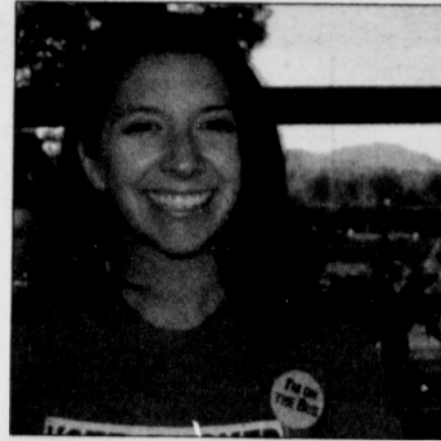


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All Hands on Deck

Local governments combine resources to help Veterans
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Driving a Social Agenda

Youth advocacy group has a new leader
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The Portland Observer 43

'City of Roses'



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Community members and officials from Portland Parks & Recreation and the Portland Development Commission take hold of shovels to ceremoniously break ground on a \$2.6 million renovation project for Dawson Park that honors its rich African-American history.

Honoring History

communities – most notably, Portland's African-American community.

The neighborhood around Dawson once was the heart of Portland's African-American population, and the new park design will recognize that heritage with double-sided cast-stone medallions designed by artist Isaka Shamsud-Din to be placed in a decorative fence surrounding the playground. One side will be inspired by traditional African Ndebele patterns; the other side will contain historic neighborhood remembrances.

"Dawson Park is more than just a park—it's a symbol of this neighborhood, North-Northeast Portland and our constant vision for a better city. These improvements are truly community-driven and we are honored to play a role in the revitalization of this community asset," said Patrick Quinton, Portland Development Commission executive director.

Also lending his support for the project was Michael Alexander, president and chief executive officer of the Urban

Dawson Park renovations begin

Members of the Portland community gathered at Dawson Park on Thursday to celebrate the start of construction to restore the park as a key community gathering space while

honoring its rich African-American history.

The \$2.6 million renovation project will make the park more welcoming and attractive, with an improved playground, interactive water play feature, barbecues, picnic tables and benches, and better lighting and accessibility.

Dawson Park, located between North Vancouver and Williams avenues and Stanton and Morris streets, has served as an integral social, political and economic center for many

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