



## News from: Oakland Public Works

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 31, 2016

# North Oakland Celebrates the Completion of the Charles Porter Golden Gate Recreation Center & Golden Gate Park

Media Contact:

Kristine Shaff  
Public Works PIO  
(510) 238-2966  
[kshaff@oaklandnet.com](mailto:kshaff@oaklandnet.com)

**Oakland, CA** – The Oakland Public Works Department completed the City’s newest recreation facility and park at the Charles Porter Golden Gate Recreation Center and Golden Gate Park in North Oakland. Serving over 95,000 enrolled participants and over one million drop-in users annually throughout the City, Oakland Parks & Recreation Department welcomes and encourages the community to participate in the exciting programs, camps, and classes at this beautiful new center in which this North Oakland neighborhood was intimately involved in designing and supporting.



Funded by grants from the California voter-approved Proposition 84 State Park Clean Water Act Bond, the local voter-approved East Bay Regional Park Measure WW, California Department of Housing and Community Development’s Housing-Related Parks Program and the Redevelopment Successor Agency funds, the \$9.3 million project continues the City’s commitment to water quality and park improvements for environmental stewardship and public enjoyment.



**Grand Opening** The public is invited to celebrate the **Grand Opening** of the new facilities located at **1075 62<sup>nd</sup> Street**, on **Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**, from **11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Oakland Parks & Recreation will host activities throughout the day, including:

- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Center Tours & Open Play
- 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. Basketball Clinic
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Grand Opening Ceremony
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Zumba Dancing
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Open Play



Photos by Russell Abraham Photography

The festivities coincide with “Love Your Neighborhood Day” which takes place along San Pablo Avenue.

**Community Planned Project** The project included over 10 meetings with community, focus groups and staff during the design process, including special design workshops with youth for the development and theme selection of the playground equipment.

( - more - )

**Charles Porter  
Recreation Center Project**

May 31, 2016  
Page Two

Oakland Public Works Director Brooke A. Levin said, “This project is a great example of the City leveraging opportunities to obtain funding and creating amazing new space for our community to enjoy.”

Specific components of the new construction project include:

- Indoor gymnasium with an indoor/outdoor stage that also can be used as a dance/yoga studio
- Two multipurpose rooms that can be combined into one
- Lobby/art gallery
- Computer Room and a Teen Room
- Kitchen that can accommodate cooking classes
- Office, restrooms and other support spaces
- Exterior playgrounds for 2-5 and 6-12 year olds with an encircling walking track
- Amphitheatre
- Renovated exterior basketball court and hard court play areas
- Entry plaza
- Native plants and low-water landscaping with vegetated bioswales to treat storm water
- Parking lot with drop off area

The project was designed by Oakland-based Shah Kawasaki Architects and the general contractor was Arntz Builders, Inc. Construction Testing Services was hired to perform the construction management and inspections. The project was managed by Denise Louie of Oakland Public Works, Bureau of Engineering and Construction.

**Charles Porter: Resident and Community Advocate** The new recreation center building is named after Charles Porter, a resident who grew up in the 1950’s and loved the Golden Gate neighborhood. He devoted his life to effecting positive change in this community and advocating for an upgraded facility that would allow more programs and activities to be offered, especially for youth. He believed keeping youth active and focused are the means to achieving their full potential.

Mr. Porter served on the Center’s advisory board and enthusiastically on the committee that met with architects and attended City Council meetings to speak on behalf of the residents. Even as Mr. Porter fell ill, he continued his support for the project and community by making phone calls and sending emails from his home. Mr. Porter passed away in 2013, knowing that the recreation center he envisioned for the community would reach fruition. In 2015, residents petitioned Oakland Parks & Recreation to name the recreation center in his honor.

To learn more about the programs and projects of Oakland Parks & Recreation, please visit [www.oaklandnet.com/parks](http://www.oaklandnet.com/parks). For more information on Oakland Public Works projects, visit: [www.oaklandpw.com/projects](http://www.oaklandpw.com/projects).

# # #