

Portland and SW Washington

S P O T L I G H T S

Pitch Black



PHOTO BY MATTHEW MONROE

Oregon Public House co-founder Stephen Green (left) and Portland singer-songwriter Maria Webster will host a whiteboard pitching event for Portland-based African-American entrepreneurs from 5 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Thursday at the Oregon Public House, 700 NE Dekum Street. Presenters will be giving a five-minute pitch and drawing ideas on a whiteboard telling the world about their company. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$20 at the door and sales are limited to 100 people. Proceeds from ticket sales will be divided among the three best pitches chosen by the crowd. All are welcome at the event, but only Portland-based African-Americans may pitch a business idea.

Rep. Blumenauer Announces Legislation to Provide Pathway for Expungement of Certain Marijuana Offenses

Earlier this week, Representative Earl Blumenauer (OR-03) announced plans to introduce legislation reinforcing steps taken by Oregon to legalize and provide a clean start for certain marijuana offenses. The Clean Slate for Marijuana

Offenses Act of 2015, to be introduced Tuesday, creates a pathway for the following two groups of federal marijuana offenders to expunge – or clear the criminal record of – their marijuana offense: those who were federally charged for activity that was state legal at the time; and those whose offense was the possession of an ounce or less of marijuana.

Since 1996, twenty-three states, the District of Columbia and Guam have passed medical marijuana laws. Additional-

ly, four states – including Oregon – have legalized the adult use of marijuana. Those who moved forward with manufacturing and distributing marijuana in accordance with those laws have too often been caught up in the federal criminal justice system. While the current policy of the Obama Administration is to not prosecute individuals complying with state law and federal enforcement priorities, this was not always the case and may not always be the case going forward. The Clean Slate for Marijuana Offenses Act of 2015 creates a path for expungement for any individual with a federal criminal record associated with a marijuana offense that was legal under their state at the time.

This legislation also creates a pathway for expungement for anyone who has a federal record associated with possessing an ounce or less of marijuana. While the number of people who meet this category is low, due to the fact that most small marijuana offenses are charged at the local level, this legislation sends a strong signal to state and local jurisdictions that allowing opportunities for expungement for certain marijuana offenders should happen at all levels of law enforcement.

New Documentary on Gentrification Launches Kickstarter Campaign

A new documentary looking at the rapid gentrification in Portland's traditional black neighborhoods launches a Kickstarter campaign on July 22.

Priced Out: 15 Years of Gentrification in Portland, Oregon is a sequel to the 2002 documentary NorthEast Passage: The Inner City and the American Dream. Both films are about gentrification and affordable housing, and focus on the life of North/Northeast Portland resident Nikki Williams.

In the late 1990s, Williams, a black single mother, embraced the gentrification that was making inroads into her community. But more than 15 years later, Williams found herself one of the last black residents on her block. Priced Out follows Williams as she decides to sell her home, built by Habitat for Humanity, and move to Dallas, Texas.

The film will also reexamine public policy and economic forces surrounding gentrification to create a time-lapse portrait of North/Northeast Portland's rapid transformation from cohesive black community to the city's latest "hot neighborhood."

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Wednesday – Saturday, July 22 – August 29

THE GREAT DEBATE ABOUT ART OPENS AT UPFOR: A new group exhibition, The Great Debate About Art, opens at Upfor on July 22 and runs through August 29 with a First Thursday reception August 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. It is free to attend and open to the public. The exhibition includes drawing, sculpture, painting, photography, collage and digital art by seven contemporary artists. UPFOR, 929 NW Flanders St.

Friday, July 24

EARTH HARMONY: ARE HUMANS DESTROYING MOTHER EARTH THROUGH CLIMATE CHANGE? Colored Pencils Art and Culture Council, Instituto Inxocitl Incuicatl, Parks & Recreation, Regional Arts & Culture Council, Multnomah County Cultural Coalition and the World Affairs Council of Oregon invite Portlanders families to be part of an American Indigenous ritual and learn about elders' wisdom that guide us on how to reduce our ecological footprint at the Director Park. Free admission, community dance, hand drum song, and much more. 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Downtown Portland.

Saturday, July 25

7TH ANNUAL PORTLAND WOMEN'S 3X3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT: All women welcome 18+. 4 brackets, DJ's all day long, games and prizes. 9 a.m. – 4

p.m. Irving Park, NE 7th Ave. & Fremont St.

'EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK' YARD SALE: North Star Village Yard Sale to benefit planning for Aging in Place! Take home something special and support the North Star Village Seed Money Fund! 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., 6887 N. Macrum St., University Park Neighborhood.

SUMMERTIME GARDEN PARTY: A benefit for Veterans for Peace Portland Chapter 72: Featuring music by David Rovis with a very special musical guest from England. Fun, food, drink, silent auction. \$10 at the door (no one turned away), 2 p.m. – 5 p.m., The Peace House, 2116 NE 18th Ave.

7th ANNUAL BOOK FESTIVAL: Over 200 critically acclaimed and well known authors from Oregon and out of State will be attending this year. Meet the authors in person, get an autograph and ask questions about their work. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Pioneer Courthouse Square, corner of S Sixth Ave. and SW Morrison St.

Sunday, July 26

LENTS STREET FAIR AND FOUNDER'S DAY PARADE: Fun, free family community event with over 50 food and craft vendors, International Farmer's Market, live music, dancing, games and much more. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. SE 91st – 88th between Steele St. and Reedway St.

Monday, July 27

IT'S GONNA BE OKAY! This is a free stand-up comedy show every Monday. The show showcases the best comedians in Portland along with some traveling national comics. 8:30 p.m., Eastburn, 1300 E. Burnside St.

Wednesday, July 29

3 LEG TORSO – MUSIC ON MAIN STREET: 3 Leg Torso

formed in 1996 as a violin, cello and accordion trio with the mission of creating original modern chamber music for their unique instrumentation. 5 p.m. – 7 p.m., downtown Portland on Main Street between Broadway & Park Ave.

Friday, July 31

FREE VISION SCREENING FOR PRESCHOOLERS IN SE PORTLAND. Oregon law requires that public school students 7 or younger provide proof of vision screening or eye examination before entering school. Children who are screened for vision problems at the event will receive a certificate that can be used as proof of vision screening. Cost is free. 12:30 p.m. Belmont Public Library, 1038 SE Cesar E. Chavez Blvd.

Saturday, August 1

STREET FAIR CELEBRATION AND SIMULCAST: Celebrating Five Decades of Great Opera: Activities include Street Fair, children's activities opera improve performance, live bands, and simulcast. Noon – 10 p.m. SW Main St. Between the Antoinette Hatfield Hall and the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall – Free.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC & BOOK FESTIVAL: Please bring children's socks, shoes and books. Performing at the festival will be The Pop Ups, Alphabet Rockers, Pointed Man Band, Aaron Nigel Smith One World Chorus. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Pre-Show Yoga at 9:30 a.m. King School Park, 4609 NE 6th St.

Sunday, August 2

5TH ANNUAL ARAB FESTIVAL – MAHRAJAN – AT ALPENROSE DAIRY: This day long free event showcases the arts, entertainment, food, traditions and most importantly the spirit of Oregon's Arab-Americans. 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., Alpenrose Dairy, 6149 SW Shattuck RD.