



PORTLAND  
**expo**  
CENTER

# Portland's gathering place

Portland Expo Center  
FY 2016-17 Report

# A hub for community and commerce

Oregon's largest multi-purpose facility, the Portland Expo Center hosts events from across the region and around the world, drawing visitors to experience exciting and engaging consumer trends, sporting events, community gatherings and more. In addition to generating tax revenue and economic activity, the Expo Center covers a \$1 million bond payment each year.

<b>Total spending</b>	\$47 million
<b>Total jobs</b>	480
<b>Total earnings</b>	\$18.6 million
<b>Total taxes generated</b>	\$1.6 million



## Athletes awe crowds at CrossFit Regionals

For the first time ever, the Expo Center hosted the Western Regional Reebok CrossFit competition, drawing the fittest men, women and teams from the northwestern U.S. and western Canada for a three-day weekend of athletic display. The athletes competed in a barrage of tests to demonstrate their fitness, from endurance events to heavy lifting to gymnastics. The top five competitors in each category then moved on to the international CrossFit Games.

The three-day weekend drew large crowds to an exhibition hall transformed into a fitness spectacular. We were honored to host and look forward to welcoming additional sporting events to our facility, including the Columbia Empire Volleyball Association, which will hold its annual tournament at Expo in spring 2018.



## Saving water with sustainable upgrades

The Portland Expo Center is committed to becoming more sustainable every year, prioritizing green improvements as we upgrade the infrastructure on our campus. This year, we replaced water fixtures like restroom faucets and flush valves campus-wide. These upgrades are saving 30 percent more water than previous fixtures.



# Portland Assembly Center: Sharing the message of “never again”

In May, we commemorated a sad chapter in our history. For four months in 1942, the Expo Center was transformed into the Portland Assembly Center, a temporary detention camp where 3,676 Japanese-Americans were forced to live in hastily converted animal stalls before being moved to longer-term camps in Idaho and California.

This May marked the 75th anniversary of the detainment. To share the message of “never again,” we partnered with the local Japanese-American community and the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center to honor detainees and their families at a community event. The event, which drew 700 people, featured speeches and performances by Oregon Poet Laureate Lawson Inada, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, Metro President Tom Hughes, the Minidoka Swing Band, and others. Exhibits featured photographs depicting daily life for the people detained here.

We were proud to sponsor the event and to honor the thousands of people and families who were forced out of their homes and businesses as a result of wartime hysteria and racism.



“The Portland Expo Center was a tremendous partner for the Oregon Nikkei Endowment’s Return and Remembrance event, commemorating the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. This event, with nearly 700 in attendance, would not have been possible without the support of the leadership and staff of the Expo Center, all of whom were instrumental in its success.”

**Lynn Fuchigami Parks,**  
Executive Director,  
Oregon Nikkei Endowment



## Remembering Shellie O’Donnell

A dear friend of the Expo Center, Shellie O’Donnell passed away in September. She was a long-time client, a co-founder of the Northwest Quilting Expo, and a member of the Portland Expo Center Advisory Committee. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts for her years of friendship and service.

## FY 2016-17 events at Expo

Consumer/public	>	51
Meeting	>	22
Tradeshow/convention	>	13
Food/beverage	>	1
Miscellaneous/other	>	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>&gt;</b>	<b>110</b>

# From the director

2017 proved to be a year of growth for the Portland Expo Center. With substantial increases in business, we hosted new events, saw existing shows grow and added self-promoted events to the calendar that benefit the community around us. In addition, we saw our team grow to 16 full-time employees, including a full-time administrative support position and two part-time positions that support sales, events and capital improvements including our water-use reduction project that helped us achieve higher sustainability as a facility.

Most profoundly, this year was about reflection. We hosted multiple community events that focused on historic moments such as the Vanport Flood and the internment of Japanese-Americans at the Expo Center during World War II. It is so important for us to acknowledge our past and to give a voice to those whose lives were so greatly impacted by those events. We would like to thank the eighth-grade students of Beaumont Middle School for continually diving into the difficult topics of the past so we can learn from our history. Also, we are deeply appreciative of the Oregon Nikkei Endowment for their work on the 75th Anniversary Return and Remembrance Event—thank you for telling the story of the Portland Assembly Center.

I am proud of what we accomplished over the past year—we are honored to host so many exceptional events and guests. We thank our partners, clients and attendees for another outstanding year.



Matthew P. Rotchford  
Portland Expo Center Director



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