

Astoria announces ambitious plan to build Astoria Heritage Square, beginning with Garden of Surging Waves

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By



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City of Astoria

An artist's rendering of the Garden of Surging Waves in Astoria.

The public is invited to a ceremonial ground breaking in Astoria's Heritage Square, an ambitious project that will transform a downtown city block into an urban park.

The ceremony takes place Saturday, April 14, from 1 to 4 p.m. in front of the newly renovated Astoria City Hall, 1095 Duane Street. (April 14 is the correct date; an incorrect date was listed in earlier versions of this post.)

Major construction will follow in July for the development of the Garden of Surging Waves, the first of three phases in the project. The initial

phase should be complete by this fall.

The Astoria City Council selected **the Garden of Surging Waves** as the city's bicentennial legacy gift to honor the Chinese heritage of Astoria that began 200 years ago

Last year, during its 200th anniversary, Astoria celebrated its rich history reflecting the influence of cultures from around the world. Many of its current residents are descended from the early families that built the city and provided labor for its first industries.

Chinese pioneers played a significant role, working in the fish canneries, building the city's seawall, the sewer system, the railroad and the jetties at the mouth of the Columbia. The previously untold stories that the garden will celebrate are part of Pacific Northwest history.

Cang Lang Yuan, or the Garden of Surging Waves, will reflect the cultural transitions that early immigrants faced on their arrival in the United States. Commissioned original artwork punctuates important episodes of Astoria's history.



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The Astoria Amphitheatre (an artist's ending).

The garden is designed to reflect on Astoria's key role in Oregon's international trade; honor 200 years of Astoria's Chinese and multicultural history; become downtown's "living room", making it more of a destination for residents and visitors; capture Astoria's personality, highlighting materials unique to Astoria; feature original Chinese artwork in bronze, stone and marble, plus work by Oregon artisans; embrace Chinese values of education, family and resourcefulness; and expand Astoria's growing authentic historic tourism attraction.

The City of Astoria owns the site of **Astoria Heritage Square**, which is located on the American Legion block bordered by 11th Street to the west, Duane Street to the north, 12th Street to the east and Exchange Street to the South. The

block fronts Astoria City Hall.

More than \$1 million has been raised, from the city, grants, individuals and businesses, for the first phase of construction. Fund raising continues.

Phases II and III include an amphitheatre and large Sunday Market plaza, designed to accommodate multiple uses, whether showcasing community events, offering a stage for outdoor performances or providing family and friends an enjoyable urban park setting.

Development of additional public space is envisioned for other parts of the block as funds allow.

Future planning will engage the public for the design incorporating Astoria's multi-cultural heritage, a festival street, an open air pavilion and other authentic historic points of interest.

Saturday's celebration will include family friendly activities all afternoon. A special kid's section will have a "bouncy house". Popular local band "Ma Barley" will play dance music while Astoria Parks and Recreation staff flip burgers and hot dogs on an outdoor barbeque.

More than 36 Astoria restaurants are donating "100 bites" from their establishments, in an outpouring of community spirit. Van Dusen Beverages is donating all the Pepsi anyone can drink. In addition, Van Dusen Beverages will sample its new line of "1849 Gourmet Coffee".

Numbered collectible "Stock in the Block" Certificates will be given to the first 500 people to claim them at the groundbreaking event. Not only will they be redeemable for a "collectible piece of Astoria" but 10 will contain a golden seal for a valuable Astoriana treasure!

There will be the opportunity to buy commemorative Heritage Block Bricks for a one-time only special price of \$50

each to help complete the Garden of Surging Waves.

-- **Terry Richard**

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