

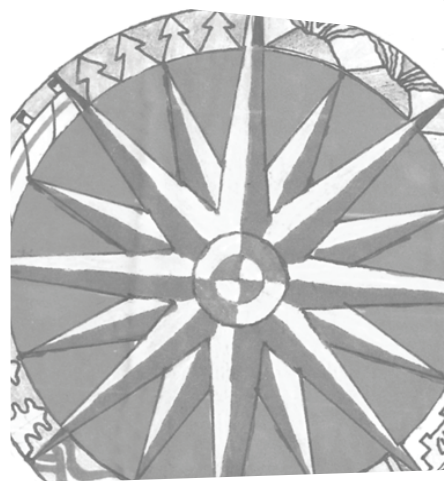
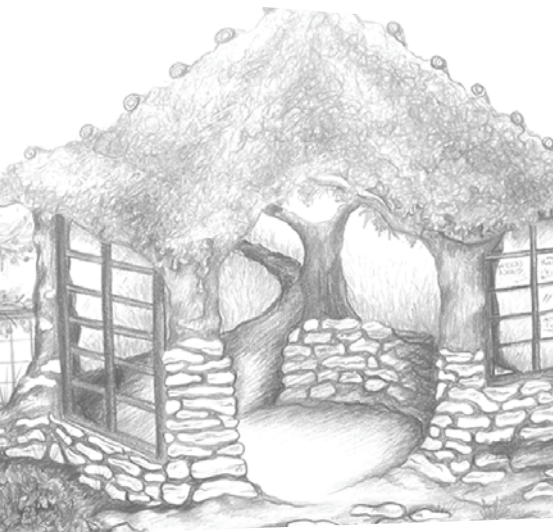
City Repair presents the

Village Builder

guide to the 10th Village Building Convergence

May 28th - June 6th

Evening gatherings at 2800 SE Harrison
Portland, OR



INSIDE

Site Info & Map

Evening Events

Workshops

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Coloringbook!

About the VBC

City Repair's 10th Annual VillageBuildingConvergence is taking place this year from May 28th to June 6th, with over 25 placemaking sites all over the city. We will come together to create benches, community kiosks, gardens, street paintings, tile mosaics, and more! Come join your neighbors as they bring to life the natural building, permaculture, and public art projects that they've been planning for the last 4 months. Volunteer at sites during the day, and in the evening, gather at our central venue at 2800 SE Harrison for a healthy dinner, inspiring presentations from renowned activists, and musical performances to celebrate all that we've accomplished together. Learn valuable skills for urban sustainability and social regeneration while celebrating the creativity and diversity of our wonderful city!

2010 Theme | Intersection: Reclaiming the Crossroads

An intersection can be thought of as the place, physical or metaphorical, where different entities collide with each other, creating beauty that was only hinted at by the individual components. As the common saying goes, the end result is greater than the sum of the parts; however, this is not to diminish the importance of the individual parts. An intersection is a celebration of diversity in which the individual components and the collective manifestation are balanced in a way that honors both. In permaculture terms, an intersection can also be thought of as an edge or a boundary, and it is at these edges that systems thrive in unprecedented ways.

As the Village Building Convergence enters its second decade, we are asking our community to think about and create deeper intersections in their lives and in the world around them: How can the private and the public be effectively merged to co-create the world we want to live in? How can modern technology and traditional methods work symbiotically instead of being at odds with each other? Are the ways in which we conduct our interpersonal relationships conducive to building communities? How do we create diverse communities that support and nurture the uniqueness of each member?



Village Building Design Course



A new dimension to our 10th Village Building Convergence, this design course is for community leaders and aspiring activists who want to take the knowledge of urban village renewal back to their own city and community. Experience the VBC through the eyes of a village designer! This VBC enhancement course will be superimposed on top of the VBC, allowing you to experience both and get the maximum out of your village building adventure.

Check out cityrepair.org/vbdc or contact vbdc@cityrepair.org to register and for more information!

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City Repair



City Repair is an organized group action that educates and inspires communities and individuals to creatively transform the places where they live. City Repair facilitates artistic and ecologically-oriented placemaking through projects that honor the interconnection of human communities and the natural world. The many projects of City Repair have been accomplished by a mostly volunteer staff and thousands of volunteer citizen activists.

City Repair began in Portland, Oregon with the idea that localization - of culture, of economy, of decision-making - is a necessary foundation of sustainability. By reclaiming urban spaces to create community-oriented places, we plant the seeds for greater neighborhood communication, empower our communities and nurture our local culture. Throughout the year we educate the community with workshops on all forms of sustainability

As an almost entirely volunteer-driven nonprofit organization, we rely solely on the support of our community. Please consider donating to help ensure our vision becomes a reality.

Placemaking

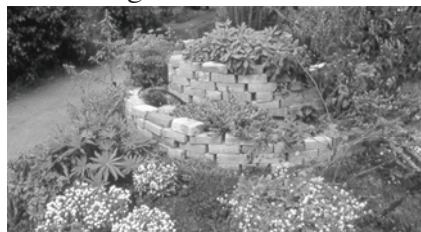
Placemaking is a multi-layered process within which citizens foster active, engaged relationships to the spaces which they inhabit, the landscapes of their lives, and shape those spaces in a way which creates a sense of communal stewardship and lived connection. This is most often accomplished through a creative reclamation of public space: projects which take the form of benches on street corners where neighbors can sit, rest and talk with each other, kiosks on sidewalks where neighbors can post information about local events, needs and resources and street paintings in the public right-of-way that demonstrate to all who pass through that this is a Place: inhabited, known and loved by its residents. In all instances, these projects are undertaken by local communities who come together to discuss what it is they want in their neighborhood and how the community can work together with the resources they have to create their own place.

Types of placemaking projects



The essence of **Natural Building** lies in its inherent emphasis on environmental preservation and social sustainability. Natural building is a method of construction based in using minimally processed, natural materials that are available locally. The techniques for most natural building methods reflect the materials themselves in that they are simple, low-tech and ecologically sustainable.

Permaculture is the conscious design of sustainable human settlements. It is also about being local: shepherding the resources that enter a place; keeping them cycling within the "system," be it backyard, neighborhood, or bioregion; and creating beneficial connections between each part. Community and a sense of place can only be created by the people who dwell together and who have real stake in creating a home.



Public Art in our neighborhoods can also create a strong sense of place, whether it is a mural, a sculpture, temporary art such as chalk drawings or functional art pieces like benches or lampposts. Public art presents an opportunity for a neighborhood to tell its history, express local culture and have a fun project for anyone to get involved.

Projects of City Repair



Earth Day

This annual celebration of local culture, local business and local initiative attracts over 4,000 participants – and it's all organized by community volunteers! Join in the morning of neighborhood service projects and then come to the Celebration for live bands, alternative vehicles, green vendors, activists, workshops, and the T-Palas.



City Riparian

City Riparian engages neighbors in a collective process to design and install food forest and other permaculturally-informed landscapes in the commons. In doing so, they will incubate both social and natural capital, furthering their connection to each other and their place.



Depave

The goal of Depave is to promote the removal of unnecessary concrete and asphalt from our urban areas. The removal of impervious pavements will reduce stormwater runoff pollution of our rivers, and increase the amount of land available for habitat restoration, urban farming, trees, native vegetation, and beauty in urban areas. Depave hopes to inspire, educate, and assist through hands-on workshops and demonstration projects.



T-Horse

The T-Horse is a mobile tea house, public square and potluck activator that reminds us what we're missing in the absence of local public gathering places, and demonstrates how a space can be transformed into a place. Always free hot tea and homemade chai!



Reware Upcycle Market

The days of trash and disposability are over! The City ReWare Upcycle Market is a place where the whole community can gather to celebrate and cultivate a post-consumption culture of thrifting, reducing, reusing, recycling and upcycling! Waste to wealth! Junk to art!



VillageBuildingConvergence

The VBC is a 10-day event held each spring where a convergence of citizens, natural builders and activists come together to help neighborhoods design and build their own community amenities. VBC also includes a 10-day temporary village at our central venue, where food is served nightly along with speakers and bands. Come dance! We can turn our neighborhoods into Villages – one workparty at a time!

Sponsors



Bureau of Environmental Services

The Bureau of Environmental Services serves the Portland community by protecting public health, water quality and the environment. We protect the quality of surface and ground waters and conduct activities that promote healthy ecosystems in our watersheds. We provide sewage and stormwater collection and treatment services to accommodate Portland's current and future needs.



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

The Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) promotes integrated land use planning and development based on sustainability principles and practices. BPS also develops and implements policies and programs that provide environmental, economic and social benefits to residents, businesses and government, which strengthen Portland's position as an international model of sustainable practices and commerce.



KBOO 90.7 FM Community Radio

KBOO is a non-profit, listener-funded FM community radio station broadcasting from Portland, Oregon. The station's mission is to serve groups in its listening area who are underrepresented on other local radio stations and to provide access to the airwaves for people who have unconventional or controversial tastes and points of view. It broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and has been on the air since 1968.



ReBuilding Center

The ReBuilding Center, a project of Our United Villages, is a vibrant resource working to strengthen the environmental, economic, and social fabric of local communities. Founded by volunteers in 1998, The ReBuilding Center carries the region's largest volume of used building and remodeling materials. It provides resources that make home repairs affordable to everyone, with the goal of promoting the reuse of salvaged and reclaimed materials. Three hundred visitors come to The ReBuilding Center every day to browse the ever-changing inventory that includes sinks, tubs, tile, lumber, doors, windows, trim and much more.



Bureau of Transportation

The City of Portland Bureau of Transportation is a COMMUNITY PARTNER in shaping a LIVABLE city. We plan, build, manage and maintain an EFFECTIVE and SAFE transportation system that provides people and businesses ACCESS and MOBILITY. We keep Portland moving. Portland stands as a NATIONAL LEADER in innovative transportation solutions. Planning and constructing solutions to meet the demands of a growing city and region, while maintaining our ECONOMIC VITALITY and NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER, requires Transportation to leverage its limited resources. STEWARDSHIP of Portland's MOBILITY and LIVABILITY is our primary responsibility.



Metro

An elected regional government, Metro helps you make the region an extraordinary place to live, work and play. Metro serves more than 1.5 million residents in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties and the 25 cities in the Portland region.



People's Food Co-op

People's Food Co-op is a community-owned natural foods store. We provide the best, most wholesome food available while building community and a sustainable local economy, and promoting healthy connections to our bioregion and the earth. We believe in safe, sustainable growing and manufacturing practices. When you shop at the co-op you join us in supporting local farmers, producers, craftspeople. We realize these goals through conscious product selection, mindful business practices, and the fulfillment of cooperative principles.

communitecture, inc.
architecture & planning

Communitecture

We design beautiful and sustainable places that bring people together in community. With an approach that explores new creative territories, we remain as accessible as possible. We are absolutely committed to sustainability, while respecting the needs and priorities of all the individuals, families, and communities with whom we work and play.



Guildworks

GuildWorks Environments activate the imagination and excite the senses. We use Tension Fabric Architecture, pop-up technologies, and lighting, to quickly transform the look of any convention center, conference center, hall, or architectural space into an amazingly unique realm for your corporate event, special event, conference, concert, or festival.

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Appropriate Technology
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Biodiversity
Mapping
Keylines
Compost
Mycology
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Ecovillage Design
Animal Husbandry
Human Nutrient Cycle
Medicinals & Wildcrafting
and so much more!

Marisha Auerbach has been studying, practicing and teaching permaculture for the past decade and facilitates PDC courses in the Pacific NW.

Matt Bibeau, MS, lives and teaches at Tryon Life Community Farm and is an organizer with the City Repair Project's Village Building Convergence.

Kelda Miller has studied and taught at the Bullock's Permaculture Homestead, Seattle Tilth and many others and is a practicing designer.



Cost: \$1100-1300 sliding scale. Full tuition allows us to offer scholarships to a greater number of participants. Fees include organic food and on-site tenting. Non-residential option available for \$850-1000 sliding scale.

Sustainable Community Immersion Program

Get practical and hands-on experience in:

July 31st - August 20th

Intentional Communities
Permaculture
Urban farming
DIY culture
Animal husbandry
Food preservation
Medicinal Herbs
Bee keeping
Food forests
Natural building
Water systems
Radical sustainability
Community Facilitation
Garden-based education
and much more!

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Tuition, room & board: \$1600. (\$1500 if registered by June 15)



The Sustainable Community Immersion Program is designed to create dynamic new leaders in the sustainability movement. This program will immerse ten interns in a hands-on, holistic approach to sustainable living in community. Each intern will come away with a set of skills which will be increasingly useful in our changing climate and economy. The program will culminate in a personalized action plan, supported by intern mentors.

Visit www.tryonfarm.org for more information about these summer 2010 programs

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July 19-22
July 23
July 26-27
July 31 - August 1
August 20-22
September 11-12
October 2-3
October 16-17

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***** Don't forget: Hankins gives 20% discounts for VBC-related material purchases, and even better discounts for screws and nails!**



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Roving Cob Repair Team

Through the thresholds of the past,
come visions of benches in the years last.
As icons of what was achieved,
they stand as symbols of the community we weaved.
Believing in the ideals we hold so dear,
we come together for another year.
From the ashes we will rise,
bringing together all our allies.
Rejuvenating what was once in decay,
with love, straw, sand and clay...

- Eddie Hooker, Roving Cob Repair Team Coordinator



Help maintain the village and learn the art of cob finishing and repair!

contact eddie@cityrepair.org

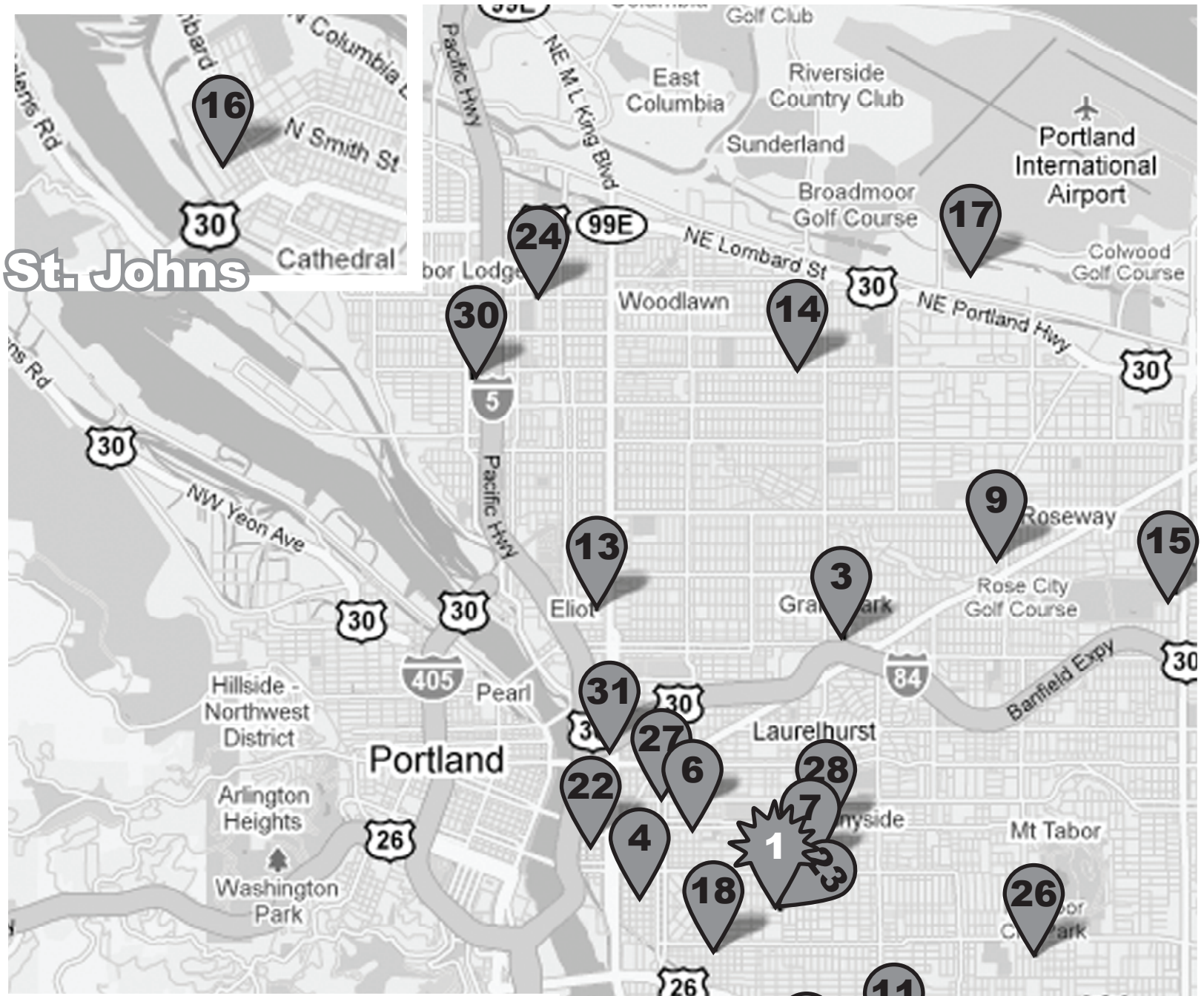
VBC 2010 Site Map

1. VBC Central Venue and St. Davids Mural and Kiosk!!!
St. David's Episcopal Church 2800 SE Harrison
2. Arleta Triangle
SE 72nd Ave. & SE Woodstock
3. Art from the Heart
3505 NE Broadway Portland, OR 97232
4. Bocci's Cafe
1728 SE 7th Ave
5. Bonny Slope Neighborhood Gardens
3445 NW 118th 97229
6. Buckman Community Composting Site
15th Ave. & SE Alder
7. Essential Elements Apathacary
3135 SE Hawthorne
8. Forest Grove Community School
1936 19th Ave. Forest Grove, OR 97116
9. Freda's Tree IR
NE 56th Ave. & NE Stanton St.
10. Gladstone High School
18800 Portland Ave. Gladstone, OR 97027
11. Gladstone Street Revival
SE Gladstone St & 39th-42nd Ave Portland, OR 97202
12. Grout Elementary
3119 SE Holgate Blvd.
13. Inclusion IR
NE Rodney Ave. & NE Tillamook St.
14. Killingsworth & 30th IR
NE 30th & Killingsworth
15. Madison High School
2735 NE 82nd Ave. Portland, OR 97213
16. Mariner's Compass Rose IR
N Edison St. & N St Louis Ave.
17. Native American Youth & Family Center
5135 NE Columbia Blvd
18. Newday School DePave
1847 SE Clinton St.
19. Pacific University Life & Sol
2229 University Ave. Forest Grove, OR 97116
20. PCC Sylvania Learning Garden
1200 SW 49th Ave. 97219 PCC - Sylvania Campus
21. Planet Repair Institute
8512 SE 8th Ave. Portland, OR 97202
22. Refuge
116 SE Yamhill St. 97214 Cob Wall Project
23. Robot Kiosk (Eco-munity)
St. David's Episcopal Church 2800 SE Harrison
24. Rosa Parks
Peninsula Park. N Kerby Ave & N Rosa Parks Way
25. Share-It-Square IR & More
SE 9th & Sherret
26. South Tabor Commons
SE 61st & Clinton
27. St. Francis Park
with LEP High School. 1131 SE Oak St.

28. Sunnyside Piazza
SE 33rd & Yamhill
29. TrackersNW
5040 SE Milwaukie Ave. 97202
30. Trillium Charter School
5420 N Interstate Ave.
31. VOZ Tool Library
NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd & NE Everett St.

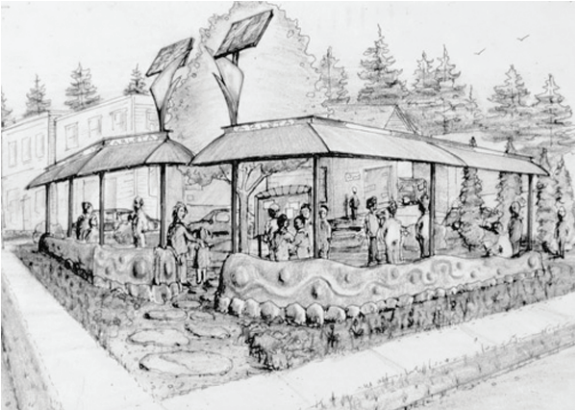


St. Johns



Bonny Slope





Location

SE 72nd & Woodstock Blvd

Accessible by #10, 14, 19 buses

Contact

Sarah Iannarone - 503.310.7762 - project@arleta-triangle.org

Coffee, filtered water, snacks, work gloves available on site. Please bring your own reusable cups/mugs, wheel barrows and garden tools. Rechargeable power tools will be especially helpful.

