

## PPS

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to reduce discriminatory discipline.

This \$1.5 million sanction was to be used during the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years. Don't Shoot PDX wants to know how this money has been spent so far.

According to PPS, in July of 2014 Superintendent Carole Smith set goals to reduce the number of exclusionary discipline incidents for Black, Hispanic, Native American and Pacific Islander students. These incidents of suspension and expulsion had occurred at a higher rate for these underserved students.

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In the 2012-2013 school year, 14.8 percent of Black students were expelled or suspended, compared to 3 percent of White students.

That number for Black students dropped to 10.5 percent the next year and 6.9 percent for the 2015 school year.

In a presentation to the Portland City Council, PPS said the number of students excluded has been dropping since 2007, but Black students still experience the largest rate of expulsions.

The report named key strategies to reduce expulsion disparities, such as culturally responsive teaching and restorative justice conflict resolution.

De Silva told the board that the drop in exclusionary discipline for Black students over the last year is due to principals being pressured into making their numbers look good.

"A PPS principal came out to us, confidentially, and said principals are being directed to achieve the superintendent's equity goal, but are not given any guidance, support or tools to achieve these goals," De Silva said. "They are told they cannot provide SpEd services to Black kids, they cannot suspend or expel Black kids — no matter what."

## Fund

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Once that's resolved, Uhlman said, hopefully by the end of October, the fund managers will begin seeking investors to put up the remaining \$1.8 million.

Partnering with groups like the Urban League, Latino Action Network, and Women's Founders Alliance the agency says has been essential in their continuing efforts to reach the communities targeted for the fund.

"We've done a lot of outreach to organizations that represent our priority populations both locally and nationally."

In terms of race, White people account for the majority, or 84 percent, of business owners in Portland, according to the PDC.

Less than 3 percent of business owners in the city today are Black.

Joy Davis, owner of Design + Culture Lab, was one of the winners of last year's

Startup PDX Challenge.

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"Particularly African Americans, we're particularly hesitant of working with PDC because of past histories," Davis said.

"For me, I really see it more about tax dollars and really letting the money that we

paid for come back into the community. So I see the [Inclusive Startup Fund] is a good

step in the right direction, but definitely not the only step that can be taken."

Additionally, Davis said those considering working utilizing the fund or working with the PDC in any capacity should be unafraid to meet with them. They should also ask questions, and make sure their mission is in line with how owners want their companies

Raiford also asked the board listen to grassroots leaders of the community, such as herself.

She said appointed equity directors couldn't speak for children growing up in foster situations, families that have been affected by the criminal justice system, or parents whose children have been killed.

"If you are not knocking on our doors and speaking to us directly, you are not talking to anybody that has any kind of opportunity to speak on our behalf," Raiford said. "We are not happy with the numbers that are coming out of this district as it pertains to the successful outcomes for our children."

## Parke Diem



PHOTO COURTESY OF PORTLAND PARKS FOUNDATION

The nonprofit Portland Parks Foundation (PPF) and Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) announce the return of Parke Diem: Portland's biggest citywide volunteer work party for the city's parks. The city seeks 1,000 volunteers for 50 projects at 45 work sites Oct. 9 and 10. For more information, or to donate or volunteer, visit <http://parklandia.org/parkediem>.

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We've been asking for respect from the campus administration for the entire year. We're ready to go, we'll be working on this all year."

Another freshman, first-year international student from Belgium, Grace Fazila, joined the walkout after hearing the story of Sam Dubose, a Black man who'd been shot and killed by a campus police officer during a routine traffic stop in Cincinnati earlier this year.

Dubose's killer, Officer Ray Tensing has since been indicted on the charge of murder.

"I never realized being Black was an issue until I came to the United States," Fazila said at the Sept. 21 demonstration.

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"This makes me feel unsafe on campus. School should be a place of learning. You should not feel unsafe here," Fazila said.

The campus officers are trained by the Portland Police Bureau before receiving their firearms.

To date, the university has four armed campus police officers: one sergeant, two patrol officers and one detective.

to grow, she added.

"Really read the fine print," Davis said. According to Uhlman, the Inclusive Startup Fund is a first-of-its-kind model, utilizing public-sector partners to help boost minority entrepreneurship.

"We think it's a bold new effort, but the right effort for us to be focusing on. I think when we approach economic development here and we approach how we support entrepreneurs, our goal is to understand what some of those gaps are and help fill it."

When asked if this would be PDC's last efforts to increase the vitality of startups in the city, Uhlman replied, "Oh heck no, it's the beginning."

The current goal is to launch the fund and make initial startup investments by summer 2016.

Last year, before approving the proposal to add armed officers to its campus, Portland State spokesperson Scott Gallagher told The Skanner News that response time for the city's police bureau in a non-emergency situation can be up to 20 minutes.

If there were an active shooter, the armed police officers assigned to the university could respond within 60 seconds, according to the university.

The PSU campus is less than a mile from the Portland Police Bureau's downtown precinct building.