

Portland Youth Conference Rescheduled

Activist asks for help to make event successful

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A winter snowstorm that postponed a youth summit during Black History Month will take place over two days, April 11 and April 12 at Portland State University with a concluding concert at the Blazers Boys and Girls Club.

Portland activist Imani Muhammad is looking for help to make the annual event a success.

Muhammad and her organization Youth Organized and United to Help (Y.O.U.th), has held the Portland Annual Youth Summit, since 2007 after the death of Davonte Lightfoot, a 14-year-old who was gunned



PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Community activist Imani Muhammad is asking for local support to make a rescheduled Portland Youth Summit Conference successful. The event was postponed because of a winter snow storm and is now planned for next weekend, April 11-12 at Portland State University, concluding with an evening concert at the Blazers Boys and Girls Club on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Make the Connection... NOW!
Youth Empowerment

JOB FAIR

Ages 17 to 25

Thursday April 10, 2014

Time: 10:00am -2:00

Concordia University

Hagen Campus Center

2811 NE Holman Street

Portland, OR 97211

The North Northeast Business Association, Concordia University, Campus Lynks and PCC Cascade Black Student Union and over 25 local youth services providers and schools have united to create a Job Fair to highlight the talents and skills of the **NOW Generation (North-Northeast Portland's Outstanding Workforce) ages 17-25. THE FUTURE IS NOW!!!**

The NOW Generation is invited to meet with recruiters to fill summer job opportunities, regular full-time and part-time positions and internships. If you are motivated to work, have the basic job readiness skills needed to apply, interview and retain a job, **this is the Job Fair for YOU!**

down by another teen near the corner of North Killingsworth Street and Albina Avenue.

"That's when that phrase 'don't let anyone die in vain' became clear to me", Muhammad says.

This year's summit was planned for February this year, but postponed because of a snow storm that shut down much of the city's operations.

Muhammad, currently program director at the Boys and Girls Club and a teacher at the former Victory Outreach Middle School where Lightfoot was one of her pupils, recalls the young boy with fondness, the good, the bad, and the scars.

"Davonte, he had a little swag to him. He had a baby face, but you could tell that he had either been living the street life—had older siblings and cousins that had kinda taught him the game. We're looking at a 12/13 year-old, but still he hung out with 18-year-olds," she said.

The summit will provide an atmosphere for young people and adults to tackle violence issues while exploring elements of Hip Hop and historical connections with the so-called African Diaspora through interactive workshops.

Videotaped sessions with popular Fruit of Islam orator Nuri Muhammad and rapper-activist Jasiri X, recorded when they came to

Portland for the earlier scheduled event, will also be showcased.

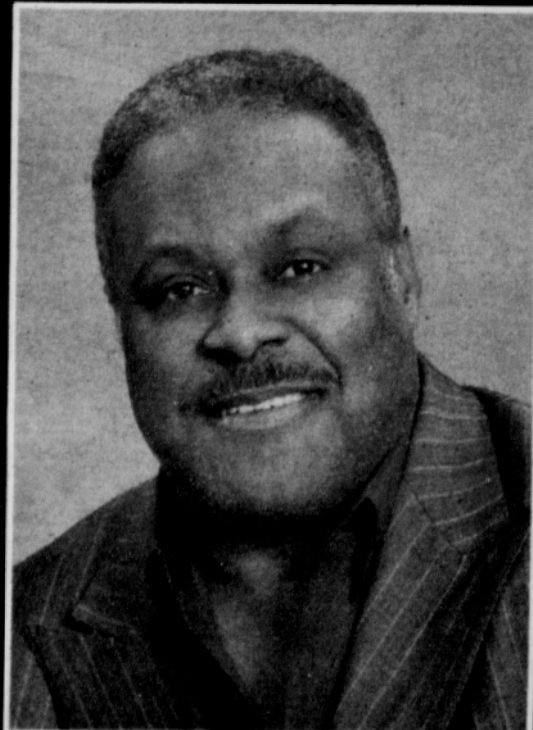
Music at the Y.O.U.th summit will be provided by various youth and seasoned performers in the community including but not limited to Mic Capes and Rasheed Jamal of the three man Hip Hop collective, 'The Resistance.' Mic Crenshaw and Madgesdiq will headline a Saturday night concert with features by Swiggle Mandela and Talilo. The youngest of the night's talents will come from a 6 and 7-year-old dance group.

Muhammad urges the community to support her group's effort. She says donations are especially needed to offset costs from the earlier postponement, much of which were exhausted in promotion of the event's February date.

She is also searching for someone who can print up some shirts pro bono; if they are not able to find one soon they may not be able to give a free shirt to participants as they have done every year in the past.

Most of all, Muhammad says she hopes to see the community come out in full support of its young people and have a good time.

To help with The 8th Annual Portland Youth Summit, email Imani Muhammad at info@portlandyouthsummit.org. For more information, visit portlandyouthsummit.org.



Charles Washington

Past Publisher of the Portland Observer

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