

Ethos Taps Successful Director

continued ▲ from page 13

but until Ethos, I was never able to marry my background in non profit administration with my passion for arts education," he said.

Prior to his tenure with the music non-profit, Chavez worked as the marketing and major gifts officer for Equity Foundation, where he managed a portfolio of donor advised funds and oversaw the foundation's media relations department.

He also coordinated the Safe Schools Initiative, a statewide effort to reduce bullying and harassment in Oregon public schools through collaboration with government agencies, school districts and stakeholders.

He said he is proud to be a part of the non-profit Ethos, which operates three facilities within Portland and conducts a plethora of afterschool programs in 32 urban elementary and middle grade public schools.

Chavez said he recognizes how valuable the role of music was in his life, which has allowed him to understand the impact of the programs offered to the community through Ethos from his own first-hand experiences.

"I am able to see the magic of music," he said. "You know it when



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jedidiah Chavez, the new executive director at Ethos, not only increased revenue for the non-profit by 30 percent in his prior position as development director, but he also helped successfully secure \$1.5 million for capital improvements to Ethos' north Portland headquarters.

you see it—when a kid is totally invested in the act of learning."

As the largest community music school within Oregon, the program ensures thousands of kids, who otherwise would not have access to music education, have the opportunity to take part in classes, workshops, presentations and artist-in-residence programs. "In most cases, in many of the Portland schools, kids only have access to music after school," he said.

The span of Ethos' services, in addition to programs for inner city youth, also reaches rural youth through quality music education.

"What we are seeing are schools, especially in rural Oregon, that are experiencing the biggest cuts," he said. "In some cases, schools are on a four day school week and eliminated art, music and PE."

As a member of Ethos' management team, Chavez was also instru-

mental in the formation of a partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service to place 10 AmeriCorps members in small towns across Oregon, a program he said he is especially proud of.

Although the organization receives support from various community partners, Chavez said, funding remains a challenge, despite the constant and growing community demand.

"Unfortunately we have limited resources," he said. "This is really a crisis in Portland public schools; they just don't have access to enrichment opportunity that I think most of us grew up with."

Despite challenges, which exist for the non-profit organization, Peter van der Meulen, president of Ethos' board of directors, said the organization is confident in their selection of Chavez to lead their way into the future.

"Jedidiah possesses a wealth of nonprofit experience and passion for arts education. He brings strong, proven leadership skills to the executive director position," he said. "We are confident that he will help Ethos prosper and continue to be the vibrant, dynamic nonprofit organization that it has grown to be within our region."

"It is a remarkable privilege to assume the role of Ethos' executive director," said Chavez, who said he has high hopes for the future. In addition to his personal goal to learn how to play the ukulele.

"We exist to meet community needs," he said. "And it is our hope that eventually music education would be offered in schools, and we would not have to fill the gap."

For more information about the non-profit, visit ethos.org.

Alberta • Mississippi • North Portland Vancouver • East County • Beaverton

The Portland Observer Community Media Kit

Serving the Portland
Metropolitan Area

Committed to Cultural Diversity

4747 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
 Email: ads@portlandobserver.com Web: www.portlandobserver.com
 Phone: 503.288.0033 Fax: 503 288-0015

City of Roses