

47
years of
community service



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to receive
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Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Randall Stuart welcomes the public to his non-profit 'Cerimon House,' a new community space that was created from remodeling a 93-year-old former Masonic lodge at 5131 N.E. 23rd and turning it into a multicultural event center for performances, art and education.

Home for Humanities

Alberta lodge renovated as cultural sanctuary

BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The big bulky building at 5131 N.E. 23rd Ave. just north of Alberta Street is a site familiar to many long time Portlanders. But for too long the structure had been left empty and a cold, dusty exterior gave off the feel of a ghost living on the block.

Today, architects, plumbers and electricians are among the scores of workers who have taken a hand to restore the 93 year old space into a community resource, a mul-

ticultural sanctuary for the neighborhood and beyond. Named the Cerimon House, it is the new public event space for a homegrown humanities and culture non-profit organization.

Founder Randall Stuart said he saw the good bones of the building and the potential for a community center to foster conversations through performance, art and education.

Built in 1924 as the Masonic Fellowship Hall, the building served as the Alberta Lodge until the mid 1980's

when it was sold to the International Fellowship Family. For a few years it served as a church and then the hall lay bare for 5 years.

"It needed a 100 percent renovation, 100 percent new electrical, 100 percent new plumbing, an entire new roof, entirely new HVAC heating and cooling ADA compliant bathrooms, this was the full meal deal," Stuart told the Portland Observer.

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