

Portland Landmarks Commission - South Park Blocks

Jon Wood <jonxwood@earthlink.net>

Sat 1/2/2021 1:25 PM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Dear Portland Landmarks Commission,

I support the nomination aimed at listing the South Park Blocks on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Jon Wood
503.309.0732

south park blocks

TERESA MCGRATH <bone1953@msn.com>

Sun 1/3/2021 6:37 AM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

"Over its many decades, the South Park Blocks have attracted Portland State University, several cultural institutions, churches and high-rise apartments as surrounding neighbors. One of the park's primary functions has been to provide quiet green space for contemplation, walking, picnics and small gatherings.

"The South Park Blocks (as a single park) is defined by its restrained simplicity and simple, direct material palette," the nomination states. "Pfundner's original design intent is visible in the promenade plan and axial planting layout, featuring a unifying canopy of mature, deciduous trees."

"Another defining characteristic of the park blocks is the paved plaza areas that provide a place for communal gathering and private contemplation. Public monuments, artwork, plaques and memorials, and bench seating have been added over the years."

Several cross streets toward the southern end of the park have been closed to vehicles, making that end of the park a public open space for the PSU campus. Blocks at both ends of the park are used from time to time for farmers' markets.

The nomination notes that many small changes have occurred over the years. Regardless, "Overall, the South Park Blocks retains its original shape, much of its historic pedestrian circulation pattern, significant public monuments and sculptures, as well as its major character-defining features. The park's integrity of materials and workmanship have been slightly diminished, due to the addition of non-historic features (including light standards, cruciform walkways, park furniture and public art) on some blocks."

Here are several reasons why Portlanders love the South Park Blocks. If you support the National Register Nomination, select some that are important to you to include in your comments.

- Beauty of the towering arches of mature trees
- Green spaces for quiet in the midst of the big city
- Shade in the summer, more sunlight in the winter; vivid colors in the fall
- A place for meeting friends
- Farmers markets
- Seasonal gardens and flowers
- Appreciation of public art
- Students studying in the grass
- Graduation ceremonies
- Young children playing
- Long promenade walks on separated paths with long views,
- Quiet mid-day lunch spots"

https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/Documents/OR_MultnomahCounty_SouthParkBlocks.pdf

we agree with these sentiments....

i have lived in portland since 1977, and biked over to the south park blocks dozens of times over the yrs...

it's gorgeous, peaceful, and full of people who appreciate it..

some wise words here from my friend...

" Although the Portland Bureau of Parks had recommended a national listing for the South Parks Blocks on a few occasions in the past, the bureau for whatever reasons never followed through. The Downtown Neighborhood Association over a year ago began discussions that led to the nomination effort."

-

thx,

teresa mcgrath and nat kim

3344 ne 15th portland or 97212 and 442 ne sumner portland or. 97211

South Park Blocks National Register nomination

Fred Leeson <fredleeson@hotmail.com>

Sun 1/3/2021 11:22 AM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Greetings. My name is Fred Leeson and I live in Northeast Portland.

Great cities respect their historic public places and architecture. The South Park Blocks are among the most historic in Portland and are eminently worthy of placement on the National Register. They deserve reverence for their original donation, for the simple yet elegant planting scheme that remains largely intact today, and for their long use as places for respite, exercise and public events.

The Landmarks Commission should have no easier chore than to endorse this nomination.

For 35 years I worked for an employer located just one block east of the Park Blocks. I traversed them several times a week, either running errands, eating sandwiches, walking for exercise or visiting the farmers market. The deciduous trees gave me shade in the summer, light in the winter, gorgeous colors in the fall and shimmering new greenery in the spring.

The beauty of these blocks is that they allow for a seemingly infinite number of public and private occurrences without elaborate infrastructure. We should respect and honor these spaces for their historic role in the central city and for the great opportunities they offer for respite and beauty and contemplation for as long as this city remains.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination. One of its beauties is that it is submitted by a cadre of smart, diligent volunteers. This is a wonderful exercise in public participation.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

We support the Portland South Park Blocks historic place designation

Aaron Choate <aaronnchoate@gmail.com>

Sun 1/3/2021 12:00 PM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov
<ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>



The City's email systems have identified this email as potentially suspicious. Please click responsibly and be cautious if asked to provide sensitive information.

To Whom It May Concern:

My family and I support the Portland South Park Blocks historic place designation! With this we also advocate for further removal of private automobile parking along those streets and closure of private car traffic along the park blocks in favor of more walking and active transit-oriented uses. This would be both in keeping with the original 1877 design of the park blocks, as well as allow for future-focused solutions to downtown / university district issues exacerbated by climate change and a growing city. Thank you.

Aaron, Kirsten, Sierra, and Anton Choate
4723 SE Haig Street
Portland, Oregon 97206

<https://buildingonhistory.blogspot.com/2021/01/help-honor-south-park-blocks.html>

https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/Documents/OR_MultnomahCounty_SouthParkBlocks.pdf

South Park Blocks National Register Nominastion

Kathy Johnson <kwj@iinet.com>

Tue 1/5/2021 1:36 PM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

I am writing as a Portland native to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for the National Register. My love affair with the South Park Blocks began as a young child walking with my family almost weekly through the twelve block area. As I grew older, I relished the quiet of the green space, the canopy of trees and long promenades; often I would just sit on one of the benches and watch other families, bench sitters, kids playing frisbee, individuals reading alone or talking to each other. As a young mother, I brought my children regularly to the Park Blocks to play, to attend music and art events, to walk through the city, to grab a bite to eat at a farmer's market. I still visit regularly as part of my city walk.

Most significantly, the South Park Blocks represented for me the nexus of a vibrant and robust city with the surrounding art and historical museums, government buildings and Portland State University. And the statues, especially Teddy the RoughRider, Lincoln and other significant Portland plaques and memorials. The area says brightly and forcefully-'take a look at this rich and bustling city, and the mix of people of all ages and backgrounds who embrace what Portland represents. This is the heart of our city.'

The South Park Blocks is Portland's gem; its architecture, landscape and history is only enhanced by the area's reverence for nature and its citizens. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Kathy Whittemore Johnson

Preservation

Peigi Huseby <peigi.huseby@gmail.com>

Tue 1/5/2021 2:45 PM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Hi Hillary,

I have been a Portland Resident for over 25 years. I came here from New England. One of the things I love the most about Portland is areas in which preservation is honored. The Park Blocks give such a sense of history and the importance of parks, trees, open spaces that are preserved for walking, sitting, observing, and trees and foliage. I feel that providing such areas and preserving such areas is a big part of defining the importance of history and Portland's people. Thank your work in this valuable area.

Peigi Huseby

Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks to the National Register of Historic Places

Paula Pumphrey <paula.pumphrey@gmail.com>

Wed 1/6/2021 1:44 PM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

January 6, 2021

I write you to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Park Blocks are one of Portland's oldest and most historic public places.

As a resident of Park Avenue, the South Park Blocks are my front yard. Once a week I volunteer to work in the park blocks and help out the city's Parks and Recreation department. It's a place of never ending beauty with the leaves turning color in the fall and roses blooming in the summer. The South Park Blocks also make a beautiful backdrop for the Portland Art Museum, the Oregon Historical Society and the Schnitzer Concert Hall.

Sincerely,

Paula Pumphrey
1500 SW Park Ave #412
Portland, OR 97201
Paula.pumphrey@gmail.com

January 6, 2021

To: Robert Olguin

ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov

National Register Program Director

State Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer Street NE, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301

Info:

Portland Historic Landmark Commission

kminor.phlc@gmail.com, hillary.adam@portlandoregon.gov

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland
OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Olguin,

I write you to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Park Blocks remains one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and significant historic open spaces. It has endured as the centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions.

The area has had daily significance for me since moving here five years ago. As an auditing student of PSU every term in that time, my life has been profoundly impacted by continued learning in the university classroom during senior citizen years, while having the South Park Blocks to walk through and ponder the learning. Without the South Park Blocks' beauty and opportunity for reflection just before and just after classes, the life-altering experiences in learning might not have happened. The Blocks deserve our utmost attention now for restoration, preservation, and conservation.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Otte

1221 SW 10th Ave., #102

Portland, OR 97205

ottenancy@gmail.com (email preferred vs. telephone)

480.250.0022 (text preferred)

cc: Portland Historic Landmark Commission

Nomination of the South Park Blocks

ERIKA WHITE <erikaaaron@comcast.net>

Wed 1/6/2021 11:32 AM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>

To Whom It May Concern,

I write you to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Park Blocks remains one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and significant historic open spaces. It has endured as the centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions.

My husband and I live within a few blocks of this area and we truly cherish and are humbled by the serenity of walking among the beautiful trees that have lived in the park for so many years. We also enjoy the other activities that the park provides including the Farmer's Market which supports our abundant local agriculture. The South Park Blocks are such a vital and integral aspect of all the art, theater and academic institutions in the area, it deserves to always be protected.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Erika and Aaron White

255 SW Harrison Street #23D

Portland, OR 97201

erikaaaron@comcast.net

support South Park Blocks National Register nomination

Rebecca Nielsen <beccanielsen@earthlink.net>

Thu 1/7/2021 2:53 PM

To: orshpo.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <orshpo.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; kminor.phlc@gmail.com <kminor.phlc@gmail.com>

To: Robert Olguin, National Register Program Director
Portland Historic Landmark Commission

Dear Mr. Olguin and HLC members:

I am writing to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. One of things that makes Portland distinctive is its greenspaces, and the South Park Blocks go hand in hand with Forest Park to create that reputation. It is this connection of citizens with their environment that helps make the city what it is. This is a valued landscape and needs to remain so.

As a preservation professional working the Pacific Northwest I know how important it is to document and recognize our iconic spaces. As a person who calls Portland her hometown I know how much it means to residents, be it a shady place to have lunch in the summer to an event space or an accessible farmer's market. The rapid development happening in West Coast cities in the past decades puts open spaces at risk, particularly those in downtown areas.

Please support this well researched effort to honor and protect this city centerpiece that has fulfilled its intent to be an urban oasis.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Nielsen
5648 45th Ave SW
Seattle, WA 98136
beccanielsen@earthlink.net

Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Kathryn Welds <kathryn.welds@gmail.com>

Thu 1/7/2021 5:22 PM

To: Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; Kathryn Welds <kathryn.welds@gmail.com>

Date: 7 January 2021

To: Robert Olguin

ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov

National Register Program Director

State Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer Street NE, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301

Info:

Portland Historic Landmark Commission

Kminor.phlc@gmail.com, hillary.adam@portlandoregon.gov

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Olguin,

Please support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

The South Park Blocks are one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and significant historic open spaces.

The Blocks are a centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions.

I love this Park and it's the reason that I brave the homeless to live downtown, in proximity to the Cultural Venues and Portland State University.

