

# Teen Services Program

## Annual Report Fiscal Year '08 - '09



## **Teen Services Program**

Fiscal Year 2008-2009

### **PP&R Teen Services Program**

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Commissioner Nick Fish  
Director Zari Santner

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*Michelle Harper  
Citywide Collaborative  
Services Manager*

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

I am pleased to provide you with a progress report on the many successes of Portland Parks and Recreation's City-wide Teen Services Program. We are grateful for the consistent and strong support you have given to this program. As indicated in the report and formal presentation to be given to the City Council we have successfully achieved all goals and objectives as outlined.

I am extremely proud of the talented and collaborative team we created under the leadership of our Alliance Coordinator, Max Behrens. He created the vision and set everything in motion for what you see today. Together with dedicated teen coordinators, and support from all areas of the PP&R Bureau we are able to bring you this report of the amazing programs, events and activities the teens have enjoyed this past year.

With the dedicated focus areas noted in this report, we have been able to connect with teens across the city through a variety of special interests, through which we work daily to engage, support, and empower these individuals to be valuable, productive members of their communities.

Through collaborations with PP&R programs including Community Centers, SUN Community Schools, Community Gardens, Adaptive and Inclusive Recreation, Multnomah Arts Center, Community Music Center, City Nature, Outreach Services, and a host of schools and community organizations, we have raised the level of visibility, accessibility and outreach to many teens in diverse communities.

In this report you will see that the Teen Services Program reflects the mission of Portland Parks & Recreation to ensure that green spaces are accessible to all, facilities are used to gather, recreate, and play, and that recreation services and programs contribute to the health and well being of all residents of Portland.

On behalf of the teens of Portland, thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Harper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

# Teen Report Introduction

## History

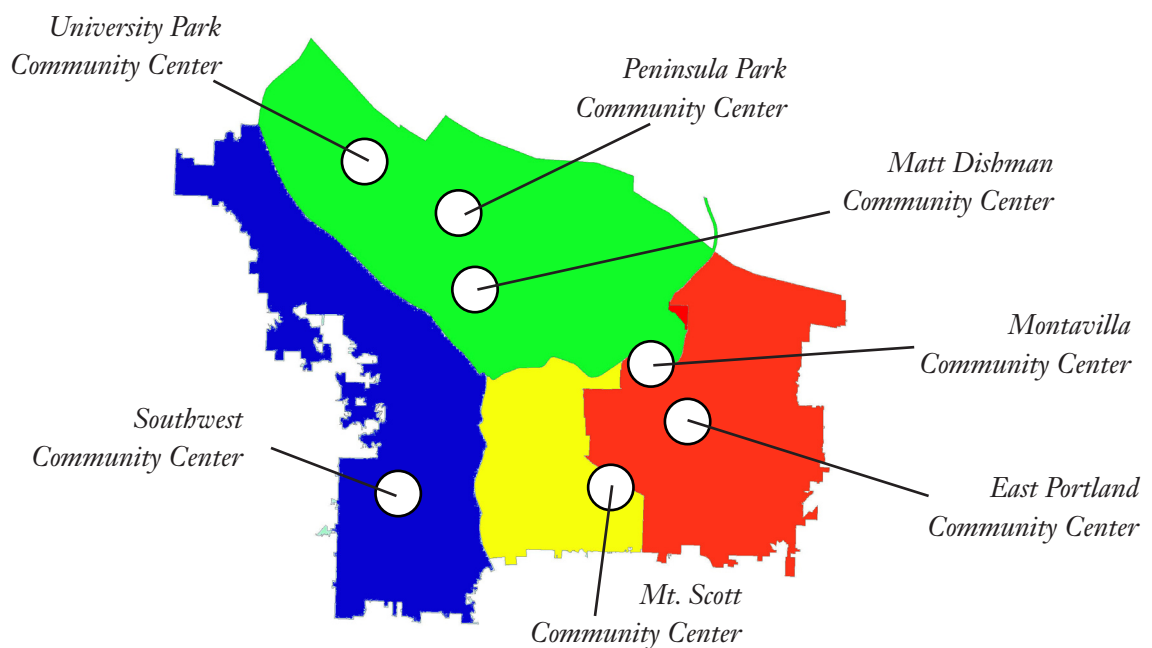
Connecting with teenagers is a priority for Portland Parks & Recreation, as stated in PP&R's Vision 2020 Plan. As part of the Outreach Services Program, we dedicated services to teens in North and Northeast Portland. As programming continued, we were able to expand that programming to include additional programs and activities along with extended hours in supervised community centers. This past 2008-2009 fiscal year saw the program continue to evolve as we established community-based teen programming at seven sites across Portland.



*Max Behrens,  
Alliance Coordinator*

## Outline

With services in PP&R divided into four geographic zones, North, South, East, and West, the Teen Services Program was established to provide dedicated resources in all service zones. Teen Service Coordinators were placed in community centers that had the space to accommodate additional staff and the ability to incorporate additional teen programs while ensuring equitable distribution of resources. As a result, the seven sites selected are as follows.



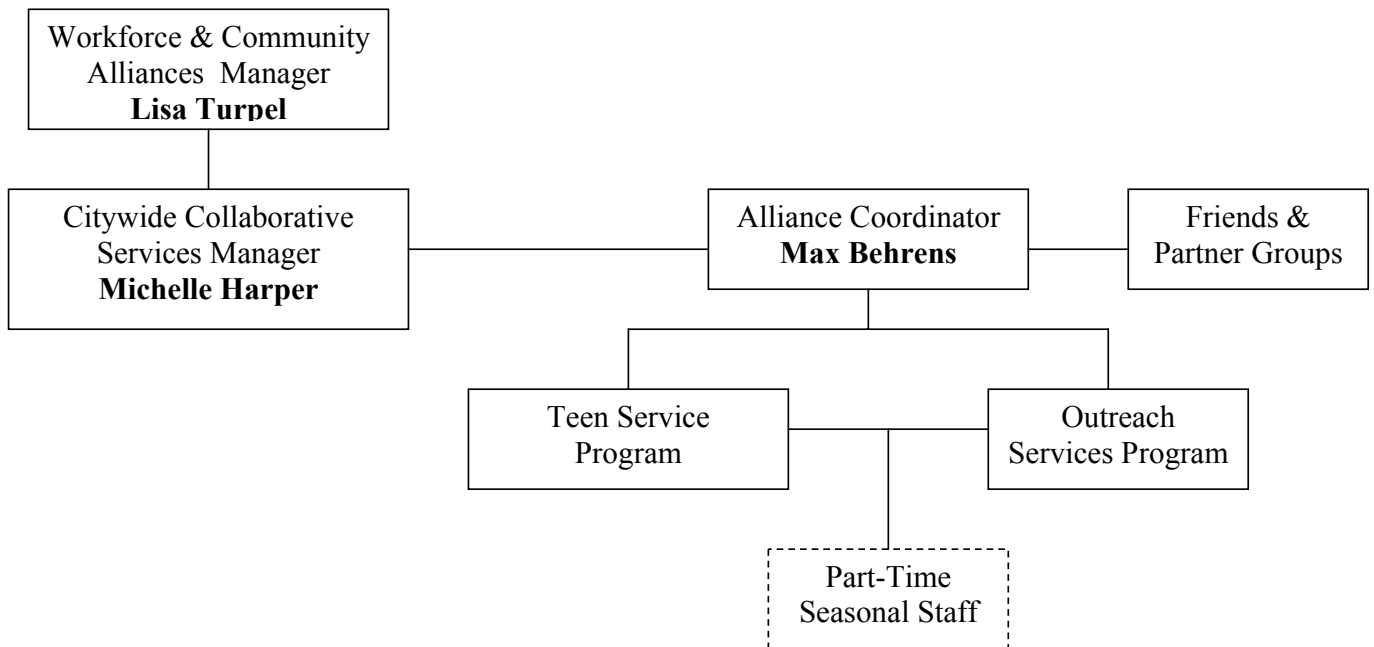
# ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

The Teen Services Program falls within Portland Parks & Recreation's Workforce & Community Alliances department in the Citywide Collaborative Services division. The Citywide Collaborative Services division includes:

- Adaptive and Inclusive Recreation
- Community Gardens
- Cultural Arts (Community Music Center, Multnomah Arts Center)
- Friends & Community Partners
- Outreach Services Program
- Senior Recreation
- SUN (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods)
- Teen Services Program

The Teen Services Program was placed within the Citywide Collaborative Services division as its goal is to not only engage teen participants across the city but also to incorporate engagement and support through collaboration with community businesses, schools, and partners. This program consists of seven teen specialty coordinators which include one Recreation Coordinator II and six Recreation Coordinator I professionals reporting to PP&R's Alliance Coordinator.

## Workforce & Community Alliances Organizational Chart



# Teen Service Program Goals

For the Fiscal Year 2008-2009, the Teen Services Program outlined the following goals:

- Survey the teen community, partners, and PP&R to assess outreach success and establish current trends and programming needs.
- Involve parents in Teen programs.
- Connect teens to jobs in PP&R, including lifeguarding, swim instructor, customer service, gym/facility attendants, etc.
- Market program to the community through creation of informational brochure, flyers, e-mails, and website postings including MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, and blogs.
- Update PP&R staff through employee newsletter, e-mail, and website.
- Coordinate Teen Council community service projects and network opportunities every month.
- Program a minimum of 15 teen classes per site quarterly, for a total of 400 classes annually.
- Evaluate teen outreach program success and modify as needed.

This report will highlight the results of the Teen Services program for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and will outline ongoing efforts of further engagement and connection with teenagers in the City of Portland.

