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For Immediate Release

Jardin Portland Foundation Signs Landmark Agreement with Sister City Guadalajara, Mexico

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"The fight for the future of Mexico and stability of the Guadalajara region is taking place right under our noses here in Portland, away from the national spotlight," says Victor Echevarria, Board Member of the Jardin Portland Foundation.

"Cooperation is being achieved not through drug-related violence or fear," adds Echevarria, "but rather through the efforts of like-minded Mexicans and Americans who are dedicated to building a sustainable community for future generations in our sister city across the border."

This vision of the future is being cultivated in the form of a budding rose known as Jardin Portland at Mexico's Bosque Colomos, a park that will serve as a model for environmental sustainability, cultural, educational and economic exchange.

What began as a simple project to build a rose garden in Guadalajara has grown into a full-fledged effort drawing businesses and volunteers from both cities. The project is comprised of three distinct phases: Entry, Living and a "Green" Learning Center.

To mark Jardin Portland's landmark commitment, on February 18, 2011, a *Convenio* was signed between the City of Guadalajara, Bosque Colomos and the Jardin Portland Foundation to mark the next chapter in both the Foundation's evolution and the continued development of the Bosque Colomos project.

"The signing of this cooperative agreement demonstrates the absolute commitment by all outstanding partners in this extraordinary project," says Ron White, Executive Director, Jardin Portland Foundation. "Jardin Portland at Bosque Colomos exemplifies the magic of like-minded people working together for truly sustainable relationships."

Originally conceived by the former administration of the City of Guadalajara and the PGSCA (Portland Guadalajara Sister City Association), the vision of creating a



gathering space to share ideas and build community comes closer to reality with the signing of the agreement.

"The *Convenio* is a dream that came true after three years of supporting the relationship with our sister city," according to Jardin Portland Foundation President Maria Alanis Ruiz. "The agreement will give Jardin Portland the legality, and the cooperation, to build in the Bosque Los Colomos. Guadalajara can enjoy the many benefits of Jardin Portland."

The many standout features planned for this park include an amphitheater inspired by Pioneer Square, a miniature replica of Multnomah Falls, and an interactive sustainable learning center.

The signing of the *Convenio* also highlighted the conclusion of the Jardin Portland Foundation's summit, "Sustainable Guadalajara 2040," where more than 75 corporations, local businesses, students and government representatives convened to discuss sustainability best practices, participate in training sessions, and forge new friendships and strengthen old ones.

Notable seminar attendees included Hewlett Packard, Portland State University, Green Building Services, Probit Builders, Ankrom Moisan Architects, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, former Portland mayor Tom Potter, Bosque Colomos Director of Administration, David Gutierrez Champion, ecoREAL, Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, Ayuntamiento GDL, Universidad ITESO, and Eco Tejado. Pan American Games Arch. Hugo Rodriguez Gascon served as Infrastructure Director.

Quarterly, the Jardin Portland Foundation sponsors International Sustainable Exchange events with various themes at several locations throughout Portland. The next event, a "Sustainable Guadalajara 2040 Post-Summit Briefing," will take place April 6, 2011 at 5 p.m. at the offices of Ankrom Moisan Architects, 6720 SW Macadam Ave., Suite 100. **Former Portland Mayor Tom Potter** will be among several participants who will describe their experiences from the summit.

About Jardin Portland

Jardin Portland Foundation is an educational and experiential resource dedicated to promote understanding of the Portland, Oregon region's culture, livability and environmental best practices. It is a unique international organization that brings together the people of Portland with international partners to create gathering spaces that provide global models for environmental sustainability and design, as well as cultural, educational and economic exchange.

A summary of highlights from the *Convenio* plus a complete history with photos can be accessed at www.JardinPortland.com.

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