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What's on your list today?



PHOTO COURTESY ALEX CHIU

Portland Artist Alex Chiu creates a mural at the 82nd Avenue Max Station to embrace the diverse culture and ethnicities of east and outer east Portland.

Celebrating Diversity

Artist's work reflects on a new generation

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

If you've caught the bus or train from the 82nd MAX station lately, you might've noticed some colorful changes. TriMet commissioned local artist Alex Chiu, 33, to do a mural there, which was completed this fall.

A son of Chinese immigrant accountants, Chiu said he tried to reflect the growing diverse culture and ethnicities of east and outer east Portland, which is where the station is located.

A professional painter, educator, and stay at home dad, he drew much of his inspiration from his daughter, who he saw as a symbol of the next generation, and painted her image as a reflection of that growing diversity.

Chiu also enlisted the help of representatives of the Asian Pacific

American Network of Oregon, a community organizing group; the Morpheus Youth Project, which provides art and humanities activities like hip hop dancing, journalism, and painting to at risk youth; and the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization.

East and outer east Portland have seen a rising number of ethnic minorities compared to the city as a whole, according to a 2013 study from Portland's Bureau of

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Winters Named Minority Leader

Sen. Jackie Winters, a long time African American lawmaker and business owner, has become the first black lawmaker to head one of Oregon's major political caucuses.

Winters, a Republican representing the Salem area, was named Minority Leader this month by a vote of her party colleagues in the Senate.

She becomes one of just a few black women to hold a caucus leadership position nationwide, and also is Oregon's longest serving lawmaker, first elected to



Jackie Winters

the House in 1999.

Winters was elected to the Senate in 2003 where she rose to be vice chairwoman of the committee that writes the state budget, the Ways and Means Committee.

She most recently has battled health problems, a heart attack in 2016 and lung cancer, and is continuing treatment for cancer.

The pick has drawn praise from Democratic leaders in the Legislature, where their own Majority Leader is also a woman, Ginny Burdick.