



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Crews build Alberta Commons on the corner of Northeast Martin Luther King Boulevard and Alberta Street. About 20,000 square feet of the new retail space will be reserved to support minority and women entrepreneurs.

# Affordable Leasing at Alberta Commons

Minority and women-owned businesses get priority

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Prosper Portland, the city of Portland's newly named economic and urban development agency, has developed an Affordable Commercial Tenanting Program to support minority and women entrepreneurs at the site of the new grocery store and re-

tail complex coming to the center of Portland's historic black community.

Approximately 20,000 square feet of leasable space at Alberta Commons at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Alberta Street will be available at a discounted lease rate. The Affordable Commercial Tenanting Program is also available at two Prosper Portland sites at Lents Town Center in southeast Portland.

Project coordinator Alison Wicks told the Portland Observer that the program is aimed at assisting underserved businesses—owned by people of color

or women—to stay afloat in the face of recent increases in retail rents and a shortage of commercial leasing opportunities is across the city. Tenants will also benefit from the program by receiving a year of technical assistance for their business from Prosper Portland.

Construction of Alberta Commons is set to be completed this November by Colas construc-

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# Sport into a Business

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in Las Vegas to pursue a career in professional boxing.

Forbes earned his professional boxing credentials by training with the likes of boxing icon Floyd Mayweather Sr., and sparring against other great featherweight fighters such as Carlos Hernandez.

In 2000, Forbes won the OBF Super Featherweight World Championship. Six years later, he fought on ESPN's reality boxing show, "The Contender."

Forbes says that it was his grandmother who inspired him to return to Oregon to open up a boxing training studio after he achieved professional success.

"My grandma, before she passed, always wanted me to come here and have a boxing program," Forbes said. "It was destiny for me to come back here and open up a program."

He is currently in the process of procuring a studio space for 2

Pounds Sports, which will offer training sessions and sports promotion for prospective boxers in the Portland area.

"It brings people together, and it's a fun workout," said Forbes. "Some people want to do it for self defense; some may want to do it just for fitness."

Forbes is also getting involved with the city's mixed martial arts (MMA) community, which he says is more established than its boxing scene. He is offering specialized training sessions for prospective MMA fighters through 2 Pounds Sports.

2 Pounds Sports will also offer Forbes' unique professional perspective to groups who are interested in receiving collective education.

"Group training gets people together so they can work together and learn together," Forbes said.

To learn more or contact Forbes, visit 2poundsports.com or call 702-776-9614.

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