The Arleta Triangle Project [ATP] is a sustainability demonstration project transforming the public right of way at the intersection of SE 72nd & Woodstock from a neglected eyesore into an iconic community plaza. Since VBC05, the site has grown from a lone linden tree in the center of an abandoned lot to include a 54' cob wall capped with sandstone, a dozen hearty trees, and hundreds of native and drought tolerant plantings tended by community members. Above this thriving landscape rises a bright red metal canopy designed to protect both the cob wall and site visitors from the elements. This VBC10, residents of the Mt. Scott-Arleta Neighborhood and surrounding area will continue to develop their vision for the site through a series of community planning potlucks designed to refine the community's shared vision for the site and develop next steps for moving forward together in the coming year. In addition, they will be building their Communished: a tool shed disguised as an information kiosk designed to facilitate site maintenance and community connectivity.

Projects

- Communished: community information kiosk and toolshed
- Community Visioning Meetings (Evening Dates and Times, TBD)
 - Session 1: Ecological planning: what's working, what doesn't work, how does it all fit together? what's the point of it all? Re-envisioning the ATP...
 - Session 2: What are our priorities for the future? How do we go forward from here? Next steps for the ATP...

Schedule

Saturday, May 29th

10AM: foundation installation, general site maintenance/landscaping

Sunday, May 30th

10AM: structural prep (cutting, painting, fastening shed sides)

Saturday, June 5th

10AM: shed installation

Sunday, June 6th

10AM: shed installation and celebratory potluck lunch
(bring your own utensils)



visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes



Location

3505 NE Broadway, Portland OR 97232

Contact

Emily Conradson & Brian Hill - (503) 528-0744 -
artfromtheheartportland@gmail.com



This site is **ASL Friendly!** Contact VbcCoordinator@cityrepair.org to make arrangements for interpretation.

Art from the Heart is an art school, studio, and gallery for adults with developmental disabilities. By creating an earthen bench “growing” out of the parking lot we will enliven our limited outdoor space. We plan to make a curved cob bench suggestive of trees and decorated with mosaic tiles. Art from the Heart embraces growth for artists both personally and artistically and plans to embody this motif for our bench. This past winter, we played with cob indoors and made a small display tower for our artwork. It was so much fun “making mud pies” that we decided to work on a larger scale and incorporate more media with the cob. Come join us in playing in the mud- a dirty good time is guaranteed!

While at Art from the Heart, please visit our studio and gallery. Our mission is to foster each artist’s creative growth, build positive relationships within our community, and promote an awareness of the cultural contributions from people of all abilities. We provide a venue for social connection, artistic play, and financial empowerment through the sale of art. When we’re not sculpting with cob, Art from the Heart offers classes Monday through Friday to about 40 enrolled artists. We hope to debut our newly sculpted cob bench at our annual summer show, **Bloom**, on June 10th. Contact us for more information.

Schedule

Friday, May 28th

Workshop: Friday May 28th 9am-10am & 1pm -3pm: All about cob with Michael Cook (ASL interpretation provided 1pm-3pm)

Tuesday, June 1st

9am-2pm - Cob building!

Wednesday, June 2

9am-2pm - MORE cob building!!!

Thursday, June 3rd

9am-2pm - Cob building and sculpting

Friday, June 4th

9am-3pm - Cob building and MORE sculpting!!!

*We encourage a sign language environment during all our work parties!

*Due to food allergies and dietary restrictions we are not able to provide food for our work parties. Thank you for understanding and providing your own lunch. Several restaurants and grocery stores are located nearby.



visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

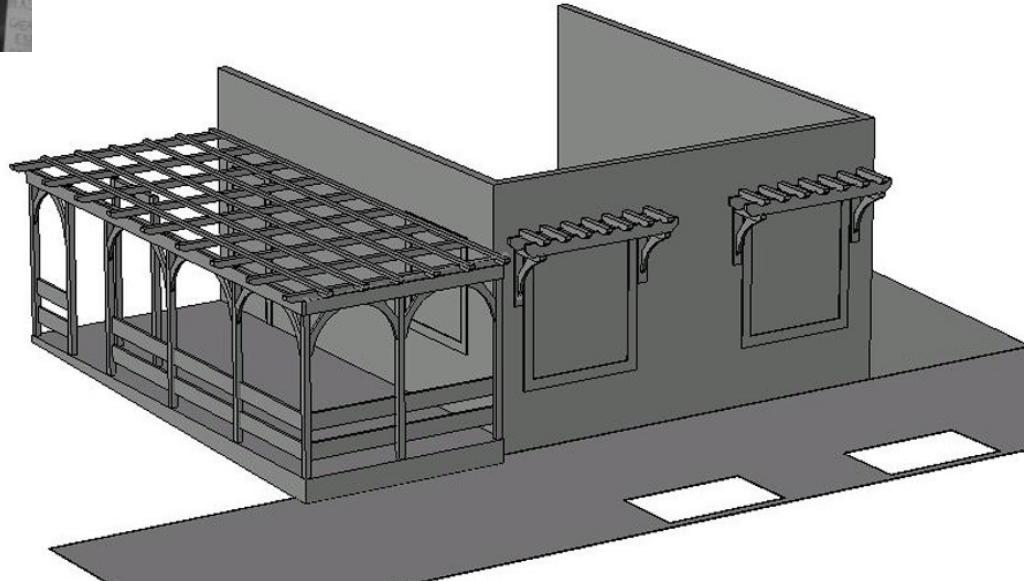


Location

1728 S.E. 7th

Contact

Dana Dokken - v360-600-3803



Grout Elementary is a K-5 public school in SE Portland. The playground is a one acre field that has changed little since the school was built in 1926. In 2010 a small group of parents began seriously discussing ways to improve things- and to our delight, our ideas were met with enthusiasm. The Grout Garden Club was born. We created a master plan that has been approved by Portland Public Schools to completely re-imagine our field. We expect the work to take several years but we want to do it right. Our priorities are building a vegetable garden, a rain garden, an outdoor classroom, and a new path. We're excited because this feels like a real WPA Era effort, where everyone's best abilities create something larger than any of us could do alone- and it's for the kids!

Our goal is to transform our play area into a space where students, teachers, and community members can come to explore, learn, and enjoy.

Schedule

Sorry, the schedule not yet available. Check online for updates!

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites

Bonny Slope Neighborhood Community Gardens



Location

3445 NW 118th Ave., Portland, OR 97229

Contact

Ellen Saunders - ellen6014@comcast.net - (503) 804-3753

We are using permaculture and sustainable gardening practices to transform a 1/2 acre of weeds and blackberries into a productive beautiful space. We plan on growing vegetables organically for local families and for the local food bank. We will also have educational fieldtrips for local elementary school students.

Our garden has a cob bench, which will be finished during the VBC, strawbale planting beds, a pumpkin, squash and melon patch, and a small fruit tree area that will be planted as a forest garden during the VBC.

Directions

Highway 26 West to Cedar Hills Blvd. exit. Turn right off the exit and get in lefthand turning lanes. Turn left onto Barnes Road. Barnes crosses Cornell and becomes Saltzman Rd. Continue on Saltzman and then turn right on Hartford Rd. When Hartford narrows and goes through two brick pillars it becomes West Rd. Turn left on 118th Ave. Park in our driveway, on 118th Ave or on West Rd. Walk through gate, through backyard, past 2 white fences and join us!

OR take MAX to Sunset Transit Center and we will have rides available at 9:45, 11:45 am and 12:45 pm. Please call (503) 804-3753 to let us know you'll be arriving by MAX and needing a ride.

Schedule

Monday May 31st

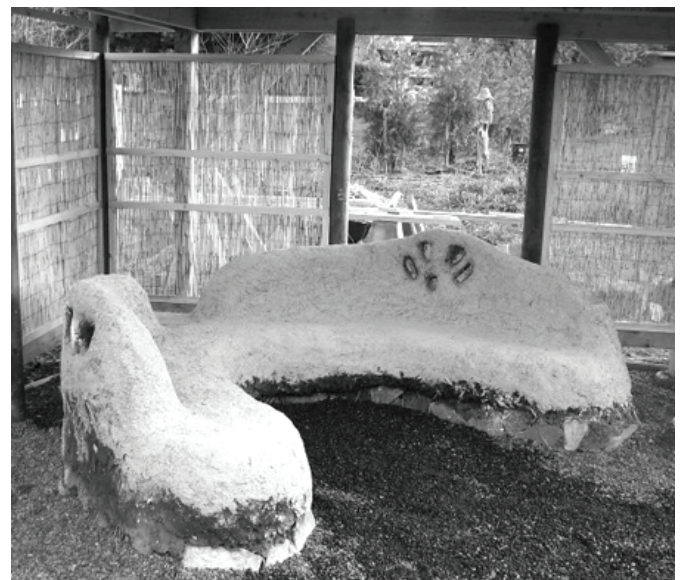
10am - 4pm Cob Bench Plastering Workshop

Our beautiful cob bench was built with the help of neighbors, City Repair volunteers and local Montessori school children. We will be covering it with an earthen plaster

12pm - 1pm A delicious healthy lunch will be provided by a local business

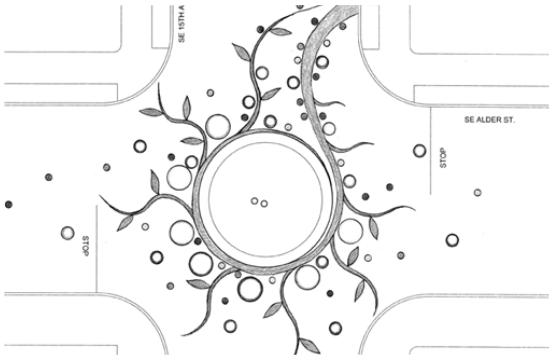
1pm - 4pm Forest Gardening Workshop

Mike Thayer of the VBC will be leading a workshop on forest gardening around the fruit trees in our garden. Come learn and help us plant.



visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

Buckman Community Composting Site



Location

SE 15th & Alder

Contact

Nancy Oberschmidt - 503-231-732

nancy@bamboogarden.com

The Buckman Sustainability Committee developed a community composting site during VBC 9 at SE 15th Avenue and SE Alder Street. Since that time the site has doubled in size.

The neighbors will be developing community gardens in the parking strip on the opposite corner during VBC 10. We will be digging up the current “grass/weeds” and bringing in new soil. We will end the week by repainting our beautiful street graphic on Saturday June 5. Join us for plenty of digging in the dirt, planting vegetables and flowers and just plain fun!

This project is supported by the Buckman Community Association, a Vision in Action grant from the city of Portland, generous donors and volunteers.

Schedule

Friday May 28

3PM – Dig out one section of planting strip – haul old dirt and grass with big pick-up and trailer
Snacks provided

Saturday May 29

10AM – Dig out second section – haul
Lunch provided

Sunday May 30

10AM – move new dirt, perlite, manure to site
Lunch provided

Monday May 31

10AM – Plant permanent herbs – sage, lavender, etc; planting
Lunch provided

Tuesday June 1

Finish Planting

Wednesday & Thursday June 2-3

3PM – Catch up

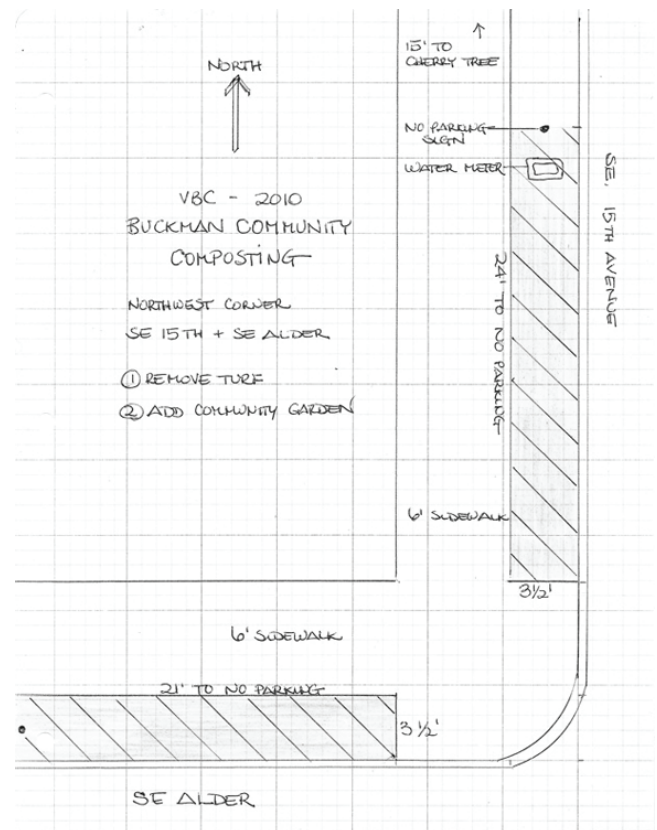
Friday June 4

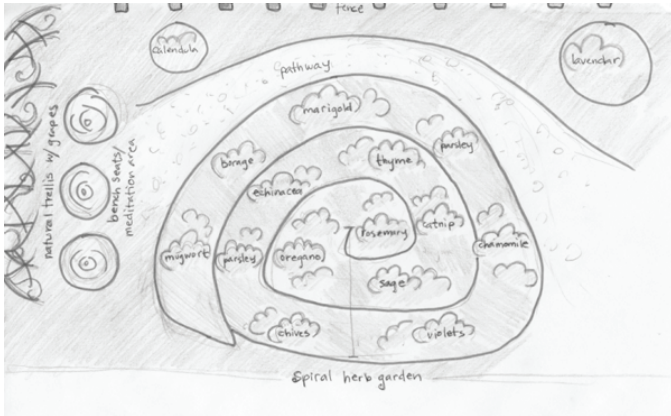
10AM – Wash street (earth friendly soap), rinse and dry

Saturday June 5

10AM - repaint street graphic
Lunch provided

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes





Location

3135 SE Hawthorne

Contact

Raechel Bennett 406-250-4536 tiki_rez_dr@yahoo.com

Aside from being an herb shop and a healing center, the Essential Elements Apothecary is also a growing community. We try to reach out to the public to the extent that our resources allow us to, fostering connections with people from all walks of life as we work together to expand collectively. We are creating learning spiral herb gardens and a meditation space in the back of the Apothecary. We wish to provide visual representation of the herbs that we can use every day in the healing of our bodies, minds and spirits, along with a public meditation space where people can relax and rejuvenate themselves. The apothecary is unique because we are run mostly by volunteers and are here for the purpose of learning and healing. An herb spiral is a garden that pulls together many permaculture design principles, following the spiral shape that is commonly found in nature. At its heart is a mound of soil, about 2 meters in diameter and 1 meter tall. We will plant an array of herbs from common to the more obscure. Volunteers will learn permaculture design of a spiral herb garden, learn about herbs and how to plant them, and can attend our many workshops that we will offer. Volunteers also can join in on the growing herb community we have established here. We are seeking large rocks, soil, compost and organic fertilizer for the project. Come by sometime for a cup of tea!

Schedule

Friday, May 28th

1pm-2:30pm-Core Values Workshop with Kalah Allen, life coach.

Saturday, May 29th

11am-finish Building the spiral gardens at Essential Elements Apothecary with Laura Altvater of Mostly Medicinals and others! Lunch for volunteers.

Sunday, May 30th

11 am-5~Building the raised garden beds, archways, meditation space and more gardening at Essential Elements Apothecary. Work on compost system. Lunch for volunteers.

Monday, May 31st

2pm ~ Wilderness first aid presentation by Hilary of Essential Elements

7:30~ Meditation with Nadav Aharonov and Margo Goodman

Wednesday June 2nd

7:30~Meditation with Nadav Aharonov and Margo Goodman

Thursday June 3rd

10:30am-11:45am - Plant Walk: Herbs for First Aid with Missy Rohs at Essential Elements Apothecary 6:00 Drum circle with Coyote Dave

Friday, June 4

10:00am-11:30am - Plant Walk: Growing Medicinals with Grady Proctor at Essential Elements Apothecary

Saturday, June 5th

11am on~Continue to work on archways, raised beds, drainage and gardening at Essential Elements Apothecary. Lunch for volunteers.

1pm~Intuitive Healing Workshop with Colleen De Vincentis

Sunday, June 6th

11 am on~Wrapping up any loose ends in the gardens at Essential Elements Apothecary. Lunch for volunteers.

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

Forest Grove Community School Educational Garden



Location

1936 19th Ave, Forest Grove, OR
On Main Street, Behind the Old Train Station.

Contact

Erin Morgan, e.morgan@fgcschool.org, (650) 302 1691
Teresa Perrin, t.perrin@fgcschool.org
Donna VanDyke d.vandyke@fgcschool.org, (503) 359 4600

The Forest Grove Community School is a public charter school serving 230 students, 1st-11th grade that engages students in scholarship, stewardship and citizenship with the goal of educating for sustainability. We are located in heart of downtown Forest Grove, surrounded by the rolling hills, vineyards and forests of western Washington County. You can learn more about our school at <http://www.fgcschool.org/>.

This spring, the Forest Grove Community School is excited to begin development of an educational garden. Through a partnership with Woodfold Manufacturing and the Friends of Historic Forest Grove, we have secured a plot of land near the center of town where students will be able to learn about local ecology, watch organic vegetables grow, and share their knowledge with the community. For the week of the VBC, we are focusing our efforts on building a garden gate. The gateway will include a cob structure, green roof, and informational kiosks made of recycled windows. The fence will also incorporate creatively reused art, delicious fruit-bearing vines, and native plant habitat. Student have been busy filling raised beds with spring veggies, making pathways, and researching great native plants to prepare for the week of the VBC. We will need many hands to get the job done, and we hope you will join us!



Schedule

Wednesday May 19th & 26th, June 2nd

4-7pm. Forest Grove Farmer's Market. Come to our booth to learn about the project, help raise garden funds, and participate in fun kids activities.

Friday May 28th

School-Wide Kick-off: Work party 2pm-5pm. Snacks and mud-mashing!

Saturday May 29th

Volunteers welcome 9-3: Complete fence skeleton, and roof-raising. Snacks provided.

Monday May 31st

Volunteers welcome 9-5. Begin cob construction: Soil prep, planting, and art. Snacks provided.

Tuesday 1st- Thursday June 3rd

School families only. Continue cob, fenceline, and planting.

Friday June 4th

Volunteers welcome 9-4. All community invited: Teacher appreciation lunch in the garden.

Saturday June 5th

Volunteers welcome 9-3. All community invited: Install gate, cob work, clean up. Snacks provided.

Sunday June 6th

Friends of Historic Forest Grove garden tour 11-4: Volunteers welcome 10-2 for celebration and completing work

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

Freda's Tree Intersection Repair



Location

NE 56th & Stanton

Contact

Ed Gorman - gorman97213@gmail.com

This year for VBC 10 the neighbors at NE 56th and Stanton will be refurbishing the existing Intersection Repair installation that was first created during VBC 7. The Freda's Tree motif commemorates a magnificent chestnut tree that was at this corner for nearly a hundred years. The past three years were an exciting experience for involved neighbors. The cooperative spirit that evolved and grew during the VBC 7 planning, design process, layout, and ultimate construction of the design continues strongly today.

This year a new element will be added at the northeast corner of the intersection. A tile mosaic will be created to further enhance the intersection, which already features the mural painted on the street. The plan is to eventually create a project on each of the 4 intersection corners. We would make one project per year starting this year on the northeast corner. The 2010 mosaic will be constructed primarily of ceramic tile pieces set into concrete. The pieces will form a rainbow spray. The mosaic pieces will not fill the entire corner area. The areas that are not mosaic would be planted with an appropriate ground cover.

The existing vibrant street painting, featuring a depiction of a deceased iconic neighborhood tree, has been well received by the neighborhood. Many people passing through the neighborhood over the past two years have commented that they love the feature and the life that it gives to the area. Neighbors have noticed a definite calming effect on traffic that passes through the intersection.

