

MESD Board Land Acknowledgement and Educational Opportunity

May 20, 2025

By Helen Ying

Today, I would like to begin by acknowledging the Native communities in this area. They number over 70,000 strong and are descended from over 380 tribes. We are gathering on the ancestral and occupied lands of the Kalapuyan people (the Yoncalla, the Santiam, and the Tualatin/Yamhill), the Upper Chinookan (the Multnomah, Wapato, and Clackamas), the Molallan people, and more who may call this place home. We pay respect to their elders past, present, and future. We honor their resilience, deep connection to this land, and ongoing contributions to our shared community and culture.

May is both Jewish American Heritage Month and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

—reminding us of the rich histories and enduring contributions of these communities to American society.

Jewish American Heritage Month – Honoring Contributions & Resilience

Jewish American Heritage Month, established in **2006**, honors **350 years** of Jewish American contributions to science, arts, law, politics, and social justice. Their legacy of resilience and leadership continues to shape our nation.

AANHPI Heritage Month – A Legacy of Leadership & Resilience

AANHPI Heritage Month, officially designated in **1992**, honors generations of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities who have shaped American history - a time to honor the rich histories, vibrant cultures, and significant contributions of AANHPI communities throughout the United States.



Return of the
Dragon

**Dragons carry the hopes of a people,
and the legacy of a thousand years**

COME CELEBRATE!

Saturday, May 24, 2025 from 11am-5pm

NW Davis & Flanders between 3rd & 4th
Festival Streets in Old Town/Chinatown

- ✿ Lions and Dragons
- ✿ Art Show and Crafts
- ✿ Cultural Performances
- ✿ Heritage Museums and Garden
- ✿ Guided Walking Tour of Bronze Plaques
- ✿ Self-guided Tours of Tongs and Family Sites



For more information: Visit

<https://www.pdxoldtown.org/calendar/return-of-the-dragon>

Hosted by:

Oregon Chinese Coalition
Oregon Chinese Benevolent Association
Old Town partners and allies



TRAVEL
OREGON

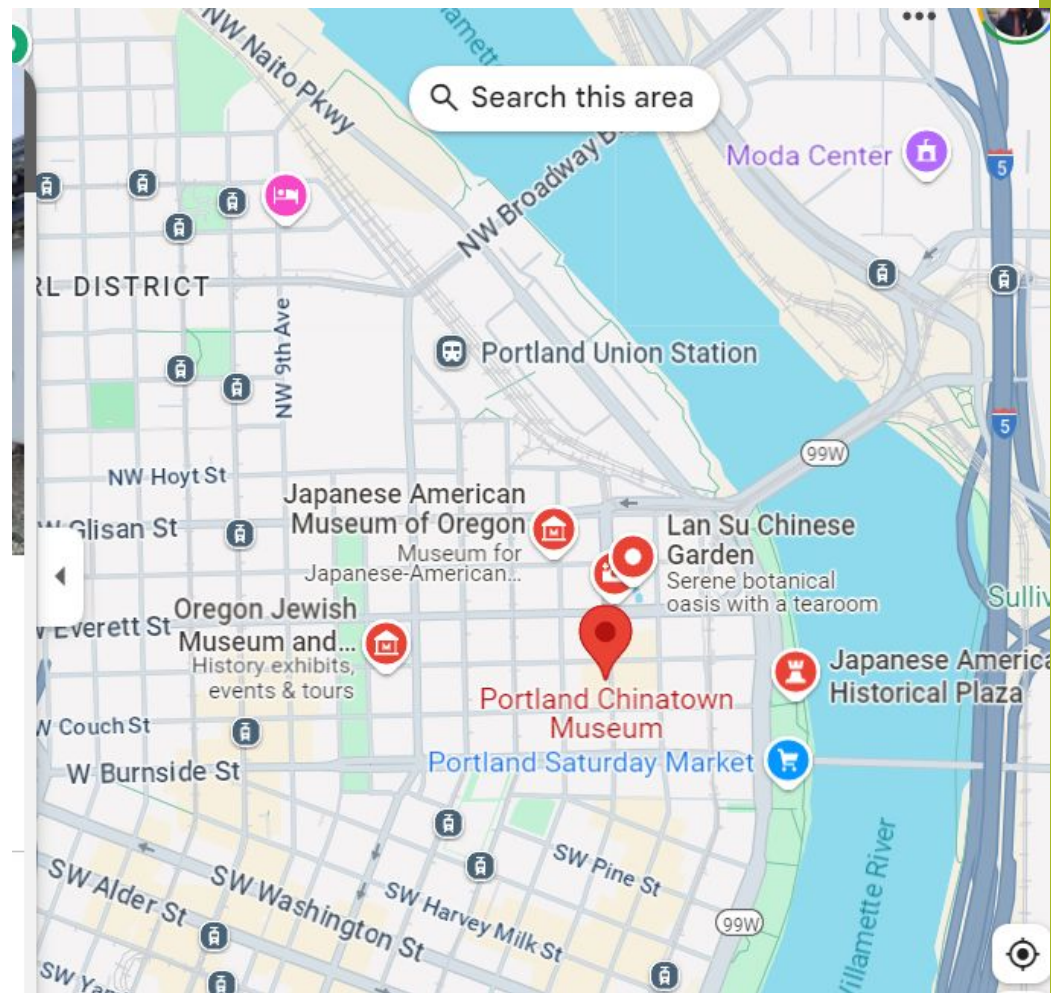


Saturday, May 24, from 11 a.m.–5 p.m

**Portland Chinatown (NW 4th and
Davis)**

- Cultural performances
- Dragon dances
- Arts and crafts
- Guided tours
- Skateboarding demos
- Open houses for the Chinese family associations

- ❖ Japanese American Museum of Oregon
- ❖ Oregon Jewish Museum
- ❖ Portland Chinatown Museum
- ❖ Lan Su Chinese Garden



Lone Fir Cemetery (Block 14)



Lone Fir Cemetery

Chinese Burial Grounds 1891-1928



Lone Fir Cemetery Chinese Memorial (2026)



Lone Fir Cemetery Chinese Memorial (2026)



These moments—from acknowledging **Indigenous communities** to recognizing **heritage months** and honoring **historical injustices**—reinforce how **education** shapes understanding and empathy.

As educators and policymakers, we must ensure our curriculum reflects the **full breadth of history**, empowering future generations to:



Recognize **patterns of exclusion**



Challenge **injustices**



Advocate for **equity and inclusion**

By **honoring history**, we strengthen our communities,
uplift diverse voices, and create a more **just future**.