

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ancient “Topping Out” Ceremony for the Park Avenue West Tower Marks Downtown Portland’s Economic Recovery, Celebrates Ironworkers, Trades

Iron Workers from Local Union #29 to Hoist the Final Section of Steel to the Top of the Tower; Raise an American Flag and Oregon Tree atop Park Avenue West

PORTLAND, Ore. — Portland’s newest skyscraper, [Park Avenue West](#) and the ironworkers who helped build it, will be honored in a “Topping Out” ceremony, a cherished construction tradition dating back to the Scandinavians in 700 AD. Since then, the Topping Out ceremony has marked iconic structures worldwide including the Empire State Building and the 125 story Shanghai Tower. It signals the last steel beam going into place and that the structure is at full height. An evergreen tree or flag is then hoisted on top.



“The tower itself is a testament to the dedication my grandfather, Tom Moyer, had to the economic health and vibrancy of downtown Portland,” says Vanessa Sturgeon, President and CEO of TMT Development. “He would be so proud to know the Topping Out ceremony will honor the men and women--the boots on the ground--who built Park Avenue West and whose families supported them along the way.”

Park Avenue West Timeline

Construction on the Tower began in 2007, 81 feet below the streets of Portland. That construction site became a symbol of the recession in 2009 when the economy and the work on the Tower stalled. Yet Sturgeon and

her team refused to give up on the project, all the while planning for its eventual rise. In 2013, construction resumed, helping to create nearly 3,000 jobs, including 80 ironworker positions, whose difficult, often dangerous trade is always celebrated in the Topping Out ceremony. Today, the Tower symbolizes the economic recovery of the region.

Topping Out Ceremony

Director Park, Portland

February 19, 2015

10:30 a.m.

Additional Details Below

Topping Out Ceremony Schedule, 10:30 a.m., Feb. 19, 2015, Director Park, Portland, Oregon

- Welcome by TMT Development President & CEO, Vanessa Sturgeon.
- Hoffman Construction Superintendent, Mark Parsons honors the ironworkers.
- Rex Smith, Fought and Company, President for the steel fabricator, and Kevin Patterson, Refa Erection, General Manager, to speak about the ironworkers and the Park Avenue West project.
- Vanessa Sturgeon delivers closing remarks.
- Ironworkers and key project members sign final beam of steel. The beam, an Oregon evergreen and an American flag are then hoisted over 30 stories high.

Facts about Park Avenue West Tower:

- At 504 feet tall with the spire, Park Avenue West is one-third the height of the Empire State Building.
- Over 80 different ironworkers have worked on the project with an average of approximately 40 on site every day since mid-June, 2014.
- Park Avenue West has 3,527 tons of structural steel.
- 23,021 individual pieces were assembled on the Park Avenue West site.
- 63,304 bolts are holding the pieces together.
- 411 loads of structural steel have been delivered to the site.
- The steel transfer beam weighs 24,000 lbs.; the transfer load is 2,000,000 lbs. and is deep enough to fit a six-foot person.

About TMT Development

TMT Development Company Inc. is a leader in sustainable, eco-friendly commercial properties in Oregon and Washington. As part of the Company's Environmentally-Conscious Organization Initiative ("ECO" Initiative), downtown Portland's iconic Fox Tower is LEED Gold level certified. Park Avenue West is pre-certified LEED Platinum. Former theater magnate Thomas P. Moyer founded TMT Development in the 1980's. His handpicked successor, granddaughter Vanessa Sturgeon, became President and CEO in 2010, transitioning the Company's philosophy of smart, sustainable growth and expansion from one generation to the next. For more information, visit tmtdevelopment.com.

About Hoffman Construction

Founded in Portland in 1922 by a family whose Oregon roots reach back 145 years, Hoffman Construction has been fortunate to deliver some of the area's most memorable and challenging buildings. Hoffman has earned a reputation as an early adopter of technology that places an emphasis on building green; in fact, Hoffman has 134 LEED accredited employees and has completed 59 LEED certified buildings to date, including 11 certified as LEED Platinum. As part of its deep Oregon experience, Hoffman is proud to have worked with the Moyer family for over 30 years, building projects like the Marilyn Moyer Meditation Chapel, the 1000 Broadway Building, Fox Tower, and numerous movie theaters. Now, Eric H.I. Hoffman—a descendent of Hoffman Construction founder Lee Hawley Hoffman—is Project Manager of Park Avenue West, continuing a Portland building legacy and a meaningful local partnership.

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