Schedule

Because it is spring time in Oregon, the repainting schedule will be determined by the weather. It will occur at the first opportunity that weather allows over the two weekends of VBC 10. We have a permit to close the streets for both the beginning and end weekends. Tentative start time for beginning the actual painting is at 10 AM on the lucky day.

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

Gladstone High School Gazebo



Location

18800 Portland Avenue,
Gladstone, OR 97027

Contact

Brad Kuntz 503-319-1055

Gladstone High School recently underwent extensive renovations which will qualify the school for LEED platinum certification; the campus's courtyard remained untouched, providing a perfect opportunity for student involvement in sustainable building practices on school grounds. With the administration's support, the staff is embedding sustainability into curriculum across many disciplines and GHS has an incredibly active student organization focused on sustainable projects.

Gladstone High School is excited about this placemaking opportunity. The VBC will help transform the school's courtyard into a place that will cultivate student congregation as well as demonstrating various aspects of sustainability at work.

A VBC architect worked with the school's environmental leadership class to design a cob bench with round pole supports and a living roof, as well as a vertical garden where students will cultivate native plants and vegetables to be harvested for use in foods instruction. Students have already begun construction on a cob bench, have instituted and maintain a school-wide composting program, and plan to install a rainwater harvesting system to irrigate the forthcoming garden.

Schedule

Saturday, May 29

10:00-4:00pm

Sunday, May 30

10:00-4:00pm

Monday, May 31

10:00-4:00pm

Tuesday, June 1 – Friday, June 4

3:00-8:00pm

Saturday, June 5

10:00-4:00pm

Sunday, June 6

10:00-4:00pm



visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes



Location

SE 39th - 42nd & Gladstone

Contact

Morgan Masterman - 503.545.8671

morganmasterman@gmail.com

Ana Inclan - 503.348.9048

ana_inclan@yahoo.com

Part of the reason we are participating in this year's VBC is to increase the sense of community in this area. People have lived here for years without knowing their neighbor. In addition, neighbors have started to notice activity they don't want to see in their neighborhood. Come out and join us in making that change!. Gladstone Street Revival is focused on two main projects this year. We'll be creating stone mosaics ("gladstones") in the planter strips along SE Gladstone from 39th to 42nd and we will be clearing a large invasive ivy wall and replanting with natives and perennials. Come help us create a more connected community and make the neighborhood a more beautiful place.

Schedule

Saturday, May 29

2pm-3pm:	Workshop: Growing Edible Mushrooms!	4011 SE Gladstone	Lead: Caleb Fennell
3pm-5pm:	Work party: Planter Strip Mosaics	4002 SE Gladstone	Lead: Ana Inclan
3pm-5pm:	Work party: Pulling ivy and replanting	3945 SE Gladstone	Lead: Morgan Masterman
5pm:	Open House Dinner @ Pure Heart Yoga	4135 SE Gladstone	

Sunday, May 30

1pm-7pm:	Work party: Planter Strip Mosaics	4002 SE Gladstone	Lead: Ana Inclan
1pm-7pm:	Work party: Pulling ivy and replanting	3945 SE Gladstone	Lead: Morgan Masterman
7pm:	Dinner @ Morgan and Bob's	4030 SE Gladstone #7	

Monday, May 31 (Memorial Day)

1pm-7pm:	Work party: Planter Strip Mosaics	4002 SE Gladstone	Lead: Ana Inclan
1pm-7pm:	Work party: Pulling ivy and replanting	3945 SE Gladstone	Lead: Morgan Masterman
7pm:	Dinner @ Ether's	4414 SE Center	

Friday, June 4

1pm-7pm:	Work party: Planter Strip Mosaics	4002 SE Gladstone	Lead: Ana Inclan
1pm-7pm:	Work party: Pulling ivy and replanting	3945 SE Gladstone	Lead: Morgan Masterman
7pm:	Dinner	TBA	

Saturday, June 5

1pm-7pm:	Work party: Planter Strip Mosaics	4002 SE Gladstone	Lead: Ana Inclan
1pm-7pm:	Work party: Pulling ivy and replanting	3945 SE Gladstone	Lead: Morgan Masterman
2:00pm	Commissioner Fritz joins us for ivy pulling!		
7pm:	Dinner @ Ana's	4002 SE Gladstone Street	

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

Location

3119 Southeast Holgate Boulevard

Contact

Susan McElroy - 503 916 6209 - smcelroy@pps.k12.or.us



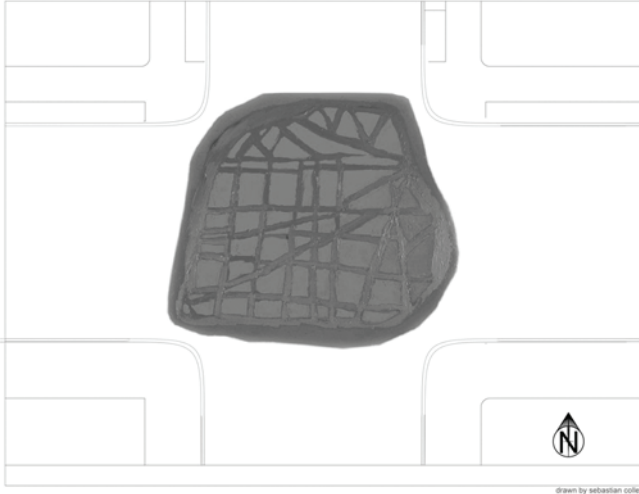
Grout Elementary is a K-5 public school in SE Portland. The playground is a one acre field that has changed little since the school was built in 1926. In 2010 a small group of parents began seriously discussing ways to improve things- and to our delight, our ideas were met with enthusiasm. The Grout Garden Club was born. We created a master plan that has been approved by Portland Public Schools to completely re-imagine our field. We expect the work to take several years but we want to do it right. Our priorities are building a vegetable garden, a rain garden, an outdoor classroom, and a new path. We're excited because this feels like a real WPA Era effort, where everyone's best abilities create something larger than any of us could do alone- and it's for the kids!

Our goal is to transform our play area into a space where students, teachers, and community members can come to explore, learn, and enjoy.

Schedule

Sorry, the schedule not yet available. Check online for updates!

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites



Location

NE Tillamook and NE Rodney

Contact

Meagan Neal - meagscounty@gmail.com



Welcome to the Lower Elliot Neighborhood! We thrive South of NE Russell, East of N. Williams Ave. and West of MLK. Our neighborhood is represented by local businesses, an especially diverse population of cultures and skills and beautiful Victorian architecture. Our community has paired with Port City's Project Grow location to integrate the skills of local artists with our community. Please join us as we begin our journey towards an intersection repair.

We will be gathering Saturday, June 5th to chalk mural designs in the street, make art, and tour local gardens. We will surely fill your bellies with fresh produce from our neighborhood gardens and local restaurants!



Schedule

Saturday, June 5th

12:00 - 4:00pm: We'll be closing down the streets, having a block party, making funky garden art and touring local gardens and the Project Grow urban farm!

12:00 - 2:30: Eat and art

2:30 - 4:00: Garden tour

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

Killingsworth and 30th Intersection Repair



Location

NE 30th and Killingsworth

Contact

Ansula Press

503.281.0959

Ansula@gmail.com

This year's Village Building Convergence will see the completion of the intersection repair at NE 30th and Killingsworth. We will be repainting the graphics on the corners of the intersection to spruce them up after 4 years of the wear and tear of pedestrian traffic.

2006 marked the beginning of this project with the painting of the supergraphics and the installation of a mosaic planter which utilized china and tiles donated by neighbors. The following year we created and installed 3 more planters. The finishing touch to the overall plan was the installation of 3 mosaic totems in 2008.

During this time the Concordia Neighborhood Association was hard at work convincing the city that crosswalks were essential to the safety of the pedestrians at our intersection, whose number was increasing quickly because of the new businesses which were opening up. Three years later not only one – but two – crosswalks were installed!

The best surprise of all came when city trucks showed up and put up two pedestrian-activated traffic lights! So to celebrate the successful intersection repair – which began to protect pedestrians and to slow traffic and, of course, to beautify our little hub - we will be freshening up the painted sidewalks, weeding the planters, and cleaning the gutters. And then we will celebrate the reclaiming of our crossroads!

Schedule

We will be painting on Saturday, May 29, from 10-3 or until we're finished!

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

Madison Highschool Outdoor Classroom



Location

2735 NE 82nd Avenue

Contact

Gary Strokos

503-407-7160

gstrokos@pps.k12.or.us

Sue House

503-348-7963

slhouse@pps.k12.or.us

In 2009 Madison High School participated in the Village Building Convergence for the first time. The project was to create an outdoor classroom to serve the school and the bountiful new school garden as well as create a space for the adjacent community garden participants to seek refuge for the winter rain or summer sun. With the help of City Repair, local builders and designers, many students, teachers, parents, and many different community members, phase one of this project was completed with great success!

A large outdoor classroom with beautiful natural round timber poles and hand-sculpted cob walls now sits at Madison High School, surrounded by lush gardens. With an eco-roof draining to a small rain garden over one half and a metal roof to harvest rain-water on the other side there are many wonderful Ecological design features demonstrated here. And now it's time for phase two!

This year we plan to complete this project by adding seating and chalkboards! The seating will be made with straw bales and cob, stacked up to provide tiered seating for a class, with sculptural cob elements to be designed and created during work parties. Finishing will include adding a lime plaster to protect the cob from the elements. Chalkboards will be added to the inner front of the structure to assist teachers with outdoor education. The outer side will have information kiosks for increased communication between gardeners.

Schedule

Friday May 28th

3:15-6pm VBC Kickoff event! Bring food for potluck, enjoy music and start mixing cob!

Saturday May 29th

10am-5pm - Cob mixing & Outdoor Classroom seating construction, Lunch provided

Workshop: Straw Bale construction 10am-12pm

Sunday May 30th

10am-2pm, Cob mixing & covering

10am-12pm Workshop: Permaculture and composting/vermicomposting in an educational setting

Tuesday June 1st

12pm-5pm, Cob mixing & covering, Snacks provided

Thursday June 3rd

Volunteer Schedule: 12pm-5pm, Outdoor Classroom chalk board & kiosk construction, Snacks provided

Saturday June 5th

10am-5pm, Plastering cob seating, Lunch provided

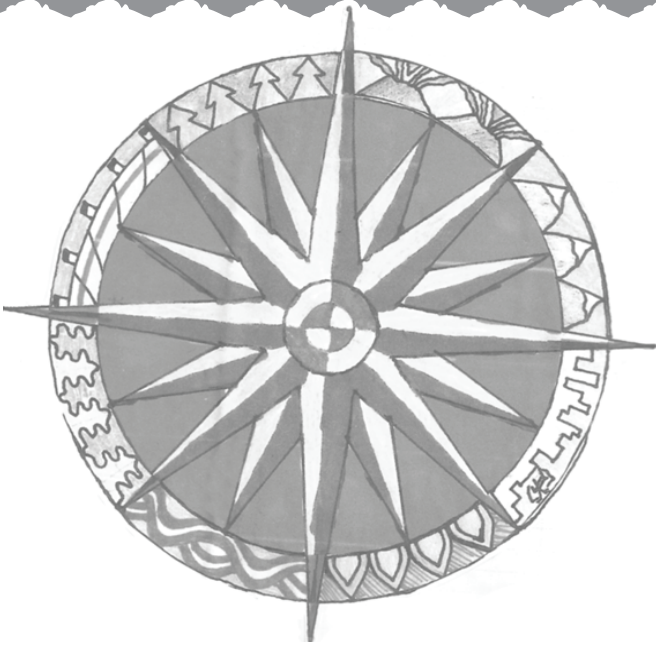
Workshop: Plastering and cob maintenance/repair 10am-12pm

Sunday June 6th

10am-5pm, Plastering cob seating & finishing, Lunch provided

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

Mariner's Compass Rose Intersection Repair



Location

N Edison and N Saint Louis

Contact

Ivy Stovall - (503) 710-4567 - ivystovall@yahoo.com

Our neighborhood inspires loyalty.

The St. Johns Bridge, local icon beloved by local old-timers, daytrippers, bridge-o-philos and artists, presides over our riverside community in stately benevolence and gothic beauty. We're perched on the Willamette Bluff looking across the river to Forest Park, train whistles and shiphorns updating us on their journeys to T5 & T6 around the North Bend. Coyotes howl in Baltimore Woods just blocks from our own town square with the downtown skyline on the horizon.

We love where we live because of WHERE we live.

Fourth generation St. Johns families still live next door to each other. New families flood the streets and parks. Artists & entrepreneurs find inspiration and opportunity in this picturesque and diverse, gritty and quaint small town. We love the strong local identity and history still palpable, and we love the change that is in the air. The Mariner's Compass Rose will point true North.

It will offer navigational aid to the natural and manmade landmarks encircling us, pulling our gaze toward the horizons so we may fully appreciate the geographical and economic factors that have brought us together on this small patch of earth.

Come Saturday, June 5 to paint the street, and enjoy the view of the shimmering river and the block party with good food, live music and bouncy castle. Yes! Bouncy castle.

Schedule

Saturday, May 15

2pm-dark: Benefit party at NEST collaboratory. Open mic, live music, food and games, chicken watching and garden gazing with a great view of the St. John's bridge and Willamette.

6814 N Saint Louis - Contact Paul (503) 995-9295

Saturday, June 5

Noon-exhaustion: Paint the street. Block party. Bouncy castle, music, food, art, reveling in the streets. Intersection of N Edison and N Saint Louis, a few blocks North of the St. Johns Bridge

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

Native American Youth and Family Center



Location

5135 NE Columbia Blvd

Contact

Melissa Waggoner
melissaw@nayapdx.org
503-288-8177

The Native American Youth and Family Center has been working since 2007 to build an outdoor classroom, which incorporates a community garden and an Interpretive Native Garden, complete with Chinook language plant markers. This year community members will work on a cob bench with living roof and a Medicine Wheel Garden. This will promote positive connections between our community members and our land, as well as promote our Native American traditional values of environmental stewardship, community service and respect for the Chinook people who once resided on the land where NAYA now is situated.

If you would like to get involved please contact our VBC Site Coordinator or come to a scheduled event!



Schedule

Neerchokikoo Pow Wow May 14th and 15th

Honoring Our Youth, Elders, and Sacred Land.

This event is free and open to the public, dinner served on Saturday evening.

Friday, May 28th:

7pm - Ground Blessing and Grand Entry

Saturday, May 29th:

1pm - Grand Entry

5pm - Dinner and Honoring

7pm - Grand Entry

Tuesday, June 1:

2-6pm - Kickoff Building Party

Wednesday, June 2:

2-6pm - Cob Building and Planting

Thursday, June 3:

2-6pm - Cob Building and Planting

4-6pm - Medicine Wheel Garden Workshop

Friday, June 4:

2-6pm - Cob Building and Planting

7-9pm - Azteca dancers

Saturday, June 5:

9-5pm - Last Day of Building and Planting!

Sunday, June 6:

12-2pm - Potluck Celebration

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes



Location

1847 SE Clinton Street

Contact

Didi Ananda Krsnapriya, director
newdayschool@gmail.com
503-231-7425 or 503-236-3886



Since 1979, New Day School (<http://newdayschool.org/>) has been an active nonprofit school providing education for 69 preschoolers and kindergartners. New Day School would like to depave 8,990 square feet of asphalt around their newly acquired building, right next to the current school, to make room for gardens, a grass play area, and a pond. Depave will provide volunteers with all the necessary tools, safety gear, and water. Volunteers of all ages are welcome!

We have always valued the expansive out door space that our property has provided young children, but we are excited to further develop the play yard in a way to enhance the children's experience. Fully utilizing the space for sustainable practices, organic gardens and lush playscapes, we hope to educate our children to a new way of respecting our environment and teach a new way of thinking about urban landscapes. By the removal of the asphalt of our new property, we will be able to create a pond habitat for rainwater catchment, double our organic food production, create a natural blending of our two properties whose design will be driven by permacultural practice, playscape design and our outdoor education/ garden program. Other features the new play yard will include are: outdoor classroom, bamboo grove, willow tunnel, bike pathways, berry patches, children's picking garden, obstacle course, and a covered arbor with cob benches.

Schedule

Saturday, May 29th

Depave Prep Day

Contact: Maia Nativ, maianativ@gmail.com

Saturday, June 5th

Depave at New Day School. Registration begins at 8:45am

Michelle Metzler, michellemetzler@gmail.com

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes





Location

2229 University Avenue, Forest Grove, OR 97116

Contact

Robin Johnson - john3567@pacificu.edu - 509-710-8193
AmeriCore Master Designer

Deke Gunderson - deke@pacificu.edu
Professor & Student Organizer

Hannah Poirier - hannah@cityrepair.org - 541 419 6723
Student VBC Site Coordinator

Life & Sol is a new student-community garden owned by Pacific University, across the street from main campus in Forest Grove. Robin Johnson, recent graduate and current AmeriCore worker for the school, envisioned the garden's master plan to feature herb spirals, cob benches, an earthen oven, and "rentable" garden spaces, all within a sun-catching microclimate in the cooler months, and shade providing tasty-food-abundance the rest of the year. After a burst of student input, an acoustic performance stage for outdoor concerts and presentations, as well as kiosks and bike racks were also added into the plan as it evolved. Results from work parties we've held this semester currently features the space with fruit trees grafted by the Permaculture class, and vegetable, berry, and herb starts that originated primarily from the Gardening class, student flats, and teacher's backyards. There are apple, black twinberry, cherry, and pear trees, as well as broccoli, tsat soy, rhubarb, blueberries, strawberries, kale, chard, beets, and more plant and herb donations coming in all the time. The site also answers the desire for more student artwork and creative input closer to campus, with one of the designs being a cob-oven-bench looking like a giant snail. A large sundial garden and many keyhole gardens also add interest for the spaces available for growing plants, and there are plans for both potato pillars and worm columns as a demonstration of the use of vertical space. There are also many possibilities for murals on surfaces of kiosks, benches, tool sheds, and more.

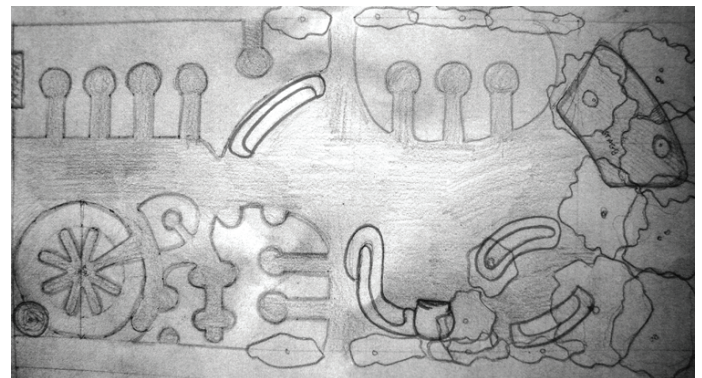
For the VBC, we will be focusing on two cob benches that will be facing each other in the northeast quadrant of the lot. Since this will be the first massive project to be put in at the site, we're very excited to put in some hard work and make something solid and beautiful for students to come back to in the fall. All around, students and community members are enthusiastically taking on the project in many ways, and we would love to see you out there designing, drawing, building, or planting with us! We have great cooks in the group, so potluck days are a must to be at, as well as talented musicians, and lots of permaculture knowledge to be shared and gained.

Schedule

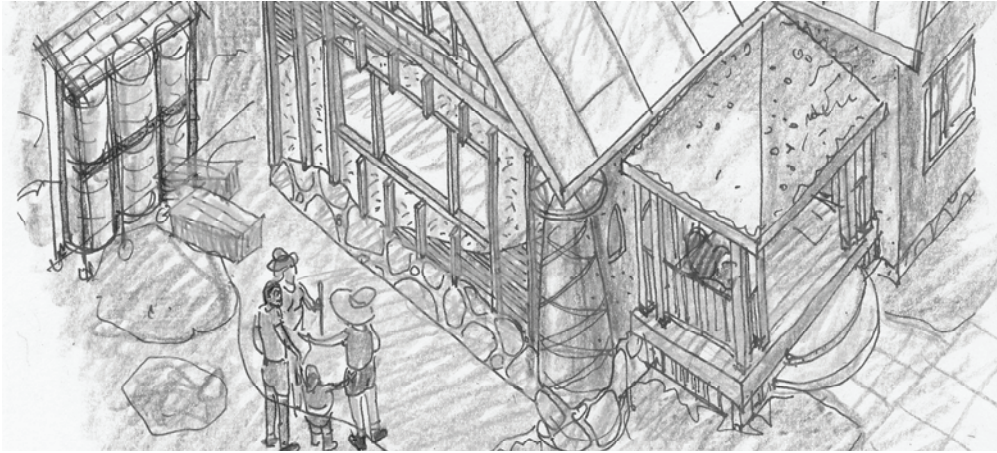
Cob benches will be worked on throughout the ten days, from approximately 10am - 3pm with snacks and daily workshops led by natural builder Scott Howard.

