the rush as racers paddle in sync with their teams, propelled forward by the rhythmic beat of the drum, and experience the thrill of crossing the finish line amidst cheers and applause.

Most importantly, the Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Festival is a celebration of unity, as well as the manifestation of the bond between Kaohsiung and Portland. It's a time for people of all backgrounds to come together, forge new friendships, and create lasting memories. Whether you're a participant, a spectator, or simply someone looking to experience the magic of the festival, you're an integral part of what makes this event so special.

So, join us as we embark on another unforgettable journey at the Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Festival. Whether you're here to compete, celebrate, or simply soak in the energy of the festivities, we welcome you with open arms. Together, let's make this year's festival the best one yet!

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 7, 2024

Dear Dragon Boat Racers and Friends,

On behalf of the Republic of China (Taiwan), I'd like to extend my deepest gratitude for the board of Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association (PKSCA) and president Chi Chao Chen for organizing the 2024 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 committed to enhancing the bilateral ties between Taiwan and Oregon in areas ranging from economic development, educational cooperation, to cultural exchanges, etc. Meanwhile, it is with the help from the PKSCA and its dedicated participation in the local events, such as the annual Portland Rose Festival, Taiwan's democratic image has the opportunity to be seen by the local communities, her shared values with Oregon in diversity, equity and inclusion get to be widely celebrated in the PNW, and her people-to-people exchanges with the Oregonians were allowed to be deepened in the last several decades.

With PKSCA's determined effort to continue the annual event, TECO in Seattle is honored to humbly play a role by sponsoring the 2024 Dragon Boat Race. With our continued cooperation and commitment to the sister-city relations since 1987, along with supports from the city governments of Kaohsiung and Portland, I am confident that the lasting friendships with Portland, Oregon and the U.S. will further prosper and deepen.

I wish the event success and look forward to accomplishing more prosperities with PKSCA in the many years to come.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. C. Chen
Director General



Dear Dragon Boat Race Participants,

We welcome you to the Portland Rose Festival's annual Dragon Boat Race produced by the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association.

The Dragon Boat Race is a wonderful highlight in the Portland Rose Festival. This race is a foundational piece of why we do what we do, showcasing and celebrating the beautiful tapestry of communities and cultures in Portland and the Pacific Northwest. This exciting two-day event, filled with colors, art and the incredible determination of every team 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.

We extend a special thank you to the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association board and volunteers for their vision, dedication and expertise in producing this incredible event alongside the Rose Festival. 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 Race. We hope you will take time to enjoy all the Rose Festival has to offer this year as we feature over 120 community, cultural, and affinity groups across our parades, stages, and events. Let's Dream Forward together for Portland!

Sincerely,

Contesa Diaz-Nicolaidis, President



Marilyn Clint, CEO



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SHU-TE HIGH SCHOOL
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116 JIAN-SHING ROAD, SAN MIN DISTRICT,
80781, KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN, R. O. C.
TEL: (886)-7-384-8622 FAX: (886)-7-381-3308

8 May 2024



Dear friends of Portland:

I am Yuan-Hsiang, Chu, Chairman of the Board of Shu-Te High School, we are coming again to Portland on June 4, 2024. This year we have 36 students, 5 teachers and 1 tour leader, 42 people in total. For most of students this is the first time traveling to the United States, they are so excited. Right now, our students have been practicing all the necessary skills and physical strength for the Rose Festival events.

We would like to express our deep appreciation to all the host families, the efforts of the Sister City Association team, Portland Rose Festival Foundation, and David Douglas School District. I believe there is a lot of planning and preparation that goes into our visit before, during and after our departure. We have been working hard to prepare for all the possible Rose Festival activities. We have enjoyed our cultural visits with our sister city school for many years. Thank you again, and we will see you soon.

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

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Sister City Association

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**2023 Recipient of the \$ 1000
Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City
Association Scholarship**

Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association is proud to announce William Iain Thistlethwaite as their 2023 Scholarship Winner. William was a Lake Oswego High School graduate.