Please consider this request.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Welds

1221 SW 10th Ave, 1209; Portland 97205 kathryn.welds@gmail.com

650 740 0763

cc: Portland Historic Landmark Commission

Kathryn Welds

kathrynwelds@gmail.com

Mobile +1 650 740 0763

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[LinkedIn](#) | [Website](#)

In support of Nominating the South Park Blocks to the National Register of Historic Places

Janet Krochina <jkrochina@gmail.com>

Thu 1/7/2021 9:45 PM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Dear Ms. Adam-

I am writing to support the nomination of Portland's South Park Blocks to the National Register of Historic Places. They are a treasure to the city and to me.

When I located housing in downtown Portland to live part-time near family and in respite from Alaskan winters, my first impulse was to become familiar with Portland's history. I took many tours offered by the Architectural Heritage Center and the South Park blocks tour was one I remember best. I could picture lives shared along this park strip over the decades and centuries. It remains a favorite territory for me in the city. I walk it most days I am in Portland - for pleasure or errands, as a destination or as a route to one.

The colors and the sounds of the open space. The soft landscape offering to a hard-edged city. The old growth trees, their cooling shade, their draw for birds. The statuary and art. The rose garden. The PSU Farmer's Market. The presence of GREEN available year-round for a color-starved woman escaping a black-and-white Alaskan winter. These elements are a jewel in the heart of a dense urban center. Honoring and preserving them are a sacred duty.

Sincerely-

Janet Krochina
255 Harrison St. #20H
Portland, OR 97201

(No subject)

Charles Landis <chasland@gmail.com>

Fri 1/8/2021 10:18 AM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov
<ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>

January 8, 2021

Robert Olguin

ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov

National Register Program Director

State Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer Street NE, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301

Re: Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County,
Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Olguin,

I write you to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Park Blocks remains one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and significant historic open spaces. It has endured as the centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions.

The Park Blocks are among Portland's best downtown amenities. In the 15 years I have lived in the downtown area, I have enjoyed many, many park-centric activities, from the Portland Farmers Market to the Shamanski Market to the annual art fair in the South Parks Blocks. Please preserve these treasures for me, for my children and for my grandchildren, all Portland residents who use and enjoy these facilities.

Sincerely,

Charles Landis

2211 SW 1st Ave., Unit 504

Portland, OR 97201

503-31309395

cc: Portland Historic Landmark Commission

If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up someplace else.

- Yogi Berra

January 8, 2021

Robert Olguin

OlguinORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov

National Register Program Director

Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer Street NE, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Olguin,

I write to you urging you to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Park Blocks remains one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and significant historic open spaces. It has endured as the centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions. Aside from being beautiful, it contains numerous historic sculptures including statues of Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt as well as other historic figures and fountains. For example, a bronze statue of *Rebecca at the Well*, created by a University of Oregon art professor Oliver Laurence Barrett, completes the Shemanski Fountain.

Before the pandemic, not a week went by that I did not walk through the South Park blocks. It is a peaceful place in the center of downtown and home to the immensely popular Farmers Market.

Please support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Diane Howieson

2211 SW 1st Ave, #1305

Portland, OR 97201

dbhowieson@comcast.net

January 9, 2021

Greetings:

It has come to my attention that a dedicated and forward-thinking group is working hard to have Portland's South Park Blocks listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

To that end, The Downtown Neighborhood Association has prepared a one hundred page nomination. It is the culmination of ten month's intense research and writing.

This letter is in support of their nomination. I urge both the State Advisory Committee and the Portland Landmark Commission to do likewise.

Through out my adult life, downtown Portland has been a consistent recreational lure. In recent years, I have been smitten with the colors, textures, sounds, aromas and variety at the PSU Farmer's Market. I have always relished productions at the Schnitz and appreciated its nearby restaurants. My consistent preference is to shop at the downtown Nordstrom. I can only wish that I prioritized more visits to the Art Museum.

Whether lingering or rushing, I have always taken the lovely Park Blocks for granted – until now.

I realize how much I value the Park Blocks' pleasing composition of outdoor space. Certainly their creators were trained and talented artists whose work has had lasting significance. I also realize that it is the trees that are of special importance to me.

The Tall Elegant Trees.

Aside from beauty, their canopy imparts a sense of enclosure and emotional security. As a practical matter, they create visual interest, assist in soil stabilization, improve air quality, provide shade, reduce noise levels, improve air quality and supply habitats.

I want this very important part of my city to be preserved and protected. The Portland Park Blocks are truly worthy of being designated as a national historic treasure!

With thanks for your consideration and with my sincerity,

Karen Blitz . 7580 SW Cedar Street . Portland, OR 97225 karenblitz@gmail.com

SouthPark Blocks, MultnomahCounty, Portland OR

B Brady <auntibar1@gmail.com>

Fri 1/8/2021 9:06 PM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

I learned that the South Park Blocks have been suggested for inclusion in the National Registry. The importance of this should not be underestimated. With so much of the city of Portland torn up and in tatters, full of plywood, chain link fences and graffiti, it would be somewhat reassuring to know that in the future, there will be one area that will be left in preservation of its history, despite its current destruction.

For me, it's the trees in particular that need to be preserved. Fortunately, the renegades and rioters haven't attacked the trees yet, as the value is great, and they are irreplaceable in one lifetime.

Please do the right thing, and add the South Park Blocks to the National Registry. The location, and the many assets including roses, statues, walking paths, benches, grass, is one of the best and most appreciated that the city has to offer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Brady
Downtown Resident

South Park Blocks Nomination to the National Register for Historic Places

Membership PSC <membership@portlandsocietyforcalligraphy.org>

Sat 1/9/2021 2:59 PM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Dear Ms. Adams.

I strongly support efforts made by the DNA Committee for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks on the National Register of Historic Places and I will tell you why.

Ever since I was a little girl growing up in Portland I was reminded that my great great grandfather Sylvester Q. and his wife Honor Farrell lived there. Honor planted the Farrell Sycamore at SW Park and Main. I have a framed mirror from that house in my home how and maybe the deep sofa in my living room accommodated those large bustle dresses.

Sylvester gave the eulogy at Thomas Lamb Eliot's funeral. They lived next door to one another.

I moved away for some years and when I came back in 2012 I immediately got involved with the Architectural Heritage Center. The first walking tour to add to our collection had to be one on the South Park Blocks, so I wrote it. I have led innumerable people down one side and up the other of this timeless space. In the summer it's a cool spot on the hottest day. Even in the winter we can lead walking tours, protected by the canopy and able to view extra details not visible when the leaves are full.

The whole 12 blocks is beautifully planned and executed with its long axial views, splendid deciduous trees and ample promenading opportunities. It is always a source of reflection and rejuvenation just as it was planned 140 years ago. It is a legacy this City of Portland deserves to keep now more than ever before.

I urge you to approve this nomination.

Sincerely,

Leslie H. Hutchinson

January 9, 2021

Robert Olguin
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
State Historic Preservation Office
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: South Park Blocks
National Register of Historic Places Nomination

Dear Mr. Olguin,

It is my pleasure to heartily endorse the nomination of Portland's South Park Blocks for the National Register of Historic Places. Since I arrived in Portland in 1974, these park blocks have been an integral part of what I think of as Portland. To maintain them in the manner historic preservation experts recommend seems the exact right thing to do.

I was enchanted by the rows and rows of beautiful trees when first exploring downtown Portland as part of the neighborhood of my first job. I arrived in the early fall and watching the changing leaves was especially magical for me, a native not of the northwest, but of Tucson, Arizona. As fall turned to winter, I then appreciated the peek-a-boo view that the bare trees offered to the lovely facades of the surrounding historic buildings. While I no longer work downtown, the South Park Blocks are still a seasonal destination for walks, for the very same experience this setting afforded me "way back when."

Travel is my passion and, post-Covid, I intend to make up time! What I most enjoy about visiting cities around the U.S. and the world is their outdoors - historic buildings, squares, and parks intermingled with contemporary counterparts. Each era gives context and spice and texture to the other, I think. Portland is not that old, we have to admit, so it's even more important to preserve our earliest history. These park blocks also tie together the major cultural institutions of Portland, destinations for residents and tourists alike, adding importance to their preservation.

Please add my support for the nomination in question. It will be a great day when this gem of Portland's downtown is preserved for our future.

Sincerely,



Mary Lou Laybourn
maryloulaybourn@gmail.com

GARZÓN
8025 SW INTERMARK ST, APT A
PORTLAND, OR 97225
510.384.9571
Garzons@sbcglobal.net

January 10, 2021

Mr. Robert Olguin
State Historic Preservation Office
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County,
Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Mr. Olguin,

I write you in support of the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. You will note from our address that we do not live close by the South Park Blocks. However, we own an apartment in the American Plaza Towers (2211 SW 1st Ave, #1301 Portland OR 97201), which we visit and allows us to take advantage of the South Park Blocks.

Within Portland, and we would say the State, South Park Blocks remains one of the most distinctive, valued, and significant historic, open spaces. It has endured as the centerpiece of the city's educational and cultural institutions.

For us, the park has been valuable in providing green space - a quiet respite from the city's sounds. Its towering arches of trees have been a delight for us and provide summer relief and wonderful fall colors. The plaza areas and closed streets allow us to safely walk and enjoy the days. How important that has been during this difficult period.

Once again, we support the nomination of the South Park Blocks and strongly encourage the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation and the Portland Historic Landmark Commission to support it as well. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Addison & Gerard Garzón



cc: Portland Historic Landmark Commission

Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Susan Nunnery <spnunnery@gmail.com>

Sun 1/10/2021 9:50 AM

To: kminor.phlc@gmail.com <kminor.phlc@gmail.com>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Cc: Downer Johnson <dowvjon@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Olguin and Ms. Adam,

I write you to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Park Blocks remains one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and significant historic open spaces. It has endured as the centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions.

We are proud and happy residents of downtown Portland and visit the South Park Blocks regularly. Pre-Covid, we took our grandchildren to the grassy play areas, walked to PSU to audit classes, and enjoyed the beauty and history of our neighborhood. We intend to resume those pleasures soon and would be thrilled for this area to be on the National Register of Historic Places as a gift to our children and grandchildren.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan P. Nunnery & Downer V. Johnson
2221 SW 1st Ave., # 1121
Portland, OR 97201
206-618-2929

support for historic nomination of South Park Blocks

LaJune Thorson <lajune.thorson@gmail.com>

Sun 1/10/2021 12:21 PM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

January 10, 2021

Hillary Adam

Historic Landmark Commission

Subject: Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland, Oregon, to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms Adam:

As a resident of downtown Portland, I walk frequently through the South Park Blocks, either as a destination for my walk or as a route to another part of downtown.

