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EVENT HOTELS FOR GAY SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES SELL OUT; SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING EVENT

Portland-Hosted Event Expected to Attract Thousands to the Rose City

PORTLAND, OR (JULY 20, 2017) – Today, the Rose City Softball Association (RCSA), hosting the huge gathering of softball players for the international “Gay Softball World Series” in 2017, announced that the host-hotels were nearly sold out hours after becoming available for booking. That equates to around \$1 million worth of hotel rooms, all part of the large economic impact for the event taking place in September.

“The excitement and anticipation for GSWS2017 in Portland was evident when one of our host hotels sold out in a mere 26 minutes,” said Sam Kaluf, the Hospitality Chair for the World Series board. “We are deeply fortunate to have this opportunity to house our players at such fine area hotels.” The Lloyd Center DoubleTree and Jantzen Beach Red Lion are completely sold out, with just under 50 rooms remaining available at the Jantzen Beach Oxford Suites.

“I was so gratified that we raised more than \$11,000 at our brunch fundraiser,” said Roy Melani, Director of the Portland World Series board, referring to the event which took place July 15th. “And that was from just 65 people who attended the event. I’m proud of our incredibly generous community and their strong support.” Fundraising has been steady, but more remains to be done. “We have a big bingo event called ‘Bingo, Bats and Balls!’ coming in August,” said Melani, referring to an event taking place on the 5th at 4pm at Hobo’s Restaurant.

The RCSA and the national organization, the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA), are bringing the event to Portland in September and are expecting about 3500-4000 people Labor Day week, 200 teams and their players and supporters, are expected in the Rose City to compete in the tournament.

The event is expected to generate well over \$4 million in economic activity for Portland, according to Portland tourism organization “Travel Portland.” The competition taking place during the week of September 3-10th. Games are free to attend, will be held at three major fields: Delta Park William V. Owens complex in Portland, Hood View Park in Happy Valley, and the Gordon Fabor Recreational Complex in Hillsboro.

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The Rose City Softball Association (RCSA) burst onto the gay social scene in 1995. Host city for the international Gay Softball World Series in 2002, Portland embraced 76 teams and 1500 participants. This year, the RCSA will show off their city by hosting GSWS a second time, anticipating 200 teams and their 3500 players and supporters from around the US and Canada Labor Day week, celebrating community and friendship in 2017 through “*Progress, Pride and Play!*”

MEDIA CONTACT: Scott Cummins, Public Relations Chair; 503-757-5648 pr@gsws2017.org