



Diversity Stands Out



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Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ricki Coleman (from left), Peggy Hackenbruck, Margaret Ann Jones, and Busch, represent the many volunteers and community members served by the Q Center on North Mississippi Avenue, a public space providing cultural, emotional and physical safety for people in the LGBTQ+ community. The center just completed a successful campaign to raise donations for maintenance upgrades.

On Stronger Footing

Q Center support serves diverse community

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Q Center, a nonprofit providing services and a safe space for Portland and southwest Washington's LGBTQ+ community, has just completed an intense fundraising effort to complete much needed maintenance to their building on North Mississippi Avenue, but advocates say continued community support in funding and volunteering are essential to keeping the Pacific Northwest's largest LGBTQ+ community center up and running.

"If they have that itch to help, that itch to serve, show up, say I'm here to help or volunteer," pleads Busch, a two spirit trans-woman who is a Q Center board member and who also helps lead a Friday night trans women support group at the center. "We're a 503-c non-profit organization and we have a balance sheet that sometimes dips toward the red line. We do not like to have much experience with that, so yeah, time, talent, and treasure is all that we look for here to be able to help."

The Q Center's recent Resilience Campaign raised

over \$100,000 for building improvements to its community space; an effort executive director Cameron Whitten called a "resounding success."

Thanks to support from anonymous donors and a grant from Prosper Portland, the city's economic development agency, the Q Center reached 75 percent of its fundraising drive in early June, then sprinted to raise an additional \$45,000 to inch past the goal.

The new resources will pay for improvements to a ceiling that is in disrepair throughout the building, some dry-wall work and electrical work, and other upgrades, esti-

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