**Portland's Sister City:
Kaohsiung, Taiwan**



Divided by the vast Pacific Ocean, it's fitting that the symbol of Portland and Kaohsiung's sister relationship is a boat. Every year during the Rose Festival, the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association hosts the Dragon Boat Races on the Willamette River — a display of colorful craftsmanship and competitive spirit.

Since 1988, this partnership with Taiwan's southern port city has floated on the warm waters of congeniality, with many goodwill missions and unique gifts — like a freshly caught, 36-pound Tillamook Bay Chinook salmon once presented to Mayor Nan Cheng Su.

Kaohsiung City is Taiwan's largest industrial center and the country's "Maritime Capital." As a powerhouse of commerce and culture, visitors can enjoy shopping in its many night markets, dine on dishes like duck rice and beef noodles at Michelin-rated restaurants, and take in the Pier-2 Art Center's expansive galleries

There are opportunities aplenty for outdoor recreation, from biking along the Love River and playing on Cijin Island's black sand beaches, to hiking the mountain slopes of Shoushan, where Formosan rock monkeys swing in the banyan trees.

Excerpt from Ben McBee at: <https://pdxtoday.6amcity.com/travel-and-outdoors/portland-sister-city-kaohsiung-taiwan>



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

**Thank you 2024 Sponsors...
From the Board of Directors**

Chi Chen

Sponsorship & Support Programs

On behalf of the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association (PKSCA) Board, I would like to take this opportunity to again thank and recognize our 2024 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 past deceased Board Members. The Richard Cole Scholarship Fund (RCSF) is dedicated to providing scholarships to students of Shu-Te High School as well as students in the Portland area. This year PKSCA gave \$2,000 to RCSF Scholarship fund, Royal Rosarian Prime Minister Mike Ware and Colleen Ware gave \$500 to RCSF for a Shu-Te student, the Royal Rosarians gave another \$500 to RCSF for a Shu-Te student. Portland Rose Festival Foundation also gave \$1,000 to RCSF Scholarship for Shu-Te students. PKSCA Board Member Joseph Lu gave \$5,000 to RCSF for Shu-Te students. 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. Alaska Airlines, Daimler Trucks North America, Quailhurst Vineyard Estate LLC, The Portland Rose Festival Foundation, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Seattle, China Airlines, and Washman Car Washes. Look for their flags on the boats, banners in the Bowl area, and their ads in this Program book. We also want to thank our Patrons, OnPoint Credit Union, Plaid Pantry, Jackon Food Stores for Shu-Te host families gas cards, Elmer's Restaurant for Shu-Te host families food vouchers, The Old Spaghetti Factory meal coupons, The Royal Rosarians, and the Cultural Center of TECO in Seattle for their financial support. We are 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@pksca.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.



The Year of the Dragon

1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024

Dragon is powerful, endlessly energetic and full of vitality, goal-oriented yet idealistic and romantic, and a visionary leader. They know exactly who they are and possess the keenest sense of self among the 12 zodiacs of Chinese astrology.



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

SPONSORS



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Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle

Dedicated to promoting and strengthening economic, cultural, educational and overall bilateral ties between the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle is honored to Sponsor the 2024 Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race.



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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.



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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 Starlight Parade

Each year since 1989, PKSCA has been in the parade paddling a lighted dragon boat through the Willamette River to victory.

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.



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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. After the end of last year's race 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 North Breakwater Dock, moved the boats out of storage to Willamette Park, and paddled the boats from Willamette Park to North Breakwater Dock. On race days nearly 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 and Portland Fire Bureau provide support and services. As part of our storage lease agreement, Zidell Marine Corporation provides a location for Captains' Meetings. Cathy Brunscheon and Jim Kunst furnish the start boat. Fred Harding and his sons spend two days in his boat retrieving flags. Fred Harding also transports finish line equipment to and from the race site. Rich Morgan provides the services of his pontoon boat to assist with our race. Vicki Sekiguchi, Butch Everett, and Rick McLaughlin tow the boats to and from the river and support boat maintenance. With Clyde Travis supervising, 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.



Loading the dragon boats from Willamette Park to Zidell to wash, and store them for the winter.