There are many things I appreciate about the park:

- The long view through the tree alignment feels so spacious even in this dense part of downtown.
- The width separating me, the pedestrian, from the traffic on either side provides a feeling of safety and calm.
- The quietness of the park provides a space for contemplation.
- The deciduous trees mark the passage of time as they change with the seasons, providing shade in the summer, adding color in the fall, and providing light in the winter.
- Landmarks such as the Plank Road plaque, the rose garden, and the fountain in Shemanski Park provide places to pause and reflect.
- The Farmers' Markets are convenient for downtown residents and workers.
- The grass and trees provide a respite from the hardscape of the city.

We are so fortunate to have this amazing, distinctive park downtown for everyone's enjoyment, including people who may not have easy access to parks in other parts of the city. We must not take this park for granted. Historic designation is long overdue.

LaJune Thorson

255 SW Harrison #26D

Portland, Oregon 97201

lajune.thorson@gmail.com

Historic Preservation Status for South Parks Blocks

Patricia Fromm <fromm_pat@outlook.com>

Sun 1/10/2021 2:34 PM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Cc: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

As a home owner and resident in American Plaza Towers, I request you preserve this historic and important part of our city and my 'back yard'. The Park is my pathway to downtown where I'm determined to continue to support local business, especially at this time of unrest and destruction in our city. Please do not let the heritage trees be destroyed but preserved by professional arborists to increase the longevity and significance of our park.

In the heat of summer, the giant deciduous trees provide cooling shade and respite from my city apartment. Walks in the autumn warm residents with the glowing colors and as the leaves fall and the sun warms the benches and walkways. Children play, fathers read from blankets safely spread on the lawn, and elders on walkers can safely enjoy the out of doors. The PSU Market is a benefit to our city as visitors and travels from around the world spend long hours on Saturdays enjoying both the respite of the park and the local goods, providing income year-round for many Oregon businesses.

This avenue was once home to Portland elite and formal Italianate mansions along with some of the most historic churches and some of the oldest public spaces in Portland. Please preserve this beautiful park area with placement on the National Register of Historic Places

Regards,

Pat Fromm

Portland, OR 97201

Support for the South Park Blocks National Historic Register

Hollie lindauer <hollielindauer@gmail.com>

Sun 1/10/2021 3:30 PM

To: Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>; ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

To: Robert Olguin January 9, 2021

ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov

National Register Program Director

State Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer Street NE, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301

Regarding: Portland Historic Landmark Commission

Letter of **Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks**, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Olguin,

I was so excited to hear that Portland's beautiful and beloved South Park Blocks are being considered for the Historic National Registry. Please do it! That is fantastic! I am privileged to live near this park and every time I walk through I marvel at the classic design pattern of the garden and walkways, the spectacular canopy of Elms, (how lucky is Portland to have retained it's Elms!) the beautiful statuary and monuments.

This park is the most iconic and lovely in the city. You have not been to Portland without a photo of this park. It gives such pleasure year round. In fall the leaves provide an amazingly colorful carpet, winter's snow on the contemplative Abe Lincoln is a wonderful reminder of his connection to Oregon, in spring the budding elms are bright and summer offers a cool majestic enclosure of green to the sweet fountain for dogs and humans at the lovely Shemanski fountain. While this park is in the dense heart of the city, with the University at one end and downtown at the other, the elegant multi-block scale is a perfect relief, offering space for events and so much enjoyment.

Sincerely,

Hollie Lindauer

cc: Portland Historic Landmark Commission

--

Hollie Lindauer

1221 SW 10th Avenue #1505

Portland, Oregon 97205

c. 503.702.8743

Mr. Robert Olguin
National Register Program Director
ORSHPO State Historic Preservation Office
725 Summer St. NE, Suite C
Salem, Oregon 97301
ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov

January 10, 2021

Subject: Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks,
Multnomah County. Portland, Oregon to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Olguin,

I live in downtown Portland. I write in strong support of the nomination of the South Park Blocks nomination for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The foresight of our city's founders, and the stewardship of their successors, has become the centerpiece of Portland's cultural, educational and inspirational institutions and life. This enduring refuge from the expanse of concrete, steel, glass, asphalt and bustle remains fragile and susceptible to the whims of every generation.

That the remaining (surviving) 12 south contiguous park blocks of these iconic spaces have not been protected by listing on the National Register may be an oversight, but after 150 years, it is negligence to not do so immediately.

The simplicity of a towering cathedral of arching deciduous trees above a carpet of soft grass as provided adaptability and flexibility for a dozen decades to meet ever changing uses – while preserving its intrinsic design of unified linear arcades and promenades. Preservation is needed to maintain the integrity of the whole before it is further eroded. Activities have flourished here (farmers' markets, graduations, weddings, AA meetings, public art exhibitions, meditations, and more) within this open space, without need for disrupting it. It provides and endures, if protected.

The 5 aligned rows of deciduous trees are the lungs of this city, providing shade in summer and open sky in winter, cleaning the air, sequestering carbon (10 x greater than evergreens), while leaving open space beneath their boughs. Their longevity remains ahead, not behind, their lives if maintained. The grandeur of all four seasons is provided each year in this public “backyard” for every citizen. Piecemeal erosion of the spaces, once lost, cannot be reconstituted. The unity of design, the vision of the founders, will be lost.

I urge that you, and the State Advisory Committee for Historic Preservation, enthusiastically endorse, recommend, and forward this nomination to the federal Department of Interior.

Respectfully yours,

Thomas L. Ray, M.D.
2211 SW 1st Ave., Unit 802
Portland, Oregon 97201-5013
thomas-ray@comcast.net

cc Portland Historic Landmark Commission (PHLC)
Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA)
DNA - Land Use / Transportation Committee

Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland, OR to the National Registry of Historic Places

rmgelpke <rmgelpke@comcast.net>

Sun 1/10/2021 4:05 PM

To: NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>

Cc: Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Dear Mr. Olguin,

I write to support the Nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Park Blocks remains one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and historic open spaces. It has endured as the centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions.

During periods of pandemic, domestic discord, and political upset, we are vividly reminded that we need to aggressively support and protect the very core values, institutions, landmarks, and fabric of our definitional basis. We simply can't afford to cast aside the touch points and references that give merit and boundary to our sense of normality, order, and historical connectivity.

South Park Blocks in its original beautifully structured layout with row upon row of stately trees provides a key element of our City base. It must be protected and not 'updated', 'functionalized', or 'repurposed' in any manner. It really defines our City.

It is simply 'not broke', so no need to 'fix it'. Merely respect, protect, and nourish it!

It's really that simple.

Thank you for your support and diligence protecting this wonderful place.

Bob Gelpke
2221 SW 1st Avenue Apt 1322
Portland, OR 97201
rmgelpke@comcast.net

Sent from my Galaxy Tab® A

Letter of Support for Nomination

MARTHA K. SHARP <kathy-sharp@comcast.net>

Sun 1/10/2021 4:07 PM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>

Cc: kminor.phlc@gmail.com <kminor.phlc@gmail.com>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; Walter_weyler@sequenceusa.com <Walter_weyler@sequenceusa.com>; Wwrahm@aol.com <Wwrahm@aol.com>

Dear Mr. Robert Olguin,

Please take into consideration the following reasons why I am in favor of the nomination of the South Park Blocks for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Why the South Park Blocks represent a notable place in Portland's history:

- * Startling impact of acres of majestic giants resting on green velvet
- * An elegant design instilling pleasurable comfort
- * As a tree flourishes so does young life
- * Waves of silence among the bustle of city energy
- * Shaded light rays infusing cool softness
- * Fallen leaf imprints create artful patterns
- * Solace of hope in the swaying branches of new spring foliage
- * Sparkling diamonds of sunlight filter through branches dance in the season of winter
- * Gentle sounds of a child's exuberance echo along the park
- * It's dominant soul of Portland support waves of activity
- * A place of restful reflection and visual impact afford creativity for all
- * This pathway of escape clarifies direction, affords a sense of well-bein

There is no need to change that which is already providing its intended benefit!

Thank you for your time.

Martha Kathleen Sharp
2211 SW 1st Ave. #802
Portland, OR 97201
319-383-8653

[Kathy-sharp@comcast.net](mailto:kathy-sharp@comcast.net)

South Park Blocks Nomination for the National Register of Historic Places

Dell Smith <dasmith@lclark.edu>

Sun 1/10/2021 8:04 PM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>; kminor.phic@gmail.com <kminor.phic@gmail.com>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

To: Robert Olguin

ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov

National Register Program Director

State Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer Street NE, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301

To: Portland Historic Landmark Commission

Kristen Minor: kminor.phic@gmail.com

Hillary Adam: hillary.adam@portlandoregon.gov

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Olguin, Ms. Minor and Ms. Adam:

I write you to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Although the South Park Blocks are an important part of historical Portland and contributed to the quality of life of Portlanders starting in the mid-19th Century, these same qualities continue to be essential to the integrity of contemporary Portland.

This green-space breaks up the asphalt and concrete layers of the City and significantly add to the lives of Portlanders and visitors to Portland. The South Park Blocks are multiple enjoyment spaces that provide paths for citizens to enjoy tree filled walks; they provide spaces for students to study and take breaks from the rigor of their classrooms; they provide spaces to enhance the economy for local farmers as they offer their fresh products to Portlanders; this space serves as a welcome mat to several cultural institutions in central Portland; and, in general, the South Park Blocks add to the beauty and livability of our city.

South Park Blocks needs to be designated as a Historic Landmark and be saved as a green space island for future generation to enjoy as much as past and present generations.

Respectfully,

Dell Smith

2221 SW 1st Ave. #624

Portland, OR 97201

dasmith@lclark.edu

Jeffrey A Scherer, FAIA
1221 SW 10th Avenue | Unit 1305 | Portland | OR | 97205-2479
jeffghost@me.com

January 11, 2021

Robert Olguin
National Register Program Director
State Historic Preservation Office
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR
to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Olguin,

I am writing to you to offer my enthusiastic support for the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. I moved to Portland a few years ago from Minneapolis, MN—a city also known for its historic park system. My choice to live downtown was, in part, predicated on proximity to these historically significant, simple and elegant South Park Blocks.

These blocks are, for me, one of Portland's most unique, important, valued, and significantly historic open spaces. For a long time they have endured as the centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions. This symbiotic relationship is crucial.

As a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, I have had the honor to travel the world. I have lived and worked in Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom. I have seen first hand the role of historic and enlightened park systems. My reason, therefore, for supporting this nomination is simple: the park is a pedestrian friendly, flexible and elegant arbor that I use everyday to refresh, calm down and exercise. It has stood the test of time and needs to remain as an historical binder and "green lung" between the city's past, present and future. Speaking personally, these park blocks must remain as designed. Designation will affirm this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A Scherer", written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey A Scherer, FAIA

cc: Portland Historic Landmark Commission
Adena Long, Portland Parks Director

Letter supporting nominating South Park Blocks in Portland, OR to the National Register of Historic Places

M Burger <msburger24@att.net>

Mon 1/11/2021 12:00 PM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>

Cc: Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Dear Mr. Olguin,

The South Park Blocks are just a short walk for my home in Portland Oregon, and one of the reasons we moved "downtown" a few years ago. We walk through the blocks at least five days a week, year round. They are an oasis of nature, providing walkways, seating and a large area green expanse to enjoy all seasons of the year. Shady in summer and light filled in winter.

