

A PLACE TO BE



Offer safe afterschool and weekend environment for youths

Many youths may not have a good environment for safe and productive study outside of school. Keeping in mind that parents of youths may work late, this center would offer these resources into later hours. The space will include study areas as well as a computer lab for younger people needing a space to study outside of school. It would also offer a social space.



To provide historical education on Portland's history with the African American population

Portland and the state of Oregon have a long history of racial injustices committed against African Americans. This space should show the negative truths as a reminder that Portland is not historically as socially progressive as some think it is. Those who have been impacted by issues such as displacement and gentrification should have a space for healing and empowerment. This space should acknowledge what is going on within the community and provide resources for re-establishing African Americans in the Albina neighborhood



To integrate space for large social gatherings, both inside and outside

Making spaces for activity and planning to facilitate community gathering at various sizes and action. An administrative hub and resource for organizations and community groups. Community rooms to gather in are essential for communities to thrive.

Provide a forum for inspiring Black professionals, leaders, organizations and motivational figures.

Exposure to role models through black studies, lecture series and motivational speakers from the local level to the global community. A central location that has flexible programming to accommodate various organizations and programs.



To learn team building skills through sports

Sports provide a person the ability to release frustrations of the day while providing valuable lessons on team and community. A flexible indoor space would also serve as after school programming to greater serve the neighborhood.



To offer involvement and resources to all generations in the community

Providing resources for all members of the African American family. Older generations will mentor younger people in this space in an effort to pass on skills and historical knowledge. This will allow elders to still feel relevant in the neighborhood's changing dynamics and help connect families and individuals throughout the community.

Housing that will bring Residents back to Their Neighborhood

Making space to bring displaced residents back to their neighborhood. Affordable housing in a desirable area of town that will help families and individuals find a place to call home in a community with familiar roots.



Strengthening the community by promoting wholeness in mind, body, and spirit

Providing resources that make accessible holistic health and wellbeing for everyone. To include spaces for counseling and emotional healing. The center will offer psychiatric care for those experiencing mental and emotional complications.



Teaching urban gardening and exploring healthy food options from preparation to presentation

Providing a space for cooperative urban farming, gardening, and for teaching healthful nutritional practices, from the seed to the table--with an emphasis on sustainable and traditional heritage practices and healthy food choices.

"Good things happen around the gathering of food."



An institution that can provide empowerment through vocational and professional education

This center would have job training classes and counseling to broaden employment opportunities for the adult black population. There should also be access to computer lab and other technology for training in technical skills.



Provide visibility and a city icon for a Black history & resource center

A platform for promoting greater visibility and community awareness that celebrates black histories that expands cultural and racial understanding from a global level, to the civil rights movement, and to shaping the Pacific Northwest and Portland.



Spotlighting and celebrating Portland's historical & contemporary arts scene

A space that spotlights the historical Jumptown Jazz movement in NE Portland and bridges this history to the contemporary art scene from street arts to the fine arts, and including textiles, crafts, photography, music, and dance. Having display space where local artists could have a space to showcase their work would greater show off the amazing talent of the community.



Include other ethnic groups that are also suffering social and economic disparity.

In addition to primarily focusing on black culture, this new center take into account other peoples that are struggling today. This would include Hispanic and Native American populations.

Based on conversations with:

African American Health Coalition
Albina Ministerial Alliance
Black Portlanders
Black Male Achievement
Kairos PDX
R.E.A.P
Self Enhancement INC. (SEI)
Urban League of Portland