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Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity *45 years of community service*



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Sam Brooks, founder of the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, outside the organization's new Delta Park Business Center building in the Hayden Meadows business district of north Portland.

Stay Ready to be Ready

Opening doors to business opportunities

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVE

An incubator for minority-owned businesses is embarking on a new mentorship program at their new north Portland location while continuing their everyday ef-

forts to promote economic development for ethnic minorities.

The Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs recently moved into its new Delta Park Business Center in the Hayden Meadows business district next to Delta Park.

Last week, the non-profit announced it would be facilitating new partnerships with local businesses and organizations to help create new mentorship opportunities with local minority-owned companies looking to enter the market.

Sam Brooks, founder and chair of the

OAME Board of Directors, says the mentorship program gained its footing thanks to the association's work with Portland General Electric and other supporters.

The mentorship program allows business owners to get feedback and establish new business relationships so by the end of a year participants have even more tools to provide a product or service or move on to another firm that can use them.

"It's so important that we get folks to focus on the opportunities they have instead of the ones they're not getting. We

are in this business of helping folks find and make use of those opportunities," Brooks said.

It's all part of the OAME's efforts to bring minority business owners together to educate them about the processes required to network and succeed in the community.

The association also helps run the Youth Entrepreneurship Program, which provides training and hands-on experi-

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