Whether sitting on the benches watching little school children playing hide and seek, or happening upon a summer time performance of taiko drumming, or just walking down the center walkway from the PSU campus to the "Snitzer" and the Wednesday farmers market, I just marvel that all this is right there, in the city.

Preserving these Park Blocks as places for all sorts of public uses is essential. They are such a part of Portland and enjoyed by all.

Please protect them by including them in the National Registry of Historic Places.

Thank you,

M Burger

2221 SW 1st Av, Portland OR 97201

msburger24@att.net

Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Teresa Arthur <teresa.arthur@icloud.com>

Mon 1/11/2021 5:18 PM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>

Cc: Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Dear Mr. Olguin,

I write you to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks of Portland, OR for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Park Blocks remains one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and significant historic open spaces. It has endured as the centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions.

I have lived across from the South Park Blocks for the past four years and it was the natural beauty and established canopy that attracted my husband and me to deciding to live where we do. I regularly walk my dog in the blocks and admire the plantings and serenity it brings to our city.

I do believe it is a very important landmark in our city and should be preserved and cared for. Thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,

Teresa Arthur

1300 SW Park Ave. #1815
Portland, OR 97201
503.929.0010

South Park Blocks historic preservation

Frances Johnston <shopfrank@comcast.net>

Tue 1/12/2021 12:48 PM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>

Cc: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>

Greetings:

I am a Portland resident of the area near the South Park Blocks. I wholeheartedly support the historic designation for this area. The South Park Blocks are a unique part of the cityscape that is Portland. You have heard all of the reasons why they need to be preserved. I would like to focus on the oasis of green space that they provide. The PSU area of Portland continues to be encircled by large buildings, including hotels and apartment buildings that slowly but surely are changing the beautiful, green and leafy character of this part of Portland. We need the South Park Blocks preserved for future generations to enjoy a respite from the crowded and commercial center of the city. Please do this for the benefit of Portland and its residents.

Frances Johnston
2211 SW 1st Ave, Unit 102
Portland, OR 97201

Support for the South Park Blocks Nomination

Kathy Fritts <kathyfritts@gmail.com>

Tue 1/12/2021 2:06 PM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Dear Ms Adams,

I would like to add my voice in support of this nomination. I'm a volunteer docent with the AHC (Architectural Heritage Center) and have done several South Park Blocks tours. This peaceful and historic swath of green in the heart of the city is priceless and I'm actually surprised it had not already been placed on the Register. I hope this well-researched nomination is successful.

Sincerely,
Kathy Fritts
2775 NE Wiberg Ln
Portland, OR 97213

January 12, 2021

Robert Olguin
National Register Program Director
State Historic Preservation Office
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, Or 97301

Subject: Letter of support for the nomination of the South Park Blocks,
Multnomah County, Portland, OR to the National Register of Historic Places.

Dear Mr. Olguin,

I write to you to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Park Blocks remain one of Portland's most valued and significant historic open spaces.

I know it has endured as the centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions as I, a native Portlander, attended *Portland State Extension School* when it received its 4 year accreditation and as a majorette in the band we marched around the South Park Blocks to let the city know they now had a 4 year college downtown. At that time I attended my art classes at the Portland Art Museum and also enjoyed utilizing the beautiful space.

Now as a resident of a condo in town and a short walk to the Park Blocks, my husband and I truly enjoy the varied venues that are able to occur in the beautiful space that our 1852 pioneers/forefathers provided for us, The South Park Blocks are a true treasure that must be protected!

Yours truly,

Joyce Kelly
2309 SW 1st Avenue, Suite 2144
Portland, Or 97201
joygerry@comcast.net

cc: Portland Historic Landmark Commission

Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Frank Evans <frankevans09@gmail.com>

Tue 1/12/2021 3:41 PM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>

Cc: Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Dear Mr. Olguin,

I am writing to you in support of the nomination of the Portland South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Park Blocks has been and remains one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and significant historic open spaces. It has endured through the years as the centerpiece for the city. When I first arrived in Portland many decades ago I was struck by the beauty of the parks in downtown Portland with their inviting majestic trees, well designed walkways, benches, fountains and sculptures. Years later when my now late father visited me and spent a day strolling the Portland downtown he was equally impressed with the foresight, planning, design and many years of loving maintenance that created and maintained what we know as the South Park Blocks. Over the coming years he often spoke about that impressive experience to friends and family far and wide.

Residents and visitors alike have long enjoyed and continue to enjoy the many benefits the lovely South Park Blocks provide. The beautiful tall elm trees as well as the other species of trees, shrubbery, flowers and lawns give us humans and wildlife in the forms of birds and squirrels a place to relax, enjoy the open space and changes of the seasons in the center of a large city. Many times I have taken my lunch to the South Park Blocks and had a pleasant time eating on a bench or stone wall, then wandering the walkways through the center axis of the blocks as well as those on each block's boundaries. In more recent years the Farmers Market has added another unique and pleasant element to the blocks. We often walk to the area, purchase some fresh produce or flowers and have a lunch from one of the food vendors. Who knew that the South Park Blocks would someday help expand my culinary experiences with dishes from cultures near and far? Recently during this time of severely reduced human contact due to the coronavirus pandemic I have strolled through the South Park Blocks and enjoyed the winter openness, buds forming on trees and shrubbery, birds flitting from plant to plant as well as seeing families with young children playing on the paved areas. Many other cities in the U.S. have parks but few have what we have in the South Park Blocks; well designed linear spaces punctuated with trees, walkways and artworks in the center of the city. How lucky we are.

I believe achieving National Historic Places status for the South Park Blocks would be a fitting designation for this wonderful, historic place in our city and state.

Sincerely,

Franklin L. Evans
Architect (retired)

2455 SW Montgomery Dr.
Portland, OR 97201

E: frankevans09@gmail.com

cc: Portland Historic Landmark Commission

South Park Blocks, Portland OR, Multnomah County, National Register of Historic Places - Master Plan

David Newman <dsnewman20@gmail.com>

Tue 1/12/2021 5:28 PM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; kminor.phlc@gmail.com <kminor.phlc@gmail.com>

I oppose historic nomination at this time for **South Park Blocks** based on the following:

— I would like to see South Park Blocks improved and developed to provide more activities, sculptures, plantings for neighborhood residents. I would like the South Park Blocks to provide more biking and walking routes connected to other parts of the City.

— I live in an apartment one block from the South Park Blocks. South Park Blocks is my 'yard' and the 'yard' for thousands of West End apartment and condo residents. I use the Park every day for relaxation, events, dog walking, exercise, the Farmers Market, rose beds and volunteer activities. I am the founder and a volunteer with Friends of South Park Blocks, an organization that contributes hundreds of hours each year to maintenance, gardening and cleaning of the Park.

— City of Portland Parks & Recreation, owner of South Park Blocks, has determined that a Master Plan be completed before a historic nomination. I support a continuation and completion of the Master Plan process.

— A master plan process for South Park Blocks was started by Portland Parks & Recreation in 2019 and supported at the time by the Portland Downtown Neighborhood Association. The master plan process began over a year before the Downtown Neighborhood Association changed course opposing the master plan and then submitting the nomination for historic designation.

— Two historic aspects of the South Park Blocks have been removed recently by vandalism: the historic Lincoln and Roosevelt statues.

— A majority of trees in South Park Blocks, especially the elms, are past their life expectancy. The old elms are failing on a daily basis and subject to Dutch elm disease. Once the old elms fail and die, even if new trees are planted, there will not be a "unifying canopy of mature, deciduous trees". This historic designation cannot be based on the "canopy of trees" since these mature trees will soon be gone.

— Many 'historic' aspects of the South Park Blocks were added or changed in the 1970's and 1980's. The walkway pattern, most sculptures, benches, Shemanski plaza, rose gardens, plantings were all added to the Park since the 1970's.

— The draft Master Plan contains a Tree Succession Plan for the South Park Blocks. The Master Plan will provide a blueprint for future Park development.

David Newman
1221 SW 10th #1806
Portland, OR 97205
503-853-1536

South Park Blocks nomination

DennisHarper@protonmail.com <DennisHarper@protonmail.com>

Wed 1/13/2021 12:27 PM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

To Portland Historic Landmarks Commission,

I strongly support the nomination of the South Park Blocks to the National Register of Historic Places. I want Portland Parks and Recreation to initiate a master plan for the South Park Blocks only AFTER they are officially on the National Register.

Regards,
Dennis Harper

Sent from ProtonMail mobile

Date: January 13, 2021

To: Robert Olguin, National Register Program Director

State Historic Preservation Office 725 Summer Street NE, Suite C Salem, OR 97301

Info:

Portland Historic Landmark Commission

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Olguin,

I write you to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Park Blocks remains one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and significant historic open spaces. It has endured as the centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions.

My wife and I relocated from the midwest to Portland five years ago. The South Park Blocks and the farmer's market contributed to our choice of Portland. From our residence at Lincoln and First, the South Park Blocks provide awesome access to the market, grocery, theater, music, museums restaurants and the city. The recognition and protection afforded by recognition of this nomination is appropriate for Oregon and Portland.

Sincerely,

Dean Barnet

2211 SW 1st Ave., Unit 1402, Portland, OR 97201

drs.barnett89@gmail.com

[User Approved] Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks to the National Register of Historic Places

Judy Bell <jbell1125@comcast.net>

Wed 1/13/2021 5:06 PM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>

Cc: Kminor.phic@gmail.com <Kminor.phic@gmail.com>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

To: Robert Olguin

I write to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. These blocks are one of Portland's most valued and cherished historic open spaces. It has endured as the nucleus for the city's educational and cultural institutions. As a downtown resident, I think of it as Portland's Central Park, offering green space in the city, beauty all year round, farmers markets, a place to walk, visit, enjoy public art. It is essential to the character of Portland, as our founding citizens were aware.

Thank you for your consideration,

Judith A. Bell
1221 SW 10th Avenue #1005
Portland, Oregon 97205
jbell1125@comcast.net

[User Approved] Preservation of South Park Blocks Portland Oregon

Robert Bell <rbell1221@comcast.net>

Wed 1/13/2021 5:06 PM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>

Cc: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>

I write to you in support of placement of the South Park Blocks in Portland OR on the National Historic Preservation Register. It does not need development. It is doing very well after 150 years, serving as a campus for Portland State University, an urban forest and gathering place for the community, and multiple other historic and artistic events, both now and for those in the future.

