

48
years of
community service
‘City
of
Roses’



Remembering Vera Katz

Three term tough but tender
mayor broke barriers

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Sita Symonette has helped make waves in equity and inclusion during her five year tenor on the board of Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette. Now she's the first African American woman to chair the board in its 54 year history.

Driving Healthcare Equity

First African American to chair Planned Parenthood chapter

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette has a new chair, small business owner and health care practitioner Sita Symonette, the first African American woman to lead the board in its 54 year history.

Symonette, the operator of Black Pearl Acupuncture in

downtown Portland, was serving as a board member for the reproductive health center since 2012 and vice chair since 2015, when the board last month elected her to lead the nonprofit's governing panel.

"To step into this role is wonderful," Symonette told the Portland Observer. "I'm really honored and humbled to be able to serve."

Planned Parenthood provides affordable sexual and reproductive health care with services that can range from contraception to screenings for sexually transmitted diseases and breast cancer. Narrowing the disparities in healthcare services among women of color is one of Sy-

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