

# HAP

Housing Authority of Portland

## SUPPORTS

disadvantaged, minority, women, and emerging small business enterprises.



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The Housing Authority of Portland provides housing solutions to individuals and families who cannot find affordable and adequate housing due to income or special need.

[www.hapdx.org](http://www.hapdx.org)

## Having Coffee and Dessert the Old Fashioned Way



Sandwich King Saan Patterson takes away the soup a minute too soon from Hannah Bea's customer, Larkonda Steele, seated, as owner Anita Smith looks on.

PHOTO BY WYNDE DYER/ THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

continued ▲ from B4

baking, to open her own business and do it all in the neighborhood she was raised in.

Smith approached the Portland Development Commission with her ideas and they referred her to Gary Brown in the Business Department at Portland State University.

"Wally Zingwald at the PDC basically shoved me in Gary's face," Smith said. "He was like, 'Please help this girl.'"

So with the help of Brown, Smith spent two years getting together a business plan, applying for loans and filling out paperwork. Smith had her heart set on two locations: the Rex-all Drug building on N. Mississippi and Shaver where the Fresh Pot is today, and a shop on Alberta. She had hoped to restore the Rex-all Drug

building to the way she remembered it in her childhood. The Alberta location was leased to someone else the day before Smith would have signed the paperwork.

"It was really disappointing," she said. "I was pretty resentful about the whole thing. It was just a nightmare."

When Smith found the location on N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., she knew this was where she wanted to be. She looked in the window and saw the black and white checkered floors of what used to be a beauty salon. This could be a cute little place, she thought to herself at the time. The street was like a fairway of African-American businesses and cultural

activities in her childhood. Smith hopes the vacant buildings that now line the boulevard will soon fill with more minority businesses.

Since Hannah Bea's opened on Smith's mother's birthday on April 9th business has been good. A steady stream of customers come in each day between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. to try out coffee drinks, made-to-order sandwiches and old-fashioned reunion-style deserts. The customer feedback has been astounding.

*Oh my God, the food is heavenly. And the dessert is sinful.*

—Larhonda Steele

"Oh my God, the food is heavenly," said customer Larhonda Steele. "And the dessert is sinful."

On Sundays, Hannah Bea's opens at noon to serve a special mystery dinner. Live jazz music performances go on during Sunday brunch and Smith bought a little white van to make deliveries so her customers can get dinner

and sweet potato pie without taking a break from their watching their sports game.

"We don't want anyone to miss the kick-off," Smith said. "And those of us who don't watch football can come on down and hear some music."

In addition to live music, Hannah Bea's has an art gallery featuring ethnic works of local Portland-based artists. Young artists can join in a pound-cake coloring contest. Sandwich King Saan Patterson will display the children's work in the gallery and award the winning entrant with a trophy, gift certificate and t-shirt.

"Good things are happening in here," Patterson said. "We give out a lotta love."

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