SE 7th & Sandy: A community vision & partnership

- Project rationale
- Project timeline
- 15% designs + issues
- Opportunities

Depave empowers disenfranchised communities to overcome social and environmental injustices and adapt to climate change through urban re-greening.

Depave transforms over-paved places, creates resilient community greenspaces, promotes workforce development and education, and advocates for policy change to undo manifestations of systemic racism.

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Depave projects solve lots of problems at once

- Infiltrate rainwater to reduce CSOs and flooding
- Add soil, plants, and trees to absorb carbon
- Remove asphalt add tree canopy for shade, cooling
- Center volunteer events to decrease isolation, create joy, community, hope
- Address environmental injustice, racism, redlining
- Create space for gardens or land tending
- Treat NDD, add nature exposure and nature play

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Community transformation: Morning Star Church

- Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church - 4927 NE 55th St.
- 16,000 sq ft, nature play area, garden, gathering space
- MSMBC won the Bill Naito Community Trees Award!

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So many problems (& solutions!) come together at SE 7th and Sandy

- Stormwater: Reduce CSO & restore ecosystem function through large scale stormwater infiltration
- Urban Cooling: Decrease asphalt, add trees & plants to cool the neighborhood with Portland's hottest surface temps
- Absorb carbon: Pushing for a new mini urban forest & native plantings

- Micromobility: Redesign most problematic intersection south of Blumenauer on 7th Ave Greenway
- Plan for the future: Demonstrate complete street with safe bicycle and pedestrian passage
- Safety: Calm/slow vehicle traffic on three high crash corridors

- Parks: Provide place to rest, public loo, space for markets/festivals in a place without parks
- Housing: Increase quality of life in a neighborhood zoned for dense housing

- Diversity & Inclusion: Re-Indigenize urban space by partnering with and centering Indigenous community, contracting Indigenous artists, and decolonizing the design process
- Unhoused people: Include green infrastructure workforce development and unhoused workers in transition in tending the new greenspace

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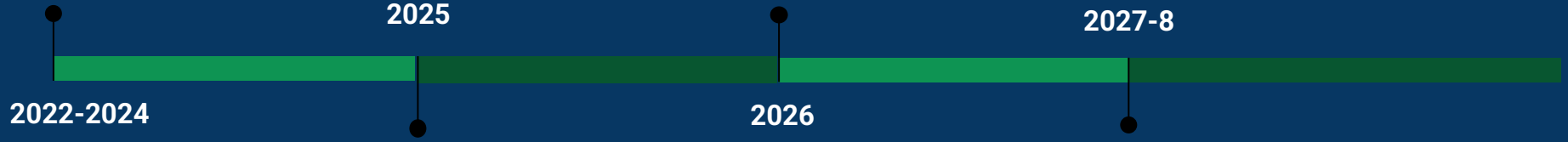
SE 7th & Sandy Timeline

From stormwater to a parklet

- Developed the concept
- Obtained full design funding
- Activated plaza to trial designs, build community

Finishing design, plan for construction

- Broadening partnerships & building institutional support
- R&D: longterm stewardship agreement
- Develop full construction fundraising
- 15% design Jan 2026 - construction ready Jan 2027
- Continue developing Indigenous relationships & solidarity



Create & Activate: Proof of plaza concept

- Community partners strengthen activation
- Formalized partnerships with PBOT
- “Capital Improvement Project” status
- Signed contract for 0 to 60% design w/engineers, architects
- MOU with Portland Indigenous Marketplace, Indigenous artist

Voila! New plaza!

- Parklet implemented with clear stewardship agreements, Portland Indigenous Marketplace as anchor property owner, and longterm institutional support

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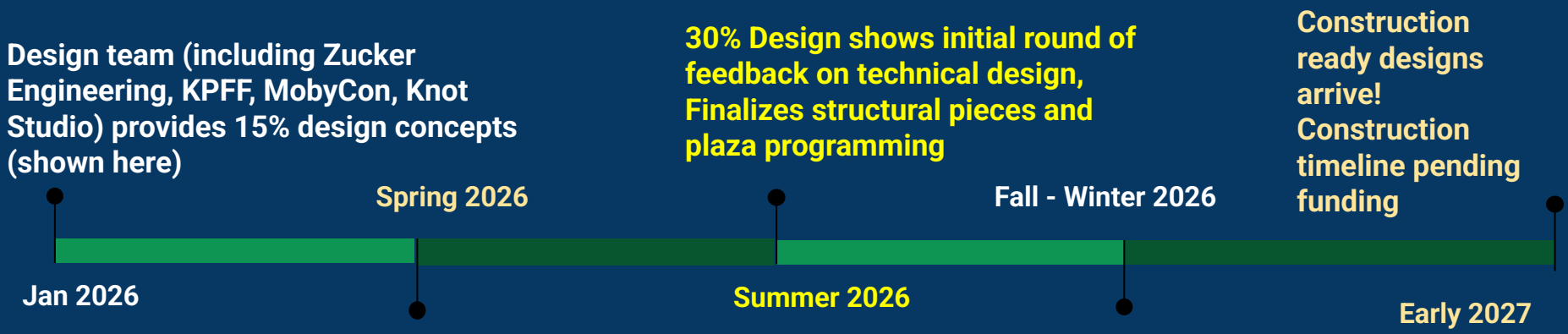
SE 7th & Sandy Plaza Design Timeline



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Anchor Property Owner: Portland Indigenous Marketplace

- Depave & PIM imagine the block as a thriving space for care, community, Indigenous art and representation
    - Depave/PIM MOU defines work & values
    - Re-Indigenizing process and outcomes
    - Centering PIM artists in plaza design
    - Fundraising together
- This is really a three part project:
    - PIM building green retrofit, Indigenous art, ecoroof
    - PIM outdoor public/private market space
    - Right of way plaza project
- Depave & PIM partnering on parking lot retrofit, will go to construction first in late 2026/early 2027
- Developing theme of arts and Indigenous/BIPOC arts for the neighborhood

From doom loop to green loop? Opportunities to consider...

- Project design is fully funded and ready to be a fun success story for Portland and the Central Eastside

- 7th Ave as a next generation Greenway
  - Two way bikelane on west side of 7th, south of 7th/Sandy?
  - Could this project help us further the conversation on where and why we build 2-way bikelanes in Portland?

- Ongoing agency/community partnership
  - Pursue joint funding for construction of the plaza & 7th Ave improvements

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OVERALL SITE PLAN

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Thank You!

Website: depave.org
@depavepdx