Please use your influence to keep it as it is.

Sincerely yours,

Robert F. Bell

1005 SW 10th Ave. #1005
Portland OR 97205

Copy of Letter of Support for Portland South Park Blocks for National Registry

Phil Gilbertson <pgilbert@PACIFIC.EDU>

Wed 1/13/2021 6:52 PM

To: kminor.phlc@gmail.com <kminor.phlc@gmail.com>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Cc: Philip Gilbertson <philgilbertson1@gmail.com>; Carole Gilbertson <carolegilbertson42@gmail.com>

Robert Olguin, National Register Program Director

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer Street NE Suite C

Salem, OR 97301

ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov

January 13, 2021

Dear Mr. Olguin:

Portland has a rare opportunity to set aside the most historic park in our city to maintain its character of 150 years, the South Park Blocks of 12 contiguous southern blocks in downtown. We support the nomination of the Park for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Park is the only major green space in central downtown.

The Park is under threat to alter its core identity by (1) removing many signature deciduous trees, replaced by some coniferous trees that populate nearly all other city parks; (2) replacing portions of the park with contemporary designs and functions that are duplicated across many city parks, forfeiting the uniqueness of the South Park Blocks; and (3) the City Parks and Recreation Department ignoring its expressed intent to seek national historic designation in prior years.

We live a five-minute walk from the South Park Blocks. A week does not go by when we don't stroll through the tall shady umbrella of summer or the sunny serene cheer of winter to find quiet, renewal, contemplative space to lift our spirits, or convey us to central cultural venues of the city or to local businesses through safe walkways that uplift our lives.

The landscape of downtown Portland is undergoing massive change with construction cranes populating the skyline. The City has forfeited too many of its historic places in recent decades. Please support our collective effort to preserve the special downtown place named the South Park Blocks.

Sincerely,

Philip and Carole Gilbertson

2221 SW First Avenue, #1024

Portland, OR 97201

philgilbertson1@gmail.com

carolegilbertson42@gmail.com

c:

kminor.phlc@gmail.com

hillary.adam@portlandoregon.gov

Portland Historic Landmark Commission

I support landmark status and full protection for Portland's South Park Blocks

Margaret Davis <manaobooks@gmail.com>

Thu 1/14/2021 10:58 AM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Greetings! I hope you are all doing well and staying healthy.

I write to ask that you support landmark status and full protection for Portland's South Park Blocks.

As one of the city's earliest parks, the South Park Blocks connect Portlanders to history, needed open space, and opportunities for reflection, exercise, and fresh air. When I moved to Portland more than 25 years ago, the South Park Blocks—whether buzzing with farmers market activity or a quiet place full of mature tree canopy and greenery—struck me as a fine civic asset along the lines of other great parks in bigger cities, say, Central Park in NYC or Grant Park in Chicago.

These spaces deserve our full protection and respect. Please preserve the South Park Blocks for the enjoyment of future generations.

Thank you! Margaret Davis

PO Box 12383
Portland, OR 97212

--

Margaret Davis
Ma Nao Books

manaobooks.com

South Park Blocks

Rick <shcandcfc@aol.com>

Thu 1/14/2021 2:05 PM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>

I'm very much in favor of supporting the South Park Blocks of Portland OR to be added to the National Register of Historic Places. It is a wonderful part of Portland's history, and a wonderful and peaceful place to visit and enjoy.

My home is just one block away and I get there once or twice daily for a stroll. Specific positive aspects include the wonderful historic monuments (some now gone), the nice gardens, the ability to meet friends for a relaxed get-together, and, oh yes, the Farmers Markets.

I thank you very much for your support on this.

Rick Caskey
1221 SW 10th Ave, #1601 97205

1221 SW 10th Avenue
Unit 505
Portland, Oregon 97205

January 11, 2021

Robert Olguin
Director, National Register Program
State Historic Preservation Office
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

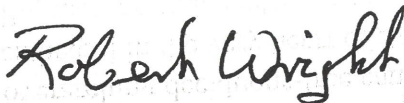
Dear Mr. Olguin,

I strongly support nominating Portland's South Park Blocks for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Public parks enable much needed rest and respite in our dense urban environment. The South Park Blocks most certainly provides that essential oasis, and must continue to do so. These blocks are also a major part of the birthright of Portland. Like a grand historic building, it has a very special design envisioned by Louis Gustav Pfunder, a world-renowned horticulturalist and landscape architect of public spaces in Europe and of the famous parks of New York City and San Francisco. He made Portland his home; his legacy is imbued in the park. With its overarching deciduous-tree canopies and long graceful lanes, the South Park Blocks is a veritable cathedral in the very heart of Portland. Those magnificent aligned trees, as intended by Louis Pfunder, provide welcome shade during the summer and let in light during the darkness of winter.

With a growing population, open spaces will come under increasing pressure to be repurposed, losing sight of their histories. The South Park Blocks must be identified on the National Register for its protection as a historic resource, and for the protection of its trees, for the people of Portland.

Sincerely,



Robert Wright
(503) 222-6874
wright-stuff@comcast.net

cc: Portland Historic Landmarks Commission

Nomination of South Park Blocks to National Register

Katherine S <ksmlcom@gmail.com>

Thu 1/14/2021 3:26 PM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

To:

Robert Olguin, Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept., SHPO

Hillary Adam, Portland Landmarks Commission

I am writing in support of the nomination of the South Park Blocks to the National Register of Historic Places.

Walking through downtown Portland, I often choose a route which will take me to the South Park blocks and a few minutes respite from commercial Portland. I walk down the center path and try to catch the scent of roses or sit down to read on one of the benches or just drink in the shade of towering trees. Although some of downtown Portland's smaller parks, like Tanner Springs, are imaginative and charming, none provide the peace and escape from city stresses that the South Park Blocks offer.

I am aware of proposed plans to reduce the amount of vegetation, increase the number of hard surfaces and transform the park into more of an entertainment venue. This would be a terrible loss and I feel there is an urgent need to ensure that the park's urban canopy and role as a green space for conversation and reflection, as well as its historic integrity, is preserved and protected.

As preservationist Liz Waytkus stated, in response to proposed changes to the Hirschhorn Museum's sculpture garden, "Not everything needs to be Instagram-worthy or flashy. We do need places where we can sit and contemplate."

Thank you.

Katherine Showalter
6115 SE 34th Ave
Portland, OR 97202

Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Virginia Matthews - 10PMAA <virginia.matthews@gsa.gov>

Thu 1/14/2021 4:50 PM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>

Good Afternoon Mr. Olguin~

I write to you in an effort to vehemently support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

While the South Park Blocks remains one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and significant historic open spaces. It has endured as the centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions.

As a long time resident of this city it is my hope that a designation of this magnitude comes to fruition post haste. It is places like the South Park Blocks that made me fall in love with this city, my home town.

When I was a child I would climb and run on the walls and steps that dissect the park on campus, while my Mom finished her studies in the PSU library.

As a young teen my friends and I would grab a coffee at the Metro, previously located on the corner of Taylor and Broadway, and while away an afternoon at the Portland Art Museum, Fox Theater or hanging out at the Galleria.

After serving in the Air Force I came back to my beloved city as an adult, started working at Ticor Title, met one of my life long friends and moved into a sublime vintage apartment building, built in 1931 known as the Jeanne Manor located on the corner of SW Park & Clay St.

I lived in three different apartments in that building, the final one being an ample two bedroom unit that overlooked the park blocks from the third floor on the NE corner. I loved that apartment for several reasons, but one of the most important reasons is because I had such an amazing view of the park. My piece of respite in a bustling city. It's canopy of foliage affording me and my visitors a splendid array of color and light year round.

The park always provided an endless parade of people and pet watching opportunities as well as community entertainment. One of my favorite memories is of the snow events. When we would get enough snow in the city to shut it down. When the peace and quiet would prevail and before anyone ventured out and disturbed the pristine snow covered park. Such a sight to behold! Springtime would bring the group of folks that practiced Tai Chi in the early mornings. Summer would bring the Art Walk and Farmers Market, and the Oregon Ballet open air performances. Fall would bring the students, photographers and the crisp crunch of leaves. These South Park Blocks are the truest heart of our city one could find and should easily be designated to become one of Oregon's next places to join the illustrious list of landmarks on the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope to hear of the outcome soon.

Be well,

Virginia L. Matthews

Building Management Specialist / Regional Fine Arts Specialist

GSA, PBS 10PMAA Northwest/Arctic Region

911 NE 11th Ave, Suite 659

Portland, OR 97232
503.231.6993 Office
503.726.9269 Mobile
virginia.matthews@gsa.gov

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Letter of Support for the Nomination of South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Abby Dawson <abbywdawson@gmail.com>

Thu 1/14/2021 7:36 PM

To: orshpo.nationalregisterprogram@oregon.gov <orshpo.nationalregisterprogram@oregon.gov>

Cc: kminor.phlc@gmail.com <kminor.phlc@gmail.com>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Robert Olguin

National Register Program Director

State Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer Street NE, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mr. Olguin,

I write to you to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Park Blocks remains one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and significant historic open spaces. It has endured as the centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions.

I live in downtown Portland near the South Park Blocks, and walk through the parks almost daily, choosing the route through the parks over the nearby sidewalks. I appreciate the history and design of the blocks, but more than that I appreciate walking through the beautiful canopy of mature trees, enjoying their shade in the summer and beautiful colors in the fall. The benefit of this strip of nature between the nearby streets and buildings cannot be overstated. While walking, I enjoy seeing others using the parks for lounging, meeting friends, or eating lunch. And lastly, the parks' open spaces make perfect spots for our local farmers' markets and other organized activities.

Thanks for your support of this nomination.

Abby Dawson

255 SW Harrison St., #18D

Portland, OR 97201

Sent from my iPad

South Park Blocks

Judith Bieberle Marks <judithbpi@comcast.net>

Thu 1/14/2021 10:51 PM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Dear Ms Adams

Portland is a unique city with an amazing green oasis running right through our downtown. For over 120 years Portlanders and visitors to the city have enjoyed the South Park Blocks. They should be protected for future generations with landmark status. Please support nominating the South Park Blocks to the National Register of Historic Places.

I live in downtown Portland a short block west of the South Park Blocks. I chose my condo in a building being erected because it faced the South Park Blocks and from my windows gave me a wonderful view. I call it my mini Central Park. The stately rows of giant elms, oaks and maples give me a refreshing canopy of green in the summer, oranges, golds and reds during the fall season change and more light through the bare limbs in the winter. I don't have a balcony so in the pre-Covid sunny warm days I venture the short distance to the rose bed in the Park to read and enjoy being outdoors. It is a delightful spot. And if I am inside I can see workers from the nearby office buildings sitting on benches and enjoying their lunch or just some pleasant outdoor time. And even during Covid I have enjoyed looking down on the park. Because I rarely go out, it gives me the feeling of being outside.

