

Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race

Presented by:
Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association

2026
Year of the Horse
4724

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TAIWAN

WAVES OF WONDER

WHERE NATURE IS WITHIN REACH



Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race

June 6-7, 2026
Tom McCall Waterfront Park

The Legacy, the Inheritance, and the Cultural Significance

For the 38th year, PKSCA is honored to host the Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race, a tradition we continue to carry forward with deep gratitude for the community that makes it possible. The season began with our Eye-Dotting Ceremony in March, an event that once again brought together a vibrant drumline performance and the ceremonial blessings of our eight boats, setting the tone for the months ahead. From there, teams returned to the Willamette River to train, build connection, and prepare for race weekend on June 6-7. We are especially grateful to welcome both returning local teams and new teams from across the Pacific Northwest, and this year we are thrilled to extend that reach even further with the addition of a first-ever team from Bozeman, Montana.



This year also marks an important transition in our cultural exchange program. As we bid farewell to our long-standing partnership with Shu-Te High School and thank them for their many years of participation in Rose Festival events, we are excited to begin a new chapter with Kaohsiung Municipal Girls' Senior High School. Known for their outstanding all girls honor guard and marching band, we look forward to their presence lighting up the Grand Floral Starlight Parade for years to come. We also look forward to their dragon boat racing prowess in the beloved Sunday exhibition race against the St. Mary's teams. We are deeply grateful for their partnership and warmly welcome them to Portland.

I'm also thrilled to announce a brand new exhibition race on Saturday, "Triple Threat Cup", born directly out of the high-energy, unforgettable trip to Kaohsiung this spring. City Councilor Dan Ryan, returning with his team Paddle Portland Forward, and Kaohsiung City Council Speaker Kang Yu-Cheng, leading the Elite Councilor Squad, challenged Mayor Keith Wilson, and his new team, Mayor the Current Be With You in a friendly rivalry, for an epic showdown on the Willamette River. If this doesn't capture the spirit of cultural exchange at its most joyful and competitive, nothing does! May the best dragon boat team win!

Above all, heartfelt thanks go to our corporate sponsors, PKSCA board members, the Portland Rose Festival, Portland City Council and Mayor's office, dedicated volunteers, and every single race participant. This event exists because of your time, energy, and commitment. It continues to grow in meaning each year, and we are truly thankful for everyone who chooses to be part of it.

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

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Office of Mayor Keith Wilson
City of Portland



Dear Dragon Boat Racers,

Welcome to the 2026 Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races! This year's races demonstrate our community's continued resilience and support of an exciting tradition between sister cities.

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 symbolizes Portland's commitment to reaching beyond our borders and showcasing the world, all that is best about our city. The City of Roses is with you all the way!

Sincerely,

Keith Wilson
Mayor

1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 340 ♦ Portland, Oregon 97204
Mayor.Wilson@Portlandoregon.gov



高雄市政府
Kaohsiung City Government

May 8, 2026

Dear Dragon Boat Racers, Attendees, and Portlanders,

On behalf of the citizens of Kaohsiung City, I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to all participants and spectators of the 2026 Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race. Since the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association (PKSCA) first brought this magnificent tradition to the Willamette River in 1989, the dragon boat race has become one of the most beloved highlights of the Portland Rose Festival, a spirited celebration marking the 38th year of the sister city bond between Kaohsiung and Portland.



This year's grand race will once again bring together teams from near and far, competing with all their might in dragon boats rooted in Taiwan's rich and storied heritage. The sight of paddlers giving their all on the waters of the Willamette River is the finest expression of the unity, vitality, and fighting spirit that Kaohsiung and Portland share.

The enduring partnership between Kaohsiung and Portland is built not only on cooperation between our respective administrative agencies, but is also deeply rooted in the multifaceted interactions within education, culture, and sports, through which precious friendships have been forged. We are grateful for the continued collaboration with the PKSCA, the Portland Rose Festival Foundation, and the Portland City Government. Your collective dedication year after year ensures this event remains a vibrant testament to cross-Pacific friendship.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every volunteer, organizer, paddler, and supporter who makes this race possible. May the 2026 Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race be a resounding success, creating unforgettable summer memories on the water. Let us continue to paddle together, across oceans and across the years, toward ever deeper friendship and shared prosperity.

Sincerely,

Chen Chi-mai

Chen Chi-mai
Mayor of Kaohsiung City



Dear Friends from around the World,

On behalf of the Kaohsiung City Council, I cordially invite you to the 2026 Portland Dragon Boat Festival, an annual event rich in history and cultural significance. Held along the stunning Willamette River, this summer celebration warmly welcomes people from all corners of the world to take part in a vibrant gathering that blends tradition with competition and cultural connection.

The sight of dragon boats racing has become a cherished tradition, signaling that spring has truly arrived in Portland. This year, the Kaohsiung City Council is thrilled to announce that we are forming our own team to join the race! We eagerly look forward to competing on the water against our dear friends from the Portland City Government and the Portland City Council. This friendly rivalry symbolizes the enduring "Sister City" bond and the spirit of unity that defines our partnership.

As we celebrate the Year of the Horse in 2026, we wish to bring that same energy to the festival. Just as a horse gallops with strength and speed, may our teams paddle with tireless spirit and determination. We invite you to "Gallop toward Success" with us—whether you are a racer, a spectator, or a traveler, your presence makes this event truly special.

We sincerely invite you to join us for the 2026 Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race. Let us forge new friendships and create lasting memories together. Wishing all our international friends a year of "Great Success and Galloping Progress!"

Warmest regards,

康裕成

Yu-Cheng Kang

Speaker of Kaohsiung City Council

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

One Union Square, Suite 2020
600 University Street
Seattle, Washington 98101 U.S.A.
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May 7, 2026

Dear Dragon Boat Racers and Friends,

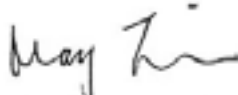
On behalf of the Republic of China (Taiwan), I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association (PKSCA), President Chi Chao Chen, and all participating teams on the occasion of the 2026 Dragon Boat Race, held in celebration of the Portland Rose Festival.

The Dragon Boat Race is not only a beloved tradition in Portland, but also a vibrant celebration of culture, teamwork, and friendship. Year after year, this event brings together people from diverse backgrounds to share in the spirit of community, mutual respect, and cultural exchange. It also serves as a meaningful symbol of the enduring friendship between Portland and Kaohsiung, a sister-city relationship that has continued to flourish since 1987.

