

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **PDX Marks 75 Years with Birthday Celebration**

Noted as one of President Franklin Roosevelt's largest Works Progress Administration projects, and, in later decades, visited by the likes of Louis Armstrong, The Beatles, and Muhammad Ali, Portland International Airport celebrated 75 years of service to Oregon and Southwest Washington residents today with cupcakes, a sand sculpture, a video history, and a new addition to the airport's art collection.

"We are honored to be the gateway to your travels and your warm welcome home," said Vince Granato, Port of Portland chief operating officer. "Every day, we work with our partners—the Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, airlines, concessionaires, transportation providers, and, of course, our travelers—to keep PDX America's Best Airport."

While the birthday festivities today honor the dedication of the airport back on Oct. 13, 1940, additional elements are in place to continue to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary through the end of the year, and for decades to come.

### **Sharing Favorite PDX Memories**

Oregon and Southwest Washington residents and travelers are invited to celebrate the anniversary by sharing their PDX story via video, photo, audio recording, email or even written submittal. Whether taking the trip of a lifetime, reuniting with family in the airport after a military tour of duty, or returning home from abroad with a newly adopted child, the Port is collecting PDX memories at [pdx.com/pdxmoments](http://pdx.com/pdxmoments).

Each week through Nov. 29, the Port of Portland will select a favorite story and share it on the PDXmoments website and through social media. The entrant of the winning story will receive a coveted PDX Carpet mat. At the end of the celebration, the Port will select one special story, awarding a \$500 PDX air travel voucher.

### **Visual History Video Wall**

Travelers can also celebrate PDX's visual history on a 7-foot-tall wall of monitors on Concourse B. Developed by the Port's Corporate Communications Team, the video installed on Oct. 2 features a decade-by-decade look at the airport's history, neatly encapsulated in 2-minute chapters. The videos will run through the end of December. Don't have travel plans, yet want to see the video? It's available for your viewing at [pdx.com/pdx75thtimeline](http://pdx.com/pdx75thtimeline).

### **New Artwork Added to Airport's Permanent Collection**

Over the past 75 years, air travel has played a major role in transporting the goods, people and ideas that have shaped the region. A yet-to-be-named 12-foot by 24-foot painting by regional artist Lynsee Sardell pays tribute to the unique wonders that entice travelers to visit Oregon, and the familiar nuances that inspire its residents to keep returning home. Sardell's work was selected after a competitive bidding process. Travelers and airport employees are invited to help name the painting by submitting suggestions by Oct. 16 to [NameThatArt@portofportland.com](mailto:NameThatArt@portofportland.com).

### **Other Major Airport Improvements Ahead**

The airport's history will continue to evolve into the future as several PDXNext construction and planning projects take place from 2015 through 2017, and beyond. These projects represent a nearly \$190 million investment in the airport. Projects include:

- PDX Carpet replacement project – nearly completed
- Eleven new PDX shops and restaurants opened in 2015; up to 18 additional leases planned for 2016.
- Federal Inspection Station remodeling through early 2016 to better serve international passengers.
- Security upgrades, and relocating and expanding checkpoint exit lanes and developing new adjacent waiting areas, running through August 2016.
- Concourse E extension construction to begin in early 2016 and continue to through late 2017 when terminal balancing will take place to better balance passenger and facility use.
- Preliminary planning begins this fall for terminal core improvements including the ticket lobby, Oregon Market, and baggage claim area.

Information on additional projects will follow, as those projects take shape. For more information, visit [flypdx.com/PDXnext](http://flypdx.com/PDXnext).

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