

pridefiles

tionships course and regularly partners with local organizations to provide education and outreach. Because these initiatives weren't in the budget, Mendez had to find her own funding sources, including the Pride Foundation, Equity Foundation and benefits organized by the local queer community.

The PSU social work graduate says she facilitates at least four trainings a month, both in domestic violence for queer groups and in LGBTQ cultural competency for domestic violence organizations. But the eight-week Healthy Relationships classes have been particularly successful. The courses, which use an LGBTQ-specific curriculum developed by Seattle's Northwest Network, fill up quickly, she says.

"It's a good way to get people involved, because nobody wants to talk about domestic violence, but everyone wants to talk about relationships," Mendez explains. While she expected the classes to function as a tool for domestic violence prevention, she says they have actually served as a feeder into support services.

In an ideal world, Mendez says she would



SUBMITTED PHOTO

also have support groups for partners of survivors and for more culturally specific groups, as well as a speakers bureau. For now, she's just happy to be doing what she's doing.

"I just love working with the queer community," Mendez says. "That's what I wanted to do, so it's amazing that it worked out."

For more information, visit bradleyangle.org.

—ERIN ROOK

Come Together, Right Now

The new economic visions of Michkael Baker

Practicing sustainability. Stimulating the local economy. Eating well. Supporting your community. These life guidelines are not lost on a majority of Portlanders. But for Michkael Baker, they've become the basis for a life turnaround, and the foundations of a promising business model.

For the past three-and-a-half years, Baker, 41, has dedicated his energies to cultivating an ambitious, localized collaborative business plan, centering on a new way for people to work together to subvert the corporate mechanism while pumping up the local economies of the world. Fueled by the idea of "social business" and "social enterprise"—terms coined by Bangladeshi economist and Nobel Prize winner Mu-

hammad Yunus—Baker's vision is seen through his Blue Voice Enterprises. Essentially, the idea is to provide a localized spotlight on independent craftsmen, artisans, laborers, designers, etc. through a social media center called a CACOON (Creative Arts Center of Online Organized Networks), collaborations which are then to be featured on an online television network called Showcase Networks. People would then be able to stream and view these shows from the local sites and businesses to connect with other people online, and find resources in the marketplace to help boost independent, local business around the world.

Baker hopes for funding for the larger project within the next three months, but the public is already privy to one aspect of his vision: The Open Kitchen series. Open Kitchen unites local vendors, wineries, chefs and artisans to create a completely local meal while bringing together those

LOVE ART!

Wishes Portland a Great Pride!

8036 SE 13th Avenue,
Portland, Oregon 97202
503.954.2656
loveartgallery.net

3901 N. Mississippi
503-281-0453
sunlanlighting.com

Mon-Fri: 8-5:30
Sat: 10-5
Sun: Closed

Sunlan Lighting & Lightbulb Lady: We each light up the world in our own way.

20 AUGUST 2011
7PM - 2AM
\$40 ADVANCE • \$45 W/ SHUTTLE SERVICE

THE FIRE ON THE COLUMBIA

ADMISSION INCLUDES ALL DRINKS, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT
MUSIC BY DJ TRONIC • SUNSET LUAU • FIRE DANCERS • HUGE BONFIRE
CAMPING OVERNIGHT ENCOURAGED • SHUTTLE SERVICE FROM Q CENTER AND DOWNTOWN

FOR TICKETS AND INFO VISIT WWW.FIREONTHECOLUMBIA.COM
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE OREGON CRUSADERS AND THE Q CENTER

So Close... You Can Smell It.

Voodoo Doughnut, Re-Opening
Coming Soon... Real Soon!

DOUGHNUT

Don't forget to go to Voodoo Doughnut Too on 1510 NE Davis St. for all your doughnut needs.