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle is honored to support this year's Dragon Boat Race and to join PKSCA in celebrating the strong people-to-people ties between Taiwan and Oregon. Through PKSCA's dedication and the continued support of the cities of Portland and Kaohsiung, this cherished tradition has helped strengthen the bonds of friendship across the Pacific and has allowed Taiwan's culture, democratic spirit, and shared values to shine brightly in the Pacific Northwest.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to PKSCA, the organizers, volunteers, racers, and community members whose efforts have made this wonderful event possible. May the 2026 Dragon Boat Race be filled with excitement, unity, and success.

Sincerely,


May Mei-Chen Lin
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 dazzling highlight of the Portland Rose Festival each year. The races offer avid boaters and spectators the chance to take part in an event that thoughtfully knits together cultural tradition and local community participation. From the magnificence of the carefully maintained dragon boats to the profound displays of teamwork on the water, the Dragon Boat races are an event you don't want to miss!

We'd also like to 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 transformative, and we are honored to call the City of Kaohsiung a friend.

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. We look forward to celebrating Portland with you and hope you find a moment to Imagine the Magic of this incredible city with us.



Sincerely,

Jeremy Emerson, Rose Festival Board President

A Message of Friendship from Kaohsiung Girls' Senior High School

On behalf of Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Girls' Senior High School (KGHS), I extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to all participants and organizers of this year's Dragon Boat Festival in Portland.

This year marks a wonderful beginning of friendship between Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Girls' Senior High School (KGHS) and the Portland Kaohsiung Sister City Association (PKSCA). Following your meaningful visit to our school in February, we are now eagerly preparing for our own journey to Portland this June. Through this exchange of visits, our students and communities share not only traditions but also a mutual commitment to global understanding and international goodwill.

The Dragon Boat Festival is a powerful symbol of teamwork and cultural heritage. As the boats race across the water, they also bridge the distance between our two cities, strengthening the ties that bind Kaohsiung and Portland together.

We are proud to stand with PKSCA in celebrating this vibrant event. May the festival be a resounding success, and may our partnership continue to flourish for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Wen-Yi Cheng

Cheng wen yi

Principal



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Two Cities Unified Into One Heart:

The term “sister city” refers to a long-term, formalized partnership between two different nations to develop a friendly and meaningful relationship, designed to foster cultural, educational and economic exchanges.

On May 11, 1988, the Portland City Council officially approved Kaohsiung as Portland’s Sister City. Since then, the relationship between Portland and Kaohsiung has exponentially blossomed into what it is today; an indescribable sisterhood that effortlessly emanates the acceptance of cultures, the truest form of love and an understanding that we are all alike.

The “boat” is the official symbol of Portland and Kaohsiung’s sister relationship. A symbolic metaphor referring to the past, present, and future journeys that both cities will take to reunite.

Kaohsiung and Portland’s sisterhood is annually celebrated during the beloved Rose Festival! The most highly anticipated event of the festival is none other than the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association Dragon Boat Races on the Willamette River — a display of colorful craftsmanship and competitive spirit.

The Year of the Fire Horse:

1954, 1966 (Fire Horse), 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014, 2026 (Fire Horse)

Horse calls for a fortuitous time to chase success, with their energetic, free-spirited, and quick-witted spirit.

The “FIRE HORSE” occurs once every 60 years and is characterized by intense energy, passion, independence, and transformative change.



Thank you 2026 Sponsors...

From the Board of Directors

Chi-Chao Chen

Sponsorship & Support Programs

On behalf of the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association (PKSCA) Board, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our greatest thanks and recognize our 2026 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 dearly beloved Board Members. The Richard Cole Scholarship Fund (RCSF) provides scholarships to students of Kaohsiung Municipal Girls' Senior High School (KGHS) in Kaohsiung and local high school students in the Portland area. This year PKSCA gave a \$1,500 RCSF Scholarship fund for KGHS, and another \$1,500 to Portland Chinese Students Scholarships. Also, the Royal Rosarians gave \$500 to RCSF for a KGHS student and the Portland Rose Festival Foundation gave \$1,000 to RCSF for KGHS 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 our corporate sponsors, composed of businesses and organizations located within our community have agreed to help sponsor our event, thus providing financial stability to meet our commitment to the community: Alaska Airlines, China Airlines, Daimler Truck North America, Synergy Environmental, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Seattle, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Taiwan Tourism Administration, and QPO Energy Company. We'd also like to extend our thanks to our affiliate sponsors: Portland Rose Festival Foundation and the Royal Rosarians. With an honorable mention to the Oregon Cultural Trust whom graciously granted PKSCA \$22,940, to begin the purchase for the new third generation dragon boats. We'd love for you to look for their flags on the racing dragon boats, banners in the Bowl area, and ads in this program book. We also want to thank our Patrons, OnPoint Credit Union, Travel Oregon, Oreon Metro, Plaid Pantry, Bambū Desserts & Drinks for volunteers' T-shirts, Jackson Food Stores for KGHS host families gas cards, and Elmer's Restaurants for KGHS host families food vouchers. We are pleased that most of our previous sponsors have elected to continue in their support for this cherished community event and help PKSCA 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: a Board Member or send an email to: info@pkscanet.net. For written inquiries, please mail to

Dragon Boat Sponsorship Program

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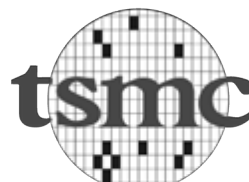
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Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle



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2025 Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association Scholarship Recipient



Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association is proud to announce Agnes Kuo as their 2025 Scholarship Winner. Agnes is a Union High School graduate and is now studying Electrical Engineering at Columbia University. Agnes would like to thank PKSCA for this opportunity and extend thanks for their continuous support to the Formosa Association of Student Cultural Ambassador Program (FASCA). Agnes believes in encouraging the youth in the greater Portland area to strengthen their connection to their heritage through participating in volunteer work and cultural events hosted by the PKSCA.

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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, which always takes place on the fifth day of the fifth month on the lunar calendar.

According to legend, during the Warring States period (476-221 BC), a high ranking minister of great talent and renowned beloved poet named Qu Yuan lived in the ancient state of "Chu." To the west, the state of Qin was determined to seize the state of Chu. For this reason, feigning a desire for friendly diplomatic ties, the state of Qin invited King Huai to Wukuan, to draw up a treaty. King Huai did not heed Qu Yuan's cautionary advice and consequently was kidnapped by Qin soldiers and died in the state of Qin. King Huai's eldest son, King Hsiang, not only failed to consider avenging his father but acted obsequiously toward the state of Qin. In addition, he believed a slander advanced against Qu Yuan and banished him.

