

# Small Business Hub Launched



Kimberly Branam

Prosper Portland has launched a new program to serve local small business owners, the Portland Small Business Hub, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act.

The Portland Small Business Hub is a free resource for local small business owners, supported by federal American Rescue Plan funds allocated by Portland City Council to help businesses and communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic recession, officials of the economic development agency said.

The Hub is a collaboration between Prosper Portland and lo-

cal service providers and offers culturally specific small business technical assistance and resource navigation. The Hub connects business owners to financial relief programs by facilitating referrals to one-on-one assistance in applying for loans, grants, and other funding opportunities.

This program is intended to serve business owners who are residents of the city of Portland or whose businesses are in the city of Portland. Priority businesses include those owned by people of color, women, and non-English/limited English speakers or in industries impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prosper Portland Executive Director Kimberly Branam said, "We have listened to our small businesses and community partners, who have expressed a huge need for centralized information and navigation to access relief resources in a timely manner. The Portland Small Business Hub is built to address that need."

# Library to Close for Renovations



PHOTO BY PADRAIC RYAN/WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

The downtown Central Library will close Aug. 1 through Nov. 1 for construction.

The downtown Central Library will close to the public next month to undergo major renovations beginning Aug. 1 and lasting through Nov. 1.

During that time, crews will undertake a series of projects

that will create new outdoor public spaces, enhance access to the building and refresh and expand restroom amenities.

As part of a voter-approved 2020 Library building bond, Central Library and other

branches are scheduled to receive a number of updates and improvements over the next few years that will make the Multnomah County library system more accessible to all library patrons.

# Overcoming

## Problem Gambling

### Oregon Summers

Fairs and festivals. Barbeques and beaches. Summertime in Oregon has so much to offer — so many distractions from life's daily challenges. For some of us, it's easy to throw ourselves into a flurry of summer fun instead of doing the important work of overcoming issues that might be negatively affecting us. Issues like out-of-control gambling.

### Free Help is Available

If you have a gambling habit that has grown beyond your control, help is available. Through the Oregon Problem Gambling Resource (OPGR), gamblers and those who love them can get support from trained addiction counselors, often right from home. Treatment is effective. People are ready and waiting to provide better mechanisms to cope and to heal. And, best of all, it's free.

All it takes is a phone call, a text, or an online chat to get started. Reach out. Let this summer be your season for change.

For more information, visit