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 take wonderful photographs for PKSCA throughout the year. Ken Ma is responsible for managing the dozens of contracts and permits necessary for this event. We would also like to thank Bambuza Hospitality Group for our volunteer T-shirts this year. Lead Volunteers are: Volunteer Coordinator and Marshaling and Escorts, Maxine Davison; Registrar, Angie Chen; Fred Harding, finish line setup; Mike Bostwick and interns, start boat; Johanna and Mary Root, finish line; Clyde Travis, dock supervisor; 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.

During the time that our boats are not on the water, several volunteers keep our event going strong. Doug Williams has continued his dedication to maintenance tasks, Gale Zimmerman continues to support Doug with paint and life jacket assistance, Megan Kunze and Aaron Bocanegra continue to see to our social media presence and sourcing vendors, and Amy Stevens continues to help with other duties of the Race Committee.

Our event is an all-volunteer operation, and we are always looking for more folks to step up to help us. Please consider joining the team that keeps our event going.

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

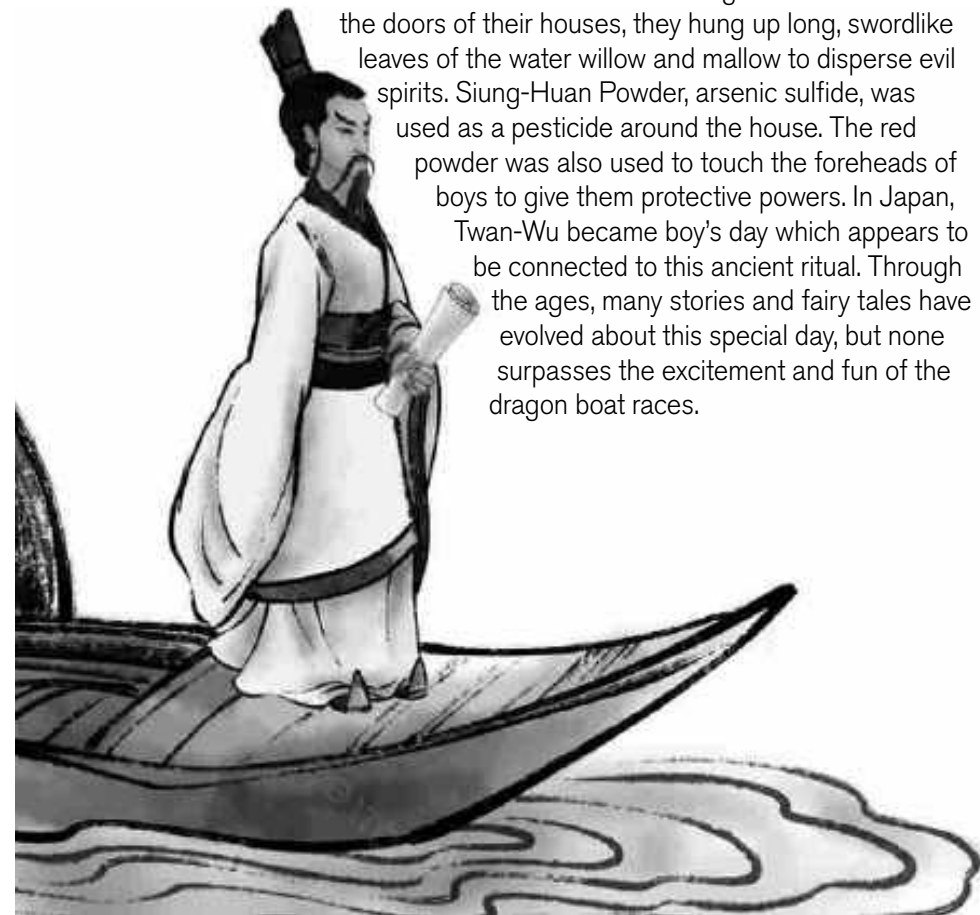
The Dragon Boat Races are the most popular early summer activity in the Orient wherever Chinese cultural influence prevails. It is the most important part of the Twan-Wu Festival, the fifth day of the fifth month on the lunar calendar.

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.