The simple landscaping of the South Park Blocks also provides an inviting setting for the Performing Arts Center, the Portland Art Museum, the Oregon Historical Society, the various churches, Portland State University and the new and older residences that border it. In the spring, summer and fall I take advantage of the farmer's markets at each end of the blocks; Wednesday at the north end and Saturday at the south end near Portland State. During the years it has provided spaces for other civic events and for frequent private gatherings.

Please help preserve our natural treasure. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Judith B. Marks
1221 SW 10th Ave.
Unit 1202
Portland OR 97205

Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Dick Kaiser <kaiser.dick@gmail.com>
on behalf of
Dick Kaiser <dick@kaisershipman.com>

Fri 1/15/2021 9:48 AM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>
Cc: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Olguin,

I'm writing to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. I feel very lucky to live so close to such a wonderful escape to nature in the middle of the city. I frequently walk the entire length of the park. The trees are great source of shade in the summer and their arches are lovely. It is a soothing and calming place.

As a photographer I appreciate the repetition of form with the trees and classic streetlights. I'm saddened that we lost our statues of Teddy Rosevelt and Abraham Lincoln and look forward to their return.

In the summer it is a short walk to the farmers markets. Plural! Saturday to the south and Wednesday to the north. Roses in the middle celebrate our monicker "the City of Roses". A few years back we lost a beautiful elm, but we still have its memory with "the shadow of the elm" persevered in the pavement artwork.

Portland has a number of modern parks. Teachers Park just a short walk to the North and more in the Pearl. Having such a long peaceful place in a noisy city is very special. Its historic nature celebrates an era when the pace was a bit slower.

Please help us preserve this jewel in the middle of our city. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,
Dick Kaiser
1221 SW 10th Avenue, Unit 1310
Portland, OR 97205

Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Wendy Rahm <wwrahm@aol.com>

Fri 1/15/2021 11:34 AM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>

Cc: Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; Spencer-Hartle, Brandon <Brandon.Spencer@portlandoregon.gov>

 1 attachments (156 KB)

Email.Rahm.SPB_Letter of Support.1.15.2021.pdf;

Please find attached and below a letter of support for Portland's South Park Blocks nomination.

January 15, 2021

Robert Olguin
ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov
National Register Program Director
State Historic Preservation Office
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

CC: Portland Historic Landmark Commission
Kminor.phlc@gmail.com, hillary.adam@portlandoregon.gov

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Olguin,

As a downtown Portland resident who lives one block from this park, I write you to strongly support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Park Blocks remains one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and significant historic open spaces. It has endured as the centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions. This nomination and designation are long overdue.

This series of 12 consecutive blocks is one of Portland's three oldest parks, having been donated in the 1850's for the public's use. That lofty purpose has been enjoyed for the last 150 years despite development and institutional pressures over the years. Historic uses have included events of the Rose Festival, demonstrations ranging from gay rights to anti-Vietnam War protests, graduation ceremonies, etc. Today as the people's park it sees ethnic weddings, farmer's markets, meditation groups, AA meetings, arts events, student demonstrations, civic protests, informal socializing, people taking long walks down one of the many paths, and people seeking rest and respite on the benches from the busy surrounding hardscape of downtown. This wide range of uses is made possible by the intentional 150-year-old simple design of 5 rows of (approximately 9) tall, deciduous trees in axial alignment on each block.

This intentional design is unique to Portland's parks and it is hoped that both this design, the tall tree varieties including many American elms, and the original boundaries as seen in early maps (of approximately 124 feet wide) will be approved as defining characteristics of a National Register listing.

COVID/19 has put a spotlight on the park's importance as an equity issue. The park is located in one of Portland's densest neighborhoods of affordable housing, many of whose residents do not have cars. This is their only non-activated greenspace and the park's simple design ensures its flexibility for many uses. There are two other nearby parks that are hardscape and activated.

I want to thank especially the group of Downtown Neighborhood Association volunteers who took nearly 2 years to create this documentation for you to consider, even as research became ever more challenging with COVID/19. I greatly appreciate your and the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation's role in protecting this important part of Oregon's history. I urge you to approve sending this nomination to the National Registry with a strong recommendation for the South Park Blocks' approval to the National Register.

Sincerely,

Wendy Rahm
1221 SW 10th Avenue
Portland, OR 97205
wwrahm@aol.com

cc: Portland Historic Landmark Commission
Downtown Neighborhood Association
Brandon Spencer-Hartle, Portland Planning and Sustainability

South Park Blocks Historic Landmark Nomination

Tom Neilsen <tomneilsen@gmail.com>

Fri 1/15/2021 1:07 PM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>; Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

 2 attachments (59 KB)

South Park Blocks.pdf; ATT00001.htm;



The City's email systems have identified this email as potentially suspicious. Please click responsibly and be cautious if asked to provide sensitive information.

Date: January 15, 2021

To: Robert Olguin

ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov

National Register Program Director State Historic Preservation Office 725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Info: Portland Historic Landmark Commission Kminor.phlc@gmail.com,
hillary.adam@portlandoregon.gov

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland
OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Olguin,

I write you to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Park Blocks remains one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and significant historic open spaces. It has endured as the centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions.

I live in the West End neighborhood and the South Park Blocks serves as our playground and community green space. No matter what season the South Park Blocks are a magnet for folks of all ages from day-care children, to PSU students, to seniors. The South Park Blocks create the connection to the twice weekly farmers market, the cultural organizations including the Portland Art Museum, Oregon Historical Society, and Schnitzer Portland 5 venues. Since becoming a city the South Park Blocks has been an iconic feature in Portland. That is just as true and perhaps even more important today.

Sincerely,

Tom Neilsen
1221 SW 10th Ave. #1604, Portland OR 97205

tomneilsen@mac.com

cc: Portland Historic Landmark Commission

Statement of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Neilsen Chris <cneilsen47@gmail.com>

Fri 1/15/2021 1:33 PM

To: Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

To whom it may concern:

I write to express my view that the South Park Blocks are currently magnificent and important, and are historically important.

They are worthy of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

I am a resident of downtown Portland, living just 2 blocks from the Park Blocks, using the park blocks for respite from the hard surfaced inner city.

I'm also a former student of Portland State University who spent much time in the park blocks to de-stress from the demands of student life 40 years ago.

Clearly the park blocks perform an important function now and in the immediate past.

But I think they are to be recognized for the historical thread they provide - from the large old trees that provide shelter now and have for over a century; for the flexible historic design that has been largely unaltered; for the location of Portland culture adjacent to these park blocks, recognizing that they are the people's place.

I hope you will look favorably on this nomination.

With best regards,

Christine Neilsen
1221 SW 10th Avenue #1604
Portland OR 97205

South Park Blocks, Portland Or, Multnomah County

PATRICIA FERRELL <PFERRELL910@msn.com>

Fri 1/15/2021 4:40 PM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>

Cc: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; kminor.phlc@gmail.com <kminor.phlc@gmail.com>

January 15, 2021

To: Robert Olguin

ORSHPO National Register Program

Re: South Park Blocks, Portland OR, Multnomah County

Dear Mr. Olguin, I write you to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Park Blocks remains one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and significant historic open spaces. The open space the Park Blocks represent in Portland's downtown urban core is a unique gem which must be preserved to enhance the livability of the city for future generations. The park represents a multi-use environment which adds to the livability of Portland.

As a graduate of the Historic Preservation Master's program at the University of Oregon, I studied landscape preservation in classes taught by Robert Melnick. These classes gave me an appreciation for the often-undervalued sense of place that landscaping contributes to an urban environment. Oregon and the City of Portland are recognized nationwide for their visionary planning goals, which include the preservation of cultural resources. The South Park Blocks is one of the cultural resources worthy of a place on The National Register.

I am a current resident of the South University District. The South Park Blocks has become one of my favorite places to walk in the area. Many of my Saturdays are spent at the PSU Farmer's Market. While exploring the neighborhood, I have enjoyed walking down the South Park Blocks thankful for the shade of the many beautiful deciduous trees which line the pathways. During these walks I have noticed children playing, students lounging in the grass while studying, people walking their dogs, wedding parties taking pictures. This open space hosts a myriad of activities which add to the character of the city as a whole.

During my time as a Historic Preservation Consultant, I worked on several nominations for buildings and districts around the state of Oregon. The South Park Blocks are deserving of a place on The National Register of Historic Places both for its' historic significance and as an early example of urban planning. As a resident of the neighborhood, it would be a joy to see the blocks listed as a city and national landmark.

Sincerely,

Patricia Ferrell

2211 SW 1st Ave. Unit 1704

Portland, OR 97201

pferrell910@msn.com

Irvington Community Association Support for the South Park Blocks nomination

Dean P. Gisvold <deang@mcewengisvold.com>

Fri 1/15/2021 10:00 AM

To: Robert.Olguin@oregon.gov <Robert.Olguin@oregon.gov>

Cc: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; Steven Cole <stevencole86@gmail.com>; Jim Heuer <jsheuer@easystreet.net>; fredleeson@hotmail.com <fredleeson@hotmail.com>; board@irvingtonpdx.com <board@irvingtonpdx.com>; WENDY RAHM <wwrahm@aol.com>; Barb Christopher <barbfc@comcast.net>; Barbara Nagel <nagleb2004@yahoo.com>; Bob Dobrich <bobdobrich@gmail.com>; Dean P. Gisvold <deang@mcewengisvold.com>; Eli Green <eli@sqftstudios.com>; Evan Carmi <evan.carmi@gmail.com>; Jeff Jones <jcjones@pacifier.com>; Jim Barta <jim.barta@yahoo.com>; Jonathan Konkol <jonathankonkol@gmail.com>; Nathan Corser <Nathanclark.corser@gmail.com>; Nikki Johnston <ndjz@yahoo.com>; Peter O'Neil <poneil@windermere.com>; Sean <saetas@me.com>; Thomas Moran <tjmoran88@msn.com>

To the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation and the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission

Last night, January 14th, at its regularly scheduled January, 2021, meeting, the Board of Directors of the Irvington Community Association (ICA) voted to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks to the National Register of Historic Places, and urges the Advisory Committee and the Commission to do the same.

Although Portland has many lovely parks, the South Park Blocks area is one of the few parks in the dense downtown area of Portland. For decades, it has served those who live or work downtown, PSU students, patrons of cultural organizations, members of nearby churches, residents from condo and apartment buildings fronting the blocks, and those who are exploring downtown as visitors or tourists. For all who come, the South Park Blocks provide quiet green spaces for contemplation, walking, picnics and small gatherings. And it is available year around, for free.

