

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2022

Contact:

Melanni Rosales

562-242-4817, melanni.rosales@gmail.com

**Influential Portland Parks Receive National Award Honoring Lasting Impact
on Design and Public Life**

Portland Open Space Sequence shares company with Chicago's Millennium Park, Getty Center in Los Angeles

January 25, 2022 (Portland, OR) – The four interconnected public spaces and pedestrian pathways in Southwest Portland known as the Portland Open Space Sequence, also known as the Halprin Sequence, are the recipients of the [American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\) 2021 Landmark Award](#). The award, which honors the enduring influence of distinguished landscape architecture projects, is a testament to Portland's reputation for world class parks that elevate community engagement and design. Previous winners of the Landmark Award include Chicago's Millennium Park (2020), the J. Paul Getty Center (2017), and the San Diego River Improvement Project (2011).

Originally designed as part of an urban renewal effort, the Portland Open Space Sequence was one of the most successful redevelopment projects of its era. At a time when inner city development prioritized places to work, shop, and park, Lawrence Halprin and Associates used architecture, art, and landscape design to create an urban space that encouraged Portlanders to engage in civic life.

Mayor Ted Wheeler: "Fifty years ago, renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin transformed eight blocks of urban renewal into an evocative sequence of bucolic rolling berms, tree canopies, pathways, and the cascading Keller Fountain, which has become a central public gathering place for Portland. Today, the Sequence continues to inspire Portlanders and other communities about what great cities can be."

Commissioner Carmen Rubio: "More than just fountains and plazas, these parks charted a new trajectory for urban public spaces – from parks as passive places to look at and walk through, to the lively, playful places that Portlanders love. I'm proud to be part of stewarding these great parks that continue to energize all of Portland."

Considered one of the great masterpieces of modern design, the Portland Open Space Sequence continues to set the standard for what public spaces could and should be. With events like the Portland Winter Light Festival and Sounds of Summer concerts, and opportunities to socially distance with others or seek much-needed respite from frequently increasing heat waves, Portland's renowned public spaces are an essential element to keeping the city healthy and connected.

Louise Roman, Harrison Tower resident: "Walking the Sequence, I can take in the beauty of our city: the seasonal changes of its trees and fountains, the historic vision it embodies of Portland as a city in a park, and its year-round offering to all Portlanders of a place to gather, rest, and play."

Bob Naito, Chair of the Halprin Landscape Conservancy: "I have seen many different approaches to creating and maintaining spaces for civic engagement in the Pacific Northwest. The Portland Open Space

Sequence has exemplified how elevated design can create welcome gathering places, and how public-private partnerships can successfully evolve over time. With ongoing collaboration between Portland Parks and Recreation, neighbors, volunteers, and private partners and contributors, we are able to preserve this landmark public space and demonstrate how to improve other public parks in the community.”

About the Portland Open Space Sequence and Halprin Landscape Conservancy

The Sequence is made up of a series of pedestrian pathways and interconnected, outdoor “rooms” that incorporate water features and native foliage reminiscent of the nearby Cascade Range and Columbia River. The Sequence was completed between 1965 and 1978, and includes Lovejoy Fountain Park, Pettygrove Park, Keller Fountain Park, and Source Fountain. An internationally celebrated work of landscape architecture, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2013.

In 2008, a collection of urban planners, developers, architects, engineers, and community members with deep care for parks in Portland founded the Halprin Landscape Conservancy. The conservancy’s mission is to preserve, maintain, and activate the Portland Open Space Sequence. For more information about the conservancy, visit www.halprinconservancy.org.

###