On the fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar, Qu Yuan reached the bank of the Mi Luo river. There, the wise, sad hero committed suicide and threw himself into the river. When the news spread to the people of Chu, they feared the fish in the river would eat Qu 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, hoping that Qu 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 "Tzung Tze," sticky rice cakes wrapped in bamboo leaves.

The Twan-Wu Festival also signals change from spring to summer, tracing back to the Zhou Dynasty as a folk festival. In the distant past, farmers depended solely on the rainwater for crops. On this festival day, farmers prayed to the "Dragon of the Clouds" to send rain. As the mountain snow begins to melt, villagers pray to the "Dragon of the Seas" to calm the ocean and rivers. Above the doors of homes, swordlike water-willow leaves and mallow are hung to disperse evil spirits. Red Siung-Huan Powder (arsenic sulfide) were used to dot the foreheads of boys to give them protective powers.

As time passes, and generations begin to come and go, the folktales about Twan-Wu Festival continuously evolve. But despite the infinite variations of the legend, the excitement and fun of the dragon boat races is one that all ages never want to miss.

2025 Finalists

Women's Division 1

- 1: Liquid Assests..... 3:07.20
- 2: The Mothership3:09.96
- 3: Amazon Dragon Paddling Club ..3:10.44
- 4: St. Mary Academy Blues 3:10.79

Women's Division 2

- 1: Miss Fit Dragons 3:28.19
- 2: SnapDragons3:34.70
- 3: Dragon Rose3:35.33
- 4: Dragon Riders.....3:50.33

Mixed Division 1

- 1: Team Taiwan3:01.40
- 2: CCBA Dragon Boat Team3:01.83
- 3: Arizona Gila Dragons3:03.23
- 4: Daimler Truck Semi Dragons.....3:05.23

Mixed Division 2

- 1: Ripple Effect.....3:10.15
- 2: Alaska Airlines Flying Dragons.....3:17.79
- 3: Calapya.....3:20.34
- 4: Portland Fire3:35.34

Open Division

- 1: ZGF ARK-O-TEKS.....3:13.44
- 2: Wasabi Flying Turtles3:36.57
- 3: Wasabi Mighty Eagles 3:47.50
- 4: Wasabi Blazing Paddles.....3:48.67



Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association's Mission

Richard Cole, Ph.D.

The Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association's mission to foster and share one another's culture is expressed through these annual events:

Awakening the Dragon and Eye Dotting Ceremony:

This event officially opens the Dragon Boat season each April. The ceremony begins with a formal Buddhist ceremony performed by a group of Monks from a local Buddhist temple, followed by a traditional energetic Lion Dance, and a parade of dragon boats around the Portland Fire Boat. The main event is the formal dotting of the Dragon Boat eyes, done by local dignitaries.

Competitive Dragon Boat Race:

This free two-day event takes place on the weekend of the Rose Festival Parade. Over 2,000 team members and an estimated 40,000 spectators come to partake in the largest Dragon Boat race in the USA. Each day, over 95 teams compete in 50 heats. Sharing the over 2,400 years old tradition of Dragon Boat Racing is a fun way to educate the Portland City with the Chinese culture.

Portland Rose Festival Starlight Parade:

Starting back in 1989, PKSCA has annually participated in the parade by paddling a lighted dragon boat through the Willamette River to victory.

Portland Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade:

Since 1989, the PKSCA has showcased the Taiwanese culture with a beautiful vibrant float, paired with traditional Taiwanese music and a dance performance from Shu-Te High School in Kaohsiung, and a VIP convertible carrying the Kaohsiung Mayor or the Mayor's designated delegation leader.

Host Family Program for Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Girls' Senior High School:

Host families throughout the Portland area provide an American home experience for two lovely and talented musicians/dancers during their one week visit to the USA. Strong familial bonds are often created between the host families and students and many remain in contact all the years later. This is a wonderful first hand, immersive cultural experience for both the students and host families.

Official City-to-City Goodwill Delegation Exchange:

Each year, an official group of Portland City Delegation are selected to visit Kaohsiung, Taiwan for a few 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 one another'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 performed 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 Scottish 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 2026, David Douglas School District entered it's next chapter of Sister School relationships, "Kaohsiung Municipal Girls' High School (KGHS)," following the successful conclusion of a 31-year partnership with Shu-Te High School. 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 two Dragon Boats. Following the devastating 1999 Jiji earthquake in Taiwan, a fundraising program was started and resulted in a relief donation of over \$44,000USD. In 2003, \$10,000USD was donated to supply face masks during the SARS epidemic. These and other in-kind support activities are a high priority for the PKSCA.



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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 October 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 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 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, while the city of Kaohsiung donated two more in 2011.

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. Since 2020, PKSCA President Chi-Chao Chen has ushered in a promising new era for the association by strengthening cultural ties and signing a new Sister School Agreement with Kaohsiung Municipal Girls' High School.



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# Volunteer & Vendor Appreciation

*Richard Bursch, Race Director*

## The Legacy, the Inheritance, and the Cultural Significance

Since its inception in 1989, the Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race has been a proud all-volunteer operation. From our very first generation of boats to the second, and soon to a third, this tradition has been carried forward with heart, dedication, and community spirit. The Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association and its Board are proud to put on this event

While our boats are crafted in Taiwan, they are lovingly maintained right here in Portland by a devoted group of volunteers. At the forefront of this effort are our three Lead Volunteers: Rick McLaughlin, Butch Everett, and Doug Williams. These individuals work tirelessly—often behind the scenes—to ensure our boats remain in top condition. Their commitment is extraordinary, and their efforts are absolutely vital to the continued success of this event.

Maintaining the boats is no easy task. It requires technical know-how, patience, and a deep love for the race and what it represents. Rick, Butch, and Doug embody all of this, and we owe them immense gratitude for keeping this tradition alive.

As we look to the future, we also face a turning point. Many of us who have helped lead and sustain this race over the decades are beginning to “age out” of our roles. For the Dragon Boat Race to thrive in the years to come, we need new volunteers to step up—to learn, to lead, and to carry this legacy forward.

I need to thank Sam Eilers for stepping up to take over the role of Race Director after I retire from the position. Our plan is to share duties with me taking the lead this year and Sam for next year. I will officially end my term at the end of 2027. Sam is also coordinating vendors for our Race Weekend.

If you've ever enjoyed the excitement of race day, felt inspired by the rhythm of the drums on the river, or simply want to be part of something meaningful, now is the time to get involved. Help us keep this incredible tradition strong for the next generation.

The success of this event is made possible through the generous support of numerous organizations and individuals. The Portland Rose Festival Foundation officially sanctions the event. The City of Portland's Parks & Recreation Bureau and Fire Bureau provide essential support and services.

