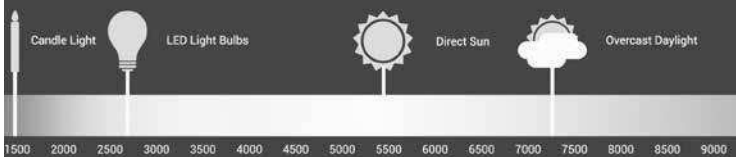


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What's on your list today?®



Kirby McCurtis is the administrator of the North Portland Library at 512 N. Killingworth St. where a Black Resources Center houses both scholarly and popular materials relating to the African-American experience.

Deeper Commitment

Library system to expand reach for black families

Multnomah County Library will start the New Year with a new two-year initiative funded in part by a grant from Meyer Memorial Trust to better serve and support African and African American families.

This initiative aims to build momentum and capacity for the library to enact systemic changes that better serve black families through community action research, a methodology that helps researchers work in partnership with community stakeholders to develop solutions to local problems.

Community action research will engage with African and Af-

frican-American families to understand and address barriers and inequities related to kindergarten readiness and transition. Research has shown that black children often face disparities in school readiness, which signal disparate educational, economic and social outcomes later in life.

A Meyer Memorial Trust award of \$148,000, with an addition of \$89,000 from other donors to The Library Foundation, with support from the Collins Foundation, will fund this work.

The work builds on a 2011 library research grant, Preparing African American Children for Kindergarten Readiness, which

showed that African American families do not always feel welcome and included in educational institutions and in libraries.

This effort advances Multnomah County Library's culturally relevant service, which includes staff, materials and programs for five languages other than English and for the black community. That service also includes Black Cultural Library Advocate staff, the library's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program and aligns with the library's organizational priorities.

The initiative is led by Mult-

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Free Rides on New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve revelers are encouraged to think safety by leaving your car at home and using TriMet. Rides on buses and MAX will be free on New Year's Eve beginning at 8 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 31, through 3 a.m. Jan. 1.

Portland Streetcar is also offering free service on New Year's Eve. MAX trains will provide extended late-night service until about 3 a.m. Buses and Portland Streetcar will run on regular weekday schedules.

To take advantage of the free New Year's Eve service, just remember, after 8 p.m., there's no need to tap your Hop card or buy a ticket at the station. Just hop on any Trimet bus, MAX train or



TriMet will offer rides for free for New Year's Eve, Monday, Dec. 31 beginning at 8 p.m. through 3 a.m. on Jan. 1.

Portland Streetcar and travel safely to your destination. p.m. on New Year's Eve, or after 4 a.m. New Year's Day, fares are

For those traveling before 8 required.