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'City of Roses'



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



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and their supporters dedicate a statue in honor of the late Christine Poole-Jones at the June Key Delta Community Center at the intersection of North Ainsworth and Albina Avenue.

## Paying it Forward

*Sculpture is tribute to local activism*

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A gorgeous new statue commemorating what a community can do when it works together and dedicated to the local woman of color who helped make the dream a reality marks a new era at the June Key Delta Community Center in north Portland.

Designed by local artist Alisa Looney with the generous support of the Portland Development Commission, the statue was dedicated during a special ceremony on Dec. 19 in honor of Christine Poole-Jones, the late member of the African-American sorority which established the center, and a Portland woman who broke color barriers as a librarian in Portland Public Schools while leading an esteemed life of community service before her death

in 2014.

Poole-Jones was the first black woman to serve as president of the Portland School Librarians Association. Her record of community service varied from director-at-large of the Irvington Neighborhood Association to serving as a member of the African American Health Coalition. She was chairman of the board of the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, member of Portland Parks and Recreation, member of Portland Arts Council, and, most prominently in this case, a dedicated member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, a Portland chapter that promotes academic excellence and provides help to those in need.

One of her last and most notable community contributions was her tireless work to build the June Key Delta center using sustainable guidelines. She freely gave her

time, money, and talent as a grant writer for project, working along with architects, construction companies, and multiple government agencies to procure recycled material to be used in the construction.

Ten years in the making, the center opened its doors to the public in 2011 and is well on its way to achieving the highest level of the "Living Building Challenge," a rigorous standard that measures the sustainability and eco-friendliness of new construction.

The center also realizes the dream of the late June Key, one of the 10 original Delta Sigma Theta sorority members to charter the Beta Psi Chapter in Portland back in 1945. At the time, chapter meetings were held in mem-

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