2023 Finalists

Women's Division 1

- 1: Liquid Assets..... 3:15.28
- 2: Dragon Ladies..... 3:24.27
- 3: Amazon Dragons..... 3:29.59
- 4: AZDBA SunGi 3:31.42

Women's Division 2

- 1: Dragon Riders..... 3:38.79
- 2: Misfit Dragons..... 3:41.38
- 3: The Valkyries..... 3:44.07
- 4: Dragon Rose 4:00.43

Mixed Division 1

- 1: Team Taiwan..... 3:10.54
- 2: DTNA Semi Dragons..... 3:13.63
- 3: CCBA..... 3:13.66
- 4: The Fire Breathing Blowfish 3:21.13

Mixed Division 2

- 1: Dragon Fever 3:23.42
- 2: Alaska Airlines Flying Dragons..... 3:30.88
- 3: KP Thriving Dragons..... 3:36.47
- 4: Dragon Guardians..... 3:40.26

Mixed Division 3

- 1: Daimler Thunder Trucks..... 3:25.89
- 2: Knuckles 3:33.92
- 3: Wild Dragons 3:34.74
- 4: Lethally Blind 3:41.79

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.

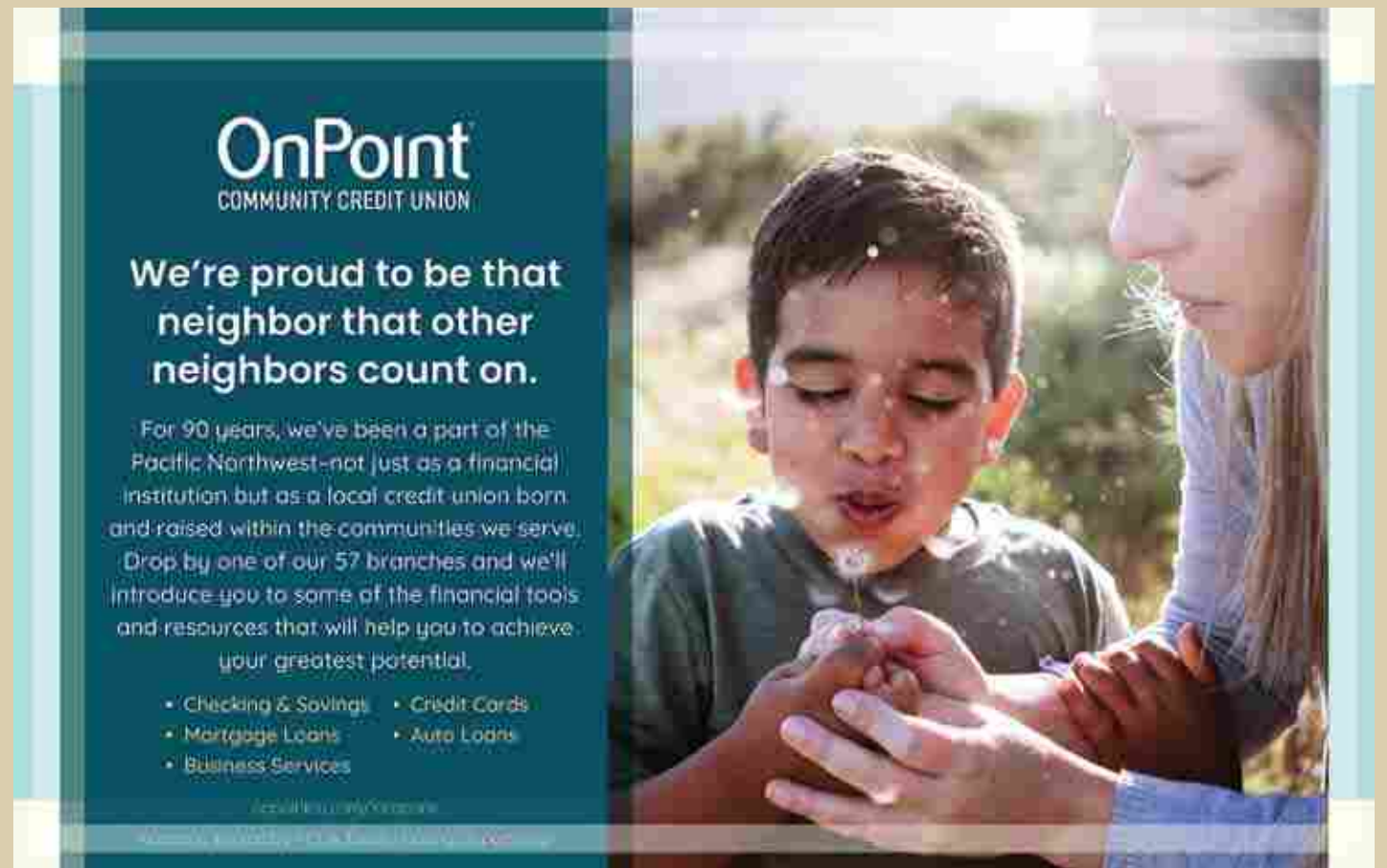
Portland Commissioner Dan Ryan having some fun with Shu-Te Vocational High School students during the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association delegation's visit to Kaohsiung, Taiwan in February 2024.