Zidell Marine Corporation hosts the captains' meetings, while Cathy Brunscheon provides the start boat. Lynne Barbier and Bryan Berry graciously furnish the finish line

boat. Fred Harding and his sons dedicate two full days to retrieving race flags and transporting finish line equipment to and from the site. Rich Morgan contributes a pontoon boat for transport, and Vicki Sekiguchi and Rick McLaughlin assist with towing boats to and from the river.

Synergy Environmental donates portable toilets as well as trash and recycling services for the event. The Little River Café provides both refreshments and much-appreciated facilities for participants.

River safety is ensured by the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary in coordination with the Portland Harbormaster. Additionally, the Marriott Residence Inn and Marriott Portland Downtown Waterfront offer special rates for dragon boaters, and the Kimpton RiverPlace Hotel graciously hosts us on their waterfront property for the weekend.

Months before race weekend, a dedicated group of individuals begin working diligently to ensure the event's success. Vanessa Ong and Jill Souede design and produce this race booklet, while Susie Ho and Larry Stewart capture stunning photographs for the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association throughout the year. Aaron Bocanegra spearheaded the more user-friendly redesign of the PKSCA website and registration system, and Megan Kunze greatly enhanced our social media presence.

Our Lead Volunteers play crucial roles throughout the weekend and devote significant time to preparation as well: **Registrar:** Angie Chen - **Volunteer Coordinator:** Maxine Davison - **Finish Line Setup:** Fred Harding - **Start Boat:** Dennis Gavin - **Finish Boat:** Johanna and Mary Root - **Marshaling and Escorts:** Maxine Davison - **Dock Supervisor:** Rick McLaughlin - **Computer/Command Tent:** Sylvia Ayala - **Volunteer Tent:** Mariah Davison.

These dedicated individuals are present throughout the entire race weekend and contribute countless hours preparing equipment and coordinating logistics.

## The Start of a New Chapter and Bittersweet Goodbyes

The Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association was monumental 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 seemingly “casual” relationship flourished into thirty years of love, understanding and immense respect amongst both cities. An indefinable bond that could only be, at best, described as: **family**.

What began as a single performance of traditional music and dance blossomed into thirty beautiful years of cultural exchange and countless unforgettable memories. In June of 2025, Shu-Te High School decided to close their chapter with Portland and pass the torch to a new school. An opportunity to bestow the love they received upon a new generation.

As the City of Portland closes one chapter, we are excited and proud to welcome the Kaohsiung Municipal Girls' Senior High School (KGHS) as our new Sister School starting June 2026.

Kaohsiung Municipal Girls' Senior High School is an all-girls high school, established in 1924, located in Cianjin District, Kaohsiung, Taiwan. This prestigious all-girls institution is not only known for its academic excellence but also for fostering lifelong friendships among its approximately 3,000 students.

KGHS will debut their energetic marching band and dynamic Dragon Boat Racing team, consisting of 54 remarkably talented students in this year's Rose Festival. Making their mark as the next Sister City School in the City of Roses.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the strong support of the David Douglas School Board, teachers, principals, and district administrators that assures the continued cultural exchange and relationship between both Portland and Kaohsiung. We are exceptionally honored to continue our Sister School relationship and look forward to another thirty years of unforgettable memories and unconditional love with the breathtaking city of Kaohsiung, Taiwan.



*Shu-Te High School Dance Team at the David Douglas High School Performance Art Center for the 2024 Night of Kaohsiung Performance.*



*Kaohsiung Municipal Girls' Senior High School's marching band, composed of 54 talented students.*



*Kaohsiung Municipal Girls' High School performing in their home city, Kaohsiung, Taiwan (2026).*

# Challenge Accepted: The Triple Threat Takes on the Willamette River

The 2026 Portland Dragon Boat Race represents far more than just a spirited competition on the Willamette River. It is a living symbol of friendship, diplomacy, and shared cultural celebration between Portland and its sister city, Kaohsiung, Taiwan. This year's historic "Triple Threat" race between Mayor the Current Be with You, Paddle Portland Forward, and the championship-caliber team from the Kaohsiung City Council marks a special moment in the evolving relationship between our two cities.



Dragon boat racing itself is engrained in centuries of tradition, symbolizing unity, perseverance, and collective purpose. It is a sport where success depends not on individual strength, but on trust, rhythm, and the ability to move forward together. That message resonates deeply for civic leaders tasked with guiding communities through challenge and change.

In a time when international relationships are often discussed in terms of trade agreements and formal diplomacy, this race offers something more personal and lasting: connection through shared experience. The featured

race reminds us that sister city partnerships are built not only in boardrooms, but on rivers, in festivals, and through moments of joy, competition, and mutual respect. As paddles hit the Willamette and the crowd cheers from the shore, this race stands as a celebration of Portland's global connections and a reminder that strong communities, like strong dragon boat teams, move forward best when they paddle together.



As the premier race of the event, this friendly but fiercely competitive showdown represents something much larger than victory on the water. It is a celebration of diplomacy through tradition, an opportunity for public leaders from both cities to connect not in formal meetings or official ceremonies, but through teamwork, shared challenge, and community celebration. The presence of Kaohsiung's delegation, especially as accomplished dragon boat competitors, adds both excitement and significance to the race, reinforcing the deep cultural roots of the sport and the enduring bonds between our cities.

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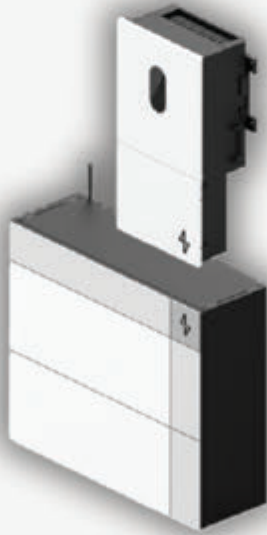
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# 2026 Team Biographies

## AC/DC

We're AC / DC — no, not the rock band you were expecting, but Ampere Computing's Dragonboat Crew. Our veteran paddlers are back in action to train the next generation. We show up, paddle hard, and somehow manage to stay mostly in sync. Our secret? A healthy mix of sore muscles, geeking out over technique, and just enough teamwork to keep us moving forward—usually. We're here to make waves, have fun, and prove that even techies can handle a paddle without falling in... most of the time. We are...AMPED UP!

to worldwide destinations, we come together to reach the finish line—one synchronized stroke at a time!



