

METRO Life

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Paper Arts Festival

The Japanese Garden Society is pleased to announce a special Paper Arts Festival event to be presented Sunday, August 16th. This will take place in the Garden Pavilion from 10 AM to 4 PM. This is a fun event for all ages with demonstrations taking place throughout the day and "hands-on" opportunities for visitors. Call 223-9233.

Lead Testing

Did you know that lead is in house paint, water, soil and other things? There will be a free Lead Testing Clinic starting on August 15th on Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM. It will continue to be the 2nd Saturday of every month. Any person living in north or northeast Portland with children 6 months to 6 years old are welcome. Children are legally required to be tested for lead if on Medicaid or the Oregon Health Plan. Call 280-1616.

MLK Statue

On August 28th, exactly thirty-five years to the day of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Statue Foundation will dedicate a statue in his memory at the Oregon Convention Center (OCC) in Portland. "The Dream", an original sculpture by internationally renowned artist, Michael Florin Dente will be dedicated between 6:30 PM and 8 PM at OCC, 777 NE MLK Boulevard on Portland's eastside in the Lloyd District.

Radical Women

The Freedom Socialist Party and Radical Women is holding a weekly study group on Monday nights from 6 - 8 PM. This is a three-month study group that will read the response of a turn-of-the-century Jewish, socialist feminist to the question: Can capitalism overcome its internal contradictions? - a question still hotly debated today. Call 228-3090.

Puppetry in the Parks

Look out! Giant puppets are invading the parks. The Puppetry in the Parks Family Arts Encounter is back for the 4th year bringing kids, picnics, and quality outdoor theater to parks around Portland in a magical celebration of summer. By popular demand Dragonmaker is remounting A Bridge of Feathers for this year's feature presentation. The next performance is on August 15 at Gabriel Park, 6 PM.

Project Green Purse

The Everywoman's Money Conference will be in town on September 14th, starting at 8:15 AM to 6:30 PM at the Convention Center. There is no charge for the event. Pre-registration is required. The vision and personal story of Oregon State Treasurer Jim Hill is the catalyst behind this history-making event. Call (888) 612-8249.

House of Portland

Our House of Portland presents the 6th annual Dinner at My House for Our House dinner series. Featuring fascinating dinner hosts, gourmet meals, exclusive settings, creative themes and most of all, fun and interesting dinner guests. 1998's theme is "Food for the Body Food for the Soul" dinner series events will begin in September and continue through December. Call 736-9276.

Pediatric Allergy

Healthy Chats are educational talks by OHSU health care experts hosted by the university's community health care centers. Chats are free and open to the public. On Wednesday, August 19th, Dr. Stephen Tilles will discuss advances in the treatment of pediatric allergies, including asthma, allergic rhinitis and food allergies. The event will be held at Doernbecher Pediatrics Practice. Call 418-5000.

Mall Walking

Enjoy the benefits of walking in a safe, convenient and weatherproof environment. Adventist Health is a sponsor of LifeWalk at Mall 205, a loosely structured program that allows you to walk at your own pace inside the mall while tracking your progress. Registered walkers receive a water bottle, map and mileage log, and are eligible for bi-weekly prize drawings. Call 255-5805.

Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center Names Artistic Director and Associate Director

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center (IFCC) Board of Directors has named Judith Yeckel artistic director and Brenda Phillips associate director, Joan Biggs, IFCC president, announced. Roberta Wong will continue to serve as gallery director.

The appointments mark the transfer of management of the IFCC from Portland Parks & Recreation, which formerly hired and supervised IFCC senior staff, the IFCC board of directors, which will now hire and administer all IFCC staff.

Portland Parks & Recreation, which owns and maintains the historic firehouse in which the IFCC is housed, will continue to provide significant financial and operating support for the organization.

Judith Yeckel founded and for ten years served as artistic director of The Coterie, a children's theater in Kansas City known for its revolutionary interpretations of both classic and original works. Yeckel wrote original scripts and directed The Coterie's productions, including an award-winning production of *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

Since moving to Portland in 1987, Yeckel has been associated with the IFCC in a number of capacities, including teaching, directing and, most recently, serving as the organization's director of programs and development. She holds an MFA in directing from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, and a BA in theatre from Mount Holyoke.

Brenda Phillips is well known to Portland audiences for her roles in *The Colored Museum* (IFCC, 1989 & 1992), *A...My Name Is Alice* and *The Little Foxes* (Portland Repertory Theatre), and *A Raisin In the Sun* (New Rose Theatre); as well as her direction of *Flyin' West* (Oregon Stage Company at IFCC, 1996).

She returns to Portland after five years



Judith Yeckel, Artistic Director (L) and Brenda Phillips, Associate Director (R).

in New York, where she appeared in *Bessie Smith: Empress Of The Blues* (Frank Silvera theatre), *Brown Women Who Fly* (Billie Holiday Theatre), and in the 20th anniversary Broadway re-

vival of *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf* (New Federal Theatre) under the direction of playwright Ntozake Shange.

