

Early Black Leader

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

ic Railroad.

In spite of the difficulties of those early days, while her husband was working for the railroad, in addition to raising four boys, Louisa was heavily involved in civic work. She was a founding member of the Williams YMCA (today the Billy Webb Elks Lodge), was deeply involved with the NAACP and was a deaconess of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Louisa was also a member

of the Old Rose Club, which raised college scholarship money for young women, and Allen, who was appointed to the Negro Farmers Congress by Gov. Oswald West, was instrumental in bringing Booker T. Washington to speak in Portland.

The Flowers had a farm near Mt. Scott in the Lents neighborhood where they raised horses and grew raspberries, and which became a gathering place for black community life in Portland.

The family also bought land and built several houses in the



PHOTO COURTESY HOME FORWARD

Rising from Northeast Grand Avenue and Holladay, the Louisa Flowers building, provides 240 affordable apartments geared for people left behind by the metro area's increasingly expensive housing market.

Looking For Reliable Property Management & Commercial Real Estate Services?

RESICOMM PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

COMMERCIAL SALES/ LEASING

RELOCATION SERVICES



WWW.DWELLREALTYPDX.COM

5265 NE MLK Jr. Blvd, Portland, OR 97211

503.208.3797

old Lower Albina Neighborhood, a few blocks from the now Lloyd District neighborhood and site of the new building named in her honor. Completed in November at Northeast Grand Avenue between Hassalo and Holladay streets, the Louisa Flowers provides 240 affordable rental studio and one- and two-bedroom apartments.

Michael Buonocore, executive director of Home Forward, said naming the building for Flowers was a thoughtful process involving much research and the help of Oregon Black Pioneers and the Portland YWCA, and one that will be repeated in the future.

The idea was to identify names

of people who are meaningful in Portland's history but whose stories were lost or not well known, Buonocore told the Portland Observer.

"It's a wonderful process to go through and made all of us feel good about sharing the story on Louisa Flowers and to have the opportunity to do more in the future," he said. "These are often stories that are not told and their names are not on our street signs and buildings."

At 12 stories, the Louisa Flowers is the largest apartment building financed by low-income housing tax-credits in the past 50 years, but there are more to come,

Buonocore said. Another property at Southeast 30th and Powell is in the early stages of development for a 210-unit apartment building.

The future building doesn't have a name yet, but Home Forward will go through the same intensive research in naming it and future structures.

Buonocore said the diversity in Portland's population and cultural community ties deserve the attention.

"The naming policy we want to think about is, 'What neighborhood are we in and what is significant to that community?'" He said. "It may be historical figures or it may be recent figures that had an impact on the community. It doesn't always need to be people, but different ways to reflect the communities and cultures."

There is a lot of pressure on Home Forward to build more housing, Buonocore said, and maintaining existing housing is important too.

"We're obviously in a housing and homeless crisis, so work is intense and adding more housing is important," he said. "But we're a few years into a major preservation initiative for our public housing portfolio and in the next few years will do major rehabilitation on our public housing developments to position them for many more decades to come."

sunlan LIGHTING, INC.



For your light bulbs & parts to repair or make fixtures

Web: www.sunlanlighting.com

E-mail: kay@sunlanlighting.com

3901 N. Mississippi Ave.
Portland, OR 97227

503.281.0453
Fax 503.281.3408



We're on a mission to raise
\$60,000 or more

This February, Natural Grocers is raising money for the
Jack & Jill of America Gap Fund helping
Historically Black College & University students
STAY IN SCHOOL

Learn More @ naturalgrocers.com/hbcu-donate



SUPPORTING AMERICA'S FAMILIES TOGETHER