

PFLAG cont'd from pg 1

wards said.

The Black Chapter was founded in 2009 as a program under the PFLAG Portland non-profit, sharing a board of directors and a Tax ID number. Since that time both organizations have grown: PFLAG added chapters in East County and Washington County

the country is run by volunteers and a volunteer board of directors, according to Holt. She said that pursuing paid staff meant more work developing a funding stream and pursuing larger grants.

"That was more and more difficult for an all-volunteer board to re-

“A real point of departure between the Black Chapter and PFLAG Portland was when they decided that paid staff was the way that they needed to move their work forward’

and the Black Chapter grew in membership and expanded services.

In addition to their signature LGBTQ celebration event, Black Pride, the Black Chapter has been working on Black Lives Matter activism, book drives for incarcerated youth and prison divestment initiatives.

Edwards said the structure of the organization worked well when PFLAG Portland and the Black Chapter agreed on how to run the non-profit. But when the two organizations diverged, PFLAG Portland had the final say.

Dawn Holt, the President of PFLAG Portland said the biggest disagreement between PFLAG Portland and the Black Chapter was the choice to have paid staff instead of being a volunteer-run organization.

"A real point of departure between the Black Chapter and PFLAG Portland was when they decided that paid staff was the way that they needed to move their work forward," Holt said.

Most of the PFLAG organization throughout

ally administer effectively," Holt said.

For Edwards, the decision to lay off staff and go to a volunteer model would have fundamentally changed the work the organization could do. In his experience, work in the Black LGBTQ community requires more than volunteers, it needs investment in those organizers.

"An all-volunteer model ... does not work for our work and our communities," Edwards said. "To really do work effectively, it requires paid staff to carry out that work in a real way."

The transition from PFLAG Portland to an independent organization has been tumultuous. The group needed to rebrand and establish a new non-profit identity to fundraise and begin paying their staff.

Throughout the upheaval, Edwards remains optimistic about the future of the new PFLAG Black Chapter. "We are going to get through this challenging time in our history and our journey and come out stronger than ever," Edwards said.



PHOTO BY JERRY FOSTER

Race Talks

Fahima Osman, Samia Brotherson, Leocadia Monro-Hainly and Norma Hernandez speak at a citizens panel on actor Jesse Williams' BET Awards speech earlier this summer. Race Talks is part of a series of discussions on race in U.S. culture hosted the second Tuesday of every month at McMenamins Kennedy School, accompanied by screenings of films by or about people of color. The next discussion, on music and the African diaspora, will take place Sept. 12.

Terminal 1 cont'd from pg 1

tonio's Haven for Hope homeless camp.

Only a few years ago Williams was embroiled in a well-publicized fight to keep the homeless camp Right 2 Dream Too out of the Pearl District. On Wednesday, he testified to the council that helping the homeless was the responsibility of both city and business leaders.

"Our homeless is our problem. It's a community problem and I think that it's imperative if we are going to make progress that the public and private side need to both get involved," Williams said.

The 14.5 acre site at Terminal 1 includes a 96,000-square-foot unheated warehouse. The first phase of the plan would turn that warehouse into a temporary shelter that could house up to 400 people. The second phase is the construction of a permanent shelter on the site.

Commissioners Steve Novick and Dan Saltzman approved the

proposal while Nick Fish and Amanda Fritz voted against it. Mayor Charlie Hales delivered the tie-breaking vote to approve Terminal 1.

Mayor Hales addressed the di-

“Let's do the right thing, let's make sure we do it the right way, but above all, do something' –Mayor Charlie Hales

vision in his closing remarks, saying that Terminal 1 is a response to the homeless state of emergency, requiring rapid action, deliberate experimentation and real money.

"Let's keep trying to work together as a community here, even if this is a divided vote and even if this is a divided house today," Hales said. "Let's do the right thing, let's make sure we do it the right way, but above all, do something."

About 60 people gave testimony to the council. Many from the

Pearl district were concerned about having a homeless shelter next door. Numerous others brought up the idea of using the empty Wapato Jail as a mass homeless shelter.

Members of self-organized homeless encampments testified against the development of the shelter. Terry Leight of the Hazelnut Grove community said the management, decision making power and information is centralized in the hands of a few city officials and developers.

Leight told the council that this concentration of power will ultimately harm the houseless if decisions are made without input from the most vulnerable.

Read more at TheSkanner.com

Comic cont'd from pg 1

project is finding talent we didn't know we had," said Joann Hardesty, who has been meeting with the students regularly at Portland Community College's Cascade campus. "We have students who didn't think they were artists but they actually are."

Anthony Sylvester, a recent graduate of Roosevelt who will head to Pomona College in California and is interested in studying psychology and political science, not only created the artwork for the comic book but also created some computer animation for an online training module.

Hardesty said when Sylvester got involved with the project, he didn't think of himself as an artist.

Hardesty said every student has had a role in every aspect of production, and all students have been present at meeting with groups like the Latino Network or the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon to discuss their concerns and stories about interacting

with police.

Students have also brought their own perspectives on policing into bear during discussions.

“I appreciated seeing things through police's eyes and being a voice for the Somalian community, which aren't always heard

"I appreciated seeing things through police's eyes and being a voice for the Somalian community, which aren't always heard on issues like this," said Faiza Jama, a sophomore at Roosevelt, who plans to attend a historically black college or university and eventually return to Somalia to practice medicine.

Some students have even changed their career goals after participating in the project.

Tanya Tiradio, who is in her second year at Portland Community College, plans to transfer to Portland State University and join its cadet program to go

into law enforcement.

She hadn't previously been interested in law enforcement, but the ride-along she participated in as part of the proj-

ect changed her mind. She started to see things from officers' perspectives and saw how most approach their jobs.

"Our goal is not to paint all police officers as bad. It's for young people to have tools when they interact with police," Hardesty told *The Skanner*.

Nonetheless, said Kate McPherson, the publications director at Roosevelt who has been working on the project, the project came about in part because so many community members have anxiety about interacting with police.

Read more at TheSkanner.com



PHOTO BY CHRISTEN MCCURDY

Tanya Tiradio, Faiza Jama, Angel Yh-palacios and Brandt Yamamoto are all high school students or recent graduates participating in the Youth and the Law publication project sponsored by the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization's Summerworks program.