Tuesday, June 1st

9:00am: Shuttle from Portland to Forest Grove leaves from People's Food Co-Op, and will bring volunteers back in time for the venue and dinner. We'll definitely also be doing gardening and pot-lucking this day. Possibly some spontaneous music!



visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes



Location

8516 SE 8th

Contact

Mark Lakeman
moontrout@yahoo.com
(503) 381 5885

The site of the first Village Building Convergence project in 2001 is now known as Planet Repair Institute. The vision of PRI is to assist communities to directly engage in local actions that they can see have a global, cumulative impact. Whether helping to develop resilient, socially grounded local urban permaculture systems or inspiring other neighborhoods to become increasingly active, PRI will be a catalyst for more and more constructive transformation. This year's VBC projects will include Portland's first-ever strawclay insulation retrofit to an existing building. We will be adding salvage material "attachment fins" to the exterior of PRI that will be infilled with strawclay insulation and then finished with gorgeous and sculptural earthen plasters. The interior of PRI will also be insulated this way later in the summer. We will also at start at least one of two other projects. These will include the construction of Portland's first elevated, spherical, solar-powered cob Chicken Palace, with a spiral chicken ladder. We may also complete the adaptation of an existing cob fireplace into a serviceable pizza and bread baking oven.



Schedule

Saturday, May 29th

9am-4pm Strawclay home retrofit begins

Sunday, May 30th

9am-4pm Retrofit continues until ready to plaster

Monday, June 31st

9am-4pm Chicken Palace begins

Workshop: 10am: Mushroom Cultivation with Sebastian Collet

Tuesday, June 1st

9am-4pm Finish Chicken Palace

Wednesday, June 2nd

9am-4pm Cob chimney retrofit

Thursday, June 3rd

9am-4pm Strawclay home retrofit "scratch coat" plastering

2pm: Block Repair site tour

Friday, June 4th

9am-4pm Omni-project detailing

Saturday, June 5th

9am-4pm Intersection Repair painting at Share-It Square



visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

Portland Community College Sylvania Learning Garden



Location

12000 SW 49th Ave, Portland, OR 97219
(<http://pcc.edu> for detailed directions)

Contact

Kim Smith, 503-977-4097
kdsmith@pcc.edu



Portland
Community
College

We're all about
your future.



Portland Community College invites you to help us build community and have fun while creating a covered relaxation area in our PCC Sylvania Learning Garden. Share in our vision and get your feet and hands earthy as we create a cob bench, eco-roof, water catchment system, and rain garden. Spawned from a vibrant collaborative process, using reclaimed and locally sourced materials, and led by Natural Builder Bernhard Masterson, the structure will exemplify a plethora of sustainable building techniques. Keeping with Sylvania's Native-American theme, the cob bench will depict salmon, respecting the pivotal role this majestic fish has played in the Pacific Northwest. The half-moon bench will encircle a gazebo, showing off a reciprocal roof system composed of round wood with space for future solar panel additions!

The gathering place will be built in PCC Sylvania's Learning Garden, a space that is being developed as an interdisciplinary Living Laboratory to demonstrate principles of sustainability. From growing organic produce for our cafeteria and composting leftovers in worm bins to scientific test gardens and growing natural dyes for art projects, the learning garden will be a dynamic place for students, staff, and the public to cultivate their minds, get in touch with nature, or simply relax in the shade or out of the rain on our new salmon bench. Please come join us during the VBC and help create a beautiful space together. And don't forget to check out our workshops below!

Special thanks to Linda Gerber, Sylvania Campus President, for all of her generous support!

Schedule

Friday, May 28

10- 5pm VBC Kick-off!
Come learn about the bench design and start mixing cob.

Saturday, May 29

Volunteers: 9am-5pm Cob mixing and foundation building
Workshop: 10:30am- noon How to Build a Worm Bin with Josh Liebschutz

Sunday, May 30

Volunteers: 10am-5pm Cob mixing and building

Tuesday, June 1

Volunteers: 9am-5pm Cob building, sculpture, and rain garden
Workshop: 10am-1pm: Natural Dyes 1: Extracting Dyestuffs and Mordanting Fibers with Serena Skaates

Wednesday, June 2

Volunteers: 9am- 5pm Cob building, sculpture, and rain garden
Workshop: 10am-noon Natural Dyes 2: Dyeing the Fibers with Serena Skaates

Thursday, June 3

Volunteers: 9am- 5pm Cob building, sculpture, and rain garden
Workshop: 2pm-4pm Natural Dyes 3: Post-Mordanting and Rinsing Dyed Fibers with Serena Skaates

Friday, June 4

Volunteers: 9am- 5pm Cob building, sculpture, and eco-roof
Workshop: 11am-12pm How to Build an Eco-Roof with Greg Haines
Workshop: 1pm-2pm Plant Native! with Erin August

Saturday, June 5

Volunteers: 9am- 5pm Finish cob bench, eco-roof, and rain garden
Workshop: 11am-noon How to Build a Rain Garden with Sam Moore

Sunday, June 6

Volunteers: Noon-3pm VBC Celebration

abridged schedule! go online for full workshop info!
visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

Refuge

116 SE YAMHILL PDX

PORTLAND'S NEWEST AUDIOVISIONARY CENTER

Location

116 SE Yamhill

Contact

Elliot Rasenick
503-475-9062,
elliot@belovedfestival.com

The project is to build a relatively large cob wall in a high profile upcoming community center and event space. The wall will be about 80' long by 18.5' tall. It will expose a diverse community to the beauty and feasibility of cob as an alternative to sheetrock, it will inspire participants about the possibility of being a part of their own built environment and will connect the joy of dancing and music with the hands-on education of the project.



Schedule

Sorry, the schedule not yet available. Check online for updates!

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites



Location

2800 SE Harrison (Central Venue)

Contact

Cyd Manro cyd@eco-munity.com (503) 662-2293



The Eco-mUNITY InterACT-a-Vision Station(s) (ISs) are kiosks that are fun, interactive, intuitive, and informative. Through this project, people at the main venue will be able to connect with the various VBC 10 project sites – learning more about how each community vision became a physical construction. Through sketches and photographs, videos, interviews, and write-ups of each site, a person will be able to see how each project is coming together, and how to get involved. Through asynchronous communication, people will be able to comment and give feedback about the sites through the InterACT-a-Vision Stations.

Since there are as many as 25 sites this year, it can be somewhat overwhelming to try to get into the details about any one site if all were to be presented alongside one another. Therefore, Eco-mUNITY will highlight approximately 3 sites per evening, with in depth video and information available on each one. Would you like to help make this happen? Volunteer for at least one shift of editing video, shooting video, interviewing, or photography: volunteer@eco-munity.com

Since it is also important for someone to be able to search and find other sites and features they are interested in (other than just the 3 highlighted ones), there will be a button taking that person to a page on the City Repair website listing the different sites, and allowing the person to search out particular features such as benches or cobb structures. There will also be an aspect of feedback where the kiosk user will be able to provide feedback about the kiosk experience and their VBC experience.

Schedule

May 28th – June 6th

11 am – 1 pm: Video documentation, interviews, photos, etc. for at least 3 sites to be highlighted that evening.

2 pm – 6 pm: volunteer video editing and website coding for Eco-mUNITY Computer Kiosk project at VBC.

Each night at the venue, participants will be able to see up to date information on all 25 sites via links to the city repair website pages on each site. Eco-mUNITY will also highlight at least 3 sites each night with extra photos, interviews, and video footage. This will be accessible via the kiosks.



visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

bike powered!

Rosa Parks Commemorative Placemaking Project



Location

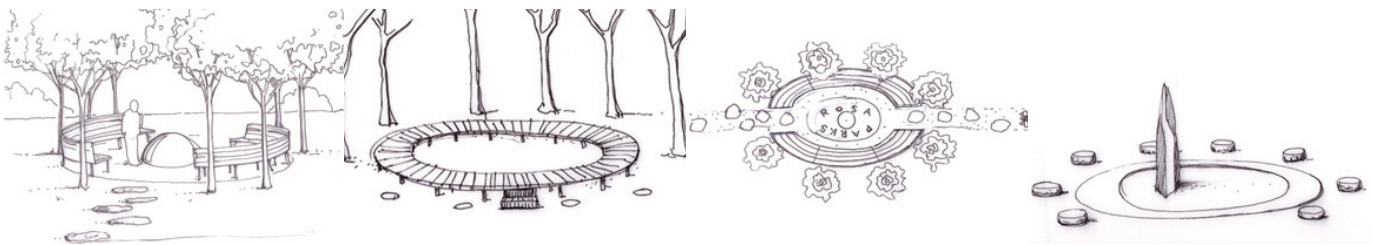
Peninsula Park
N Kerby Ave. and N Rosa Parks Way

Contact

Brian Borrello
503-754-5595
brian@brianborrello.com

In 2007, in north and northeast Portland, the name of Portland Boulevard was changed Rosa Parks Way to commemorate her historic activism in the civil rights struggles within the US. The Piedmont Neighborhood requested city council allocate money to allow for a neighborhood public art or memorializing placemaking project in honor of Rosa Parks. The request was approved, and through a lengthy iterative process with neighbors, local artists, Regional Arts and Culture Council, and Portland Parks and Recreation, we are developing a community design that will ultimately feature a memorializing sculpture and contemplative landscaped seating place. The construction will offer a counterpoint to an existing high-visibility, and much used elliptical masonry seating structure that encloses 2 large Douglas Fir trees, and that exists at the northwest end of the park at the busy intersection of N Albina and Rosa Parks. The commemorative work will feature a lighter “inward” facing elliptical seating structure at the more quiet, northeast end, with an array of tall, thin trees surrounding the seats. There will be an emphasis on creating a space for conversation or contemplation, and a central sculptural centerpiece will act as a focal point. In this phase, we are currently working toward finalizing a design for the landscape features of this Rosa Parks “place,” negotiating a proper site with Portland Parks and Recreation; and in the next phase, making a careful inclusive and consensual process toward a community design and implementation of the memorial centerpiece .

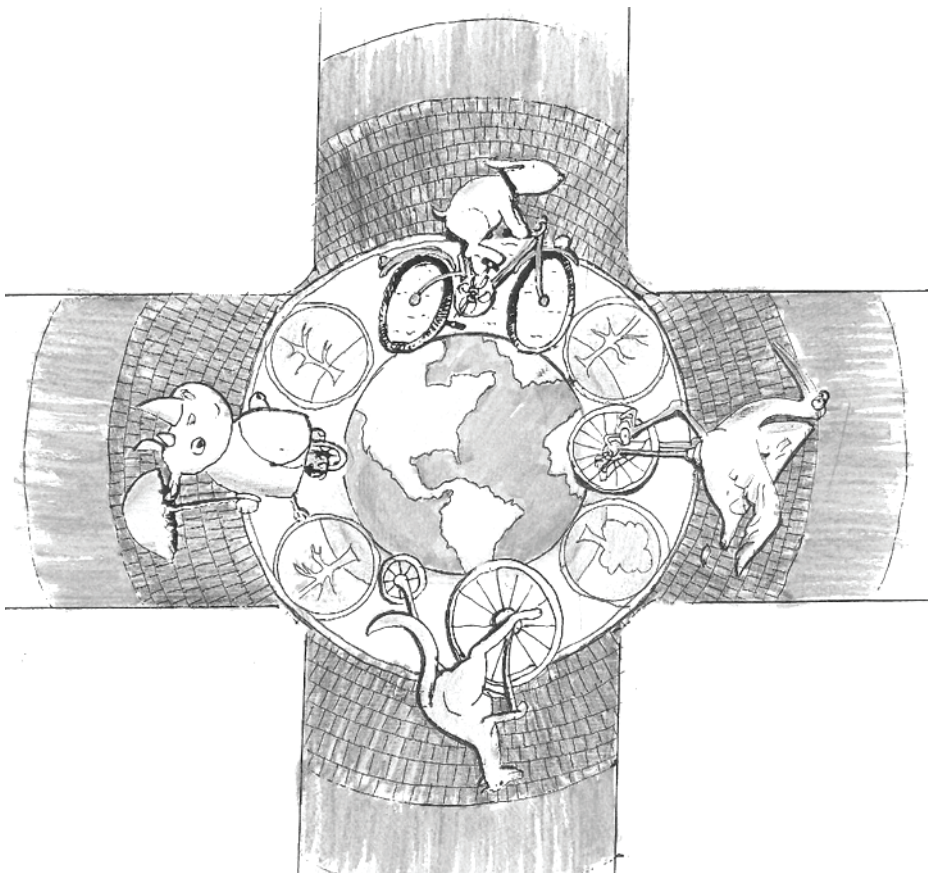
Community Design Ideas



drawings by Brian Borrello

Schedule

Design workshops and potluck on site during VBC
visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates on the schedule

**Location**

SE 9th and Sherret

Contact

Carmen

mango922@hevanet.com

This will be the 15th annual eagerly-anticipated painting event at Share-It Square, the first-ever intersection repair project in the USA. The design you see on this page is the result of a community design workshop which the Share-It Square community has generated as part of a simple breakfast potluck. Unlike many cooperative communities that use formal decision-making processes, this community has developed a very high degree of shared understanding and trust, which has helped it to be able to make many decisions through informal, joyous processes that involve food and fun.

While the overall design of Share-It Square was decided long ago, the central image concept changes every year. This enables the local community to come together in a symbolic design collaboration every single year. The design two years ago represented the ageless question of “which came first, the chicken or the egg?”. Last year, the design was a four-lobed idea with different environments inhabiting each quarter of the inner circle. This year’s concept is another four directional design, and includes an image of the Earth at it’s center. What will it be next year, or in a hundred years? What is certain is that the design will be a reflection of this increasingly sustainable community.

Schedule

Saturday, June 5th: 10:00 - 4:00pm Painting!

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

**Location**

SE 61st and Clinton

Contact

Erin Mirrett
(503)-957-6706
emirrett@aol.com

South Tabor Commons is celebrating its 6th year as a VBC site! This year we are planning to dedicate 3 days to sprucing it up. There are a few cob and plaster repairs needed on the bench and oven and we would like to seal them both with linseed oil. The shed will be completed with a living roof and cob and plaster details.



Schedule

Friday June 4th – Sunday 6th

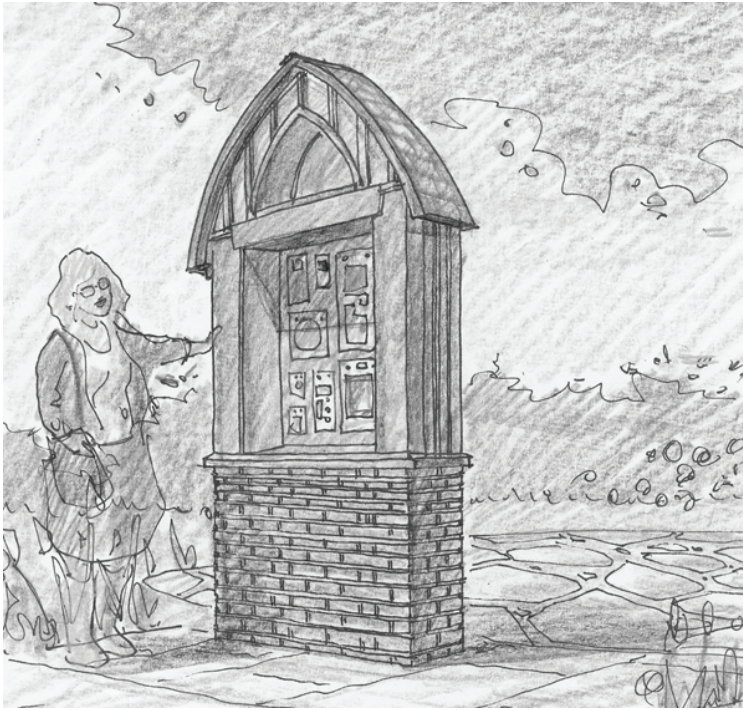
Cob and plaster repair

Sunday June 6th

Permaculture tour and Pizza Party!

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

St. David's Episcopal Church (Evening Venue)



Location

2800 SE Harrison

Contact

Eddie Hooker

eddie@cityrepair.org

503-756-6468

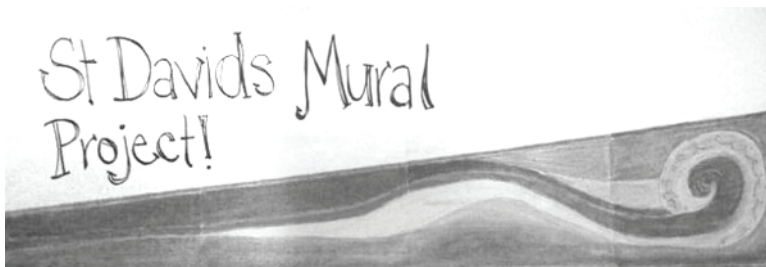


St. David's Episcopal Church is proud to host the 2010 VBC. We are a new-old, big-small church in the heart of Southeast Portland, seeking to proclaim the Kingdom through community, worship, sustainability, reconciliation, and the arts.

As part of the Village Building Convergence, we'll be working on two projects, a community kiosk and a mosaic tile mural. Come help us make it happen! See below for workday schedules.

About the kiosk

Our neighbors asked for it and now they'll have it! A community bulletin board outside the church, where 28th Avenue meets Harrison Street. The structure will be made of brick and wood, and will be a place for neighbors to learn about the many goings-on both inside our building and around the 'hood.



About the wall

A mosaic tile mural made from broken pottery, repurposed ceramic tiles and works of art by children who use our building will bring beauty and new life to the retaining wall of St. David's parking lot along the Harrison Street sidewalk. The colors suggest earth, sea, and sky, and the design suggests a river and a holy wind.

Schedule

Monday, May 31st - Friday, June 4th 9:00am-1:00pm

Saturday June 5th & Sunday June 6th: 11:00am-2:00pm

Join in the fun during the above hours. We will be working on both projects simultaneously. You and your family can help lay brick, hammer in nails, assemble the mosaic wall, paint tiles, and even refurbish an old picnic table with paint and tile. Snacks will be provided. Please bring sturdy shoes and a water bottle.

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

**Location**

1131 SE Oak st.

Contact

Steve Stevens

503-489-5862

steveandjanet@comcast.net

St. Francis Park will be joining with the students of LEP High School to create a food garden for neighbors and businesses who wish to participate in its care and harvest. St Francis Dining Hall, operating on the premises, would also grow food to supplement its needs for meals served to those in need 6 days a week. The garden space developed for this year's VBC would consist of about 100 square feet of raised planter beds using recycled wood, concrete and compost from onsite composting area. All are welcomed and encouraged to join us during the VBC scheduled dates of May 28-June 5th.

St. Francis Park, operated as a non-profit Community Park, is an inner eastside park bordered by SE 11th/12th and SE Oak/Stark. The Park was established through a grassroots community effort over thirty years ago as a "people's park", providing welcoming green space. The Park is open to the public and serves the local community including members of the neighborhood, St Francis Catholic Parish and St. Francis Dining Hall. Over the years the Park has seen growth from within including the addition of a unique fountain structure and attendant "flowing river", play structures, windmill generator, rose garden and many activities. The founders of the Park worked with local neighbors and the City of Portland to gain condemnation of SE Oak to expand the Park borders and create a safer environment. The planned VBC garden project will be located within the former Oak St. area.

