

METRO

The Portland Observer



**Politically
Active Hip Hop**
Dead Prez raps for a reason
See story in Arts & Entertainment, inside

37
years of
community service

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Unity in Praise

Saturday, May 19, at 6 p.m., Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 5935 N. Minnesota, invites the community to a free night of praise featuring many local guests. Call 503-289-3665, for more information.

Youth Summer Sports

July 5 through July 27, the annual summer youth sports program held at PSU campus, providing low-income youths ages 10-16, with sports instruction, field trips, a free medical exam and two free meals daily. Registration is open now. Visit palkids.org.

Interstate Farmers Market

A farmers market is held each Wednesday through Sept. 26 from 3 - 7 p.m. just off Interstate Avenue between Overlook Park and the Interstate Kaiser Permanente Campus. The market is known for its variety of quality fresh local produce, baked goods, cut flowers, artisan cheese, meat and fish.

'Our Violent Sun'

On the second Monday of each month through August, at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m., the MHCC Planetarium Sky Theater explores the unpredictable behavior and flame-like geysers of our violent sun. Admission is \$1.

Metro Start Heart Walk

Saturday, May 19, the American Heart Association 'Heart Walk' festival will take place at the Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade, Southeast Water Avenue and Main Street, opening ceremonies at 9:45 a.m. To register, visit pdxheartwalk.org.

Seeking the Horizon Luau

Saturday, May 19, the PSU Pacific Islander Club will host the annual luau at the Peter Scott Center, Southwest 10th Avenue and Hall Street. Doors open at 5 p.m. Tickets available now at the PSU box office.

Basketball Classic

Saturday, May 26, at SEI, 3920 N. Kerby, you invited to encourage and support high school athletes compete in the Portland Interscholastic League Basketball Classic. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. with tip-off at 3 p.m. Proceeds to benefit the Joyce Washington Memorial Scholarship Fund. Call Mark Washington at 503-288-0033 for more information.

Cockpit Day

Saturday, May 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Pearson Air Museum, 1115 E. Fifth Street, invites the public to explore vintage aircrafts; free plane rides are available for children ages 8-17 years old from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact 360-694-7026 for ticketing information.

International Night

Friday, May 18, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Portland State University, host this 31st annual event celebrating the student diversity at PSU. The event will be held in the Smith Memorial Student Union cafeteria, 1825 S.W. Broadway. Call 503-725-4094 or visit ois@pdx.edu for more information and ticketing.

Learning Improvement

Saturday, May 19, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, the Celebration Tabernacle, 8131 N. Denver, host the free informational presentation to improve learning skills for all ages. Contact 503-286-1668 for more information.

Staying Healthy

Tuesday, May 22, Tuesday, June 5, and Wednesday, June 6, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., the North East Health Center, 5329 N.E. MLK Blvd., will host the forum discussing issues of men and young men's health. A gift card will be given to all males attending. Call 503-988-3387, extension 22242 for more information.

Community Support

The African American Health Coalition, a non-profit that touches the lives of millions of African Americans each year, reminds you to support your community organization. All donations, grants, and gifts are tax deductible. For more information, visit aahe-portland.org.

Ceramics Pottery Sale

Tuesday, May 29 through Thursday, May 31, the PCC Rock Creek campus, 17705 N.W. Springville Rd., the ceramics guild will hold its semi-annual pottery sale in the art gallery and atrium in Building 3.

Art Hop Focus: Community

On
NE ALBERTA St
Street

Saturday's celebration brings people together

The Alberta Art Hop and parade will take place on Saturday, May 19 with the goal of creating community through the power of the arts.

