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for an end to the War on Drugs and redress for the way it has harmed minority communities.

"There's so much low-hanging fruit," he said. "There's a lot that can be done."

From 'big-time consumer' to advocate

Horton told *The Skanner* that until a few years ago, he was mere-

data yet. His organization has 450 members, most of whom live in states where marijuana is legal.

There are multiple reasons the industry has so far not enriched many people of color. One is jurisdictions to legalize marijuana - Washington, Colorado and Oregon - have large White

“The green boom has almost overwhelmingly benefited White entrepreneurs

ly a “big-time consumer” of cannabis. But the War on Drugs affected Horton, who is African American, personally: in college he had a few misdemeanor arrests on marijuana-related charges, and in the early 1980s his father served time in prison after being arrested on cannabis and cocaine possession charges.

The trend towards legalization has meant big money for legalizing states - Oregon pulled in \$25 million in tax revenue in its first year and birthed an industry with its own trade magazines and trade shows.

Just a few years ago, marijuana growers and dealers in Oregon and other states ran their businesses quietly and at great personal risk, but after Oregon voters legalized marijuana in 2014, dozens of clean, brightly-lit dispensaries sprang up.

But the green boom has almost overwhelmingly benefited White entrepreneurs.

Horton said his organization is working with UC Berkeley on a study breaking down the demographics of people in the legal marijuana industry, but don't have

majorities.

Another reason is that despite increasingly permissive attitudes toward marijuana use, African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans are more likely to be arrested on marijuana charges.

State and national data from the ACLU also showed an increase in the number of marijuana-related arrests between 2000 and 2010, both in Oregon and nationwide - despite a trend in more socially relaxed attitudes toward the drug, borne out by surveys and by successful voter initiatives to legalize medical and recreational use of the drug. In 1973 Oregon became the first state to decriminalize possession of small amounts of pot; Oregon voters passed a measure to legalize medical use of cannabis in 1998, and legalized recreational marijuana in 2014.

But nationwide and in Multnomah County, African Americans are more than three times as likely to be arrested for marijuana use as their White counterparts, despite no significant difference in use.

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partisan position, Henry said its work embraces politics and process at every turn.

"One of the things the OABA has tried to do - with Black people, White people, or any other group - is to say: understand your role as a citizen and understand who makes the policies that represent you in the community," Henry told *The Skanner*. "And be willing to participate on all levels."

Today, the OABA is proud to see an upturn, if incremental, in the number of Blacks elected to office and a more active dialogue between public officials and the Black community.

Yet for Henry, the bottom line has remained constant: while progress had been made, there's still much work to do.

Among major problem areas, he cites the lack of Black homeownership in Portland and the displacement of historic residents; a dearth of Black busi-

nesses and equal education opportunities; and a reluctance to support Black accomplishments.

"We're still not working together to solve problems, we're not looking at

“We're still not working together to solve problems, we're not looking at what is really happening in our community'

what is really happening in our community," said Henry. "We want to do it for everybody else, but not for Black folks."

Moreover, he expressed, Black Oregonians should understand their state's grim history of racism and exclusion. "If you don't know Oregon history, you can't make any changes."

Along those lines, the OABA has teamed up with Portland producers

Tracy MacDonald and Matt Zodrow to develop the 90-minute documentary "Whitelandia". The film examines the his-

tory of state sanctioned discrimination against African Americans in Oregon, and how it prevails today.

With 40 years of change-making behind it, the OABA will be reflecting on its successes Friday.

The anniversary event, held at the State Capitol in Salem, is an opportu-

the ground will be allotted commercial space.

PCRI said construction is scheduled for May 2017, after financing is closed.

Beatrice Marrow will also be

“Beatrice Marrow will also be the first city-funded project to use Portland Housing Bureau's 'preference policy' to prioritize rental homes for previously-displaced residents

the first city-funded project to use Portland Housing Bureau's "preference policy" to prioritize rental homes for previously-displaced residents.

Put forward in 2015 to mitigate the marginalization and displacement of historic residents, the policy gives first dibs on housing developments to families and their ancestors - African Americans, in particular - who were ousted from their North and Northeast neighborhoods by urban renewal.

"Those were the areas that African Americans were forced to live in, because they weren't allowed to live elsewhere," Travis Phillips, director of housing development at PCRI, told *The Skanner*.

"And yet at the same time they did not have access to conventional mortgage loans in order to buy their properties. So once the neighborhood turned and rents started getting more expensive, we know they're the vast majority of folks that got displaced," Phillips said.

The preference policy falls under the city's \$20 million 2015 North/Northeast Housing Strategy.

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PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Remembering MLK

Seattle King County NAACP President Gerald Hankerson joined dozens of distinguished speakers April 4 at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park for the event "Remembering The Life and Legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on the 49th Anniversary of his Assassination." Other speakers included, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, City Council President Bruce Harrell, representatives from the Ethiopian, Filipino, Cambodian and Hispanic Communities and King County Council member Larry Gossett who read a proclamation from the County declaring April 4 Remember Martin Luther King Jr Day.

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so. Cannady was also the publisher of the *Advocate*, Oregon's largest African American newspaper at that time.

The 80-unit housing project received a \$7.35 million loan from the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area fund.

While the Portland Housing Bureau, which owns the site, is pitching in the land's value - appraised at \$4.1 million.

Spearheaded by the African American-led Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, in partnership with real estate developer Gerding Edlen and Colas Construction, the Morrow building will offer 23 units to renters with zero to 30 percent of the area median income.

Sixteen units will serve those with up to 50 percent of the area median income, and the remaining 41 units with up to 60 percent.

Based on 2016 incomes, that puts rents roughly at \$350 to \$1060 per month, depending on the number of bedrooms.

More than 6,000 square feet on



From left to right: Aneesah Furqan, OABA vice president; Calvin O. L. Henry, OABA president; Bruce Broussard, host of the public access television show "Oregon Voters Digest". (Photo courtesy of OABA)

nity for OABA members, legislative dignitaries, and community partners to speak on the organization's achievements - and on how to build a better Oregon for the Black community.