

## The Portland Expo Center

*A local landmark with over 50 years of supporting our community and regional small businesses.*

- The premiere facility of its kind on the entire West Coast
- More than \$30 million in investment and capital improvements since 1994
- Host to more than 100 community events and 500,000 public attendees annually
- A self-supporting, subsidy free, success story in Facility Management
- Economic driver to multitudes of local area businesses, hotels, and restaurants
- Home to numerous world-class Consumer Public Shows, several for 50 years or more
- Community partner to numerous local non-profit and association events
- Valuable to corporate businesses for meetings, training and employee retreats
- Poised for the future with renewed expansion/replacement of older structures



The Portland Expo Center is a first-class multi-purpose facility that has become the region's primary destination for consumer public shows, trade shows and public events. Representing a broad cross-section of our area economy, the Portland Expo Center serves as the region's gathering place for numerous events covering a wide variety of community interests. As far back as 1921, the Expo site presented some of the very largest exhibitions in the Northwest. Today, the Expo Center still serves a diverse group of regional and local small businesses that continue to positively impact Oregon's economy.

In 1994, Metro and the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission (MERC), began its ownership and management of an aging complex of buildings from Multnomah County. Immediate renovations began to revive these facilities. With the initial support of the Intel Corporation, a series of fortuitous circumstances enabled the funding and construction of a new 108,000 square-foot exhibition facility (Hall E). The inaugural event, *America's Smithsonian*, was a tremendous success, opening with great fanfare in spring 1997. As a direct result of that expansion, a great number of the Expo Center's event producers were able to expand and enhance their offerings. By 2001, the modernization of the campus continued with an additional 112,000 square foot facility that incorporated eight more meeting rooms, a spacious lobby and a complete commercial kitchen facility.





This community campus currently includes a complex of five interconnected buildings. The Portland Expo Center totals over 330,000 square feet of multi-use exhibition space, 11 meeting rooms, professional catering facilities, parking for 2,500 vehicles, acres of outdoor exhibition space, and since 2004, convenient access to public transportation via the TriMet Interstate Max Light Rail system.

The Portland Expo Center has been the venue of choice for local and **international corporate events** such as; *adidas, Northwest Rescue Teams, Performance Warehouse, Daimler (Freightliner), Nike*, and many others. The facility has hosted everything from elaborate catered events to concerts, retreats to new vehicle showcases.

A great deal of the **consumer-public events** represented here have been serving the public for over 50 years, including; *the Portland Auto Swap Meet, the Portland Home and Garden Show, the Antique and Collectible Shows, the Pacific Northwest Sportsmen's Show and the Rose City Classic Dog Show* to name only a few. These events and many others like it, represent a myriad of dedicated attendees and varied exhibitors. They exemplify the unique business-to-consumer relationship that is brought together at the Portland Expo Center.



The Expo Center has also been a consistent, active partner in the success of numerous **local community events** such as *Celebrate! Portland Public Schools, the Oregon Symphony's ground-breaking "Defiant Requiem", the Catlin Gabel Rummage Sale, the Boys and Girls Clubs*, and those fabulous Roller Derby girls: *the Rose City Rollers*.

The events at the Portland Expo Center drive tourists to our region that in-turn become significant economic drivers for regional businesses throughout Oregon and SW Washington. The Portland Expo Center is fully self-supporting and is subsidy free – a success story in facility management and public stewardship. Most facilities are funded by hotel-motel taxes or other subsidies. Expo Center pays its operational expenses and bond debt service strictly from the revenue generated from the successful management and execution of the over 100+ annual events. A conditional-use Master Plan developed in 2001, calls for the expansion of the grounds and facilities to ensure the Expo Center continues to serve our community for decades to come.

The Portland Expo Center is managed and operated by the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission (MERC) ([www.mercvenues.org](http://www.mercvenues.org)) and is a service of Metro regional government ([www.oregonmetro.gov](http://www.oregonmetro.gov)).