



Affordable Housing Development Honoring Black Leadership



From left to right: Dr. Steven Holt, chair, Portland Housing Bureau N/NE Oversight Committee, Dr. Darrell Millner, Tony Hopson Sr., president and founder, Self Enhancement Inc., Eric Paine, CEO, Community Development Partners, and Trent Aldridge, CEO, Self Enhancement Inc. (Photo Courtesy of Noble Communications)

Celebration of Dr. Millner's Legacy

The legacy of Dr. Darrell Millner, a pioneering scholar and educator who uncovered the history of Black people in Oregon, will now live on in the heart of North Portland. Last week, Community Development Partners (CDP) and Self Enhancement, Inc. (SEI) announced the grand opening of The Dr. Darrell Millner Building, a six-story affordable housing community located at 5050 N. Interstate Ave. in the Overlook neighborhood.

On September 12, a ceremony was held at the building in honor of Dr. Millner's contributions to the Black community. The new development brings 63 new affordable apartments to an area where Black families have been displaced due to urban renewal and gentrification. The Millner is the third major development to open under the Alberta Alive initiative—a collaborative, multi-stage effort by CDP and SEI to foster a thriving Black community in North and Northeast Portland.

The partnership between CDP, a mission-driven affordable housing developer, and SEI, Oregon's largest African American-led nonprofit, combines CDP's exper-

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WNBA is Headed Back to Portland Team to Begin Play in 2026

(AP) The WNBA is headed back to Portland, with Oregon's biggest city getting an expansion team that will begin play in 2026.

The team will be owned and operated by Raj Sports, led by Lisa Bhathal Merage and Alex Bhathal, who also own the Portland Thorns of the National Women's Soccer League. They paid \$125 million for the franchise.

"This is huge for Portland. We are so honored and humbled to be the vessel that delivers this WNBA franchise to Portland," Bhathal Merage said. "And that's really how we consider ourselves. Portland is this incredibly diverse, enthusiastic community. We saw the passion first-hand when we started looking into the Portland Thorns and this is Basketball City so we're very excited about the future."

The Bhathals started having conversations with the WNBA late last year after a separate bid to bring a team to Portland fell through.

The city is well known for its embrace of women's sports. In addition to the Thorns, who are drawing more than 18,000 fans on average to each home game, Portland is home to the nation's first bar exclusively for women's sports, the Sports Bra, which opened in 2022 and recently announced plans for additional franchises.

"It really wasn't our intention when we came to the Portland community, but we saw the opportunity, the stars aligned and here we are. We are at the epicenter of women's professional sports," Bhathal Merage said.

It's the third expansion franchise the WNBA will add over the next two years, with Golden State and Toronto getting

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The Moda Center. Photo by Michael Barera