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VILLAGE BUILDING CONVERGENCE 2007

follow up report

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VILLAGE BUILDING CONVERGENCE 2007

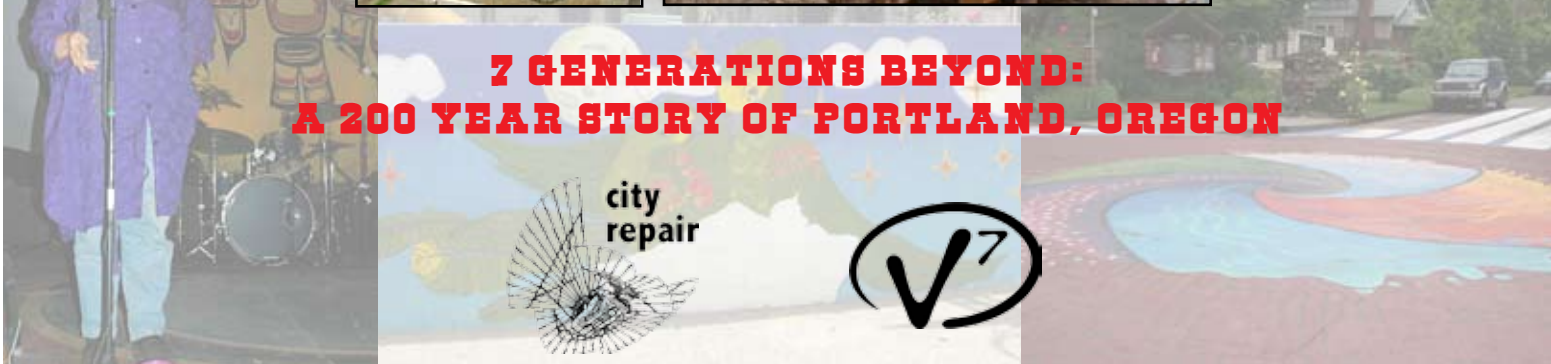
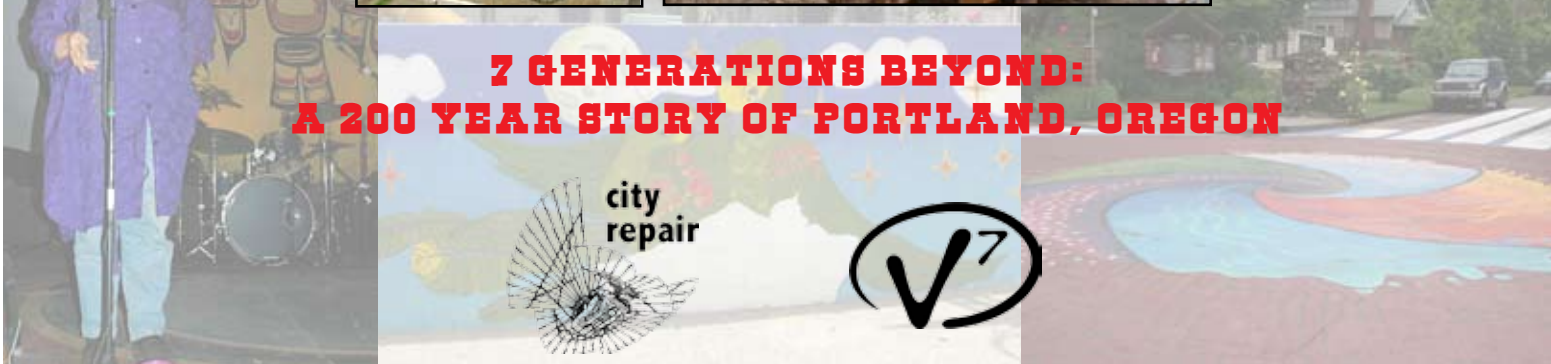
follow up report



**7 GENERATIONS BEYOND:
A 200 YEAR STORY OF PORTLAND, OREGON**

city
repair

V⁷



The Village Building Convergence

May 19-27, 2007

2007 Project Summary

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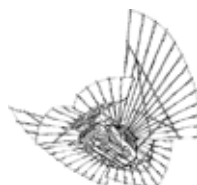
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the city repair project



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Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.
-Emerson



To the Larson Legacy

A Special Thank You

Thank you so very much Lee and Kathy Larson at the Larson Legacy and for all that you have done to help sustain and grow the VBC! Over the course of the last four years Lee and Kathy have supported the VBC with the important seed funding that gives not only VBC it's start every year, but the whole of City Repair as well! In fact, with the increasing growth of the VBC and City Repair's activities over time, the support from the Larson Legacy has grown each year so that not only have we enjoyed a stronger overall financial base, we have also had a paid coordinator for both of the last two years!

So, on behalf of the thousands of people who the Larson's and City Repair have assisted in building a better world one neighborhood at a time – A BIG THANK YOU SO MUCH is given to Lee and Kathy Larson!

We first met Lee and Kathy Larson near the beginning of the Dignity Village project. In the winter of 2000-2001. The villagers were immersed in a struggle to survive, being illegally swept by the Police from one location to another. Many people rallied to support the emerging village, including Lee and Kathy Larson, Sisters of the Road Cafe, the Unitarian Church, and City Repair. So much happened at that time it was utterly inspiring, and one of the most important kinds of support came from the Larson's in the form of active, hands-on, personal involvement. This included both personal contact in many village processes, political advocacy with the mayor and city council, and critical infusions of financial support for the village when few others could provide this kind of support.

The list of all that they have given to the City of Portland and the larger world reflects the Larson's love of people, all species, and the whole of nature. This list would include the amazing gift of support they gave to bring his holiness the Dalai Lama to Portland in the summer of 2001, and literally so much more.

Thank you, thank you, thank you Lee and Kathy for joining with us in common cause these last many years. May our friendship and collaboration continue to bear beneficent fruit for communities of the earth for years and years yet to come!!!

Always Love,

The Larson Legacy

And To Helen Hill & Charlie Wooldridge -



How do some people have so much to give that they keep surprising you, and deliver so much hope in such infusions of Love that they joyfully challenge and inspire you to explore and find in your own self the depths and possibilities of your own growth? How do Helen and Charlie have so much love for the rest of us, from Manzanita and Oceanside and stretching across the whole country, as written in the Rolling Stone and as played out before our eyes, how can such Love be embodied like this? Whatever the answer, to each their own way of understanding it, Helen and Charlie, the Lovers from Bay City are here to celebrate life with the rest of us, drawing from their apparently inexhaustible personal wellsprings, creating for us, fighting for us, laughing, testifying, speaking for us all. And never to forget Helen's best-ever projects, her own kids who will go on like this across the world for years and years to come.

Thank you always Helen and Charlie, especially this year for the gift of "Boreantis"!

With Mountains of Love,
The Village Building Convergence Community

Summary of VBC 7

Wow, what a whirlwind! It's several months since the official close of VBC7 and the momentum has not subsided! How many ways was this year's Village Building Convergence better and bigger than ever before? Let's count the ways!

How We Grow

Though the VBC grows each year, in depth and breadth, it also has dimensions of community engagement which are constant and which grow from year to year. For instance, there are projects out in the community that require more than half a year of coordination and logistical support. What a great placemaking and logistical team! Then, of course, there is the City Repair VBC Core team that begins to assemble 8 months in advance to support the overall effort, bringing project partners and hundreds of volunteers into coordination to make it all happen. These people then coordinate the thousands and thousands more that take part in the on-site, volunteer-driven projects that build dozens of new and sustainable community gathering places and demonstration projects, dozens of daily workshops, and the evening events. There are also activities of a general nature that support the whole effort, such as the amazing, creative, and delicious efforts to feed and house all the people who come together in Portland to power and attend the ten days of the VBC! Then there's the infrastructure that designs and publishes the Village Builder Magazine, the annual road map of the VBC, and all the people who coordinate and build the performance venue for the evening events.



What an amazing effort, but it goes on! The community partners that year after year help make up our community foundation, such as the Larson Legacy, Helen Hill of the Bay City Art Center, The ReBuilding Center of Our United Villages, The Portland City Council, Portland Department of Transportation, the Office of Sustainable Development and Mike O'Brien, Communitecture, Donald & Chrissy WashBurn – these and SO MANY MORE PEOPLE make VBC happen!!!

Some of What is New: 28 New Community Places

So, this year's VBC, like all the years before, was more amazing than ever. It certainly exceeded the scale and complexity of the all that we had done before in previous years. This is possible because each year we build upon the momentum of each year that has come before. Some of what is new this year include the diversity of project types- from a low-income immigrant community courtyard renovation project to micro-infill co-housing project that is turning this town on it's ear! We built a neighborhood puppet theatre, a half-dozen high visibility ecoroofs over sustainable community gathering places, installed water-related features in almost a dozen locations, painted community murals, built two community saunas, and also transformed two street intersections into new community piazza's!!! That's a lot of great, inspiring work aandd play that makes the world a better and better place!



Also New: Speakers of an International Stature

Oh my, did it really happen? Yes, Rabbi Michael Lerner came to speak, and now City Repair is on his mind! Penny Livingston and Jon Young were here to talk about community and ecology! Micheal Meade, the legendary leader of community and personal transformation was at VBC! Then there was the amazing gift of "Boreantis" by Helen Hill, followed by Water Catchment inspiration and leader Brad Landcaster, poet and author Kim Stafford. What about Powerhouse global activist Starhawk whom delivered the performance of her career in describing the inherent cooperative nature of evolution itself, the metaphorical stories of permaculture leader and mentor Toby Hemenway, or the art-saga of Beetty LaaDuke! So much! Then the dance and music performances, which also exceeded all before, such as Nala Walla, The Everyone Orchestra with Michael Kang, Jujuba, the Maambo Queens, the Vagabond Opera, the Sassparilla Jug Band, the Foghorn Stringband, the Wanderlust Circus, and so many more performers who came to play just because it was time for the Village Building Convergence! What great will and inspiration was built in the hearts of the thousands of people who came to be a part of it all!