2023 Queen Deja Fitzwater from Tigard High School on her visit to Shu-Te Vocational High School in Kaohsiung, Taiwan February 2024.

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.





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Team Spotlight - Dragon Riders

Vicki Sekiguchi



Since 1999 a team of strong women paddlers with positive minds, positive vibes, and brave hearts, have ventured out into the cold spring weather of Portland to conquer the dragon. We call ourselves Dragon Riders, a boat full of proud and strong women. A ladies' team of all ages that was established 25 years ago with OHSU members. When Pill Hill Paddlers realized they had too many ladies interested in paddling, they created the Pill Hill Paddlers Too ladies' team, with three original members, Vicki Sekiguchi, Juile Anderson, and Jeri Elliot. After losing the original captain in 2000, Vicki didn't want to see the team disband. Not really knowing what she was getting into, she volunteered to be captain. After hurting her shoulder, she became a tiller, then later the coach. Vicki has been the coach since around 2003. After losing sponsorship from OHSU, the team went on, being independently financed. With a few different name changes through the years, Dragon Riders won. Vicki loved the Rose Festival Boats so much, she had to keep the team going. But she couldn't do it without the help of her cocaptain and lead paddler, Julie. Vicki has been a volunteer since the early 2000's, moving the boats from storage to the water. Then, after the season, moving them back to storage. She is currently on the race committee. Dragon boating has become a family adventure, with both Vicki's

and Julie's husbands helping. These two men have been our steady tillers and flag catchers through the years. Vicki's two children were also raised with the dragon boat blood. Not ever missing a race weekend since 2005, her daughter stole the flag catcher position from her dad as soon as she turned 14. Kylee loves to climb up onto the dragon head and catch the flag.

The Dragon Riders have a motto, that anyone can paddle if you can hold onto the paddle. So, with that we have a wide range of ages on the team. We also have a wide range of athletic ability. We love to come out and support each other. We believe in progress, not perfection. We enjoy the simple pleasures of Dragon Boat Life, of simply being on the water. We are composed of heart, strength, determination, resilience with a little bit of swag, striving for greatness in everything we do as a team, and paddling with confidence. In 2023 we won first place in the Division 2 women's group. One of our best years and best times! We are not a year-around team, we only practice 2 months out of the year and compete one weekend during the Portland Rose Festival, strictly for fun. We love the atmosphere and, the competition, but best of all is meeting new people and making great friendships in the Dragon Boat world. Life is short, paddle on! We are the Dragon Riders!!

2024 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 2024 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

Calapya Dragon Boat Team

The essence of community is deeply embedded within the heart of the Calapya dragon boat team, a testament to the collaborative spirit that defines their journey. In 2018, the PKSCA hoped to rehouse their 1st generation Kaohsiung boats. Ridgefield, Washington was a YES! As the boats gracefully glide once more, they carry not only the hopes of victory but also the shared bond of a community united in purpose and passion.