The South Park Blocks, comprised of 12 linear blocks, extending from SW Salmon to Jackson Mill Streets between SW Park East and SW Park Avenue West, were donated by pioneer entrepreneur Daniel Lownsdale in 1852, and were landscaped in 1877 under the direction of horticulturalist Louis Pfunder. Pfunder's basic design included five parallel rows of deciduous trees – mostly elms – above a carpet of grass and flower beds.

Portlanders love the South Park Blocks. As one who has had the pleasure of watching (my office windows give me a view of the blocks between SW Main and SW Jefferson) and using the blocks for five decades, let me tell you what impresses me about the South Park Blocks: the towering arches of mature trees, a place for meeting friends and family, the farmers markets, students studying in the grass, young children playing, quiet mid-day lunch spots, and a stroll on separated paths with long views of mature trees, especially a summer walk to Lincoln Hall at PSU to hear a concert by students or by a local chamber music group.

The ICA Board urges you to support this important nomination. Thank you. Please place this email notification of support in the public record

Dean Gisvold,

ICA Board member, and land use committee chair

Dean P. Gisvold | Attorney at Law | Senior Partner

McEWEN GISVOLD LLP - EST. 1886

1600 Standard Plaza, 1100 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204

Direct: 503-412-3548 | Office: 503-226-7321 | Fax: 503-243-2687

Email: deang@mcewengisvold.com

Website: <http://www.mcewengisvold.com>

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Re: Irvington Community Association Support for the South Park Blocks nomination

Pam and Larry Levy <pamlarrylevy@yahoo.com>

Fri 1/15/2021 8:05 PM

To: Dean P. Gisvold <deang@mcewengisvold.com>; Robert.Olguin@oregon.gov <Robert.Olguin@oregon.gov>
Cc: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; Steven Cole <stevencole86@gmail.com>; Jim Heuer <jsheuer@easystreet.net>; fredleeson@hotmail.com <fredleeson@hotmail.com>; board@irvingtonpdx.com <board@irvingtonpdx.com>; WENDY RAHM <wwrahm@aol.com>; Barb Christopher <barbfc@comcast.net>; Barbara Nagel <nagleb2004@yahoo.com>; Bob Dobrich <bobdobrich@gmail.com>; Dean P. Gisvold <deang@mcewengisvold.com>; Eli Green <eli@sqftstudios.com>; Evan Carmi <evan.carmi@gmail.com>; Jeff Jones <jcjones@pacifier.com>; Jim Barta <jim.barta@yahoo.com>; Jonathan Konkol <jonathankonkol@gmail.com>; Nathan Corser <Nathanclark.corser@gmail.com>; Nikki Johnston <ndjz@yahoo.com>; Peter O'Neil <poneil@windermere.com>; Sean <saetas@me.com>; Thomas Moran <tjmoran88@msn.com>

Thanks for this, Dean and the ICA board. In normal life I have enjoyed the South Blocks around PSU as a senior auditor student, an attendee at many arts and other programs there, and as a small financial supporter of the school. I completely agree with this letter to the city and state Historic Preservation Committees and Historic Landmarks Commission.

Keep up the good fight.

I miss living in Irvington.

Pam Lindholm-Levy

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Friday, January 15, 2021, 10:00 AM, Dean P. Gisvold <deang@mcewengisvold.com> wrote:

To the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation and the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission

Last night, January 14th, at its regularly scheduled January, 2021, meeting, the Board of Directors of the Irvington Community Association (ICA) voted to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks to the National Register of Historic Places, and urges the Advisory Committee and the Commission to do the same.

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Portlanders love the South Park Blocks. As one who has had the pleasure of watching (my office windows give me a view of the blocks between SW Main and SW Jefferson) and using the blocks for five decades, let me tell you what impresses me about the South Park Blocks: the towering arches of mature trees, a place for meeting friends and family, the farmers markets, students studying in the grass, young children playing, quiet mid-day lunch spots, and a stroll on separated paths with long views of mature trees, especially a summer walk to Lincoln Hall at PSU to hear a concert by students or by a local chamber music group.

The ICA Board urges you to support this important nomination. Thank you. Please place this email notification of support in the public record

Dean Gisvold,

ICA Board member, and land use committee chair

Dean P. Gisvold | Attorney at Law | Senior Partner

McEWEN GISVOLD LLP - EST. 1886

1600 Standard Plaza, 1100 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204

Direct: 503-412-3548 | Office: 503-226-7321 | Fax: 503-243-2687

Email: deang@mcewengisvold.com

Website: <http://www.mcewengisvold.com>

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Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Amie Fennah <afennah@amiefennah.com>

Sat 1/16/2021 12:45 PM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>

Hi Mr. Olguin~

I write to you in an effort to vehemently support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

While the South Park Blocks remains one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and significant historic open spaces, it has endured as the centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions. As a Portland born resident of this city, it is my hope that a designation of this magnitude comes to fruition. It is places like the South Park Blocks that make Portland a special place to live.

After attending PSU, I moved out of my parent's house into a beautiful vintage apartment building on the park blocks, Jeanne Manor. Located on the corner of SW Park & Clay St. and built in 1931, it was a unique and charming place to be. The apartment I shared with my sister overlooked the park blocks and I eventually moved to a 1 bedroom on the 7th floor with my fiancé(now husband of 25+years). I loved that apartment for several reasons but most of all, it was the view out the windows. The green canopy of foliage offered me much serenity in an otherwise busy city. Also, my kitty loved spending many hours in the windows watching the varied birds and wildlife. It was especially gorgeous during the autumn season and snowfalls in winter.

The park has always provided an endless parade of people and pet watching opportunities as well as community entertainment year round. Spring and Summer would bring the Art Walk and Farmers Market, and the Oregon Ballet open air performances. Fall would bring the students, photographers and the crisp crunch of leaves and vibrant fall colors. And of course, winter...specialty coffee drinks and with the leaves off all the trees, a great view of the city lights at night!

These South Park Blocks are the truest heart of our city one could find and should easily be designated to become one of Oregon's next places to join the illustrious list of landmarks on the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope to hear of the outcome soon!

Kindest regards,

Amie

Valuing people, not just homes!

Amie Fennah, Realtor
Keller Williams Realty Portland Premiere
7504 SW Bridgeport Road
Portland, OR 97224

Cell 503.706.1278
Office 503.597.2444
Fax 503.336.7431
amiefennah@gmail.com

Licensed Broker in the State of Oregon

South Park Blocks, Portland OR, Multnomah County

Marji Newman <marjid447@gmail.com>

Mon 1/18/2021 11:19 AM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

18 January 2021

RE: Opposition to nomination of South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to National Register of Historic Places

To whom it may concern:

I write in opposition to the nomination to place South Park Blocks (SPB) on the National Register of Historic Places

Through the last 15 years of living near, volunteering in gardening activities, dog walking, and simply being in the park, I am grateful and humbled by its presence. Like all the well intentioned people who write to you on this matter, I want the park preserved and well care for now and for the future.

A Master Plan for the South Park Blocks was initiated 2019 by Portland Parks and Recreation and due to be completed soon. This process addresses the concerns expressed by the group urgently seeking historic designation before the Master Plan completion. The better pathway is that historical designation be in conjunction with the Master Plan for the South Park Blocks, not in competition.

The Portland riots in the summer of 2020 left behind destruction and defacing of historical elements of the park. The 1928 Lincoln statue and the 1922 Roosevelt 'Rough Rider' statue were pulled down by a mob with chains and damaged, as well as bench destruction and continuous graffiti. I have not heard if the statues will be repaired or returned. The park is now an ongoing site for homeless feeds, additional garbage, cigarette butts, dog waste, and requires increased city services. The stately elms are elderly and falling on a regular basis. In other words, political, economic, and cultural events impact the park in a way unimagined in 1877. Historical designation alone cannot address all the impending needs. Completing the master plan process is the way forward. The beauty and historical character of the SPB basic design will endure best and meet the needs of a changing population through thoughtful and resourceful professional planners along with community representatives.

Historical designation before completion of the Master Plan process is surely not an emergency. To pre-empt the master plan in this way could possibly impact the Central City 2035 plans for a "Green Loop" that would pass along the SPB and connect downtown's West End with the middle of the Central Eastside. Therefore, with all due respect, I ask you to pause this historical designation of the South Park Blocks for now.

Sincerely,
Marjorie Newman
1221 SW 10th Ave unit 1806
Portland, OR 97205
marjid447@gmail.com

South Park Blocks, Portland OR, Multnomah County

Mark Fromm <mark.fromm@outlook.com>

Mon 1/18/2021 11:44 AM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>

Cc: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>

To: Robert Olguin

ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov

National Register Program Director

State Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer Street NE, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mr. Olguin,

I write you to **support the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.**

We live a short walk from the park, and visit often. This park is presently used for many purposes and has proven that its design is a tremendous asset to our city. The classic design makes it both an active place (Saturday Farmer's Market, music events, etc.), while at the same time being a meditative spot in downtown Portland. While there is room to improve tree health through professional arborist management, there is no reason to change the design or nature of our park. Other cities, such as New York's Manhattan and its Riverside Park, have maintained the classical design and reaped tremendous benefit in both neighborhood livability and property values.

Please add Portland, Oregon's South Park Blocks to the National Register of Historic Places as soon as possible.

Regards,

Mark Fromm

2211 SW First Ave., Unit 1002

Portland, OR 97201

mark.fromm@outlook.com

RE: Support of the Nomination of the South Park Block located in the City of Portland, Multnomah County

Denyse MCGRIFF <guttmcg@msn.com>

Mon 1/18/2021 9:10 PM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; kminor.phlc@gmail.com <kminor.phlc@gmail.com>

Dear Historic Landmarks Commissioners,

The nomination of the South Park Blocks in Portland, Oregon is an opportunity to correct an oversight. The South Park Blocks remains one of Portland's most iconic, valued and significantly historic open spaces in Multnomah County. The South Park Blocks have endured as one of the centerpieces in Portland.

The South Park Blocks hold a special place for me not only because of its beauty in the variety of vegetation, international design but also that it was a place of gathering for the First nations. Today, it continues to be a gathering place.

The nomination speaks for itself and I urge the Commission to recommend approval of this unique resource.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Denyse C. McGriff
Advisor, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Susan Bliss <sdbliss@me.com>

Tue 1/19/2021 3:45 AM

To: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

January 18, 2021

Hillary Adam
Portland Historic Landmark Commission

Dear Ms. Adam,

I am writing in support of the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland Oregon, to the National Register of Historic Places. Besides conferring a long-overdue honor, placement on the register would enhance public recognition of the history and value of Portland's 150-year-old park.

When my husband and I moved to Portland in 2006, it may well have been the South Park Blocks that convinced us to pick up our cats in Washington D.C., and move out to Portland. For us, and many others, the beautiful Park Blocks are one of this city's major selling points.