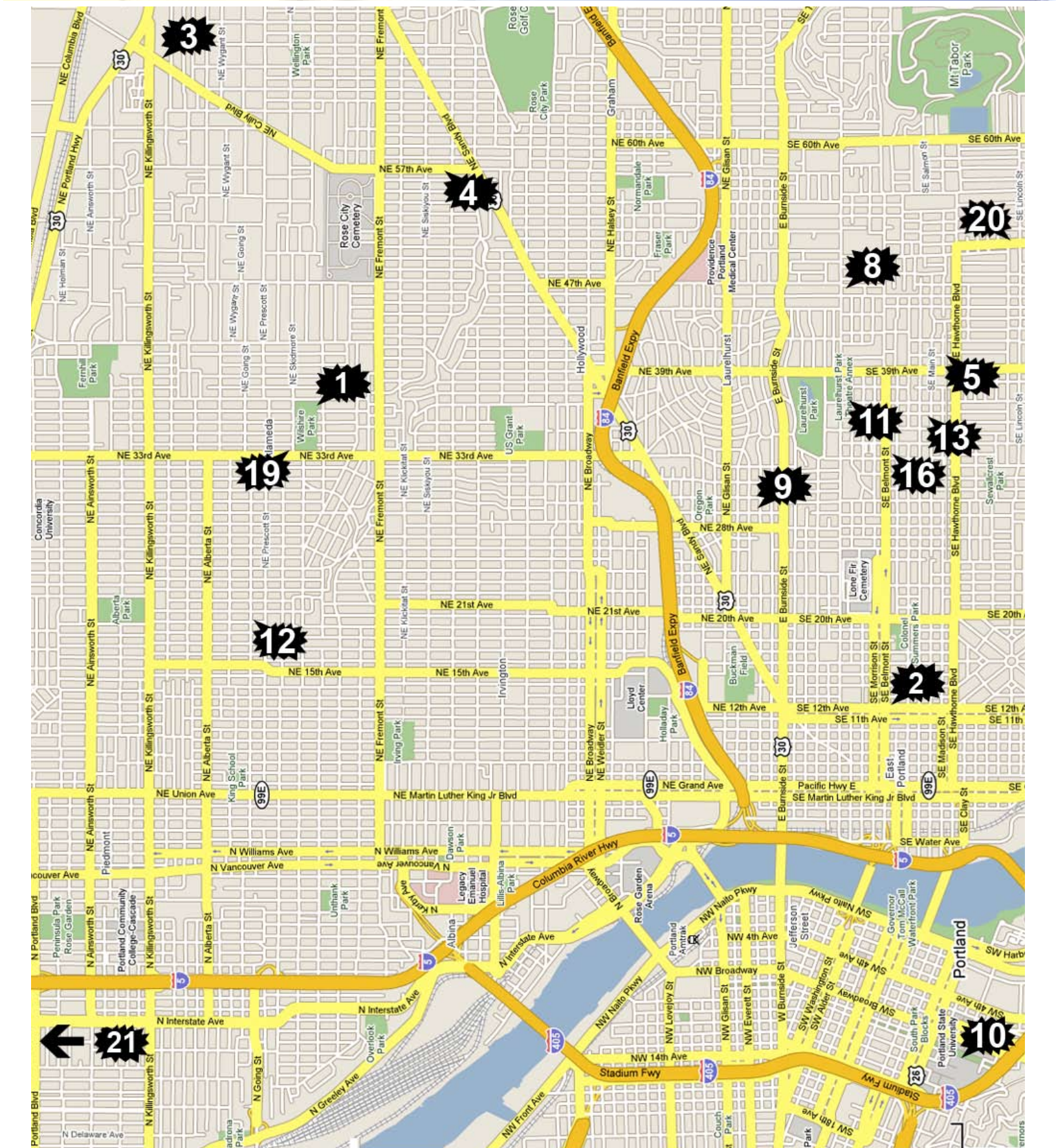
Thanks to All

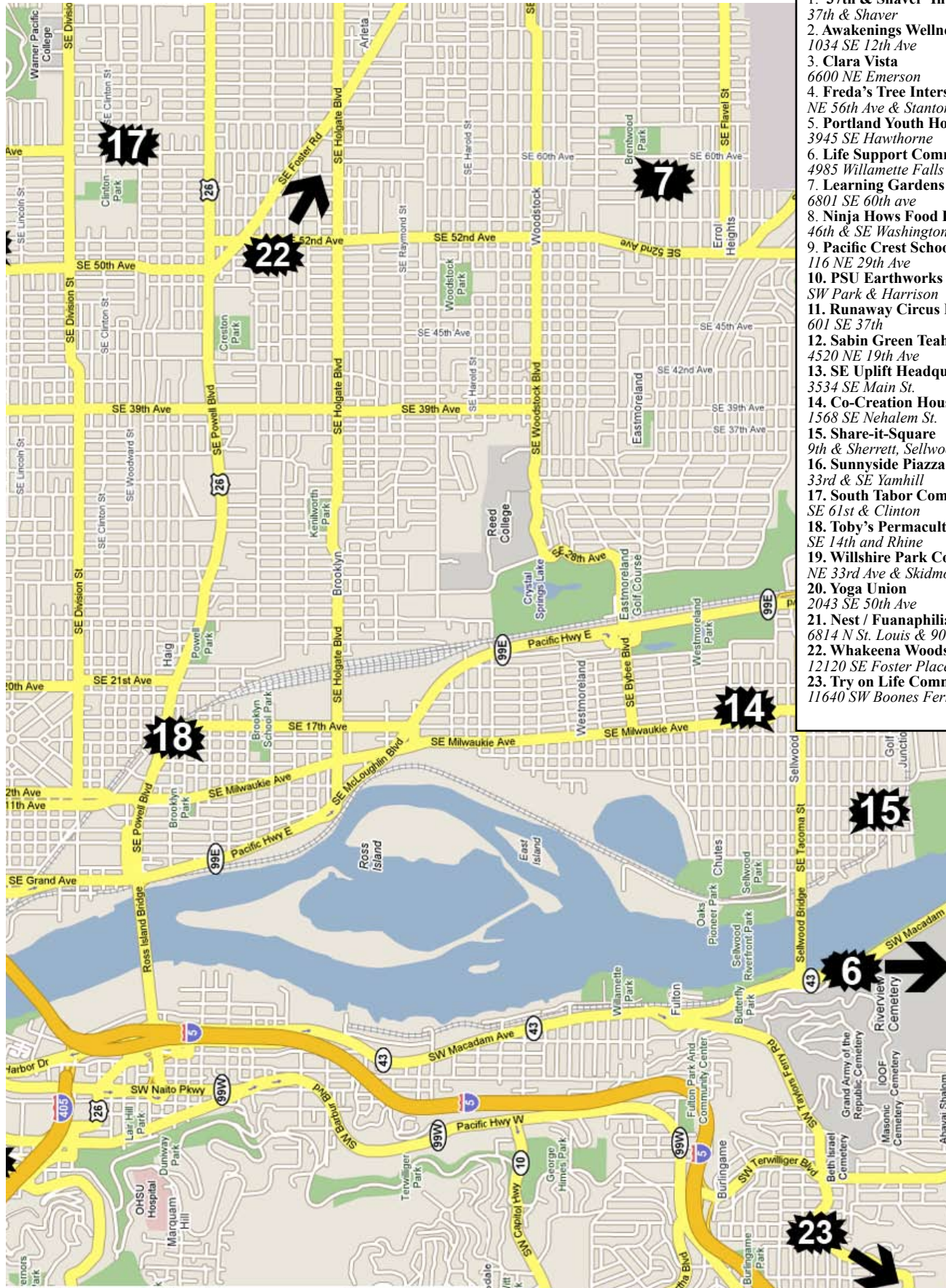
To say that more happened to make this year's VBC a success than we can possibly list would certainly be an understatement. One way we know for sure that things are better than ever is that the evening dinners were the best yet, as Jared & Sarah exceeded all hopes and expectations with their creative and healthful fair. In fact, so much happened we don't even really know about most of it! What we do know is that we are successfully working to make the world a better and better place each year one neighborhood at a time, one city at a time, we get closer still to living in a world characterized by direct creativity, social justice in action, community democracy, and sustainable culture. We can see and enjoy it in our lives for years to come, because that is the VBC.



"Peace. It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart"

Map Of VBC7 Sites





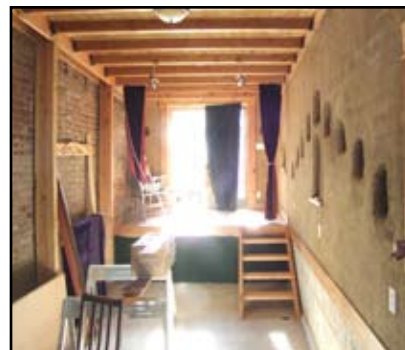
1. 37th & Shaver Intersection Repair
37th & Shaver
2. Awakenings Wellness Center
1034 SE 12th Ave
3. Clara Vista
6600 NE Emerson
4. Freda's Tree Intersection Repair
NE 56th Ave & Stanton
5. Portland Youth Hostel
3945 SE Hawthorne
6. Life Support Community Center
4985 Willamette Falls Drive, West Linn
7. Learning Gardens Laboratory
6801 SE 60th ave
8. Ninja Hovs Food Forest
46th & SE Washington
9. Pacific Crest School
116 NE 29th Ave
10. PSU Earthworks
SW Park & Harrison
11. Runaway Circus Puppet Theatre
601 SE 37th
12. Sabin Green Teahouse
4520 NE 19th Ave
13. SE Uplift Headquarters
3534 SE Main St.
14. Co-Creation House aka "COHO"
1568 SE Nehalem St.
15. Share-it-Square
9th & Sherrett, Sellwood
16. Sunnyside Piazza
33rd & SE Yamhill
17. South Tabor Commons
SE 61st & Clinton
18. Toby's Permaculture Yard
SE 14th and Rhine
19. Willshire Park Community Pavilion
NE 33rd Ave & Skidmore
20. Yoga Union
2043 SE 50th Ave
21. Nest / Fuanaphilia
6814 N St. Louis & 9034 N Edison, St. Johns
22. Whakeena Woods
12120 SE Foster Place
23. Try on Life Community farm
11640 SW Boones Ferry rd.



This was the second year in a row that there were more than 20 community's activated as part of the overall VBC, in fact there were more than 25. Each year there are several unique aspects of the work to repair the city, and this year was no exception. Most new projects were in communities that had not been involved before, and nearly half were located in the ever more diverse areas of north and northeast Portland, a very significant trend. Nearly half of the sites featured permaculture projects, up from only a few in previous years. There were also numerous communities who participated in previous years, providing important continuity and mentorship for new communities and individuals.



Many of the projects were unique, such as the neighborhood puppet theatre, the Sabin Green Infill Co-Housing Tea House and gathering place, the "Guerilla Greywater Girls" workshops at several sites, five highly public cob gathering places with ecoroofs, and long term projects such as staffed public restrooms for homeless people in downtown.



Thanks to generous donations from the Larson Legacy and others, we were able to have year-long placemaking coordination for the second year in a row. Our coordinator, Yveline Wilnau has moved on after two years of her best efforts and we are grateful for all the good work she did while she was with us.

Thank you to Yveline and the whole VBC7 Placemaking team, including Josiah, Amanda, Katy, Mark, and all of the site hosts, coordinators, designers, builders, neighbors all over the city, and volunteers from far and wide.





37th & Shaver Intersection Repair

NE 37th Ave. & Shaver

Located in northeast's Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood, this VBC project is a four-way stop and gateway to Wilshire Park – a prime site for intersection repair due to the heavy pedestrian & automobile traffic. It offers a great opportunity to catch the attention of the many travelers passing through while promoting neighborhood connections. This neighborhood's first intersection repair was an exercise in community consensus that overcame confusion, skepticism, and conventional notions of traffic-calming devices such as speed bumps and roundabouts. Through a series of community potlucks and gatherings it was decided to reclaim the crossroads through art.

Designed by local architect Scott Mannhard, the intersection painting features concentric ripples radiating outward in soothing shades of blue & accented with smaller splashes at the corners. Two fish were added with the help of artists Anna Garibay & Virginia Driscoll to compliment the waves in contrasting red/orange tones. Rock garden installations in two planting strips feature herbs, edibles & native plants, and were designed to mitigate stormwater runoff from the adjacent sidewalks. The intersection was transformed during a day-long Saturday block party complete with music, laughter, neighborhood families, VBC volunteers, catered lunch donated by local businesses, and paint!

The neighborhood intends on making this an annual VBC site, repainting their creation & coming together to celebrate their community! Like the spreading of a gentle wave outward, this beautiful initiative is creating its own ripple effect by encouraging new ideas, providing a foundation for new friendships and community pride, and leaving all who pass through with a lasting vision.



Site Host:
Ankist

More Info:
www.heyneighbor.info



Awakenings Wellness Center

1034 SE 12th ave

A peaceful place.

That was the placemaking goal sought by a group of therapists who founded The Awakenings Wellness Center in 1998. Working together for this common goal through the years, they have, in fact, forged a vital, peaceful place within the community that provides acupuncture, massage, yoga, counseling, spiritual and life coaching, Reiki, sound healing, Shamanic Healing, as well as various interactive community events.

Awakenings is a repeat site from 2006 where a bounty of projects were completed last year: the creation of a cob bench with living roof, a 20' x 60' mural, the planting of creative, useful landscaping, not to mention bringing the cob bench design to life by infusing a dragon with the existing concept.

A Dragon Naming Ceremony kicked off this year's excitement as the Center invited past participants to celebrate their work. During VBC 7, Awakenings focused on education and renewal; the Buckman com-



munity learned the techniques necessary to sustain the viability of their project for the years to come. Work was completed on cleaning the existing mosaic and plaster wall, sealant was also applied, and the landscaping was nurtured with weeding, pruning, and mulching projects. The landscape was not the only thing being nurtured; Awakenings provided the VBC volunteers with free morning yoga and free Dayan Qigong was also available.

The focus on education the community will extend further still as Awakenings plans to provide workshops for other past and present VBC sites to garner the necessary site maintenance skills.



Site Host: Jim Davis

More Info: awakeningswellnesscenter.com

Clara Vista

5300 NE Cully Blvd.
(Near NE 70th & Killingsworth)

The Villas de Clara Vista Plaza Improvement Project is located in Northeast Portland's Cully Neighborhood, just a few blocks from the intersection of Killingsworth and Cully. One of Portland's hidden gems, the Cully Neighborhood is neither likely to be heard as a buzz-word on Portlanders lips nor is it likely to appear in tourist brochures. It is, however, one of the most diverse communities in the city, an element that will be highlighted and celebrated throughout the site's tenure as a VBC7 project site.

The site, a 90 y 60 foot empty concrete plaza, a play structure, and a number of newly refurbished wooden planter boxes, is surrounded by 4 two-story apartment buildings. Within these apartments dwell families from Mexico, Somalia, the United States, Ethiopia, and Cuba; within the plaza their lives should intersect and their children should play.

The goals for this site are to transform the empty concrete plaza into a colorful and accessible forum space. We want to create an area that welcomes community meetings, barbecues, birthday parties, and impromptu games of tag and hide and go seek. During VBC we will be creating a collaborative mural, building a grill, constructing picnic tables, planting trees and shrubbery, and learning to say "Hello" and "Friend" in Spanish, Ethiopian, English, and Somali.

We are hopeful that our various projects will be completed by the end of VBC, but we will need lots of volunteer power! Many Villas de Clara Vista community members work long hours and will not be able to be present for all of the 10 days of VBC. We would also appreciate donations of tools and lumber. Every little bit will help make this project a smashing success!

We truly thank: The Villas de Clara Vista incredible residents, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District for their generous grant, Hacienda CDC, Fred Meyers, Ashley Howell and John Merrill for their time and efforts, Carlos Rocha for his art, Ramon Artola, City Repair, and all of the wonderful people who have donated time and money. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you all for making this project happen!!!!



Site Host: Yasmina Neustadt

More Info:

<http://www.haciendacdc.org/housing/33/clara-vista-townhomes>





Freda's Tree Intersection Repair Project / Stanton Intersection Repair

NE 56th Ave & Stanton

Ed Gorman, the core contact for the Intersection Repair and NE 56th and Stanton, was hardly working alone on the intersection repair. With the collaboration of the majority of neighbors living around the intersection, the project was completed into a beautiful, eye-catching piece of artwork.

It was not hard to collectively decide what to paint as a collaborative group with the recent death and removal of an amazingly old chestnut tree which had stood at the corner of this intersection for ninety four years.

The core leaders of this group (which may have been anywhere from ten to fifteen of the neighbors) made sure to include and integrate each person that volunteered their time equally. The specialties that each person contributed was used to its full advantage for the benefit of the project. People divvied up jobs in painting, providing supplies, getting the permit from the city, and/or working on the design process.

Because of the history of the tree, this project provided education to the younger generations as it sparked conversation and storytelling of how the tree came to be as well as history of the street itself. This enabled

each volunteer and neighbor to feel a certain ownership of the intersection repair project. Most of the neighbors were already familiar with one another, but many of the younger generations were not, making this project a smooth element for relationship building. As Ed described to us, with the chestnut being the centerpiece for the mural, it was much easier to form a bond over it than if it had been of political or religious affiliation.

The final project was finished in one weekend due to their efficient planning, fair weather, and immense volunteer help and collaboration of specialties, as well as a very egalitarian structure for decision-making. The project has produced an amazing, creative, and unique result, which is not only used as a striking work of art, but is also a successful element for calming the traffic.

Ed claimed that most of the placemaking meetings served as successful roadmaps for the individuals to carry their projects through. This was a positive factor as it gave the individuals room to express their creativity.

The design and colors of the project seem almost to project the intense diversity of the crew who worked on it as they ranged in age, income, and lifestyle. Multiple people came to inquire about the project, including a filmmaker from Brooklyn, and interviewers from around the United States.

There were no needs for the remainder of the summer, but the neighbors did inform us about the planned block party that was going to be held in September or October as a celebration and party closer. They seemed enthusiastic and definitely interested in future VBC events.

Hosted by / Contacts: Ed Gorman,
Chair: Thad Foulk, and Chris Cross

Hawthorne Youth Hostel Pavilion

3945 SE Hawthorne

The Hostel Pavilion began as a VBC 2006 project, to be led by a PSU master's degree student. It was a very exciting prospect, a very appropriate social space in a highly visible location that would provide for public gathering while also showcasing ecologically sustainable design and building practices, both to people using the Hawthorne corridor and the international travelers who frequent the hostel. However, the PSU student was unable to meet his agreements with VBC and the Hostel and did not complete the pavilion. After several months it became clear that VBC organizers would need to step in and provide leadership if this project was going to succeed.

The construction process restarted in April of 2007 with a burst of carpentry that really elaborated on the original design. Using additional columns and wrapping the old construction in cob, the new design began to take shape as a circular structure and not merely an "L" shape. The roof was framed on the ground and lifted into place by a dozen volunteers, providing shelter for the cob work to come. Wonderful new arch forms were incorporated into the cross-bracing of the door and window openings, with a grand internal arch providing great lateral bracing.



The whole was then topped with a living roof and a recycled Plexiglas oculus skylight. During the course of VBC we had numerous international travelers jump and help, each expressing appreciation and delight for both the project and for Portland as a whole. One of the best stories of the whole process is that super heroine Tree Bressen, one of the most beloved group process facilitators in the nation, learned how to make mosaic inlays on this project, something she had always wanted to do.