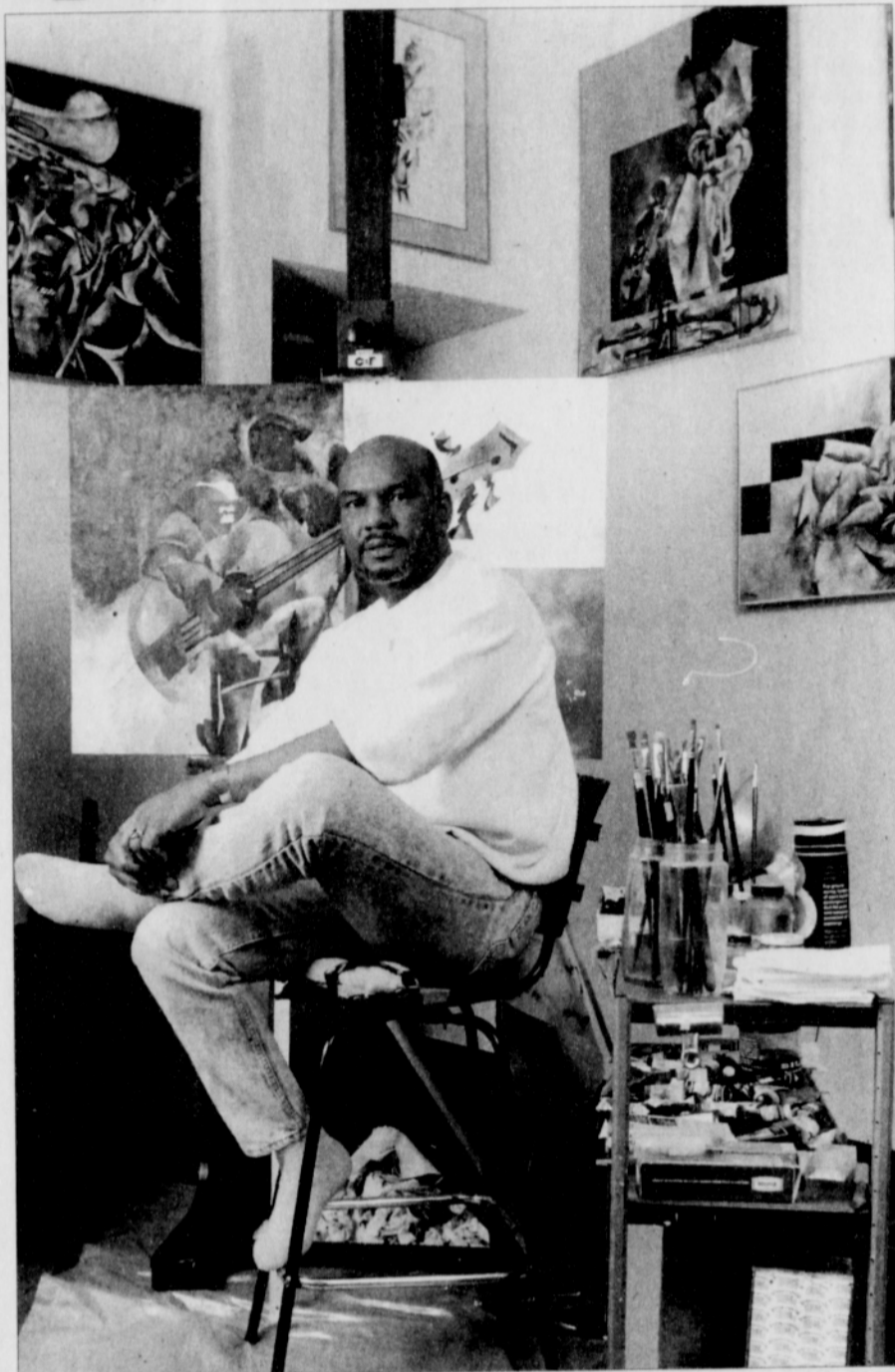
The eight annual event is an invitation for people to come together to create art together whether as audience or participant. It is a day long celebration of the arts with special events scheduled from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

This creative-cultural arts festival is put on by the street's local business owners and artists, coordinated by Art on Alberta.

Each year the festival is guided by a theme. This year's theme is "Eyes on Alberta--The Great Aha!"

Artists and residents will demonstrate, using various original art forms from visual arts to fashion, what the Alberta arts district means as a community. The festival theme will throw a spotlight on what's new and special, what lights up our eyes and our imaginations.

