

Tri-Met First In Nation To Seek "Low Floor" Light Rail Cars

NECDC Is It A Rap Groupe, NOT!



BY BILLY MOORE

NECDC sounds like a rap group doesn't it, not! What NECDC stands for is Northeast Community Development Corporation. What they are aiming to do is to make housing affordable for low to moderate income families. It is a part of the Neighborhood Revitalization Act to make run down or boarded up houses livable again. This is a non profit organization that plans to remodel or build 250 homes in North-Inner Northeast Portland by the year 1995.

On September 29, 1989 NECDC received confirmation that it had been selected by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to receive a 3.75 million dollar Nehemiah Housing Opportunities Grant. The Portland Award was the second largest in the country. Congressman Les Aucoin played a very significant role in making this piece of legislation a reality, this provides an important part of the American Dream to families seeking affordable housing.

In talking with Cynthia Luckett

Administrative Support Services officer of NECDC, she seemed to be very excited by what is taking place in our community. Cynthia stated, "If you have good credit and a decent job NECDC will put up the first \$15,000 dollars toward a house, in which you can pick out the design. No it's not free you will have to pay a minimum of a \$1,000 toward a down payment and the closing costs. There is a down payment assistant grant that will pay a maximum of \$3,000 to assist qualified applicants.

The homes come equipped with appliances and a built in alarm system. Each house is newly constructed with state of the art extras. If you want a \$45,000 dollar home all you need to finance is \$30,000 dollars. Sounds too good to be true right, not! Because it is a fact under this program! Cynthia goes on to say, "There are four targeted areas where these homes will be, Boise, Vernon, Humbolt, and King. The program is working with local banking institutions like First Interstate Bank, U.S. Bank, Bank of America, and Pacific First Federal. To make this work

the list of private foundations and corporations reads like who's who list. City of Portland, Meyer memorial Trust, West One Bank, Key Bank, Emanuel Hospital, U.S. West Communications, Collins Foundations, and Nike Inc. The Portland Trail Blazers donated the tickets sell proceeds the NBA draft to this project. What we have here could be the best thing to happen to this community in year's, and could very well be the catalyst for restoring dignity and integrity to drug infested, run down neighborhoods, by giving them a new life." After taking a nickel and dime tour of the homes I found that Jaki Walker, Director of NECDC is running a very successful operation and getting a lot of self satisfaction out of making the American Dream affordable to low and moderate income families. This program is about the rebirth of a community in need of new life. No it is not a new rap group, but NECDC sure are singing a sweet, sweet song. So if you need a house today go see Cynthia Luckett at NECDC right away.

Tri-Met First In Nation To Seek "Low Floor" Light Rail Cars

Tri-Met announced today the release of a request for proposals for low floor light rail vehicles that will improve access for passengers who have difficulty climbing steps.

Low floor light rail cars will be the first step toward a major procurement for Tri-Met's Westside light rail project. Next to the West Hills tunnel low floor cars will be the largest single item of expenditure in the project. Expected cost of the 32-car order could be as high as \$80 million.

Tri-Met board director Nita Brueggeman, speaking at a news conference at the Oregon convention Center MAX station, called the project, "...truly a milestone in transportation technology for this community. It takes a first and very big step toward creating public transportation that is accessible to everyone."

"Low floor cars will make light rail easily accessible, not only for people with disabilities but also for seniors, parents with strollers and all other transit passengers," said Jan Campbell of

the tri-county Committee on Accessible Transportation. We applaud Tri-Met's willingness to pursue putting low floor cars into service."

Tri-Met is the first North American transit system to request proposals for low floor cars, which are considered the most significant development in European transit technology in the last 10 years.

Though in widespread use in European cities, the car technology must be adapted to meet higher U.S. standards for crashworthiness and other factors.

"We have high expectations the car building industry will respond with favorable proposals," said Bob Post, Tri-Met Deputy General Manager. "Respondents will need to demonstrate technical capability and offer a reasonable price before we will award the contract." If no qualified manufacturers submit proposals, or if costs are too high, Tri-Met would fall back to an order of standard vehicles.

