

# Artists, Young Filmmakers Explore Local Past

Interstate light rail spurs tributes to diversity in film and book

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THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Local artists, writers, photographers and filmmakers focused their pens and lenses on an unlikely piece of work: the Interstate Light Rail project.

Two large-scale tributes to the diverse populations affected by the project have resulted in a book and a documentary.

The Portland Art Museum and Northwest Film Center guided north and northeast high school students through a filmmaking project, called "History on the Line," documenting the neighborhood's history through interviews with artists, residents and business owners along the Light Rail.

Film producer and director Sue Arbuthnot oversaw the effort as students examined critical issues affecting their neighborhood. Through the Young Filmmakers Program, students planned, produced and edited an intimate por-



Regina Flowers, pictured with Ockley Green Middle School Students, told her story for TriMet's "Intersections" oral history book.

trait of the historic and economic changes experienced by those living near the transportation route.

The film will show at the Self Enhancement, Inc. Auditorium, 3920 N. Kerby Ave., at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11. Admission is \$7 general and \$6 for members, seniors and students.

Earlier this summer, TriMet released "Intersections," by Judy Blankenship. The oral history art book tells stories of the people who lived along the Light Rail route and shaped the diverse, up-and-coming neighborhoods of today.

The book was inspired by artists that constructed murals and sculptures at Light Rail stations along the north Portland route. They interviewed families and individuals in the Albina and Mississippi districts, the lost city of Vanport and other neighborhoods.

By listening to their stories of both struggle and prosperity, the artists pieced together a tapestry of artworks to visually represent the richness of Portland's most diverse enclaves at each of 10 stations along the route.

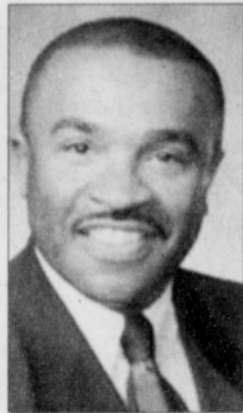
The book can be purchased for \$10 at TriMet's Web site at [www.trimet.org](http://www.trimet.org).

## Local School Superintendent Search Begins Again

Board wants a leader who can bridge achievement gap

The Portland School Board has officially launched a new effort to recruit and hire a superintendent who will raise the achievement bar for all Portland students and eliminate the achievement gap.

"We need a strong leader who will implement vital changes in our schools so that all Portland Public School students meet their potential," said Board Co-Chair Lorenzo Poe. "We will consider experienced educational leaders, as well as leaders from other sectors who have successfully led large organizations through significant institutional change. Either way, we are looking for a track record of demon-



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strated success."

After the departure of Superintendent Ben Canada in 2001, the board's superintendent search process failed to hire a new leader, with several qualified candidates

dropping out during the lengthy process. A key aspect of the new hiring process puts an emphasis on the opportunity to work in Portland—a city known for its livability—and to lead a high quality urban school district with strong community support and other positive attributes.

The board has selected KAR Consulting, a local team of community and political organizers and communications experts, with a record of delivering results on a wide variety of complex projects.

Liz Kaufman, Sarah Carlin Ames and

Kate Potter Raphael lead the group.

"The KAR team, with their strong understanding of this community and commitment to our schools, can help us make sure we find the right leadership fit for Portland Public Schools," said Board Co-Chair Julia Brim-Edwards. "We are ready to get to work."

KAR will meet with the board to conduct a series of public meetings this fall for additional input about the qualities Portlanders want in their next superintendent and will launch the full-scale recruitment process in November.

"We plan an efficient and streamlined effort," said Poe. "One that concentrates on the key task: Vigorously recruiting the best candidate to achieve our dreams for our schools and for our children."

## Villa Cats Need Homes

Columbia Villa is occupied with a colony of cats, unaware that their home is being razed around them. A group of local animal welfare organizations and individuals are working with the Portland Housing Authority to remove the cats from Columbia Villa Housing in north Portland.

There is urgency due to the impending and current demolition, Oregon Humane Society officials said.

The cats are already beginning to change their patterns due to disruption at the site making it harder to know their exact numbers and whereabouts.

It is the hope of the humane society and others that individuals will open their hearts and homes to help these animals be successfully relocated.

Oregon Humane Society website is [www.oregonhumane.org](http://www.oregonhumane.org). Homes are especially important now most shelters are full.

# NEW SEASONS MARKET

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