

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Tenant Search for Firehouse

City hopes to find a new operator

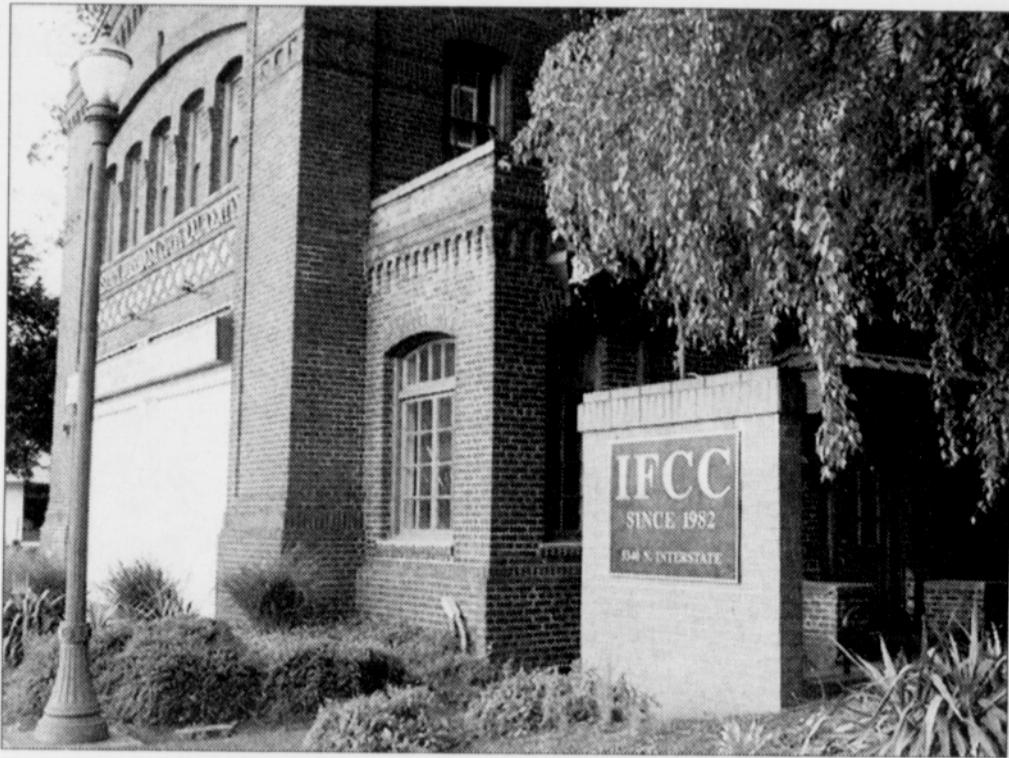
With the pending closure of the non-profit Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, Inc., the Portland Parks and Recreation Department is inviting proposals for future tenants of the multicultural community center at 5340 N. Interstate Ave.

"We want to move quickly to find a new tenant and limit any closure of the firehouse building," notes Lisa Turpel, the department's Workforce and Community Alliance manager, "and we want to proceed in a way that's transparent, as well as expeditious."

Turpel said the goal is to minimize the impact on the community by ensuring a wide range of arts programs continue, especially for youth.

The following are the primary criteria established for any potential future tenant:

1) Provides multicultural arts programming, showcasing diverse art-



The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center needs a new operator.

ists and offering arts programming of interest to Portland's diverse communities

2) Commitment to the communities of north and northeast Portland

3) A proven track record of financial stability and community engagement

The building currently consists

of a small dance studio, two art galleries, a 100+ seat theater, and small kitchen area, all of which are ADA accessible. An elevator services the ground and second floor only.

For information on proposals, contact Todd Lofgren via email at Todd.Lofgren@portlandoregon.gov.



Jennifer Hudson

Hudson Loses Baby Weight

(AP) -- Jennifer Hudson didn't gain a huge amount of weight when she was pregnant with her son, but it was enough to make her do a double-take when she saw a picture of herself.

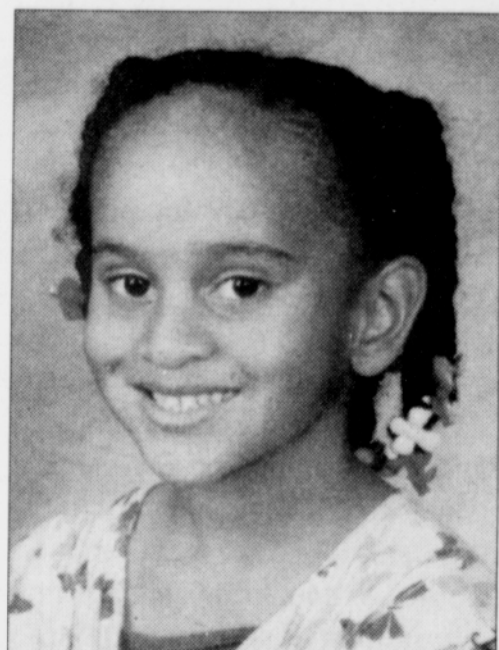
"I didn't realize it was me," the singer and actress said Thursday. "I was like, 'Who? ... Oh, my God, this is me.' And now when I look back, wow, look at the difference from then to now."

Hudson, a former "American Idol" finalist who won a best supporting actress Academy Award for "Dreamgirls," has lost the baby weight and more, and she says it's

because of Weight Watchers — for which she is the new spokeswoman.

Hudson said she has always been happy with her curves but after she gave birth to David Daniel Otunga Jr. last August she felt the need to take control of her body and her eating habits.

"How can I make a better me, or grow or do some changes, anything, just experiment, because I have me back now," she said. "This is a good way of how I would want my child to grow up, because so many times in growing up, you gain really bad habits ... so I want to make sure that ...I'm being a good example for him."



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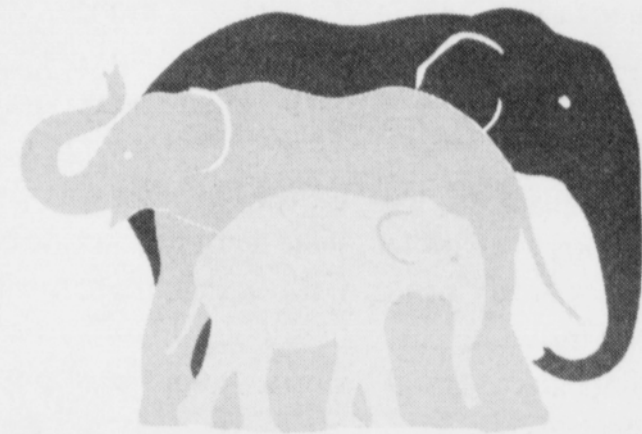
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