## Teen Programming Focus

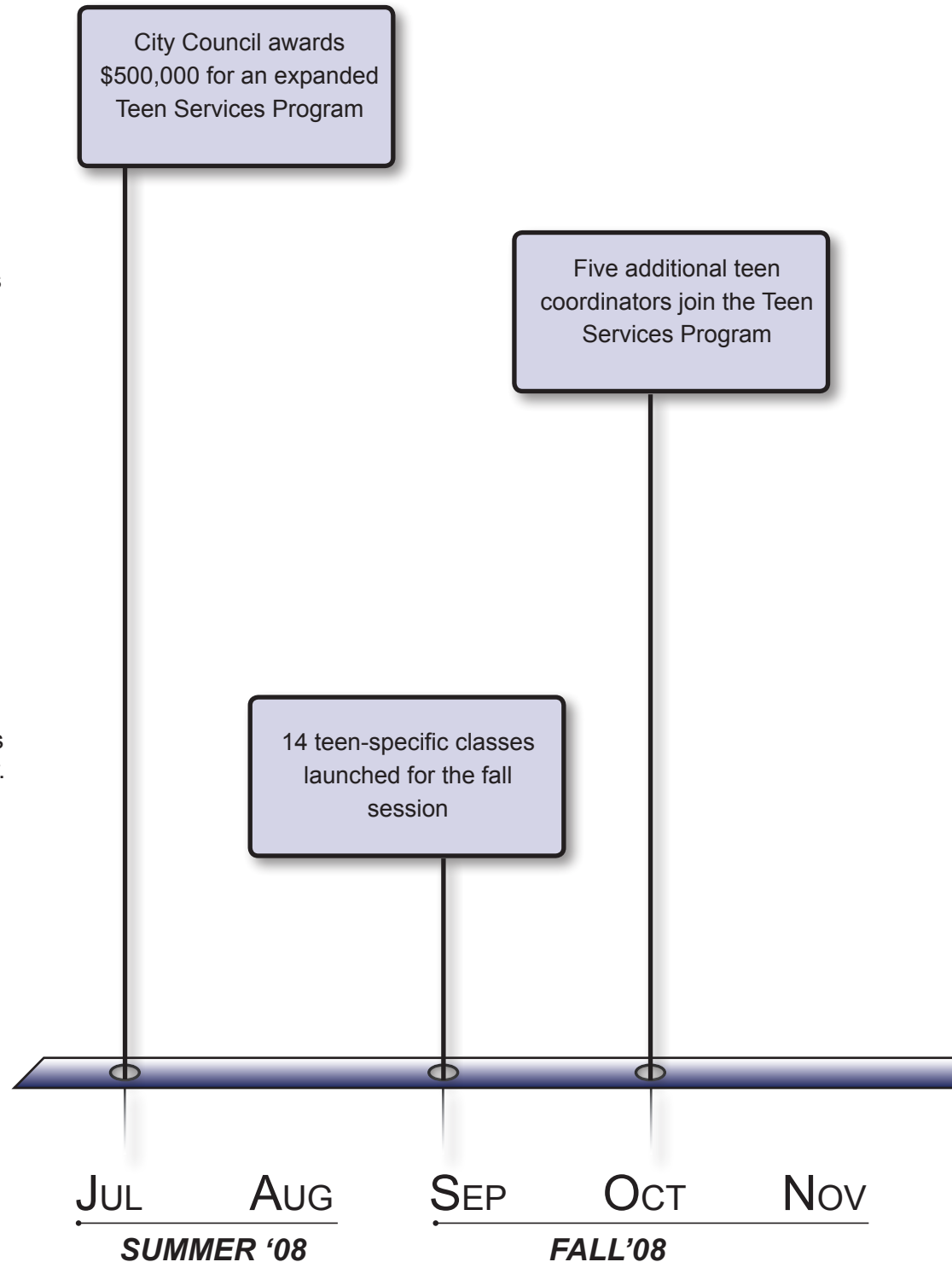
The program structure was built around community-based programming. Teen Coordinators for each respective site program classes, activities and special events for their community based upon current trends and participant interests. Programs follow a quarterly programming schedule. While each site is responsible for their own program establishment, all program staff are responsible for incorporating the following focus areas into their quarterly program:

- Leadership/Employment/Education
- Environmental Stewardship/Outdoor Experiences
- Arts Experiences
- Physical Activity/Health and Wellness/Fitness
- Positive Social Interaction/Fun

These focus areas were established as the structure for Teen Services. They are all areas in which Portland Parks & Recreation has established experience, expertise and can provide the necessary resources and support to ensure ongoing success. This program is presented and marketed as **Teen Force** to create interest and reflect the energy and empowerment of the program, underlying that teens, as aspiring adults, are a force to be reckoned with.

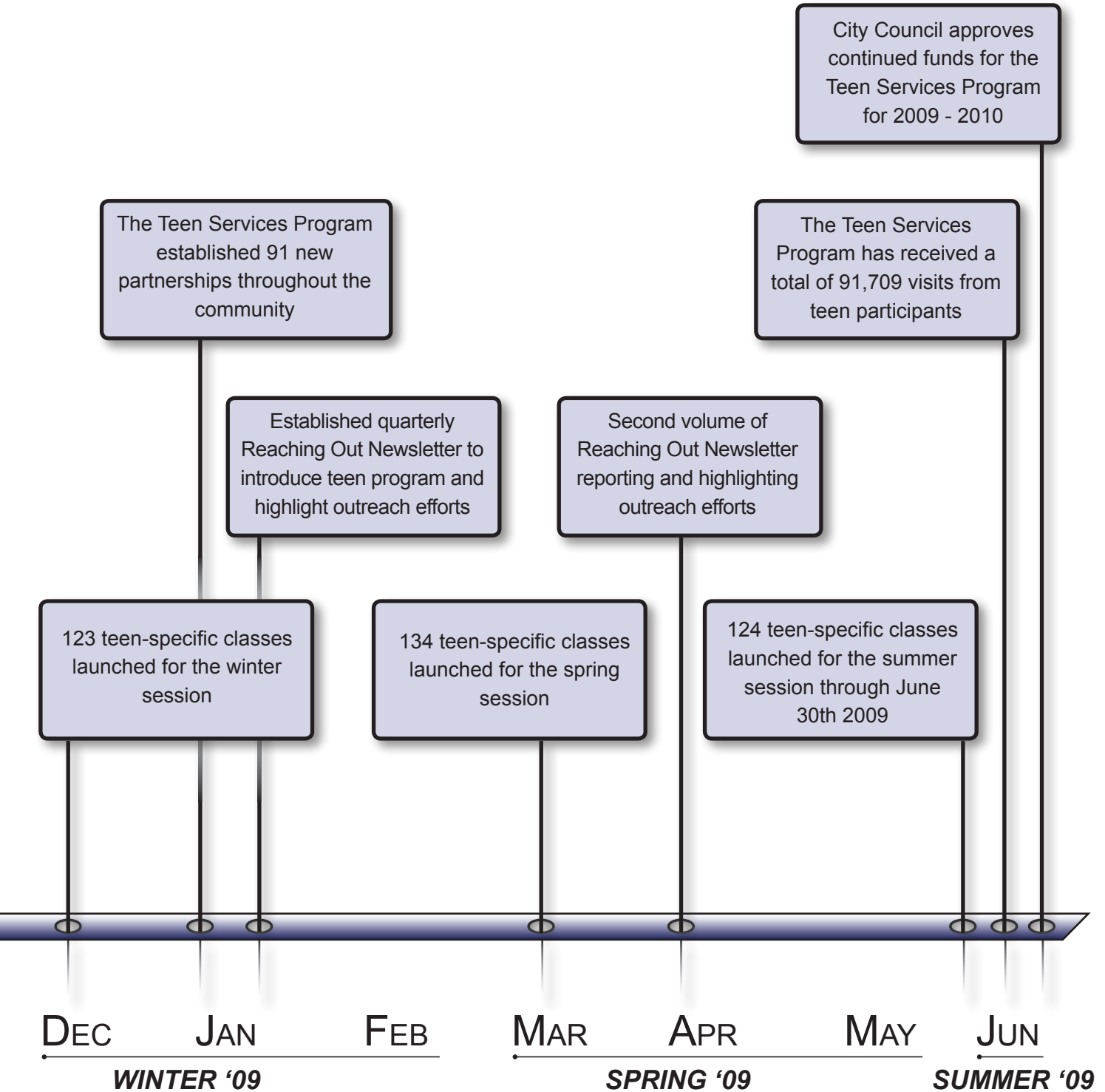
# Teen Services

- Teen funding for fiscal year '08 - '09 was established to expand upon pre-existing teen programming
- Funding for '08 - '09 was one time funding
- Community based programming was established for citywide implementation
- All goals and objectives established for the teen services program were achieved and/or surpassed
- Portland City Council approved teen program funding for fiscal year '09 - '10. That funding is limited term for one year.
- Additional goals and objectives employed for fiscal year '09 - '10 will continue to enhance the teen services program and engage with teen participants





# Program Timeline

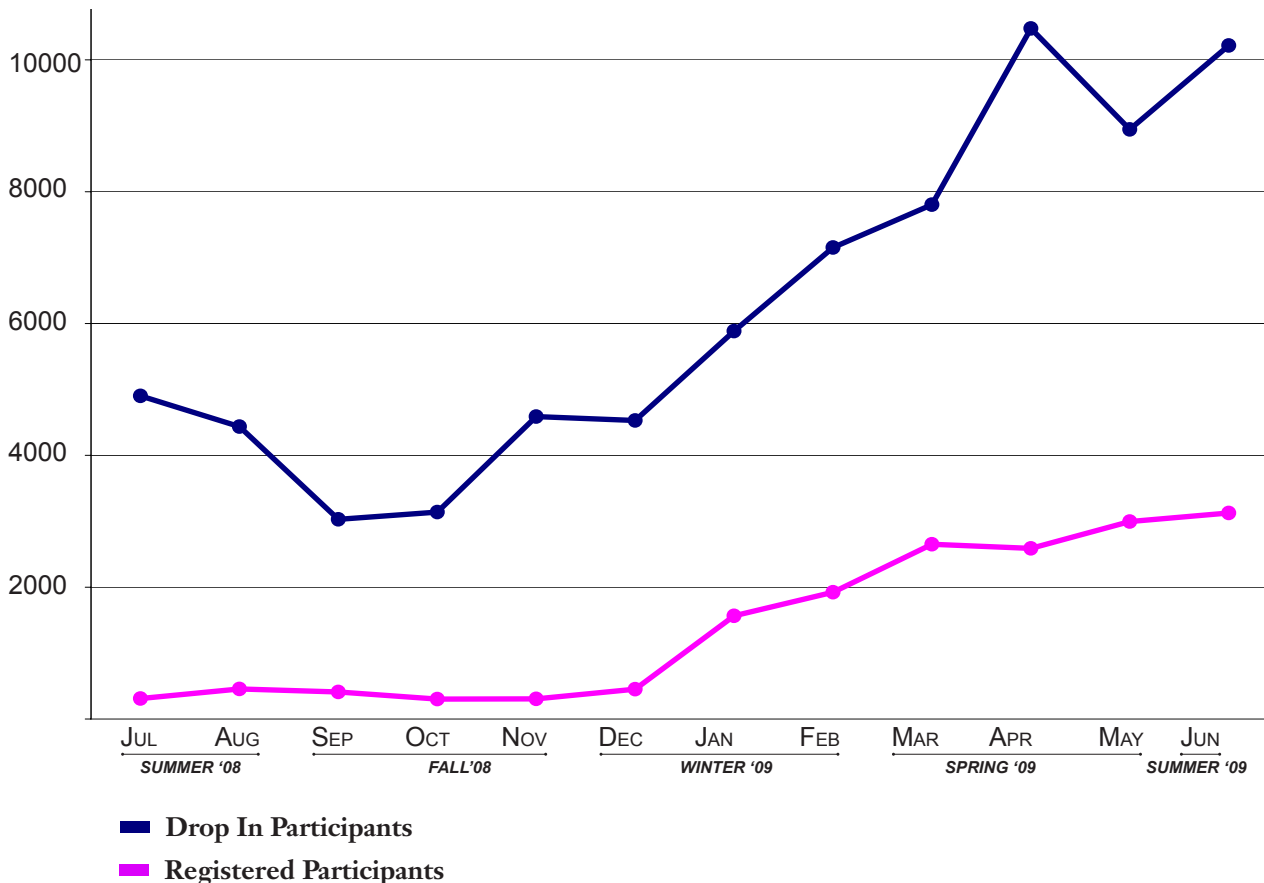


# Chart 1 - Attendance

The Teen Services Program tracked participation in teen programs at the seven respective program sites. Attendance was measured by individual visits to teen programs which includes drop-in activities as well as registered specialty programs.

