

Whereas

Whereas, 35 years ago, a small group of neighborhood business owners came together to create Venture Portland to strengthen Portland's neighborhood business districts; and

Whereas, over the following years, these dedicated leaders supported the creation of more than 50 volunteer-run neighborhood business district associations; and

Whereas, neighborhood business districts serve the diverse communities that surround them, producing a wide variety of local goods and services that meet regional, national, and international demand, drive Portland's economy and contribute to the city's goals of healthy connected neighborhoods; and

Whereas, Venture Portland helps neighborhood business districts host public events each year, drawing more than one million visitors and strengthening Portland's unique identity; and

Whereas, Venture Portland has invested millions in business districts in partnership with the City of Portland, funding hundreds of projects; and

Whereas, Venture Portland provides training and technical assistance to neighborhood business districts each year; and

Whereas, Venture Portland has been an important leader in the business community during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing their members with resources, updated safety guidelines, and advocacy, for businesses and workers alike; and

Whereas, Venture Portland knows that Portland's business culture is about more than just capital. It's about people, neighborhoods, passions, dedication, and innovative ideas. It's about a vision for our city that all share. It's about strengthening the economy to increase prosperity for all Portlanders, and it's about connecting, as businesses and as people; and

Now, therefore, I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses," do hereby proclaim April 26, 2021 to be

Venture Portland Day

In Portland and encourage all residents to observe this day.