The "All Alberta Artist" this year is



Philemon Reid, whose paintings, drawings and prints interpret the African American jazz culture. His work will be shown in a dozen or more locations this weekend through this month's Last Thursday art walk.

Everyone is invited to join the Art Hop Parade Saturday, scheduled for 2:30 p.m. You can dress up your dog, child, bike or yourself; decorate a float, your car, a wagon or wheelbarrow. You can carry a banner, streamer or advertise your business; or bring your music- a band, drums or other musical instrument to make some noise.

Be it bands, strolling performers, impromptu street performance, sky-high bicycles, neighborhood kids hawking hot dogs, or the hundreds of artists displaying and selling their own creations street side, there is something to delight anyone open to "the surprise of art."

As street elder Allan Oliver of Onda Gallery puts it: "Art has a transcendent kind of power. It adds an aspect that is very important to the emotional and spiritual quality of our lives and to the community in which we live."

Philemon Reid will show his paintings, drawings and prints on African American jazz culture at locations up and down Northeast Alberta Street during Saturday's Art Hop. Reid is the "All Alberta Artist" for this year's celebration.

Young Artists Honor Unsung Heroes

As they explore identity, race and gentrification

BY NICOLE RONAL HOOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Artist Kathe Swaback moved to Portland in 2002 and opened Art Up on Northeast 16th and Alberta Street. Like many others who moved here recently, she had no idea of the historic contributions that African-Americans made to her neighborhood. But what Swaback did know was that she didn't want to be another white person moving on Alberta and not doing anything for the African-American community.

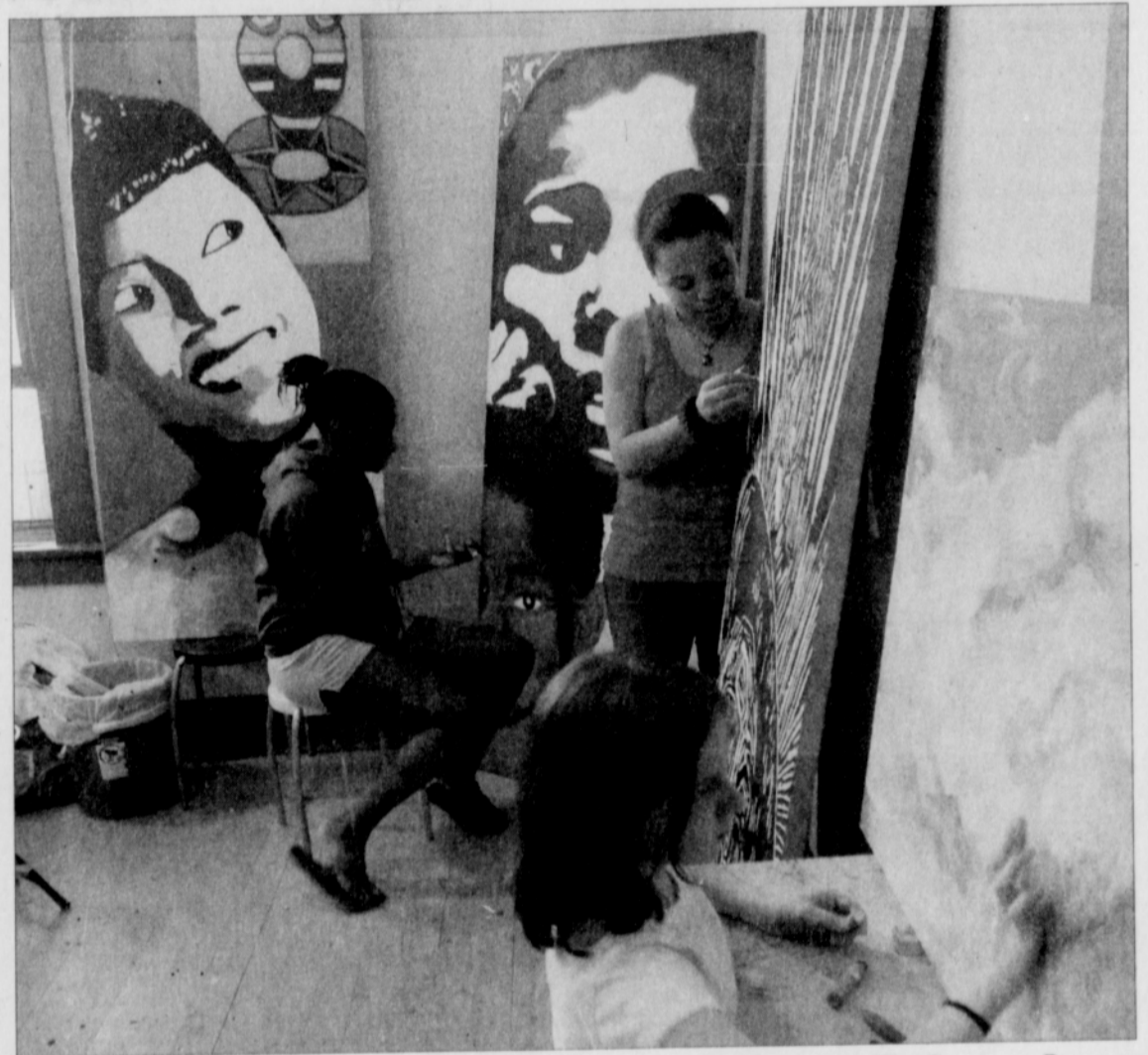
This year, as a part of Saturday's annual Art Hop celebration, she along with 12 young women aged 12-17 will showcase Project Look Up featuring 80-inch oil portraits honoring 10 women of color.