LEP is accredited with the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools, the leading accreditation organization for the Northwestern United States. LEP is a new kind of high school. At LEP, courses are linked with each other, with college, and with your life. When you're finished, you'll have a high-school diploma, a start on college, and real-world experiences that you couldn't get at any other high school. Best of all, you will have the leadership skills and entrepreneurial mind-set to take the next step in your life.

Schedule

Saturday, May 29th and Saturday, June 5th: Time TBA

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes



Location

SE 33rd & Yamhill

Contact

Suzanne Tom, 503-737-8512

suzanne@cityrepair.org

As has been said in the past of the Sunnyside Piazza, it is “...arguably the most beautiful intersection in Portland”. This Piazza, perhaps the most famous of all the intersection projects of City Repair, will be painted once again during this year’s Village Building Convergence. Including some of the most famous public place projects of Michealangelo, this project is one of the few public places in the world to incorporate Fibionaci “golden mean” geometry which has been derived from the form of a sunflower. With it’s vibrant colors of yellow, orange, red and green, this street piazza is considered by many to be the heart of the Sunnyside Neighborhood whose symbol is the sunflower.

There are many stories to be heard about the Sunnyside Piazza, including the way that so many more people and community projects have been inspired by it all over the city and the USA. The Sunnyside Neighborhood itself has many such projects, including the Memorial Life House at SE 37th & Taylor, The Hawthorne Hostel Pavilion at SE 31st & Hawthorne, the Sunnyside Environmental School Gateway at SE 34th & Salmon, and many others. After helping to paint the piazza a tour around the sights of this neighborhood will be well worth your time because you will come away surprised and delighted by all the projects that have come of it!



Schedule

Saturday May 29th, 10 AM: 10:00 - 4:00pm Painting!

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes

**Location**

5040 Southeast Milwaukie Ave

Contact

Gabe Shaddy-Farnsworth 503-729-8814

gabe.sf@gmail.com

This Village Building Convergence, Trackers NW will be beatifying their main gathering space with a custom long curved table made out of milled driftwood. TrackersNW is located in the watershed building, which is an amazing warehouse like space, with many independent artists and craftsman who run their businesses in studios there.

The Project will involved taking a 20ft long curved driftwood milled slab, mortising round wood into the underside, weaving willow branches along the bottom, and then hanging custom windows to create a space to show off local primitive artisan crafts.

People who come have the opportunity to learn about hand tool wood working, by helping make the mortise and tenon joints and finishing the wood. We will be building this in a style similar to how we build skin on frame boats, and will use only joinery, pegs, and lashings to connect our wood pieces together. No metal or glue will be used in the construction of this project. Only hand tools will be used in this woodworking project also.

The Trackers NW space is commonly used as a community gathering space for free wild food potlucks, square dances, and skill shares. The space is also used for trackers adult and kids programs year round.

Schedule

Wednesday June 2nd

10 am to 4 pm prep the chainsaw milled plank, chisel out the mortises

Thursday June 3rd

10 am to 4 pm finish the mortises, start attaching the round wood to the plank

Friday June 4th

10 am to 4 pm finish attaching the round wood, start weaving the willow

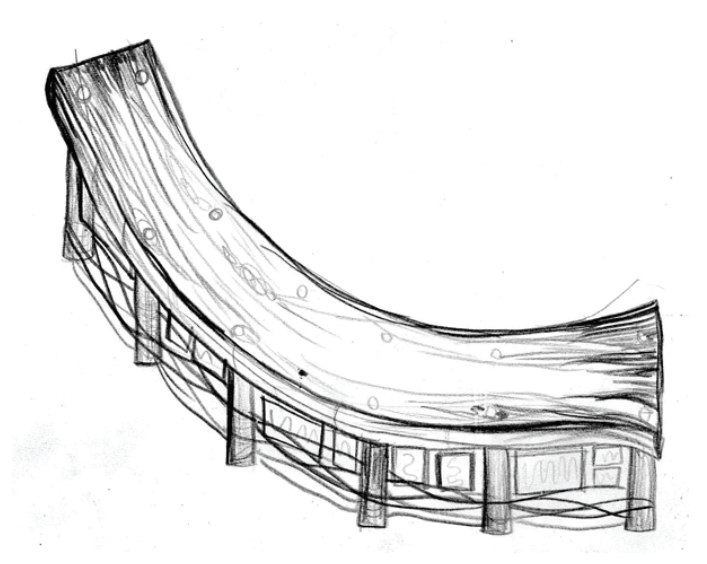
Saturday June 5th

10 am to 4 pm attach the windows finish sanding and making the wood look nice, oil the wood

Sunday, June 6th

10 am to 4 pm open space skill share day

*From Wednesday through Sunday we will have impromptu skill shares which may include: wild edible plant walks, hide tanning, plant medicine, brewing, knife and tool sharpening or skin on frame boat building. Check in with Gabe or Henry to get a day to day schedule during the vbc week..



visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for updates or changes



Location

5420 N. Interstate Ave
On the MAX line.

Contact

Rob van Nood
(503) 679-4235
rob@trilliumcharterschool.org



Trillium Charter School is a public school for pre-k-12th grade students that nurtures each child's inherent curiosity, creativity and connection to community. We support diverse learning styles and use democratic processes to help students grow fully as human beings and contribute to and enhance the world.

For this year's VBC Trillium will be getting support and guidance from the Mud Girls to build a cob wall and benches, a kiosk, a small covered outdoor classroom, and an iron gateway to create a dramatic entrance to our school. Additionally we will be building a wooden fence, perpendicular to the entranceway to close off access to an unsafe driveway connected to the IFCC.

We invite anyone interested in joining our project. Come work with students, teachers, parents and other community members from North Portland

Schedule

Friday May 28th

5:30 potluck, ribbon cutting, music, getting to know one another

Saturday May 29th

9am: Cob Talk: The Structure of Cob

10 - 4pm: Foundation completion and cob mixing

Sunday May 30th

9am: Cob Talk: Principles of Natural Building

10 - 4pm: Cobbing w/ MudGirls

Monday May 31st

9 am Cob Talk: TBA

10 - 4pm: Keep on Cobbing

Tuesday June 1st

9am Cob Talk: More about creative expression with cob

9 - 4pm Nala Walla Ecosomatic Workshop

10 - 4pm: Cob to the beats of Trillium Drum Corps

Wednesday June 2nd

9am Cob Talk: Q&A w/ Mudgirls.

10 - 4pm: Cob train!

Thursday June 3rd

9am Roof that cob! techniques and materials I

10am-4pm ALL DAY COB JAM led by Trillium Charter School Students

1:00 African Drumming

Friday June 4th

9am Cob Talk: Cob is Slow Good!

10 - 4pm COBin all day with the New Seasons Crew!

1:30pm Cabinessence will be playing an acoustic set

Saturday June 5th

9am Cob Talk: Natural Finishing

10 - 4pm make it pretty.... finishing OUR Cob Wall and building-the cedar shingle roof

Sunday June 6th

9am-4pm Trillium Cob wall Showcase

this is an abridged schedule!

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites for full info & updates
(they've even got each day's meals up there! :O)

**Location**

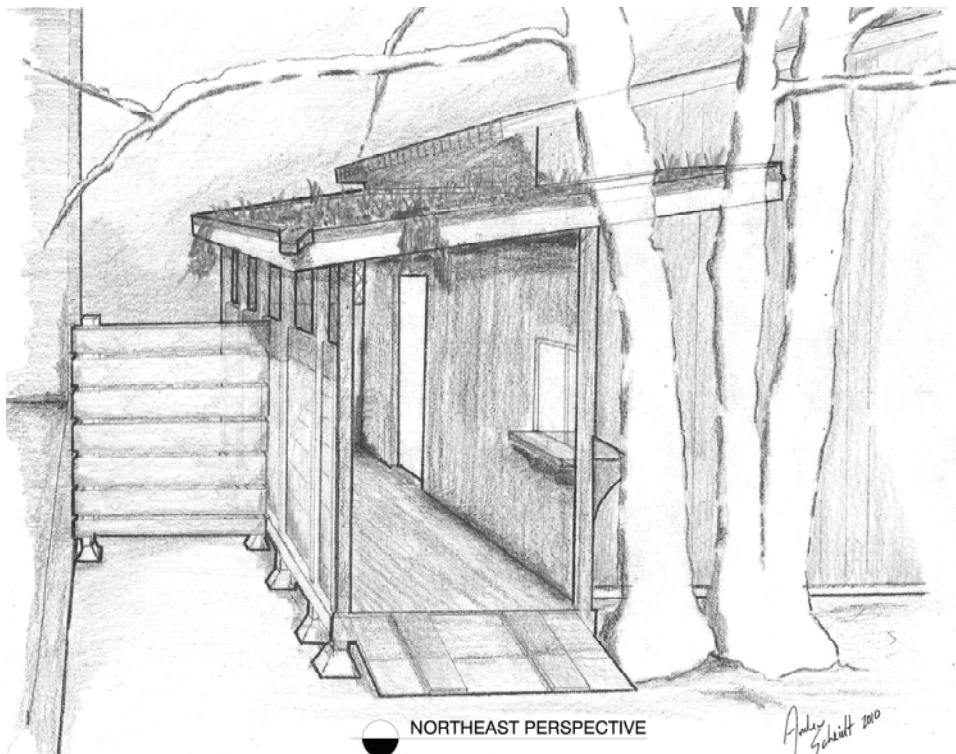
NE MLK & Everett

ContactIgnacio Paramo - iparamo@portlandvoz.org

The Tool Library at the MLK Jr. Worker Center will provide day laborers with safe, quality tools to borrow on day jobs. Sometimes, possession of proper equipment can be the deciding factor in getting hired and since many day laborers are homeless or otherwise low-income, many miss out on jobs they could otherwise qualify for. We hope to collect a variety of tools including: equipment for yard work, gardening and light construction.

During VBC we'll be building a shed that will double as a tool library, as well as a storefront for our day-labor run Tiendita. The store creates revenue for the Worker Center and provides a valuable job training opportunity for the day laborers.

Our community is excited to partner with VBC and to learn about using recycled materials and installing green roofs.



NORTHEAST PERSPECTIVE

Schedule

Sorry, the schedule not yet available. Check online for updates!

visit vbc.cityrepair.org/sites

**Ubicación**

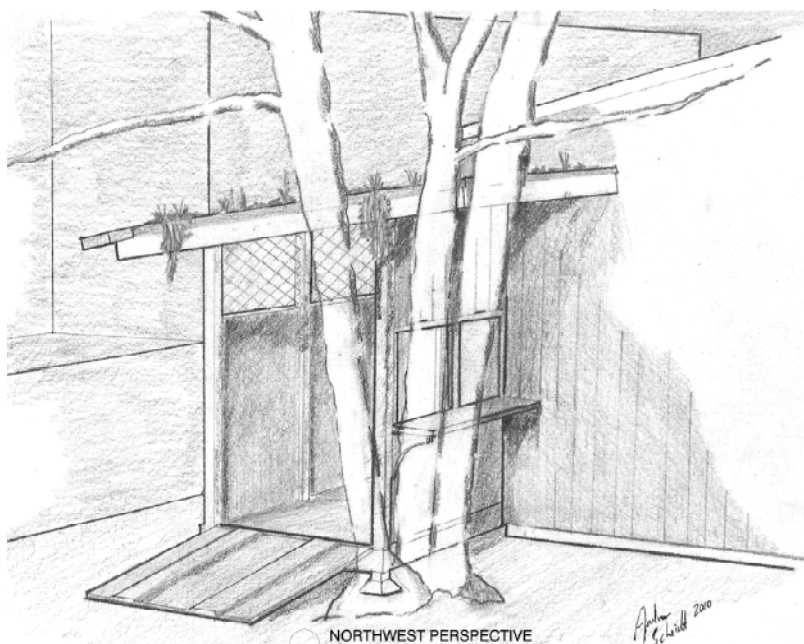
NE MLK & Everett

ContactoIgnacio Paramo - iparamo@portlandvoz.org

La Biblioteca de Herramientas en el Centro del Trabajador MLK Jr. proveerá a los trabajadores temporales herramientas seguras y de calidad en forma de préstamo durante sus trabajos temporales. Algunas veces el tener el equipo adecuado puede ser el factor decisivo para conseguir trabajo, y ya que muchos trabajadores temporales no tienen hogar o son de bajo recurso, pierden trabajos que podrían haber conseguido. Esperamos recolectar una variedad de herramientas incluyendo: equipos para trabajar en el patio, en jardinería y en construcción ligera.

Durante el VBC estaremos construyendo un lugar que tendrá dos usos: como una biblioteca de herramientas y como una tienda (Tiendita) para los trabajadores temporales. La tienda creará ingresos para el centro de trabajadores y proveerá una oportunidad de entrenamiento valorable en el trabajo para los empleados temporales.

Nuestra comunidad está entusiasmada de asociarse con VBC y aprender a usar materials reciclados para instalar techos ecológicos.



NORTHWEST PERSPECTIVE

Horario

¡Lo sentimos, el horario no está disponible. Revise en línea las actualizaciones!

[visite vbc.cityrepair.org/sites](http://vbc.cityrepair.org/sites)

Free Site Workshops

This is a list of free workshops that will be available across the city at different sites during the week. These workshops are open to the public and we hope that you stay after to assist the sites in their project as a way to thank the coordinators for these amazing opportunities!

Friday, May 28th

What: Intro to Cob
Time: 9:00a - 10:00a
Site: Art From The Heart (pg. 16)
Workshop leader: Michael Cook

What: Intro to Cob Again! [ASL]
Time: 1:00p - 3:00p
Site: Art From The Heart (pg. 16)
Workshop leader: Michael Cook

What: Core Values
Time: 1:00p - 2:30p
Site: Essential Elements Apothecary (pg. 19)
Workshop leader: Kalah Allen, life coach

What: Growing Edible Mushrooms
Time: 2:00p - 3:00p
Site: Gladstone Street Revival (pg. 23)
Workshop leader: Caleb Fennell

Saturday, May 29th

What: Cob Talk
Time: 9:00a
Site: Trillium Charter School (pg. 43)
Description: Structure of cob

What: Straw Bale Construction
Time: 10:00a - 12:00p
Site: Madison High School (pg. 27)

What: How to Build a Worm Bin
Time: 10:30a - 12:00p
Site: PCC Sylvania Learning Garden (pg. 33)
Workshop leader: Josh Liebschutz

Sunday, May 30th

What: Cob Talk
Time: 9:00a
Site: Trillium Charter School (pg. 43)
Description: Principles of natural building

Monday, May 31st

What: Cob Talk
Time: 9:00a
Site: Trillium Charter School (pg. 43)
Description: TBA

What: Mushroom Cultivation
Time: 10:00a
Site: Planet Repair Institute (pg. 36)
Workshop leader: Sebastian Collet

Tuesday, June 1st

What: Cob Talk
Time: 10:00a
Site: Trillium Charter School (pg. 43)
Description: Creative expression with cob

What: Nala Walla Ecosomatic
Time: 9:00a - 4:00p
Site: Trillium Charter School (pg. 43)

What: Natural Dyes: Part 1
Time: 10:00a - 1:00p
Site: PCC Sylvania Learning Garden (pg. 33)
Workshop leader: Serena Skaates
Description: Extracting dyestuffs and mordanting fibers

What: Everything Cob Structure
Time: 11:00a - 1:00p
Site: Pacific U. Life & Sol (pg. 31)
Workshop leader: Scott Howard
Description: Transportation provided to and from Forest Grove

Wednesday, June 2nd

What: Cob Talk
Time: 9:00a
Site: Trillium Charter School (pg. 43)
Description: Q&A with Mudgirls

What: Natural Dyes: Part 2
Time: 10:00a - 12:00p
Site: PCC Learning Garden (pg. 33)
Workshop leader: Serena Skaates
Description: Dyeing the fibers

Thursday, June 3rd

What: Cob Talk
Time: 9:00a
Site: Trillium Charter School (pg. 43)
Description: Roof that cob! Techniques and materials

What: Natural Dyes: Part 3
Time: 2:00p - 4:00p
Site: PCC Sylvania Learning Garden (pg. 33)
Workshop leader: Serena Skaates
Description: Post-mordanting and rinsing dyed fibers

What: Medicine Wheel Garden
Time: 4:00p - 6:00p
Site: Native American Youth & Family Center

Friday, June 4th

What: Cob Talk
Time: 9:00a
Site: Trillium Charter School (pg. 43)
Description: Cob is slow good!

What: How to Build an Eco-Roof
Time: 11:00a - 12:00p
Site: PCC Sylvania Learning Garden (pg. 33)
Workshop leader: Greg Haines

What: Plant Native!
Time: 1:00p - 2:00p
Site: PCC Sylvania Learning Garden (pg. 33)
Workshop leader: Erin August

Saturday, June 5th

What: Cob Talk
Time: 9:00a
Site: Trillium Charter School (pg. 43)
Description: Natural Finishing

What: How to Build a Rain Garden
Time: 11:00a - 12:00p
Site: PCC Sylvania Learning Garden (pg. 33)
Workshop leader: Sam Moore

What: Intuitive Healing
Time: 1:00p
Site: Essential Elements Apothecary (pg. 19)
Workshop leader: Colleen De Vincentis

**Go online for full workshop
descriptions and updates:
vbc.cityrepair.org**

Reclaiming our Integrative Mind

Liora Adler

7:00~7:50pm

Reclaiming our crossroads, on a socio-political level, requires us to actively integrate at least some of the contradictions arising from global diversity and consequently develop patterns of coordination that resolve apparently incompatible pulses. Using the city cross road as a metaphor may be useful in this respect. For example we can notice the dynamic moving in and moving out of resources and energy typical of such locations and experience how the interaction and yields change as we work out how to slow down and trap increasing quantities of the flows. We can also notice how seemingly incompatible elements, soft pedestrian humans and hard road-running cars, can function quite well together when certain conditions are met.



Liora Adler (63) is a long term actionist for peace, social justice and ecological renewal. Originally from New York, USA, she has spent much of her life in Mexico, Central and South America. In 1982 Liora co-founded Huehuecoyotl Ecovillage, now an artistic community of adobe houses using rainwater harvesting, dry toilets, solar energy and forest gardening.

Regenerative Leadership: Dancing at the Intersection of our Inner and Outer gardens

James Stark

8:00~8:50pm

The talk will explore the art of dancing as community visionaries and leaders at the intersection of our inner and outer gardens in this new era being called 'The great Turning'.

How can we embrace the 100 billion new galaxies the Hubble Telescope just revealed while exploring the wonder of worm castings in our gardens overflowing with beauty, food and medicine? How do we reconnect and imagine our way into harmony with the rest of the natural world. How do we create healthy, resilient communities sourcing from loving rather than fear? How do we stay awake to the miracle of having a human life and being a universe.



James Stark, M.A., F.E.S., is the co-director of the Regenerative Design Institute (RDI). He co-founded and co-directs the Ecology of Leadership program and is a senior trainer in the 3-year, full-time Regenerative Design and Nature Awareness training program, preparing young global community leaders for the "Great Turning" of our era.



Very special musical guests to be announced soon! Go online to **vbc.cityrepair.org** to get more information about speakers, music, workshops, and sites!

find out online!
9:00pm

Repair of The Earth: The Power of The Crossroads

Mark Lakeman 7:00~7:50pm

In this original presentation Mark will share many insights gathered from the story of the City Repair movement, from the struggles and journeys that brought it into being to some of the most recent and wonderful initiatives that have come forward, including communities beyond Portland. These will include numerous urban permaculture projects, children's workshops to repair communities, City Repair in Los Angeles, and the new Planet Repair Institute.



Mark has been one of Portland's leading cultural catalysts since he co-founded the Last Thursday Art movement out of a run-down mansion in Northwest Portland in 1991, a monthly, multi-disciplinary arts-fusion experiment that endured until 1999. After traveling the world for seven years to gather sustainable cultural patterns, his work has led to such successful initiatives as T-Horse, Intersection Repair, The City Repair Project, and the VBC!

