

PAALF ‘Crowdsources’ New Anti-Gentrification Project

By Lisa Loving
Of The Skanner News

The Portland African American Leadership Forum is building a new project to counter the geographic scattering of the African American community caused by gentrification. Their vision also includes reaching out to connect with other Black communities around the nation facing the same issues. The “‘We are Black. We are...’ Kick-off Community Celebration and BBQ” is Saturday, July 19, 2 -6 p.m. at Montavilla Park, 8219 NE Glisan. Behind the motto, “Celebrating all that we are from the North to the Numbers,” the group is setting the table with free food, games, live music and DJs to bring people together for a six-month initiative aimed at a common cause. The group is hosting monthly breakfast events and a branded “We are Black. We are

as a community- one that is defined FOR us and BY us, rather than reacting and building our narrative based on stereotypes or depictions of our community that don’t come from within,” says spokeswoman Rachel Gilmer. “What does it mean to be Black in Portland? How does this connect to our struggles as Black people globally? What is needed to carry the baton of the Civil Rights Movement to the next level and achieve justice for our people? “Throughout the next six months, we hope to engage the community in these types of questions, so that we can build the connections and shared understanding necessary to advance a movement in Portland,” she said. Gilmer added that the group is reaching out to other communities nationally who are experiencing similar challenges to magnify the effort. “In addition to lacking a cultural and com-



Through the campaign website and social media accounts, PAALF is inviting Black people locally and nationally to complete the statement: “We are Black. We are _____.”

‘We are Black. We are...’ Kick-off Community Celebration and BBQ is Saturday, July 19, at Montavilla Park, 8219 NE Glisan

Portland” t-shirt and merchandise campaign to get people together and “crowdsource” a message of community pride and self-definition. “By creating opportunities for our community to come together in celebration, we hope to build deeper community relationships and a deeper sense of self and purpose

munity center, we also recognize that one grave consequence of gentrification is that many of our people have been displaced to areas that lack adequate service options, especially those that are culturally competent and responsive,” Gilmer says. “We also recognize the need to build relationships between community members and

service providers by bringing resources directly to them.” In addition to the kickoff barbecue, the ongoing breakfast events and the t-shirt campaign, PAALF is mounting a social media project allowing community members to connect and speak out on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, and Instagram – literally building a virtual community center where the forces of pushout have crumbled so much of the face-to-face connections of past generations. Through the campaign website and social media accounts, PAALF is inviting Black people locally and nationally to complete the statement: “We are Black. We are _____.” “We have launched ‘We are Black. We are...’ to build our power and connections as a community,” Gilmer says. For more information, go to: www.weareblackweare.com On twitter: [www.twitter.com/WeAreBlack_WeAre](https://twitter.com/WeAreBlack_WeAre) On Facebook: www.facebook.com/weareblack0weare On Tumblr: weareblackweare.tumblr.com/ On Instagram: www.instagram.com/weareblack_weare

We honor the many accomplishments of African Americans.



It is our primary goal as a labor union to better the lives of all people working in the building trades through advocacy, civil demonstration, and the long-held belief that workers deserve a "family wage" - fair pay for an honest day's work.

A family wage, and the benefits that go with it, not only strengthens families, but also allows our communities to become stronger, more cohesive, and more responsive to their citizens' needs.

Our family wage agenda reflects our commitment to people working in the building trades, and to workers everywhere. In this small way, we are doing our part to help people achieve the American Dream. This dream that workers can hold dear regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, creed, or religious beliefs.

The Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters
Representing more than 5,000 construction workers in Oregon State.
Do you want to know more about becoming a Union carpenter?



Go to our website at www.nwcarpenters.org
Offices in Portland
1636 East Burnside
Portland, OR 97214
503.261.1862 • 800.974.9052
Headquarters in Kent, WA
25120 Pacific Hwy S, Ste 200
Kent, WA 98032
253.945.8800 • 800.573.8333

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTIFACTS & MEMORIES

The Oregon Black Pioneers are currently planning their next exhibit, **A Community On The Move**, opening at the Oregon Historical Society in February 2015. The exhibit will focus on the experiences of African Americans from WWII until the early 1960s.

- Did you work at the Kaiser shipyards?
- Do you remember the Albina community of the 1940s and 50s?
- Did you live in Vanport?
- Did you experience the flood?
- Were you or your family displaced by urban renewal plans during this period?
- Were you involved in city planning efforts?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

If you have photographs, artifacts or memories to share, please contact us before July 31. Gwen Carr, gwecar@comcast.net or 503-949-5142.

HELP KEEP LOCAL
BLACK HISTORY ALIVE!

