



## Siletz Tribe, American Indian organizations partner on historic affordable housing project in Portland that targets urban Native population

PORTLAND, Ore. – A collaboration between the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA), the Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest (NARA NW), Community Development Partners and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians will create 59 units of affordable housing in Portland's Cully Neighborhood.

The historic project, Nesika Illahee, meaning "Our Place" in the Chinook language, is the first time the partners have come together to construct affordable housing for Tribal members and other Native families in Portland using generous funding from the Siletz Tribe's Indian Housing Block Grant. Those funds have generally been used for affordable housing activities within reservation lands.

The project's groundbreaking ceremony was held Nov. 20 at 6300 NE 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave. in Portland.

"We are very pleased to partner with NAYA and NARA and provide Siletz Tribal members with the opportunity for affordable housing in the Portland area. This will benefit Tribal citizens for many years to come," said Siletz Tribal Chairman Delores Pigsley.

NAYA and NARA will partner on delivering onsite behavioral health, dental and recovery services, as well as referral to NAYA's center-based services located less than a mile away.

"Displacement is a major problem in the Native American community due to increasing rental and housing costs and low household incomes. Nesika Illahee will be a step towards bringing Native community members closer to NAYA,



Photo by Diane Rodriguez

Leaders of the many programs involved in the Nesika Illahee housing project ceremoniously break ground on Nov. 20, including (l to r), Bekah Sabzalian, Meyer Memorial Trust; Elisa Harrigan, Meyer Memorial Trust; Rich Rodgers, CDP; Eric Paine, CDP; Brian Carleton, Carleton Hart Architecture; Michael Watkins, NARA; Delores Pigsley, Siletz Tribe; Wesley Thompson, Aegon; Eddie Sherman, NAYA; Sami Jo Difuntorum, Siletz Tribe; Paul Lumley, NAYA; Margaret Salazar, State of Oregon; Ted Wheeler, City of Portland; Alissa Keny-Guyer, state legislator; Ian Davie, Home Forward; and Tawna D. Sanchez, state legislator.

the historic site of the Neerchokikoo Tribal village. We are excited to bring an opportunity for Native Americans to return to what is now the Cully neighborhood while meeting their urgent need for housing," said Paul Lumley, NAYA executive director.

Eric Paine, chief executive officer of Community Development Partners, the project's developer, said, "CDP is elated to be working with our partners in bringing this important community that will serve Native American residents to fruition. Providing high quality housing that is

permanently affordable alongside robust ongoing programming is the foundation of CDP's mission."

The development was designed by Carleton Hart Architecture and will be built by LMC Construction.

**See Nesika on page 12**



Courtesy photo

Junior Lane and Ed Ben, the Tribe's two remaining World War II veterans, attend the announcement of the National Native American Veterans Memorial, to be built on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. Groundbreaking is set for September 2019 with the dedication of the memorial in November 2020.



Photo by Diane Rodriguez

At the Siletz Tribal Restoration Pow-Wow on Nov. 17, the Tribe's CARE Program coordinated special dances in honor of missing and murdered indigenous women, as well as honoring survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Here, participants enter the dance arena in the first of those dances.

See more pow-wow photos on pages 9-11.