Quote: "We've gained a deeper understanding of and respect for City Repair through this process. After last year's project leader abandoned us, City Repair stepped in and made it happen. Ours is a national organization and this project has already developed more awareness of and interest in sustainable design"

- Hostel Managers



Hostel Staff Hosts- Talbot & Emily

Designers & Builders- James Thompson, Mark Lakeman, and Tony Ferguson

Learning Gardens Laboratory

6801 SE 60th ave



The 10-acre Learning Gardens Laboratory came into being in 2005 at SE 60th Ave. Between Duke and Flavel, across the street from Lane Middle School. The LGL is staffed by PSU graduate students in the Graduate School of Education's Leadership in Ecology, Culture, and Learning (LECL) program; CBLs' students from a variety of disciplines engage in Community-Based Learning, teach, learn, and obtain credits through participation in and coordination of activities with elementary and middle school students visiting the site. Participating teachers, and their 6th and 7th grade science and math classes visit the LGL for two-hour blocks every two weeks to engage in a curriculum that incorporates cultural components into its science focus and is designed to follow the seasons and cycles of life. Students each design, plant and care for and harvest from their own garden beds.

Contact:
Chad Honl



Life Support Community Center

Welcome to West Linn! Home of the Life Support Community Center, a 2007 Village Building Convergence site that acts as a haven for healing available to recovering drug addicts, alcoholics, and others looking for support.

Roberta Gray, the founder, a yoga instructor and a strong woman with first-hand recovery experience, established the center in 2004 as a place of community gathering and hope. The site is highly visible upon entering West Linn, with thousands of cars passing by during their daily commute. What better place to foster a City Repair project than where people are regularly entering and leaving the community? (i know this phrasing is awkward)

During VBC 7, Portlanders came to gather and create an outdoor gathering area with cob work as well as a mural. Following VBC 7, Roberta's vision and work with Life Support Community Center continues to grow as she further build involvement and support from the surrounding community by holding workshops and classes.

How did Roberta come to host a VBC site?

In her words:

"For the last couple of years I kept finding cards and clippings and flyers for VBC and City Repair, I would collect them and put them on the fridge and my bulletin board. Then it occurred to me... ding... we need to connect and bring the great energy to West Linn. There are so many talented people here, but what this community is missing is a center... somewhere to connect and rediscover humanity."

Host: Roberta



One must have chaos in oneself to give birth to a shooting star. -Nietzsche

NEST Collaboratory/ Faunaphilia

6814 N St. Louis & 9034 N Edison (St. John's)

The experimenting with sustainable living and collaborative land use was a huge success at this particular site. Because there was not a huge need for labor help, there were many educational workshops with a great turnout of people.

The Greywater Guerillas held an inspiring workshop which procured a sum of thirty individuals interested in greywater systems design. With the help of this workshop, a shower was built to the right of the sauna, and has yet to be adjusted to being solar heated.

The chicken coop was just about finished on the chicken coop, and the rabbit hutch was all finished. The droppings were apparently caught at the bottom of the cage, and then added to the compost pile. Ivy Stovall who was the core contact for this site seemed very excited and enthusiastic with the entire process. Her plan for the future is to eventually make commerce by barter with different sustainable foods between neighbors, etc.

Though she felt that perhaps she could've gotten things accomplished in fewer days, she enjoyed the process and integration of new and old friends working together. She also took pleasure in meeting and relating to her neighbors as well as the interest that small school groups had taken in becoming ecologically aware of sustainable living environments.

The only regrets that she seemed to verbally describe were how she had missed out on attending some of the meetings and would have liked to receive a copy of the minutes.



Since participating in the VBC for the second year in a row, this particular site looks very forward to participating again in future VBC's with an interest in planting a food forest and creating an herb garden to complement the chicken, rabbits, and vegetable garden that is already occupying the land.

Host: Ivy Stovall



Ninja House Food Forest

608 SE 45th ave

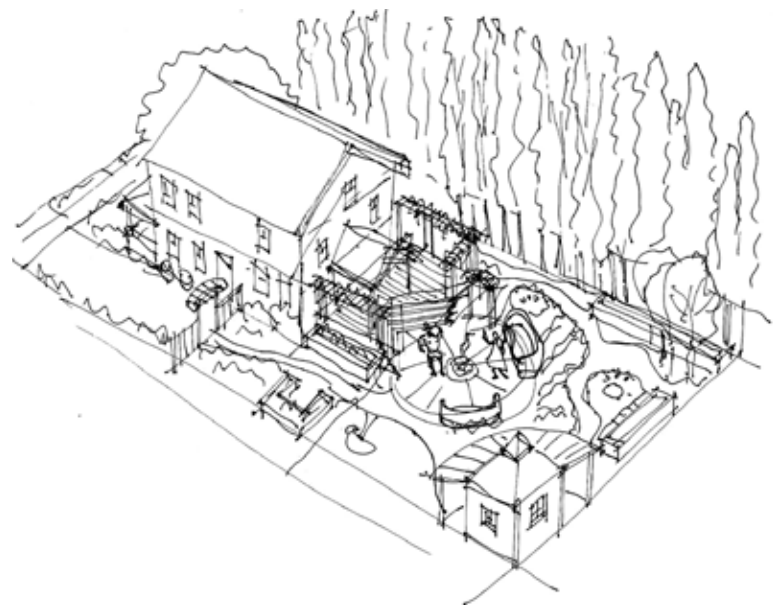
As a celebrated community hangout, the Ninja House is well-known for hosting Food Not Bombs kitchens and the “Ninja Café”, which turned the idea of feeding others for profit on its head. Fueled by a love of gardening and need for abundant fresh produce, this site’s VBC objective was to implement a backyard food forest. Ambitious hosts Tsarra and Martin managed to organize 2 work parties over the course of VBC, when they weren’t busy being City Repair superheroes - managing the Nest Café and Village Builder (respectively). Additional planting was done by the duo in occasional moments of spare time, giving them a therapeutic break from their chaotic schedules & a chance to play in the dirt!

New plantings have transformed the Ninja backyard into a community food forest complete with apples, cherries, pears, plums, raspberries, blackberries, currants, herbs, vegetables, and leafy edible greens. An herb spiral was constructed in the front yard with excess soil donated by Toby Hemenway; most of the annual flowers/vegetables will be replaced by perennial herbs in the fall. A host of volunteer plants also made themselves welcome – sunflowers, potatoes & pumpkins grew in via renegade seeds or compost sprouts! Nestled among the vegetables & herbs, the most meaningful plant in this garden is a sacred butterfly bush. It was given to Shaula by the Full Circle Women’s Temple & planted in what



was extra space in Tsarra’s yard by the two friends. Now a permanent addition, it will live and bloom in loving memory of Shaula.

The food forest is currently providing nourishment for the community house, neighbors, Food Not Bombs gatherings, and the upcoming block party. This fall the pumpkins, corn, and 5 different kinds of squash will offer up ample decoration for harvest & Halloween parties! For next year’s VBC we will be looking to build a bike storage shed off of the house & turn the current shed into a cob meditation area and guest room.



Host:
Tsarra Berger





Pacific Crest School

NE 29 & Davis

This project served not only successful for building relationships and providing a welcoming place for people to come and relax, but it also was a very educational experience for the students to actively participate in.

The youth were involved in the design process of the project, as well as the physical formation and completion of the bench. The site project was a year long class for the youth at this alternative school, which occupied two of their semesters.

The small project showed to be very impacting on the students as they learned various ways to preserve and reuse their materials. They were also given responsibilities on the project with room to do their own work and add their own creative touches to the bench in order for it to feel like the structure was a part of them.

Jeffrey and Jordia definitely look forward to being involved with VBC in the future.

Host:
Jordia Blumenstein

More Info:
<http://www.pcrest.org/>



*The future belongs to those who
believe in the beauty of their dreams.
-Eleanor Roosevelt*

PHLUSH

NW Portland Old Town

This project is a multi-year process which began as part of VBC6 with a community initiative led by PSU student Sally Noble and the Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood. They were working on a win-win solution that would alleviate problems with public sanitation and a blight on human dignity in the Old Town/Chinatown area. In short, the many people living house-less living on the street in the NW part of town needed a place to relieve themselves rather than in doorways or under bridges.

Numerous community participation workshops were held, inviting ideas and solutions that would result in beautiful and practical new toilet facilities that would be easy to maintain while respecting the character of the communities where they would be built. A strong voice was also heard that these could be a highly sculptural expression of Portland's burgeoning creative culture. The mayor's office funded the coordination and implementation of the project to the tune of a quarter million dollars and it was off and running. Now, Central City Concern has hired Sally Noble to coordinate the process to completion.

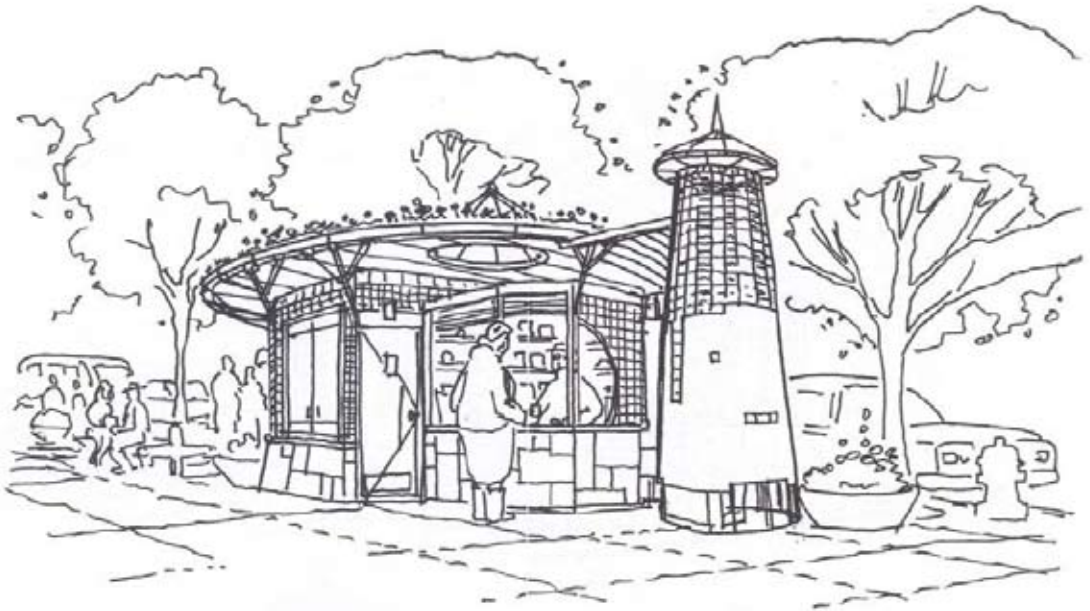
The three up-to-date designs are unique in that they provide market stalls in each structure, with an attendant who will oversee the use and upkeep of each toilet while also generating funds through sales of newspapers and other items. Additionally, there will be gathering spaces in the larger designs. The construction process will be led by Walsh Construction, with some creative features to be built through community involvement. To be completed in summer of 2007.

Quote: "What a wild ride this has been, to go from the grassroots to enjoying broad political support and even public funding! Yeehaw!!!"
- Sally Noble, Project Coordinator

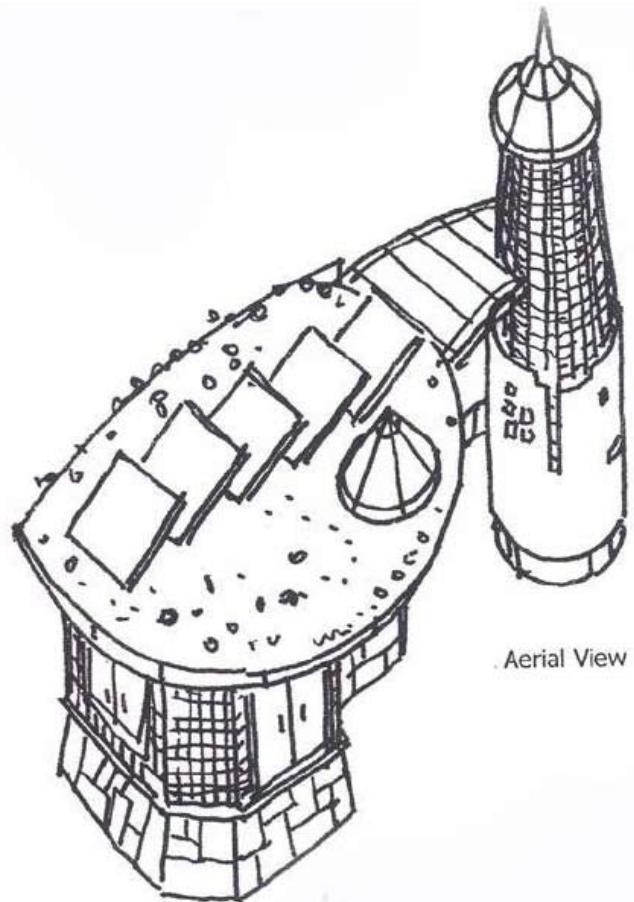
Hosts- Mayor Tom Potter & The City of Portland

Coordinator- Sally Noble of PHLUSH &
Central City Concern

Designers- Mark Lakeman with City Repair,
Architects without Borders, and SERA



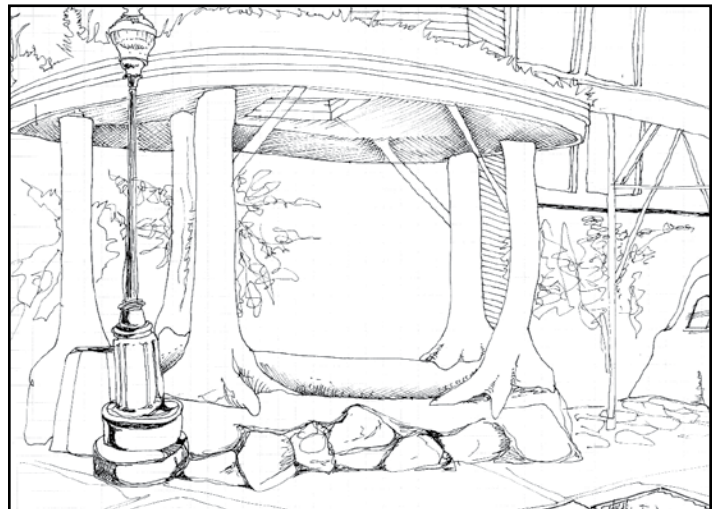
View at Street Level



Aerial View

PSU Earthworks

SW Park & Harrison



Faculty Contact:
Pedro Ferbel-Azcarate

Runaway Circus Puppet Theatre

605 SE 37th



This exciting and entertaining initiative is unfolding on a private site in an effort to integrate community art into a residential neighborhood. Hosts Jane & Phil's former garage is being rebuilt to serve as rehearsal and performance space for the Runaway Circus Puppet Theatre, as well as other artistic expressions such as music and storytelling.

This VBC project is inspired in part by the small neighborhood puppet theatres of Sicily. Every quarter of Palermo and other towns is home to a storefront theatre, often the front of the puppeteer's home on a side street that serves residents in the immediate area. On performance days, the puppeteer will put out a banner, and people in the street will stop by at various times during the day to catch up on the latest episode. "Man does not live by bread alone" – this is art as an intimate service to a community, right along with the baker, the cobbler, and the greengrocer.

