

The Portland Observer

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Convention Hotel Opens

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in the project alive, even though at times it was on life support.

"Without Sam, we wouldn't have this facility, and Mayor Hales took a real personal interest in it," he said. "This project is exciting for a number of reasons, and the folks here on the staircase (Hyatt employees) are the main reason. We wanted this hotel and we wanted it here because we wanted to contribute directly to the economy of Portland."

The 600 guest rooms at the hotel include 16 suites and the hotel features 20 venues among its 39,000 square feet of meeting and ballroom space.

Portland Metro reports that during the construction of the hotel, Mortenson and Metro worked to improve access for minority- and women-owned contracting businesses as well as helping ease the pathways for minorities and women looking to enter the trades

as a career. Overall workforce reached 28 percent people of color and nearly 8 percent women, according to a Metro press release.

In addition, according to Metro, the project led to the creation of Metro's Construction Careers Pathways Project, which aims to remove the barriers that keep women and people of color out of the trades.

Metro and the Oregon Convention Center also invested \$150,000 to start a Community Construction Training Program to which Mortenson contributed \$300,000. The program exceeded pre-apprenticeship training goals, investing in 112 pre-apprentices to help generate well-paying careers for those who are underrepresented in the trades, according to Metro. The program grantees included Constructing Hope, Portland Opportunity Industrialization Center, Portland YouthBuilders, Oregon Tradeswomen Inc. and Pacific Northwest Carpenters Institute.



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