

JAMS to become 48-unit affordable housing development

The formerly vacant furniture showroom at the corner of S.E. 82nd Avenue and Division Street in Portland's Jade District that has served as the Jade/APANO Multicultural Space (JAMS) for several years was the location last year of an official groundbreaking for the structure that will rise in its place. Construction is slated to be complete by January 2019.

The Jade is a 48-unit affordable housing development with a family focus and transit orientation. The four-story building will feature primarily one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments, a new public plaza on Division Street to support community activity, and a commercial space on the first floor, which will house a multicultural event space and nonprofit offices.

Upon the building's completion, the gathering space at The Jade will serve as a hub for Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, immigrants, refugees, and communities of color, while also becoming a resource for organizing, civic engagement, leadership development, the arts, and more.

Metro, the local government agency that serves the more than 1.5 million people who live in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties, bought the corner



Photo courtesy of Metro



Image courtesy of SERA Architects

property in 2014 with a commitment to develop affordable apartments and explore the creation of a community space. While planning for the development took

place, Metro leased the building to the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) at no cost, so the group could serve as host to a neighborhood space for

THE JADE. The formerly vacant furniture showroom (top photo) at the corner of S.E. 82nd Avenue and Division Street in Portland's Jade District will soon be the location of a four-story, 48-unit affordable housing development (bottom image) featuring primarily one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments, a new public plaza on Division Street, and a commercial space on the first floor, which will house a multicultural event space and nonprofit offices.

events, classes, meetings, and more, instead of the building sitting vacant and unused.

APANO plans to purchase space on the ground floor of the new building for its offices and the community space, while the operation of the apartments will be overseen by ROSE Community Development Corporation.

Fundraising for the 5,070 square-foot Cultural Center, public plaza, and permanent home for APANO reached a midpoint last spring. Donations and pledges by individuals, healthcare providers, local government, and foundations to the "Roots to Rise" campaign helped the drive cross the \$1,000,000 mark of the \$2,000,000 goal.

To learn more about the development, call (971) 340-4861 or visit <www.apano.org>. To donate to the "Roots to Rise" campaign, visit <www.rootstorise.org>.

In India, some fear lawmakers are stoking anti-Muslim fervor

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The state government then left the monument out of an official tourism booklet, though it later backtracked. In October, BJP lawmaker Sangeet Som made the "blot on Indian culture" comment.

Some are now claiming a Hindu temple was located on the site before the Taj Mahal was built.

Bhuvan Vikrama, the superintending archaeologist from the Archaeological Survey of India, said it has found

nothing on the site so far to support the Hindu theory. He said he could not elaborate because of litigation over the temple claim.

Pritha Ghosh, a graduate student from Kolkata visiting the Taj Mahal, said politicians are focusing too much on religious differences in what she considers a dangerous trend.

She said politics should be kept away from the monument.

"It's like a pride of India," she said. "Definitely everybody loves it. And no Hindu-Muslim stuff should be included when it comes to something like this."

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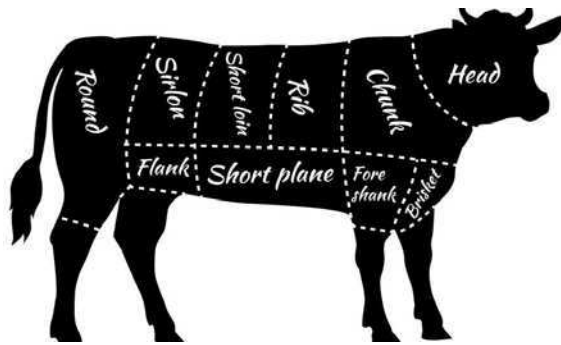
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