This dream of community performance art space is a challenge to translate into an American neighborhood, with its modern residential zoning and more isolated lifestyles. In this initial phase, Jane & Phil's goal of

transforming the interior and façade into an inviting creative space with an organic quality was realized with the help of master builder Sukita Crimmel, honored guest Starhawk, and VBC volunteers from all over the country. This included a group of puppeteers from San Francisco performed shows between building tasks to keep everyone motivated and enthusiastic.

Through this building process Jane & Phil gained a number of insights, including how the theatre can be used as a method of engaging political discussions as well as for artsy puppetry. The puppet theatre is in its last stages of completion, currently Jane & Phil are deciding whether to paint the cob walls or leave their natural rustic color. They are very excited about opening the theatre for its first public gathering in the near future, possibly in collaboration with Laurelhurst Park. As part of upcoming convergences, Jane & Phil would love to augment their theatre with a mosaic, kiosk, cob bench, bike rack, a more elaborate entryway, and additional permaculture features.



Hosts:
Jane & Phil

Sabin Green Teahouse and Bench

4520 NE 19th ave

Yet again, Lydia Doleman has led a huge VBC project to completion while teaching all concerned how to make lots of friends while having fun! This time it was in support of the revolutionary and popular new Sabin Green “Micro” Co-housing community, built just before the start of VBC 7. The site community and volunteers had so much fun that the continuity of participation was a new record. Was it the learning or the laughing, the amazing concept of shared living or the “dress-up day” silliness that brought people back day after day? Of all the reasons for it’s success, Lydia was surely the biggest.

Designed to bring it’s little community together for everyday activities and special events, the form of the little teahouse was inspired by the “T-Whale” Teahouse of VBC5 that now resides at Tryon Life Community Farm. At Sabin, the design has incorporated thermal strawclay walls and cob plaster, earthen floors, cob benches, and a highly sculptural living roof. Sited in a native plant garden, the whole structure is made of natural and recycled materials, including much salvaged lumber. As the little building faces the common piazza, it becomes a circular raised planter covered by mosaic tile out of which grows the community tree.



The lunch provided by the site hosts was reportedly “wonderful”, with each member of the resident community cooking at different times. Though the houses were designed and built before they moved in, now the residents have built the most precious piece of their community together, a community gathering place that will symbolize them and bring them together for years and years.

Quote: “Everything went wonderfully! We couldn’t be happier. What a dream for us, and now it’s real! Thanks to you all at VBC!!!” - David & Rosemarie



Hosts- David Sweet, Rosemarie Cordello & the Sabin Green Community

Eco-Superhero Developer- Eli Spevak

Designers & Builders- Flying Hammer Productions with Lydia Doleman, Carrie Lien, and Tyler Walters, and Communitecture with Mark Lakeman

Sellwood Permaculture Demonstration Site / Co-Creation House aka “COHO”

1568 SE Nehalem Street



The site was once a small, basic, ---dare it be said, ugly? ---900 sqft house with a freestanding garage on a standard residential Portland 50' x 100' lot. During the VBC, volunteers worked to transform this unremarkable place into a community oasis.

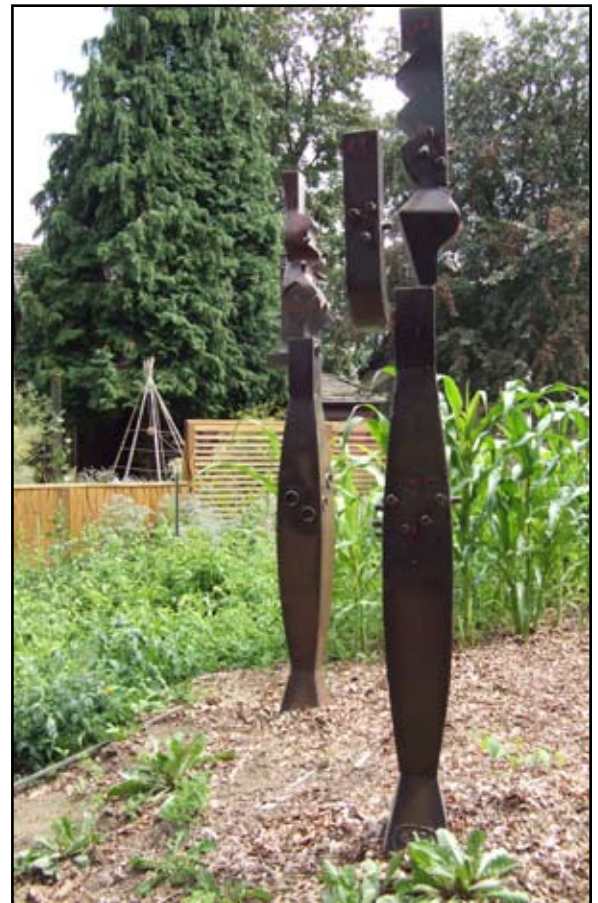
How did such a transformation occur? The driveway was torn out and returned to tilthy Oregon soil capable of hosting a permaculture fruit garden. The front yard, already festooned with metal sculptures by the world famous Lee Kelly, took its first steps in becoming a demonstration site for swales and urban xeriscaping. The back yard continued its evolution from blackberry thicket into urban farmscape.

But wait, there's more! The large garage became a canvas for one of Alberta Street's finest muralists, the renowned Hampton Rodriguez. The rendering of the image was spectacular, and the final product -a community effort- is a stunning addition to Portland's public art scene.

Still more? The garage has been recently converted into an artist's studio and we are completing a writer's studio in the back. Both need decoration and creative input.

This project is designed to become a living residency for a rotating cast of three co-creators --- an artist, a writer and a permaculturalist. The artists in residence will be required to share what they do with the community in return for highly subsidized housing and studio space. They'll feed the community that nurtures them ---literally, with fruit and food, and in other realms with public art and culture. They'll teach each other and all of us how to foster and express the various creative forces that lie at the intersection of nature, the mind, the spirit and our society. And they'll act as a living lesson in a way we can keep the positive bohemian aspects of Portland alive despite the grinding wheels of inner-city gentrification.

Site Contacts: Richard Birke and
Angela Zehava



Share-It Square Repainting, Bench Reconstruction & New Living Roof

SE 9th & Sherrett



This project included repainting the original intersection repair project and the rebuilding and expansion of an important feature on the southwest corner.

One of the most beautiful and beloved projects of the VBC was the Angel Bench, built in by Janelle Kapoor and Lyn Doirion in 2004. The bench was famous for it's lovely depiction of a native woman's face, who the neighbors imagined had once living in a village where Sellwood is today. One of the early "exposed" cob bench projects, it ultimately failed through a lack of simple maintenance and protection from water entering the joints between the cob and the stone seat. However, if the bench had been given a roof at the start it would never have suffered problems. The community of Share-It Square became determined to save this wonderful homage to the native spirit of Sellwood, and began it's reconstruction during VBC 7.

The process began by building an oval structure, like a grove of trees in plan, to support the new living roof. The roof is conical, topped by a recycled Plexiglas skylight prism that brings light into the interior of the structure, illuminating the recycled clear vertical grain wood that supports weight of the plants above. After the roof was complete, the cob reconstruction began, with the features of the native angel woman emerging from the cob as Michelangelo's sculptures would from stone. This time, though, she was happy and smiling.

The completion of this bench will bring the site of the birth of City Repair up to date, just in time for the biggest-ever community gathering of the Share-It Square, a wedding in the streets. As with the last eleven years of activity, this community will continue to be a source of inspiration for the whole city, and City Repair too.

We've missed her, the angel in the bench, for too long! Now the square feels whole again. I Love this place!" - A Passing Neighbor

Host- Mike & Shelly
Designer & Builders- Lyn Doirion,
John Black, & Mark Lakeman



South Tabor Commons

SE 61st and Clinton

South Tabor Commons started slowly four years ago, and since then has certainly become one of the most exciting and talked about community projects of the entire history of the VBC. A broad process of community involvement left them with a high degree of support, but with just enough detractors for them to decide to initially build only on a private corner. This site, benefacted by the builder has moved forward in doable stages, with the current form really becoming a whole greater than the sum of it's parts.

The current form includes a community oven, a fabulous curving cob bench that features a "batwing" canvas roof cover that must be seen to believe, a snail mosaic piazza floor, and now a sculptural retaining wall made of expensive stone cast-offs too small for ordinary use in kitchen or bathroom projects. Instead, here the material becomes a new retaining wall that now serves to support a dense series of plantings, including bamboo, new fruit trees, many flowers, and lots of herbs. Now, the site also provides many other expressions of sustainable urban living, including more natural building, animal husbandry, and many related projects that display permaculture in action.

Site Host- Erin Mirrett

Site Builder- Mark Bardagjy



South East Uplift

3534 SE Main St.

Serving Portland since 1968. Why was it established you ask? “To halt construction of a freeway that would have divided southeast Portland, displaced homes and led to further socioeconomic deterioration.” This non-profit coalition, comprised of 20 neighborhoods throughout NE and SE Portland, works to provide free technical assistance in citizen participation, community development, organizing and urban planning. Now, with a history like that it is no wonder that City Repair and SEUL have been partnering since the very first VBC seven years ago to shape local awareness and accountability for community issues.

Over the years, the work done during the VBC has been shaped by a method of trial and error. From firsthand experience, it was discovered that the viability of cob structures is best maintained when designed with rain cover. VBC 7 was a time to uplift the 7-year old cob structures at the SEUL Headquarters by building canopies for the cob bench and kiosk. In recent years the much-loved Luck Dragon bench



suffered heavy wear and tear when some trees were removed from the site and rainwater meanwhile infiltrated the structure causing further damages. These community landmarks were revitalized this year as neighborhood volunteers came together once again.

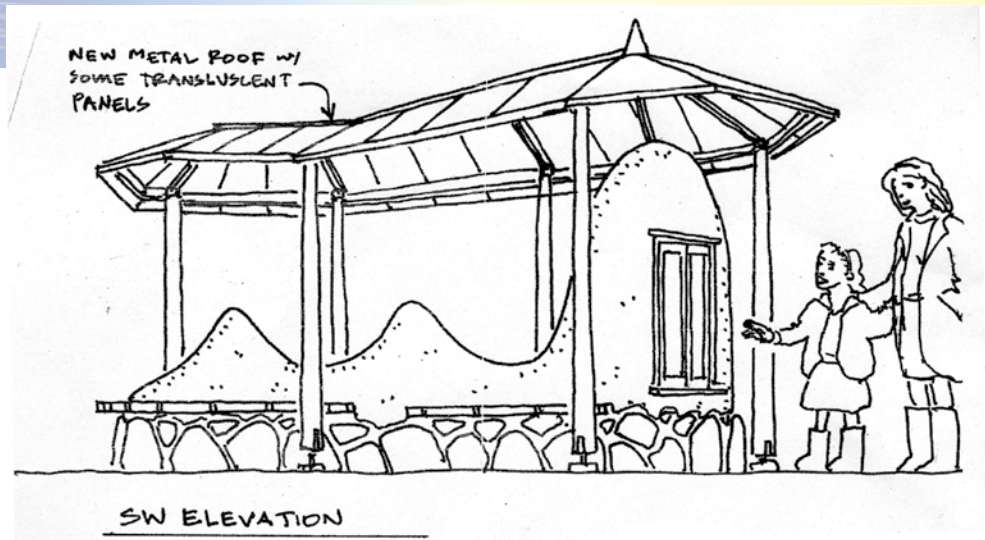
With a newer, fresher look the kiosk and bench will continue to serve the surrounding community as an information outpost and beloved landmark for young and old passersby.

Host: Joyce Walls



Sunnyside Environmental School Roof

3421 SE Salmon



In 2005, in order to showcase hands-on environmental design solutions numerous middle school students and residents of the Sunnyside neighborhood designed this ecological gathering place to resemble a local mountain range. The learning-by-design-and-building process was led by Michelle Guthrie of City Repair, with Joe Kennedy and Joshua Klyber interpreting the design during the community-powered construction process. Though this project began as an “exposed” cob kiosk with several built-in benches, it did not weather well. After two years of more than usual maintenance work, it was decided that the bench needed a new roof made entirely of natural and recycled materials.

After two design cycles, the VBC 7 construction process began, with numerous people coming to assist, including architect Sage Saskil of Seattle. In one of the more delightful on-site improvisations of City Repair, the design process proceeded as a joyous and continuous dialogue throughout the course of VBC 7, with lots of laughing, drawing, and testing. The final result is certainly one of the most sculptural and highly crafted projects we have ever produced. The final design features ten round wood columns, cross braced with a hundred diagonal struts that are made to resemble tree branches. The roof form is comprised of four warped trapezoids that support the living roof above.

What had become a difficult maintenance challenge instead became an inspiring gateway to the school. The new roof is not only a compelling prototype for ecological design, it is a surprising and beautiful place that will bring people together for decades to come. The School plans to work with City Repair on similar projects in the Sunnyside Neighborhood in the years to come.

“Wow, how wonderful, what an improvement!!!” - A Sunnyside Parent

Host- Mia Meyer, Teacher

Designers & Builders- Joe Davis &
Mark Lakeman





Sunnyside Piazza

SE 33rd & SE Yamhill

Hosts:

Jan Semenza, Marnie Stark,
and other neighbors

Web links:

http://www.pps.org/great_public_spaces
<http://www.portlandground.com>

Toby's Permaculture Yard

SE 14th and Rhine



This site was an immensely huge project that is still in the process of finishing the final product. This site was an active educational site with the help of the Greywater Guerillas giving workshops on how to create water-treatment wetlands. It was a great opportunity and learning experience for the volunteers as well as the site hosts, as well as being an opportunity for friends, new and old, to come together to learn new things as well as use their skills to build something incredible.

Toby credited that each day there were anywhere from twenty to thirty volunteers, or even more! He claimed his site was like the “party site” as he described his backyard full of laughter, conversation, and people constantly saying hi to him and commenting or asking about the project. He claimed that it really broke him out of his introverted tendencies and got him to meet some people, including a neighbor who lives across the street who he had never met in all his years of living in his neighborhood.

Toby claims he will most definitely be hosting another site for VBC, however possibly on a more modest scale. The project is still underway to finish a small amount of cob work, plastering, and finalizing the bench.

Site Contact: Toby Hemenway



Wahkeena Woods Food Forest

This inspiring site is located in southeast near the Leach Botanical Gardens. As a first year VBC project, Wahkeena Woods focused on converting ¼ acre of lawn to a food forest ecosystem.

