

# ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

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## STAFF MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners

**FROM:** Leslie Eldridge, Interim Director

**DATE:** December 6, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Awards Presentation (Informational)

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Ashland Parks and Recreation celebrates its achievements, partnerships, and amazing people. Recently four awards were conferred to volunteers, staff and community partners who have contributed in an exceptional manner to the Ashland community. The award recipients are:

- **Rogue World Music-Oregon Recreation and Park Association (ORPA) Private Sector Award:**  
The ORPA Private Sector Partner Award recognizes a business entity, corporation or non-profit organization that has made a significant contribution to the park and recreation profession in Oregon, either through an agency or the state association.

Rogue World Music is a successful non-profit organization that is building community and cultural connection through world music. Since 2017, Rogue World Music (RWM) has partnered with Ashland Parks and Recreation to:

- produce and present the Ashland World Music Festival. The festival has grown from a one-day 4-hour concert into multiple days, events, and locations over the Memorial Day Weekend. Rogue World Music's team has been instrumental in leading efforts to build a vibrant festival that brings popular performers to Ashland to share culture and stories from homes around the world.
- RWM has provided expertise and staff for resource development to execute festival plans, artist curation, sponsorship recruitment efforts, and grant-writing that has funded visioning and supported cultural artists efforts to provide enriching musical experiences through community programming.
- offered these experiences year-round with the Ashland World Music Festival Educational Series giving community members access to learn and perform a variety of cultural arts.
- raised nearly \$30,000 for organizations assisting LatinX and disadvantaged community

members that have been disproportionately affected by local wildfires. Fundraising has gone directly to families and children affected by the Alameda fire in the phoenix-Talent School District, local farm worker unions, and supporting one of the first community-owned mobile home park projects in the area after the devastating Alameda Fire. Rogue World Music was nominated by APRC Recreation Manager, Lonny Flora.

- **Anne Bellegia-AARP Andrus Award for Community Service:** This is AARP's most prestigious volunteer award and is given annually to one individual per state. The award recognizes outstanding individuals aged 50 and older who are sharing their experience, talents, and skills to enrich the lives of others. This award includes \$2000, which Anne has chosen to donate to the Ashland Parks Foundation Senior Services fund. Anne was nominated by APRC Superintendent Isleen Glatt.
- **Kathy McNeal-Oregon Recreation and Park Association Volunteer Service Award:** This award is given annually to one individual or agency within the state of Oregon. Kathy was chosen for donating over 700 hours of her time to volunteer with Ashland Senior Services Division, doing outreach calls, office support work and serving on the Ashland Senior Advisory Committee. Kathy was nominated by APRC Coordinators Sulaiman Shelton and Natalie Mettler.
- **Isleen Glatt-Oregon Recreation and Park Association Section for Older Adult Resources (SOAR) Outstanding SOAR Management Staff Award:** This award is given to one individual annually. It recognizes leadership, innovation, creativity and/or dedication in providing older adult resources. Isleen was nominated by APRC Coordinator Natalie Mettler.