

THINGS TO DO/SEE IN PORTLAND

By Carl Abbott

(Contributors: Lisa Mighetto and William Willingham)

Eastside Esplanade/

Willamette River Loop: The Eastside Esplanade stretches for 1.5 miles along the Willamette River across from downtown. It offers great views of the city and has some cool public art. It can be accessed by pedestrians from the Hawthorne Bridge, the Morrison Bridge, and the Steel Bridge. The full loop, starting from the Marriott, crossing the Hawthorne Bridge, heading north to the Steel Bridge, and returning via Waterfront Park is a bit under 4 miles. www.40mileloop.org/trail_esplanade.htm



The *Portland*, home of the Oregon Maritime Museum. Courtesy of John Dichtl.

Oregon Maritime Museum:

The museum is housed in the sternwheeler tug *Portland*, moored on the Willamette River seawall at the foot of Pine Street. Portland has a rich heritage of maritime commerce, with a modern port that is a major automobile importer and exporter of bulk commodities. It struggles to compete with Puget Sound and California for container cargo. The sternwheeler, built as a working tug in 1947, is really impressive. www.oregonmaritimemuseum.org

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry:

OMSI lies on the east side of the river, a short distance south of the Hawthorne Bridge. It is a typical family-oriented science museum, complete with Omnimax theater and submarine. There

are views toward the city from the riverside walk in front of the building, with good signage about riverine geology and history (because I contributed the text). www.omsf.org

Japanese American

Historical Plaza: At the northern end of Waterfront Park, just north of the Burnside Bridge, is a powerfully rendered landscape that comments on the World War II internment experience. www.portlandonline.com/parks/finder/index.cfm?action=ViewPark&PropertyID=156

Interstate MAX: The shortest segment of Portland's light rail system is a six-mile line through North Portland. Board downtown and ride to the end of the line. See very interesting public art at the stops, especially the installation memorializing the World War II internment of Japanese Americans. See the Paul Bunyan statue in the Kenton neighborhood, a leftover from the Oregon Centennial Exposition of 1959. trimet.org/max/index.htm

Oregon Zoo/Washington

Park: For an energetic expedition, take westside MAX into its deep tunnel to the zoo stop and ride the elevator to the surface. There you can visit the Oregon Zoo or the World Forestry Center, an industry sponsored museum. Walk uphill from the station to access trails through Washington Park. You can follow them roughly downhill (northeast) for about a mile to the Rose Test Gardens and the Japanese Garden (open 10-4). From here you can take the No. 63 bus back into the center of the city, or walk another two miles (it's almost all downhill). www.oregonzoo.org; www.washingtonparkpdx.org

The World Forestry Center: located in Portland's beautiful Washington Park; includes a museum where visitors can learn about the sustainability of forests and trees of the Pacific Northwest and around the world. The World Forestry Center also operates two working forests managed according to the principles of sustainable forestry. www.worldforestry.org

Westside MAX: Take the westside light rail line into the suburbs to the Orenco stop in Washington County. Get off and check out a new urbanist development. Is it impressively urbane or distressingly small? The wave of the future or a Potemkin Village? Judge for yourself. trimet.org/max/index.htm

Old Town: Portland's nightlife of clubs and music venues is fairly scattered. One concentration of clubs is the Old Town area, north of Burnside between 1st and 4th. It tends to attract suburbanites ages 18-32. Gay-oriented clubs cluster south of Burnside between 9th and 12th. For detailed information about the music and club scene, see the free weekly papers *Willamette Week* and *Portland Mercury*. www.oldtownchinatown.org

South Park Blocks Cultural Institutions: The South Park Blocks are the site for Portland's big ticket cultural institutions.

Portland State University anchors the southern end of this wide boulevarded expanse. www.pdx.edu

Portland Art Museum: This is a third-level museum with big ambitions. There is a small but good collection of the native arts of the Northwest coast. www.pam.org

Portland Center for the Performing Arts: in a complex of new and refurbished theaters. www.pcpa.com

Oregon History Center: containing permanent exhibits on Oregon history and usually traveling exhibits of interest. The research library contains millions of manuscripts, photographs, and maps pertaining to Pacific Northwest history. www.ohs.org



Photo courtesy of Lincoln Barber.

