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## ATTN: PACIFIC NORTHWEST ARTISTS The U.S. SBA Wants YOU!

The U.S. Small Business Administration is seeking entries for their 1991 Small Business Week Poster Contest, targeting professional artists and post secondary-level students in graphic design and arts. In addition to national exposure and recognition, the winning artist will receive a \$4000 contract for final preparation and design.

Small Business Week is proclaimed annually by the President, to pay special tribute to the nation's 20 million small business owners. The poster design should illustrate and incorporate this year's theme, "Small Business: Building America's Future", and the text: "U.S. Small Business Week, May 5-11, 1991". Submissions should be designed in no more than two colors on white paper, measuring 16" x 20".

Harold (Hal) Wolf, SBA regional administrator for the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, thinks that local artists are a shoe in for the competition: "this region

enjoys some of the nation's clearest air, tallest mountains, grandest forests and deepest seas," said Hal Wolf, "and the innovation and inspiration of our small businesses are well matched by its cultural diversity and deep artist talent pool! It is certainly fitting that we look first to local artists to celebrate small business—one of our most precious national resources!"

Entries must be postmarked no later than November 16, 1990, and should be sent to: The Office of Public Communications, U.S. Small Business Administration, 1441 L. Street, N.W., Room 926, Washington, D.C., 20416. The winning designer will be asked to submit camera-ready art no later than December 28, 1990.

For additional information on the Small Business Week 1991 Poster Contest, call SBA's Region 10 Headquarters, at (206) 442-1455.



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## What Happened

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banks' advances went to pay our plumbers and electricians. Everything went well for six months until the bank suddenly refused to take anymore contacts; "Downturn in the economy," what can you say? Or, as I said here earlier, "frustration that frequently confronts the minority—did the failure evolve from conventional functions to the marketplace, or was it the result of racial discrimination; How to know?"

We got out, barely breaking even, and financing the last two contracts by marketing them through an ad in the Daily Journal of Commerce. Later we were to learn that the bank soon resumed taking these kind of contracts, based on an idea I had pioneered—but they were taken from large, well-financed contractors previously involved in the franchise, turn-key side of the business. "Coincidentally" they all turned out to be customers of the same bank. There were rumors that there had been strong protests against the bank financing shoe string "upstarts" in competition with

their old, established depositors. What do you think? Kind of reminds you of the experience of many of the "Black Inventors" I've written about.

Well, there you have two personal but quite relevant experiences which may illuminate not only some frustrations but some types of opportunity for the minority business person. Next week we shall take a hard look at today's volatile arena—especially here in Portland, Oregon. Surely to be controversial will be an in-depth examination of the government role in the promotion of minority business as part of the 1960s "Great Society" promise. This role has been described in every imaginable fashion; from a long overdue assist to a much-neglected segment of the American population—to a "throw-back" to the Freedmen's Bureau set up immediately following the Civil War and an alleged "Emancipation", seen by many to be a precursor institution, carefully-contrived to head off and constrain the fear-provoking potential of a strong and innovative race.

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\*The open position listing are posted each Friday. Applications are accepted between the hours of 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

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