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Affordable Leasing

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tion, a black-owned contractor from northeast Portland.

Natural Grocers is the "anchor tenant," and they plan on having a grand opening around February.

Prosper Portland hopes to fill the remaining spaces in Alberta Commons by spring.

Wicks said tenant applications

are currently being screened based on four criteria: Business owners who are underrepresented in the business community, like women or people of color; businesses that will be "active destination uses" that bring a lot of foot traffic to the area; businesses that have a solid business plan; and business owners who have multiple years of experience in their field.

"Tenancing is more of an art than a science. So a lot of this [is] finding the tenants, finding the synergy, where it fits for them," Campbell said. "We really want to be conscientious of curating space that provides some unique amenities for the community or ones that have been sorely missing."

To learn more and fill out an application on the Alberta Commons Affordable Commercial Tenancing Program, visit prosperportland/us.

Equity and Inclusion

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Once the hotel is built, a First Opportunity Target Area program for residents in selected zip codes of north and northeast Portland will allow for economically disadvantaged people to apply first for eligible jobs at the Oregon

Convention Center and other public facilities Metro operates in the city. Hyatt has agreed to recruit from within the same target area.

The convention hotel project is almost 30 years in the making. Equity has become an important piece of the puzzle for both

Mortenson and Hyatt, especially as they build in a Rose Quarter and Lloyd District neighborhood that was gentrified.

"Homes were taken and that wealth does not get easily replaced, if replaced at all, so we have to be strong in our commitment to make sure that economically diverse communities get a chance to have a crack at work," Collymore said.

Mike Clifford, construction executive at Mortenson, echoed that sentiment. "We want this to be a project for the community, by the community," he said.

Because the hotel is both a public and private project, it makes for an opportunity to be beneficial for everyone involved, according to the supporters. On the private side, Hyatt has a chance to operate a successful hotel, and on the public side, the Convention Center has a chance to generate more business and thus enhance the local economy.

"This project should be the tide that raises all boats," Clifford said. "It's going to be a catalyst for the Lloyd District, and we look at this as being something that should be a big boon for just about everybody."

Added Collymore, "The economic success of people of color, or low-income folks, or women, is the economic success of the entire community."



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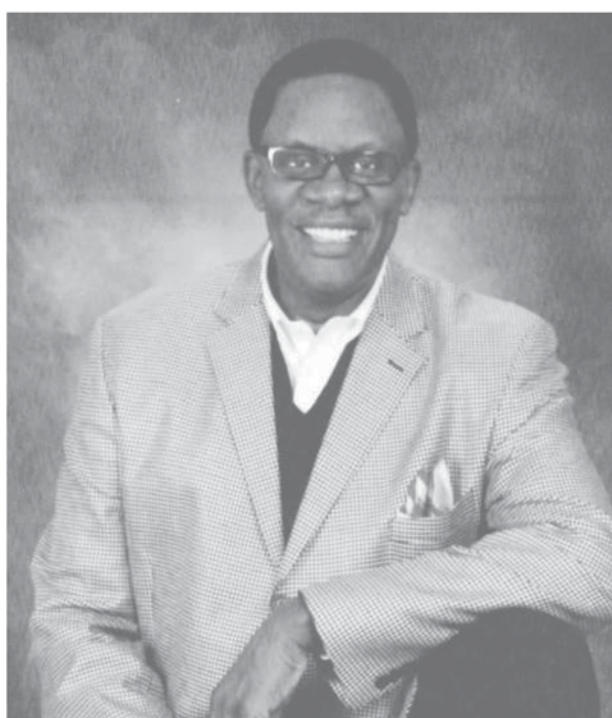
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