## Alaska Airlines Flying Dragons

The Alaska Airlines Flying Dragons team represents a spirit of teamwork and dedication. Made up of volunteers from various company sectors—including cargo, customer service, mechanics, flight attendants, pilots, and others—our crew works together to propel our dragon boat safely and swiftly across the river. As a proud sponsor of the Portland Rose Festival for sixteen years, we emphasize safety, hard work, and collaboration. Just as we unite to transport passengers

## Amazon Dragons Paddling Club

The Amazon Dragons Paddling Club provides lesbians and queer women, transgender persons, non-binary persons, and female allies of the LGBTQ community with camaraderie, fitness, and physical strength through competitive dragon boat racing. The Amazon Dragons Paddling Club conveys positive lesbian and queer visibility



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### **Bozenman Vikings**

The Vikings are coming from the Northern Rocky Mountains in Montana. We like to pillage, plunder and capture the flag. We have been a team for 20 years and this is our first time coming to the Portland Dragon Boat Races and we are expecting to have a lot of fun!

### **Brew Dragons**

Brew Dragons has been around for several years and each year welcomes in new paddlers. The first practice of the year is a time to see old friends and meet new ones. Although we are a motley bunch, we have fun and each time we get in the boat we are reminded that we can do hard things. Brew Dragons, Brew Dragons, Chug, Chug, Chug!

### **Calaypa Dragon Boat Team**

Team Calaypa, a Ridgefield-based spirited group of friends, neighbors, and paddling enthusiasts, is excited to race competitively in the Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races once again, in 2026! Our team is comprised of novice and veteran paddlers -- a vibrant community of friends who are always welcoming new members committed to bringing energy, strength, and a spirit of camaraderie to every dragon boat race. We are a passionate, dedicated, and hardworking team, supporting each other and our community through the spirit of volunteerism and friendship. While we always strive to beat our competitors, our highest objective is having fun! Cheer for Team Calaypa on race day, as you spot us in our gray and fiery-red dragon uniforms!



### **CCBA Dragon Boat Team**

*Sponsored by Portland Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association*

Our sponsor is the Oregon Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA), established in 1911. We are 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 CCBA. A recreational team, we compete just in the annual Rose Festival event. Members are from Portland's original Chinese community and their friends. We train hard, enjoy friendly competition and encourage promotion of the sport and goodwill through the races. We are grateful for the Chinese Community, the generosity of its businesses, associations and individuals for their continued support in this most festive, cultural exchange event. Best wishes again to all participants!

### **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 Semi Dragons

*Sponsored by Daimler Truck North America*

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 10th year racing and as always, we plan to leave it all on the water!

## Daimler Truck Thunder Trucks

Get ready to be THUNDERSTRUCK! Daimler Truck North America's IT Department and Asian Resource Network established the Thunder Trucks in 2023. Our Dragon Boat team represents collaboration, growth, and performance. We're now in our fourth year and are proud to bring together a diverse team with a "work hard, play hard" attitude. We'll continue to give it our all on the water!

### THUNDER TRUCKS



## Dragon Fever

*Sponsored by The Halton Family*

DRAGON FEVER has been racing the Rose Festival since the race began in 1989. We are sponsored by the Halton family. Ted Halton was one of the original ambassadors to bring the boats over and get the race started. His son Tanner took over the team after Ted retired. We are very proud to represent the Halton family and Rose Festival every year since 1989.

## Dragon Guardians

The Dragon Guardians are high school students from Ida B Wells High School. Paddlers range in age from 15-18 and the team is open to any Ida B Wells students.

## Dragon Riders

Dragon Riders are happy to be back celebrating the Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races. We have been paddling as a team for so long we can't even remember how many years. This boat of powerful women paddlers have lots of energy, fun loving and will breathe fire when in competition. That's right, we are no puff dragon riders, we sail the winds of eternity, hear us roar. Not even the Oregon rain can put out our fire, because we are the Dragon Riders, the heart of our Dragon. Dragon Riders have vibrant spirit, team unity and positivity. We are bold Dragon Riders fearlessly paddling to the sound of the drum through the waters of Portland Willamette River and yes, we know what's in the river and we still get in to paddle. Dragon Riders rule the day, so paddle hard Dragon Riders-One blade together!!!

"There once was a monster with wings and fiery breath.

We went to his home which was a rock dome and we caught him

With some rope and some twine. He was golden green

And he was quite sheen. Then we trained him for the saddle

and we trained him for a battle. And now we can ride on his back

with the wind in our hair and the people declare, "Tis the Dragon Riders"

*A big thank you to the team's hardworking and dedicated members, and the supportive volunteers.*

## Dragon Rose

*Sponsored by Elmer's*

Dragon Rose, an all-women team, has its roots solidly planted in the Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races, starting with the very first competition in 1992. Since then, team members have come and gone; yet two members remain



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Jaimi Anke & Debbie Dimoff. Their love of the sport has been infectious over the years, resulting in the recruitment of core members, many of whom have competed for a decade or more. Each year, as spring approaches, we look forward to finding ourselves on the water, reconnecting with old friends and meeting new team members. Rain or shine, we practice with determination to be the best that we can be. Dragon Rose would like to acknowledge our sponsor, Elmer's Restaurant, for their years of support both on and off the water. We're well fed, and ready to compete. Thanks Elmer's and Go Dragon Rose!

Dragon Tamers

The Dragon Tamers launched in 2023 with roots in the education world and a questionable amount of confidence for people who had never paddled before. Four years in, the crew has expanded well beyond: different industries, different backgrounds, same willingness to suffer together on the water.

We're scrappy, a little nerdy, and fiercely encouraging of each other. Our unofficial motto is "paddle till you puke," which tells you everything about our commitment, our humor, and possibly our judgment. We take the sport seriously. We don't take ourselves too seriously. And we show up ready to give the dragon everything we've got.

Golden Dragons PDX (Mixed & Women's)

Founded in 1996, the Golden Dragons PDX is a premier dragon boat club for active adults aged 50 and better. Based at Portland's Riverplace Marina, we are a 180- member-strong, all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to the spirit of the Willamette River.

While we take our paddling seriously—offering "Race Ready," "Technical," and "Recreation" tiers during our year-round morning practices--many of our members say we're a "social club that happens to paddle." From coffee at Little River Cafe after practice to skiing, and holiday parties, we foster deep connections that extend far beyond the dock.

As we celebrate our 30th Anniversary in 2026, we return to our roots at the Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races in June, and look forward to representing Oregon on the international stage at The Fairway Gorge in Vancouver, B.C, Canada.



Jammin' Salmon

Jammin' Salmon was established in 2000 by employees of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), which was the original sponsor of the team. Jammin's roster includes many current/former CRITFC employees,

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Northwest Portland Area Health Board Native professionals, and employees of other Native organizations from around the Portland Metro Area. Jammin' Salmon is a predominantly American Indian/Alaska Native team mixed in with strong allies of the Native Community. Our motto is Spawn & Die!

