

Ethos Selected to Manage IFCC

Will foster diversity in arts

Portland Parks and Recreation has entered into an agreement with Ethos to manage the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, a historic building that has been a launching pad for many artists in Portland's art scene.

Ethos operates a music education program based in north Portland targeting disadvantaged populations, and has served several thousand students since it opened up in 1998. The nonprofit beat out three other organizations vying to take control of the center, which was founded in 1982 by former Portland Parks Commissioner Charles Jordan, the city's first African American city commissioner.

The former operator of the

building, which is owned by PPR and located on N. Interstate Avenue, had long struggled with financial instability and had to fold last spring when the city could no longer afford to prop them up.

The IFCC has given many artists, especially minorities, a place to hone their craft before going on to great things locally and, for some, nationally. PPR evaluated the application of each nonprofit competing for the space with an eye on how well they would fulfill this function, ultimately deciding that Ethos was best qualified.

"Ethos has a long history of fostering multi-ethnic, multi-cultural programs, education, and performances, which is exactly what we hoped to be able to continue at IFCC," said Parks Commissioner Nick Fish in a prepared statement.

Under the two-year renewable

contract with the city, Ethos will work with community partners to incorporate all of the arts into the IFCC building, and establish panels that will select two resident theater groups a year, visual artists, dance instructors, and music instructors.

Applications for serving on these panels can be found on Ethos' website once the contract is formally approved by City Council, which is expected to happen on July 14. Ethos will also rent out the facilities to smaller arts groups looking for exposure.

Ethos was selected because of its prior success operating two buildings on North Killingsworth Street, and for its financial stability. The new contract, some costs previously covered by the city will now be covered by Ethos, like the paying for utilities and routine maintenance.

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TriMet to Buy Hybrid Buses

Low emission vehicles to go on Line 72

Congressman Earl Blumenauer joined Federal Transit Administration Deputy Administrator Therese McMillan and TriMet General Manager Neil McFarlane Friday to announce that TriMet is slated to receive \$2 million in federal funds to buy new low-emission, high-efficiency hybrid buses.

The funds will be used to purchase four hybrid buses and will operate on one of TriMet's busiest routes, Line 72-Killingsworth/

82nd Ave. FTA selected TriMet's competitive proposal because it will improve the environment for riders as well as for residents.

"By investing in this project, the Obama Administration is ensuring that people in the Portland area have a cleaner, safer, and more reliable way to get to work, to school and to doctor's appointments," said McMillan. "In addition to providing better service to Portland's diverse communities, these newer buses will be more accessible to the elderly and persons with disabilities."

Line 72 provides more than 16,500 trips a day. It carries a greater proportion of low-income

and minority riders and those without a car than the bus systemwide.

TriMet General Manager Neil McFarlane noted that updating the bus fleet is a top priority.

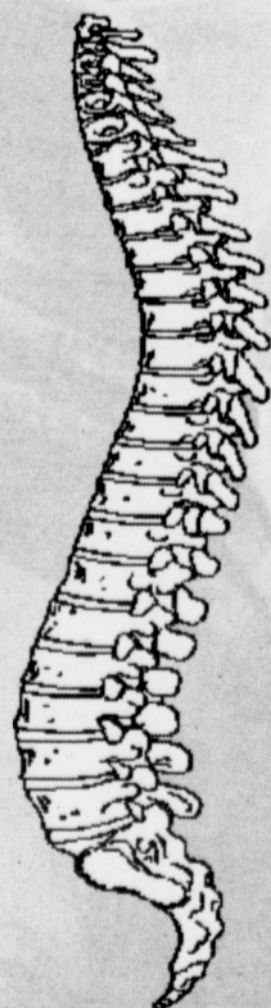
The new hybrid buses will feature low-floor accessible boarding, lower exhaust emissions and noise levels, feature automatic stop announcements and CCTV security cameras. Bus delivery is expected in about 20 months.

Hybrids cost about 40-50 percent more than a new bus, but the new technology has resulted in a 20 percent gain in fuel efficiency.

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