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WE WANT IN



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

People gathered for a Mini-Block Party on the corner of 23rd and Union April 1 to rally for inclusion in the future of the Central District and to enjoy performances by local musicians and hip hop artists like Yirim Seck, Jamel Moxey, and Poesia.



Design, Beatrice Morrow Apartments. The affordable housing project will include mixed-units, from studios to 3-bedrooms, priced at area median incomes. Construction is slated for May, 2017.

Beatrice Morrow Apartments

New project gives priority to displaced N/NE Portland residents

By Melanie Sevckenko
Of The Skanner News

Displaced victims of gentrification could be returning to their old Northeast neighborhood, if a new affordable housing project proves successful.

Called Beatrice Morrow, the building is slated for the site of the former Grant Warehouse, on NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, between Cook and Ivy Streets.

Its name honors the Portland attorney and civil rights activist Beatrice Morrow Cannady, who ran for the state legislature in 1932 — becoming the first African American in state history to do

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Bunny Advice from Dr. Jasmine

The Veterinarian talks about Easter bunnies
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Kam Reviews 'The Zookeeper's Wife'

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Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs Celebrates

Since 1977, the OABA has been working to support Blacks in politics

By Melanie Sevckenko
Of The Skanner News

In 1970s Oregon, the outlook for Black residents was far from progressive.

With a pattern of economic and political discrimination, a dwindling Black population, and representation in office almost non-existent, Calvin O. L. Henry couldn't pervade a sense of powerlessness and frustration among young African Americans.

It's the reason Henry, a

resident of Corvallis, established the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs. Since 1977, the statewide organization has been working to improve the political, educational, social, legal, and economic status of Blacks in Oregon

On April 9, the OABA celebrates its 40th anniversary in Salem.

In a statement to commemorate the OABA's accomplishments, Henry wrote on the conditions that were ripe for change: "In many ways, we were

afraid to speak up for each other, or do business with each other. Our community often left the young Black children to fend for themselves in school settings. The percentage of Blacks in the Oregon prison population was, and still is, greater than the percentage of Blacks in Oregon. Businesses in the Oregon Black community had decreased."

For four decades, the OABA has been striving to lessen the disconnects among Black Oregonians,

while promoting political engagement in their communities.

The organization has been at the helm of leadership conferences and internship programs, has granted numerous awards, and continues to host the annual Oregon Black Political Convention, which endorses candidates running for offices during the Oregon primaries.

While the OABA has always maintained it non-

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Diversifying the Green Rush

Advocacy group works to create a place for cannabis entrepreneurs of color

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

Jesse Horton struggled in math classes growing up. While a student at Florida State University, though, he discovered a surprising study aide: marijuana, which helped him earn a bachelor's degree in engineering.

After graduating, he worked as an energy consultant in a variety of U.S. cities and in Germany. When he moved to Portland in 2013, he became acquainted with two people

who used marijuana to treat medical conditions: one had cancer, and one had chronic knee pain. He started growing medical marijuana at home, and at the same time, found himself losing interest in his day job.

Horton went on to found a dispensary, Panacea, on Sandy Boulevard, and the Minority Cannabis Business Association — which provides technical assistance for racial minorities trying to break into the legal marijuana industry.

The organization also advocates

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SONYA YRUEL/DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE (CC BY-NC 4.0)

The legalization movement and the legal cannabis industry has largely been dominated by White faces and voices. A Portland-based advocacy group is working to change that — while also redressing the harm done by the War on Drugs.