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ital city and homeless shelters only had about 700 available beds or mats. The case bounced back and forth in the courts for years, and Boise modified its rules in 2014 to say homeless people couldn't be prosecuted for sleeping outside when shelters were full.

But that didn't solve the problem, the attorneys

ize conduct that is an unavoidable consequence of being homeless — namely sitting, lying, or sleeping on the streets,” Berzon wrote.

The ruling shows it's time for Boise officials to start proposing “real solutions,” said Maria Foscarinis, executive director of the National Law Center on Homeless-

“A city cannot, via the threat of prosecution, coerce an individual to attend religion-based treatment

said, because Boise's shelters limit the number of days that homeless residents can stay. Two of the city's three shelters also require some form of religious participation for some programs, making those shelters unsuitable for people with different beliefs, the homeless residents said.

The three-judge panel for the 9th Circuit found that the shelter rules meant homeless people would still be at risk of prosecution even on days when beds were open. The judges also said the religious programming woven into some shelter programs was a problem.

“A city cannot, via the threat of prosecution, coerce an individual to attend religion-based treatment programs consistently with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment,” Judge Marsha Berzon wrote.

The biggest issue was that the city's rule violated the U.S. Constitution's Eighth Amendment against cruel and unusual punishment, the court found. The amendment limits what the government can criminalize, it said.

“As a result, just as the state may not criminalize the state of being ‘homeless in public places,’ the state may not ‘criminal-

ness & Poverty, whose attorneys were among those representing the homeless residents.

“Criminally punishing homeless people for sleeping on the street when they have nowhere else to go is inhumane, and we applaud the court for holding that it is also unconstitutional,” Foscarinis said in a statement.

Boise spokesman Mike Journee said city attorneys were considering their next steps, which could include asking the full 9th Circuit to reconsider the ruling or appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court.

But city officials also believe the ruling validates the approach Boise officers have taken since 2014 — not ticketing homeless people when shelters are full, he said.

“If there are, as a result of the ruling, adjustments that need to be made, we'll consider those when the time comes,” Journee said.

Other cities have faced similar lawsuits, with varying results.

In 2007, the 9th Circuit found that when there are too few shelter beds, outlawing camping is unconstitutional.

Read the rest of this story at TheSkanner.com

Penda Diakité Awarded Art Grant from Swizz Beatz & Alicia Keys

Portland native Penda Diakité is the recipient of a “Dean Collection 20 St(Art)ups” grant, a new art grant launched by husband/wife team Swizz Beatz and Alicia Keys.

Thousands of applicants from 100 countries were considered for 10 male and 10 female artist awards. The award is to be used to create an art show to further the careers of the artists, with 100% of the sales going to the artist. See <https://hyperallergic.com/447480/swizz-beatz-art-grants-winners/> for more info.

Diakité plans to use her award to produce an October show/event in Los Angeles. She currently has an art exhibition at Guardino Gallery, 2939 NE Alberta St., which opened Aug. 30 and runs through Sept. 25.



PHOTO VIA YOUTUBE

KairosPDX cont'd from pg 1

mit his support to the African American-focused charter school which is again facing displacement by the district.

Kairos staff and families have been in an uproar since asking the district for a five-year lease on the old Humboldt Elementary school building, but instead getting a 30-percent rent hike and the promise of just one more year in the space.

Meanwhile, Portland Public Schools has a lot on its plate. The district is this fall trying to finish the job of pulling apart K-8 schools and sorting them back into elementary and middle schools; the district is also re-opening the mothballed Harriet Tubman Middle School; and has tried and failed three times in the past year to find a place for just one program — the ACCESS Academy, a program for talented and gifted kids which will be split into two separate locations. At the same time PPS is only offering one-year leases to the private work-study high school De La Salle North Catholic and — so far officially — KairosPDX.

Two dozen letters of support were issued to Portland Public Schools from local leaders and organizations including Oregon Department of Education Director Colt Gill and the NAACP of Portland,

At the board meeting Tuesday night, Albina Head Start Executive Director Ronnie Herndon delivered a blistering lecture

demanding that district officials respect Black educators and families.

“When you begin to communicate with various communities but they don't see anyone who looks like them, and you're telling them what you're going to do to help them, they have a lot of hesitation about your sincerity,” he said. “So I would suggest that as you go forward, the things you can control — you do control.”

After Kairos supporters addressed the school board — which

families, calling out the district for damaging its only proven program serving African American kids.

“PPS has a sad history of neglecting Black children in the past, but the past does not have to define the future,” said KairosPDX Executive Director Kali Thorne Ladd.

Speakers at the press conference and at the school board meeting included Herndon and Self Enhancement Inc. founder Tony Hopson Sr., who detailed the long history of grassroots efforts

“I have charged my Special Advisor on Equity and Social Justice to work with Black students and families, KairosPDX leadership, and our broader community to create a path forward

has no African American members — Guerrero read the statement committing district officials to return to the bargaining table with Kairos leadership “to accelerate this important work.”

“Here in Portland, like in so many urban school districts across the country, we have failed to effectively serve Black students. This is unacceptable to me,” Guerrero said. “Families and community members are right to raise attention to this serious and urgent matter.”

Earlier on Tuesday, KairosPDX held a press conference to highlight the impact losing its facility would have on its students and

to improve Portland schools for Black children.

“This district has a history of uprooting and displacing Black students,” Hopson said, starting with the Portland busing program that scattered Black students to mostly-white schools across the city during the 1960s and 70s.

Now, Hopson said, predominantly Black students are facing displacement through the district's K-8 “experiment” to eliminate middle schools across the district, which now has Portland district officials trying to “bring back middle schools.”

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evating more diverse voices, Iarrobino said.

“I like to think I can pick really good storytellers,” Iarrobino said.

Harris, who was introduced to Iarrobino at a barbecue last summer in North Portland's Peninsula Park, was terrified of the idea of public speaking at first.

“I used to shrink in front of other people,” she said, adding she has been practicing her talk in front of her chinchilla. “I'm grateful for this event.”

Harris said her story is about mental health, addiction, struggling to survive — and finding the strength to ask for and accept help and support when she needs it.

“I don't expect to take the journey solo,” Harris said.

“It's a wonderful opportunity to vul-

nerable, to grow and share our experience,” Thomas said.

While the storytelling prompt asked them to reflect on the mentors that

“People who are hurt, hurt people. People who are healers, heal people

brought them to where they are, Thomas said they've found an additional mentor in Iarrobino — but not just in him.

“We've all become mentors to each other,” Thomas said.

Thomas wrote a blog post last year about his path to hunger advocacy that led to participation in a six-month voice

exhibit for the Portland Art Museum and subsequent speaking engagements, including events with the Buddhist faith community he is part of. He talked about struggling to find self-acceptance and how he hopes the event will present a positive picture of African Americans in a predominantly White city. Harris said participating in the event was about learning to find the language she needed to love and accept herself, a theme Thomas and Bentley echoed.

“People who are hurt, hurt people. People who are healers, heal people,” Thomas said.

“The way I always heard it was generational curses. We have the opportunity to change that,” Bentley said.

For more information about Our Bold Voices, visit <https://www.ourboldvoices.com/> or the event's Facebook page.



PHOTO BY CHRISTEN MCCURDY

Myranda Harris (left), Tye Bentley and Gini Wilderotter, Paul Iarrobino and Joshua Harris pose for a rehearsal in anticipation of their production of a storytelling event called Our Bold Voices. Organized by Iarrobino, the event aims to uplift new and diverse voices.