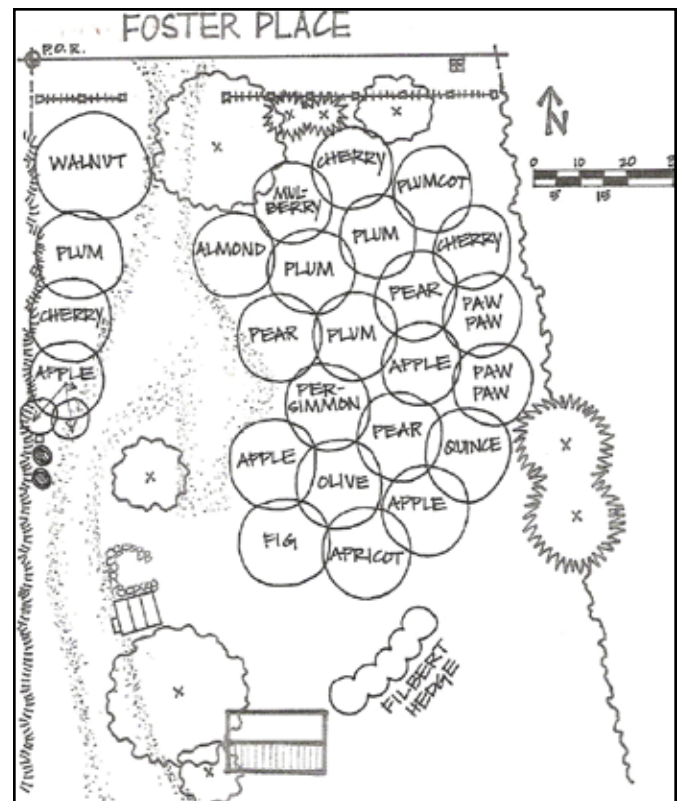
We planted almost 50 fruit, nut, and northwest native trees, complete with an understory of berries, herbs, flowers & vegetables.

Daily workparties for planting & sheet mulching were held, and volunteers learned about plant propagation and perennial forage systems with permaculturalists Marisha Auerbach and Leonard Barrett.

The different fruit varieties were selected to provide a continuous harvest from May through November. Specifically selected from unpatented varieties, these trees are increasingly difficult to find. Alder trees were interspaced with the fruit trees to fix nitrogen and fertilize the food forest; every few years the alders will be coppiced (pruned almost to the ground and then re-grown from the new sprouts that form) for crafts and fuel. We also planted rootstocks that will be used to draft cuttings for new fruit trees to be distributed through Willow Sage's "Joanie Appleseed" Project, aimed at providing food for low-income families. Willow led a Fruit Gardening in Small Spaces workshop and planted a small-space demonstration garden to illustrate how food forests are possible even in urban areas where land resources are scarce. To ensure adequate moisture for 4 perimeter trees inaccessible by garden hose, a large mulch basin was filled in with compost, spoiled hay, vegetable trimmings, old clothes & two large futon mattresses! The all-cotton leftover bedding allowed us to fill in a large area with a moisture-retentive & decomposable medium while keeping usable, natural materials out of the city dump.

This fall we will be adding filbert hedges & supplemental understory vegetation. Three bioswales will also be constructed and planted with native vegetation in order to control erosion on the slope above the creek in back of the property. As this area is difficult to water, we are holding off until the fall rains begin. For next year's VBC we will be adding more understory plants & nut trees (walnut, almond & filbert) to our food forest and exploring the possibility of adding cob to our existing shed structure.

Site Contact:
Willow



Wilshire Park Community Pavillion

Wilshire Park, NE 33rd Ave & Skidmore



First, community members began to converse on their vision for the community pavilion at Wilshire Park. Next, they put their talk into action.

The Wilshire Park Community Pavilion is the first VBC site to endeavor into the uncharted territory of collaborating with the Portland Parks and Recreation Department to develop a community-led project at an existing park structure. The process has been slow and ongoing, but the outcome has infinite beneficial possibilities.

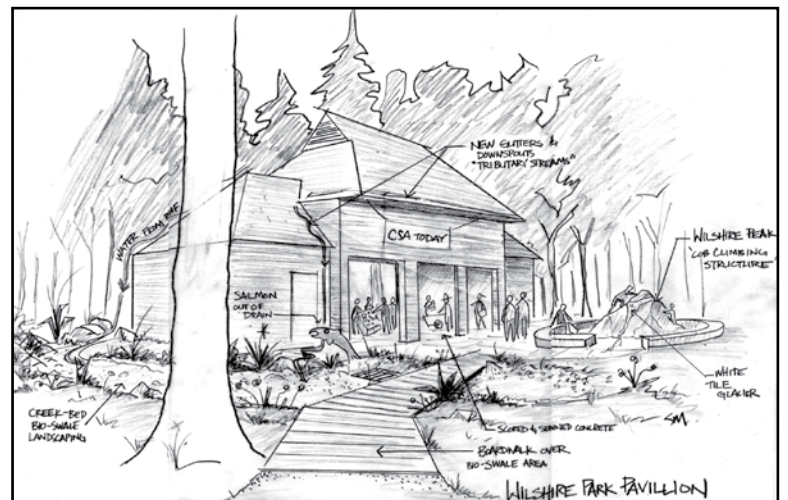
An existing gathering point in the Beaumont Wilshire neighborhood was further developed this year as community members worked together during the VBC to highlight awareness on prevalent themes like stormwater management, naturescaping and community-based public art.

Pre-VBC, the Pavilion was without-gutters which led the accumulation of a significant amount of sediment in the catch basin. Post-VBC, new gutters were installed and stormwater was directed to an infiltrated vegetated basin and bio-swale before subsequently flowing into the existing catch basin.

Pre-VBC, naturescaping was not being actively applied as an integrated tool for education in the collection of the Pavilion's valuable functions. Post-VBC, the Pavilion was able to undergo construction of a rock and native plant garden to act as a daily educational tool for parkgoers to learn about the benefits of using native plants.

Pre-VBC, basic wear had left the Pavilion in need of some practical, artistic attention. Post-VBC, the site received some TLC via pressure-washing, floor-staining, and now dons a community mural.

There is great potential being revealed through the small structure at the Beaumont-Wilshire Park and that potential will continue to come to life as community members actively engage in their surroundings.



The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. they must be felt with the heart.
- Keller

Hosts: Pam, Lisa, Ankistz



Yoga Union Community Wellness Center

2043 SE 50th Ave. 50th & Lincoln

Nestled between the Mt. Tabor and Richmond neighborhoods, this community wellness center rests at the corner of SE 50th Avenue & Lincoln Street. Lincoln Street's popular bike route and 50th Avenue's frequent bus service offer possibilities for catching the attention of commuters, as well as those coming to practice yoga. With nine different styles of yoga and three to five classes per day, the Yoga Union provides an unlimited range of options for both exercise and relaxation.

For this year's VBC, Arif of City Repair's Depave Project led a mini-workshop to remove almost 50 square feet of concrete to prepare for planting. Japanese Snowbells now line the sidewalk, chosen over other varieties because of their beauty and low maintenance. A new pair of large murals were added to the building along Lincoln Street. Designed by muralist & Yoga Union practitioner Dana Lewis, the two murals were created with natural, organic colors and shapes to compliment each other, much like a balanced yoga practice is both yin and yang. An

informational kiosk built at the corner is home to a community bulletin board and is awaiting its canvas roof, which is currently being fabricated.

We ended our week with a community potluck party, celebrating our new additions with neighborhood family and friends. As a thank you for all of their hard work, VBC volunteers were rewarded a free class pass for each day of participation at the site to enjoy at their leisure! Our guests were also invited to come inside and see our new tea room, which is open to the main lobby and provides an inviting place to relax before and after class.

Community artwork available for purchase will be used to further support our project, promoting both local artists and sustainable building! We are excited to be involved in next year's VBC and are looking at the possibility of building a planter bench in the near future as partnership possibilities with TriMet are explored.



Hosts: Todd Vogt &
Annie Adamson
Contact: Matt Bibeau



Disjecta Intersection Repair “Moondala”

While a critical mass of VBC volunteers was out during the day building & learning at sites all over the city, a handful of others were preparing for their joyous gathering each night. The Disjecta warehouse was transformed into a site all its own, as we worked hard to create a place to play, dance, eat, talk, sing, listen, and relax.

The entrance within the Disjecta building was framed by a stunning wooden arch. After passing through it, one entered an empty space – a crossroads in which to immediately make decisions: where to go, what to do? The space needed to be grounded, needed to have a purpose... and thus, the first “mock” intersection repair was born.

This “mock” intersection repair & installation art project was envisioned and created within the Disjecta venue space during the week of VBC. Designed by artist Katie Selin with the help of many City Repair friends, it unfolded as a mandala embracing the whole of VBC – the intersection of our ideas & intentions. Our common aim to create a healthy and sustainable world through reinvestment in our communities.

This mandala incorporates a number of different inspirations. At her nexus, the Moondala begins with the T-Horse. As City Repair’s emblem & one of its original undertakings, its essence to “give and cooperate” is at the heart of each VBC project. Blooming outward in a starflower, it is enclosed in a medicine wheel. The Medicine Wheel is a Native American concept that celebrates the fact that all life is part of a never-ending cycle. The circle is made up of four colors: white, red, yellow & blue or black. Represented in the four directions, the four seasons, and four races/colors of man, among other things, is the idea that all life is interconnected. The overlaid textures express the variety of natural elements: air, water, earth, fiber. Beyond this layer, the final circle shows the moon and all her faces – a full lunar cycle as viewed from mother earth. This circle commemorates our passage of time together. Extending from the lunar ring are four hands nestled in leaves. In the four colors of the medicine wheel, these hands holding seeds for the future represent our diversity of people and backgrounds. They radiate north, south, east and west, carrying knowledge & hope for the future.

Many thanks to Geo, Matt, Mocean, Josiah, Amanda, Colie, Caroline, & the entire Open Heart Café crew.

Many thanks to Geo, Matt, Mocean, Josiah, Amanda, Colie, Caroline, & the entire Open Heart Café crew.





Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.
-leo buscaglia



The Central Venue & Evening Events

Designed to model a thriving and sustainable Village where people easily make new friendships, communicate and create, as well as learn and celebrate, this year's Central Venue was located at the "cross-

roads of the city" Disjecta Building again this year. This two-story, former warehouse has proven to be a perfect venue for the project headquarters and evening performance venue of the VBC. During VBC7, the two-level layout amounted to a "vertical village", with the public gateway and entrance downstairs opening into a fabulous display of all of the community project designs. There were more than a dozen areas and functions on this level, including an art gallery, a healing and yoga center, a sacred space with an installation, a visioning center, a tea bar, a volunteer's lounge, a clothing sale area, a ticket booth and accounting office, two major kitchen stations, a gathering platform, and a sculptural "Builders Lounge". But all this was just preparation for what people would find when they found their way upstairs!

Upon arrival on the second level, the raw warehouse space became a fabulous performance facility, with a multi-level stage, wild proscenium arch of recycled materials, and trees as columns décor. The technical personnel and facilities were top notch, providing sound and light for the amazing speakers and performers that came to the stage. Complimenting the performance space were a tea and desert bar called "The Nest Cafe" that was built to resemble a giant bird's nest, and there was also a stylish bar for creative and delightful drinks. Just around the corner, on the other side of the tea bar, people would discover the Village Marketplace, with dozens of creative vendors, healers, live-action artists, and gathering spaces. The beautiful and popular food service installation was also located on this floor, bringing people together at an exact starting time for a dinner theatre experience.

The amount of effort that went into creating this venue was thrilling to behold and participate in, with construction teams working around the clock for two continuous weeks to get everything ready. We were fortunate to have so many talented and skilled leaders present to support the dozens of skilled and unskilled people who arrived to help with all of the work. Many people also received work trade admission for all of their efforts. Special thanks must go to Elliot Rasenick and the whole Event Design team.





Oh my, did it really happen? Yes, Rabbi Michael Lerner came to speak, and now City Repair is on his mind! Penny Livingston and Jon Young were here to talk about community and ecology! Micheal Meade, the legendary leader of community and personal transformation was at VBC! Then there was the amazing gift of "Boreantis" by Helen Hill, followed by Water Catchment inspiration and leader Brad Landcaster, poet and author Kim Stafford. What about Powerhouse global activist Starhawk whom delivered the performance of her career in describing the inherent cooperative nature of evolution itself, the metaphorical stories of permaculture leader and mentor Toby Hemenway, or the art-saga of Betty LaDuke! So much! Then the dance and music performances, which also exceeded all before, such as Nala Walla, The Everyone Orchestra with Mchael Kang, Jujuba, the Maambo Queens, the Vagabond Opera, the Sassparilla Jug Band, the Foghorn Stringband, the Wanderlust Circus, and so many more performers who came to play just because it was time for the Village Building Convergence! What great will and inspiration was built in the hearts of the thousands of people who came to be a part of it all!



Evening Events Schedule



Friday, May 18 2007 "Placemaking"

- Greg Raisman, Portland Office of Transportation. Greg is a Traffic Safety Specialist for the Community and School Traffic Safety Partnership in the Portland Office of Transportation.
- Lydia Doleman, teaches ecological construction and creative, community development practices .
- Extra Action Marching Band

Saturday, May 19 2007 "Neoindigineity"

- Penny Livingston, is the founder of Sustainable Living Designs (SLD), The Permaculture Institute of Northern California (PINC), and Regenerative Design Institute (RDI)
- The Wanderlust Circus
- Three Leg Torso

Sunday, May 20 2007 "Diversity"

- Helen Hill, has created what she calls "transformative theater", that is, theater that goes to the root of society's inequities and injustices in order to transform both the audience and the actors who take on the roles.
- Betty LaDuke, is a highly accomplished painter, printmaker, activist, and teacher whose work celebrates cultural diversity and the planet we live on



Monday, May 21 2007 "Stories of Place"

- Kim Stafford, he teaches at Lewis & Clark College and directs the Northwest Writing Institute.

Tuesday, May 22 2007 "Water"

- Toby Hemenway, is the author of the first major North American book on permaculture, Gaia's Garden: A Guide to Home-Scale Permaculture.
- Brad Lancaster, is a permaculture teacher, designer, consultant, and activist living in Tucson, Arizona.



