

Curiosity Leads to Work as Architect

Bill Hart leads his own company

BY CHARITY PRATER FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As a five year old boy, Bill Hart's dream of being an architect was as grand as the tree house he built with his father and neighbors.

Perhaps because of simple curiosity, Hart would gather 2x4s, which were readily available from his dad's small construction company, and creatively manipulate the wood into different structures in different spaces.

"Mom, I want to be an architect," he would tell her.

47 years later, Hart has fulfilled his childhood dream. He has been the principal of his company, Carleton Hart Architects, P.C., for 13 happy years.

His firm specializes in creating buildings that work as a place for people to gather within the community.

One of his most recent projects is the redesign of the University Park Community Center, a Portland Parks and Recreation facility that's located next door to the New Columbia neighborhood of north Portland.

Hart particularly enjoys seeing people of all ages able to meet in community centers where they can enjoy education and fitness.

University Park was a victim of low funding, deterioration, old equipment, poor lighting, petty amenities, and a growing neighborhood until his Carleton Hart Architects took



PHOTO BY CHARITY PRATER/FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Bill Hart followed his childhood dream to becoming a leading architect in the city of Portland. His work includes the redesign of the University Park Community Center (above) in north Portland.

on the project.

Hart has added his touch with bright colors, wide doors, open windows, and excellent ventilation to bring the outdoors in on pleasant summer days.

The center is now stuffed with machines, gyms, classes, and people of all ages since the building's rejuvenation.

A future upgrade will transform the current small gym in

a community room and auditorium with room to double as a single court gymnasium. A master plan also includes an aquatics facility, pending future funding.

Hart admits his love for his community and his two dimensional art is a perfect fit for him and if he had to do it all again he would, with no question, "Be an architect."



Michael Johnson

African American Business Support

Celebrating the success of African American-owned small businesses - growing four and a half times faster than all small businesses - Wells Fargo and Turning Point Magazine have awarded the 4th annual Living History Maker Entrepreneur Award to Michael Johnson, founder and president of Em Johnson Interest, Inc.

EJI is a leading San Francisco Bay Area real estate development company dedicated to the construction of mixed-income and affordable housing projects, including urban redevelopment, new construction and rehabilitation of mixed-income, and affordable rental apartments.

A recent example of EJI's success is the Fillmore Heri-

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of minority-owned, women-owned, and emerging small businesses that provide goods and services to us.

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Contact our agencies at the numbers or websites listed below for specific opportunities.

Housing Authority of Portland

Jerry Walker, 503.802.8509, www.hapdx.org

Multnomah County

Lisa Williams 503.988.5111 x 22596
www.multcopurch.org

Metro

Cinna'Mon Williams 503.797.1816
www.metro-region.org

City of Portland

Bureau of Purchases
Gregory J. Wolley, 503.823.6860
www.portlandonline.com/omf/purchases

Portland Water Bureau
Susan Bailey 503.823.1956
www.portlandonline.com/water

Office of Transportation
Gayle Wallace, 503.823.6827
gayle.wallace@trans.ci.portland.us