Drop-in activities include open gym, open swim and after-school teen lounge time. Registered programs consist of recurring classes and activities that require ongoing participation and involvement.

- Over 91,000 total teen visits to community centers
- 73,418 teen visits to drop-in activities
- 16,115 teen visits to formal classes
- 2,176 teen visits to trips, events and tournaments
- Attendance quadrupled in nine months

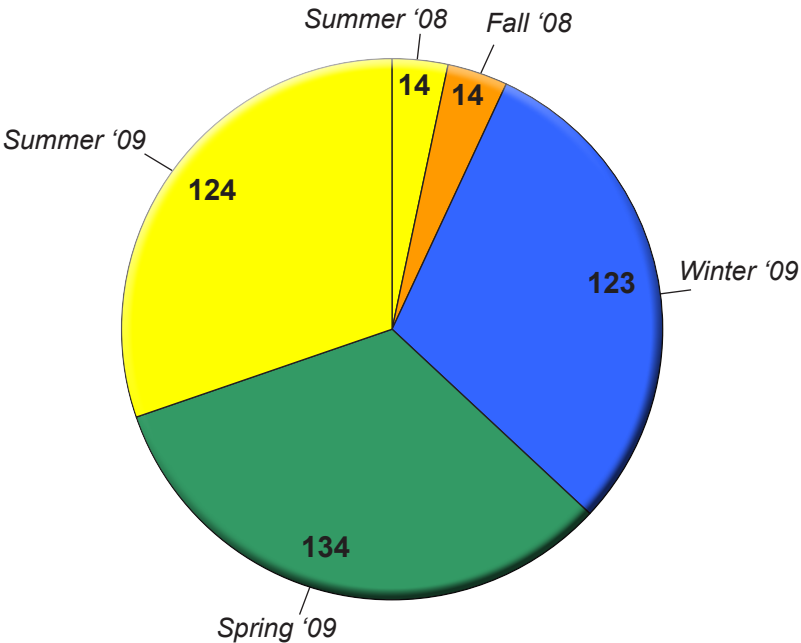


# Chart 2 - Number Of Classes Launched

Prior to teen specific programming, there were very few teen specific programs. Many Portland Parks & Recreation programs that were available to teens fell within the registration category of 14 years and up, or family. With dedicated coordination of teen specific programs by dedicated teen staff, PP&R was able to engage specifically with the teen population, learn current trends and interests and develop programs specifically for teens within the community.

Teen Classes allow a more engaging interaction with teenagers as classes are able to incorporate specific skills and/or interest levels that promote increased interaction with teens around a focus area that is of interest to them.

An added benefit to the structure and format of the Teen Services Program is the ability to incorporate community-based programming within a city-wide structure. While all coordinators incorporate the five focus areas within their programs structure, they are able to customize that programming to fit specific community interests and requests.

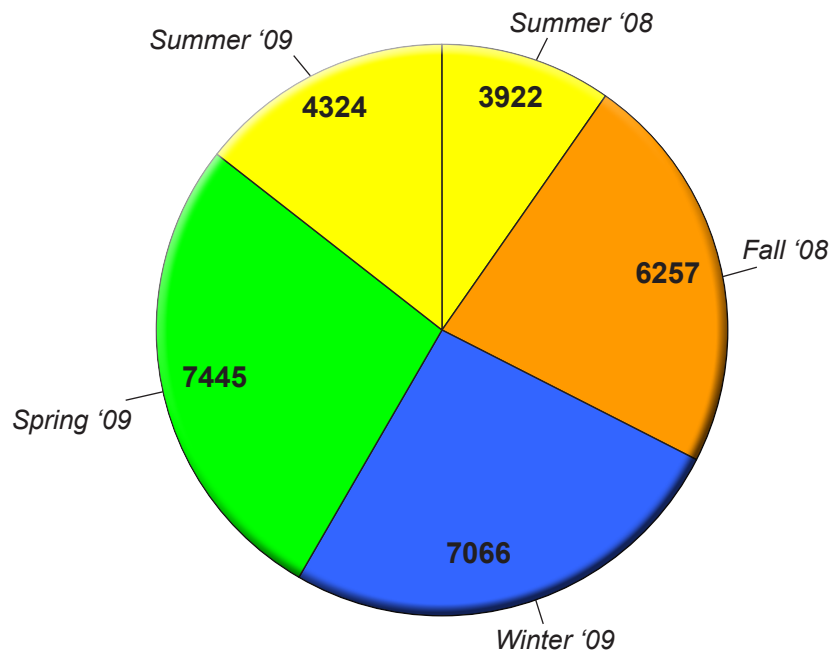


- 409 teen classes launched
- Teen programs increased by 90%
- Winter, Spring & Summer 2009: 381 classes launched

## Chart 3 - Total Hours Of Programming

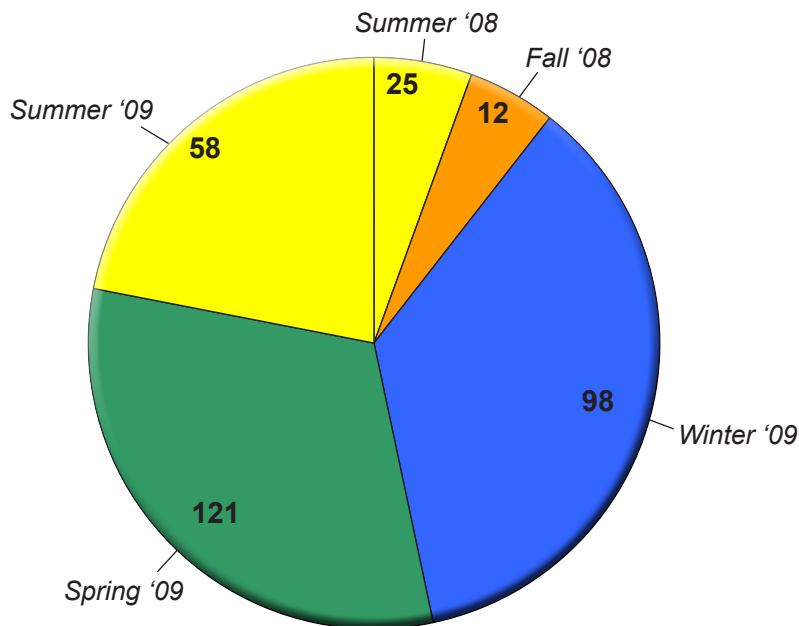
Dedicated hours of programming allow engagement with teenagers around areas of interest to them. It allows, not only a safe and supervised structure for youth but allows engagement and interaction with caring instructors, mentors, staff and volunteers. Dedicated programming provides recurring participation and promotes retention in programs. Portland Parks & Recreation is the largest program provider for youth not including schools and our program structure allows for more youth to be engaged in program options they are interested in, in a way that promotes ongoing participation and engagement.

- Hours of teen programming increased every quarter
- Programming hours doubled in the span of two sessions
- Twice as much programming was available to Portland teens



## Chart 4 - Off Site Trips

While dedicated funding has allowed for additional teen programs and activities, facility space availability continues to be a challenge. Many community centers have established programming based on community interest and space availability. As a result, additional teen programming also impacts community need versus space availability. In an effort to reduce demand of limited space resources and maximize engagement and programming availability to the community, teen programs incorporate programming at a variety of different locations. Trips give the opportunity to introduce participants to other communities and locations, sometimes for the first time. It allows us to better incorporate community partners and provide this service to a population that is limited to opportunity due to transportation.

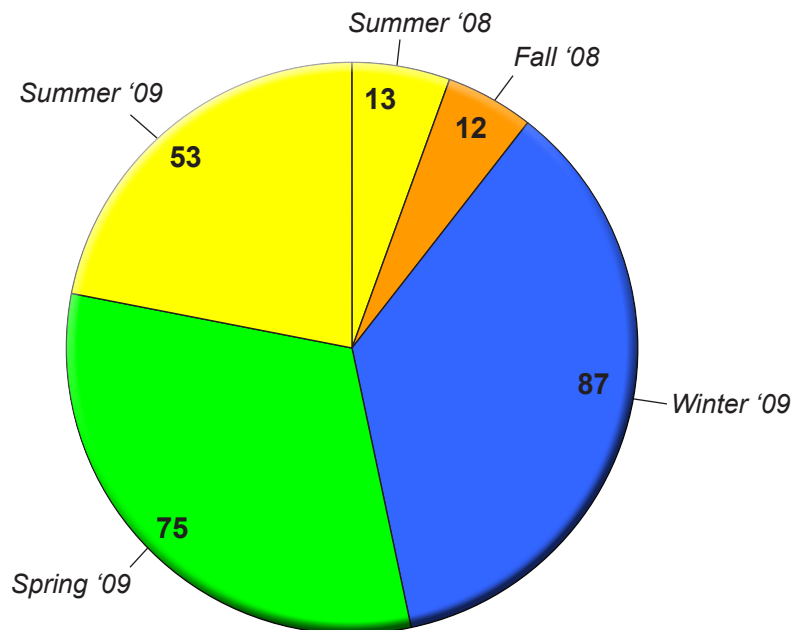


- 314 total trips
- Trip availability increased by 90%
- Off site trips include, registered programs, special events, volunteer and community engagement opportunities

## Chart 5 - Positions Staffed

Staffing qualified adult employees for teen specific programs allows PP&R to provide high-level, high-caliber programs. It also allows us to provide multiple options for teens to select from and engage them around their own areas of interest. Staffing positions allows PP&R to provide teens with caring, engaged mentors that help educate, train, guide and support teens as they build upon current interests while also learning new skills and abilities. Staff promote teens and encourage future participation and retention in programs.

