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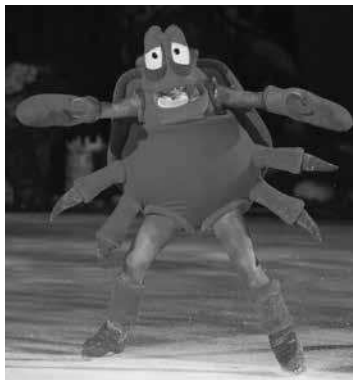
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Multnomah County commissioners, state lawmakers, judges and many other guests attend an Oct. 4 groundbreaking ceremony for a new central courthouse, downtown. The county is reaching out to the public as it recruits a diverse group of workers to build the \$300 million, 17-story building.

Equity for Courthouse Build

Aggressive goals set for a diverse workforce

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Multnomah County has set a high bar for hiring a diverse group of workers to build a downtown courthouse to replace the existing county courthouse which is more than 100 years old.

Two public outreach events to discuss the contracting process and the anticipated work required, will be held this month as a groundbreaking for the \$300 million project has just gotten underway.

Building a new 17-story courthouse with 44 courtrooms is expected to provide 500 family wage jobs. The county says it has set aggressive goals for many of those employment opportunities to be filled by disadvantaged, minority-owned, woman-owned and emerging small businesses.

Aspirational goals for both minority apprentice level and journey level workers on the project was set at 20 percent or more of the total trades workforce in each category. For women, the goal is for females to hold 25 percent of the construction jobs, both at the apprentice and journey levels.

"This is going to be one of the largest public works projects in this region, probably over the next several years," said Oregon Senate Co-Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee Richard Devlin at the Oct. 4 groundbreaking ceremony. "People should understand the more that you require women to be apprentices on these project, the more women will be available to be journey level partners on this project."

The central courthouse project team has worked with local trade unions to develop a labor agreement and set the goals for minority and women appren-

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Input Wanted on PDC Spending

The Portland Development Commission is hosting a public forum on Thursday, Oct. 20 to gather input on how to spend \$32 million in remaining property tax revenues for economic development in the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area of north and northeast Portland.

The meeting, scheduled from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at New Song Community Center, 220 N. Russell St., will help PDC officials prioritize strategic investments meant to foster economic prosperity among disadvantaged populations, including African Americans and people of color.

The goal is increase employment and wealth creation opportu-

nities for long-term and returning residents, business and property owners, strengthen community capacity to produce economic opportunities and support cultural and community assets.

For more information, contact PDC Senior Project Manager Kimberly Moreland at 503-823-3220 or email ~ morelandk@pdc.us.