Missing Intersections Helen Hill

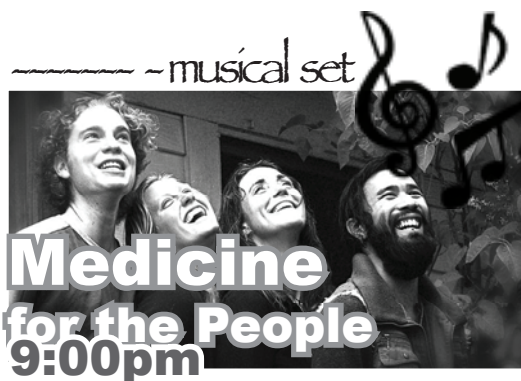
8:00~8:50pm

How does a scrap of trash from the floor of Portland's Union Train Station unite each one of us?

Join me, Helen Hill, along with assorted friends for an exploration of shiny shoes, dust motes and particle sensors. **This is my FIFTH VBC Performance Piece** and I'm here to say: We are all random travelers creating grand, sweeping intersections, known and unknown.



Helen Hill is co-founder and co-director, along with 12 other art-intoxicated beings, of Bay City Arts Center at the Oregon Coast. BCAC (www.baycityartscenter.org) is a rollicking, runaway train with a happy face offering a diversity of children's programs, original theatre, community art openings, concerts and many special events.



Medicine for the People brings educational entertainment and hands-on workshops to schools, native reservations, urban communities, and youth. Through music, movement and workshops the group encourages self-expression, empowering all to "live the change." We speak strongly for sustainability, healthy living and equality. We consist of musicians, activists, and performers directly activating audiences by gathering and creating the energy to inspire personal change through interactive community experiences and music.

Earth Action Mentoring

Doniga Markegard 7:00~7:40pm

Doniga will present on ways that individuals can make a large impact through harnessing their passion to contribute to a regenerated earth. Participants will become familiar with the mentoring resources, cutting edge information and practical solutions-based permaculture training through the online community collaborative, EarthActionMentor.org. With Doniga's experience being mentored from a long lineage of mentors including Jon Young, Tom Brown, Gilbert Walking Bull and Penny Livingston she will also share ways we can collaborate from the urban to the rural and from the wilds to the internet.



Doniga Markegard is the founder and director of EarthActionMentor.org, an online permaculture mentoring collaborative. Doniga has a diverse background in living close to the Earth with values of appreciation and care of all living things. Throughout her life, she lived and worked on organic farms, attended the Wilderness Awareness School, was mentored by indigenous elders and traveled extensively to visit different cultures.

The Embodied Activist: Ecosomatic Tools for Change

Nala Walla 7:50~8:50pm

This presentation integrates the arts with ecology, examining how principles of whole systems theory and permaculture design are organically related to the principles of somatic and performance arts. Embodied practices will be viewed as vital to "The Great Turning" to a just and sustainable culture. Our basic premise is that our own body is our most direct link to the Earth, and therefore a perfect place to begin upon an Earth-activist path.



Nala Walla is an integrator. She reweaves a transdisciplinary approach to embodiment through movement education, somatics, community facilitation, permaculture design, and performance. She did her undergraduate studies at Dartmouth College, and her masters work at the University of Washington and Gaia University. A believer in ongoing education, she continues her studies in somatic movement therapy at Moving On Center, and the Center For Kinesthetic Education.



Acoustic Mystical Soul, bringin in the newest old sounds to help all remember where we've come from in hope's of helping steer where we're goin into a good path. We offer this musical stream it as a Big Love Emanation. We are bringing in the 'new venue' via community gathering's of co-empowerment.

Admittance to this evening's events will be by donation!

The Seven Commandments of White Buffalo Calf Maiden

Rose High Bear

7:00~8:30pm

Rose High Bear will speak of Native American cultural values that kept our Turtle Island (the Native name for our North American continent) pristine for thousands of years prior to first contact with our new neighbors. She will share some of the teachings of the founder of Wisdom of the Elders, Martin High Bear, on The Seven Commandments of White Buffalo Calf Woman, offering these teachings as a road map to help guide us through the crossroads of our lives and our times. Video clips from WISDOM productions will also be shown.



Rose High Bear, Co-founder of the Native American non-profit corporation, Wisdom of the Elders, Inc. (WISDOM) will speak of Native American cultural values that kept our Turtle Island (the Native name for our North American continent) pristine for thousands of years prior to first contact with our new neighbors; and today's cultural renaissance in Indian Country.

For the Kids!

Local Storytellers 7:00~8:30pm

Children will have the opportunity to enjoy a puppet show and storytelling that will captivate their imaginations and offer lessons that were traditionally passed on from elders to youth.



Check our website for updated information on our storytellers! vbc.cityrepair.org



The Harmonica Pocket begins simply as the swinging songs of composer Keeth Monta Apgar. Keeth delivers storytelling lyrics accompanied by thick jazz chord progressions wrapped up into thoughtful, mature songs. As both a recording and live performance project, The Harmonica Pocket is known for its outside-the-box, headphone-pop, and highly improvised live shows laced with unusual cover songs.

Communication at the Crossroads: A Pattern Language of Group Process

Tree Bressen 7:00~7:40pm

The crossroads is the place we come together, to meet. At those meetings, decisions get made that shape our lives. Are those meetings held with a sense of the sacred, of honoring all, serving life? If not, how can we deepen our capacity to come together for the good of the whole? Come join as a co-designer of excellent process for meetings that matter.



Tree Bressen is an experienced facilitator working with nonprofits, cohousing groups, activists, schools, and a wide variety of other organizations. Her base is in intentional communities, groups of people who live together and have to deal with each other every day! Her work arises from a desire for people to learn the communication skills that will enable all of us to build a better world together.

Earthly Delights: Creating True Abundance

Starhawk 7:50~8:50pm

By observing nature and mimicking the way nature works, we can use the principles and practices of permaculture to design systems that can meet human needs while regenerating the environment around us. The same principles can also be applied to our groups, our organizations, our economy and our human relationships. Starhawk outlines eight key principles that let us create true abundance, founded on justice and ecological balance. We end the evening with a spiral dance.



Starhawk is one of the most respected voices in modern earth-based spirituality. She is also well-known as a global justice activist and organizer, whose work and writings have inspired many to action. She is the author or coauthor of eleven books, including *The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Goddess*, long considered the essential text for the Neo-Pagan movement, and the now-classic ecotopian novel *The Fifth Sacred Thing*. Starhawk's newest book is a picture book for children, *The Last Wild Witch*.



Drawing sustenance from the deep roots of traditional American music, these four youths of Portland, OR, have grown from a sapling quartet of street musicians to towering oak of musical energy. Priding themselves on an eclectic musical palette that transcends their American roots instrumentation, they inspire audiences to live, love, dance, and sing at every show.

The Emerging Field of: Urban Village Building

TrackersNW

Matt Bibeau

Leonard Barrett

Mia Van Meter

Michael Cook

7:00~8:50pm



Core VBC organizers and allies are excited to present a collage of visions and possibilities for what the future holds for our city. Grounded in permaculture design principles and encompassing some of our many approaches to Urban Village Design, we will present a spectrum of scenarios for the unfolding of the years to come. From urban gardening, community organizing and block-scale design to the creative use of existing structures and materials to a re-wilding of our culture, we will explore many faucets of village life in an evening that will be lively and engaging.

Consider the possibilities! What if our city looked even more like a forest? What if our days were a string of pleasant affirming encounters with nearby folks whose livelihoods wove into ours? What if we could come to trust the people around us, through that kind of steady affirmation of good will? What if our neighborhood associations drove the agenda of the city council, and the agenda of the neighborhoods was driven by the day-to-day concerns of the villagers. What if we grew up knowing what it's like to participate in a village council? To know the plants along the street, park or path?



Mixing together taste and passion of the best Gypsy, Russian, Ukrainian, klezmer and Balkan musical traditions, Chervona brings the fire of Eastern European carnivals to the land of America. With their authenticity and genuine fire Chervona has stolen many hearts. Shining with their brass section and capturing soul with the traditional sounds of the old world and new interpretations, Chervona transforms a celebration into an ultimate party!

Stories of our Places

Jon Sands

7:00~7:50pm

Join us, as Jon Sands, one of the nation's most celebrated Spoken Word artists, takes us across Brooklyn sidewalks, through the spaces where we keep our love, and into our own lives where we laugh and cry in the same minute. This promises to be a night of storytelling, music, and electricity.



Jon Sands is a recipient of the 2009 New York City-LouderARTS fellowship grant, and has represented New York City multiple times at the National Poetry Slam. Jon has performed and facilitated workshops with university and arts organizations throughout North America, and is currently the Director of Poetry and Arts Education Programming at the Positive Health Project, a syringe exchange center located in Midtown Manhattan.

Are We The People? Striving for a Future Where Our Actions Match the Crises/Opportunities We Face

Paul Cienfuegos 8:00~8:50pm

The emerging scientific consensus is that the U.S. needs to cut its greenhouse gases by 70-90% within 10 to 20 years, or the world faces unbelievable climatic disruption. Car culture is one of the leading contributors. In this workshop, we will practice acting and thinking like We The People, as we collectively imagine how Portland's transportation systems will have to be fundamentally transformed. How will we end dependence on private cars? What will we replace car culture with, and how will it be funded? We'll develop a 5, 10, and 15-year timeline to get us where we need to go. Are We The People? We'll find out!



Paul Cienfuegos has been doing grassroots community organizing since 1977, when he was 19. In 1996, he co-founded Democracy Unlimited of Humboldt County; and was instrumental in creating the City of Arcata Committee on Democracy and Corporations (the first of its kind in US history), which both work to dismantle corporate rule and invigorate democratic processes. He has led dozens of workshops and talks on this topic since 1997. He owns a unique online bookstore, 100fires.com, specializing in "Extraordinary Books for a Healthy Planet".



Sending peaceful vibrations through the flugelhorn, Max invites all generations to come out and move with his quartet to celebrate his 25th birthday. The sound has groove with influences in soul, latin & New Orleans jazz. Accompanied with his brother Tim on keys, and friends from the Berklee School of Music; together they will spread creativity and joy to the village. Much gratitude.

Reports from the Field: Reflections on Global Community and Permaculture around the World

Marisha Auerbach 7:00~7:50 pm

How does an awareness of our relationship to the global community reflect in permaculture philosophy, which is focused on local action? Marisha Auerbach has been fortunate to travel to from the remote mountains of Vietnam to the rainforests of Nicaragua and the high-impact ecologies of Haiti. Throughout her travels, she has observed and applied her studies of permaculture design in collaborative projects. Through amazing photography and engaging examples of permaculture, Marisha will share her unique perspective and broaden your awareness on how our choices in the United States reverberate around the globe. This evening will enhance your perspective on other cultures as well as offer suggestions for supportive action.



Marisha Auerbach has been practicing, studying, and teaching permaculture in the Pacific Northwest for the past decade. As a gardening activist, Marisha is committed to sharing her passions for food security, permaculture, ecology, and positive futures around the world. Her international work includes projects in Haiti, Vietnam, and Nicaragua.

Re-emergence: Coming Together For A Collective Future

Penny Livingston 8:00~8:50 pm

A re-evolution is on the rise. We are reclaiming our place in the web of life. We are remembering who we are. We are awakening to the re-emergence of the feminine power within all genders and of life honoring consciousness, communication and connectivity. It is here. It is now. What are the next steps towards evolving spiritually vibrant, culturally centered communities? How do we work toward what unifies us? Penny will share stories and weave a vision of cross-pollination and cultural interconnection from experiences of working in various cultural contexts in different parts of the world and within the US.



Penny Livingston-Stark is internationally recognized as a prominent permaculture teacher and designer. She is the Co-founder of the Regenerative Design Institute & president of Sustainable Living Designs. She co-created the ecological design program and curriculum at the San Francisco Institute of Architecture as well as the Permaculture program at the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center.



~ musical set

Jujuba is an 11-piece Afrobeat and Juju band featuring master talking drum player, Nojeem Lasisi. The powerful and melodic beat from Nojeem's drum catalyzes pure Afrofunk energy between Jujuba's horn, rhythm and percussion sections. Nasty lines and soulful solos blare from the four-piece horn section. Bass, keys, guitar and drum kit forge a funky backbone rhythm section. An explosive percussion section with flavors ranging from West Africa, Cuba and Brazil ignite the dance floor.

A Pattern Language for Transitioners

Andrew Langford 7:00~7:50pm

Andrew, 61 and now a seasoned transitioner, tells contrasting stories of his own and other peoples transitions including 'How I survived the "Hammer of the Universe" and "Kairos moments? - Bring 'em on!" before revealing that transitions, at least for individuals, have patterns. Knowing about these ahead of time (or even in the middle of chaos) allows a person to make some sense of what's going on when their world is falling apart and, for the bold veteran, opens the possibility of willingly sought, artfully designed, deep and thorough quantum transformations.

Now that's just what human cultures all over the planet need to do and now! Andrew will propose that the capacity for profound transition in any culture is helped or hindered by the attitudes toward change held by its individual members.

Nurturing the Connective Tissue of Community Resilience: Transition, Collaboration and Emergence Transition PDX

8:00~8:50pm

Leaders of Transition PDX will present the seven principles of the Transition Town model which works to bring the heads, hearts and hand of communities together to deal with the challenges of climate change, peak oil and an uncertain future. They will share with you how these principles can be found, applied to and nurtured within Portland metro organizations to create a cohesive connective and collaborative tissue of resilience that can nurture the common shared goals of energy descent, sustainability and self sufficiency within our metro region. How can we honor and share our unique skills and interests while exploring the emergence that takes place when we collectively come together around shared goals? Often in social and natural systems properties emerge from the cooperation of the whole that don't exist in the individual components.



Andrew has been working consciously for world-change since 1977 and continues to step-up his efforts under the banner of 'older and bolder' In his list of relevant activities he likes to include his decade (1977 to 1985) as an artisan shoemaker in Totnes, England, where he and Verity, his partner at the time, worked to contradict the dehumanization arising from industrial productions systems and the tendency for capitalism to locate manufacturing capacity anywhere where labor is cheap and easy to exploit.



The mission of TransitionPDX is to inspire, to encourage, to network, to support and train the communities and neighborhoods of the Portland metro area as they consider, adopt, adapt and implement the transition model in order to establish Transition Initiatives.

Full bios of speakers online! vbc.cityrepair.org



Tapwater
9:00pm



Off-the Grid
11:00pm

Two amazing bands, world twang and eco funk converge for a night that you won't want to miss! Find full descriptions of all the musicians online vbc.cityrepair.org

Time to celebrate what we've accomplished!

On the final day of our village building journey, we will be gathering together at our sites and at our central venue to bask in the beauty of all that has been accomplished. We will look around us and see the fruits of our labors of love, the smiles of new friends, and a world that has gotten better, if only even a little.

Stay tuned as our plans for the closing ceremonies and recognitions manifest. Visit vbc.cityrepair.org or join us on Facebook at facebook.com/cityrepair for updates.



Featured VBC Workshops

VBC Workshop Series are \$10-20 sliding scale unless noted otherwise.

Friday, May 28th

The Ecology of Leadership Adventure

James Stark 2-4pm @Central Venue \$10-20

This workshop is an introduction to the Ecology of Leadership EOL program. The EOL adventure is a blend of inquiry and skill development, self-awareness, and deepened nature connection with the principles of systems thinking and permaculture. You will also discover what holds you back and develop new tools, routines, mindsets and skills to be more effective in manifesting what you see for yourself and your community.

Saturday, May 29th

Crossroads for Humanity: Power, Culture & Collaboration

Liora Adler & Andrew Langford 10-12pm @Central Venue \$10-20

2010 - At this cross roads for humanity a questions arises: - What are the key projects that we should work on, with minimum effort and for maximum effect, and how might we best continue to develop a globally coherent and mutually supportive Work-Net of collaboration capable of stepping up to the scale of the task? This workshop starts with a realistic appraisal of the current situation with regard to the relative power of various interest groups seeking to configure and reconfigure all of human culture. We will pay particular attention to the emergence of powerful Patrix*-dominated political movements like the Tea Party in the USA, the anti- indigenous antics of the ruling party of India and the rising strength of the Asian manufacturing complex. Importantly, we will be examining our relative power, those of us who envision an ecologically regenerative and social just culture, to theirs.

This is not to be alarmist, defeatist or hopeless (and we will look at how fear of these feelings interrupts our capacity for action) - indeed, we are deeply optimistic for a human future. We are seeking to come to terms with the scope of engagement required to de-construct and out-wit the Patrix* in ourselves and in others and we are looking for allies in this work. he Patrix is the often hidden web of beliefs and behaviors arising our of racism, sexism, the class system, homophobia and more. The workshop will be active and inter-active.

Neighborhood Play, Everyday!

Mike Lanza 2-4pm @Central Venue \$10-20

Kids hardly play anymore in their neighborhoods, and they're suffering because of this. This presentation will provide a detailed set of recommendations for how you can give your kids a life of neighborhood play:

1. Simplify Children's Lives - to clear out time for neighborhood play
2. Move to a Potential Playborhood
3. Make a Neighborhood Hangout
4. Embrace the Right Technologies - that get kids socializing face-to-face and spending time outside
5. Facilitate Self-Reliance, Don't Control

Find out more at Playborhood.com!

Sunday, May 30th

Introduction to Heart of Now

Kim Kirchbaum 2-4pm @Central Venue \$10-20

Heart of Now is the practice of personal permaculture, learning to listen to and trust ourselves fully, being present in every moment with our mind and body, spirit and emotion. We'll practice being present not only by ourselves, but while in community. This workshop is experiential, and as well as presence, we'll explore our beliefs and how they can enhance or limit our connections. We'll practice aligning our life with our vision. Using the seeds of our heartfelt desire to change the world

Monday, May 31st

Linking the Permaculture Web: Ways we can be truly effective through collaboration

Doniga Markegard 10-12pm @Central Venue \$10-20

Doniga and her husband Erik operate a family farm outside of San Francisco, managing 3000 acres in carbon sequestering perennial polyculture for grass-fed livestock. There is great potential for more collaboration to create mutually beneficial relationships between the large urban populations and the small rural populations and to create links between the vast public and private lands and ecologically minded land stewards. Doniga will share opportunities and ways everyone can have access to mentors to help people take action in regenerating the land, having an excellent quality of life and healing the planet. Come find out about Earth Action Mentor, the revolutionary online community collaborative that will help you to become truly effective in your own community and link up with the expansive permaculture web.

The Embodied Activist: Ecosomatic Tools for Change

Nala Walla 2-4pm @Central Venue \$10-20

In this integrative workshop, we will first outline how the principles of whole systems theory and permaculture design are organically related to the principles of somatic and performance arts. Next, through participatory games and exercises, we will experience embodied practices as vital to “The Great Turning” to a just and sustainable culture. Our basic premise is that our own body is our most direct link to the Earth, and therefore a perfect place to begin upon an Earth-activist path. No experience necessary. Just come with an open mind, and be prepared to blur the line between work and play.

Tuesday, June 1st

Holding Power Well: Process for Collaborative Groups

Starhawk 1-4pm @Central Venue, \$25

In permaculture, in natural building, in social change work and visionary activism, the easy part is dealing with the vegetables or the cob. The hard part is often dealing with the people. Co-creative groups, collaborative groups without traditional hierarchies of power, can be empowering and inspiring places to work and be, but they face unique challenges. So often we come together full of enthusiasm, only to founder on the rocks of conflict and poor communication. And when no one has the authority to step in and set things to right, groups often spin out of control.

In this three-hour workshop, we'll look at ways to structure our groups that foster clear communication and personal and group empowerment. We'll look at the norms within our organizations, and whether or not they serve us. And we'll share tools for decision making and constructive critique. Insights from both permaculture and magic will help us learn to be more effective and joyful as we work together to regenerate our world.

Wednesday, June 2nd

Crossroads for Humanity: Power, Culture & Collaboration

Liora Adler & Andrew Langford 10-12pm @Central Venue \$10-20

See Saturday, May 29th workshop for description...

Thursday, June 3rd

Permaculture for Renters

Leonard Barett 2-4pm @Central Venue \$10-20

Wondering how you can participate in land-based solutions to social and environmental crisis, without owning property? Confused about where to start? For all of those folks who have thought or said “I want to practice Permaculture, but I don't have any land,” Permaculture for Renters will provide a packed toolbox of strategies

Featured VBC Workshops

and methods that can be used anywhere: on balconies, while traveling, in tiny sideyards, indoors, on rooftops, and more! Leonard Barrett is a landscape designer, contractor, and educator based in Portland, OR. Through his firm, Barrett Ecological Services, he has collaborated on projects with some of the regions best and brightest in innovative design and planning, including Mark Lakeman (Communitecture), the City Repair Project, and the Springboard Social Innovation Forum.