Since federal funds will be used in the purchase of the vehicles, "Buy

America" provisions of federal law apply, requiring that parts worth 60% of the cost of the vehicle must be manufactured in the U.S. In addition, final assembly of the vehicles must take place in this country.

Post said the new cars will operate in two-car trains coupled with existing Banfield cars, assuring at least one accessible car in each train. Minor modifications will be made to Eastside platforms so they are compatible with the new cars. Wayside lifts currently in use would be removed.

Tri-Met's request for proposals for the low floor cars was issued July 31. Proposals for building the light rail cars are due at the agency November 6, 1992. Tri-Met hopes to approve a final offer by April 30, 1993, to proceed with the cars.

Others appearing at the news conference in support of the low floor cars include Alice Pickard from United Seniors of Oregon; Jim Harding, president of Oregon Paralyzed Veterans; and Roy Porter from the Transit Riders Association.

The Third Annual Homowa Festival



The Homowa Foundation for African Arts and Cultures announces The Third Annual Homowa Festival for African Arts will be held on Sunday, August 30 beginning at 2 p.m. in the Washington Park Rose Garden amphitheater. The free festival features an array of drummers and dancers from Ghana, many of them from the Arts Council of Ghana.

In Ghana, West Africa, the Homowa Festival is an annual event that began 700 years ago. The Festival can be compared to a harvest festival. The Portland event intends to capture

the spirit of the Festival in a four hour program. The Festival includes music, dance, crafts and food.

The event will begin with a processional with members of the Ghanaian community wearing the authentic clothing of the kings and queens and marching to traditional drumming. A representative from the Ghanaian Embassy will open the afternoons event with a short introduction. A number of prominent members of the local African-American community will speak throughout the afternoon.

Featured artists joining Obo Addy

and his performing groups will be Dora Atswei Ayeh and Kweki Patience Quaynor, both teachers and performers from the Arts Council of Ghana. They have recently arrived in Portland from Ghana and will be living here and performing with Obo Addy. also, a featured drummer is Emmanuel Addy, the oldest performing member of the Addy family. Emmanuel lives on the east and performs with the group Odadaa. He taught most of the family members to play and performed with the Ghana Broadcasting Band, The Ghana Dance Ensemble and was a master drummer of Ga Wonche Mei. He and Obo and a younger brother Ismaila were all members of the international touring group Oboade.

In addition to a wide variety of traditional pieces, the program will include Highlife music and African dance music. An all-star Highlife band will be composed of Ghanaian players flying in from all over the United States. Most of them have played with the well known Highlife bands: E.T. Mensah, Uhuru & the Ghana Broadcasting Band. This is the first time that this sterling array of musicians will be on stage together.

The event promises to be a great afternoon of music and dance and culture.

The Homowa Festival is a part of the Washington Park summer Festival. Funding for the Festival comes from The National Endowment for The Arts, Metropolitan Arts Commission, Oregon Arts Commission, Collins Foundation, Templeton Foundation and Artichoke Music.

New Horizons: Computer Training Company Unlocks Secrets Of New Technology

"Learn by Doing" is the motto for a lot of businesses buying new computers or updating their software. But that only gets you so far. It certainly doesn't unlock the secrets of the computer and it surely wastes a lot of time as employees hit or miss their way through the training manual or hold emergency confabs with the amateur at the next desk.

But help is on the way. New Horizons of Santa Ana, California, is opening up training centers around the country that will take care of all those start-up headaches. By providing inexpensive, easy-to-follow training on the latest computer hardware and a very broad range of computer software, New Horizons offers the keys to the computer keyboard.

The company was founded in 1982 by Michael Brinda, a former senior instructor with Sperry Univac Worldwide Education and a field engineer for both Harris Corporation and Bunker-Ramo Corporation. Brinda knew firsthand the problems of training employees to get the most out of a computer system and he realized that not everyone could afford the services of a high-priced computer consultant to tune in the work force.

