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NEW PRAGUE POPS POST

January 2023 -- Volume 1 -- Number 2

"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.

The new year always brings optimism to me. Well, some would say I'm always optimistic. Heck, I'm 71 and mostly retired. Who wouldn't be optimistic?! I look at it this way:

"Let's get excited about the future. I honestly don't think the past will care!"



The Praha Outdoor Performance Stage (POPS) Leadership Team AND residents of New Prague should be excited about 2023. Why?



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- We've already met our 2023 fundraising goal, which was to raise \$250,000 by the end of 2023. As of mid-January, we're at \$370,000 pledged. And more pledges will be coming in the next few months. We hope to get halfway to our \$1 million overall goal by the end of the year.
- The POPS Committee is made up of six sub-committees that are diligently pursuing their work in these areas:
 - Fundraising
 - Financial/Legal
 - Site Feasibility/Design
 - Marketing Communications
 - City/School/Community Organization Collaborations
 - Grants/Public-Private Funding

Do you want to get involved? If so, whether it be through serving on one of our sub-committees, contributing as a donor, offering your services to us on a pro bono basis, or any other form of volunteerism, please contact me and get involved – dengardner@gandgcomm.com. Or call me at 612-325-3981. Or contact one of our officers. It's time for you to get involved. Our POPS officer team of Karen Steinhoff, Bruce Wolf, Sandi Loxton and I are using our POPS formula – Diligence, Persistence, Passion, and Dedication (DPPD) – as our guiding light to steer us to the completion of this project.

Yes folks, "It's Time!" Time for this vibrant community of 8,100 residents to create a facility that can celebrate the arts in New Prague for residents of all ages. Our mission statement is succinct and clear: *"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."*

Den Gardner, Chair

Praha Outdoor Performance Stage (POPS)

Fundraising Subcommittee Update

By: Shannon Brusseau and Den Gardner

Meeting Our 2023 Goals for Fundraising

The residents of New Prague should be full of enthusiasm as 2023 begins. Why? Because the POPS Fundraising Subcommittee has already exceeded its 2023 financial goal of \$250,000. Our actual total now exceeds \$370,000. Because of this better-than-expected result, subcommittee leads Shannon Brusseau and Den Gardner are increasing our goal by the end of 2023 to \$500,000! We hope all of you will be part of our effort to make this new goal.

Other News in the  smore



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The subcommittee expects considerable activity in the first quarter of 2023. Behind the scenes, a number of meetings are being organized to visit with potential donors.

The New Prague Chamber of Commerce has committed to a three-year pledge of \$25,000. We thank the group, led by Brooke Sticha, and a great board, for their support of this effort.

Other major community organizations are developing plans this first quarter to determine their giving. The New Prague Rotary's Dr. Jon Colling, as one example, is working closely with POPS leadership on efforts to develop a plan for POPS support through Rotary.

A special event is in very preliminary discussions for some time in 2023. Details in the ensuing months.

Our subcommittee plans to meet with dozens of potential donors in the first half of 2023. Pick up the phone and call Den at 612-325-3981 or email him at: dengardner@gandgcomm.com with your thoughts. We'd love to show you our plans.

Finally, we want to thank all of you who have allowed us to visit with you on this historic project. With one exception (and we never close the doors entirely), all of our meetings have been met with enthusiasm and knowledge of how important this effort is to the residents of New Prague. Yes, "It's Time!"

Our POPS Formula -- Persistence, Diligence, Dedication, and Passion -- will get us to our \$1 million goal in the next couple of years. You are the ones to thank for our progress thus far.

Feasibility & Design Subcommittee

By: Steve Frost

This subcommittee is made up of Steve Frost, chair; plus committee members Pat Sullivan, Karen Steinhoff, Joe Barten, Stef Tupy, Larry Pint, Kay Wilcox and Den Gardner.

The Site Feasibility and Design Subcommittee has been active in the past 30 days. It has met with two firms offering proposals and the subcommittee has met once to review the proposals following the in-person presentations.