Wednesday, May 23 2007 "Herstory"

- Starhawk, is a writer, teacher, activist, and Witch who has been a long-term leading voice in the Goddess movement
- The Mambo Queens
- uJuba



Thursday, May 24 2007 "Democracy"

- Rabbi Michael Lerner, author of the forthcoming *The Left Hand of God: Taking Our Country Back from the Religious Right* (HarperSan-Francisco, 2006) and rabbi of Beyt Tikkun.
- Vagabond Opera

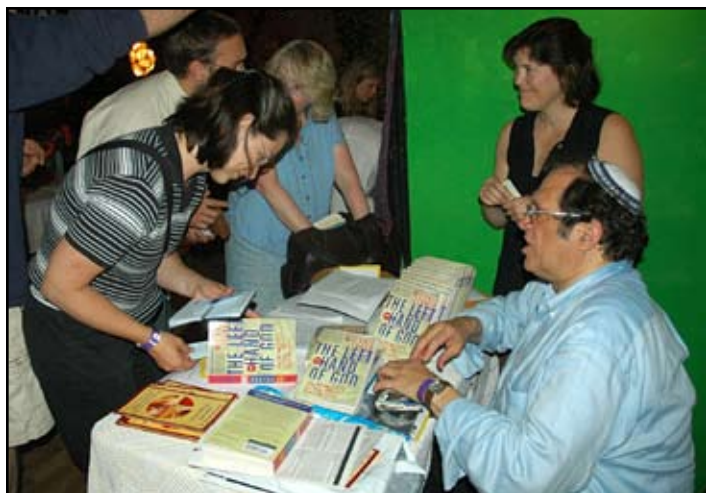
Friday, May 25 2007 "Urban Permaculture"

- Nala Walla, a transdisciplinary artist, teacher and performer who emphasizes the central role that the participatory arts must play in healing fractured ecologies and communities.
- Paul Stamets, has been a dedicated mycologist for over thirty years.
- Sassparilla Jug Band
- The Foghorn Stringband



Saturday, May 26 2007 "Village Life"

- Michael Meade, is an accomplished scholar of mythology, poetry and traditional ritual, a storyteller, a mentor to disadvantaged youth, and a drummer.
- The Everyone Orchestra



Workshop Schedule

Saturday, May 19th

- Fruit Gardening for Small Spaces – Willow Sage
- Greywater Principles and Design – Greywater Guerrillas
- Seed Swap – Tsarra Berger
- Peak Oil Awareness Introductory Training – Jeremy O’Leary
- Re-Creating the Landscape of Childhood – Leon Smith
- Kundalini Dance – Nature Hogan
- Co-Creative Gardening: Working with Nature Spirits – Angela Zehava
- Permaculture Principles – Marisha Auerbach and Alexis Jaquin
- Learning the Language of the Birds and Animal Tracking – John Young
- Regenerative Design and Nature Awareness Day Program – Penny Livingston-Stark



Sunday, May 20th

- The Art of Placemaking, a 200 year plan for your Organizations – Penny Livingston-Stark
- Whole Systems Schools for Whole Communities: Creating a Whole Systems Integrated Sustainable Design for Education – Michelle Mathis and Kristen Lans
- Heart of Now – Karen
- Natural Paint Making – Scott Sutton
- Disconnecting from Civilization – Norris Thomlison and Theresa Latoski
- Permaculture Systems Design – Marisha Auerbach
- Swale Installation – Greywater Guerrillas

Monday, May 21st

- Swales for Fruit Trees – Greywater Guerrillas
- Rainbarrel Water Catchment Workshop – Brian Smith
- Astro Yoga and Zodiac Dance – VerDarLuz
- Plant Propagation Workshop – Marisha Auerbach and Leonard Barrett
- Real World Permaculture Design – Pam Leitch
- Beekeeping 101 – Bev Cooke and Glen Andersen
- Iraq War: Military Solution to a Financial Problem – Willow Rain
- Participation, Intimacy, and Stewardship: Methods of Ecological Engagement in the Built Environment – Joseph Becker



Tuesday, May 22nd

- Maintenance and Repair of Cob Benches – Joshua Klyber
- Greywater Installation – Greywater Guerrillas
- Seed Saving – Marc DesMarets from NW RAGE
- Advanced Permaculture Concepts – Jordan Fink
- Human Flowering Singing Circle – Morgan Brent
- Ecovillage Mandala – Gaius Young
- 2nd Annual City Repair Non-Competitive Half-Marathon – Pedro Ferbel-Azcarate
- Seed Bombs for Guerrilla Gardening – Jadene Foreman
- Electric and Magnetic Fields: Home, health, and universe – Joseph Becker

Wednesday, May 23rd

- Water Harvesting with Pumice Wicks – Greywater Guerrillas
- Transplanting Workshop - Marisha Auerbach
- Tribal Talk – Morgan Brent
- Natural Paint: Clay Paints and Limewashes – Joshua Klyber
- Chickens 101 – Tonya Meyer
- Weeding For Soil Fertility – Elizabeth Fox
- How to Grow All Your Own Produce in 2 ½ Years: A Revolution Disguised As Organic Gardening – Marisha Auerbach



Thursday, May 24th

- Guerrilla Gardening – Leonard Barrett
- Perennial Forage Systems – Marisha Auerbach
- Emergence and Social Permaculture – Gaius Young
- VisionPDX: Visioning Portland's Future – Amanda Rhoads
- Natural Paint: Casein, Mineral and Oil Paints – Joshua Klyber
- The Jumping Off Place – Mary Rose
- PermaPerformance – Nature Hogan
- The Language of the Birds – Dan Daly
- Plant Teachers and Herbal First Aid – Scott Kloos
- Urban Rabbits – Page Hawley
- Worm Bins and Vermiculture – Pam Leitch
- Perennial Forage Systems – Willow Sage

*Whatever you can do,
or dream you can, begin
it. boldness has genius,
power, and magic in it.
- Goethe*

Friday, May 25th

- Perennial Forage Systems – Marisha Auerbach
- Indigenous Consciousness – Morgan Brent
- Introduction to Cooperatives- Zea Ewart-Bean
- Natural Paint: Glairs, egg, and other miscellaneous paints – Joshua Klyber
- Seasons of the Self: Nature-Based Personal Ceremony – Jay Fields
- Bodyversity Training – Nala Walla
- Permaculture Design Charette – Jadene Foreman
- Seed Ball Workshop – Marisha, Alexis, and Leonard
- Mushroom Inoculations and Sheet Mulching – Jordan Weiss

Saturday, May 26th

- Solar Showers – Aprovecho
- Soil Foodweb Gardening: An Introduction to Soil Biology, Aerobic Compost, and Aerobic Compost Teas – Kim McDodge
- Swales and More Swales – Angela Zehava
- Dances of Universal Peace – Pat Adams
- Bodyversity Training – Nala Walla



City Repair Project checks wish list, starts building next gathering places

Ideology, action converge and prosper

By REBECCA RAGAIN
for The Tribune

Yveline Wilnau believes that building relationships is one of the most difficult challenges a person faces in life.

That's why she dedicates hours each week, year-round, to organizing Portland's annual Village Building Convergence.

Now in its seventh year, the Village Building Convergence is one of the oldest and largest components of the City Repair Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping citizens create community-oriented gathering places.

Village Building Convergence

When: Friday through May 27
More: www.cityrepair.org

Between 30 and 50 people from around the country will fly into Portland for the 10-day event, which begins Friday.

The visitors, along with hundreds of Portlanders, will participate in the various happenings of the Village Building Convergence, which include hands-on workshops and projects during the day and sit-down presentations and group meals at night.

The evening gatherings are the only events for which an entrance fee is charged; it's possible to arrange a work exchange, in lieu of the fee. A community-style dinner begins at 5 p.m. and lasts until the evening's featured speaker takes the floor around 7 p.m.



Preparing for the upcoming Village Building Convergence, which draws activists nationwide, City Repair Project's core planning group gathers to plot 10 days of brainstorming, strategizing and, yes, construction.

This year's speakers include mycologist Paul Stamets; Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of the journal Tikkun; and Starhawk, a teacher, activist and writer of books on topics such as women's spirituality and environmental activism.

Evening presentations are followed by community dialogue. Then the dancing and music begin, featuring groups such as Ju-

liana, 3 Leg Torso and Jackstraw. At the heart of the Village Building Convergence are "placemaking" projects. Each day, volunteers band together to improve selected public and private sites, aiming to make the places more inviting as community gathering areas.

There are about 30 project sites this year. Some sites reappear on the project list year after

year, such as Tryon Life Community Farm, where help is needed to realign trails and to finish a cob sauna, among other tasks.

Along with natural building, projects and workshops commonly focus on sustainable-living skills like water harvesting, permaculture and beekeeping — ecologically sound practices that fulfill the basic human needs for sustenance and shelter.

For example, at the NEST Collaborative (that is, a "collaborative laboratory") in St. Johns, Ivy Stovall has joined with her neighbors to create what she calls "an experiment ground for urban collaborative living."

Two families share their yard space, growing food crops and raising chickens. During the Village Building Convergence, they'll open up the joint property to visitors who want to learn about worm bins and urban rabbits, among other topics.



Yveline Wilnau, "placemaking" coordinator for the convergence, ponders another detail that's part of the core planning.

By participating in the Village Building Convergence and sharing their personal stories of collaborative living, or "radical interdependence," as Stovall calls it, the families of NEST hope to show others that it is possible to live sustainably within the urban environment.

Stovall says that she and her neighbors want to help others feel "empowered to create their own models and systems and new ideas of how to live together."

Another perennial type of Village Building Convergence project is intersection repair, where groups get together to beautify a public intersection by painting the street and sidewalks, adding planters along the walkways and building public benches or information kiosks.

This year, volunteers can assist in improving some of the most famous Village Building Convergence intersections, such as the Sunnyside Piazza at Southeast 33rd Avenue and Yamhill Street, and Share-It Square at Southeast Ninth Avenue and Sherrett Street.

At Northeast 37th Avenue and Shaver Street, Ankist Zadeyan is leading the development of a new project. The design to be painted on the street is called the "ripple effect" and features light blue and green concentric circles.

The intersection was chosen because it acts as a pedestrian gateway to Wilshire Park. But

Zadeyan also hopes that those traveling in cars will take a moment to enjoy the improvements before driving through the intersection.

Zadeyan also is organizing the revitalization of a neglected picnic shelter in Wilshire Park that he says has "kind of lost its identity over the years." The structure will be power-washed, repaired and painted with a mural by a neighborhood artist.

The vision is for the renewed structure to become a lively public gathering place where neighbors listen to musical performances on warm summer evenings, or get together for open-air movie showings.

There are few hard-and-fast rules to determine of what kind of project qualifies to become part of the Village Building Convergence. Most are in public spaces, but some are on private property.

"We're trying to dissolve the boundary between public and private. ... It's up to the community to decide what is a place, how will they transform it and what use will it have," Wilnau says.

She adds that City Repair wants to guide, not govern, placemaking activities: "We just help the communities find the strength, direction and tools to reach out to their own community, to learn how to cooperate and collaborate together."

Although the Village Building Convergence action focuses on building and improving places and structures, the process is more important than the result.

"In the end, we want to complete our project, but part of the project is just working together with people who have a shared interest," Zadeyan says.

Stovall, who participated in the Village Building Convergence last year, adds that it is much more rewarding to "complete something of grand scale with others than to do something tiny on your own."



Building community, one mural at a time

Urban makeover |
The Village Building
Convergence gets
neighbors together

By **STEPHEN BEAVEN**
THE OREGONIAN

Today is the official start of the seventh annual Village Building Convergence.

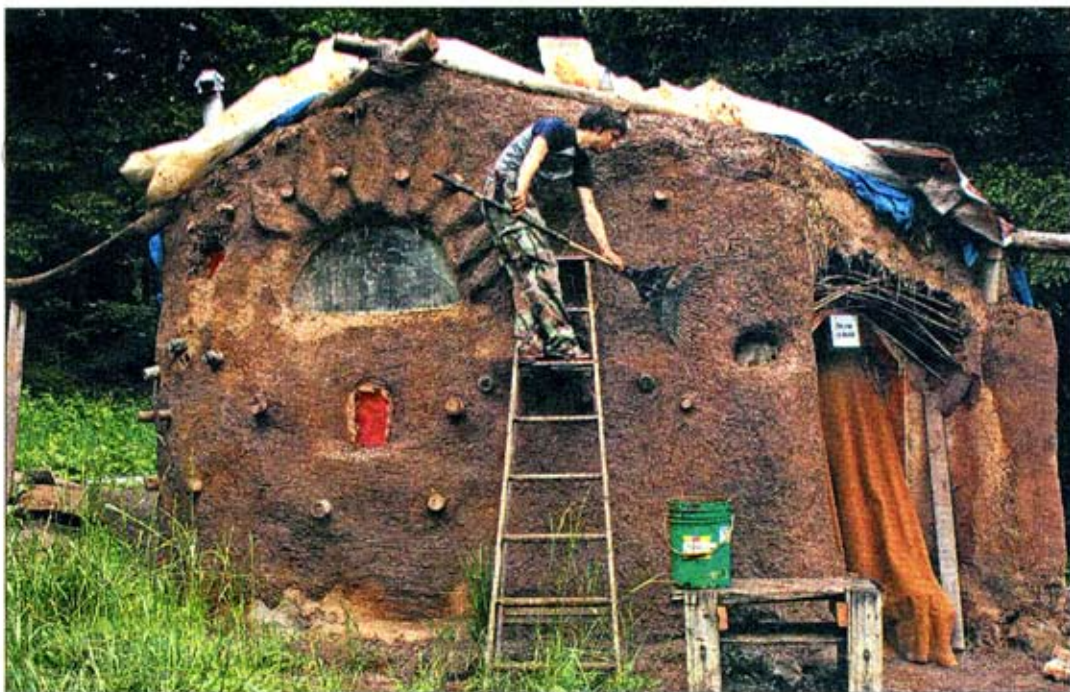
Sing "Happy Birthday" if you want. Stand up and applaud if it makes you feel better. But know that thousands of volunteers are already knee-deep into 25 environmentally friendly community building projects in the Portland area.

Construction doesn't officially start till Saturday. But for months, volunteers have planned and designed murals, intersection paintings, repair projects and, yes, a puppet theater in an old garage. They get to know one another through this process and then enjoy the fruits of their labor for years.

Take the huge, multicolored sunflower painted at Southeast 33rd Avenue and Yamhill Street in the Sunnyside neighborhood. Amber Ferris met neighbors there a few years ago at the annual painting party, ate with them the same day at the block party and then watched a movie with them last summer on a sheet hung in the middle of the street.

"I love it," she said Thursday, two days before the intersection will be repainted. "It's part of the reason we chose this neighborhood."

This is the kind of stuff that Mark Lakeman envisioned 10 years ago when he helped create the City Repair Project, a non-profit that sponsors the Village Building Convergence. The whole idea, he said, is to retrofit the city so it's easier for people to get together and feel like part



ROB FINCH/THE OREGONIAN/2005

Thousands of volunteers participate in the annual Village Building Convergence, concentrating on environmentally friendly community building projects in the Portland area. In past years, they worked on such projects as a cob sauna made of clay, sand and straw at the Tryon Life Community Farm.

The Convergence

The Village Building Convergence starts tonight with activities at 230 E. Burnside. Construction starts Saturday at 25 sites in the Portland area. The event ends May 27. For more information go to www.cityrepair.org or call 503-235-8946.

of their own communities.

It's a Portland idea, no doubt about it. But it's spread to about a dozen other cities, Lakeman said. And real progress has been made locally, from the cob pavilion at the Portland Hawthorne Hostel to the Village Green at the Tryon Life Community Farm.

The annual budget for the City Repair Project is nearly \$200,000. But thousands turn out each year to build up their neighborhoods and then hang out at the temporary Village Building Convergence headquarters on East Burnside Street.

The volunteer vibe is part of what attracted Yveline Wilnau to the City Repair Project.

She remembers one night last year at the giant warehouse on East Burnside. She saw a group of volunteers building the main stage at the little village that serves as the cafeteria and concert hall during the event each year.

"I was just, like, totally in awe," Wilnau said. "They'd probably all been working during the day, and then they came here at night. And people just

kept coming."

This year, the Village Building Convergence will stretch into Clackamas County, with the addition of a landscaped gathering area, a mural and a cob structure at a drug and alcohol treatment facility in West Linn.

The Runaway Circus Puppet Theatre will be built in a rehabbed garage at Southeast 37th Avenue and Washington Street.