In exploring themes of identity, racism and gentrification, the young artists discovered and utilized their own strengths, goals and dreams of their future in creating these portraits. The Regional Arts and Culture Council awarded a grant for the exhibit.

The goal was not only to teach art but honor local African Americans who have blazed new trails and made a positive difference in Portland.

Like Swaback, and perhaps the young artists themselves, many local residents regardless of color may not know the local history and how African-American women have contributed.

"One of my passions is working with teens and I just tried to put it all together," said Swaback. "If kids don't have people in their lives that they can look up to, they won't be able to achieved their dreams," she said. "They need more than celebrities and reality TV people for role models."



Oil portraits honoring 10 women of color are going on display beginning Saturday during the Alberta Art Hop celebration at Art Up studios, 1614 N.E. Alberta St. The creators include Trisha Taylor (far left) who is honoring Maya Angelou; Sade' Beasley (top, center) who is honoring Elizabeth Catlett and Beatrice Cannady; and Tricia Knope (center, bottom) who is honoring Roslyn Hill.

The components for the project came together when Swaback became familiar with Rosalyn Hill. Hill is a black woman and a fixture in the Alberta and

northeast community who owns several properties, a successful woman by any means.

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Jefferson Grad Earns Doctorate from Harvard

Will use her expertise to teach teachers

Fifteen years ago, Dyan Watson graduated with highest honors from Thomas Jefferson High School.

Jefferson has been given a bum wrap over the years as it struggles to maintain educational standards and meet enrollment goals. De-



Dyan Watson

spite its battle to reclaim its good name, the school serving north and northeast Portland, has graduated brilliant minds that contribute to our community and to our society as a whole. One of these brilliant minds belongs to Watson.

Like so many other success stories, Watson had very humble beginnings. She grew up in a single-parent home, along with her three sisters. Her brother, the eldest of the bunch,

was already an adult when their parents divorced. The family relocated to Oregon to start afresh and Dyan landed in Vernon Elementary in northeast Portland and then Binnsmead Middle School.

At Jefferson, she was a skilled saxophonist, showcasing her gift in the school's jazz and classical ensembles and bands. She could have easily pursued music but chose education as her passion. She majored in history and earned

her bachelor's, master's and teaching certificate from Willamette University in Salem.

Watson was true to her past glory and graduated cum laude. Upon graduation, she took substitute teaching positions with her alma mater, Jefferson but made her home at Sunset High School as a social studies teacher, creating the Beaverton district's first and only African American his-

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