



The



June Key Earth Day

Future community center builds green

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Weapon of Resistance

Rap music defines anger in Libya

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Andre Baugh is in a position of leadership as the new chair of the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission.

Power Seat at the Table

Local leader to help shape 'Portland Plan'

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Andre Baugh faces an interesting but daunting task in the effort to plan for Portland's future. A saving grace is that he has an array of talented help behind him.

Last year the city combined the Portland Planning Commission and the Sustainability Commission to form the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission. Earlier this year, Baugh, a longtime member of the Planning Commission, became its new chair.

The new board is comprised of 11 members, and it includes people with backgrounds that transcend land use planning and zoning. Among them are Parkrose School Superintendent Karen Fischer-Gray; public health officer Dr. Gary Oxman; Portland's best-known environmentalist Mike

Houck; bike and rail transit advocate Chris Smith; and Lai-Lani Ovalles and Irma Valdez of the Native American and Latino communities, respectively.

It is fitting that the group's interests are so broad because it will come in handy with their chief assignment: helping shape the Portland Plan. This document will set policies governing public action and private development, and this in turn will set the stage for updating the zoning and other regulations of the 1980 Portland Comprehensive Plan.

The Portland Plan will also venture more deeply into areas such as education, recreation and health than previous land use plans have gone.

"I feel very good about being selected as the new chair," Baugh told the Portland Observer. "I'm relatively new there, I came on in 2008, and some of

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Unique Garden Engages Communities of Color

Volunteers plant seeds for urban harvest

BY CARI HACHMANN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

On a recent chilly morning, seeds were planted in Portland's first urban garden organized solely by communities of color.

Since the garden's kick-off earlier this year, leaders of the Urban League of Portland and African Women's Coalition, along with community volunteers, neighbors, and families, are transforming a plot of land for future harvests.

The response comes as local lead-

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PHOTO BY KYLE WEISMANN-YEE/URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND
Picking up shovels and wheelbarrows to create the Urban Harvest Garden on a plot of land at North Albina Avenue and Beech Street are representatives of the Urban League of Portland, African American Women's Coalition and other volunteers. The garden is a first-of-its-kind for the African-American community