- Provides opportunity for employment
- Provides ability to engage teens with more caring mentors
- Increases job and advancement experience

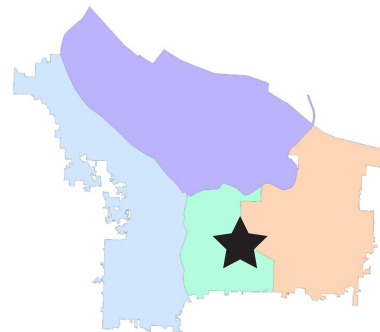


# Community Based Programs

This section highlights each individual Teen Services Program location and outlines how each site established unique programs while incorporating the requirements of the citywide structure. Each location highlights the neighborhoods they serve while outlining amenities of the community centers and surrounding locations. Each location explains how they worked to engage the community and establish programs and activities based upon community interest and current trends. Each program displays participants engaging in teen specific activities and provides participant feedback. Since this program structure was established for the Fiscal Year 2008-2009, all of the areas of this program will continue to grow and develop in the specific focus areas listed.



# Teen Services Program Mt. Scott Community Center



*Molly Pucillo,  
Teen Services Coordinator I*

## Overview

The Teen Services program at Mt. Scott Community Center serves a diverse population of youth primarily from Brentwood-Darlington, Foster-Powell, Mt. Scott-Arleta and Lents neighborhoods in southeast Portland. Situated in Mt. Scott Park, the 60,000 square ft. community center provides a variety of opportunities for youth to utilize the facility's features, which include a skating rink, auditorium with stage, kitchen, gymnasium, fitness center and indoor pool. In order to reach a wider range of youth and share valuable resources, the teen services program at Mt. Scott collaborates with a myriad of community organizations and schools both within the immediate neighborhood and as far away as Gresham and Clackamas. Although the scope of communities served is vast, we make an intentional effort to reach teens one by one, instilling in each of them the power they possess both individually and as part of the greater community.

## Program Highlights

The core goals of our program are to provide fitness activities, outdoor experiences, art opportunities, and leadership skills in an environment conducive to positive social interaction. We have successfully incorporated these elements into our program through the expansion of our Teen F/X and Teen Volunteer Corps activities and events, the addition of a dynamic series of teen-only classes and the development of our environmentally-based projects and outings. In tandem with a dramatic upsurge in the quantity and quality of community partnerships, these accomplishments have significantly furthered our efforts in regard to reaching our vision and fulfilling our Teen Services mission. With over 30 community partnerships and counting, our program is poised to serve a diverse population of youth and extend our services to reach the variety of needs in our community.

## Future Goals

More than any other objective, our primary goal is to empower the youth at our center. More concisely, we make a deliberate effort to support and guide our teens as *they* discover their intellectual, physical, social and emotional potentials. Our teens are the heart of our program and their voices are the core of our ever-evolving curriculum. Therefore, as we move forward, we will continue to search for ways to expand opportunities for teens to share their ideas and create a stronger sense of ownership at Mt. Scott and in the community. We will further develop our Teen Council and Teen Volunteer Corps, hire and train youth instructors and teenage staff, and infuse leadership & team-building experiences into all aspects of our program. We will also continue to build and develop relationships with our partners and remain steadfast in our efforts to reach diverse populations of youth in our community.



# Schools & Community Partners

## Schools

### **Mt. Scott Learning Center - Middle School Campus**

Collaborate with school staff to offer non-traditional art classes to students, including printmaking, zine creation and circus arts

### **Mt. Scott Learning Center - High School Campus**

Collaborate with school staff to implement an elective class focusing on hip-hop culture, spoken word and movements for social justice

### **Lane Middle School**

Collaborate with school staff to provide after-school programming for students which included activities linked to state standards, such as the development of hip-hop and volleyball programs

### **Marshall High School**

Collaborate with school staff to enhance after-school programming for students, including the implementation of a kickboxing class for youth

## Community Partners

### **Adventures Without Limits**

Coordinate outdoor excursions, including kayaking and caving trips, for youth participants

### **AIDS Walk Portland**

Provide volunteer opportunities for youth focused on creating greater awareness of the AIDS pandemic and caring for those affected and infected by AIDS

### **Children's Book Bank, Ronald McDonald House, Lents Community Garden, Loaves & Fishes/ Meals on Wheels, St. Francis Dining Hall**

Organize volunteer opportunities for youth who committed to a week long community service program

### **Christie School, Northwest Family Services, Portland Impact Slavic Services**

They collaborate with our Teen Services program to provide classes and events for youth

### **IRCO (Immigrant Refugee Community Organization)**

Orchestrate the placement of five youth workers at our community center during the summer term

### **Middle East Studies Center-Portland State University**

Design a cultural evening dedicated to an increased understanding of life in Middle Eastern countries, which included cultural presentations, demonstrations & activities

### **Mt. Scott-Arleta Neighborhood Association**

Collaborate on several occasions with youth to create community events, including a neighborhood block party, a community clean-up & family nights at the center

### **Portland Youth Builders**

Worked to design a program for youth (in partnership with the Lents Farmers Market) which focuses on teaching participants culinary and entrepreneurial skills

### **Regional Arts & Culture Council, Southeast Uplift, Queen of Hearts Tavern, Space Monkey Coffee, Arleta Library-Cafe**

They collaborate with Mt. Scott's Teen Volunteer Corps and the Mt. Scott-Arleta Neighborhood Association to design and install a community mural across the street from the community center.

# Teens Engaged at the Mt. Scott Community Center



Teens practice yoga at “Yoga, Yogurt, & You,” a night of Teen F/X dedicated to wellness.



A teen works with a local artist to paint a mural across the street from the center.



Teens smile after setting up for and participating in the AIDS Walk Portland.



A participant concentrates as he fashions a mug as part of the teen ceramics class.



Teens pick their pumpkins on a trip to Sauvie Island’s pumpkin patch and corn maze.



A teen takes a look at a picture she just took during a photography class.



Teen girls take a break on their hike to Pittock Mansion.



Teens make breakfast on a camping trip at Oxbow Park.



A participant focuses in the teen parkour class.

# Participant Feedback

## Mt. Scott Community Center

*"We got to be creative and had no boundaries. It was awesome."*

Nicole, 12

*"It was cool to get to go outside, explore and be around nature."*

Savanah, 12

*"I liked the opportunity to travel around downtown and get to know the area."*

Sasha, 14

*"I thought it was going to be lame, but I'm actually glad I came. Our neighborhood business owners are really cool."*

Bobby, 16

*"I liked that we got to freedom to do pretty much whatever we wanted and we learned from and taught each other."*

Lina, 17

*"It was very fun. It made me feel more confident in myself and my self-defense skills."*

Nancy, 17

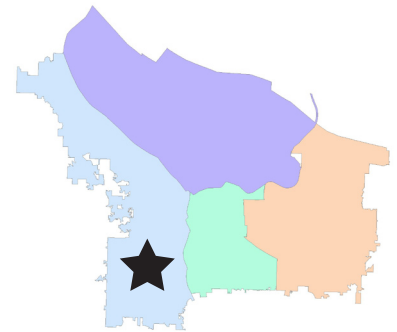
*"My kids have been involved in classes at Mt. Scott since they were toddlers and I am really happy that the community center has grown with them and offers such a wonderful teen program."*

Julie, Parent

*"From my experience..., it seems that the teens at Mt. Scott are really a community. They seem to enjoy trying new crafts and listening to music and just hanging out and being themselves in a positive environment."*

Lise, Parent

# Teen Services Program Southwest Community Center



*Joshua Leavitt,  
Teen Services Coordinator I*

## Overview

The Teen Services Program on the west side of Portland is based out of the Southwest Community Center. Located in Gabriel Park, the 48,000 square ft. facility provides a safe and enriching environment for the teenagers it serves. Utilizing the large gym space, dynamic swimming pools, class rooms, and beautiful park, teenagers have a broad spectrum of amenities at their finger tips. To offer the highest level of programming we work with community partners and our local schools. While SWCC serves local communities which include Southwest Hills, Multnomah, Hillsdale, and Markham our center receives participants from throughout Portland and beyond. Spanning from NW Portland to Lake Oswego, West Linn, and Troutdale and reaching as far as McMinnville, Estacada and Mollalla, we strive to bring teenage communities together as well as show them the expansive world around them.

## Program Highlights

Programs provided through the Southwest Community Center serve a broad range of low income as well as more affluent communities. Each program is developed to provide an equal opportunity to all teenagers by offering scholarships and using a sliding scale registration fee model. To provide the most beneficial services to our communities, programs are developed based upon feedback from the communities we serve in conjunction with our five focus areas, education, arts, being active, environmental stewardship, and having fun!

The teen populous of southwest Portland has shown an affinity for the outdoors. This was originally seen through the booming success of our wilderness survival class which has expanded into overnight rock climbing and surfing expeditions. All of which have focused on environmental education and awareness as well as the team building and communication skills.

## Future Goals

With every teenager there is a unique story, a collection of special moments, and a future with endless opportunities for success. It is our goal to build upon the successes that we have created with each of these teens and further develop the programs that have provided the framework for these accomplishments. We look to expand our partnerships amongst the communities we serve by bringing in new ideas and positive influences into our programs, by continuing the creation of a youth leadership council which will be an integral part of future teen programs, as well as continuing to provide cultural programming for teens in undeserved and underrepresented communities.

# Schools & Community Partners

## Schools

### **Wilson High School**

Provide homework services to students, provide chaperon services at school dances, and offer complimentary programs to the school curriculum.

### **Robert Gray Middle School**

Provide homework services to students and run teen services booth at lunch time once every month.

### **Jackson Middle School**

Provide homework services to students, provide their staff with current teen services information, and generate programs at the school based on the needs of the students.

## Community Partners

### **Flying M Ranch**

Provide horseback tours on a three mile stretch of the Willamette Valley

### **Washington Park Zoo**

Became one of our most popular service providers for our Out and About Day Camps.

### **DHX Advertising**

Tour and digital photography demonstration allowing kids to see pre and post-production of graphic arts and advertising.

### **Northwest Wilderness Institute, LLC.**

Service provider for our Outdoor Adventure Camps. In partnering with NWI, we were able to offer technical Rock climbing and wilderness travel components to our summer line up.

### **OMSI (Oregon Museum of Science & Industry)**

Their Art, Science, and visual components brought several of our summer programs to new heights

### **Impact Northwest**

Impact Northwest became a generous supporter by sharing resources for the entirety of the summer allowing us to offer a broader range of programs for teenagers.