Kaohsiung City Council

Friends in Portland, buckle up! The winning wave from Kaohsiung is coming to the Willamette River! First, the Kaohsiung City Council (KCC) wants to say a big "Thank You" to the Sister City Association and the organizers. This year, Portland is doing something new by hosting the first "Triple Threat" race between the Portland City Government, the Portland City Council, and the KCC. We are so honored to be part of this historic event. It's more than a race; it shows the strong friendship between our two cities.

However, as your sister city, we must be honest: You are racing against a team of real champions. Led by Speaker Yu-Cheng Kang, our "Councilor Squad" was started in 2023. These are not just politicians—they are brave athletes who never give up. We love our sister city, but on the water, we will not be easy on you. We want all Portland citizens to watch this "fierce but friendly"; battle between our cities. "Bring it on!" If the Portland teams are scared, you can still quit now. We love you, but we love winning the trophy more! See you at the winner's podium!

Knuckle Dragons

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 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

Sponsored by Kaiser Permanente NW

KP Thriving Dragons is thrilled to make a triumphant return to the Rose Festival for the 13th year! Our 2026 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

Sponsored by Northwest Association of Blind Athletes

Team Lethally Blind is a seasoned dragon boat crew made up primarily of blind and visually impaired paddlers, joined by a diverse set of teammates from all walks of life. With over 18 years of competition at the Portland Rose Festival, we bring a disciplined, precise approach to racing. Our crew moves with power, driven by strong, synchronized strokes, guided by timing and connection. We rely on the rhythm of the boat, feeling each stroke and adjusting in unison. Our coach sharpens our tactics, while our steersperson and flag catcher keep us on track and balanced.



For us, competition is a driving force, but so is the community we build. Each season, we welcome new blind and visually impaired paddlers, along with teammates from all backgrounds, fostering a culture of support both on and off the water. Many of our blind and visually impaired paddlers feel very fortunate to have found a sport which does not require good eyesight, but which does require persistence and determination to compete.

Together, we race as a team and stand as a testament to the strength of collaboration, resilience, and community.

Liquid Assets

Liquid Assets is excited to be back for their 14th year paddling at the Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races. These paddlers vary in years of dragon boat paddling experience from 1 to 40 years and range in age from 28 to 80. They come from the Portland area, Texas, and Nevada, and from all walks of life, including: Program Manager/Project Respond; Conservation Planner and owner of an Equine Rescue Sanctuary; Retirees, Tax Program Supervisor; Senior Business Systems Analyst, Benefits/Insurance; Domestic Goddesses; Accounting; Pre-School Teacher; 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; Clinical Informatics Specialist; Attorney with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission; Public Affairs (Wildfire Communication) for the

Bureau of Land Management; Buyer Lead for a product development, engineering, and manufacturing firm; Professor of Literature and Creative Writing; Personal Trainer/Mental Toughness and Performance Coach. More than half of the team has competed on the international level at Dragon Boat World Championships. 9 have race on Team USA.

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!



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Love Boat

Since 2001, The Love Boat has consisted of Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette staff, volunteers, supporters, and advocates. We're a passionate and fierce group who unite once a year for the Rose Festival. What keeps us coming back is our endless dedication to raising funds, awareness, and our voices for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care. Our goal is far reaching education and advocacy across Oregon & SW Washington, all in the name of reproductive access.

Mayor the Current Be with You

Mayor the Current Be with You is a dragon boat team composed of employees from the Mayor's Office, the City Administrator's Office, and bureaus across the City of Portland, who have traded our spreadsheets and meetings for paddles and teamwork. What we lack in dragon boat experience, we make up for with dedication, heart, and a shared mission to champion Portland's renaissance. We show up, work hard, and have a blast doing it.

No Teacher Left Behind

No Teacher Left Behind has had a consistent presence in Rose Festival Dragon Boat races since 2005. The team

began with an intrepid group of educators from Lot Whitcomb Elementary School in North Clackamas School District. Over the years our roster has grown and been enriched by not only educators from around the area, but also individuals from diverse fields and backgrounds. We take pride in being welcoming and to paraphrase the old adage, it takes a village to paddle a dragon boat. We love to have fun on the water, encourage one another, keep an eye out for wildlife along our beloved Willamette River, and always push our selves to dig deep and finish strong. No matter the outcome, "We're winning!"



OWLS Dragonflies

Sponsored by OWLS; Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, P.C.; Tomasi Bragar DuBay PC; and Shartsis Friese LLP

The Oregon Women Lawyers (OWLS) Dragonflies is a team of women lawyers and other legal professionals. We practice year-round and compete in several regional races,

all while maintaining busy professional lives. We can address nearly any legal problem on our boat, whether you need to form a new business, develop your property, or protect your rights or business in litigation or on appeal. The Dragonflies extend our thanks to our employers and colleagues for their generous support of the team this season, and would also like to thank our sponsors: OWLS; Schwabe, Williamson & P.C.; Tomasi Bragar DuBay PC; and Shartsis Friese LLP.

Paddle Portland Forward

Paddle Portland Forward is a dragon boat team made up of Portland City Council members and their staff, united by a shared mission: to paddle in the same direction. Our goal is to lead by example—demonstrating collaboration, unity, and community spirit both at City Hall and throughout the city we serve.

For some of us, this is our first time in a dragon boat. While we may not be the fastest crew on the river, we aim to be the loudest, proudest, and most spirited team out there—representing Portland with heart, humor, and teamwork.

Pink Phoenix™ (Yin and Yang)

Launched in 1997, Pink Phoenix™ is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower breast cancer survivors through the sport of dragon boating. We are a team committed to fostering sisterhood through our shared breast cancer diagnoses—the team's only requirement for joining. As the first breast cancer dragon boat team in the U.S., we take pride in welcoming survivors and thrivers at every stage of their lives and regardless of their paddling experience.

Now in our 30th season, Pink Phoenix has over 100 members and practices 3 times a week, traveling regionally, nationally, and internationally for races. During the Rose Festival, we sponsor the Gorman Cup, an exhibition race where guest survivors join us in a zesty competition in memory of Michele Gorman, our first captain. This is a special race for us, allowing us to share our joy and strength with our community.

For information about membership or to donate to our organization, please visit www.pinkphoenix.org.



