

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION **B**

Community Calendar

A Soul-Filled Messiah

Two performances of "A Soul-Filled Messiah," a soulful tribute to Handel's Messiah will be scheduled for Sunday, November 28 at Lincoln Performance Hall on the PSU campus, and Monday, Nov. 29 at Hillsdale Community Church, 6948 SW Capitol Hwy. Both performances begin at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 seniors and PSU faculty/staff, \$8 PSU students. Call 503/725-3307.

African Images

African Images, by African watercolor artist Kerstin Geier, will be on display at Reflections, 446 Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 503/288-6942, from November 15 through December 15. Whether in America, journeying across the Namibia Desert or climbing the Inca Trail in Peru, Kerstin (Castine) Geier's positive outlook on life has led her on an enchanting journey which reflected in her artwork. She has worked her way around the world with a sketch pad in one hand and a camera in the other.

Holiday Concert

The Vancouver Symphony's "Holiday Concert" will be at 2:30 PM Saturday, December 11 and 7 PM Sunday, December 12. Featured on the program will be bassoonist Juan de Gomar performing Mozart's Bassoon Concerto. The orchestra will also perform Britten's Men of Goodwill: Variations on a Christmas Carol for Orchestra and Symphony No. 2 by Sibelius. For more information, please contact the Symphony office at 360/735-7278.

In Situ Portland

Fueled by a long-standing desire to increase opportunities for temporary outdoor art installations in Portland, the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) announces in situ PORTLAND, a three-year pilot program. In situ PORTLAND is designed to bring challenging temporary artworks into the public realm to serve as catalysts for dialogue about art and community issues. Three \$7,500 projects will be funded annually. Artists and artist teams are invited to submit proposals by Monday, December 6. For more information, contact Kristin Calhoun, Public Art Manager at 503/823-5401.

NCNM Natural Health Clinics

The National College of Naturopathic Medicine is now offering its "20/20" college student healthcare package to all Portland area college students. Now, students can go to NCNM's three primary locations for only \$20 a visit, and get a 20% discount on all natural medicinal purchases during teaching visits. For more information, call 503/499-4343, ext. 1116.

Red Hot Mamas

On December 2nd, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM, the Red Hot Mamas, who recently heated up Times Square, with the unveiling of the first ever menopause billboard, "The New Face of Menopause," will be bringing a "hot flash" to Portland. PRIME PLUS/Red Hot Mamas, the nation's largest menopausal management educational organization are jump-starting a chapter in Portland via an informational and educational forum at the YWCA of Greater Portland, sponsored by Healthy Woman, soy menopause supplement. The event will be at the YWCA of Greater Portland, located at 1111 SW 10th Avenue.

Nobel Prize Winner

Burton Richter, co-recipient of the 1976 Nobel Prize in physics for his discovery of particles composed of the "charm quark," will deliver a free, public lecture titled "High-Energy Physics: A Personal Assessment." Intended for a general, but scientifically inclined, audience, the lecture will take place at 4 PM on Wednesday, Dec. 1, in Room 100 of Willamette Hall, 1371 E. 13th Ave. on the University of Oregon campus. Call 541/346-4766.

Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra make a Portland stop on their nine-city Fidelity Investments Holiday Pops Tour at the Rose Garden Dec. 4th at 8:00 pm.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LUTCH

The city zones in on neighborhood revitalization activities

In the King neighborhood, the largest property owner on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard today is the Portland Development Commission.

PDC's holdings today include:

- *The former King Food Mart at Northeast Fremont Street.
- *The "Willie Banks" property, a 10,000 square foot lot at Northeast Beech Street.
- *The "Robinson" property, a 20,000 square foot lot with a brick-front house immediately north of the Banks Property.
- *The former Weimer Hardware property at 3942 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Here PDC has recently issued a Request for Proposal, calling on potential developers to submit plans for the redevelopment of the site.
- *The "Johnson" building, on the northwest corner of the intersection with Northeast Alberta Street, and home to Living Color.
- *The 5131 Building.

"We have been in an acquisition mode for the last two years," PDC's Michael McElwee says. "We hold the sites in trust to meet objectives." These include securing private developers for the properties with the aim of "job creation and small business development."

PDC also works with the community on "visioning processes" to determine what kinds of redevelopment it should seek. The King Neighborhood Association is going through such a process for the 5131 Building. According to King's Kent Siebold, "What we'd like to see are things that would revitalize the neighborhood, and services that we don't have in the community now." The list includes a new grocery store, a bakery, a small-scale theater, other retail shops and professional offices. King would also like to see an effective buffer between the noise, activity and traffic the new uses would generate, and adjacent homes on Northeast Garfield Street.

King will hold its next visioning meeting for the site from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Northeast Precinct Community Room, 449 N.E. Emerson St.

The PDC board will do some visioning of its own in January to better define its own objectives for the area. Among other things, it can be expected to deal with the issue of gentrification and economic displacement caused by its activities.

"That is a concern," McElwee concedes. "It's the downside to revitalization. We can control development, or at least guide it to some extent, by writing the land resale costs down or specifying particular things from developers."

Land acquisition is a small part of PDC's activities in the area, and through various assistance programs they have had a hand in most new development on the avenue in the last ten years.

One pending project concerns the Bynum family's efforts to build five two-bedroom apartments atop the commercial strip they own north of Northeast Fremont Street. The building is currently home to Q Nails, D.S.P. Clothing, Phat Gear, and Top of the Line Hair Design. "The phase we're in right now is seeking funds for a feasibility study," Eddie Bynum says. "We're trying to provide housing and keep minority-owned businesses on the boulevard." This, and another mall near Northeast Shaver Street are "almost like small incubators for new business owners," McElwee says.

These efforts are intended to complement the new street scape improvements on the boulevard. Unfortunately for the Bynums, that project will not place new on-street parking next to their property. "A median is never a good thing," Bynum says. "It's something you have to live with. On a positive note, the city came in and cleaned this area up immensely. They put in street lights every 50 feet. I definitely want to say it's positive." City Council is scheduled to consider the Sizzler condemnation on Dec. 1 at City Hall.

