

Proud Diversity Etched in Stone

continued ▲ from front

The Oregon Convention Center has pledged to provide ongoing maintenance for the gateway. The cost of the first phase will be

\$500,000, paid for by tax increment funds from the Oregon Convention Center Urban Renewal District.

Phase Two will be smaller markers at six strategic locations on the avenue, each providing text about

the historic significance of the location or the structures upon it.

The project started in 2007 when PDC formed an advisory committee and established a web site to get public input for the designs. The results were "tons of interesting stories," said project manager Irene Bower.

Panels will discuss the first major migration of the African-Americans to Portland; first from a small neighborhood around Union Station in the 1920s, later to the east side near Broadway and Williams Avenue and later from people displaced from the flooded Vanport housing project after World War II.

There will be descriptions of the native populations before the great western migrations; and how earlier immigrant groups, including people from Ireland, Poland, Germany and the Scandinavian countries were drawn to the old Albina neighborhood in the 1880s after the completion of transcontinental railroads.

Other panels will discuss the cultural institutions of the area, past and present. The community centers, including the Williams Avenue YWCA completed in 1926. The

churches, including the Mount Olivet Baptist Church, the first such institution built for an African-American congregation.

The civic organizations throughout the area's history will also be honored, including African-American groups like the Colored Women's Council who blazed a trail for the inclusivity of racial and ethnic populations in the local neighborhoods.

Other panels will speak to the historic struggles for equality, both nationally and locally and pay tribute to such organizations as the NAACP, the Urban League of Portland, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Black Panther Party and the Albina Ministerial Alliance. The heritage markers will pay tribute to black community leaders such as the Reverends J.J. Clow, John Jackson and O.B. Williams, Dr. and Mrs. Unthank, and Otto and Verdell Rutherford.

Finally, there is a brief history of the street itself. Once a footpath, it was originally named Margaretta in honor of pioneer developer Edwin Russell's wife. In 1891 it was re-

named Union Avenue together with Grand Avenue as a tribute to the Civil War's Union army, then renamed for civil rights hero Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Pauline Bradford, an advisory committee member, and longtime African-American community resident and activist, hopes the project informs both visitors and local residents about the community. It could bring more attention to the area, which would be good for local businesses, she says.

"Other parts of town are always tooting their own horns," she told the Portland Observer. "We should do the same."

Phase II of the project calls for smaller markers, also accompanied by text, at each of four locations along the avenue: Northeast Knott Street, where there will be two markers, Northeast Fremont, Failing and Ainsworth Streets, and one at the Vanport Square.

The accompanying texts will discuss nearby "buildings, events, people who lived or worked here, but all will be about the neighborhood," Bowers says. "What transpired here, what were the stories?"



PURE Romance™
by Ebony

You deserve the time of your life.

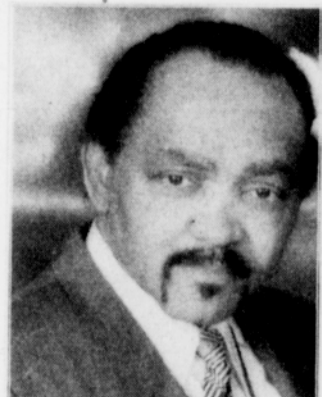
Want to host a party? Contact your local Consultant:
Ebony

503.484.3107 • Pureromancebyebony@yahoo.com www.prbyebony.com

pureromance.com

Hodge Comprehensive Counseling Service NWVC

Portland Congress Center
1001 SW Fifth Avenue, Ste 1100, Portland, Oregon 97204
Phone: 503-220-1790 Fax: 1+503-220-1815
Email: hodgehspks@msn.com www.hodgecounseling.com



CALL TODAY!

Call For An Appointment

Dr. H. L. Hodge, Ph.D.
Licensed Christian Counselor

Counseling God's Way Services Include:

- Relationship Specialist
- Stress Management
- Grief Counseling
- PTSD
- Motivational Speaker

Dr. Hodge on the radio:
Saturdays @ 1:00 PM
"AWAY OUT"
KPDQ True Talk 800 AM

Best New Artist

continued ▲ from front

violin at age four after watching him perform on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood.

A year later, she landed a spot in The Chamber Music Society of Oregon, a community orchestra open to both children and adults. She studied at the Northwest Academy when PSU professor Hamilton Cheifetz encouraged her to enroll in the school's music program. She was awarded a scholarship and enrolled at age 16. She studied at the school for a year before moving to Berklee College as a student. She became a teacher at the school at age 20.

"Even at 16 she was a very level-headed person with a strong sense of herself and purpose," Darrell Grant, who teaches Jazz Improv at PSU, said Monday. "And while we loved having her here, we encouraged her to look at the East Coast, where she could be connected with the highest level of professional opportunities in Boston or New York."

In 2008, Heads Up International released her first album, Esperanza, and it remained atop Billboard's Contemporary Jazz chart for 70 weeks. It also earned her appearances on the Late Show with David Letterman, Jimmy Kimmel Live, Austin City



Esperanza Spalding

Limits, and a performance at the White House.

Spalding won the JazzWeek Award for Record of the Year in 2009 and the Jazz Journalists Association's 2009 Award for Up and Coming Artist of the Year. The success of Esperanza as well as Chamber Music Society and the numerous subtle, public appearances, earned her the Grammy nomination and historic win.

During her acceptance speech, she also thanked her mother as well as her teachers.

"Esperanza's story highlights the strength of our music department in Jazz," said Barbara Sestak, dean of fine and performing arts at PSU.

"We're all very happy for her," said Cheifetz.

Spalding also plans on some other performances while in town for Black History Month and the Portland Jazz Festival. For more information, visit her web site, esperanzaspalding.com.

HOT TUBBING BY THE HOUR

**INDOOR/OUTDOOR
HOT TUBS**

PRIVATE ROOMS

Check out our new private nightclub suite.

8028 SE Stark St.
Portland, Oregon 503.261.1180
www.tubandtandtan.com



PORTLAND TUB and TAN

