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Committed to Cultural Diversity



From left, Oscar Arana (NAYA CEO), Patricia Rojas (regional housing director at Metro), Ivory Mathews (executive director of Home Forward), Dr. Adrien Bennings (PCC president), Helmi Hisserich (director of the Portland Housing Bureau), and Natasha Detweiler-Daby (director of Affordable Rental Housing Division).

PCC And Partners Break Ground!

Featuring 84 Income-Based Apartment Homes!

A significant milestone was reached May 15 with the groundbreaking of the PCC Killingsworth apartment community in Northeast Portland. The event, celebrated by Portland Community College, Home Forward and the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA), was attended by leaders from the Portland Housing Bureau, Metro, Oregon Housing and Community Services, housing advocates, and various partners.

The new development, set to be a vibrant community hub, will feature 84 income-based apartment homes, including 18 studios, six one-bedroom

units, 45 two-bedroom units, and 15 three-bedroom units. Key amenities include bike storage, Wi-Fi, outdoor courtyards, a family room, a community kitchen, a large laundry room, and an experiential playscape. The project will be co-located with the new PCC Opportunity Center at 42nd Ave., enhancing the community's resources and opportunities.

Ivory Mathews, CEO of Home Forward, expressed her excitement, stating, "This collaboration is a testament to what can be achieved when organizations come together with a shared vision of creating opportunities for families to thrive and communities to prosper."

Dr. Adrien L. Bennings, president of PCC, emphasized the project's broader impact, highlighting the Opportunity Center's role in community development. "This project exemplifies

our commitment to holistic community development. Through collaboration with key partners, we've created more than just a center; we've created a hub for opportunity and stability."

The neighborhood revitalization effort will also include a 16,000-square-foot plaza for community events and a casual amphitheater. Additionally, the Oregon Department of Human Services will have an on-site office, and the Multnomah County Health Department will open a community health center next year.

The PCC Killingsworth development, scheduled for completion by summer 2025, exemplifies best practices in community-driven solutions and economic mobility support. Funded by

Abuse Victim Creates Nonprofit to Help Others



Yolanda Merriweather

BY BEVERLY CORBELL

Yolanda Merriweather's childhood was marked by poverty, so much so that she and her brother had to work during summers to buy school clothes for the fall. But things got worse after she had a baby at 17, and her mother kicked her out in the middle of winter.

"I had nowhere to go, and it still brings tears to my eyes," she said. "I bounced from house to house with my baby, and people would take my things, even take the baby's juice."

After that, she endured domestic violence from a partner who held a gun to her head when she tried to leave, choked her to unconsciousness, and harassed and stalked her to the point that she had to leave her home in Vancouver and moved to Las Vegas.

She also felt the effects of colorism in her own family. Her father's side was French Creole, with very light skin, while her skin is dark. "My father's family was not the kindest to me," she said, and she didn't feel smart or attractive.

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