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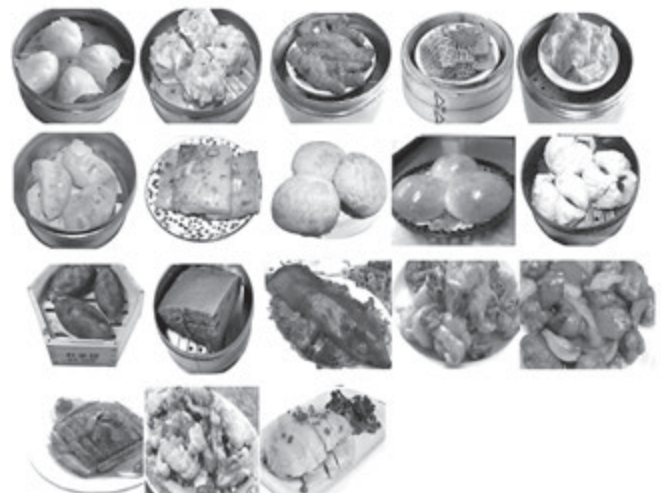


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Portland Fire

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.



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 friendship, camaraderie, sportsmanship and competitive racing. We are looking forward to an exciting and awesome 2026 Rose Festival racing season!

Rose City Renegade Delicate Wilting Flowers

We're Portland's most delicate, wilting flowers.

Just kidding. We're beasts.

Our women's boat is packed with everything from dragon boat newbies who got hooked after one practice to die-hards who've been chasing medals for years. Most of these ladies race on both mixed and women's teams, making them even tougher and more determined. We work hard, laugh loud, and refuse to take ourselves too seriously — except when that start horn goes off. Then it's game on. Off the water we're the ones with the best snacks, the most glitter, and the questionable race day superstitions. On the water, we'll give you a run for your money.



Rose City Renegade Dragons Mixed

Paddling to the rhythm of diversity, Rose City Renegade Dragons paddle with passion, inclusivity, and a splash of fun! We're not just a team; we're a family united by the love of the water and the joy of camaraderie. With every stroke, we celebrate our differences, embracing all races, genders, and orientations. Together, we ride the waves of friendship, laughter, and shared purpose, creating ripples of positivity in our community.



Snap Dragons

SnapDragons have been lighting up the Rose Festival dragon boat races since 1992. What started as a crew of teachers grew to include nurses—and evolved into what we are today: a fierce, kick-a\$\$ team of women fueled by grit, laughter, and zero tolerance for drama. We paddle hard, race harder, and somehow survive Coach Dale's legendary bad jokes season after seasons. With Coach Marv tilling us

to victory and flag catcher Jack who never misses, we're decades deep, still snapping, and more fired up than ever—when the SnapDragons hit the water, you'll know it.



Snapdragons

St. Mary's Academy (Blue, Navy & Silver)

Portland's Rose Festival and St Mary's Academy are two long standing icons of the Rose City. This marks the school's 26th 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 three crews will take to the water at this year's 2026 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 eighth year, and we are

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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 Fusion

Team Fusion is a community of dragon boat enthusiasts who come together to paddle, race, and have fun on the water. Founded in 2006 by our coach, Eric “Ducky” Leducky, and 13 paddlers from 6 different Rose Festival teams, our founding members “fused” together as a dedicated team to compete in races throughout Oregon, Washington, and beyond.

Team Fusion's roster is a medley of paddlers with varying ages, experiences, and gender identities. No matter your background or ability, we believe everyone has something to contribute. It is only when we foster an environment that promotes unity, collaboration, and create a strong sense of belonging can we all have fun.

Join us and experience the thrill of paddling together as we unite our strengths and skills to achieve success on the water.



Team Taiwan

Sponsored by Taiwanese Association of Greater Portland (TAGP)

Established in 2017, Team Taiwan (@taiwanpdx) is a Portland-based mixed dragon boat team rooted in the local Taiwanese community, bringing together members, family, and friends. What began as a group of paddlers with little to no experience has grown into a competitive crew made up of first-timers to veterans of the sport. What brings us together is our shared drive, passion and love of the sport.

Additionally, many of us paddle year-round with local outrigger canoe clubs. We are grateful for the ongoing on and off the boat, blending tradition, teamwork and passion. Can't wait to see you on the water! Team Taiwan! Jiāyóu! Jiāyóu! Jiāyóu!



The Lilly Dippers

Sponsored by Friendsview

Our dragon boat team is a powerful reflection of our community—bringing together leaders, caregivers, cooks, clinicians, and staff from every corner of the organization. From the CEO to our frontline heroes, we paddle side by side with a shared spirit of teamwork, resilience, and joy. On the water, titles disappear and unity takes over, reminding us that when we move in rhythm together, we can accomplish extraordinary things.

The Mothership

Sponsored by (W)here Real Estate

The Mothership is thrilled to celebrate our 24th year paddling in the Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races. We launched back in 2002 as a scrappy group of moms from Bridlemile

Elementary School who thought, “How hard could paddling a giant boat really be?” Turns out... pretty hard. But also pretty fun.

Over the years our crew has evolved. Some of the original “Muthers” are now proud empty nesters—and even grandparents—but they’re still showing up with paddles in hand. Along the way we’ve welcomed plenty of new teammates, including a few paddlers from the next generation, proving that dragon boating may actually be hereditary.

Our lineup changes a little every year, but one thing never does: our 6:00 a.m. practice schedule. Each spring begins with equal parts excitement and alarm-clock regret, but once we’re on the water watching Portland wake up, we remember why we keep coming back. A beautiful sunrise,

a great workout, and a boat full of strong, hilarious women—it's the best way we know to start the day.



The PACE Makers

The PACE Makers are a dragon boat team representing PACE, Platform for Asian Community & Engagement Employee Resource Group at adidas. Inspired by the cultural roots of dragon boat racing, our team brings adidas employees and allies together to build community, celebrate heritage, and paddle forward with unity and pride.

Together, we move as one crew, representing the power of sport, culture, and connection.

U Dragon U

Our team has been paddling in the Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races for 26 years. Our mixed team originally formed at the First Unitarian Church in downtown Portland although I don't think any of us still attend. Over the years that initial common denominator has changed 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 (well, some are pretty lame) and good joke listeners, manic wildlife observers (loving the pair of bald eagles on Ross Island), two fabulous tillers, and two excellent flag catchers – in other words, we're awesome!

Thank you PKSCAS Dragon Boat Association. We LOVE Dragon boating and hope it will continue forever. See you on the river!

Valkyries

The Valkyries are a team of powerful women and non-binary dragon boat paddlers in Portland, Oregon. Our crew includes educators, healers, artists, parents, and organizers, united by a shared commitment to community care, personal transformation, and social and environmental justice.

In Norse mythology, the Valkyries were winged women warriors who honored the fallen by carrying them up to Valhalla. We bring that tradition to life through practices of

is our training ground and our vessel of change. Moving as one, with purpose, intensity, and love, each stroke brings us closer to a more just and joyful world. VALHALLA!



