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'City of Roses'

Free Prom Dresses
Making Dreams Come True
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40
years of
community service

Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Charles Lewis, executive director of the music education group Ethos, Inc., and Michele Anderson, music director for the non-profit, make an appeal to operate the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center at 5340 N. Interstate Ave. The community center's previous operators closed shop due to lack of funding.

Rescue Bid

Suitor lines up for firehouse

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ethos Music Center, a local non-profit that has provided music education for disadvantaged youth for

the past 10 years, is hoping to occupy the newly-vacant Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, a community resource that has served the multicultural and diverse populations of north and northeast Portland for decades.

Ethos would continue its educational programs at the center, which

has been similar to the IFCC's offering African dance, break dancing, musical theatre, and other educational opportunities.

The group would maintain its focus on north and northeast Portland and would continue to use the building as a launching pad for up-and-coming theatre groups and

artists looking for exposure, according to Charles Lewis, Ethos executive director.

The financial roller coaster ride for the firehouse at 5340 N. Interstate Ave. came to an end last month when the currently operators ran out of money.

For 28 years, the IFCC has strived to foster diversity in Portland's art scene, and many artists who got their start at the center now occupy prominent positions in the city's artistic landscape. Some have risen to national prominence.

A new bid to carry the torch of

the IFCC comes as welcome news after the center's closing caused jitters that Portland may be left without an incubator for diversity in the arts.

"While we mourn the loss of our arts-focused neighbor, Ethos has a vision for using the building as an arts incubator of the likes of which Portland has never seen before," said Peter van der Meulen, Ethos' board of directors' president.

Ethos also points out that it has successfully run two buildings lo-

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Chief Calls for Improved Interactions:



Police Chief Rosie Sizer

During police encounters with mentally ill

In response to two recent officer-involved shooting deaths of people in crisis, Portland city officials have unrolled a new set of proposals to better equip the police for encounters with the mentally-ill.

Police Chief Rosie Sizer and City Commissioners Dan Saltzman and Amanda Fritz outlined a plan last week which calls form more

officer interaction with the mentally ill in non-confrontational settings; a stronger role for an advisory council that helps the Police Bureau craft policies in this area; and support for the county government to build a new center for people on the cusp of a breakdown.

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