### **Seven Surfboards**

Owner and head shaper gave a comprehensive tour of the retail shop, shaping house, and included a tutorial on surfboard fabrication and history by legendary surfer/shaper Gerry Lopez.

### **Safari Town Surf**

Safari Town owner, Tony Gardner provided equipment rentals at a discounted rate for our popular 2-day surf camp.

### **Portland Art Museum**

The Portland Art Museum brought culture, art, and history to our 4-day Out and About Art Camp.

### **Walgreens**

Walgreens donated printing and materials for several of our larger projects in our Out and About programs.

### **The Friendly House**

Developed an ongoing drop-in photography program for teenagers in NW Portland that created artwork for the creation of the Teen Force calendar.

### **Stoneworks Bouldering Gym**

Facility use and instruction generously provided by Stoneworks helped to make our Spring and Summer indoor climbing classes a big success.

# Teens Engaged at the Southwest Community Center



Teens celebrate after Friday Night Live Olympics.



The Director being presented with a gift from photography class.



Catching his first wave on an overnight surfing camp.



Teens going for a horseback ride at Flying M Ranch.



Teens practicing moves for the up coming dance contest.



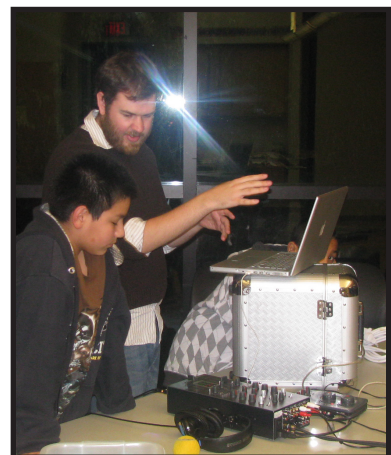
Problem solving a ropes course in the first ever IceBreakers camp.



Teens at SWCC get ready for Friday Night Live.



Working towards the summit, a teen participates in a rock climbing class.



Learning about music technology.

# Participant Feedback

## Southwest Community Center

*"The time I spend with you guys (counselors) this summer has been like none other!"*

Meghan, 12

*"It was really cool learning how to surf. The instructors helped me learn really fast and they were really funny."*

Eric, 14

*"I remember the Friday at the state park where I overcame my fear of heights and challenged myself up the rock wall!"*

Micah, 15

*"Going to the SWCC has made studying for my tests a lot easier and I really appreciate all of the work that the staff have helped me with."*

Sara, 16

*"I would recommend homework club at the SWCC to anyone who is having any kind of trouble in school. The tutor is very helpful and I went from getting D's on all of my Biology tests to now getting A's!!!"*

Kayla, 17

*"This class has opened my eyes to a new way of parenting. I feel like I have my son back."*

Stephanie, Parent

*"This class has opened doors of communication that were never there before between my child and I. I would recommend this class to all parents."*

Natalie, Parent

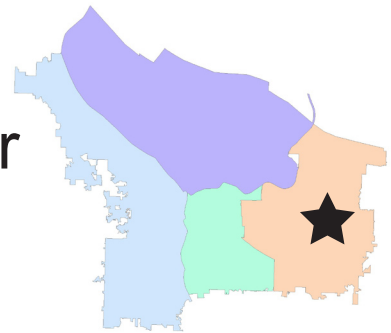
*"I am extremely thankful for the programs you offer. It is very hard to find good programs for teenagers, especially for deaf teens."*

Denise, Parent

*"The service you provide has been a bright spot in my child's spring and summer and we will continue to be in your programs as long as they are around. Thank You!"*

Robert, Parent

# Teen Services Program East Portland Community Center



*Faith Maxwell,  
Teen Services Coordinator I*

## Overview

Being a more recent addition, East Portland Community Center has quickly become a hub of community engagement, working diligently at unifying neighborhoods throughout East Portland. The goal of the Teen Services Program is to provide a means and desire for young adults to become engaged, empowered, experience healthy maturation, and build connections in the community. This is achieved via assorted yet meaningful programming and ever flowing community collaborations. We serve a wonderfully diverse population of young adults largely from Parkrose, Gateway, Argay, and Cherry Park neighborhoods. As our program expands, we continue to serve more teens from neighboring cities such as Gresham, Clackamas, and Oregon City. EPCC is truly an asset the community, as the center also provides a multitude of facility features for young adults, including a new indoor pool, full size gymnasium, fitness center, studio and more.

## Program Highlights

The various programs offered at East Portland Community Center may change with the seasons, but are steady in their message: dissolve barriers, build bridges, and support aspiring adults. We incorporate leadership, health, outdoor adventure, art expression, and positive interactions by offering these classes across the teen spectrum, while maintaining our dedication to youth engagement. A few teen favorites include: Manga & Comic Book (young teens developing & printing comic books), Volunteer to Start Your Career (green jobs), Boulderling, (teens testing their agility, teamwork, and self confidence), and Skate Team (ever growing and a great group of teen volunteers). If finances are of concern, we offer low cost classes with volunteer opportunities and scholarships, even for GED prep, Food Handler's, or Babysitting Classes. If transportation is an issue, we provide pick up and drop off locations for our most popular programs, including Outdoor Adventure, Travelling Teens, and Volunteer Crew.

## Future Goals

We will continue to foster healthy young adults while empowering connections within the community. One primary goal of program expansion is to actively instigate teens to take responsibility, provide more direct means for teens to share their ideas and growth, and cultivate goal setting skills. Other areas of intent include strengthening our current Volunteer Crew and Youth Leadership Clubs, gaining more parental involvement with Parents Unite, college prep opportunities through Higher Education 4 Me, career and skills training with Young Painters' Club and Youth Employment programs with PP&R. As we gain involvement and momentum, we look forward to nurturing our current partnerships while building new relationships as our vision of youth well being takes root.



# Schools & Community Partners

## Schools

### **Floyd Light Middle School**

Collaborate with school staff to stage promotions, use of computer labs, and project programming for GED study prep with adults and teens.

### **David Douglas High School**

Collaborated with school staff re: information tables during lunch time, after school promotion, recruitment, youth employment and summer internships.

### **Fir Ridge High School**

Collaborate with school staff re: class presentations, information tables during lunchtime, and youth referrals. Provided school-site instructors for Hip Hop/Poetry and Bellydancing Class, collaborated on field trips, and hosted Weight Conditioning Class at EPCC.

### **Reynolds Learning Academy**

Connect with counselor for promotions and recruitment of teen volunteers and mentorship.

### **Parkrose High School**

Collaborate with school staff re: Information distribution , facilitator for Black Student Union, assist with MECHA & Adventura Latina, Youth Freestyle Night, Youth Summit, provided teen volunteers for Arcane Arts, and collaboration with EPCC & PHS Skate Teams.

## Community Partners

### **Circuit Bouldering Gym**

Up to 8 teens participate in an 8 week session of indoor rock climbing at a reduced price!

### **Loaves & Fishes**

Provide teen volunteers and collaborated with free snacks for middle & high school youth, as well as dinner or snacks at Teen Night events.

### **Multnomah County Department of Health Services: SiHLE & School-Based Health Clinics**

Provide a peer mentor group for young African American women to speak up & ask questions re: their health with the goal to learn about healthy relationships. Collaborated on summer groups, summer program studying affects of obesity, and teen events.

### **Mt. Hood Community College& Urban League of Portland**

Provide guest speakers talk to our teens about the college application process & help facilitate college and university visits.

### **Dept. of Skateboarding**

Thank you for providing such a great opportunity for the skate team to practice their art and fitness when the weather wouldn't permit outdoor skating... at a discounted rate!

### **YEI (Youth Employment Institute)**

In partnership with Root Ranch & Portland Green Teens, to provide instructors for an YEI Summer outdoor adventure trip.

### **Y.O.U.T.H (Youth Organize & United To Help)**

Provide volunteer and leadership opportunities for the teens of EPCC at the Peace & Unity Festival.

# Teens Engaged at the East Portland Community Center



Teens hold hands & jump for joy while learning how to take motion shots for Photo Club.



EPCC Skate: New skate team member ollies for Fall 09/10  
Picture by: EPCC Photo Club.



Volunteer & performer making buttons during teen night: Black History Month Celebration



Teens Volunteering and learning the ropes at KBOO Radio.



Teen participating in Young Illustrator's drawing club. Look at that concentration!



Adventua Latina teen and DJ Stag team up at Back to School Dance hosted by SiHLE



Young adults participating at the 2009 Youth Summit at PSU



A teen helping with Loaves & Fishes. Volunteer Crew coming for you!



EPCC Fir Ridge Belly dance Troupe performing Summer 2009. Yes, boys dance too!

# Participant Feedback

## East Portland Community Center

*"It was cool. Because it's a good place to hang out."*

David, 14

*"I really learned so much in such a short amount of time. I liked the hands on approach, I really felt like we were being prepared for auditions"*

Quinton, 15

*"Great activities and advice. Nice pool! You guys have a lot of stuff. We actually did things like interviews and cover letters, we weren't just talked to during the whole class."*

MaryAnn, 15

*"It was fun. It's a really good center, I've been there for a few school related activities, I've already referred people to the community center. Getting to express creativity and for a positive reason."*

Jordan, 16

*"I love this center more than any other! It helped me realize some things about myself that I need to work on."*

Mikey, 16

*"I liked dancing and making new friends. I am actually a better dancer now!"  
"Friendly & Clean!"*

Kate, 17

*"I love this place! The staff is very nice and helpful."*

Alexandra, 17

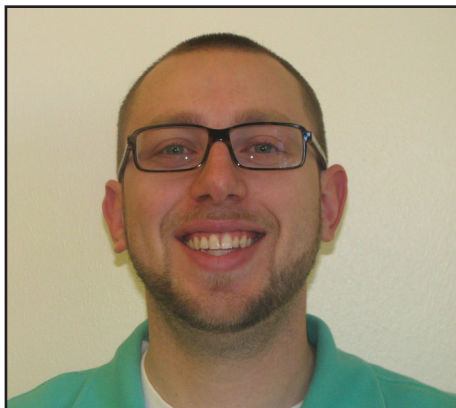
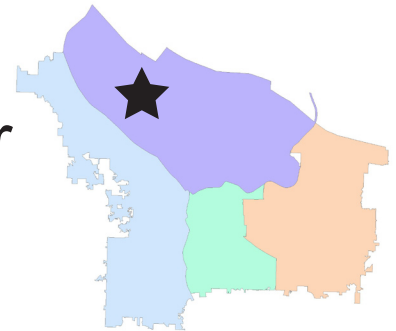
*Volunteering was exciting-got to meet new people. Although I didn't want to interact with people (very shy) you got me out of my bubble and made it easier for me to talk to people*

Emma, 17

*"Fun, productive, good experience. Great staff, focused activities."*

Andrew 19

# Teen Services Program University Park Community Center



*Travis Richardson,  
Teen Services Coordinator I*

## Overview

University Park Community Center (UPCC) is located in North Portland in the heart of the New Columbia. The community center serves the St. Johns, University Park, Arbor Lodge, Portsmouth, and Kenton neighborhoods. UPCC was renovated in 2007 under a shared space agreement with the neighboring Regence Boys and Girls Club and Rosa Parks Elementary School. The center consists of 5 classroom spaces, a senior lounge, dance studio, weight room, 2 gymnasiums, and a youth lounge. Although UPCC does not have an aquatics facility on site, Columbia Pool is located less than a mile away. There are also over 62 acres of parks in the immediate area (Kenton, Columbia, University Park, and McCoy), with an additional 115 acres (Pier, Cathedral, and St. Johns) within the service scope.

