

January 12, 2011
Multnomah County Board of Commissioners
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 600
Portland, OR 97214



KITCHEN: AN EXTRAORDINARY PLACE WHERE FLAVORS, TECHNIQUE, AND SKILLS COMBINE TO CREATE DELICACIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD
NINJA: SPECIALLY TRAINED IN THE SKILL AND ART OF INCREDIBLY FAST, DEADLY ACCURATE, AND INVISIBLE, SEAMLESS PERFECTION
KITCHEN NINJA: A GRADUATE OF OREGON CULINARY INSTITUTE

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners,

I am the president of Oregon Culinary Institute in Portland and wanted to add my voice in support of the James Beard Public Market at the Morrison Bridgehead.

OCI has been in existence since 2006 offering high quality and affordable programs in culinary arts, baking and pastry, and restaurant management to students from a wide variety of backgrounds. We have a strong ethic of supporting the local community that we try to instill in our students. We believe it's critical for them to understand that choices we all make as producers, retailers and consumers have both social and economic impact which ripples throughout the community and beyond.

I believe strongly that the presence of a permanent public market in downtown Portland would be a tremendous attraction for our city, a great benefit to the community of local producers and consumers, and offer a myriad of exciting educational opportunities for our students and the general public. Aside from strengthening the bond between OCI and local producers, we would collaborate with the Market to create meaningful field trip and externship opportunities for our students, and offer community classes focusing on local ingredients, sustainability, healthy and ethnic cuisines.

Finally, as hosts of the nomination ceremony for the 2011 Beard Awards, we at OCI feel a strong connection between James Beard the man, and his legacy in this community. Having his namesake market here would only serve to burnish Portland's growing reputation as a Mecca for people devoted to good food and good food ethics.

As you move through the process of determining the best use for the property at the Morrison Bridgehead, I hope you will appreciate the incredible potential benefits to Portland and decide to locate the James Beard Public Market there. Thank you for your consideration and please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions regarding my support for this project.

Sincerely,

Eric Stromquist
President
Oregon Culinary Institute