



*The Best of Oregon*

## CITY of BEAVERTON

### NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## BEAVERTON CELEBRATES WELCOMING WEEK IN SEPTEMBER

**BEAVERTON, Ore.** – The City of Beaverton will celebrate National Welcoming Week from Sept. 16 to 25 with a variety of events and activities to recognize immigrant contributions to the community.

“These celebrations are part of a powerful and growing movement in our country and around the world,” said David Lubell, founder and executive director of Welcoming America. “Communities recognize that they are more vibrant and prosperous when everyone feels welcomed and can fully participate. In events across the world this week, new and longtime residents are building bridges and make their communities stronger together.”

This year, the city offered immigrant integration mini grants for small, community-driven projects designed to bring together immigrant and non-immigrant communities. The grants were awarded to five organizations (noted below\*) which will host events during Welcoming Week.

Here is the complete schedule of Welcoming Week events:

### **A Taste of Africa: Cook, Spice, and Eat!\***

*Friday, Sept. 16, 3 to 7 p.m.*

*Natural Grocers, 12155 SW Broadway St.*

Join Spice of Africa to explore savory dishes, sip tea, and enjoy lively conversation for a journey to East Africa! Space is limited for this cooking class, so reserve your spot by emailing [equity@BeavertonOregon.gov](mailto:equity@BeavertonOregon.gov).

### **Aztec Dance Workshop**

*Saturday, Sept. 17, 1-3 p.m.*

*Beaverton City Library, 12375 SW Fifth St.*

Huitzilopochtli will present a workshop on Aztec dancing in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Enjoy live music, watch traditional dances, and learn some steps.

### **Broadway Street Festival**

*Saturday, Sept. 17, 1-6 p.m.*

*SW Broadway St between Hall Blvd and Watson Ave*

Experience the vibrancy of the downtown core of Beaverton through music, family activities, street vendors, and more. Learn about the role immigrants have played in the city's history and share your family's heritage story.

### **The Untold Story: Chinese American History in Oregon**

*Monday, Sept. 19, 7-8 p.m.*

*Beaverton City Library, 12375 SW Fifth St.*

Helen Ying will share the history of the Chinese community and the underground city where they escaped discrimination, as part of the Oregon Historical Society Chinese Speaker Series.

**Naturalization Information Session**

*Tuesday, Sept. 20, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.*

*Beaverton City Library, 12375 SW Fifth St.*

Attend this USCIS session for an overview of the process to become a U.S. citizen, the test, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Learn about free resources and practice a mock naturalization interview.

**Tea and Cookie Social with Immigrant Entrepreneurs\***

*Friday, Sept. 23, 2 to 5 p.m.*

*Beaverton City Hall, 12725 SW Millikan Way*

Enjoy music and food while getting to know small businesses in our community and the entrepreneurs that created them with Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon. Vendors will have small gift items for sale.

**Learning about Taiwan from the Art of Tea\***

*Saturday, Sept. 24, 1 to 3 p.m.*

*Beaverton City Library, 12375 SW Fifth St.*

Join the Formosa Association of Student Cultural Ambassadors on a journey through Taiwanese tea history, attending a tea ceremony, preparing mashed Hakka tea, and sampling bubble tea.

**Islamic Center of Portland Open House\***

*Saturday, Sept. 24, 3 to 5 p.m.*

*Imam Al-Mahdi Center, 6940 SW Hall Blvd*

The Vose NAC and the Islamic Center of Portland invite everyone to learn about Muslim culture, Islam, and the center's important role in the community at this open house.

**Symphony of Cultures\***

*Sunday, Sept. 25, 3 p.m.*

*Village Baptist Church, 330 SW Murray Blvd.*

The Beaverton Symphony Orchestra will conduct a multicultural concert with guest performers representing the diversity of the Beaverton community.

\*Recipient of immigrant integration grant

All events are free and open to the public. For information about Welcoming Week, visit [www.BeavertonOregon.gov/WelcomingWeek](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov/WelcomingWeek) or contact Megan Cohen at 503-526-2584 or [equity@BeavertonOregon.gov](mailto:equity@BeavertonOregon.gov).

The City of Beaverton joined the Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative in April 2015. The initiative emphasizes the importance of engaging both foreign-born and long-time residents in this effort to strengthen relationships, cross-cultural understanding, and collective economic vitality. In Beaverton, where one in five residents is born outside of the United States and 27 percent of residents speak a language other than English at home, the city has made it a priority to support integration of immigrants and refugees.

For more information, reminders and community news, visit [www.BeavertonOregon.gov](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov). Also follow Beaverton on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton](http://www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton), or Twitter at [www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton](http://www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton).

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**Caption:** Beaverton Welcoming Week activities will include an African cooking demonstration at Natural Grocers on Sept. 16. For a complete list of Welcoming Week events, visit [www.BeavertonOregon.gov/WelcomingWeek](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov/WelcomingWeek). *(Photo/City of Beaverton)*