



## School Needs a New Home

Lease running out for De La Salle North

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## Neighbor Mourned

Memorial planned for slain fabricator

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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Laura Lo Forti (left) and Damaris Webb, co-organizers of the Vanport Mosaic Festival, outside the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center on North Interstate Avenue, showcasing one of the primary event venues for the annual celebration taking place this long Memorial Day weekend on the 70th anniversary of the Vanport Flood. The IFCC will host several exhibitions, like *Vanport: The Surge of Social Change*; *Anywhere but Here: The History of Housing and Discrimination in Oregon*; and *Our City, Our Voice: Excavating Portland's History through Art*. A new play about displacement in Portland, "Left Hook," will also make its world premiere at the IFCC on Thursday.

## Vanport Mosaic commemorates 70 years since flood

On a warm Memorial Day 70 years ago, Portland was forever transformed by Oregon's biggest natural disaster of the 20th century: The Vanport Flood.

It's a big anniversary, and that's why the Vanport Mosaic Festival is pulling out the stops for six days of activities that weave together fun, fascination, family and serious reflection.

It's all happening with events beginning Wednesday, May 23 and continuing through the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 28 at multiple venues that are specifically free of charge or kept at low-cost for the community.

Co-organizers Laura Lo Forti and Dam-

# A City Transformed

aris Webb have created a rich program that combines storytelling, performance, history, physical activities and even a disaster preparedness workshop. The Royal Rosarians will also be planting a special commemorative rose at Peninsula Park, and the Rosarian planting is himself a Vanport survivor.

A big highlight for 2018 is a partnership with the Confluence Project, which promotes understanding of indigenous com-

munities of the Columbia River through historic preservation and construction of a series of hiking trails stretching along the Washington side of the Columbia Gorge. The trails are vast and fascinating landscapes designed by architect Maya Lin, creator of the US Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Like the Vanport survivors who have contributed oral histories to the Vanport Mosaic project, Native American families

have joined voices in oral histories about their experiences. A fascinating panel of local indigenous leaders will be screening a film of these oral histories at the festival as well.

Key to local tribes was loss of Celilo Village on the Columbia when the Dalles Dam was built in 1957. Before being flooded for the dam by the federal government, Celilo was considered the oldest sustained community on the North American continent. The damn also destroyed Celilo's huge waterfall, one of the most important tribal fishing spots and a center of the tribal economy.

"We feel a sense of urgency right now because many of the elders who lived through these things are in their 80s and 90s," Lo Forti says. "We can't lose their stories because they have so much to teach us and that is how we really learn -- from

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