## Program Highlights

After evaluating the community around University Park it became clear financial hardship was going to be a major barrier in serving the teen population. With that in mind, the goal became developing programs to expose local teens to unique recreational opportunities at a low cost. We organized a Breakdance Battle (Guerrilla Tactics, 1/24/09) where admission was free for teenagers with valid student ID. Over 300 people attended the event, with over 90 youth participating in the competition. A DJ Academy was formed in January, giving teens a chance to develop a skill that could earn them money. We exposed our DJ students to various performance opportunities, including multiple events for Nike, local school dances, and skate park competitions. The most successful program at UPCC has been the Portland Skaters Skating Hard (PSSH) skate team. The group started in January with 8 members, and quickly swelled to 30. Participants not only get a chance to skate some of the premier parks in the world, but they are also able to compete in Portland Parks All City Skate Series during the Summer.

## Future Goals

The first year of programming laid the foundation for growth with Teen Services. A primary goal for the future is to develop revenue opportunities with select programs to help offset the cost of others. The DJ Academy is positioned to generate revenue through event bookings. Additionally, Guerrilla Tactics will be back again next Winter and act as a fund raiser for our Teen Programs. Another main area of focus will be growing our partnerships. More specifically, we want to seek out partners that can provide a service to our teens at the community center. We believe this will compliment the partnerships we already have in place, and offer a broader spectrum of activities for our teens.

# Schools & Community Partners

## Schools

### **Roosevelt High School**

We partner with the Roosevelt SUN School to provide breakdance instruction, krump dance instruction, and cooking classes for students.

### **Clarendon/Portsmouth School**

We partner with Clarendon/Portsmouth SUN to provide a soccer coach, Friday activities, community gardening classes, and DJ school dances.

### **De La Salle North Catholic High School**

We partner with De La Salle to provide breakdance instruction, krump dance instruction, and recreational activities for special events. We have also held a silkscreen workshop for staff and students.

### **George Middle School**

We partner with George SUN to provide a gardening class.

## Community Partners

### **Regence Boys and Girls Club**

Partnership involves sharing staff for Teen Nights, sharing resources for special events, and DJing club dances.

### **NAYA (Native American Youth & Family Center)**

Run a 9th Grade Adventure club which consists of shared staff and use of PP&R vehicles and outdoor resources.

### **YEI (Youth Employment Institute)**

YEI paid 7 teens to be employed as Summer staff at the community center. These employees were supervised by the Teen Services Program at UPCC.

### **NIKE**

The University Park DJ Academy performed at special events sponsored by Nike staff.

### **Velocity Training Centers**

The University Park DJ Academy performed at special athletic training events sponsored by Velocity staff.

# Teens Engaged at the University Park Community Center



DJ Academy hosting the opening of Ed Benedict Skate Park, Spring 09



Zed became a 1 man show while DJing at parks, Spring 09



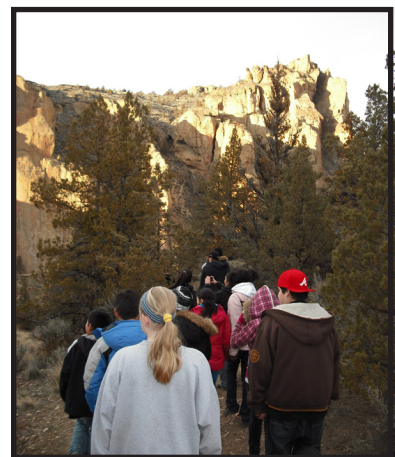
Getting fit while learning to box, Winter 09



The UPCC Skate Team swelled to over 30 members, Spring 09



Guerrilla Tactics Breakdance Battle, Winter 09. Over 300 attendees with 90 participants.



Roots Ranch shows teens life beyond the city, Winter 09

# Participant Feedback

## University Park Community Center

*"I love the computer lab because the instructor is really helpful and very nice. We also get to play lots of games."*

Michelle, 12

*"Tennis is a sport I've never tried to play before and now I like it. The coaches were pretty strict but it was still fun."*

Kevin, 12

*"It was just amazing. All the fancy food was so good!"*

Lia, 12

*"I would refer someone to this community center because there's something for everyone."*

Phil, 14

*"I enjoyed the games; I got to be with other kids and learn new skills."*

Leo, 15

*"We actually did things like interviews and cover letters; we weren't just talked to during the whole class. Great activities and advice!"*

Rachel, 15

*"It was very fun, I like that it's near my house and my friend's house. I liked learning about how to make your clothing look better and using different tactics. The instructor was nice."*

Sarah, 15

*"The people are really nice and they are funny. And the instructors are good. It's awesome!"*

Natalie, 16

*"It was fantastic. Very instructive and fun. It was great and really fun!"*

Jacob, 16

*"I learned about color angle and shadows. I never knew that there were so many things to think about when you take a photo."*

Jennifer, 16

*"Haven't done art in years, it was really fun. It was a really friendly atmosphere"*

Michael, 18

# Teen Services Program Peninsula Park Community Center



*Demetri Finch-Brown,  
Teen Services Coordinator I*

## Overview

One of the Teen Services Programs held in North and Northeast Portland is located at Peninsula Park Community Center. Peninsula, built in 1913 was the first Community Center in the Parks system. With its great historical background the youth are able to dive head first into the rich culture of our community. The teens are able to make full use of the many amenities that the center has to offer such as our basketball and wrestling gym, baseball and football field the seasonal pool as well as our beautiful rose garden. In order for our programs to reach the full potential we have partnered with many different organizations and schools in the community.

## Program Highlights

Peninsula Park Community Center serves a very diverse teen population. The programs that we offer at our site reflect the teens that we serve by offering programs that are influenced by art, education, environmental stewardship, leadership and fun.

Peninsula Park teens have shown great interest in giving back to their community. Over the past year there have been about ten to fifteen teens that have participated in our volunteer group completing over 1200 hours of community service between all of them. They have volunteered at the Salvation Army, Blanchet House, Harvest Homes as well as fellow community centers for Family Nights and National Night Out. By giving back, the teens are able to see how much of an important roll they play in the survival of a healthy community.

## Future Goals

The teen program at Peninsula has been really successful. We strive to continue to close the gap between the youth/teen population and the community by providing positive interaction between the two. Projects such as community service and mentoring programs to name a few have allowed the community to view the teens in a more positive light. We will continue to build on our programs based on the needs of the community. All the teens have something special to offer the world and it is up to us to give them the platform to showcase their talent.



# Schools & Community Partners

## Schools

### **Ockley Green**

Set up informational tables at the school during lunch time to promote youth/teen classes.

### **Faubion**

Provide instructors to teach the cheerleading and hip hop dance class two days out of the week.

### **Tubman Academy for Young Women**

Offer volunteer opportunities for the young women as well as information about the teen program

### **Jefferson High School**

Partner with the counselors at the school and provide information to be given to the students based on their needs.

## Community Partners

### **African American Health Coalition**

Provide volunteers to help out at the Wellness Walk and the Wellness village for the third year in a row.

### **Life Works Northwest**

Provide economic programs and education opportunities for the case load of youth at their center.

### **The Portland Observer**

Offer space in the paper to promote teen programs as well as many teens poems short stories, and written works.

### **Multnomah County Oregon**

Promote teen programs at school-based health programs and coordinate educational talks with the teens about important health issues.

### **Right State of Mind**

Teen staff talk with young women in their program about positive life choices. The Right State of Mind program brings teens to the community center to participate in teen programs

# Teens Engaged at the Peninsula Park Community Center



Teen Council members getting ready to serve the community



Teens spending time in the teen lounge



Hip hop technology class



Ping pong Tournament at Peninsula



After school in the computer lab



"Girls Just Want To Have Fun" cooking in the kitchen for girls group



Girls Night at the park



Winners of the 2009 Fear Factor



Drop-in Basketball

# Participant Feedback

## Peninsula Park Community Center

"It's really nice to have a place to come and play basketball that is safe. It is also nice because it promotes physical fitness in a fun way.:"

Avery, 12

" I love the computer lab because the instructor is really helpful and very nice. We also get to play lots of games."

Catalina, 14

*"The teacher had very cool ideas. I learned how to make all kinds of home made bath things, and the teacher was really nice as well."*

Leslie, 16

"The candles that we made were really nice, they smelled really good and I really enjoyed the class. I am planning on taking the class with some of my friends the next time that it is offered."

Nate, 16

"Girls group is really fun. We talk about a lot of things that aren't so easy to talk about in front of guys. Deedee was a really good mentor and she has helped me through a lot of things."

Malachi, 17

"Teen Council is a lot of fun. Robert and Deedee were really good mentors. One of the things that I really liked about Teen Council was that I was able to use the volunteer hours that I did in Teen Council for school credit."

Carry, 17

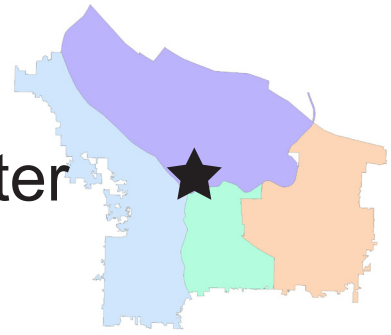
"I participated in a lot of the teen programs like Girls Group, Teen Council and the hip hop dance class. All of the instructors that I have had have been really nice and I will be taking more classes in the future."

