

The Portland Observer

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Street Banners Honor History, Culture

New public art project introduced

A new temporary public art project by two noted black artists has been installed along the median strip on Northeast Holladay Street in the vicinity of the Oregon Convention Center and the new Hyatt Hotel between Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard and the Rose Quarter.

As part of a new series called In—Between, the Regional Arts & Culture Council invited Portland-based artist Intisar Abioto and Brooklyn-based artist Hank Willis Thomas to create 10 banners, each 10 feet tall, featuring the artists' words and images. The banners will appear through May 31.

Funding comes from the city's Percent-for-Art ordinance, which sets aside two



PHOTO BY GRAPHIC PRINT SOLUTIONS

New street banners by artists Intisar Abioto and Hank Willis Thomas are on display along Northeast Holladay Street in the vicinity of the Oregon Convention Center and new Hyatt Hotel, between Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard and the Rose Quarter.

percent of the construction costs for Prosper Portland's new parking garage to create public art.

"Art teaches us about ourselves and our community, and we are proud to play a role in honoring the history and culture of the neighborhood through this work," said Kimberly Branam, executive director of Prosper Portland, the city's economic development agency.

The pilot exhibition features both internationally acclaimed multi-disciplinary artist Hank William Thomas, whose first major retrospective of his work is currently on view at the Portland Art Museum through Jan. 12, and Portland-based artist and storyteller Intisar Abioto, a Memphis native who moved to Portland nine years ago with her mother and sisters, and has since gained recognition for her photography and her blog, The Black Portlanders.

An 'Oscar' for Teaching

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

the inspirational leadership we seek."

Oregon Department of Edu-

cation Director Colt Gill credits Rowell for being at the forefront of strengthening cultural diversity and language learning in Oregon. She shares videos of her



Julie Rowell

teaching methods with interested colleagues and utilizes video collaboration and other tools to increase student engagement.

Gresham Superintendent Dr. A. Katrise Perera calls her a stand-out educator who uses highly engaging instructional strategies to ensure English Language Learners achieve at high levels.

"Her willingness to share her expertise with colleagues has had a dramatic impact on our students," Perera said.

The Milken Educator Awards has been hailed by Teacher magazine as the "Oscars of Teaching" to promote research showing teacher quality is the driving in-school factor behind student growth and achievement.

The foundation not only aims to reward great teachers, but to celebrate, elevate and "activate those innovators in the classroom who are guiding America's next generation of leaders," believing that "The future belongs to the educated."



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