

25 Years Of Homeownership Fairs



Photo Courtesy of African American Alliance for Homeownership

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

bus will take 35 first time buyers to 7-10 homes for sale within the Portland Metro Area. Information on first-time homebuyer programs and the current market will be provided by AAAH, Kor Realty, and Fairway Independent Mortgage tour guides. The tour is FREE to attend for the first 35 registered.

Organizers with the AAAH hope those who take the first step by attending the FREE fair will continue to make progress towards buying a home long after the fair. To aid in this effort for those who wish to Obtain, Maintain, Retain, and Sustain homeownership AAAH provides wrap around services such as Deferred Maintenance/Home Repair/Water Leak Programs, Estate Planning, and our newest program to address the adverse effects of climate change,

Power to the People PDX (P2P). P2P is funded by the Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) and NW Gas. Qualified homeowners may receive electrical upgrades, furnaces, water heaters, insulation, and other upgrades to bring their home up to efficient standards. These programs are FREE to qualified applicants.

There will also be youth activities and great door prizes such as wine tastings, a \$25,000 down payment grant and much more.

AAAH is a non-profit, HUD Approved Housing Counseling Agency that provides pre & post purchase counseling, 8-hour HUD certified homebuyer education, mortgage default/loss mitigation counseling, and limited financial assistance for first-time homebuyers and current homeowners. AAAH's services are FREE and open to the public. AAAH is an equal housing opportunity agency.

Honoring a Decade of Visionary Leadership and Dedication

René Mitchell to Step Down as Founding Executive Director

After co-founding and serving as a volunteer Executive Director of Scalehouse for over a decade, René Mitchell has announced she will be stepping down from her role and passing the torch to Marley Weedman Lorish, who will assume the position of Executive Director starting in January 2025. Mitchell's visionary leadership has been instrumental in transforming Scalehouse into a thriving contemporary arts center, known for its commitment to fostering artistic expression, broadening equitable access to the arts, and advancing cultural engagement throughout Bend.

Mitchell, alongside co-founders Patricia Clark, Sandy Anderson, and Alex Anderson, laid the groundwork for Scalehouse during the organization's early brainstorming sessions in 2011. Together, they envisioned a space that would go beyond art exhibitions, creating a platform where diverse voices, creative thinkers, and community members could gather to explore and address pressing social and cultural issues. Founding Board Members who joined this effort include Cristy Lanfri, Dave Fox, and Elizabeth Quinn.

"René has been an integral part of Scalehouse's growth and success, leading the community's only contemporary art center organization," said Mar-



René Mitchell and Marley Weedman Lorish

tha Murray, Scalehouse's Board Member and Co-Producer of Bend Design. "Her leadership has ensured that Scalehouse remains a place where art and design are not just displayed but actively contribute to looking at the challenges of our time."

Under Mitchell's leadership, Scalehouse launched numerous impactful programs. "Scalehouse arrived at a pivotal moment in my life, offering me the space to both discover and lose myself. It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to collaborate with such talented and passionate artists, creative thinkers, volunteers, non-profit partners, and donors to create a container where we can exhibit, engage, and grow together as a community," said Mitchell. "I am so looking forward to seeing where the ever-so talented Marley takes this dynamic and impactful organization with her leadership and new ideas," added Mitchell.

Marley Weedman Lorish started as a volunteer at Scalehouse in 2020 and has been the Operations and Programming Manager since Fall 2023 and will transition to

the Executive Director position. Lorish is a fourth-generation Central Oregonian and inducted member of Phi Beta Kappa. Lorish is an interdisciplinary artist with an interest in the intersection of art and social health. She served as a college ambassador with Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette, and co-authored the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice glossary for Central Oregon Health Council. She is trained in creating queer inclusive arts learning spaces for youth.

"Having grown up in Bend, I have witnessed remarkable growth in access to arts and cultural spaces. Scalehouse represents this growth and has offered a space for people to celebrate creativity in Central Oregon. Places like Scalehouse serve as a reminder to creative people of all ages that our role as artists and art appreciators is important to the wellness of our communities; arts spaces don't only enrich our local economy, they offer us an opportunity to connect with each other by encouraging conversations and consideration of ideas. By slowing down to view and talk about what we see (art) in a neutral space like a gallery, we are able to develop skills which enrich our everyday lives, making us better observers, listeners, and neighbors. It is my great honor to continue Scalehouse's mission of making contemporary art accessible in the area."

René's departure marks a new chapter for Scalehouse, and we look forward to continuing to build on the foundation she helped create," said Sandy Anderson, Founding Board Member and Co-founder.

For more information about Scalehouse, upcoming programs, and future leadership updates, please visit www.scalehouse.org.

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