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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pacific Power Foundation awards \$21,800 to Portland arts organizations

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Pacific Power Foundation has awarded grants totaling \$21,800 to 12 Portland area arts and education organizations. Many of the grants support fine arts, theatre and music experiences for school-aged children.

“Tight budgets are making it more and more difficult for schools to include arts and music education in their curriculum,” said Sheila Holden, Pacific Power regional community manager. “Fortunately, many arts organizations recognize the valuable role they can play in educating kids as well. Pacific Power Foundation is pleased to help them stretch their budgets to include as many children in their programs as possible.”

“The Pacific Power Foundation supports the growth and vitality of communities through its charitable investments,” said Lilisa Hall, executive director of the Pacific Power Foundation. “It is important to provide youth the opportunity to learn about the arts.”

The **Portland Youth Philharmonic Association** received \$2,500 to help sponsor free concerts for school children and other outreach activities serving 11,500 students. The young musicians involved in the Portland Youth Philharmonic – mainly middle and high school students – are inspiring role models to the students who attend the concerts. A national study revealed that only 57 percent of 8th graders attend a school with music instruction at least four times per week. The Portland Youth Philharmonic enhances school music for some students, but for many, it is the only program available to challenge their musical development. In return, the free concerts may be the only exposure to classical music for many school-age children.

Rock N Roll Camp for Girls, a very different, but equally engaging musical experience, received a \$2,000 grant to support its Girls Rock Institute. This year-round after-school music program develops confidence and life-long skills in girls from diverse backgrounds.

The **Portland Art Museum** received a \$2,000 grant to provide bridge funding for six components of the Art Access Initiative while permanent endowment funding is raised. The Initiative will eventually permanently fund free Museum access to children and school tours, transportation support and education funding.

The other Portland area arts and education organizations to receive funding from the Pacific Power Foundation include:

- **Artists Repertory Theatre:** \$1,500 to support artists, personnel and production costs for “The Hillsboro Story.”
- **Caldera:** \$2,000 for the Art and Design project, an intensive experience for 100 students, ages 11 to 18.
- **Oregon Children’s Theatre Company:** \$2,000 to support free education services and outreach programs for disadvantaged children and their teachers.
- **Oregon Symphony Association:** \$2,000 to help bring the Kinderkonzerts program to three area schools serving low-income neighborhoods.
- **Portland Center Stage:** \$2,000 to provide funding for the youth education programs, including artists, instructors, free performances, scholarships and other expenses.
- **Portland Opera Association:** \$2,000 to increase access to a wider variety of opera through the Portland Opera Studio Artists program, which also helps launch the careers of younger artists.
- **Third Rail Repertory Theatre:** \$1,800 to help with artist salaries for the production of “The Gray Sisters.”
- **The Library Foundation, Inc.:** \$1,000 to support its Raising a Reader early literacy program costs.
- **Operation HOPE:** \$1,000 for updating financial education curriculum for the Portland Banking on Our Future program.

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About the Pacific Power Foundation

The Pacific Power Foundation is part of the PacifiCorp Foundation, one of the largest utility-endowed foundations in the United States. The foundation was created in 1988 by PacifiCorp, an electric utility serving 1.7 million customers in six Western states as Pacific Power (Oregon, Washington and California) and Rocky Mountain Power (Utah, Wyoming and Idaho). The foundation’s mission, through charitable investments, is to support the growth and vitality of the communities served by Pacific Power and Rocky Mountain Power. For more information, visit www.pacificpower.net/ppfoundation.