Founded in 2023 as part of Ridgefield's vibrant community dragon boat program, the Calapya Dragon Boat team has swiftly become a force to be reckoned with. Comprising passionate paddlers from all walks of life, the team embodies the spirit of unity, determination, and camaraderie. Each member brings a unique blend of skill, strength, and teamwork to the boat, forging a bond that transcends the water's surface. From rookies eager to make a splash to seasoned veterans with a paddle in hand, the Calapya Dragon Boat team is a testament to the power of community and the thrill of chasing victory together

Fueled by their shared passion for this ancient sport, individuals from diverse backgrounds come together, bound by the rhythm of the paddle and the spirit of camaraderie. With each stroke, they forge a bond that transcends mere competition, embodying the values of teamwork, perseverance, and inclusivity. This dragon boat team, born from the collective goodwill of the community, becomes a symbol of unity and strength, navigating the currents of life and Lake River with grace and determination.

CCBA 2024 Dragon Boat Team

Portland Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association

Like years past, the CCBA Dragon Boat Team trains hard to be on the podium in the Mixed Division, Tier 1 of 4. You may recognize us as the only original team participating uninterrupted since the beginning of the event in 1989. The very founding of the Portland-Kaoshiung Sister City Association (PKSCA) and receipt of the first donated dragon boats was through efforts of individuals from the Oregon 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!



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Civil Serpents

Civil Serpent (*Serpentis 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.

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 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 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!

Diesel Fish & Friends

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

See your bio on page 24.

Dragon Rose

Elmer's Restaurants

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!

Dragon Tamers

Golden Dragons PDX

Golden Dragons PDX The Golden Dragons 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 170 members and typically fill 3-4 boats, usually including a recreational and a workout boat, three times each week. We enter on average 7-8 races each year throughout the Pacific Northwest and will occasionally travel cross country or internationally to demonstrate that people over the age of 50 can be competitive in the growing sport of dragon boat racing. In fact the average age of our paddlers for any given race is most likely over the age of 70. We rely on the generosity of the Little River Café, which acts as our de facto "clubhouse" and whose coffee is essential to get us going. We are proud to once again compete in the Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race in the unique and beautiful Kaohsiung boats.

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KP Thriving Dragons

KP Thriving Dragons is thrilled to make a triumphant return to the Rose Festival for the 11th consecutive year! Our 2024 team embodies a vibrant blend of Kaiser medical professionals, committed support staff, unsung heroes of behind-the-scenes operations, cherished family members, and dear friends. With every stroke, each paddler infuses our team with their unique strength and dedication. Regardless of our placement in the race, we recognize that our true victory lies in emerging from this experience with minds, bodies, and spirits that are truly thriving. KP THRIVE!



Lethally Blind

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!"

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, 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! 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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HDRagons

The HDRagons may be a hodgepodge of engineering professionals by day, but on the water they come together to form of a fierce, fiery team of paddlers! A new team this year, the HDRagons are the first dragon boat team of HDR in Oregon. Our team is committed to friendship, support, and fostering a sense of community on and off the boat. Together, we are ready to paddle to victory and show everyone that HDR doesn't just make great things possible in the office, but on the river too.

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 Culhu waits dreaming.



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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.

QPO

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 2024 Rose Festival racing season!

A big thank you to our 2024 paddling families for giving us the time to do the sport we love! River City Rocks!

Rose City Renegade Dragons

ROSE VILLA VIKING TEAM

Rose Villa Senior Living Community

"The Vikings hail from Rose Villa Senior Living Community. Our team is a mix of rowdy residents, staff, and members of Rose Villa's community. From age 84 to 22, 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)!"



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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!

SMA Blues

SMA Navy

SMA Silver

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 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.

St. Mary's Academy

Portland's Rose Festival and St. Mary's Academy are two long standing icons of the Rose City. This marks the school's 25th year of participation in the event.

St. Mary's Academy is a Catholic high school for young women located in downtown Portland that provides a challenging college-preparatory education in a vibrant learning environment. Dragon Boat is officially offered as a spring sport with emphasis on dry land and on water training. SMA participated in the Rainier Dragon Boat Festival in May and 3 crews will take to the water at this year's Rose Festival. These young women represent the future of the sport!

