## The Portland Observer -

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Focus

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to the Expo Center. The new area could bring much-needed revitalization to the area and could help site a proposed 5.6 mile light rail that would be linked to the rest of the MAX system.

Other projects that will be funded with tax increment funds in the next few years include:

·Airport Way: Airport Light Rail, trail development, business development

Central Eastside: Eastbank Park MLK street improvements

Lower Burnside area redevel-

opment

· Oregon Convention Center: Land acquisition and development, Broadway/Weidler infrastructure improvements

· South Park Blocks: New Park Block, Hamilton Replacement Housing II

· PSU Urban Plaza

· Downtown: Multi-family housing preservation and development, creative services industries center, job development

· Lents: Public improvements (sidewalks, parks, parking, streets),

economic and commercial development and housing development · River District: Housing, new

parks, new streets and Central City Streetcar transit improvements and retail redevelopment. Martha Richmonds is the Pub-

lic Affairs Manager at PDC. PDC holds public meetings usually on the third Wednesday of each month at 3 PM. They are located at 1900 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 100. For more information, call 503/823-3200. Allen Fremont Plaza on Fremont, an urban renewal project, offers safe alternative housing for seniors.



## Historical Highlights On MLK Blvd.

D

DONATION

\$5 at the

## By Carl Abbott

Contributing Writer from PSU's School of Urban Studies and Planning

• The boulevard was originally named Union Avenue in honor of the unification of the separate cities of Portland, East Portland, and Albina into a single city in 1889.

The name was chosen in part because the street ran through East Portland (now southeast Portland) and Albina (now northeast and north Portland).

• The street was an early focus of settlement for German and . Scandanavian immigrants. The neighborhoods around the intersection of MLK and Fremont had the city's second-largest concentration of immigrants in a 1930 study.

• The middle section of the avenue (Russell to Alberta) was lined with German-owned businesses in the early part of the century. Weimer's hardware store (recently closed and reopened under a new name) was the last of these businesses.

• The Egyptian Theater near the intersection of Russell was one of four especially fancy eastside movie houses (along with the Baghdad, the Hollywood, and demolished Oriental).

• The Union Avenue streetcar line was the longest north-south line in Portland. Streetcar riders supported the development of clusters of businesses at major intersections

AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN'S CLUB

A Non-profit Organization

PRESENTS

Friday Night Out

N

Friday, August 27

9 PM - 2 AM

ELK'S LODGE

6 N Tillamook St. . Portland

Music by: DJ Papa Cbuck

'In the community ...... for the community

C

such as Russell, Alberta, and Killingsworth.

Business on the street declined rapidly in the 1960s, in part because of racial disturbances. Business revival began slowly around 1990 and has accelerated in recent years.

