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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## 'All My Babies' Dropped

Network acts after campaign by activists

Oxygen Media has pulled the plug on "All My Babies' Mamas," a reality special the network was developing about Atlanta-based rapper Shawty Lo, who has fathered 11 children by 10 women, and a girlfriend the same age as his oldest daughters.

The network offered no reason for curtailing the project. In a statement issued last week, Oxygen said that, "as part of our development process, we have reviewed casting and decided not to move forward with the special."

The one-hour program would have featured the rapper, the various mothers and children. It was expected to air later this year on Oxygen, an NBCUniversal cable network owned by Comcast that was previously owned by Oprah Winfrey and Nickelodeon.

"All My Babies' Mamas" got a hostile public reception. A petition from ColorOfChange.org called for Oxygen to shut it down.

Activists called the reality TV show an exploitation of black families.

"As we celebrate the birthday of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, who fought for justice for all, and especially children, he once said, 'Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.' I am pleased that Oxygen Media has heard the outrage of over 37,000 consumers and shareholders who said, 'enough is enough,'" said Sabrina Lamb, a best-selling African-American author who started the petition.

"We will not support any network and advertiser which exploits



Best-selling author Sabrina Lamb delivers over 37,000 signatures from her Change.org petition asking Oxygen Media to drop a proposed show starring Atlanta-based rapper Shawty Lo, his 11 children, and their 10 mothers.

the plight of children and targets young women with stereotypical, dangerous, unsafe messages. This petition, this victory is for them," Lamb said.

The Parents Television Council called the program's concept "grotesquely irresponsible and exploitive" and pledged to contact advertisers of the show if it reached the air.

Previously, Oxygen denied charges that the show was meant to be "a stereotypical representation of everyday life for any one demographic or cross section of society," but rather would reveal "the complicated lives of one man, his children's mamas and their army of children."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

## Destination Experience Grows

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faced with declining enrollment throughout the Portland School District, officials closed Kennedy, declaring it too old and crumbling to repair.

Scrambling to ward off several demolition orders, a coalition of neighbors, former students, past PTA presidents and the Portland Development Commission fought

successfully to save the building.

Mike and Brian McMenamin presented just one of several proposals for reviving the condemned property. Other ideas ranged from a retirement home to an indoor soccer facility. After receiving the approval of the city and the support of the neighborhood, McMenamins launched its renovation in the spring of 1997, infusing the 80-year-old structure with new life. In particular,

a river of artwork was inspired by the stories of generations of Kennedy's students and teachers.

On Oct. 22, 1997, the original principal's bell was rung on the front steps at 7 a.m. sharp to herald the old school's new beginning as McMenamins Kennedy School. Offering a unique and fun lodging, dining and meeting experience, Kennedy remains a lively gathering spot for neighbors and newcomers alike.