

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

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Nose to Nose with a TIGER

Fourteen students had a very close encounter with a 400-pound tiger at the Oregon Zoo last week. The visually impaired students got to touch the anesthetized Amur tiger at the zoo's veterinary hospital, during the animal's annual physical.

"Touch is such an important sense for these kids," said Lisa McConachie, assistant program administrator for blind-visually impaired services at the Columbia Regional Program. "Normally



Isaiah Dinsmore, 9, pets the fur of Mikhail, an endangered Amur tiger at the Oregon Zoo. The tiger was anesthetized while undergoing a physical at the zoo's veterinary hospital. Assisting Dinsmore is vision specialist Deirdre Luke-Brown.

when these students come to the zoo, they can only hear the animals, not see or touch them. When the kids touch a living, breathing tiger, they light up -- it's really a magical experience."

According to McConachie, a trip to the

zoo not only helps increase the students' understanding and conceptual awareness, but also supports independent travel and interactions within the community.

"They will remember this experience for the rest of their lives," she said.

Call for Open Studio Artists

Portland Open Studios is once again calling on a diverse collection of artists to join them for an annual public tour of art studios.

There are many advantages to being a Portland Open Studios artist. It is an opportunity for artists to show their art processes, sell their artwork, build an audience and com-

municate with the public.

Artists that are selected for the event in a blind jury will have an image of their artwork published.

For Information, directions and the online application, visit portlandopenstudios.com. March 15 is the deadline for both the artist's application and scholarship.



A Portland Open Studios artist produces a work on canvas.



We want to do business with you.

The Housing Authority of Portland provides safe, decent and affordable housing to individuals and families in Multnomah County. Contracting plays a vital role in this process and contributes to the fulfillment of our mission statement through fair contracting practices and inclusive procurement processes.

We are working to increase the numbers of **minority, women-owned** and **emerging small businesses** involved in HAP contracting opportunities through our innovative procurement practices and policies.

We frequently have opportunities in:

- Professional services
- Construction services
- Social services

We can help businesses and individuals enter the construction and professional services arena with resources such as **free training opportunities, technical assistance, and workforce hiring and training** programs.

Contact our agency for specific opportunities. Visit our website for information on current solicitations, programs to support diversity in contracting, and links to our partnering agencies.

Your Contacts at HAP

Jerry Walker, MCA Purchasing Manager 503-802-8509 jerryw2@hapdx.org	Cinna'Mon Williams, CPPB, MCA Purchasing Supervisor 503-802-8533 cinnamonw@hapdx.org
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www.hapdx.org

