



NEW PRAGUE POPS POST

May 2023 -- Volume 1 -- Number 4

“You Can Accomplish Anything” -- It’s Time!

Editor’s Note: “It’s Time!” Is a monthly column by Den Gardner, chair of the Praha Outdoor Performance Stage (POPS) Committee of the New Prague Area Arts Council. If you can read, we ask you to read it at your leisure! If you missed reading class in elementary school, an audio version may be available in the next three years. OK, just kidding.

By Den Gardner, chair, Praha Outdoor Performance Stage (POPS) Committee

Hello POPS enthusiasts!

For about 100 years (or so it seems that long) I’ve had a phrase on my office desk that is very simple and direct: “You Can Accomplish Anything!” Most days, I relish reading this motivational piece; other days, not so much.

As the Praha Outdoor Performance Stage (POPS) group passes six months in its three-year quest to raise \$1 million to build an outdoor performance venue, one should be optimistic. Why?

- \$200,000).
- We've made 20+ presentations to businesses, individuals, and even one local church explaining this wonderful community project. The VAST majority of our contacts have been overwhelmingly supportive.
 - We're having a FREE gala event for the public Oct. 28 featuring the Eddie Shimota Band and Little Chicago (and lots of food/drink and other prizes available) at the Park Ballroom (provided FREE to us by the great folks with the American Legion) to celebrate year one of our effort and...
 - ...To give away a vehicle valued at \$20,000 (donated by Palmer and Sue Welcome). All you have to do is buy a **\$20 ticket or three tickets for \$50** and support the POPS building effort. Details will be forthcoming. The raffle sales effort will be coordinated by the New Prague Rotary Club. Thanks much to this fabulous service organization for its support of POPS and the community.
 - The Forward New Prague Foundation, created in January to be the holding place for non-profit groups in New Prague looking to make the community better with any number of projects, already has 501c3 status from the IRS as a tax-exempt non-profit. The first group it is taking under its wing is, of course: The POPS project. Thanks to the New Prague Rotary Foundation for taking early donations to POPS. Now, all donations are to be made payable to the Forward New Prague Foundation (for POPS' benefit).
 - POPS has chosen Bolton & Menk Engineering Services to review the three sites the City is donating as possible locations for the outdoor venue. Site visits with city staff and POPS Committee members took place a few weeks ago. A priority selection will be recommended to the POPS Committee and New Prague Park Board by the end of the second quarter.
 - We've set up a bank account with Minnwest Bank and a brokerage account with Wells Fargo Advisors.
 - In marketing our effort, our website has been updated. Two signs are now promoting POPS – one downtown and one on the east end of town by Minnwest Bank. Continued thanks to our media partners – KCHK and the NP Times – for their pro bono radio spots/ads running continuously. And POPS T-shirts, 1 for \$20 and 3 for \$50 are now available. Contact me (dengardner@gandgcomm.com) for information. You may also order them online through our website.
 - And more to come.

Suffice it to say, none of these accomplishments (Remember: "You Can Accomplish Anything!") would be possible without the efforts of the POPS Leadership Team. See the list of this great team elsewhere in this e-newsletter.

The work of this committee and many others in the community through their volunteerism (including the New Prague Area Arts Council) continues in the months ahead. It's your "Persistence, Diligence, Dedication, and Passion (The PDDP POPS Formula) that will continue to make us successful.

Den Gardner, Chair

Praha Outdoor Performance Stage (POPS)



This beauty could be yours! Thank you, Palmer Welcome Auto!

Fundraising Subcommittee Update

By: Shannon Brusseau and Den Gardner

The POPS Fundraising Subcommittee is led by Shannon Brusseau and Den Gardner. Thus far (with a huge thanks from the POPS Committee), pledges have been secured from the following contributors:

- \$100,000 Pledged (Gardner & Gardner Communications/Den and Sandy)

- \$30,000 Pledged (Brusseau Investments/Lisa and Shannon Brusseau)
- \$30,000 Pledged (Palmer and Susan Welcome) Palmer Welcome Auto – includes \$20,000 donated car)
- \$25,000 Pledged (New Prague Chamber)
- \$25,000 Pledged (New Prague Fire Relief Association)
- \$15,000 Pledged (Bevcomm)
- \$10,000 pledged (Jerry/Mary Walerius)
- \$5,000 Pledged (New Prague Park Board)
- \$1,000 Paid (Sarah Kalall/Second Swing)
- \$1,000 Pledged (Veseli Lions)



TOTAL -- \$412,000

As noted previously, the 2023 goal was moved from \$250,000 to \$500,000. That means \$88,000 must be raised by the end of 2023 to reach our first-year goal. In other news:

- Waiting for commitments from about a dozen companies that have received pitches in late fall 2022 and through May 1, 2023. Goal to have several prospects closed by mid-summer.
- The New Prague Rotary Club will sell raffle tickets for \$20,000 vehicle giveaway fundraiser – see next bullet point. (\$20/ticket, three tickets for \$50). Goal \$20,000+ in tickets sold.
- The fall gala is set for Oct. 28, Park Ballroom, 4-8 p.m. Giving away vehicle worth \$20,000 donated by Palmer/Susan Welcome. Two bands will play at half-rates – Eddie Shimota Band and Little Chicago. Legion donating Park Ballroom free of charge. Food/refreshment will be available, along with other prize giveaways. More details in the future.
- Working with New Prague native and musician Tim O’Neill on a list of donors based on their interest in the arts. Den and Kathy O’Neill are also working on meetings with New Prague families to discuss POPS.

