

The



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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'City of Roses'



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Committed to Cultural Diversity

years of
community service



PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The diverse and dedicated staff of the Urban League of Portland outside their North Russell Street headquarters. Since 1945, the non-profit has worked to make the city a more equitable and just place for African Americans and other minority residents.

EMPOWERING PORTLAND

Urban League advocates for fairness, equality

BY MINDY COOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As an advocate for fair housing and employment, the Urban League of Portland, founded in 1945, was instrumental in creating the progress in civil rights Portlanders have come to know today.

Throughout their history, the Urban League of Portland, an affiliate of the national Urban League, has been dedicated to the movement and empowerment of people of all colors, creeds and national

origins who believe a strong community can create a more just society.

With headquarters at 10 N. Russell St., the non-profit organization serves African Americans and other local residents through direct services provided to over 1,000 individuals and the engagement of more than 8,000 people each year.

"We have always been a part of an important community effort to hold our leaders and our policy makers accountable for our community," said Midge Purcell, the Urban League of Portland director of advocacy and public policy. "I like to tell the story of the Urban League founding because I think it has a lot of lessons for us today."

The National organization, previously known as the National League on Urban Conditions among

Midge Purcell, director of advocacy and public policy for the Urban League of Portland, works to bring equality in employment, housing, education and in business opportunity.



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