

IntersectFest cont'd from pg 1

Anna Vo, will be traveling to Portland on Greyhound buses after taking time off from their day jobs for the event.

For more information, including a complete schedule, visit www.facebook.com/events/1065608520142475.

Vo spoke with *The Skanner* about the upcoming event. This inter-

you doing this year that's different?

AV: Last year was very radical left, kind of specific politics. This year we wanted to make it more broad and kind of introduce issues of class as well. One of the things to address that was to have two days of events in downtown at P:Ear, where downtown Port-

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view has been edited for space and clarity.

The Skanner News: Tell me a little bit about how the event came about, how it got started.

Anna Vo: Last year the event was a little bit more specific. It started with the idea that Portland is viewed as a very White-dominated city, even though that's not demographically true in a lot of neighborhoods. Last year's event was sort of specifically in the North Albina, North Killingsworth where it's actually POC-dominated anyway, the neighborhoods.

We invited lots of non-profits and neighborhood organizations to table and come and meet with other people, network with other people. It was a three-day event with workshops and music and lots of awesome stuff. The idea was to remind people that visibility is defined by media and defined by perception. If you consider the narrative of the invisibility of people of color, then people start to believe that even though that's not quite true.

TSN: You said last year's event had a more specific focus. What are

land is a specific example of class issues intersecting with race issues, specifically with homelessness. That event is free and open to everybody so the idea is that it's accessible to houseless folks as well. I think often they get marginalized and excluded from public events. It's making it geographically different and more central — two days in downtown and two days in southeast, southeast being a very specifically and predominantly White kind of culture.

We opened [the festival] to more local creative groups who wanted to be involved, so traditionally art forms that were popular with persons of color, like spoken word, standup comedy and modern dance. We have events around that, and we have a two-day art exhibition, which we didn't have last year as well. So it's just a wider scope of cultural activity.

TSN: Who's been involved in putting this together?

AV: Just a collection of individuals that said they would be interested in doing this, and organizations.

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identification card.

Residents who are new to Oregon, have not had recent contact with the DMV or for other reasons are not sure they are currently registered to vote can check their status online at

“The deadline to register to vote in Oregon is Oct. 18

<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/vr/showVoterSearch.do?lang=eng&source=SOS> – or call their county elections official to check on their current status. (In Multnomah County, the

number is 503-988-3720; in Clackamas, it's 503-655-8510; and in Washington, 503-846-5800).

The deadline to register to vote in Oregon is Oct. 18. Those who still need to register to vote can do so online at <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/vr/register.do?lang=eng&source=SOS> or in person at the county elections office.

In addition, The Links Inc. will be hosting a number of voter registration events in the coming weeks:

- Sept. 21 – 6 to 8 p.m. Jefferson High School
- Sept. 27 – 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Jeffer-

son High School

- Sept. 30 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jayah Rose Salon and Spa
- Oct. 1 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cully Albertsons
- Oct. 4 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. PCC Cascade Free Speech Area
- Oct. 11 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. PCC Cascade Free Speech Area
- Oct. 12 – 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. – Jefferson High School
- Oct. 13 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Holgate House
- Oct. 15 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. JP Frames

Washington state residents must register (or update their registration) by Oct. 10 if they register online, or by Oct. 31 if they register in person. Washington residents who aren't sure whether or not they're registered to vote can visit <https://weiapplets.sos.wa.gov/MyVote/#/login>.

Washington ballots must be post-marked by election day – or can be dropped at a dropbox by 8 p.m. on election day. To register to vote in Washington, visit <http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/myvote/olvr.html>. To get information about registering by mail or in person, call 1-800-448-4881 or elections@sos.wa.gov.



PHOTO BY JERRY FOSTER

Jambalaya Festival

Portland hip-hop funk band Speaker Minds performed at the Summer in September Jambalaya Festival Sept. 10. The event, a fundraiser for Meals on Wheels People Martin Luther King, Jr. Center that started in 2006, was held at Dawson Park and featured Creole Jambalaya, BBQ ribs, sides and dessert. Other performers included BlowFrogz, Heatwave (Jefferson HS Jazz Band), Elite and DJ Doc Rock. Summer in September has raised more than \$250,000 over the years to provide hot meals to homebound seniors in Northeast Portland.

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cluding a \$15,000 payment to her daughter. Still reeling from the recession in 2010, Portland voters decided not to ratify the program.

The new proposal is based on the New York City Campaign Finance program that matched the first \$175 donation at a six-to-one ratio. It was established in 1988 and radically changed the face of campaign financing over the last 28 years.

City council politicians who elected to use publicly funded campaigns visited more than 90 percent of the census blocks in the city. State senators who do not benefit from the donation match visit 30 percent of these blocks – concentrating on wealthier districts.

Disenfranchised voters were more likely to donate in races that matched funds. A study by the New York University School of Law found that voters in poor and predominately Black Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood in Brooklyn gave 24 times more donations to city council elections than to state Senate campaigns.

The program shifted campaign money from special interests to individual donors. In 2013, only 6 percent of New York City council campaign donations came from

corporations, PACs, or other special interests. For New York state senate races, 69 percent came from these groups – only 31 percent of donations came from individual donors.

“We see the empowerment of small donors, average individuals. Because small donors now know that they can trust that the candidate who participates in this program – they are held accountable to many small donors

Cristina Nieves, Fritz's policy advisor, said the publicly-matched funds in New York City increased participation among small donors.

“We see the empowerment of small donors, average individuals,” Nieves said. “Because small donors now know that they can trust that the candidate who participates in this program – they are held accountable to many small donors.”

According to Nieves, it takes about \$1 million to run for Mayor of Portland. She said in the last election 600 large donors gave a total of \$1.7 million and another 6,000 smaller donors raised

\$570,000.

Kaysa Jama, the executive director of Unite Oregon, asked how many people in the crowd could raise \$600,000 to \$1 million to run in the city council or mayoral race.

es. One two people out of room of 100 said they could.

Jama said the average Portlander wants to be more involved in civics and taking big money out of the system would improve voter participation. Jama challenged the city to make good on its progressive reputation.

“We are known to be a city that is really innovative and we have progressive cutting-edge policies to put forward,” Jama said. “We need to do that in order to live up to our expectations of our community.”

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