

News.....	3	Calendar.....	5
Opinion.....	2	News Briefs.....	5
A & E.....	4	Bids/Classifieds.....	7

STATE OF AFRICATOWN



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

MC Dr Renee McCoy, jokes with Chukundi Salisbury, with Showing Up for Youth after introducing him at the 5th annual "State of Africatown: Team African American African Diaspora" gathering held Feb. 17 at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute. It featured presentations on the accomplishments of the last year, as well as vision, opportunities, and challenges facing the African American and African Diaspora community in 2018 and beyond.



AP PHOTO/ELAINE THOMPSON

Bryan Kirschner, left, and his wife, Holly Ferguson, supporters of a proposed development plan, stand in front of their tall, narrow house, which sits adjacent to older, traditional homes, in Seattle.

City Officials Dubbed New Plan the 'Grand Bargain'

Seattle Eyes Taller, Denser in Affordable Housing Proposal

By PHUONG LE
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Seattle's booming tech industry has brought a massive influx of new residents with big wallets to the city. But an ensuing housing crunch has led to skyrocketing rents and home prices that have strained middle- and working-class families and deepened the city's homelessness crisis.

To keep construction humming and help people of all incomes stay, city officials have come up with what's dubbed the "grand bargain": Let developers build taller and denser in core areas across the city and require them to either include units that working-class people can afford, or pay for projects to be built elsewhere.

Backlash was swift from those worried increased heights and density will change the character of single-family neighborhoods that dominate this picturesque Northwest city.

But equally vocal groups have formed to back the city's mandatory housing affordability plan, which aims to create 6,200 new affordable units over 20 years for those making 60 percent of area median income.

More growth and housing choices mean teachers, firefighters and other laborers can remain in Seattle alongside wealthy tech workers, supporters say.

As the city has grown, "there's a real sense of some folks winning and some folks losing as part of that growth," said Seattle Councilmember Rob Johnson, an urban planner who is sponsoring

See HOUSING on page 3

Business Funds Start-Ups with T-Shirt Sales

'Fund a Founder' raises capital for Black and female-owned tech companies

By Melanie Sevcenko
For The Skanner News

Local tech entrepreneurs Marceau Michel and Kathryn Brown have recently turned a simple retail transaction into an innovative means of bankrolling start-ups.

Launched last fall, Fund a Founder works by offering anybody a chance to fund small companies through the purchase of a custom T-shirt or hoodie. Shoppers can choose between the 'Black Founders Matter' line or the 'Fund Female Founders' collection, designed by artists Zephani

Knaus in Portland and Atlanta resident Will Henry.

Through apparel sales, Michel and Brown are looking to take down the barrier to capital — one T-shirt at a time.

While offering gifts or incentives to public donors is nothing new in the crowdfunding sphere, Michel said he's yet to hear of a tech company that's doing it with t-shirts.

"It's definitely a different approach to fundraising and supporting minorities and women in tech," Michel told *The Skanner*.

Yet the genesis of the campaign came naturally

between friends. "(Kathryn and I) both faced the same challenges when it came raising money for our business. And we both have celebrated, award-winning businesses that no one wants to fund," he joked.

Michel's on-demand staffing platform, Werkhorse, won him the Techstars Startup Weekend, Portland Pitchfest, and a grant from Prosper Portland. It was also selected to present at last year's AfroTech, the largest Black tech conference in the nation. In 2018, Michel will be taking Werkhorse to

TiE Oregon, an incubator for the state's newest tech start-ups.

Likewise, Brown's ScoutSavvy — a career finding tool for women in tech — scored her the 2017 Company of the Year: Pre-revenue Award at the Oregon Technology Awards and was a finalist for the Top Social Impact Startups for the 2017 Bend Venture Conference.

But regardless of the accolades and the demand for their products, the two Portland entrepreneurs have run into the same trying circumstance time and

See START-UPS on page 1

Minding the Business of the USDA Forest Service

Contracting officer Stevonne Fuller manages contracting agreements and logistics

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

Stevonne Fuller majored in business and initially considered a career in finance before a chance encounter with a recruiter from the USDA Forest Service changed her mind.

Originally from Englewood, New Jersey, Fuller attended Florida A & M University and graduated from its

five-year master of business administration program, which grants students a combined bachelor's degree and MBA after five years of study. She considered careers at financial services firms like Ernst & Young, but then attended a career fair held by the university and met a Forest Service recruiter who was also a FAMU graduate.

"She explained the type of work

See FOREST on page 1



PHOTO BY CHRISTEN MCCURDY

Stevonne Fuller is a contracting officer for the USDA Forest Service.

Kam Gives 'Black Panther' 4 Stars

page 4