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 Seventh year, and we are loving our time back on the river 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 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 fifth 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
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The Love Boat

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The Mothership

(w)here Real Estate



The Mothership is a women's crew that is excited to celebrate our 22nd 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.

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-Halla!

U Dragon U

Our team has been participating in the Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race for 25 years. We're a mixed team, originally formed at the First Unitarian Church in downtown Portland as a social club! Our connection to the church has dimmed a bit but not our team spirit. It's our mutual love of getting 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 and good joke listeners, manic wildlife observers, two fabulous tillers and two excellent flag catchers – in other words, we're awesome!

We're still sporting our neon green T-shirts this year... and our happy-go lucky-attitude. Watch out for us on the start line... last year we made it to Division 1 and we're out for a repeat performance.

Thank you PKSCA Dragon Boat Association. We LOVE Dragon boating and hope it will continue forever.

See you on the river!

Vibrant Community Crew

Wasabi HS Kraken 1 & Wasabi HS Kraken 2

Wasabi Special Dragons Blazing Paddles

Wasabi Special Dragons Flying Turtles

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



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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.

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). #paddles up.

ZGF ARK-O-TEKS

ZGF Architects, LLP

The ZGF ARK-O-TEKS have been proudly paddling the Willamette since 1989 and are looking forward to the 2024 races. The team has always been graciously sponsored by ZGF Architects LLP, but our paddlers are a diverse group of Architects, Designers, Programmers, Engineers, Marketers, 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,

