



Media Contact:
Meaghan Burns
mburns@gardcommunications.com
503-552-5011

OMSI UNVEILS UPDATED VISION FOR OMSI DISTRICT - AN INCLUSIVE, VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOOD ON THE EAST BANK OF THE WILLAMETTE RIVER IN PORTLAND

In December, the OMSI District Master Plan begins the final steps of the city's Master Planning Process

PORTLAND, Ore. (Dec. 1, 2021) – Today, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry releases its vision for the new OMSI District. It will be a one-of-a-kind neighborhood and destination for Oregonians- with innovation, culture and science learning at its heart. The OMSI District is a collaboration of local, Tribal and regional government entities, nonprofits and businesses. The OMSI District Master Plan will be submitted to the City of Portland for review in early December. More details about the OMSI District, the vision and timeline can be found at <https://omsi.edu/property>.

“We have been working side by side with our partners, including the City of Portland, elected officials, Indigenous communities and many others, to create this vision,” said OMSI President and CEO Erin Graham. “The OMSI District is for everyone. For those seeking to play, to learn, to live and to be inspired. We look forward to working with our partners to create this inclusive neighborhood.”

Facts:

- Covers ten city blocks and is expected to include up to three million square feet of new mixed-use buildings.
- A hub for innovation, arts, culture, science learning and climate action.
- Increased retail, restaurants and public green space as well as waterfront access and learning/technology installations.
- Waterfront education park created in collaboration with Tribal governments and Indigenous communities.
- Restored riverfront habitat.
- Adds up to 1,200 units of new housing with a minimum of 20% units for low-income families.
- A city economic growth driver and financial source enabling OMSI to sustain and expand its educational programming with partners for diverse audiences.

The waterfront education park will be the first in the city to restore the Indigenous community's presence on the Willamette River and address the shared challenges of sustainability, resilience and inclusion. The park will include public green space, plazas, restored riverfront habitat, hands-on outdoor

science programming and interpretation that affirms, sustains and shares Indigenous ecological knowledge and cultural connection to the river.

Additionally, the district will showcase and advance climate solutions through transportation, next generation urban systems and technology, and OMSI science learning experiences advocating informed climate action.

“We are excited to be so close to submitting the OMSI District Master Plan to the city,” Graham said.

“The vision for a neighborhood with innovation, culture and science learning at its heart has been years in the making. To finally see it coming to fruition is remarkable for OMSI, our partners and everyone who is inspired by the vision.”

Planning for the OMSI District began in 2008, and new opportunities for collaboration and economic development have evolved ever since. In 2018, OMSI selected Portland-based Edlen & Co as the master developer, the entity responsible for executing the master plan and developing the OMSI campus. The next year, Mayor Ted Wheeler included the OMSI District as a top City priority and Prosper Portland was assigned as the bureau lead for the OMSI District. In 2020, Metro awarded a \$750,000 grant to OMSI and the City of Portland that has facilitated engagement on the OMSI District with a broad coalition of Indigenous and Tribal partners. In 2021, The State of Oregon committed \$5 million towards the construction of a new Water Avenue, a critical infrastructure investment in the OMSI District.

About OMSI

Founded in 1944, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) is one of the nation’s leading science museums and a trusted educational resource for communities throughout Oregon and the region. Through museum exhibitions, public programs at the museum and across the region, outdoor programs, traveling exhibitions, digital learning, and learning research and design, OMSI nourishes a lifelong love of science, curiosity and learning for diverse audiences in every county in Oregon and throughout the region. OMSI’s museum is located at 1945 SE Water Avenue, Portland, OR 97214. For general information, call 503.797.4000 or visit omsi.edu. Connect with the museum on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).