Feasibility & Design Subcommittee

By: Steve Frost

We have made a lot of progress in the past two months as we get closer to choosing one of the three sites under consideration– City Center, Skating/Sliding Hill Park, and Memorial Park:

- Bolton & Menk, Inc. engineering firm was chosen to do a feasibility study of each site. They have visited all three sites with POPS Sub-Committee members and City staff.

- Our committee continues to coordinate with New Prague City officials, Ken Orndich/Kyra Chapman, as appropriate.
- Our goal is to have site priority selection made by the end of the second quarter, with a follow-up presentation to the New Prague Park Board by early summer.
- We are beginning to put thoughts together regarding amenities and features that the structure will have—to meet the needs of the community and groups that will use it. Once the site has been formally selected and approved, we will fine-tune the design stage of the POPS project.



Engineers from Bolten and Menk, POPS Sub-Committee members, and City staff evaluate the feasibility of our proposed sites.

Marketing Communications Subcommittee

The Marketing Communications Subcommittee is composed of Julie Schmitz, chair; plus Larry Pint, Jenny Schmitz, Karen Steinhoff and Den Gardner. Its goal is to educate and inform the New

and much more.

- Four newsletters produced – December, January, March and this one in May. Bi-monthly (every two months). Distributed to 80+ emails, printed and sent to about 30 more. Also the New Prague Chamber makes available through its weekly newsletter, as well as Rotary to its members.
- Larry leads the effort on the web site. Recently updated. (www.nppops.org) Work in progress.
- Two billboard/signs are now around New Prague -- Downtown attached to the east wall of the Pioneer Saloon; and on the east end of the city, near Minnwest Bank. Thanks to Eddie Shimota for assistance
- Media plans continue with NP Times (monthly ad, articles); KCHK (half-dozen spots per week/interviews six times/per year, etc.) You can hear the radio spots on our web site – www.nppops.org.
- POPS T-shirts. On sale for 1 for \$20 and 3 for \$50.
 - General t-shirts with logo with phrase "It's Time!" for committee members and others in the community.
 - For contributors over \$1,000. Logo, phrase "It's Time!", plus second phrase – "I'm a POPS Superstar!" on sleeve. If you contribute \$1,000 or more to POPS, your t-shirt is free!





Watch our fundraising success!

City/School/Community Organization Collaborations SubCommittee

The City, School, Community Organization Collaborations SubCommittee is composed of Tony Buthe, Chair, plus Gary Pikal, Dan Bishop and Ben Hilding. We are more than happy to accept any other person who may be interested in supporting this group.

The City/School/Community Organization Collaborations SubCommittee has gathered its volunteers to begin contacting New Prague area organizations to garner support for our POPS project. We value the input of any/all organizations that would like to offer suggestions or resources that might be relevant to our project. If you know of a group or organization that you believe we should contact, please reach out to us! For example, a meeting has been set in March with the American Legion Post to discuss its potential interest in the project.

Get Connected!

Praha Outdoor Performance Stage Website

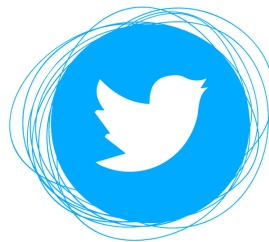
Click here to visit our website at www.nppops.org.

Check Us Out!



Like Us!

[@newpraguepops](https://www.facebook.com/newpraguepops)



Follow Us!

[@newpraguepops](https://twitter.com/newpraguepops)



Follow Us!

[@newpraguepops](https://www.instagram.com/newpraguepops)

Feel free to check out our website and or email us at newpraguepops@gmail.com

If you are interested in being involved in the POPS Committee, contact Den Gardner at

dengardner@gandgcomm.com, cell phone 612-325-3981; or Karen Steinhoff at

hellokstein@gmail.com, cell phone 952-457-0634.

POPS Leadership Committee

Den Gardner, Chair
Karen (Stein) Steinhoff, Vice-Chair
Sandi Loxton, Secretary
Bruce Wolf, Treasurer
Andy Beckius
Jon Colling
Steve Frost
Joe Barten

Lisa Brusseau
Shannon Brusseau
Brooke Sticha
Tony Buthe
Julie Schmitz
Larry Pint
Ben Hilding

Praha Outdoor Performance Stage

<https://www.nppops.org/home>

Contact Praha

Subscribe to Praha



"To build a multi-purpose outdoor performance facility to celebrate the arts and other community gatherings from music to theatre to dance to visual arts and much more."

Created with  **smore**

Communicate quickly and effectively with interactive newsletters.

Smore empowers educators to connect with their community, streamline school communications, and increase engagement.

Create a newsletter