Architectural Heritage Center: The AHC is a nonprofit resource center for historic preservation in the Portland area. Located in restored 1883 cast-iron building in the eastside historic commercial district, the AHC offers a range of research opportunities, educational programs, and exhibits related to its extensive collection of architectural elements, building parts, and period hardware. This collection of architectural artifacts is the largest west of the Mississippi River. It is located at 701 SE Grand Avenue and open Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 to 4:30 pm. www.visitahc.org

Pearl District/River District: North of Burnside Street, from the North Park Blocks west to I-405, is the so-called Pearl District. Like many cities, Portland has seen an explosion of demand for downtown apartments and condos. Fifteen years ago, this was a warehouse district with some artists and galleries. Now it is full of

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expensive condos, high end galleries, and interior design stores. Hop on the Portland Streetcar, which runs along 10th, and ride north into the district. Look for some privately financed public art, including totem poles and a giant dog dish. Enjoy Jamison Square and Tanner Creek Springs, two new parks with deliberately contrasting character. Speculate how many empty nesters with good retirement incomes it takes to fill all the space. pearldistrict.com/about_the_pearl_district.html

Powell's Bookstore: Powell's is an institution, claiming (probably accurately) to be the country's largest independent bookstore. It is big, with a vast selection of new and used books. It is on the Portland Streetcar, so you don't have to lug your purchases all the way back to the hotel on foot. A block away, at 921 SW Oak, is Reading Frenzy, a fun bookstore that specializes in comics, obscure magazines, independent zines, and the like. www.powells.com; www.readingfrenzy.com

Aerial Tram: connects the Oregon Health and Sciences University (perched stupidly on a hilltop south of downtown) with the south waterfront, where industrial lands are in the process of conversion to high-rise development (interrupted by the real estate downturn). The tram whisks medical researchers back and forth between the hospitals on the hill and research facilities along the river. Civilians can ride it for

\$5 for a great view across the east side of Portland, where many of the city's cool people and cool neighborhoods can be found. www.portlandtram.org

The aerial tram connects with the southern extension of the Portland Streetcar, which extends through the western side of downtown through the Pearl District to Northwest Portland. The Streetcar connects three of the city's key intellectual institutions: **Portland State University**, the **Multnomah County Central Library**, and **Powell's**. www.portlandstreetcar.org

To find out more about Portland:

Chuck Palahniuk, *Fugitives and Refugees: A Walk in Portland*, Oregon is a quick and quirky guide to some of Portland's oddest corners, although some of its facts are highly suspect. But, hey, Chuck is a novelist.

Carl Abbott, *Greater Portland: Urban Life and Landscape in the Pacific Northwest* is a historically based character study of Portland and its metropolitan region.

Connie Ozawa, ed., *The Portland Edge: Challenges and Successes in Growing Communities* is a recent current assessment of Portland area planning initiatives.

Child Care

Creative Childcare Solutions can provide babysitting services to Portland hotel guests. Call (503) 518-2274 for more information. The Facebook pages for ASEH and NCPH would be a good place to post requests to trade babysitting services with fellow conference attendees.

Commitment to Sustainability

For a description of carbon credits, see www.aseh.net/conferences/current-conference. ASEH and NCPH will ensure that waste at the hotel is recycled, and we will provide recycling containers on the field trip/tour buses. We will recycle the name badges, and are working with the hotel to get locally grown food for our events. Walking tours are provided (see section of conference program listing field trips), and information on local public transportation is provided on page 3.

Questions

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EXHIBITS

We invite you to visit the numerous book publishers and organizations exhibiting in the Grand Ballroom I throughout the conference. The Poster Sessions will also be held in this area on Saturday, March 13. Complimentary coffee breaks will be held in the Exhibit Hall.

Exhibit Hours

Thursday, March 11 – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Friday, March 12 – 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Saturday, March 13 – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Exhibitors (as of February 6, 2010)

American Society for Environmental History
Arizona State University - Public History Program - School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies
Forest History Society
Lookbackmaps
National Endowment for the Humanities
National Council on Public History
NCPH Authors
Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society

Oregon State University Press
Oxford University Press
Penguin Group (USA)
Quatrefoil Associates
RFF Press/Earthscan
Scholar's Choice
Society for the History of Technology
University of Arizona Press
University of California Press
University of Georgia Press



University of Massachusetts Press
University of Nevada Press
University of Pittsburgh Press
University Press of Kansas
University of Virginia Press
University of Washington Press
Vintage Roadside
Yale University Press

Interested in exhibiting or sponsoring an event? It's not too late! Visit www.aseh.net or www.ncph.org for more details.



PORTLAND