

Housing cont'd from pg 1

of all renters in the state spend more than half their income on housing, and that half of all renters spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent and utilities.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines anyone who spends more than 30 percent of their income on hous-

ing of Oregon's housing crisis," said Center analyst Daniel Hauser in a press release accompanying the report, which was published March 15. "Oregon lawmakers need to devote their attention and resources to helping these families."

The crisis has affected homeowners as well as renters: according to the

“Nearly two-thirds of all low-income renter families spent more than half their income on rent and utilities that year, the report said

ing (including utilities) as “cost-burdened.” In 2016, the report says, Oregon had about 298,000 cost-burdened renter households, more than the total number of households in Portland. About 85 percent of households making less than \$25,000 and living in rental properties were cost-burdened in 2016. Nearly two-thirds of all low-income renter families spent more than half their income on rent and utilities that year, the report said.

The report also notes the crisis has disproportionately affected Oregonians of color, who are far more likely to rent and who report lower incomes than non-Hispanic White households. One-third (35 percent) of Oregon's non-Hispanic White households are renters, majorities of all communities of color, except for Asian Americans. Seven in 10 households with members identifying as Black or African American are renters.

“Low-income renters stand at the epicenter

OCPP's analysis of U.S. Census American Community Survey data, 24 percent of Oregon households – about 234,000 households total – headed by homeowners were cost-burdened. About 92,000 (or 9 percent) of homeowners were severely cost-burdened.

Moderate-income Oregonians also struggle with housing costs, according to the report. More than half of Oregon renter households making between \$25,000 and \$50,000 per year were cost burdened in 2016.

The Center for Public Policy, a nonprofit progressive think tank, drew on census data and HUD publications for its analysis. In the press release, Hauser praised the Oregon legislature's recent decision to raise the state's document recording fee, which is expected to generate some \$60 million per budget period to invest in affordable housing, and said lawmakers need to find additional ways to fund affordable housing.

Meyer cont'd from pg 1

tributor to the neighborhood?” Hallová said.

Stamm said the organization has reached out to community partners representing organizations in the neighborhood – including Self Enhancement Inc., Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives and the Urban League – to talk about ways to develop the space so it benefits the neighborhood. For example, Stamm said officials floated the idea of having a “convening space” available for community meetings, but said the organization won't do it if it takes business away from other facilities.

Stamm also wants the new building to blend with some of the older buildings in the Albina neighborhood, which was initially developed in the 1910s and 1920s but has, in the last five to 10 years, undergone a wave of new construction. He doesn't want the finished product to be more than three stories tall, and said some of the preliminary drawings even

have residential-style gables.

“When Doug reached out to me to talk about this, I said, ‘I think this is phenomenal, but make sure that folks understand a few things. You could have gone anywhere. You chose to

“Stamm and others stressed the importance of developing a site that wouldn't displace anyone from their homes

come here. There's plenty of space in the Pearl and they would have been just as happy to have you continue to stay resident there,” said Michael Alexander, who has served as a volunteer community liaison and advisor for Meyer on the project. “But I believe that the decision that's made here is because the



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

March For Our Lives Town Hall

Congresswoman Pramilla Jayapal met March 17 at the Quincy Jones Auditorium, Garfield High School with local student organizers for March For Our Lives, the youth-led national day of action against gun violence scheduled for March 24. The congresswoman and some of the students held a community town hall to discuss the movement to end gun violence after their meeting.

Art cont'd from pg 1

racial oppression in its North and Northeast neighborhoods.

Running from April to June, the residency will select three artists – one per month – from any discipline to create works around re-establishing a community in the aftermath of gentrification. Participants will be provided with a stipend and have access to a network of resources.

Not specific to one location, however, the residency will allow artists the flexibility to create pieces throughout the city, from inner Northeast Portland to regions where gentrification has displaced residents to.

“You don't have to prove to us that you were forced out,” said ‘Art Saved My Life’ organizer Donovan Smith. “Gentrification’ is a word we use for an experience that's been continuing in Portland for a long time, so we just want to make sure that Black and Brown folks from our community are first in line for these resources.” Priority will be given

to those artists from North and Northeast Portland with ancestral ties to the neighborhood.

During their month-long residency, artists will also have the opportunity to host free, all-ages events to showcase their work,

“Priority will be given to those artists from North and Northeast Portland with ancestral ties to the neighborhood

as well as hold discussions and workshops on how art can help heal a community.

“The whole premise of healing is rooted in the fact that our community has a lack of resources and opportunities, and that comes with a lot of trauma,” said Janessa Narciso of Deep Under Ground (DUG), an artistic platform and partner organization of the residency. “When we think about ‘healing,’ we want to be able to dig deep into the logistical obstacles that stand in an artist's way, but also the things

beneath the surface that can only be healed through community and fellowship. That's the lifeline we're trying to create with ‘Art Saved My Life.’”

The artist residency is a partnership between local organiza-

tions YBG Portland, Deep Under Ground, Friends of Noise and Gentrification is Weird, with funding through a Community Placemaking grant from Oregon Metro.

Candidates must be 18 years or older and be of African, African American, Asian, Asian American, Black, Chicano, Hispanic, Indian, Latino, or Native American descent. Participants will be selected on a rolling basis.

For further information, artists can contact the organizers at artsavedmylifepdx@gmail.com.

work that gets done here is important to the foundation – being able not only to support the work but to become an institutional partner in that work was important.”

Hallová said Meyer has also reached out to the National Association of Minority Contractors and Portland's Metropolitan Contractor Improvement Partnership with the intention of engaging minority-owned contractors on the project.

According to Stamm, Sergeant will remain on the lot until this fall, and construction will run through 2019. Meyer spokesperson Kimberly A.C. Wilson, said the total budget for the project has not been set since the organization has not settled on a design.

Stamm said the purchase and relocation is also part of an “equity journey” Meyer embarked on five to seven years ago. The organization's board of trustees, staff and leadership team are now predominantly people of color. Meyer



PHOTO BY BERNIE FOSTER

Doug Stamm, Meyer Memorial Trust's retiring CEO, and communications director Kimberly A.C. Wilson have announced the foundation's purchase of a property in North Portland.

has also selected an African American woman to succeed Stamm—Michelle DePass, who most recently served as the New School's Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy in New York City, takes the helm of the organization April 1.