We're very close to selecting a firm to do a site analysis of the three city-owned properties where we hope to build the POPS. Our goal is doable to get a site selected by this summer. That will be a collaborative decision between the POPS Leadership Team and the city. As a reminder, those

three sites are:



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- City Center
- Sliding Hill Skate Park – across from New Prague High School
- Memorial Park area



City Center

West end of downtown; old Mill Pond/Creamery site.



Sliding Hill Skate Park

Across from New Prague High School.



Memorial Park Area

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 Prague area public about the POPS project through traditional media (radio, print, outdoor billboard, etc.), social media, website and much more.

- The first edition of our POPS Newsletter was distributed via both email and post in mid-December. It presented a detailed history of the POPS project and our goals for the future.
- As our committees work through their to-do lists, watch for updates on our website: www.nppops.org. It's loaded with news and pictures to keep you up-to-date.
- You can also read about us and talk about us on Facebook (Praha Outdoor Performance Stage), Instagram (NewPraguePOPS), Twitter (@NewPraguePOPS), etc.
- One of our two outdoor signs is completed and on display. Look on the east wall of the Pioneer Saloon for a large thermometer showing the progress of our efforts to raise \$1 million by the end of 2025. As the money comes in through donations and grants, the “temperature” will rise until we meet our goal. Thanks to POPS Committee members Karen Steinhoff, Julie Schmitz and Eddie Shimota for their help with this project.
- Also, the Jan. 12 edition of the NP Times featured our POPS ad. This ad will appear monthly, thanks to POPS Bronze Supporter Suel Printing.
- Radio spots on KCHK Radio will begin soon as well. Go to www.nppops.org to listen

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j up and

providing this space and time for us to continually inform the public about this effort. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for more ads and spots in the future!



Julie Schmitz, left, and Eddie Shimota, right, display the POPS sign on the east wall of the Pioneer Saloon in downtown New Prague. Thanks to Julie Schmitz for the banner design and Eddie for managing the attachment of the sign to the wall and the owner, Mark Michel, for allowing us to display it!

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.

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by the end of 20:



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Yes folks, "It's Time!"

Time for this vibrant community of 8,100 residents to create a facility that can celebrate the arts in New Prague for residents of all ages. Our mission statement is succinct and clear:

"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."

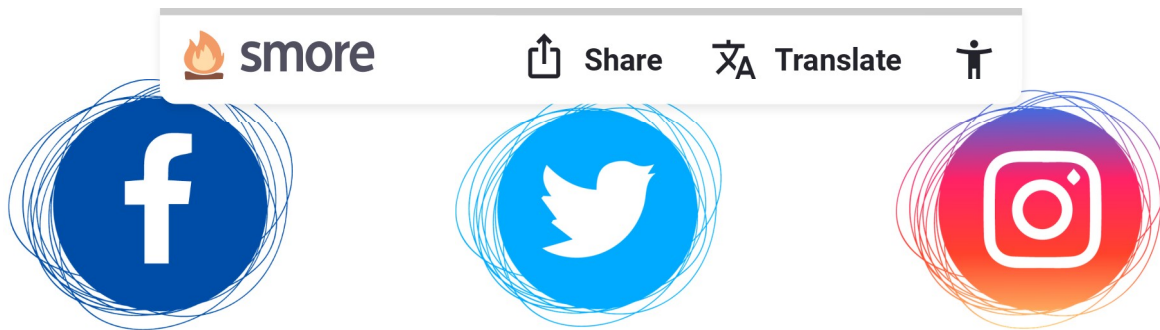
It's time for you to get involved. Our POPS officer team of myself, Karen Steinhoff, Bruce Wolf and Sandi Loxton are using our POPS formula – Diligence, Persistence, Passion and Dedication (DPPD) – as our guiding light to steer us to completion of this project.

Get Connected!

Praha Outdoor Performance Stage Website

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

Check Us Out!



Like Us!

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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

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

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