Friday, June 4th

Emotional Historians: Creativity & What Our Mark Looks Like

Jon Sands 10-12pm @ Central Venue \$10-20

Leave the dates and times to the history books. Our goal is the arduous task of explaining what it felt like to be alive in 2010. We are emotional historians. In this poetry workshop, we'll excavate the value of creativity as a means of unfolding the world the way only our bodies can. We'll explore tangible writing exercises to assist in discovery. Some poems are meant to unlock how your childhood birthed your adult life, and some to excavate why raspberries are that particular brand of delicious, or why comparing yourself to a garbage can (or a '72 Cadillac, or a street lamp) makes absolute sense today. Bring a notebook, pen, and sense of adventure as we write to discover that it's all the big stuff.

How would We The People design and implement a plan which cuts Portland's car use by 80% within 20 years?

Paul Cienfuegos 2-4pm @Central Venue \$10-20

The emerging scientific consensus is that the U.S. needs to cut its greenhouse gases by 70-90% within 10 to 20 years, or the world faces unbelievable climatic disruption. Car culture is one of the leading contributors. In this workshop, we will practice acting and thinking like We The People, as we collectively imagine how Portland's transportation systems will have to be fundamentally transformed. How will we end dependence on private cars? What will we replace car culture with, and how will it be funded? We'll develop a 5, 10, and 15-year timeline to get us where we need to go. Are We The People? We'll find out!

Saturday, June 5th

Creating & Improving School Gardens

Matt Bibeau 10-12pm @Central Venue \$10-20

School gardens have the potential to benefit not just the child, but also the school, community and the local economy. They promote academic success and healthy food habits while developing a child's resiliency and ecological literacy. They also improve schoolyard aesthetics and functionality, engage elders and neighbors, and bring awareness to the importance of supporting local food and farmers. This workshop will explore how school gardens can reach their potential. Many examples from Portland schools will be offered.

Botany for Gardeners

Marisha Auerbach 2-4pm @Central Venue \$10-20

In permaculture, the home garden is often referred to as the "cultivated ecology." This workshop focuses on how the plants that we cultivate as food crops fit into an ecological system. We will look at the diverse varieties of crops that we can grow in our gardens and their botanical nature. We will compare and contrast the different ways that we can nurture each crop for its most desirable qualities in the home garden.

Sunday June 6th

Introduction to the Transition Town Model

Transition PDX 11-12:30pm @TBD \$10-20

Are you interested in learning how you can organize your community and neighborhood to create resiliency in the face of an uncertain future? Come get an introduction to the Transition Town model, which helps to bring the heads, hearts and hands of a community together to work towards energy descent.

From the Heart

VBC – a year round process, where we speak openly in love, at least from time to time, at the boundaries of our visions, preferences, assumptions and plans. We build a village together, to bring you the Village Building Convergence.

For me, this work, our path, is an exercise in trusting abundance. Every year, five or six crazy people sit around in August planning to pull off a convergence that will take hundreds of people to create. We just trust that the folks needed will show up, the problems that surface will be solved, and the convergence will occur. But while we're talking about abundance, check this out. There are a number of us who have to struggle on a monthly basis to find the right boundary between letting this work flow through us, and bringing income into our family unit. This work, although we feel it is crucial for the world's forward growth, doesn't provide an income, at this point, anyway. Yet, we and it continue.

We work with edges of boundaries all the time. Permaculture design teaches us to look to edges for growth. In a consensus based group, doing work we are all so passionate about, the boundaries and edges between individuals and the group pop up all the time. We've learned, especially in this last year, to honor the work that must be done where my edge touches others.

Another of the challenges we face as VBCers -- we're mostly known for the natural building component of our work. This is recognized, both by ourselves and by the outside world, as the best of what we have to share. Literally hundreds of people offer to come and help with a "cob project" each year. There is certainly a well-deserved pride in the design work of our gifted architects. There is a real feeling of actual accomplishment when you can look at an outdoor classroom and say – I stomped cob for that! And yet, the real work before us is the creation of relationships. A statement which, I think, everyone in VBC core would agree with. That is the true nature of community which a village is created.

Go forward, love each other, and have a story. We use principles and insights as inspiration, and as a source of constructive feedback. But many things we do violate some of our basic principles. I'll give an example of the one that I struggle with the most; the project becoming the thing that is valued. For instance, the cob bench or the intersection painting, they DO become what it's all about. Even though we firmly believe it's truly about community, and about the weaving of relationships. We believe that, but what is it we count? 200 sites in the last 10 years. Over 25 projects this year! This number of intersection paintings, this quantity of natural building projects. But hey! We're learning. It's not about being perfect or any kind of comparison to an ideal. It's about being in the river, flowing along with the current, and embracing the process. VBC, and all the events City Repair puts on, are passages. We grow as individuals as we pass through the cycle of projects each year. The events are the waves, and the individuals are the particles. By creating this event, we are changed, as we hold ourselves to standards of harmony, sustainability and trust.

The other core members who started with me last August happen to be community builders in their own right. They each nurture their basic connection to the Earth and her people – by building a straw bale house in community, by enthusiastically nurturing their neighborhood group, by capitalizing a land trust with their intentional community, or by building an urban homesteading dream. Making a commitment to a piece of land, and growing with it – that's practically unAmerican. Americans move every 7.3 years. Until now, I've always moved along with them. I buy organic food, use natural healing techniques, never watch TV and belong to the Green party. But I have never committed to a plot of land, and that is what I need to do next. That's the edge I've found this year. I deeply honor the living example of the core people I've been so privileged to work alongside.

Namaste
Mia Van Meter
VBC '10 Coordinator

Core Bios

Sebastian Collet: Placemaking Coordinator, Site Designer and Natural Builder

About Me: I was born in the jungle and raised by coyotes and monkeys. My childhood was spent swinging from trees and building forts. Eventually I decided that I would make a difference in the world only by moving to a big city and helping transform it into a fun place for people and animals to live and play. So I studied architecture, natural building and permaculture for many years then moved to Portland and went to work designing and building stuff with City Repair and independently. Check out my webpage at www.sebastiancollet.com.

Why I'm involved with VBC: The Village Building Convergence is a time for making real, hands-on, people-powered, change. The work that we are doing here is not only transforming the lifeless spaces in to beautiful life-giving places, it is strengthening peoples relationship to each other and empowering people to change their surroundings in positive ways. Through the use of natural materials, some tools, a splash of paint and many of our friends and neighbors we can turn this place into the most beautiful bountiful world imaginable.

Spirit Animal: Flat-coat Retriever (Lupa)

Matt Phillips: Budget & Finance coordination, VBC veteran & mentor...

About Me: I've made lots of transitions in the last few years... from learning about sustainability while working in the corporate world to abandoning that for a life evolving towards voluntary simplicity. Building a strawbale house has consumed me for nearly a year and i hope soon for a transition to growing more food for myself and others in the city. In my spare time, I enjoy making fermented foods & beverages and playing geeky "Euro" board games.

Why I'm involved with VBC: This is my 4th year helping coordinate the VBC and currently City Repair office work helps pay the bills. Like most, I become aware of City Repair through the community building and mural projects I had seen in Portland neighborhoods. I see VBC and City Repair doing critical work in building community and "village" resilience that is being overlooked and/or ignored by others in Portland and the rest of society. Though we could be much more than we currently are, it is clear we are inspiring people we have never met and we have catalyzed many community projects around the world.

Spirit Animal: Squirrel

Mark Lakeman: Old Guy, Placemaking & Event Design Mentor, National Outreach & Fund Raising

About Me: Mark Lakeman is himself, and likes it that way. He would certainly trade shoes with any number of people that he loves, but until transmogrification comes online he is totally satisfied in his own skin, doing what and who he loves most. Mark has a weird stuffed animal at home that he tucks in like a baby, very weird. It's name is Jackson Gwump.

Why I'm involved with VBC: VBC gives me all I need: an amazing, expanding web of dear lifelong friends, a daily full-spectrum infusion of all the lessons and vitamins I need, many interesting opportunities for adventure and exploration, as well as a sense of the impossible being totally doable, possible, and actually happening all the time around me.

Spirit Animal: The Lunar Trout (very rare)

Mike Thayer: Permaculture Design Coordinator: I help VBC sites with everything plant and permaculture

About Me: I'd like to see neighborhoods become productive places, where ordinary people re-learn how to produce the things we need, and exchange them in a neighborhood scale economy, My part in that is backyard farming and starting a community nursery. It's what I love!

Why I'm involved with VBC: I've volunteered during VBC the last three years, and have always loved the way it is a village of its own, a place and phenomena that is alive. I've always wanted to get more involved, so here I am!

Spirit Animal: Eagle

Simon Walter-Hansen: Website coordinator

About Me: Community builder, teacher, student, software programmer, artist, and chef. I grew up on a small farm in Minnesota, a test of self-reliance. I studied Mechanical Engineering at U of MN, then explored life in boxes for a while. I came to appreciate the simplicity and efficiency of bicycles and my connection with Earth before leaving Minnesota in search of a community where I could comfortably bike, live, and grow food outside year-round. I landed in Portland in 2008 and instantly fell in love. I find my greatest joys in sharing meals with friends, engaging in thoughtful conversation, trading skills with our community, and living simply.

Why I'm involved with VBC: VBC holds a special place in my heart, for awakening me to a sense of community I never had when growing up in Minnesota; community I never knew I was missing. Since moving to Portland in 2008, I've developed relationships with some truly extraordinary beings, many sprouting from connections made during VBC9. My wish is to help make the experience of living in a conscious and caring community accessible to those who may be missing out on one of the integral parts of being human. My involvement both directly supports the planning and production of the VBC in Portland and also serves as outreach to open communities outside Portland to the possibility of manifesting a "village" in their own neighborhood.

Spirit Animal: Leopard

Ruy Erler: Finance stuff.

About Me: I live in SE Portland. I have been a volunteer with an environmental group and at Laughing Horse book store. I ride my bike whenever I can. I am working on reducing my carbon foot print through diet and transportation.

Why I'm involved with VBC: For community building. It is a wonderful volunteer opportunity. The VBC has a creative vision of how to organically create community that is sustainable off the grid.

Spirit Animal: Deer & Geese

Mia Van Meter: VBC coordinator, VBDC coordinator

About Me: I was blessed to be a VISTA back in the days when VISTAs did real community organizing (pre-Reagan era). I've worked from time to time with folks who are localizing our economy intentionally -- Peoples' Food Coop, Trillium Artisans, Lents Farmers' Market, etc. I dabble in life coaching with my friends, geek out on details and numbers from time to time, and I love to go to meetings, when they use consensus! Always have. Your basic community nerd.

Why I'm involved with VBC: VBC combines all my loves: community organizing, localizing our economy, consensus decision-making, supporting people in the deeper work they came here (as souls) to do, and, of course, tracking the budget, and creating elaborate volunteer lists! How could I stay away? But, seriously, the reasons I'm involved in VBC are the vision and mission of City Repair to bring human-scale village life back to city dwellers, and the caliber, commitment, clear thinking and personal integrity of my fellow core members.

Spirit Animal: Porcupine

Hannah Poirier: Placemaking Intern (miscellaneous assistant and inspiree)

About Me: I'm a student at Pacific University studying Sustainable Design, and am also very involved in outdoor leadership, permaculture, ultimate frisbee, activism, frivolous mischief, and of course City Repair. I deeply love designing and thinking and discussing ideas with others. I'm currently most inspired to focus on urban homesteading and leading workshops out of Forest Grove, where I'm scheming up another City Repair Headquarters.

Why I'm involved with VBC: In November 2009, I started interning with City Repair because I saw the most positive, effective, and wholistic manner of changing the world - more than I could have imagined - and I wanted to learn from the people involved immensely. The VBC is a really unique event that allows people to create something powerful, and communities that become involved with these projects have the potential to model what kind of sustainability is possible in our culture. So I wanted to be a part of it!

Spirit Animal: Undiscovered... something aquatic

Core Bios cont.

Noah Eaton (Lisping Hibiscus): General Outreach

About Me: I am a multi-disciplinary, versatile volunteer! I have been involved with Earth Day, KBOO, ErosFest Northwest, EnergyTrust Better Living Show, Hands On Greater Portland, and many others. I believe to fall flat on ones face when taking a chance is always better than living on ones knees and, to look beyond judgment to observation, eliminating the word “should” from our spiritual vocabulary, following our hearts in a conscious state regardless if one thinks our decisions are “acceptable” or not and finding community around everything we love bears the quintessential ingredients to ecstasy.

Why I’m involved with VBC: I believe in what the VBC values at its crux: the renaissance of community responsibility and ownership. Brooke Medicine Eagle has said: “There is hope if people will begin to awaken that spiritual part of themselves, that heartfelt knowledge that we are caretakers of this planet.” The VBC harnesses that heartfelt knowledge in everything it conjures up, which is affirmed in the camaraderie both during and after each natural building project and assuring us that situation and opportunity are innately two sides of the exact same coin, and all possibility is borne through mutuality.

Spirit Animal: Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

Eddie Hooker: Materials Coordinator / Venue Liaison / Venue Projects Coordinator

About Me: I love being around kind and interesting people, who share a genuine passion for life, and an organic sustainable lifestyle for both myself and the world. I’m passionate about the importance of community and its connection to the earth. I’m now helping out a world wide non profit, Natural Building Network., and in the process of being a certified Sustainable Building Advisor. I’m also a skilled StrawBale/Natural Plaster builder.

Why I’m involved with VBC: Last year, I found this unique gathering shortly after moving here from Colorado. I helped do dishes at night and help build the Madison outdoor classroom by day. This year, I started my journey in City Repair with Earthday, and then to my true love the VBC. My hope is to help people actualize the importance of community and become better stewards to the Earth. I search for the good in everything and believe change is powerful.

Spirit Animal: Wolf

Julia C.Bonnheim: Natural Building Coordinator

About Me: I’m in love with the supposedly superfluous details in life; the extra touches that make acts of creation a person’s way of bringing art to the world. I like making things with my hands and exploring the realms of body and health and connections and people. I’m a bit stubborn, an optimistic fatalist, and I like to dance.

Why I’m involved with VBC: What does it look like when people step out of their daily routine and inhabit space in a new way? For a couple of years now, I’ve been intrigued with the VBC, and the way this it both asks and answers that question. I’ve experienced the after-effects; the sense of magic and invitation in finding a place altered by a cob bench or enlivened with color, instantly changing my perspective and day. I’ve wanted to know what it took to organize such an event and who the people might be behind such a beautiful endeavor. So, when I moved to Portland in January, I joined in to find out.

Spirit Animal: The more I stick my nose in flowers, the clearer it’s become...A Honey Bee.

Sarah Heath: Housing/Documentation

About Me: I live in Hillsboro, Oregon and for my current source of income I am instructing elementary students in an after school program. I am very curious and creative and like to feel things with my feet. :)

Why I’m involved with VBC: I want to get more connected with the Portland community, learn more about natural building, and experience some fantastic music and creativity! And because it just plain feels right.

Spirit Animal: Cougar

Lori Stein: Volunteer Coordinator

About Me: I've had several years experience volunteering for the Burning Man Organization as a Volunteer Coordinator and working on teams that coordinate year round Burning Man community events in San Francisco. She has a background as an Assistant Film Editor and Producer and works largely in documentary television and music DVD's. She has self published ; "The Adventures of Ranger Strange Bunny" comic book, "Daniel and the Bunny" comic book and the self help book "Charm School For Men." She also enjoys making recycled fashion for men and women..

Why I'm involved with VBC: To help people have an enjoyable experience and get involved with their community.

Spirit Animal: Jackalope

Joshua Talbert: Documentation, Publicity, Event Design, Material Delivery

About Me: Born and raised in Brooklyn, NYC. Spent early high/late middle school living in Japan. B.A. in Classics from Oberlin College 2009. A devout co-op who loves the beautiful tedium of democracy and the wondrous fruits of consensus. Loves include goats, chickens, hula hooping, cheese making, biking, environmental design, gardening, and intimate porch conversation. Always looking to learn new things.

Why I'm involved with VBC: I hope to be an agent of more decentralized, supportive, and self-sufficient communities. Collectives that interface harmoniously and sustainably with their environment – ecologically, socially, and economically. Where the labors of supporting life are shared and people feel a sense of collective ownership as well as mutual responsibility. For me, the VBC is one true manifestation of these ideals. I also see myself as a builder in such a community and am drawn to the art of Natural Building.

Spirit Animal: The Marten

Mat Bibeau

About Me: I've been hooked on City Repair since 2006 and currently serves as the Event Design coordinator of the Village Building Convergence. He lives at Tryon Life Community Farm where he'll be co-teaching a permaculture design course with Marisha Auerbach immediately following the VBC.

Why I'm Involved with VBC: I believe that the VBC addresses some of the foundational challenges we face as a society, and engages this important work through a celebration of people and place.

Spirit Animal: dragonfly

Frances Michaelson: Volunteer Co-Creator, Sign Painter, Lady Whom Fills In Slippery Gaps

About Me: To say of myself recently: I, am a lover of dark chocolate, of alleys, moss and comedies that make you cry. I wish that I could wake up every day and comprehend the bliss that awaits me, I wish that I could fly, shapeshift, and always speak the truth. Puppets, laughing, my sweetie pie, vegetables and the Mississippi River all bring me great joy.

Why I'm involved with VBC: At some point I realized that The Village Building Convergence was my dream come true. The idea of a group of people working together to change the world creative and without anger, which inhabits the alternative in the process of providing the alternative, brings me heartfelt and hopeful. The VBC is a gigantic gift and will be forever part of my life.

Spirit Animal: Ottersnakebearcat

Michael Cook: Publicity Coordinator

About Me: Born in Ottumwa Iowa, I've come to the land of the hipsters to kick ass and make change.

Why I'm Involved with VBC: I think at this point you could say that we're a bit more than involved...

Spirit Animal: Termite

Community Articles

All our children: Why they need the village by Asha Hawkesworth

Are other people's children your problem? Does it matter what happens to other kids? For all our talk about family values, we still believe, on some level, that the nuclear family can exist in isolation, and that it alone bears responsibility for our children. In the strictest sense, of course, that's true: the parents or caregivers have the primary financial and emotional responsibility for their kids. But children need so much more than that. They need a community.

Even two-parent households are not enough for children. They need older people, aunts and uncles, cousins, and friends who make up their support network. And for kids with toxic parents—or absent parents—this need is greater still. Children need people they can rely on and people who will simply love them. How many? As many as possible.

Surrogate family members are vital for our children's well being. For myself, I don't know what I would have done without the surrogates in my life.

When we lived in a small, rural Texas town, there were many older people living there, and they befriended me and cared for me in ways that my own kin could not. Thanks to one set of surrogates in particular, I learned how to raise cattle, and it's because of their generosity that I was able to have a few cows and calves of my own, which generated money for me to buy a computer, among other things. Of course, a lot of the caretaking was done by Felix, my grandfather in every way except genetics, but for him it was a labor of love. I "helped" him to plow his fields, feed the cows, and take them to market. He taught me how to play dominoes, and sometimes I'd actually beat him. He talked to me about the importance of not doing things that would make you have to lie to the people you care about. He taught me more than I can ever hope to convey in this article. And I am grateful, and I love him still.

In addition to the numerous older people who cared for me and taught me so much, I had a few surrogate parents here and there, as well. I was fortunate enough to have an aunt who showed me a different view of what a mother could be. And I had an uncle who was gentle and kind, and who loved nothing better than being with and talking to his kids or his sister's kid. This uncle showed me a different view of what a father could be, which mattered a lot because I was mostly afraid of men because of my father's quick and careless temper. I learned that I didn't have to fear this uncle, which showed me that some men could be trusted. As a child, this was crucial.

You don't have to be in a toxic or abusive household to benefit from surrogates. Hillary Clinton said it best: it takes a village to raise a child. This is still true. There are those who say that every child needs a mother and a father. Our children have two mothers, which is two more than some kids have. Some kids have two fathers, which is two more than some kids have. But even if a child has a mother and a father, they are not enough. They are not enough.