Lakeman is happy to see these projects blossom here and elsewhere. He's also happy with the progress he's seen the past 10 years. Sort of.

"I was hoping we would have saved the world five years ago," he said.

He was joking. We think.

Stephen Beaven: 503-294-7663;
stevebeaven@news.oregonian.com





ポートランド 米国北西部の太平洋側、豊かな自然に恵まれたオレゴン州最大の都市。人口約55万人。近隣自治体を含む広域経済圏(人口約200万人)をポートランドと呼ぶこともある。

建物や路面をカラフルに塗ったり、歩道に奇抜なデザインのベンチを設けたりして、人が集う空間を作り出す。NPO(非営利組

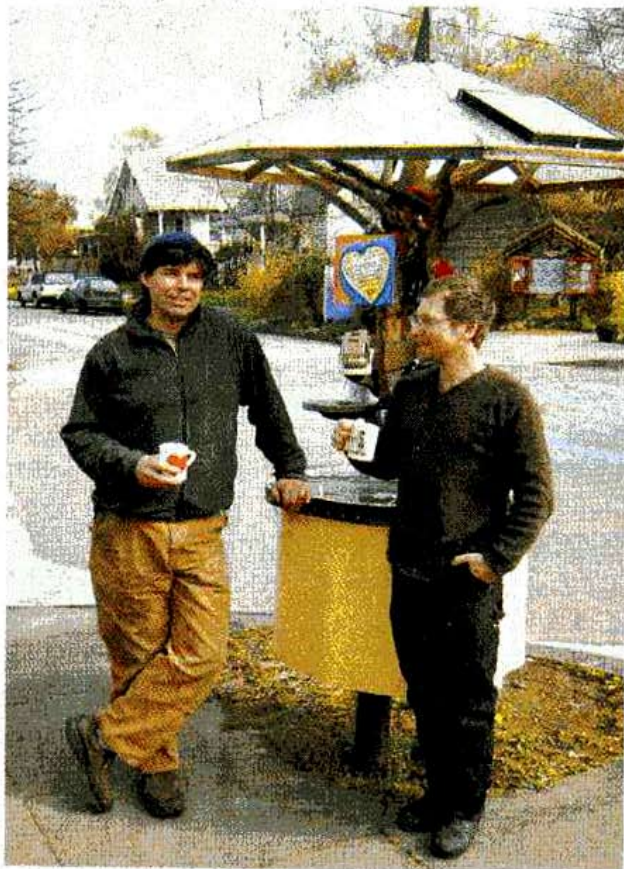
だ。人と人が出会う交差点などの公共空間を、地域社会の中心にしようという市民運動「シティーリペアー(街の修繕)」がポートランドで始まったのは1990年代だ。

通り過ぎていただけの交差点にみんなが立ち寄り、顔見知りになる。お互いのことがわかると助け合いの精神も生まれる。昨年10月には住民の結婚式もここで行われた。

だ。反対側の角には木製の棚があり、食器や衣類など不用品が並んでいる。自転車で通りかかったマーク・ランデスさん(48は、「昨日はズボンをもらい、代わりに花瓶を置いてきたよ」。古本や雑誌の本棚、伝言板、子どもの遊び場もある。

交差点に住民交

④交差点の角のテーブルでお茶を1杯。近隣住民の憩いの場になっている(ポートランドの9番街・シェレット通り交差点で) ⑤道路沿いに突如出現する奇抜なデザインの触れ合いスペース。伝言板には地元情報のチラシが張られている(マディソン通りで)



The Southeast Examiner

MAY/07



www.inseportland.com

"Your Neighborhood News Source"

Vol 18 No 5 Portland, OR

2007 Village Building Convergence:

Educating, Inspiring, and Activating the Portland Community

The City Repair Project hosts the 7th Annual Village Building Convergence (VBC) at sites across Portland from May 18-27. This year's VBC theme—"Seven Generations Beyond: A 200 Year Story of Portland"—was chosen to remember the impact our actions today will have on generations to come. Through local and direct participation, the Village Building Convergence creates empowerment with an emphasis on longer-term visions and decision-making.

Each year, the VBC is held to promote human-scale community action. Over 30 private sites, institutions, schools and neighborhoods create community-based projects for community improvement, which will be implemented during the Village Building Convergence.

This year's Village Building Convergence will include projects ranging from building eco-roofs to garden construction with locations in SE, SW, NE, NW and

N Portland.

Besides on-site projects, the VBC includes workshops, speakers, live music and entertainment. A full effort will be made to recycle all materials, promote bicycle riding to sites, and create a zero waste zone at the evening event site.

The City Repair Project is an organized group action that educates and inspires communities and individuals to creatively transform the places where they live. The City Repair Project facilitates artistic and ecologically-oriented placemaking through projects that honor the interconnection of human communities and the natural world.

Help keep this event community-supported by volunteering or donating. For information on volunteering, contact Maralena Murphy at 617.406.8299 or email vbcvolunteer@cityrepair.org. For other inquiries, contact Meghan Crane vbcpublicity@cityrepair.org.



the city repair project

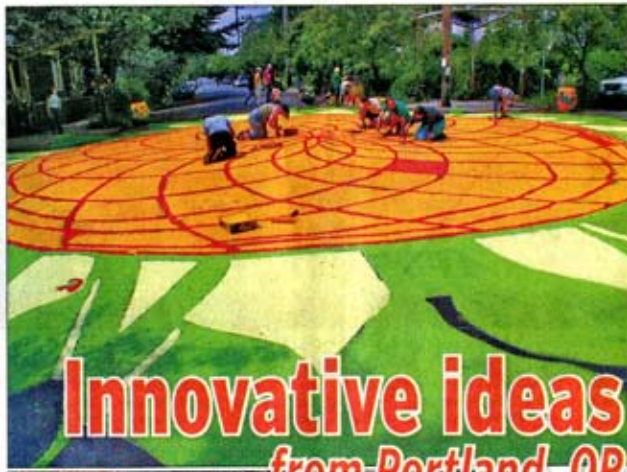
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Homes

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"HOMES" FIELD TRIP



Innovative ideas from Portland, OR



Above: VBC volunteers help repaint the intersection at Sunnyside Plaza, whose emblem is the sunflower; left: Portland has many unique structures along its sidewalks, like this shrine to a deceased bicyclist which incorporates bicycle sprockets into the mosaic. Photos by Carol Krause

BY CAROL KRAUSE
 Herald-Times Homes
 homes@heraldt.com

Readers may remember that last January, Mark Lakeman of Portland, OR, traveled to Bloomington and gave a public presentation about Portland's City Repair organization (which he co-founded).

City Repair creatively improves the core neighborhoods of Portland, "turning spaces into places" and strengthening the sense of community. Their innovative approaches include painting the pavement of intersections with colorful designs and building public structures that include kiosks, benches, gazebos and children's play areas. The goal is to recreate the tight-knit closeness of a village community within the larger geography of a city.

Mark told his Bloomington audience

HOME SPOTLIGHT,
 CONTINUED ON PAGE D4



Above: A newspaper box shaped like a beehive, with two huge sculpted bees, is made of cob and contains a newspaper called "The Bee"; left: A fairy-tale bower inside VBC headquarters was created using scavenged materials.

D4

HOME SPOTLIGHT:

CONTINUED FROM D1

about City Repair's annual event, the Village Building Convergence (VBC). It's a week-long work-party during which Portland's colorful intersections are repainted, existing structures are mended, and new structures are constructed. Workshops are offered throughout the week, and each night participants gather at VBC headquarters to feast, listen to speakers and enjoy local music.

This year's VBC attracted between 2000 and 3000 people, with approximately 50 out-of-town guests from across the US and Canada, including several visitors from Bloomington.

So what's the big draw of the event?

"It's a community-building exercise," explained Michael Kosacki, VBC registration coordinator. "It brings people in the city of Portland into the village of Portland, where they can meet and talk with neighbors and create the spaces they live in. People CAN affect how their neighborhood looks and functions."

"VBC had 25 projects this year," pointed out Meghan Crane, VBC publicist. "It's growing and growing. People see our kiosks and intersection repairs and benches everywhere and they're asking, 'what's that?' They're popping up all over the place. It's a grass-roots community initiative. Other cities are now sending us photos of painted intersections they have done."

City Repair does not heavily advertise the VBC, so it is impressive that so many people show up solely due to word of mouth. As I traveled around Portland, talking with local people, I encountered several city residents who had never heard of City Repair. But when told what the organization does, with its painted intersections and benches and gazebos, invariably the response was a nod and the words "That's good."

"We Portlanders don't take ourselves too seriously," said business owner Donna Hanna, who had not heard of the VBC, "but at the same time, we're very serious about the important things in life."



The cob entrance to Portland's ReBuilding Center is sculpted to resemble a grove of trees. Photo by Carol Krause

We are passionate about the environment, having seen the damage caused by logging over the decades. We are innovators."

Work-sites at this year's VBC included intersections, a cohousing project, a yoga center, the city's youth hostel, several gardens and permaculture projects, a school, a puppet theater, and a farm, among others.

Kiosks, benches and similar structures are constructed using recycled building materials and cob, which is a mixture of clay, sand and straw that is kneaded together and then applied layer by layer into sculptural shapes that include dragons, mermaids and beehives. When dry, cob is as hard as adobe and can be sealed so it's weatherproof.

"The event shows what is possible," said Hindi Iserhott, City Repair's Program Coordinator. "We are actively creating the world we want to live in! It amazes me, the amount of change we can make with recycled materials."

Part of City Repair's success is undoubtedly due to Portland's intrinsic character. This is a city in which the unusual is taken for granted. For example, last month the park commissioner's chief of staff was bicycling to work when an osprey dropped a fish on him, which glanced off and hit his rear wheel disconnect lever, stopping his progress abruptly. And

several years ago an elementary school found itself with a colony of Vaux's swifts nesting in its chimney, and refused to fire up its oil-burning furnace when weather grew cool in September, for fear of asphyxiating the birds. Students wore sweaters in the chilly classrooms, and the school system spent \$60,000 on a new heating system that would not harm the birds.

Housing is expensive. A small 1920s bungalow can cost between \$250,000 - \$500,000. Portland has avoided most urban sprawl because of a land-use ordinance decades ago that drew a circle around the city and forbade development beyond it. Quality-of-life and housing are very important to Portlanders. "Every fourth person you meet in Portland is an architect," a woman riding a bus told me. One VBC volunteer who is working toward "eco-broker" certification said that there are so many realtors in Portland that a common joke has a policeman pulling over a speeder and saying "Okay, let's see your real estate license."

VBC headquarters was an old warehouse in an unwellcoming industrial neighborhood. Inside, volunteers created a fairy-tale ambiance in the two weeks before the VBC started, using architectural salvage, leftover paint, fabrics, cut bamboo, alder saplings, pillows and rugs. Having transformed a sca-

brous structure into a place that people actually *wanted* to return to each night, City Repair can probably do anything they set their minds to. It's an idea whose time has come.

City Repair is a grassroots movement. It's not licensed and has no vertical hierarchy. Co-founder Mark Lakeman listed other cities that have started City Repair groups of their own. "Seattle," he began; "Los Angeles; Asheville, NC; Tucson; Olympia; Eugene; possibly Ithaca, NY; and Ottawa, Canada. Minneapolis sends us images of street paintings and other things that show us they're moving ahead in an exciting way. They've even passed an intersection repair ordinance [like Portland's]."

In a nation where people so often feel uprooted, City Repair creates a real sense of belonging, community, and neighborhood pride, along with the opportunity to meet good people with shared ideals. Consider this: at VBC headquarters, where up to 300 people gathered each night, backpacks and totes were left unguarded without theft, and nobody left a mess inside the meager toilet facilities. Now *that's* an achievement.

Bloomington, are we ready for our own City Repair?

See www.cityrepair.org/ for more information. Be sure to scroll to the bottom of each page.

Cohousing offers economical alternative



VBC volunteers knead straw with wet clay to pack as filler into the walls of a new teahouse, which will provide dense insulation. Photo by Carol Krause

Mark Lakeman, co-founder of City Repair, designed an innovative cohousing project in northeast Portland. Four buildings that complement the surrounding architecture were built upon a single residential lot, including a large 2-story house, a small 2-story house, and two tiny studio cottages.

The residents of the Sabin Green project chose to live together in order to pool their resources and reduce consumption. They could not have afforded separate homes on separate lots because of Portland's high housing costs. With separate homes, each household would have to purchase its own lawn mower and set of garden tools, its own magazine subscriptions and its own Internet access. Separate households would also duplicate any routine maintenance and housekeeping tasks.

"It's an opportunity to share meals and physical tasks, and to know you have people to rely on in a jam," said one of the cohousing residents, Rosemarie Cordello. "It's an ecological way of living - using less land to house ourselves, and sharing things so we don't use as much."

Residents commute to

work by bicycle, and eat together every Wednesday night. There is only one garbage bill for the entire lot, instead of four separate bills for separate houses.

"It's a fantastic space to live in!" Rosemarie said with a broad smile.

During the VBC, volunteers and residents helped build a communal teahouse / guesthouse in the courtyard between the four houses. Straw coated with wet clay slip was packed into forms that surrounded the future walls of the teahouse. Once tamped into place, dried thoroughly, and covered with a weatherproof outer layer, the clay-straw walls will provide excellent insulation for the graceful little structure.

"It's under 200 square feet, so no permit is necessary," noted Rosemarie's husband, David Sweet. "The pavilion is completely made of salvaged materials including wood, windows, and urbanite" [broken chunks of used concrete], "with rock facing."

A lovely structure can indeed be fashioned out of used materials; and an amenable and extremely attractive living situation for multiple people can indeed be fashioned on a single city lot.

PORTLAND, OREGON

VOICE OF THE NORTHWEST SINCE 1850

Will public toilets bring more trouble than relief?

Portland plans to spend \$400,000 on new loos, an idea crime-weary Seattleites say isn't working in their city

By JOSEPH ROSE
THE OREGONIAN

SEATTLE —

The stainless-steel doors suddenly swished open like something from the Starship Enterprise. But instead of Captain Kirk, the entrance on Pioneer Square's malfunctioning robotic restroom revealed a naked man washing himself at a tiny sink. A passing woman, shocked by the vision, dashed off an angry e-mail to City Hall.

"She thought it was a public shower," says Sandy Kraus, a Seattle Public Utilities manager. "And I thought, 'If only the door opening up on a naked man was the worst of our problems.'"

New public toilets are the big-ticket item in Portland Mayor Tom Potter's plan to freshen up his central city. But 170 miles to the north, Seattleites are anxiously saying that their high-tech johns gotta go. They got-

ta go real bad.

Just three years old, the expensive, automated loos — a motherly voice greets every user with "welcome to Seattle public toilets" — have become a magnet for drug dealers, prostitutes and vandals. The streets are filled with more human waste than before. And downtown business owners,

who led a decade-long fight to install Seattle's fancy self-cleaning johns, now are demanding their removal.