Andrew, 18

*"I have so much fun in this class, Carlos the teacher is really cool. I am always looking forward to Friday so I can take the class."*

Saharla, 18

# Teen Services Program Matt Dishman Community Center



## Overview

The Teen Services Program in inner Northeast Portland is based out of the Matt Dishman Community Center. This center has been serving the community since 1950 when it was called the Knott Street Community Center. In the 1960's members of the community lobbied for the name to be changed to Matt Dishman Community Center that it is known by today. This center serves the Sabin, Eliot, Boise, Humboldt, Grant Park, Sullivans Gulch, Lloyd District, and Irvington neighborhoods. The facility has an indoor swimming pool, fitness room, gymnasium, auditorium, kitchen, boxing room, craft room and additional multi-purpose rooms utilized for various community programs.



*Robert Donaldson III,  
Teen Services Coordinator I*

## Program Highlights

The programs provided at Matt Dishman Community Center serve a diverse group of teens from low income, middle class and prosperous teens from all areas of Portland. While this center primarily serves teens living in Northeast Portland, unique classes and programs bring participants from all over Portland and the surrounding communities including, Beaverton, Tualatin, Gresham and Vancouver, Washington. Participants come to participate in programming that is either free or at a minimal fee designed to ensure equitable access so all teens have the opportunity to participate in high quality programs. The Boxing class provides a unique and highly popular class that only MDCC, with it's tailored boxing room, can provide. Participants at MDCC also enjoy and regularly request environment classes and trips as these give teens the opportunity to learn as well as travel to new and interesting places. This gives many participants exposure to nature while providing them with a chance to see places they have never been before.

## Future Goals

I look forward to nurturing and building upon established relationships with participants and community partners while continuing to outreach and engage new participants to programs and opportunities available at Matt Dishman Community Center. In addition to the various programming that is currently available, I am excited to grow and expand educational opportunities that will assist teens to be academically capable and empowered with the resources they need to be successful in all areas of life. This will include college preparation courses, SAT classes, and job skills training. This will be combined with more outreach and engagement with parents whose involvement is so important for teen success.

# Schools & Community Partners

## Schools

### **Grant High School**

Pass out program literature to student body at lunch time and special sessions.

### **Harriet Tubman Youth Women's Leadership Academy**

Pass out literature to students during lunch and do special presentations to student body.

### **Beaumont Middle School**

Pass out literature to student body, work closely with SUN School Coordinator on select programs and special events/activities.

### **Beverly Cleary School**

Pass out literature to student body, work closely with SUN School Coordinator on select programs and special events/activities.

## Community Partners

### **Tennis 'N Kids Program**

Collaborative effort for Summer 2009 to include a free tennis clinic at Irving Park to compliment that program which has been serving youth for 24 years.

### **Harriet Tubman Youth Women's Leadership Academy Adventure Club**

Promote and enroll participants from the Adventure Club in MDCC Winter and Spring Environmental Field Trips and classes.

### **Tri-Met Rider Advocates**

Provide information and security for Back to School Dance special event.

### **Ethos Music Center**

Work in collaboration to provide special authentic African Drums for drumming class.

### **Tam-Tam Manding**

Work directly with African Dance instructor who donates their time to provide free program to participants.

### **Jammin' 107.5 Radio Station (Formerly Jammin' 95.5)**

Collaborate with Radio DJ and Street Team to present, offer prizes and work Back to School Dance and special events.

### **Roots Ranch**

Work with this non-profit organization to offer environmental education and stewardship programs to MDCC participants for Winter and Spring terms.

# Teens Engaged at the Matt Dishman Community Center



Teens on a rafting trip



Youth Open Gym



Teen Boxing class



Teens playing during open game room



Simple starters cooking class



DJ Workshop



Boxing Personal Power Class



Break dance instructor and participants



Winners of the Basketball League

# Participant Feedback

## Matt Dishman Community Center

My Mom and Dad take this class on Fridays and they always talk about how the instructor worked them out hard and they were always tired. Now I understand why.

Ben, 12

It was really fun and we got to do more then just Canoeing and it was great to just hangout with everyone. We played soccer in the park too, I wish the trip could have been longer.

Lucas, 13

It was fun Snow Shoeing at Mt. Hood. We got to be together and just be ourselves. We got to let loose and laugh although I fell a lot.

Brittney, 14

The teacher and class were fun and energetic! (Hip-Hop Dance)

Tasha, 16

I liked playing in the 4-on-4 basketball league because it gave me a chance to play in a league since I didn't make my High School team.

John, 17

I've gotten stronger, I'm not very tall so I have to get my strength up to balance out my height.

Darrel, 17

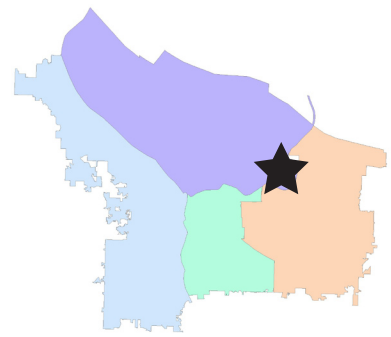
The teacher taught me new moves, now I'm a better b-boy. (Break Dance)

Josh, 17

I am very thankful for the Teen Programs at Matt Dishman, my children look forward to participating in Hip-Hop Dance, Boxing and Clothing Design.

Charles, Parent

# Teen Services Program Montavilla Community Center



*Ken Lori,  
Teen Services Coordinator II*

## Overview

With programming tailored to youth and families, Montavilla Community Center works to satisfy the Rose City, Madison South and Montavilla neighborhoods. For a small center (14,060 square feet), we maximize the use of our gymnasium, multi-use room, gymnastics room, pre-school, lunch room and outdoor swimming pool. Pre-School is our mainstay while self-defense, arts, sports and cooking classes are very popular. In summer we move a good deal of programming into Montavilla Park with 9.5 acres that include two baseball diamonds, tennis courts, wading pool, play area and picnic shelter out of which we host the federal Free Lunches Summer Program. Needless to say, Montavilla doesn't waste a square inch nor an opportunity to fulfill the wishes of neighbors old and young.

## Program Highlights

Among our accomplishments, most important was our connection to local schools which established a direct avenue to local area youth. We sought to invite to our center and participate in our programs. A featured program was the Volunteer Corps that every Monday served dinner at St. Francis Dining Hall. Friday Teen Nights were very popular as was drop-in basketball and weekly classes like Improvisation at Cleveland High School, Yoga, Tennis, Encaustic and Big Book Art, Recycled Fashion, the Zeen for Girls, Hiking and Photography. A tenacious effort to connect with Madison High School proved fruitful, leading to the construction of a cob-bench project enjoyed daily now by students resting near the library. This year we connected with schools, cultivated interest in youth, and engaged them with our programs.

## Future Goals

The volunteer program at Montavilla Community Center is expanding to offer more options like MAX-stop maintenance and visiting the elderly at St. Andrews Care Center. The Leadership Club is meeting folks who have volunteered for Peace Corps, Americorps and other national and international agencies. We are hosting major concerts while facilitating weekly open mics (at the Coconut Cafe) to allow youth of all interests to read, strum, sing or drum. We are launching Movie Critics, a film class exposing youth to social, political and cultural realities while Breakdancing and Skateboarding, successful at other centers, will soon be part of our program too. As we continue to appear at schools, either on the lawn with music or in the cafeteria during lunch, the mission to realize the vision of serving hundreds of aspiring adults continues forward, forever forward!



# Schools & Community Partners

## Schools

### **Madison High School**

Partner with Americorps Member to facilitate student-constructed cob bench, provide three diversity workshops throughout the year for a Leadership Class, work with Vice-Principal & Counselor to stage in-school promotions.

### **Cleveland High School**

Work with Drama Teacher to provide two sessions of after school improvisation classes.

### **Franklin High School**

Work with Administrative team including Principal & Vice Principals to stage in-school promotions.

### **Rigler School K-8**

Team with SUN Coordinator to provide weekly Improvisation & Breakdancing classes.

### **Vestal K-8, Bridger, Roseway Heights & Jason Lee Schools**

Work with Principals, Vice-Principals, SUN Coordinators & upper level teachers to stage in-school promotions.

### **Portland Youth Builders**

Work with Americorps Member to stage promotions to teens.

## Community Partners

### **Broadway Vantage Apartment Housing Program**

Work with Americorps Member to provide Photography, Fashion & Improvisation classes on-site.

### **Hacienda Economic Development Corporation (Housing Program)**

Work with Executive Director to facilitate Soccer games & Hip Hop Dance instruction on-site.

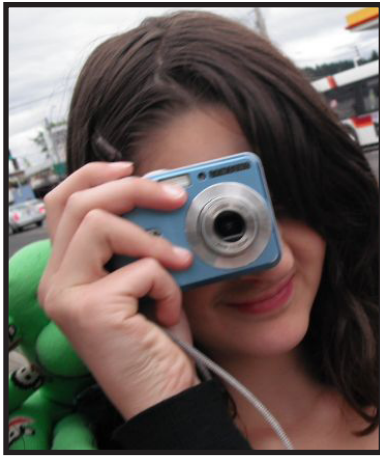
### **Portland State University - Capstone Project**

PSU Professor provided college students to facilitate “Zeen for Girls” class in which teens discuss relevant issues and publish a magazine.

### **Youth Gang Prevention/NAYA**

Work with Glenn Lamotte who referred to us a former gang member, female, age 19, who we have hired to teach a Native Crafts class, and mentor and work with teen participants.

# Teens Engaged at the Montavilla Community Center



Snapping away in our Spring Photography Class



Volunteer Corps: building a trail at Pittock Mansion



Spring Break Camp: Disc Golf at Rockwood Park



Cooking Class! "All the fancy food was so good!"



Celebrating the release of the magazine created & published in the Zeen for Girls class



IRCO partners from the Asian Family Center on championship night of our basketball league



Hiking the gorge: "I got to go places I've never heard off!"



The boys take a break from IRCO Basketball



A Junior Leader & her mother hanging out at Montavilla

# Participant Feedback

## Montavilla Community Center

*"I liked making bottle caps all pretty with sparkly nail polish and cut out pictures from magazines."*

Kelly, 12

*"It let you be creative and just let you feel the art flow."*

Molly, 13

*"He did not push us too hard and we went lots of different places I have never been."*

Travis, 13

*"I learned about color angle and shadows. I never knew that there were so many things to think about when you take a photo."*

Matt, 14

*"I really enjoyed painting with the wax because it was something new to me to experience and the teacher was really nice."*

Ashley, 15

*"I really liked the fact that yoga is a relaxing exercise. I also liked how well Shauna knows her class and is really open to talk."*

Meghan, 16

*"I liked the freedom we had to cook and how Sheila (instructor) showed us rather than told us how to do things."*

April, 16

*"It taught me new forms and new ways to think about improvisation."*

Nate, 17

# Specialty Programs

In addition to the community-based programming outline established at the seven community centers across the city, the Teen Services Program utilized dedicated funding to support select city-wide specialty programs. These programs provide support and resources by directly incorporating components of the program focus areas established for the Teen Services Program.

