

49
years of
community service



'We Miss Eddie'

Gunned down and still unsolved 25 years later

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My People's Market

Encore set for diverse and vibrant marketplace

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Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Kayin Talton Davis and Cleo Davis (from left), creators of five major historical markers coming this summer to Northeast Alberta Street, with two of the history makers featured in the installations, Paul Knauls Sr. and Donna Hammond. The Obelisk-like shaped markers will recognize and celebrate the shared African American history of the neighborhood.

Bringing Local Black History to Life

Alberta Street art will tell the stories

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Recognizing Northeast Alberta Street as central to a shared African American history is the intention of a series of art markers that will soon be unveiled at key intersections.

Eight foot tall obelisk-shaped markers will be erected at five locations along the street this summer and will feature the stories of eight local African American histo-

ry makers using graphics and text. They are being designed by husband-and-wife artist duo Kayin Talton Davis and Cleo Davis. Combined with interactive videos, and even a play centering on members of the black community, the entire project will tell the stories of what made the Alberta Arts District what it is today.

Creating permanent art that recognizes where the black community has experienced drastic displacement and erasure is a necessity, the two artists explained.

The black heritage markers create a link to a much different Northeast Alberta: One that saw the rise of gangs and negligent

landlords in its past, but also the ushering in of a highly successful black community and African-American based resources and programs.

"My hope is...it will be evident to all who travel and live in the Alberta District that we the Negro, Colored, African-American, Black have had a valuable contribution to the building of Portland and continue to do so--despite the obstacles littered in our path," said Roslyn Hill, one of the history makers featured on the markers, and a local leader affectionately known as the "Queen of Alberta Street."

Hill is credited with being one of the

original developers of Alberta as an arts district in the early 1990s and was honored by AARP in 2008 as an "Urban Blight Fighter."

Other black history makers to be recognized in the art installations include Paul Knauls Sr., Joe Benjamin, Marnella Moseley, Mitchell Jackson, Angelette Hamilton, Benita Presley, Donna Hammond, Pat Strickland and Sam Brooks. The markers will be installed along Alberta at the intersections of 11th, 14th, 17th, 18th, and 24th avenues, respectively.

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