Dedication and Open House Celebrate Northeast Health Center Renovation



Beverly Stein

A special open house celebrating the incredible renovation of Multnomah County's Northeast Health Center happened on August 5 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at 5329 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. The entire community was invited to share in the multitude of events planned for adults and children.

Multnomah County chair Bev Stein and noted artist Adrienne Cruz were only a few of the many dignitaries to be on hand to greet the public. The dedication was scheduled from noon to 12:30 pm, public tours were given from 12:30 to 2:00 pm.

Festivities began at 11 am and were enhanced by a variety of multicultural entertainment and refreshments were served. Adrienne Cruz, the artist selected to enhance the building's exterior is a nationally known quiltmaker and has exhibited her exceptional quilts throughout the U.S. and Brazil.

According to Theresa Williams Stoudamire, the clinic's director, the building was badly run down and dilapidated. "The layout wasn't efficient for



(L-R) Theresa Williams-Stoudamire, Dir of the NE Health Center, and Shirley Graham prepare for the dedication of the center celebration of its renovation. (Photo by Larry J. Jackson Sr.)

our clients or our programs. Now we've not only increased our efficiency, but we have a great looking building as well. We have to compete with the private sector and we felt that the renovation gives us a competitive edge," she said.

The Northeast Health Center is located in the south end of the Walnut Park Building. It is a full service County health facility serving over 12,000 clients annually. It includes a medical clinic, dental clinic, two field services units of community health nurses who provide visits to the home. WIC supplemental food program, pharmacy, optometry services and

the Healthy Birth Initiatives program. As a result of the extensive renovation, services are now located on both the first and second floors of the building.

The Walnut Park building also houses a number of important programs under the Aging Services Division. Northeast Multicultural Senior Services Center operated by the Urban League is located in the building as well as Loaves and Fishes/Meals on Wheels. Tri-Met provides a lift program and Legal Aid Services offers assistance. The Yellow Bicycle program had space donated by the County.

Light rail meets community needs, but questions remain

By LEE PERLMAN

Tri-Met, Metro and the city have made most decisions about how, when and with what funds a proposed south-north light rail line will be built.

In north Portland, however, there are still a few unknowns, and the uncertainties are more of a problem than any decision that could be made, say local leaders.

For the most part the current plan, recently approved by the Metro Council, the Portland City Council and other local jurisdictions, was a series of careful compromises between cost savings and benefits to local communities.

For instance, a three-level station in the Rose Quarter combining both light rail lines and local buses was scrapped for economic reasons. Elsewhere:

*The line will cross the Willamette River south of downtown via a new bridge near Southeast Caruthers Street, serving the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and the Brooklyn neighborhood. An alternative would have crossed further south, across Ross Island, and served the proposed North Macadam development, a planned community of up to 5,000 residences.

*It will proceed through downtown along the Southwest Fifth and Sixth avenue Transit Mall, have a stop at Union Station, and cross back to the east side over the Steel Bridge. An alternative, using the existing MAX line, would have left the growing River District underserved, but saved \$73 million. Some downtown businesses and transit advocates had called for using other streets, saying the line would overburden the mall.

*In the Eliot segment, north of the Rose Quarter, the line will hug the east side of the I-5 Freeway, with a bridge over Northeast Broadway, then switch to North Flint Avenue and a station at Northeast Russell Street. The route is a combination of two earlier proposals. One was favored by the Trail Blazers and Lloyd District community because it would be less disruptive to traffic, the other by the Eliot Neighborhood Association because its Flint-Russell station would give the best service to that community. The hybrid route is midway between the two alternatives in terms of cost. However, it maximizes the amount of private property that will have to be taken, to the dismay of some housing and historic preservation advocates.

*North Portland had one of the most important route choices: through North Interstate Avenue, or along the west side of the I-5 Freeway (a faster and \$44 million cheaper choice, but less attractive to ridership.) The chosen route will hug I-5 part of the way, then switch over to Interstate somewhere north of North Killingsworth Street and go through downtown Kenton. The crossover could occur at North Ainsworth Street or Portland Boulevard.

Earlier in the process, planners looked at routes along Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and one that stayed on the east side without going downtown at all. The MLK route was abandoned because it would have required removing all buildings along one side of the street. An all-east side route would be faster and cheaper, but would not function for downtown-bound riders, who would be most of the passengers, planners concluded.

One of the biggest cost compromises is the timing of the construction. Plans call for first building from Milwaukie to the Rose Quarter, then extending the line south and north to Clackamas Town Center and Milwaukie, then finally to Oregon City and Vancouver. This could change depends on when and if funding is secured, including a \$475 million bond Tri-Met will bring to voters in November.