



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Kayin Talton Davis (left) and Cleo Davis is the wife and husband team behind the design of permanent obelisk-shaped historical markers slated to appear on Northeast Alberta Street this summer. The works will feature text and graphics of eight African American history makers of the region. The couple is standing near the intersection of Alberta and 14th Avenue, the future spot for one of the markers.

Bringing Local Black History to Life

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The histories told by the obelisks will be amplified by the availability of a new type of interactive virtual reality technology called 360 videos that utilizes a phone app to connect users to the historical stories, and a new play by Portland playwright Shalanda Sims called “Redefining Alberta” that premiered at the Alberta Rose Theater on Saturday.

A number of artists and creators including 360 video producer Todd Strickland and others, were involved with the art markers. The effort got its start from an initiative from the neighborhood organization Alberta Main Street and its partnering media production company, called Diversa.

Creating black heritage markers was an idea that began at a community meeting at Alberta Main Street more than four years ago when people in the neighborhood began expressing concerns over the rapid changes that had happened to the street, Alberta Main Street Executive Director Ann Griffin told the Portland Observer.

“We wanted to make sure that the history of black achievement did not go away,” Griffin said.

Kayin Talton Davis recalled how she had been interested before in the possibility of doing

some art work along Alberta related to black history. She was really excited to be able to do it and hopes the markers will also emphasize “the future of the black community in Portland—that it is not gone, that it is alive, and that it is just growing and changing form.”

The artist couple had previously been involved with street art projects related to black heritage with the Historic Black Williams Project on North Williams Avenue in 2012 and a street beautification project in front of Urban League of Portland on the corner of Williams and North Russell Street last fall.

The new project will also entail an Alberta Street District Guide—to be made available in local establishments—that will feature portraits of each of the history makers featured; and when scanned with one’s phone, opens up the app to play the accompanying 360 video about each one.

Diversa Executive Director Zoe Piliakas said she hopes the app could also be used to educate Portland youth in schools.

The African American heritage markers project was made possible by support from Prosper Portland, Pacific Power Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, and others.



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BACK!



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Good in the Hood 27th Annual Multicultural Festival, presented by University of Oregon, June 21-23. Location King School Park, NE 6th Ave & NE Humboldt St, Portland, OR 97211.

Come join us for a fun filled weekend of Live - Jazz, Blues, R&B, Latin, Pop, Conscious Hip/Hop; and NEO-Soul...complemented with a DJ intermission. Multicultural food, market place, informational village, kid’s space and parade.

In addition, Legacy’s “Trauma Nurses Talk Tough” \$6 discounted bicycle helmet sale and Health Pavilion offering free health screenings on Saturday from 12-4pm.

New to the GITH festival, Movie in the Park Friday night June 21 featuring the movie “Black Panther”

Festival hours: Good in the Hood “Kick-off Party” Music by DJ Pryce and Hosted by MC Seezinin Friday June 21 King School Park 6-10pm, Saturday June 22, Good in the Hood Parade (NE MLK) at 11am. Saturday and Sunday June 22-23 Festival continuation 11:00am to 10:00pm.

If you're interested in becoming a Food Vendor, selling your merchandise at the Market Place, having an information booth in our Information Village, participating in the Parade, becoming a Kids Space sponsor or volunteering at this year’s festival. Contact GITH Hotline at 971-302-6380 or email: www.goodnthehood.org



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