The park was designed, and remains, a deciduous downtown forest, much loved for its seasonal display, from the deepening greens of spring and summer, to the reds and golds of autumn, and winter's silhouetted trees against an open sky. We treasure the park as a place to enjoy the outdoors and explore the cultural institutions that form its border.

The park is a magnet for a diversity of human activity, from kindergarten classes and university graduations, to farmers markets, outdoor classes, and concerts of many musics. Perhaps its most popular function is providing many a comfortable spot for conversation or solo contemplation.

Just outside its border, the park is ringed by the city's preeminent cultural centers—the Portland Art Museum; the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, home to the Oregon Symphony; The Oregon Historical Society, and Portland State, “one of the nation's most innovative universities,” according to U.S. News.

For its distinctive combination of natural, cultural and historic significance, of inestimable value to the citizens of Portland, the South Park Blocks meet and surpass requirements for listing by the National Park Service on its National Register of Historic Places.

Yours truly,

Susan D. Bliss
1221 SW 10th Avenue, #705
Portland, Oregon 97205
sdbliss@me.com
503-501-7258

Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Kate Dickson <katedickson601@gmail.com>

Tue 1/19/2021 12:53 PM

To: ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov <ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov>

Cc: Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>; Kminor.phlc@gmail.com <Kminor.phlc@gmail.com>

January 19, 2021

Robert Olguin

ORSHPO.NationalRegisterProgram@oregon.gov

National Register Program Director

State Historic Preservation Office 725 Summer Street NE, Suite C Salem, OR 97301

CC: Portland Historic Landmark Commission Kminor.phlc@gmail.com, hillary.adam@portlandoregon.gov

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Nomination of the South Park Blocks, Multnomah County, Portland OR to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Olguin,

We are writing to you in strong support of the nomination of the South Park Blocks for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Park Blocks remain one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, and significant historic open spaces.

As downtown residents, we enjoy daily the lovely green space and the beautiful canopy of trees of the South Park Blocks. As a family, we love walking with our grandchildren through the park blocks, exploring the richness of nature -- trees, flowers, birds. The South Park Blocks provide a true park for relaxing in nature in the middle of our busy city. They are a true treasure and need to be preserved for today and for generations to come.

Historically, the series of 12 consecutive park blocks is one of Portland's three oldest parks, having been donated to the city in the 1850's for the *public's use*. That significant purpose has been enjoyed for the last 150 years.

Historic uses have included events of the Rose Festival, demonstrations ranging from gay rights to anti-Vietnam War protests, graduation ceremonies, music concerts etc. Today as the people's park, it is often a venue for weddings, farmer's markets, meditation groups, AA meetings, arts events, student demonstrations, civic protests. In addition to organized activities, the blocks always serve as a haven for informal socializing, long walks down one of the many paths, providing rest and respite on the benches from the busy surrounding hardscape of downtown. This wide range of uses is made possible by the *intentional* 150-year-old, *simple design* of 5 rows of (approximately 9) tall, deciduous trees in axial alignment on each block.

This intentional design is unique to Portland's parks. We believe that it is imperative that this design, the tall tree varieties including many American elms, and the original boundaries as seen in early maps (of approximately 124 feet wide) will be approved as defining characteristics of a National Register listing.

COVID/19 has put a spotlight on the park's importance as an equitable land use priority. The park is located in one of Portland's densest neighborhoods of affordable housing. Many of the low-income residents do not have cars. This is their *only non-activated greenspace*. The park's simple design ensures its flexibility for many uses. There are two other nearby parks that are hardscape and activated.

We want to thank the Downtown Neighborhood Association volunteers who took nearly 2 years to create this nomination document for you to consider, even as research became ever more challenging with COVID/19.

We also greatly appreciate your and the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation's role in protecting this important "Peoples' Park."

We urge you to approve sending this nomination to the National Registry with a strong recommendation for the South Park Blocks' approval to the National Register.

Thank you,

Kate Dickson, PhD and David Dickson

1221 SW 10th Avenue Unit 601 Portland, OR 97205 – Dickson501@comcast.net

cc: Portland Historic Landmark Commission

Portland South Park Blocks and the National Register of Historic Places

Will Bruder <will.bruder@willbruderarchitects.com>

Wed 1/27/2021 2:32 PM

To: Kminor.phl@gmail.com <Kminor.phl@gmail.com>; Adam, Hillary <Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov>

Dear Portland Historic Landmark Commission,

I write to support the nomination of the South Park Blocks placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

The most beloved aspects of South Park Blocks are the facts that these blocks are deeply rooted in the history of Portland, an early example of Portlander's love of and support for parks throughout our 'city in a park'. Over time cultural, religious, and civic institutions as well as commemorative elements have gathered at its edges and on its grounds. All who pass by, walk through or take pause in the South Park Blocks have enjoyed the glorious canopy of mature trees and plantings in their seasonal cycles over many years.

Indeed, this unique and historic urban park offers lessons that seemingly come straight out of a 'best practices' textbook for urban planners and elected officials. The South Park Blocks honor the pedestrian user by slowing traffic and offering crosswalks and streetcar access. They provide 'a breath of fresh air' in a dense city.

Anchored to the north by the Arlington Club and to the south by a highly regarded urban university, PSU, and the world-famous Portland Farmers' Market, the South Park Blocks are both historic and contemporary points of pride.

Elevation to the National Register of Historic Places is clearly warranted. I look forward to celebrating with you, your colleagues, and fellow Portlanders this designation.

Sincerely,

Will Bruder, FAIA
President / Lead Design Architect
Will Bruder Architects
111 SW Harrison St. 19D, Portland, OR 97201
will.bruder@willbruderarchitects.com
602.312.7399

willbruderarchitects

Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association

Date: January 22, 2021

Subject: **Nomination of South Park Blocks, Portland Oregon to the National Register of Historic Places**

To: Chair and Members of the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation

Via: Robert Olguin, Robert.olguin@oregon.gov

SACHP Coordinator & National Register Program Director Oregon SHPO

From: Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association

Rod Merrick, AIA, Board President

The Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association has voted to join others endorsing the nomination of the South Park Blocks to the National Register of Historic Places. These blocks are among the most historic in Portland and set an important precedent for the many similar green boulevards envisioned in the Olmstead Plan that add to the distinction of Portland as a city of great parks and neighborhoods. For over 150 years, and despite many changes around these blocks, they have offered a well preserved axis of calm and greenery and are among the most memorable in the city. The Nomination provides thorough documentation of the land donation, the development with axial rows of deciduous trees, the placement of public art, and the significant events that have occurred in the blocks over the decades.

The South Park Blocks are iconic and among the most well-loved places in Portland. They form a pedestrian mall that defines the north-south axis of the city, link the educational, cultural and commercial centers, provide respite from traffic, and include an extraordinary collection of a variety large deciduous trees that provide shade in the summer, color in the fall and spring, and sun in the winter. Their paver walkways, predominant green lawns and collection of sculptures make them an outstanding setting for walking, picnics, quiet contemplation and for any number of celebrations and events.

Our own neighborhood is defined by a comparable boulevard lined with a parallel arcade of linden trees that echo at a smaller scale the dignity, calm, color, environmentally beneficial, and place making characteristics of the Park Blocks.

We are concerned about the future of the Park Blocks. A master plan proposed for the South Park Blocks threatens to irreplaceably damage the historical character by transforming the blocks into a bicycle transportation corridor. This would be achieved by removing all trees along the western side of the park on most of the blocks, inserting evergreen trees here and there, and "activation" with the insertion of a two lane bike trail (redundant with the slow narrow streets flanking the blocks).

It is significant that this Nomination has been submitted by a coalition of citizen volunteers who, under the auspices of the Downtown Neighborhood Association, initiated and participated in the documentation process; yet another example of the essential nature of citizen participation in preserving Oregon history.

Recognition for these 12 blocks in the heart of a great Pacific Northwest city is long overdue. We appreciate the importance of your role in protecting Oregon History. Thank you.

C: Historic Landmark Commission, kminor.phlc@gmail.com , Hillary.Adam@portlandoregon.gov,
Brandon Spencer-Hartle <brandon.spencer@portlandoregon.gov>

Architectural HERITAGE CENTER

June 25, 2020

Dear Keeper,

The Architectural Heritage Center/Bosco-Milligan Foundation urges you to include the South Park Blocks in Portland Oregon on the National Register of Historic Places. The mission of the AHC is to “inspire people to conserve the art, craft, and context of historic buildings and places to promote our cultural heritage as a vital element of livable, sustainable, communities.” The South Park Blocks certainly qualifies as one of Portland’s earliest public places that has maintained much of its character for 150 years. It is therefore clearly eligible for a place on the National Register.

We believe that the South Park Blocks should be eligible for inclusion on the National Register under two of the criteria for listing:

1. Criterion A: Community Planning and Development + Recreation and Culture
2. Criterion C: Distinctive Landscape Entity/Landscape Architecture

Additionally, the South Park Blocks may be eligible under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important to pre-contact history.

The South Park Blocks appear in very early mid-1800 Portland maps. In the mid-1800s, the evergreens were cleared from the Portland townsite. In the 1870s, the park blocks were planted with a simple palate of *deciduous* trees (predominantly Lombardy poplars and American elms) in five axially aligned rows. The park’s design and planting scheme was the work of Louis Pfunder, a European-born and trained horticulturalist and master gardener who worked briefly on two large American parks, New York’s Central Park and San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park. This is the only Portland park originally designed to provide an urban rest and long promenades. It is distinctly derivative of the formal, axial European design principles that Pfunder brought with him and has been described as “a simple cathedral of deciduous trees with a carpet of grass below.”

As an entity, it is a resilient space that has maintained this restrained character until the present day. Some changes have occurred, but miraculously very few and none that have altered the original design. Defining characteristics include:

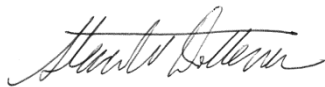
- Open Space – Flexible & Adaptive – For a variety of both restful and active uses
- Deciduous Trees in five axial rows
- Restrained Simplicity
- Defined Boundaries

Bosco-Milligan Foundation/Architectural Heritage Center
701 SE Grand Ave. Portland, OR 97214 Tel. 503-231-7264
info@visitahc.org www.visitahc.org

The significant additions over the years have included commemorative statuary, the creation of a “campus” for Portland State University by closing the adjacent park streets, and weekly public farmer’s markets, among other events. All of these changes have maintained and reinforced the primary design characteristics of the park space listed above. Inclusion on the National Register will help to insure that the South Park Blocks and their defining historical characteristics are recognized and maintained in that larger scheme.

The South Park Blocks remain one of Portland's most distinctive, valued, precious and significant historic open spaces. It has endured as the centerpiece for the city's educational and cultural institutions and continues to tell the story of its association with significant recreational, cultural, political, and landscape trends in Portland’s history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve Dotterer".

Steve Dotterer
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephanie Whitlock".

Stephanie Whitlock
Executive Director