



# Portland Saturday Market Permanent Home Study

*Investing in  
Portland's Future*



## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Background

Portland Saturday Market (PSM): A weekend outdoor market now in its 32<sup>nd</sup> season, open March through Christmas showcasing an eclectic blend of local arts, crafts, food and entertainment offered directly to the customer by regional artisans.

Metro/Saturday and Sunday Market: An existing weekend outdoor market not affiliated with Saturday Market selling a mix of international products and foods.

Skidmore Fountain Building: A mixed-use office and retail building purchased by PSM with assistance from the City of Portland.

Portland Public Market: A proposed year round, seven days a week indoor market selling agricultural products from the northwest foodshed.

Portland Farmers Market: An existing outdoor seasonal market offering fresh foods and products from local farmers. The Farmers Market will continue to operate independently at their current locations whether there is a Public Market or not.

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### 1) Why are we talking about possibly moving Saturday Market? What do Saturday Market and its vendors need to be successful?

PSM exists on a patchwork of short-term leases that give little or no long-term certainty. This deters capital investment in the site and related infrastructure. Lack of mid-week activity on the site reinforces adverse social conditions in the neighborhood and imposes the additional burden of weekly cleaning of the site before Market use. PSM's long-range planning has identified the need for a permanent location, improved infrastructure, and more protection from the weather as major goals. These goals need to be met in a cost efficient manner that allows PSM to provide space at rates that artists and craftspersons can continue to afford.

### 2) What is being proposed for the Ankeny Plaza Area? What is the City planning for the area?

Ankeny Plaza is the heart of historic Portland and is a focus for multiple opportunities to infuse more weekday life and activities into Skidmore/Old Town Historic District. The eclectic nature of the neighborhood, including the diversity of residents, businesses, service providers, retail, and cultural amenities, is recognized as an asset to be preserved and promoted as the area revitalizes. The district is particularly vibrant on weekends and is recognized nationally for its historic character. The City and community leaders seek to capture the weekend energy seven days a week by encouraging mixed-income residential infill and neighborhood services.

### 3) Is the Skidmore Fountain Building part of Saturday Market? Who owns it?

Saturday Market operates on the surface parking lots adjacent to the building, but not in the building. Saturday Market currently owns the building, but is transferring title and debt to PDC so the building can be renovated with uses to help the neighborhood be more vital seven days a week.

**4) How is the City and PDC supporting Saturday Market and its local artisans and crafts people?**

- Taking over debt obligation for the Skidmore Fountain Building.
- Providing funding to make physical improvements, such as restrooms.
- Underwriting study to secure Saturday Market a permanent home in the Central City.
- If agreed upon by PSM and PDC boards, potential funding assistance for future site and improvements.

**5) Is the City planning to develop housing in the Ankeny/Skidmore Plaza area?**

The City hopes to redevelop the current Fire Station #1 site for commercial and residential uses, although it is still uncertain whether the residential units will be rental or owner-occupied. The City and neighborhood aim to provide housing for a mix of incomes to support a balanced community. The City has no plans to construct high rise condominiums around Ankeny Plaza as this area is within the Skidmore Old Town Historic District, which has height restrictions limiting structures to 75 feet. This limitation prohibits any development to exceed 6 or 7 stories in height.