

Nonprofit Buys Land for Housing

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the Cully Neighborhood which will be the future site of 15 new affordable homes for first time homebuyers.

The Portland Housing Bureau announced earlier this year that it had invested \$1 million in the Oregon Housing Acquisition Fund, a revolving fund administered by NOAH, a statewide nonprofit corporation that provides financing and technical assistance for affordable housing development.

The fund was established so that developers could move quickly to acquire land for affordable housing development when

opportunities become available. In a hot real estate market such as Portland's, purchasing land for future affordable housing development is an important strategy and is seen as a key anti-displacement measure.

NOAH is leveraging the city's money with capital from Meyer Memorial Trust, the Mac Arthur Foundation, Oregon Housing and Community Services, private banks and NOAH's resources to lower housing costs related to down payment and interest.

"This dynamic market called for a tool that would give our community the flexibility to act where there is need and opportunity.

We're thrilled to see our investment already beginning to pay off for Portlanders," said Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who oversees the Portland Housing Bureau. "We commend Habitat for Humanity for taking such quick action where land is becoming an increasingly precious commodity so that more Portland families will have a pathway to achieve homeownership."

Vietnam and America

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slang, some of it in the form of rap music, while the occasional American who attempts to converse with them speaks in broken English. The fact that I required a few moments to adjust to this brought me up short and confronted me with my own unexamined expectations of Asian and immigrant characters. Of course the playwright realizes that the characters' current-day American diction is not historically accurate in one sense--but in another sense it is accurate, because it helps us to experience the characters much more as they likely experienced each other.

In the world of this play, Quang and Tong are brave and angry and frustrated and strong -- and hot. Americans are the other; Americans sound stupid and ignorant, often because they so relentlessly confuse their perspective for the truth without any curiosity about the perspectives they are missing. And importantly, in the world of this play, U.S. intervention in South Vietnam is not something for which these refugees believe they are owed an apology; in fact, it is the commonly held American view that the Vietnam War

was a misbegotten adventure that wounds these war-generation Vietnamese people.

Playwright Nyugen recently won a major critics' prize (the Harold and Mimi Steinberg/American Theatre Critics Association New Play Award) for this play, and has several more plays planned that will explore his parents' experiences. His work is a vibrant example of what a struggle it can be for artists from outside the dominant culture to find their voices, with so few models to follow--and of what unexpected gifts such voices can offer audience members. OSF's production hums with humor and physicality and raw emotion, and sparks overdue curiosity about the experiences of a long-neglected segment of the American community. It's one of my favorites of this OSF season, and well-worth a sojourn to Ashland to see it.

Darleen Ortega is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman of color to serve in that capacity. She also serves on the Oregon Shakespeare Festival board. Her movie review column Opinionated Judge appears regularly in The Portland Observer. You can find her movie blog at opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com.

Obituary

In Loving Memory



Jean Blocker was born Oct. 17, 1935 and died April 22, 2016.

Services will be held Monday, May 2 at 11 a.m. at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, 3138 N. Vancouver Ave. Viewing will begin one hour prior to service at 10 a.m. Her final resting place will be Willamette National Cemetery.

Jean Blocker



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