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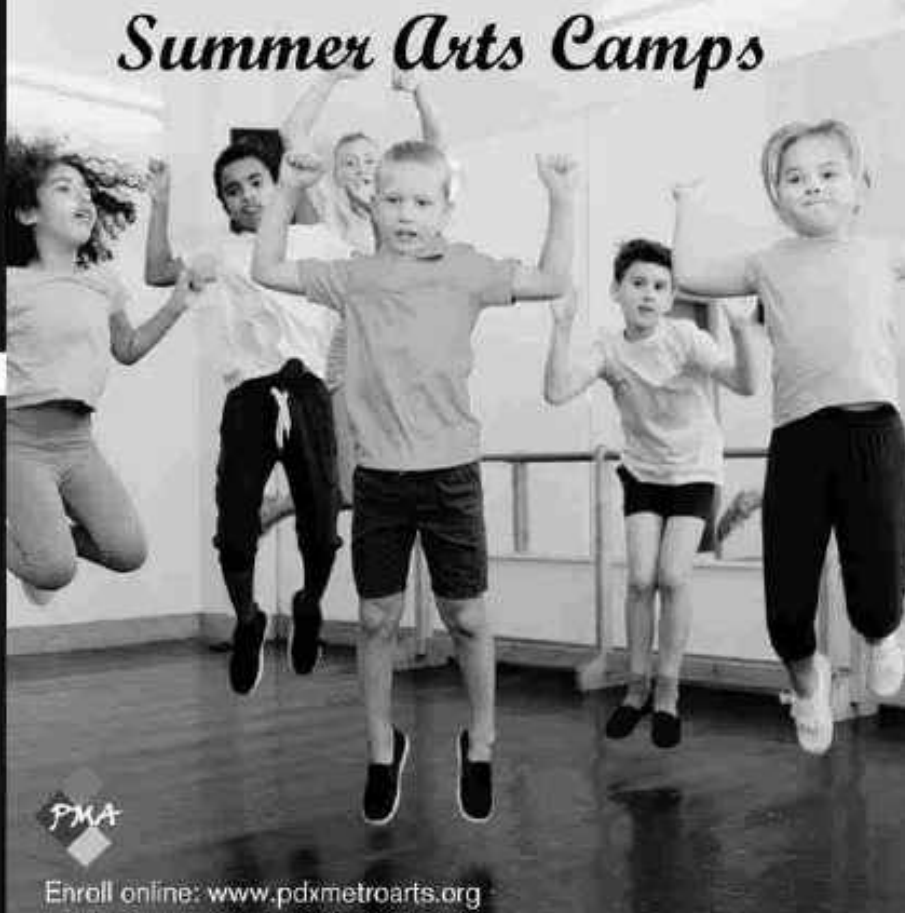
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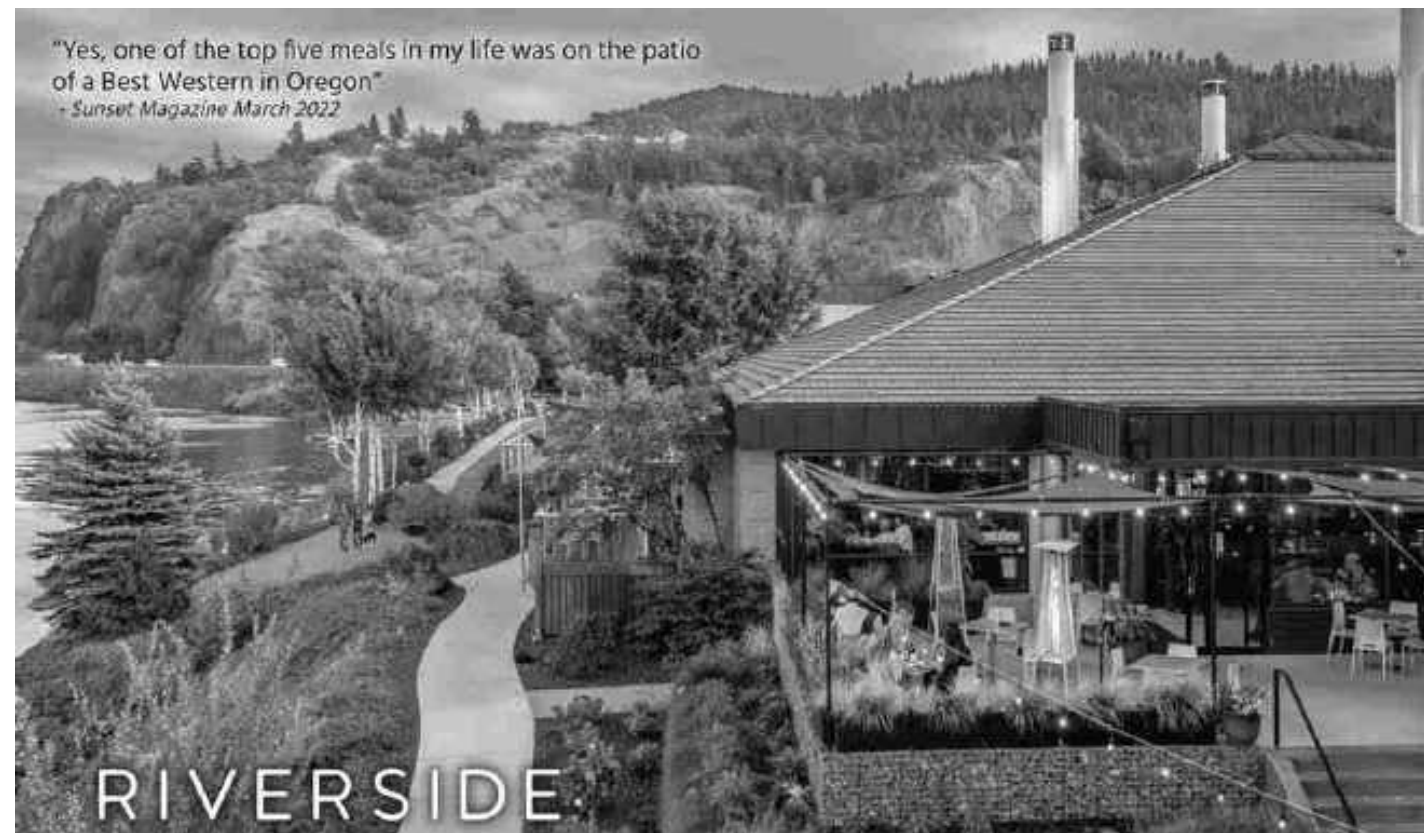
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