So he set up New Horizons to provide a training center where individuals could learn computer management and update themselves on new software. From the start, the company also offered

on-site customized training for companies with a larger work force.

New Horizons started franchising just this year and, since January, Brinda has sold franchises in more than 15 major metropolitan areas with very little advertising--word of mouth is spreading the message.

Only one franchise is sold per city so the exclusive territories offer a large market for investors. People are responding. Sales were up 48% last year and are expected to top 50% this year. More than 50 new franchises are expected to be sold by the end of 1993, putting a New Horizon training facility within driving distance of virtually all major centers of American business. The company has also sold territories in Mexico and India.

Brinda has come a long way since he started New Horizons by himself with an answering machine, a shot-in-the-dark marketing strategy, and a training program limited to just PCs. today, his rapidly-expanding network offers training in PCs, Mac, Novell, LAN Manager, Sun, NeXT, SCO, UNIX and is the authorized education center for a wide variety of top-of-the-line software.

New Horizons is growing so rapidly because it fills a huge need.

Going it alone is the standard reaction for the majority of businesses and they suffer the consequences. "Have you ever had a 4:00 o'clock deadline

and your computer won't print?" asks Brinda. New Horizon customers have access to a 24-hour assistance line that will bail them out every time.

After training more than 250,000 people in over 10,000 classes, New Horizons believes it has locked into a great new opportunity. Computers are still finding their way into businesses and there is an abundance of new software products. Someone has to train the people who use them and, at the moment, New Horizon is answering the call.

Major computer manufacturers and retailers offer training to purchasers of large numbers of computers. Private training consultants are available, but they are often expensive and uneven in quality.

With smart marketing strategies such as offering a menu of classes worth over \$5,000 if taken singly for a membership fee of only \$599, New Horizons is drawing in thousands of new customers and the advantage of having on-site training customized for a company's special needs is really catching the eye of the business community.

A franchise sells for \$20,000 and prospective investors are advised to have at least \$200,000 in capital to pay for computers and training center development. It doesn't take long to get up and running thanks to New Horizons' very sophisticated training and support.

Child Poverty Rises In Oregon's Three Largest Cities:

Salem leads with 32.3% increase

The percentage and numbers of poor children in Oregon's three largest cities increased over the past decade. The figures, based on the 1990 census, were jointly released by Children First for Oregon and the Children's Defense Fund.

Salem's child poverty rate rose by 32.3% from 14.06% in 1980 to 18.6% in 1990. Eugene's rate climbed by 9.8% and Portland's by 3.4%. Salem's 1990 poverty rate of 18.6% was highest among the three, while Portland's was 18.6% and Eugene's 13.4%. Portland had the greatest number of poor children under 18, 17,043.

Carol Metzler, Children First President and a behavioral research scientist with the Oregon Research Institute, stated, Increased child poverty spells poor health, poor education and bleaker

prospects for these children. Our economic future depends on the well-being of all children. All of us - policy makers, business leaders and private citizens - must accept the challenge of dramatically reducing child poverty during the 1990s.

Out of the nation's 200 largest cities, Eugene ranked 46th lowest in percentage of poor children under 18; while Portland was 75th and Salem 80th. For poor children under six, Eugene ranked 61st, Portland 79th, and Salem 104th.

Similar to statewide figures released by Children First in July, most poor children in these cities live in households led by a single woman. Likewise, while most poor children are white, a disproportionate percentage are children of color.

Among African-American children

under 18, Portland's child poverty rate was 39.4%, Salem's 48% and Eugene's 27.4%. For African-American children under six, the child poverty rate was Portland, 46.5%, Salem, 55.5% and Eugene, 24%.

In 1989, a family of three was considered to be poor if its total income was less than \$9,885. A family of four was poor if its income was less than \$12,675.

Children First of Oregon is a statewide child advocacy organization working to establish children as Oregon's first priority. This fall it will release a Report Card on the Status of Oregon Children.

Children First can be reached by calling 526-6417 (Metro Portland) or toll-free 800-544-0376; or writing PO Box 23519, Portland, OR 97281.