



Residents flee the deadly devastation when the Columbia River breaks a railroad levy and floods the town of Vanport on May 30, 1948. (Photo courtesy the Oregon Historical Society)

Mosaic Festival

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

African American community relied for the most part on public transportation and the closest bus stop was two miles away. The wooden apartment buildings and their foundations were quickly picked up by floodwaters and floated away like match stick houses. People clung to the dark pitched roofs for their lives; parents waded through waist deep waters with children in their arms. Bodies floated down the Columbia River and in final reports, up to 17 lives were lost.

Options for relocating in Portland were difficult with racial discrimination and redlining practices in place and an already packed Albina neighborhood where black people were allowed to reside, but had few options to find homes.

The Vanport Mosaic Festival is designed to celebrate and preserve the individual stories and cultural nuances of Vanport with events throughout north and northeast Portland.

Performances of plays from the African American perspective will be at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in tandem with a museum-quality exhibit of artifacts and photos collected from

former Vanport residents.

Oregon Public Broadcasting's documentary on Vanport, "Lost City, Living Memories," and another independently-produced documentary "Priced Out" capturing today's legacy of housing displacement, will be screened during the festival. Vanport authority and history professor James S. Harrison will lead an education workshop with other local academics on curriculum development for teaching the history of Vanport.

One of the festival's found-

ers and a self described story midwife, Laura Lo Forti will be hosting opportunities for Vanport and Albina residents to document their stories. Scheduled bus tours of Vanport are already sold out. You can download an app on your smart phone for self guided tours. There is also a bike tour and oral history performance titled "Gentrification is Weird." Most events are free or sliding scale. For a complete schedule of events and to make reservations, visit vanportmosaic.org.

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 PUNK & FUSION	 PUNK & FUSION FT. MALISA JONES		

Also performances from No Limits Parliament Funkadelic Tribute Band along with THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON GOSPEL AND JAZZ BANDS

Lillis Albina Park

(NORTH FLINT STREET & RUSSELL STREET, PORTLAND, OR 97227)

MWESB TARGETED INFORMATION MEETING

The Portland Building Reconstruction Project

WHEN: MAY 23RD
4PM - 6PM

WHERE: 1455 NW IRVING ST, STE 400
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