





Remembering Vera Katz

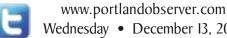
Three term tough but tender mayor broke barriers

See Local News, page 3



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Established in 1970 Committed to Cultural Diversity



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.

Healthcare Equ

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-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4