



Philomath Rodeo Arena Expansion | Executive Statement

The people of Philomath look forward to their Frolic & Rodeo all year long. The event has helped Philomath have fun while showcasing its history, heritage, and traditions for 70 years. The Frolic's visitors also bring an economic boon to area businesses each July.



When the 2022 fire destroyed one-third of the grandstands at the arena, sorrow was felt throughout the community. The fire put the Frolic, and all other events held there, in jeopardy. In true community fashion, folks in Philomath banded together to ensure the show would go on. The Frolic Board and dedicated community members removed the burned debris and constructed safety features to ensure Philomath's signature event would continue without a stumble.

Built in 1985, the grandstands are showing their age, both in design and limited capacity. The foresight of the hardworking volunteers nearly 40 years ago was excellent; however, the demand for seats during the Frolic and Rodeo now consistently exceeds the supply. What was adequate then does not currently meet the needs of the community, with limited ADA accessibility, only eight seats to accommodate wheelchair access and one wheelchair ramp. Limitations keep the event from being enjoyed by everyone who wishes to join the fun. A plan to upgrade them has been in the works for several years; the fire has transformed the project from a future need to a current necessity.

A family-oriented entertainment organization, the Frolic & Rodeo focuses primarily on Philomath's Western heritage and its logging industry. Events over the years have included a trail ride, the logging show, a carnival, a truck rodeo, dances, the Lions breakfast, an old-time community picnic, a Sunday Union Church service, and various displays and exhibits.

In 2022, the grounds hosted 24 events including the Frolic & Rodeo, Northwest Youth Rodeo Association Finals, Oregon Barrel Racing Association performances, as well as horse training clinics, dog shows, weddings, the Lions Club Book Sale, and the Benton County Sheriff and Philomath Police Department Chili Cook-Off fundraiser.

The Frolic & Rodeo Board of Directors and supporters are committed to a multi-million dollar campaign to construct new bleachers. The new facility will double the arena's seating capacity; quadruple the number of ADA accessible seats to 32; add box seating and premium seating options; install efficient LED lighting, new rodeo chutes, gates, and fence panels; and improve vehicle and pedestrian access to Skirvin Park.

The heritage of the Frolic and Rodeo was built by this great community, for the community and all others from far and wide who want to join in the spirit of the Frolic. In order for this cherished event to grow, entertain and accommodate those who love it, an upgrade and expansion is critical now. Please join us in supporting this effort for a successful future for generations to come!

For more information, contact Amanda Lindsey, Campaign Committee Chair, at frolicamandal@gmail.com, by phone at 541-602-0235. Or visit www.philomathfrolic.org.