Nonetheless, Portland plans to spend \$400,000 on three smartly designed, eco-friendly facilities over the next 15 months. Public-toilet plans are consistently controversial, and never perfect, planners say. But, they add, no city can prosper without proper potties for shoppers, tourists and the homeless.

"Toilets," says Ethan Seltzer, professor of urban studies at Portland State University, "are part of the reawakening of people to the

Please see **TOILETS**, Page A10



ABOVE | A conceptual drawing for three new public toilets in Portland's central city depicts a restroom with an adjoining newsstand. The facility would feature a lighthouse-style tower with a urinal open through the night. City officials hope to have the new toilets built by summer. (Courtesy of architect Mark Lakeman/ Communitecture and City Repair)



MELANIE CONNER/SPECIAL TO THE OREGONIAN

Seattle police officers question a man and two women who had gone into one of Seattle's state-of-the-art public toilets together on a recent afternoon. Suspecting a drug deal, the officers used a special key to override the International District unit's locked doors.

Toilets: Portlanders huddle to find ideal design

Continued from Page One

reality of what it takes to make cities a signature human achievement.

Seventy years ago, clean, comfortable and well-marked, public toilets dotted streets in every major American city. But urban decay, crime and shifting budget priorities took them away. In 1945, New York City's subways had 1,676 restrooms. By the end of the century, 78 remained.

But that number is now rising. After decades of false starts, America's largest city is rolling out new 25-cents-per-flush pay toilets as part of a "street furniture" program. "No matter where you are, I think," Tim Timbers, a spokesman for the city's transportation department, says, "you have to consider the problems that come along with them."

In Portland, finding an open public restroom is a chore. Merchants say the scarcity often forces relief-seekers to pretend they're customers so they can use private bathrooms in businesses. What's more, in 2002 the Portland Business Alliance, which cleans and patrols downtown streets, counted 6,000 reports from businesses. More than 3,000 were requests to clean up human feces and urine in the streets.

Mayor Potter's new strategy to cut down on vagrancy and improve livability, which also includes day shelters for the homeless, calls for three spiffy new toilets: \$200,000 to build and at least \$200,000 a year to operate.

Photos of what pass as public toilets around the world cover a wall above Sandy Kraus' desk on the 50th floor of the Seattle Municipal Building. A French automated toilet with Jerry Seinfeld inside. Another of a men's street stall in Cuba that hides only a user's midsection. An open sidewalk urinal in China. The openness of public toilets in many less inhibited parts of the world prevents the problems that occur in concealed spaces.

"If only it were that easy in America," Kraus says. "Here, we're all hung up on the bath-



MELANIE CONNER/SPECIAL TO THE OREGONIAN

A family uses the high-tech public toilet in downtown Seattle's Pioneer Square. The self-cleaning feature was disabled months ago. Cleaned by a city crew a few hours earlier, the facility was littered with rags and aluminum cans that had been torn open to cook heroin. Many merchants want the city to close down what looked like a promising experiment in civic relief just a few years ago.

room issue. People don't want to see toilets out in the open."

In 2001, the Seattle City Council voted to fund five self-cleaning German toilets encased in graffiti-proof modules, but only after overriding then-Mayor Paul Schell's veto. Urban planners hailed the state-of-the-art restrooms — which cost \$700,000 a year to operate and feature a recorded voice advising users that they have 10 minutes to do their business before the doors open — as a model.

But the toilets have only made things worse, says the Metropolitan Improvement District, which is now demanding their removal. In the past three years, businesses have reported a four-fold increase of human waste on the streets.

On an afternoon earlier this month, crater-like dents covered the steel doors of the high-tech toilet in Seattle's International District. "Don't go in there," shouted Roberta Crockett, a 41-year-old homeless woman huddled with friends under a nearby pagoda. "It's out of toilet paper."

Minutes later, two Seattle beat cops pulled a man and two women from the automated toilet and frisked them. "I wish I could say they went in there together to talk politics," one of the officers said.

Besides feeling frustrated about crime and loitering at the units, despite the timed doors,

city officials can no longer call them "SCTs" — self-cleaning toilets. Built to save on labor costs, the toilets sound like dishwashers as, with a mechanical whirl, the floor descends and the toilet and sink retract into the walls to be pressure-washed after each use. But the city turned the water jets off months ago — users were slipping on the wet floors.

"We're wrestling with the next step," said City Councilman Richard Conlin, who isn't sure he would vote for the toilets again. "It's possible that we may have to pull the plug on some of them."

Last Monday, 40 merchants and neighborhood activists sat at candle-lit tables in Northwest Portland's Sameday Lounge, sipping microbrews and talking toilets. Of three designs, most of the attention focused on a solar-powered facility with a newsstand and a decorative tower that looked like a postmodern lighthouse.

"We're thinking sustainable materials," said Sally Noble, a project manager for Central City Concern, "but also, knowing what these will need to stand up to, we might need other kinds of materials."

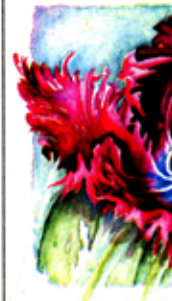
The facilities probably will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. A urinal inside the lighthouse-like decorative tower would stay

open all night. Christopher Yarow, owner of the Monkey & the Rat on Northwest Second Avenue, suggested a black light glowing inside. "It would draw people like moths to a flame."

2007 Wooden Shoe Tulip

Tulip

CELEBRATE



HOMES & GARDEN OF THE NORTHWEST

Seven Generations Beyond... The Two Hundred Year Story

Speakers

**Penny Livingston
John Young
Rabbi Michael Lerner
Starhawk
Betty LaDuke
Paul Stamets
Michael Meade**

(and many more)

Music

**Everyone Orchestra (w/Michael Kang)
Wanderlust Circus
3 Leg Torso
Jujuba
Pickathon Roots Music
Extra Action Marching Band**

(and many more)



Village Building Convergence

vbc.cityrepair.org 503-235-8946

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May 18th - 27th, 2007

Evening events at Disjecta, 230 E. Burside

Natural Building - Permaculture - Community Democracy - Ecological Public Art

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The Wanderlust Circus

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APPEARING
AT THE

VILLAGE BUILDING CONVERGENCE
SATURDAY MAY 19 230 E BURNSIDE PORTLAND, OR



Financial Summary

VBC 7 Income

Donations, Grants, and Sponsorships

Larson Legacy Foundation

VBC General	\$8,000
VBC Coordinator	\$9,000
City of Portland	\$1,000
BES	\$600
Subtotal	\$18,600

General Fundraising

9/11 Request for Proposal	\$2,111
Seed Money from VBC6	\$1,000
Subtotal	\$3,111

Venue-Related Income

Evening Attendance	\$22,755
Event Registration	\$6,531
Evening Income	\$6,968
Village Market Income	\$2,000
Subtotal	\$38,254

Total Income \$59,965

VBC 7 Expenses

Event Expenses

Speakers and Performers	\$17,525
Event Coordination	\$6,000
Venue Expenses	\$20,650
Subtotal	\$44,175

General Expenses

Publicity	\$3,000
Subtotal	\$3,000

Placemaking Expenses

Placemaking Coordinator	\$9,502
Materials	\$3,000
Subtotal	\$12,502

Total Expenses \$59,677



Thank you everyone! (especially those we missed)

Aaron Maret – Transportation Coordinator
 Adam Zucker – Sandy Green Street Site Host
 Adriana and Ferbel-Azcarate – Share-It Square IR Site Host
 Albert – Nourishment Donations Coordinator
 Alexis Jaquin – Permaculture, Education Coordinator
 Amalia – Puppet Theater Site Liaison
 Amanda Schlechty – Placemaking Volunteer Coordinator
 Andreina Velasco – Hacienda/Clara Vista Site Host
 Angela Zehava – SE Nehalem & 15th Site Host
 Ankist Zadeyan – 37th & Shaver IR Site Host, Wilshire Park Site Host
 Annie Adamson – Yoga Union Site Host
 Ansula Press – Sacred Spaces Coordinator
 Antonia Stolz – Southeast Uplift Site Liaison
 Ashley Howell – Builder, Hacienda/Clara Vista Site Host
 Ayumi Yoneyama – Village Builder
 Ben Pink – Door/Security
 Bernhard Masterson – Builder
 Betsy LeVine – Auction Coordinator
 Bonsai Matt – Tryon Life Community Farm Site Host
 Brett Luttrell – PSU Placemaking Team
 Caleb Lambides – Door/Security
 Carey Lien – Builder, Maintenance, Carpenter
 Carisa Harmony Day – Health & Wellbeing
 Catherine Burke – Builder
 Chad – Assistant Materials & Logistics Coordinator
 Chariti Li Montez – Builder
 Chris Cross – NE 56th & Stanton IR Site Host
 Cindy Gleason – Door Coordinator
 Courtney Trevino – Screen printing
 Craig Robertson – PSU Placemaking Team
 David Barmon – Mabelville Garden Site Host
 David Stripling – Village Builder Ad Sales
 David Sweet – Sabin Green Site Host
 David Thornton – Southeast Uplift Site Liaison
 Deepak Saxena – Nourishment, Publicity, Technology
 Ed Gorman – NE 56th & Stanton IR Site Host
 Elena – Auction Coordinator
 Elliot Rasenich – Event Design Coordinator, Music, Speakers/Presenters, Fundraising, Venue Design
 Emily Hicks – Health & Wellbeing
 Emily Stoutsenberger – Music/Speakers Coordinator
 Erica Lieland – Permits Co-Coordinator
 Erica Ritter – Final Report, Research/Archives
 Ernie Weisner – Builder
 Eva Sippl – Website Coordinator
 Frank Weigel – PSU Placemaking Team
 Henry Stanley – Village Builder Designer/Layout, Nourishment, Passports, Technology
 Hindi Iserhott – Grants, CR Program Coordinator, Site/Venue Connector, Education/Outreach,

Housing Coordinator
 Hope – Nourishment Kitchen Manager
 Isaac Fleisher – Education/Outreach, Pacific Crest Community School Site Liaison
 Ivy Stovall – St. John's NEST Site Host
 Izza Titus – Permaculture Donations
 Jahred Vickery – Nourishment Co-Coordinator
 James Thomson – Builder, Materials and Logistics
 Jami Walker – Master's Thesis: Special Project on Water
 Jan Semenza – Sunnyside Piazza Site Host
 Jane Clugston – Puppet House/Runaway Circus Site Host
 Jason Kelley – Builder, Carpenter
 Jean Daniels – Awakenings Site Liaison
 Jeff Maag – Materials & Logistics, Publicity
 Jeffree Helwig – St. John's NEST Cob Sauna Site Host
 Jeffrey Struck – Pacific Crest Community School Site Hosts
 Jim Davis – Awakenings Site Host
 Joanna Sokolowski – PSU Placemaking Team
 John Merrill – Builder
 Jonathan – Village Builder
 Jordia Blumenstein – Pacific Crest Community School Site Host
 Joseph Becker – Builder
 Joshua Klyber – Builder
 Josiah Simpson – Placemaking Assistant Coordinator, Administration, Final Report
 Joyce Walls – Southeast Uplift Site Host
 Juanita Blankenship – SE Nehalem & 15th Site Host
 Julia Grebenstein – PSU Placemaking Team
 Karen Kreigel – Builder
 Kate Hawley – Venue Workshops Coordinator
 Katie Selin – Placemaking Workshops Coordinator
 Kelly Murphy – Health and Wellbeing Coordinator
 Kevin Epeneter – PSU Placemaking Team
 Leonard Barrett – Permaculture
 Lisa Pepper – Wilshire Park Site Liaison
 Lock – IZ Village Site Host
 Lydia Doleman – Natural Building Coordinator
 Lyn Doiron – Share-It Square IR Site Host
 Lynzee Lynx – Village Market Coordinator
 Maralena Murphy – Volunteer Coordinator, Passports, Worktrade
 Marisha Auerbach – Permaculture Workshop Teacher
 Mark (Geo) Moore – Builder, Carpenter, Venue Design/Buildout Coordinator
 Marnie Stark – Sunnyside Piazza Site Host, Gallery Coordinator
 Martin Schulke – Builder, Village Builder, Kitchen Buildout Coordinator, Ninja House Site Host, Venue Design, Silk screening
 Matt Bibeau – Yoga Union Site Liaison
 Matt Gordon – Tryon Life Community Farm Site Host
 Matt Phillips – Logistics/Materials Coordinator
 Maureen McGowan – PSU Placemaking Team
 Max Ritchie – Workshops Coordinator
 Megan Light – Yoga Union Site Liaison
 Meghan Crane – Publicity Coordinator
 Michael Kosacki – Registration Coordinator, Ticket Sales, Passport, Permaculture Donations

mOceaN Lakeman – Designer Coordinator, Builder, Venue Design, Speakers/Presenters, Budget/Finance, Fundraising, Publicity
 Nate Sprofford – Health & Wellbeing
 Page Hawley – St. John's NEST Site Host, Permaculture Workshops Coordinator
 Pedro Ferbel-Azcarate – PSU Cob Bench Site Host, Share-It-Square Site Host, Builder
 Phillip Johnson – Puppet House/Runaway Circus Site Host
 Rich Mackin – Village Builder Coordinator
 Richard Birke – SE Nehalem & 15th Site Host
 Roberta Gray – West Linn Life Support Community Center Site Host
 Russ Romas – Tryon Life Community Farm Site Host
 Sabrina – Village Bar Coordinator
 Sabrina Gogol – Final Report/Archives
 Sage Saskill – Builder
 Sander Lazar – Permits Co-Coordinator
 Sara Laird – Nourishment Co-Coordinator
 Sarah Venning – Health & Wellbeing
 Scott Ankeny – Village Builder Ad Sales Coordinator
 Scott Beattie – PSU Placemaking Team
 Sharon Meross – 37th & Shaver IR Site Host
 Simon Lyle – SE Nehalem & 15th Site Host
 Stacey Darby – Health & Wellbeing
 Steve Lemaire – Outreach, Village Builder
 Steven Braun – Kids' Activities Co-Coordinator
 Sukita Crimmel – Builder
 Sydney Mead – Kids' Activities Co-Coordinator
 Talbot Wallace – Portland Hostel Site Host
 Thad Foulk – NE 56th & Stanton IR Site Host
 Tiffany Austin – CR Webmistress
 Tim Hunt – 37th & Shaver IR Site Host
 Toby Hemenway – Hemenway Yard Site Host
 Todd Vogt – Yoga Union Site Host
 Tova Woyciechowicz – Assistant Venue Workshops Coordinator
 Tsarra Berger – Nourishment, Nest Cafe, Ninja House Site Host
 William Leverette – Graphic Design, Fliers, Village Builder
 Willow Dixon – Wahkeena Woods Site Host
 Wisteria Loeffler – Systems Support, Budget/Fundraising, Sponsorship
 Yasmina Neustadt – Hacienda/Clara Vista Site Host
 Yveline Wilnau – Permaculture Coordinator, Placemaking Coordinator, VBC Core Organizer, Final Report Coordinator, Research/Archives, Administration, Research, Education, Budget