We are not meant to live disconnected from one another. We are meant to rely on each other, to help one another, and to love one another in our own unique ways. A child needs a loving village. A child needs old people, middle-aged people, young people, peers, and younger children. Only this can give them a balanced view of the world. Only this can truly maximize their learning potential, and their emotional potential.

It doesn't matter where you find this village, or what it looks like, as long as you find it. We found a way to give our children the community that is essential, and they dote on their "adopted" grandpa, who needs them as much as they need him. In our case, we found a church that works for us, but it doesn't have to be a church. Any group of loving, like-minded people that you are comfortable with will work. But in order to get there, you have to walk out your door, open your heart, and start talking to people.

Gaia Metro and City Repair: Urban Village Building Design

by **Matt Bibeau & Mia Van Meter**

Observe. Integrate. Design from patterns to details. Use edges. These are just a few permaculture principles that can be used to redesign elements of the urban environment in a way that is regenerative and life-supporting. With over half of the world's population now living in urban settings, the need for human-scale urban design has never been more pressing.

What is the future of our cities? How can we re-vision the environments most impacted by population density, centralization, and social isolation? What elements of the built environment can be readily redesigned to address the social and environmental disconnect that prevent our cities from becoming places of true eco-social regeneration? The approach that City Repair has embraced for addressing these questions is called placemaking. Citizens identify what elements are lacking in their own neighborhood and, with the support of City Repair, figure out how they can work together to increase the aesthetic and functional value of their common spaces. The process helps to build meaningful relationships and networks among participants, contributing to the development of neighborhood-scale resiliency akin to that of a village.

City Repair has been experimenting with placemaking projects for over a decade. Mark Lakeman, co-founder of City Repair, has long envisioned the development of multiple villages in urban centers. The placemaking movement he helped to initiate has revealed that creating habitat, public art and natural building in common spaces enlivens and connects people, especially in the context of the city where the vast urban grid separates citizens from each other and the natural world.

This year, Gaia University's emerging Gaia Metro regional center and The City Repair Project have collaborated to create a Village Building Design Course, providing a comprehensive overview of the designs and methods that empower citizens in urban settings to build community through 'placemaking.' The course takes place concurrently with The Village Building Convergence. The course folks will be meeting every morning and afternoon, sandwiching a day of placemaking at one or another of the neighborhood sites.

The Village Building Design Course is an exciting addition to the 10th annual Village Building Convergence. The course will cover the fundamental elements of urban permaculture design and offer an in-depth look at the 'evolution' of human settlements throughout history and the nature of the relationship between people and place. There will also be extensive discussion about effective strategies for connecting placemaking with other social change movements. Participants will go home with a timeline -- perhaps next year VBCs will sprout up all over!

Community Articles

SE Portland Tool Library: Borrow tools for free~Really! by Jeff Horne

You can't get something for nothing, can you? "Heck yes!" say the volunteers at the SE Portland Tool Library(SEPTL). A group of SE residents has been working since December to open a tool library in a space generously provided by St. David of Wales Episcopal Church located at 2800 SE Harrison.

For those who don't know, tool libraries let you check out home and garden tools for free for 1 week. North and Northeast Portland already have tool libraries. The library in NE Portland has up to 200 visitors a day during the summer months. Over 85% of the tools are donated, and they've received such an abundance of donations that they've generously donated 200+ tools to help get a new library started in SE Portland.

Tool libraries build community! We're an all-volunteer effort, so neighbors volunteer for shifts to help check tools in and out to for neighbors to borrow. Neighbors with tools to donate drop them off so the library grows and the whole community benefits. We also plan to host workshops to bring neighbors together to learn cool stuff like basic home repair, weatherization, and rain barrel construction. Emphasis will be on sustainable projects and practices. Everyone gets to know each other!

How does it work? We plan on being open on Saturdays from 9am-2pm to start. To check out tools, you'll need to be resident of SE Uplift(you can check at www.southeastuplift.org if you're not sure). You'll also need be 18 or over, and provide proof of identity(driver's license) and of residency(utility bill). That's it!

We need volunteers! The library opens May 1st, and we need volunteers willing to donate at least 2 hours one Saturday a month to make sure we can open our doors. No volunteers means we have to close that day! No knowledge of tools is necessary; just a friendly face willing to check tools in and out. To volunteer, just visit our website at www.septl.org, fill out a Volunteer Sign up Form, and email it back to us.

The SE Tool Library is a community library and to make sure we include you in your community we'e like to hear your thoughts. Noting that we will not carry gas powered tools, what sorts of tools would you like to see the SEPTL carry. We have already heard that people would like a rototiller (note ours will be electric so not quite as powerful), an orchard ladder, and a water cooled electric tile cutter. We would also like to create a section for "natural building tools" and our bike tool section will also be evolving. Other things on our want list are a bike trailer capable of hauling a table saw, and a compressor and nail gun. Check us out on line at www.septl.org!



The Path to the Village

by **Tony Deis, TrackersNW**

How do we get to a real Village? Where will we find a place of deeper family connections and roots?

Before I lay this out, remember the old axiom, “All models are wrong, and some are useful.” Like every plan, it needs to adapt with the land and people involved. Just because a map leads you somewhere, it may not cover every tree, rock, creek and stream you’ll find along the way.

You get to the Village by...

1) Connection through the land: Notice that does not say, “Connection to the land.” Why is this important? Why can’t we have a global village where we’re all buzzing through cutting-edge communication tools? Because then we stop needing the land and needing each other. Limits often tie a group of people together far more effectively than ideals. This is the nature of being rooted and harvesting from where you live and breathe.

2) Families making their livelihood together: We may not enjoy our co-worker at Widget Inc. but we may spend more time with them than our own family. We need both quality and quantity of time. When we blur the lines between feeding each other and family time, we end up understanding that play and work can be synonymous.

3) Sustainable, better yet, regenerative flow: This may seem obvious but sustainable has many interpretations. It is often translated, “not as much waste or pollution.” Regenerative could mean, “Life evolves over time, yet remains stable.” A truly healthy and sane village (and family) wants to make sure the bounty and beauty continues to exist for their children, grandchildren and even far beyond. The human race once excelled at this and it allowed us (*Homo sapiens*) to live on this planet for 100,000 years as hunter-gatherers and horticulturists.

Why is this information useful? Well, if you care about building fidelity and legacy for family, these needs might be important to address as you plot the course. Certain kinds of people may be required to make it happen. Just remember, like any idea, everything stated here is fully and entirely wrong. It’s also very useful.

Rebuilding the Village

Humans were born to live in families connected to the land around them. I’m not talking about small nuclear units of two, three or five people on a postage stamp lot. Instead, I’m referring to great houses where their relationship to an epic landscape once found root in livelihood, hearth and survival.

This is a story of when what feeds us grows just outside our door, of where a house is built from trees we knew as saplings and how the wisdom of Aunt Rosie is a simple walk to the fire outside on a starry summer night. It may be a story of fiction, an ancient tale spun to remind us of where we’ve been. It may also be roadmap of what we can create together.

Yet while this “vision” is a great place to start, we need creative and practical steps to bring any dream to life. We need the right people for the job. We need crafters to help create the great house, gardeners to sow the seeds that feed the village and even entrepreneurs capable of reshaping an economy into an ecology.

Who are these people? They have to be us: you, me and all of our neighbors. No one else is qualified for the job. It’s up to one another to cultivate the gifts required to remake the village. How do we do that? No one person, school of thought, or leader has the answer. Instead, we begin by slowing down, seeing and celebrating the very family and land we seek to save.

Community Articles

The Triumph of the Commons

by **Kim Smith, Ph.D, Sociology Instructor, Portland Community College**

April 22, 2010

Prophetically, in 1968, Garrett Hardin warned the world of the risks of the “Tragedy of the Commons,” wherein rational individuals seeking to maximize their own personal gains could lead to a community expanding beyond its shared carrying capacity and thus contributing to its own demise. Whether one considers shared grazing lands, a National Park, fisheries, the atmosphere, graphic examples like Easter Island, or our own neighborhoods, the ethos of individual rights creates a false assumption that one’s personal choices have little impact on others.

Indeed, the “Tragedy of the Commons” suggests the opposite. It is this awareness that our individual actions do matter which is paramount to addressing our current social and environmental problems. From dropping a piece of litter to purchasing an additional water bottle, everything adds up. Rather than assuming that no one will notice our small actions (or lack thereof), whether for personal gain or for the benefit of others, it is essential to claim the compound impact of each individual action on the collective whole.

In doing so, it is actually possible to invert the tragic phenomenon of spiraling down into negative oblivion and create a positive spiral up into a “Triumph of the Commons” (van Vugt 2009). The potential for this “Triumph” rests in individuals expanding their view of their place in the world and seeing not only the synergies of their actions but also the rationality of making choices for the benefit of the whole, of which they are obviously a part. Recognizing the roles that we play in our communities, understanding the accumulative effect of our choices, and claiming the reality that healthy and sustainable communities have vital benefits for the individual are critical to nurturing ourselves and the commons.

Yet, how would one define and claim a “commons”? Who or what would be included in this shared space? If one recognizes the interconnectivity of eco-systems, certainly the community becomes quite large and complex. If one includes the interests and rights of future generations, people would need to significantly expand the variables included in their cost-benefit analyses when making choices. Such changes would likely require a dramatic paradigm shift.

Such a shift could honor the individual but also embrace the larger community. For example, imagine what the United States would be like if we had a Bill of Responsibilities, in addition to our Bill of Rights. What responsibilities would be included? How would we reframe our choices to recognize the consequences of our actions on others? And, how would we address the inevitable resistance?

It is in the bridge of the commons that we find our unity. When one combines such a paradigm shift with the theory of the “Tragedy of the Commons,” the potential for massive cultural and structural change is possible. Indeed, one can begin to envision the steps needed to fuel the spiraling up of positive individual and collective actions. Making more conscious choices in the products we consume, getting to know our neighbors, volunteering in our communities, supporting local businesses, and finding joy in nature are all places to start. Through such a process, together, I have faith that we can achieve a “Triumph of the Commons.”

Sources:

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We are the Map

by **Julia C. Bonnheim**

With every new Spring, the people behind the VBC hope that its impact broadens beyond former boundaries of influence. We have not been disappointed. While it originally emerged from the Southeast, VBC has reached the outskirts of Portland, intersection paintings have popped up in cities all over the country, and now, we can even look forward to something called Planet Repair.

We gather and create this together. Our dynamism as a whole is the representation of how far we've come as individuals. I'd like to promote the idea that people are most effective when they celebrate and recognize their own strengths, unabashedly finding and pursuing their passion so that they might offer it up again to the community.

With such a goal as village building in mind, let's employ ever good tool we can find. While working with the VBC, and thanks to Mark Lakeman, I've been introduced to one tool that I find very helpful, the asset map. A map is a living document, an enticing guide that invites interaction and revision. In this case, we humans are the map. Have everyone in your particular community or group state what skills, latent talents, and tools he or she has to share. Assemble this information and display it in a way that allows linkages between individuals to become evident and opportunities more likely. Make it visual; draw it up in some creative fashion. For example, there might be a diagram of the houses on a particular block. One neighbor likes to bake and the other is a farmer with an abundance of pumpkins. Let there be pie!

Though simple, such sharing is the core of community development. It can be done on any scale, with any emphasis. The exercise takes us out of a world of scarcity and trains us in the perspective of abundance and possibility. While the end mapped result is helpful, just the act of defining our personal assets can be transformative. Often people are most comfortable expressing what they can't do and what they lack. To actually own their strengths is a profound act of self-love and affirmation. When assets are outlined it becomes an opportunity for infinite new networks to be explored; we need only invoke our capacity for boundless imagination.

This leads me to turn the question on myself and wonder what I have to offer? My own natural building journey started with a book, *Homework*, by Lloyd Kahn, and I recommend it to everyone. It's clear to me that my enthusiasm for writing and the book form is an asset that I have to give the community. Five years after first seeing *Homework*, I'm currently researching, and writing a book of interviews called *Evolutionary Earth: Women of the Natural Building Movement*. It's an effort to synthesize my own skills and interests in the service of promoting some of the voices of change that I find most inspiring.

It's my hope that the book itself becomes an asset map of women who currently push on the boundaries of awareness, health, and materials in building the structures that we inhabit. I hope that it serves as a net supporting the builders themselves, connecting them to their peers, as well as giving points of entry into this field for any public intrigued by its pages. My greatest hope is that it becomes a tool.

In creating the book, I'm discovering how many incredible women there are in this field. The network is strong and wide reaching. I'm convinced that any endeavor to create an asset map inspires the same feeling, a general amazement at the abundance that already exists, waiting to be linked together and utilized. Please follow along during my journey to create this book by going to www.evolutionaryearth.wordpress.com. More importantly, I hope that you consider the strengths that you and your surrounding community might have to offer, and get creative about collectively gathering such information.

Community Articles

Cooking with the Huichol by Jonathan Merritt

Every year, those of us who are called to the path of traditional Huichol healing travel to a village called San Andres Cochiamata (or Tatei Kea, House of the Gods) deep in the Sierra Madre of Mexico. The village, the largest one in the Huichol Country, is located on a mesa that overlooks a magnificent canyon. There is a rough road that leads to the village. It takes either fourteen hours or three days by bus to get there, depending on the conditions. We fly in on small planes, landing on a rudimentary airstrip. We go there because our spirits belong to that land and are nurtured by being in that place, so that the medicine, which is desperately needed in our country and culture, can be infused in us.

The Huichol are a people who have managed to resist the invasions of the conquistadores and missionaries and have maintained their ancestral traditions, their relationships to the land and the spirits of the land (including the plants and animals) in an unbroken lineage from the ancient times. Their lives are simple and, to Western eyes, seem somewhat impoverished. But looking more closely, we see that they have a deep connection to each other and to the land that they inhabit. The land is alive for them and provides everything that they need, so long as they maintain their traditions of pilgrimages and prayer, of sacrifice and fiesta. Tatei Kea is the traditional ceremonial site and people will walk for many days from the lands around it to attend the rituals held there. .

Under the leadership of Eliot Cowan, the first fully initiated shaman (Tsauringame) of European-American descent, we have been traveling there as a group since 2001. Our group now numbers about fifty people and the Huichol have provided a compound for us a little away from the village on the rim of the canyon. There we have a tuki, a sacred house that holds our fire, some toilet facilities and a dining hall. There is also a big field where we pitch our tents. There is no running water, so the Huichol bring it to us in large barrels in the one village truck along with firewood and the food that they provide and cook for us.

Over the years, we have seen changes, both subtle and large, in the village and in the people. The village has doubled in size and along with our compound there is an Eco-tourism Center that draws people from many countries to the village. Probably the greatest change has been the introduction of electricity, which the Mexican government brought to the village about four years ago. It was quite a surprise to see electric wires strung to the small traditional adobe or concrete block homes.

Along with the benefits of light and refrigeration, the electricity has brought television. And, with television, a materialist world-view has been brought to the Huichol and, with it, the first real challenge to the Huichol traditions. For the first time, the youth, exposed to the wonders of modernity as depicted by TV, are longing to leave the village for the lure of the cities with their cars and stores with what looks like an inexhaustible supply of food, clothing, appliances and excitement. Protestant Evangelical Christianity, which is deeply tied to that materialist worldview, has begun to make inroads among the Huichol and, for the first time, families are falling away from the rituals and youth are refusing the traditional initiation into adulthood which cements their places within the community and the land.

This is where the story begins. As I said, the Huichol cook for us when we are there, though we try to help out however we can. Since the cooking is primarily done by women, with a few men to help with the fire and lifting heavy objects. Usually four or five women will cook together the whole time we are there, sleeping in the dining hall and rising early so that we can have breakfast, working all day and into the night to care for this strange group of gringos that has descended upon them. It is always enjoyable to walk by the kitchen window to hear

them engaged in joyful conversation, talking and laughing as they prepare the meals. Typically, a couple women from our group will join in the cooking. When they can, when the Huichol and the gringas each know Spanish, the gringas will be easily included in the conversation.

Last September, on our most recent trip to Tatei Kea, a woman named Kathy got into a long conversation with Maria, an eighteen-year-old Huichol woman. Maria wanted to know about Kathy's life in El Norte. She admired Kathy's clothes and questioned her closely about her car and kitchen and home. Did she have running hot water and electric lights, a refrigerator and gas stove, tile countertops and wood floors, bedrooms for her children, a wide green lawn? Were all types of food available all the time from the local store?

Kathy described her life in California, the nearly unimaginable wealth that she lives in. While she spoke, the work in the kitchen stopped as all the women listened closely and even the men came in to listen.

With a faraway look in her eyes, Maria said, "When I can I'm going to leave this village and go to Tepic (the nearest large city) and get a job and make some money. I'm going to buy a car and get a house and have all of those things that I've seen on TV."

"But what you don't see, what they don't show on TV," Kathy said, "is what you have here. Here you have your families and friends. You have your home and the land that you live on. You have your traditions and all your ancestors watching over you. Most of all, people know who you are.

"In my country, as nice as my kitchen is, I cook my meals there alone. Almost all the women in my country cook their meals alone. We aren't laughing and talking together as we cook. We don't live near our parents, our sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles and cousins. We do the laundry alone and drive our cars alone and shop alone. And when we're out, almost no one knows who we are. We're lonely almost all of the time.

"That's why we come to your village—so that we can be together and work together and laugh together, so that we can be among your people who live the way people are supposed to live. Even though life is hard here, even though you don't have a lot of things, you have what you need. The land and the weather take care of you. The corn and the squash, the chicken and goats feed you. Most of all, you have each other, your community and the traditions that bind you together. That's what's missing for us in the cities. That's what all of us long for."

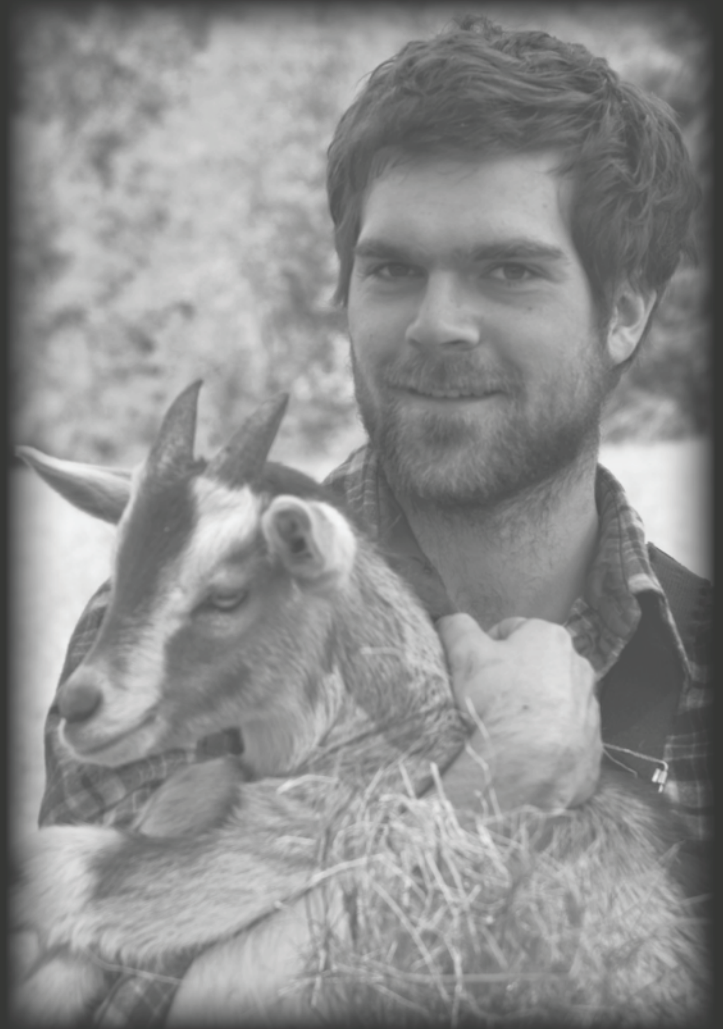
Maria's eyes grew wide as Kathy finished and the eyes of all the women and men grew wide. They spoke seriously to each other in Huichol for a while. Then Maria said something funny and laughter filled the kitchen. The conversation grew light again. The meal was prepared and the warm tortillas and steaming pots of beans and rice and squash were carried to the tables to feed the strange group of gringos who had traveled so far to learn something so simple.



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