Celebrating 25 Years with Southwest

On June 6, 1994, Southwest Airlines began service at PDX with a nonstop flight from Portland to Oakland, Calif. And what better way to celebrate this major milestone than with generous giveaways to surprise and delight Southwest passengers 25 years later!

Airport and airline staff teamed up to reward unsuspecting travelers on several Oakland flights with gifts: every traveler received a gift box; several lucky winners took home free airline tickets.

When the first flight took off in 1994, we had 45 Southwest employees at PDX. Today, there are 241 employees who work hard to ensure smooth operations of 45 departures a day to 16 cities. For now, the airline continues to fly out of PDX’s Concourse C; in the summer of 2020, Southwest will move to a new home on the extended Concourse E.

Customer Compliments

“Being a flight attendant, I spend more time at airports than at home and PDX is a crew-member’s dream come true. If I am early for report time, I get an Americano (in my durable cup) and walk to the Hollywood Theatre where they show short films created by local artists. There is almost always live music in the main gate areas which is such a wonderful touch. Just the sweetest little airport in the world – keep up the good work, PDX!”

Nicole L., Portland, Ore.
Last summer’s 30th anniversary of Clocktower Plaza saw a rollout of four collectible PDX pins that caused a major sensation. This year, the enamel beauties are back with three more designs that support our 2019 summer travel theme of Here, There and Everywhere. And it doesn’t stop there…we have new lanyards as well!

Interested employees will be able to add to their PDX swag collection at the Summer Series of concessions events mentioned on the previous page.

Calling All Collectors: New PDX Swag is Coming!

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Northwest Artist Commissioned for Permanent Installation on Concourse E

A new permanent art exhibit that celebrates our region is coming to the Concourse E extension in summer 2020. The installation will be created by Jacob Hashimoto, a Pacific Northwest-raised artist who will design a unique structure that celebrates Portland’s architecture, city landscape and natural beauty.

“PDX is an iconic space in my mind. It was the big city to me when I was a kid, and the opportunity to come make artwork in collaboration with PDX was really inspiring,” said Hashimoto. “I am interested in how I can design artwork that is a pleasure to discover as you travel through it visually.”

Drawing from his Japanese heritage, Hashimoto’s interactive three-dimensional structures comprise thousands of miniature kites, which are made from bamboo and silk or paper and joined together in larger compositions. When completed, Hashimoto’s structure will be a nod to the neighborhoods and natural beauty that surrounds Portland with kites tracing the paths of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, while others feature roses and pearls, the city’s flags and seals, and even the PDX carpet pattern. His goal? To remind travelers of the terrific potential of nature and the adventure that’s just a flight away. Learn more about Hashimoto’s work in this short video: bit.ly/PDXJacobHashimoto.

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Kenny & Zuke’s Honored with Airport Concessions Award

Airports Council International-North America recently announced their concessions award winners, culled from more than 180 nominations from airports of all sizes throughout the U.S. and Canada. In keeping with the PDX philosophy of highlighting local flavors, our own Kenny & Zuke’s Delicatessen took home first place in the Best New Local Concept category – congratulations to the team!

Did You Know?

As part of our ongoing efforts to reduce our environmental impact, PDX is (mostly) strawless! Straws and other single use plastic items like utensils and coffee stirrers are only available upon request at many of our concessionaires. This will soon expand to all PDX restaurants when the City of Portland’s single use plastic ordinance goes into effect this fall.

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On Our Walls: Art@PDX

Arbor to Ether, a whimsical installation by artist Jessica Pezalla, celebrates two of Portland’s most cherished destinations: Forest Park and the International Rose Test Garden. Created entirely of hand-crafted paper botanical elements, the installation takes viewers on a journey from forest to garden to sky, as clusters of swirling leaves mingle with blossoming roses to become clouds of ruffled blooms floating off into the air. Interested in creating your own one-of-a-kind fanciful crafts? Sign up for one of Jessica’s classes at brambleworkshop.com.

Did You Know?

Contrary to popular belief, the busiest travel day at PDX is not the day before Thanksgiving. Summer travel days are busier than holidays, and the airport is expected to mark its busiest day ever on Aug. 1 with nearly 72,000 travelers. From June through August, nearly 5.9 million travelers are expected to pass through our concourses.

Book Club Welcomes PDX Members

Read, learn, discuss, repeat. That’s the motto of our book club, organized by the Port of Portland team and now open to all airport employees. The club focuses on books that highlight diversity, equity and inclusion, with the goal of sparking meaningful conversations around difficult issues. Past selections include The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas, So You Want To Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo, White Fragility by Robyn DiAngelo and Zami: A New Spelling of My Name by Audre Lorde.

If you’re interested in picking up the monthly selection – available at a discount from the PDX Powell’s location! – and participating in the discussion group at the PDX Conference Center, contact karen.drake@portofportland.com.