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who don't yet have restaurants, or shops, to network and educate the public on how their food is made, grown and prepared.

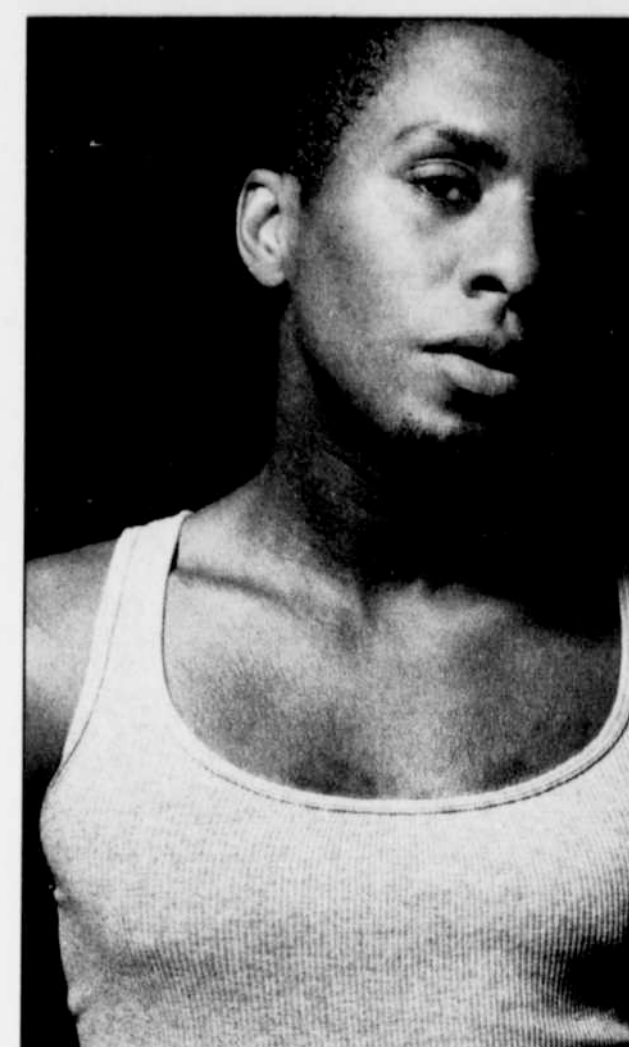
"I bring everybody together to collaborate and when I watch that interaction, that magic, that's when I get tears in my eyes," Baker says. "This is what I wanted to create—that energy."

With the Open Kitchen series leading the way, he hopes to open the eyes of investors and the public at large to a new way of social business.

"I don't make any money doing this," Baker admits. "Really, I've lost money. I'm doing this to help people—myself included—to learn and build things. I'm enjoying where this is going."

For more information on Blue Voice Enterprises, and the Open Kitchen, visit showcasepdx.com, or search for "The Open Kitchen" on Facebook.

—RYAN J. PRADO



TYLER KONGSLE

Arts and Culture Club

Policy coordinator Caryn Brooks talks Vanna, Cattitude, *Meatballs*

in my blood."

Brooks lived in Portland for 12 years, working for five as the arts

One of the perks of being Caryn Brooks: getting paid to meet Vanna White.

"Our office works to facilitate film and video projects in the city," says Brooks, policy coordinator for the office of Mayor Sam Adams. "So, yes, I was the one who escorted the mayor to his shoot with Vanna White for [recent] *Wheel of Fortune* promos."

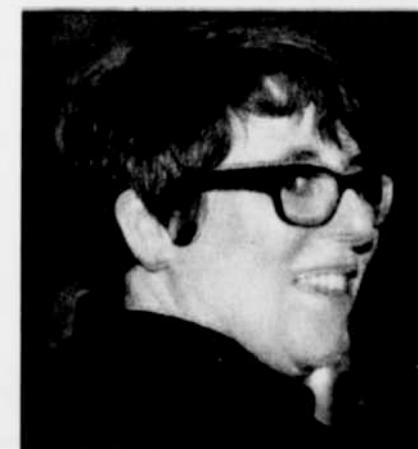
Brooks is a maven of Portland arts and culture. When not moonlighting as a groupie for her girlfriend's queer performance art group Cattitude, she spends her waking hours focusing on arts and culture for Mayor Adams' office. Originally from the Philadelphia suburbs, she jokes that "being a Jew who tries to dress like a WASP is inherently

and culture editor for *Willamette Week* before scoring a prestigious National Arts Journalism Program fellowship at Columbia University in 2003.

More than returning to her East Coast roots, the fellowship gave Brooks a chance to get closer to her family.

"I wasn't out to my family for the whole time I lived in Portland, but going back east for the fellowship placed me in their sphere more and gave me the confidence to come out to them," Brooks says. "And it was totally fine with them, even though they're all super Republicans."

It's one of the reasons I decided to stay on in [New York City] after my fellowship was over. My mother died this past fall, so I'm really



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