## COMMUNITY GARDENS



***Hit the Dirt!*** is a program organized by Portland Community Gardens which offers youth ages 13-17 the opportunities to grow their own food, help the community, and get school credit all at the same time. Offered weekly in Southeast Portland at Lents Community Garden and in Southwest Portland at Fulton Community Garden, ***Hit the Dirt!***'s curriculum focuses on providing teens with the skills to learn urban gardening methods and discover the importance of growing and eating healthy food. Utilizing a service-learning model, the program partners with local schools and community organizations while also catering to individual teens. Although there is an emphasis on long-term projects, ***Hit the Dirt!*** also offers one-time opportunities for teens to get their hands dirty. Through both long and short-term projects, teen participants help with a range of activities depending on the time of year. These projects include: preparing garden beds, planting a variety of fruits and vegetables, watering, pruning, harvesting and collecting seeds.

## TEEN IDOL



Portland Teen Idol is a youth focus version of the nationally televised "American Idol" contest. Introduced in 2007 by Portland Parks & Recreation, Portland Teen Idol gives teens the opportunity to share their vocal talents while improving stage presence and public performance skills. Through the program, teen competitors go through several performance rounds before ten finalists compete for the title of Portland Teen Idol. Throughout the experience, participants work with vocal coaches and all participants have the opportunity to perform a collective piece at the Portland Teen Idol finale. Teens between the ages of 13 and 19 who are enrolled in grades 7-12 are eligible to participate, and the winner and finalists go on tour to perform at Portland Parks & Recreation's Movies-in-the-Park events and other summer activities. This year's competition also included additional opportunities for teens interested in the off-stage, behind-the-scenes aspects of producing a concert. Crews of teens were sought to assist with set design and construction, audio-visual operations, lighting and stage management.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Outdoor Recreation programs offer a healthy outlet to teens' need for risk & excitement, while building teamwork and communication skills in safe, supportive environments. The partnership between Outdoor Recreation and Teen Services led to an increase in outdoor trips offered to teens. A full-time coordinator position was supported to specifically program environmental education programs for teens and provide environmental support. New programs for teens were offered including: snowshoeing, skiing, rafting, kayaking, backpacking, rock climbing, nature hikes and amphibian research programs. In FY 08-09, over 2,500 teens citywide participated in outdoor activities through the community centers.



Funds from Teen Services were also used to run an Environmental Education program called GRUNT (Greenspaces Restoration and Urban Naturalist Team), a leadership and naturalist training program for underserved teens. The goal of G.R.U.N.T. is to diversify the environmental field by getting urban teens interested in nature, and providing the job skills and work experiences they will need to be successful. Twenty one 2009 G.R.U.N.T. graduates went on to full-time environmental jobs with PP&R in the summer.

## AQUATICS

Teen Swim is a popular open swim activity for participants ages 11-17 years old. We create a safe and supervised place for young adults to be themselves, interact with friends, and meet new friends during a time in the evening that could otherwise be filled with at-risk activities. Swimming is great exercise and a fantastic way for youth to be actively engaged. With the funding we hosted free "teen swim live" events during our teen swim times that included live music, dj's, with great activities and giveaways. These events have allowed us to foster ongoing relationships with the youth in our community.



PP&R provides lifeguard and swim instructor training classes to teenagers across the city of Portland. Participants will be trained in all aspects of lifesaving including; CPR, First Aid, AED training, oxygen use, and water rescues. The swim instructor training will teach swim skills at all levels as well as emphasize organizational skills, public speaking, and confidence. The participant each received 24 hours of supervised training per lifeguard or swim instructor training class. Young people that participated in the aquatic employment training class were immediately eligible for jobs serving their community. These training classes empower teenagers to become role models and make positive contributions to the youth of Portland.

# Letters Of Support

The Teen Services Program is dedicated to incorporating partnerships with youth service providers who also support the teen community. It is the goal of the Teen Services Program to work with these community partners in a way that does not compete for the same resource yet in a way that compliments both organizations goals and desired outcomes. This section highlights select community partners and how Portland Parks & Recreation's Teen Services Program assists them in their goals and compliments both programs.



## PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

161 Northeast 82nd Avenue / Portland, Oregon 97220  
Phone: (503) 916-6437 • FAX: (503) 916-2679

### VESTAL SCHOOL

September 4, 2009

Portland Parks and Recreation  
Montavilla Community Center  
8219 NE Glisan Street  
Portland, OR 97220

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to convey my appreciation to Ken Lori for his very effective coordination of the Teen Recreation Program at the Montavilla Community Center. Mr. Lori has been an outstanding partner in working with the Vestal staff to survey students to determine their afterschool interests. Ken has responded by aligning the Community Center's teen activities with teen needs and interests. Students are excited about classes that include cooking, basketball, tennis, games and volunteering to feed hungry citizens.

On many occasions Ken has come to school to bring brochures or personally promote after school and summer programs in grade 6-8 classrooms. He has encouraged leadership among the teens so that they now present the information to their peers as well. In talking with Ken, I find that he demonstrates genuine enthusiasm for this age group. Ken Lori is committed to providing Montavilla's youth with appropriate recreational opportunities.

Sincerely,

Susan Foxman, Principal



INNOVATIVE HOUSING, INC.

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September 2, 2009

Nick Fish  
Commissioner, City of Portland  
1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 240  
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Commissioner Fish,

This summer Broadway Vantage Apartments, a 58-unit affordable housing complex owned and operated by Innovative Housing, Inc. (IHI), had the pleasure of hosting 7 one-week classes coordinated by the Montavilla Community Center's Teen Services Program. IHI has provided high-quality, affordable housing in the Portland metro area for 25 years. We complement our housing with a vibrant Resident Services Program designed to build strong communities and help our residents maintain their housing stability, increase their quality of life and break the cycle of poverty. At our family sites, Resident Services also include youth programs targeted at helping resident children succeed academically, positively connect to their communities and achieve their full economic potential as adults. Our partnership with Montavilla Community Center is an integral part of meeting these goals.

This summer, in spite of limited space, Montavilla Community Center was able to expand their teen classes by utilizing our nearby community space at NE Broadway and 82<sup>nd</sup>. IHI was thrilled to assist in the expansion of Montavilla's teen programs and delighted by the increased participation of resident teens. Through our close involvement with the Summer Teen Services Program, IHI's Resident Services staff witnessed up-close the importance of these high-quality classes being offered to Portland's teens.

Montavilla Community Center's Teen Services Program is an essential component of the resources available to teens in NE Portland. The quality classes, services and accessibility to all teens- including teens living in low-income households who often have limited positive support networks- make the Teen Services Program a valuable asset to NE Portland. The teen program gave very low-income teens of Broadway Vantage Apartments the chance to access classes, gain skills and make positive social connections- all while having fun and enjoying being a teen. The program has my full support and I hope to see it continue to thrive in the future.

Sincerely,

Sarah Stevenson  
Executive Director



Dear Portland Parks & Recreation, Josh Leavitt



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Sponsored by First  
Presbyterian Church

**Administration**  
**Community Center**  
**Friendly Chaps**  
**Preschool**  
(503) 228-4391  
Fax (503) 228-0085

**Senior Program**  
(503) 224-2640  
Fax (503-228-0085)

**Community Services**  
(503) 228-4335  
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2617 NW Savier  
Portland, OR 97210

Thank you for this amazing partnership opportunity! We have thoroughly enjoyed the chance to bring the Youth Photo Club to the Northwest Neighborhood.

The successes of this three-month program are many. Right from the start, advertising the Club throughout the community demonstrated a large interest in the partnership possibilities between Portland Parks & Recreation and Friendly House, Inc. People were thrilled to hear that with Portland Parks & Recreation's generosity, Friendly House Community Center was able to host a club for young people, utilizing Friendly House's certified staff members and facilities. We discovered that many more age groups-both younger and older than the selected target group for this Club- would enjoy participating in more events of this type.

The Club taught the group of six participants, in their weekly class, about the basics of black and white photography. This included teaching the students how to develop their own rolls of film. In this process, the participants met others of similar ages (12-15 years of age) and were able to engage in building new relationships. Photography was a great medium for getting the students out of doors; photographing nature, industry, animals and each other with a certified child care instructor- all while getting an hour or two of physical activity during each session, walking through the neighborhoods.

Students learned a great deal about lighting, spatial relationships and other principles of art through the Youth Photo Club. The participants worked together to select a theme for their Opening Show with much enthusiastic debate. Once a theme was chosen, the students were able to focus their new-found photography skills on shooting images that fit into the category.

The instructor worked tirelessly to ensure that the students understood the basics of 35-millimeter camera operation-quite a feat when considering that none of the students had ever seen anything but a digital camera! She then worked to successfully train each student in the dark room. Her efforts were immense, with great photographs and continued student participation week after week indicating the success of her work. One of the challenges for the teacher was the limited number of sessions she had with the students. Because the partnership between the organizations did not begin until March, with students signing up to begin in April, the instructor and students had just three months together, leaving much to learn in an extremely short period. They made the most of every minute together as is evidenced by the photos in the Community Gallery at Friendly House Community Center.

Students were encouraged by the instructor to go out and meet with local business owners and employees. The teacher led the students to NW businesses demonstrating how to ask owners to post their Opening Reception/Art Show fliers and show cards. All of the students were very nervous although willing to learn the valuable skills of communication and marketing. They ended up easily persuading multiple businesses to post their flier and commit to attending the show!

Again, thank you for this opportunity. We hope you are pleased with our efforts and look forward to working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Joy Church, FHCC Director  
Maggie Trimbach, FHCC Club Instructor  
Friendly House, Inc.

# Future Plans

The funding for the Teen Services Program for fiscal year 2008-2009 was one-time funding. Through the generous support of Portland City council, this one-time funding was applied to fiscal year 2009-2010, and this program is continuing the efforts already established while working to build further results and successes.

While we know that true success engaging with the teen community cannot be measured in individual years, but over an extended period of time. Specifically, by tracking 9th grade participants throughout the course of their high school career and seeing successful, engaged high-school graduates. These individuals will have been, and continue to be, engaged academically, competent and capable of employment, and integrated socially within their community.

While dedicated funding is not currently established for that extended period of time, the Teen Services Program will continue to utilize existing dedicated funding and focus it's ongoing efforts to providing enriching engagement for teens in Portland.

# Disk Contents

For additional program information and detail, please refer to disk provided.

Information can be found in the following program folders:

- Teen Created Projects
- Marketing
- Testimonials
- Letters Of Support