Wasabi Kraken

Wasabi Kraken is a youth dragon boat team in Portland, Oregon. We invite students between the ages of 14-19 from the entire Portland metro area to join our team. We have representation from several Portland, Beaverton, and even Vancouver teams. We accept our teammates as they are and our main goal at every practice, race, and event is to build teamwork, sportsmanship, and most of all, have fun!



Wasabi Special Dragons

The Wasabi Special Dragons are a dedicated team of intellectually disabled athletes who have been competing alongside general members of the community since 1997. Their journey began with the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association dragon boat races near 3 decades ago, and in 2006, they proudly became an official team of the Wasabi Paddling Club.

The Special Dragons are committed to making the sport of dragon boating accessible and fun for everyone. Through their hard work and determination, they build physical fitness and confidence, regularly showcasing their skills and enthusiasm in the Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race. This year they have entered a record four boats—Wasabi Blazing Paddles, Wasabi Flying Turtles, Wasabi Mighty Eagles and Wasabi Raging Otters—making them the largest team at the festival. This success would not be possible without the

support of our volunteer community paddlers and support members. Their dedication and contributions are invaluable to the Special Dragons' journey and achievements.

Water Dragons

The Water Dragons team has been paddling 30 years and is composed of men and women, short and tall, young and extreme middle-age. We are all athletes who just plain love this sport. This is a team that paddles hard and then takes a short break to tell world-class lousy jokes and then back to paddling. We are to be taken seriously witnessed by the trophies and multiple medals awarded over the years. Each member has a passion for this sport and gives it all on the water. That passion translates to the energy we put into each stroke, to considering new techniques each year and to listening (most of the time) to our coach who knows how to motivate. And we know that there is no passion to be found playing small.....so when we hear "take it away", "git 'er done", and "give me a hard 10", we dig in. We know it is a good thing to have the jitters during race weekend..... just be sure they are in synch with everyone else's jitters! Paddles Up!



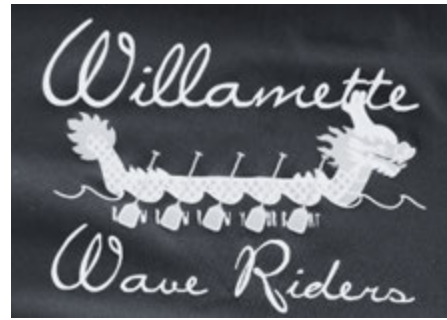
Willamette Wave Riders

Sponsored by Get Control, Inc

An eclectic team of paddlers, the Willamette Wave Riders reconvene every spring (we have truly lost count of the number of our years paddling together) to perfect their unique way of riding the waves.

A welcoming mix of veterans and newbies, the Wave Riders love to laugh, sing, and paddle 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 again this year by Get Control (www.getcontrol.com). Let's paddle!



ZGF ARK-O-TEKS

Sponsored by ZGF

The ZGF ARK-O-TEKS have been proudly paddling the waters of the Willamette River since 1989, blending tradition with a relentless drive to excel. Sponsored by ZGF Architects LLP, our team unites a diverse group of paddlers—Architects, Designers, Programmers, Engineers, Marketers, and our friends and families—brought together by a shared love for the water and the sport.

After unprecedented victorious seasons in 2024 and 2025, the ARK-O-TEKS are fired up to defend our title in 2026! Guided by our beloved mascot, PUML—the Purple Unicorn of Magical Love—we're channeling our unity, enthusiasm, and competitive fire into every practice and every race. On the water, we move as one—long, strong, and synchronized. Beyond the finish line, you'll find us celebrating life and building lifelong friendships.

This year, the ZGF ARK-O-TEKS are ready to dig deeper, cheer louder, and chase another victory. Here's to unstoppable spirit, incredible memories, and bringing it all home once again!

Additional Teams:

- Miss Fit Dragons



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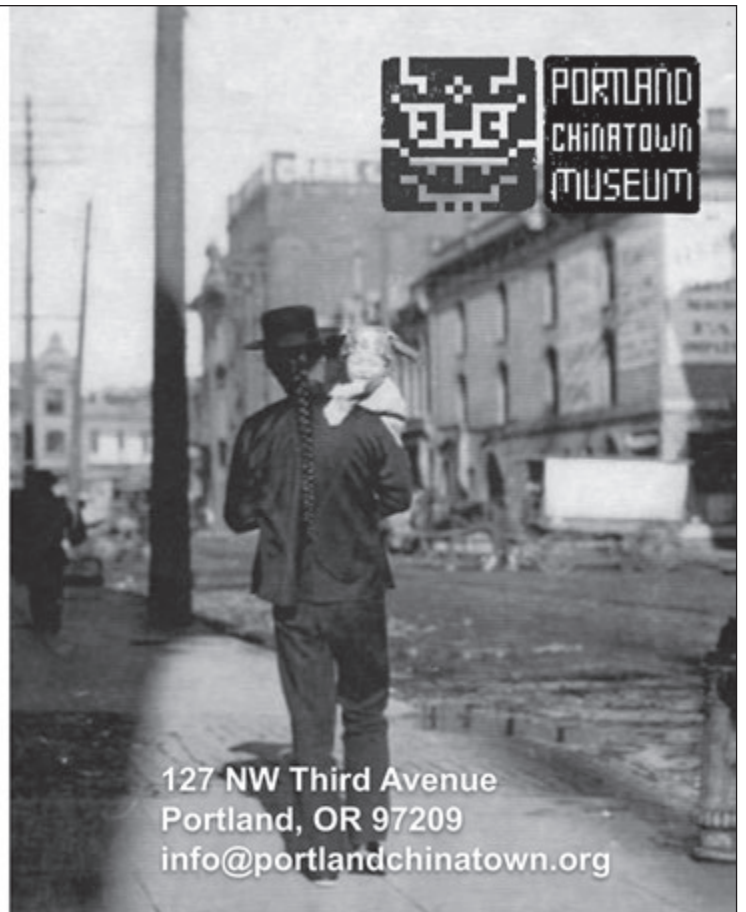
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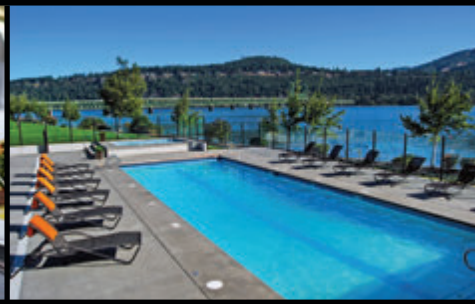
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