



Urban League
of Portland



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hattie Redmond Apartments to serve as a model for housing adults who are exiting homelessness

The 60-unit building, co-developed by Urban League of Portland and Home Forward, will provide culturally responsive services to keep residents permanently housed

PORTLAND, ORE. – Leaders from across the state joined co-developers [Urban League of Portland](#) and [Home Forward](#) for the opening of Hattie Redmond Apartments, a 60-unit new construction permanent supportive housing (PSH) apartment community for people who are disabled and are exiting homelessness. Situated in the center of what was Portland’s historically Black “Albina District,” the building was funded by the 2018 Metro Affordable Housing Bond through the Portland Housing Bureau, as well as Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) and U.S. Bank. As of today, 25 residents have a new place to call home and co-developers anticipate the building will be fully occupied in the next one to two months.

“The Hattie Redmond Apartments are a step in the right direction,” says Urban League of Portland President & CEO **Nkenge Harmon Johnson**. “For decades, I’ve watched our members be priced out and pushed out of neighborhoods that were once stable and welcoming of Black Portlanders. Past actions of government officials and property developers have taken a toll that we clearly see in the steep increase in the number of Black houseless people in this region. Those local governments and companies should be a part of the solution. Yet my team knows we cannot wait for others to solve the problems they created in our community. We also know that more Black developers and property owners are a necessary part of the solution. For those reasons, the Urban League chose to be co-developers of the Hattie Redmond Building as well as provide wrap-around services for residents.”

Urban League of Portland and Home Forward celebrated the ribbon-cutting ceremony with elected officials, community leaders and agencies, including U.S. Rep. **Earl Blumenauer** (OR-3), Metro Council President **Lynn Peterson**, OHCS Director **Andrea Bell**, and the Portland Housing Bureau. The event also served as a reminder that the Metro Affordable Housing Bond is critical to addressing racist housing policies of the past. In 2022, outreach volunteers counted [5,228 people](#) who were homeless in Multnomah County and 15% identified as Black. And yet 6% of the population in Multnomah County identified as Black.

“Hattie Redmond Apartments is a model for how the City of Portland can make progress in housing people more quickly and with thoughtful community engagement,” said **Ivory N. Mathews**, CEO of Home Forward. “This building will provide safe shelter to 60 formerly homeless people in need of culturally specific supportive services. From the location to services offered to building amenities, Urban League of Portland thought of everything. This gives us hope that many more people who have been homeless can— and will—thrive with the right support.”

The new apartment community, located in the Kenton neighborhood, will be preserved as an affordable housing building for 99 years through restrictive covenants that run with land. The development, designed by SERA Architects and built by Bremik Construction, took just 16 months to build, partly due to streamlined project funding from OHCS that provided building capital, and ongoing rent assistance and funding for ongoing supportive services.

In addition to direct connections to recovery and mental health services, the four-story, 34,000-square-foot building is adjacent to public transportation, including a MAX light rail stop. The building includes free laundry machines, free in-unit wifi, computer stations, bike storage, a community kitchen courtesy of Oregon Food Bank, and free shuttle services. Reflective of community input, the building offers an on-site GED program, barbecue station, gardening beds, dog running area, book club, family game night and barber services. There is also a solar PV system on the roof made possible with funding from Energy Trust of Oregon and the PGE Renewable Development Fund.

Home Forward purchased the property in 2016 in what became a joint vision with Urban League of Portland to re-invest in the historically Black North Portland neighborhood, where Black households were pushed out through racist housing policies, including redlining in the 1970s and urban renewal efforts of the 1990s and beyond. That vision also aligned with Urban League of Portland's efforts to build a larger footprint in the affordable housing community.

"Access to affordable housing is not just an issue of economic inequality, but also a matter of racial justice. Far too often, communities of color are disproportionately impacted by the lack of affordable housing, which can lead to displacement and gentrification," said Metro Council President **Lynn Peterson**. "It is crucial that we work to ensure that everyone, regardless of their race or income level, has access to safe and affordable housing. By working together as a region, we make significant strides toward building the housing we need to create strong and thriving communities."

Home Forward will manage the property and Urban League of Portland will provide resident services and supportive services for at least 10 years. As part of the memorandum of understanding, Urban League of Portland will also have the first right of refusal to purchase the building at the end of the 15-year tax credit funding period.

The building is named after the late Harriet (Hattie) Redmond, a Black American suffragist and Portland civil rights leader in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Redmond spent her entire life creating community with Black Portlanders, advocating for voting rights and fighting against racist laws that prohibited Black people from residing in Oregon.

The building also features original donated artwork from six Black and brown artists, including a portrait of Hattie Redmond. Oregon Black Pioneers, the Corporation for Supportive Housing and Kenton Neighborhood Association also supported the project. Learn more at ulpdx.org and homeforward.org.

View the digital press kit with photos and bios [here](#).

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About Urban League of Portland

The Urban League of Portland's mission is to empower African-Americans and others to achieve equality in education, employment, health, economic security and quality of life. Learn more at ulpdx.org.

About Home Forward

Home Forward is the largest provider of affordable housing in the state of Oregon. Its mission is to ensure that the people of the community are sheltered. Home Forward has a special responsibility to those who encounter barriers to housing because of income, disability, or special need. Go to homeforward.org or call (503) 802-8300 for more information.

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Quotes from other Hattie Redmond Apartments Partners

Oregon Housing and Community Services: "In Oregon, we do not accept homelessness as a fact of life and the reality for far too long is that black, brown, and indigenous communities are overrepresented amongst those experiencing housing instability and homelessness. As a state, we should be uncomfortable with these realities, nor can we allow ourselves to be desensitized to injustice. Hattie Redmond symbolizes commitment in action, forward progress and leading with humanity. Ensuring access to safe and affordable housing for ALL is a collective commitment that every day is being transformed into formidable action by large and small communities across our state. Today, we celebrate the manifestation of this collective commitment by opening the doors to 60 individuals and families who will call the Hattie Redmond Apartments home. To the people of Oregon struggling to get by—we see you and will continue working every moment for you." ~ *Andrea Bell, Director, Oregon Housing and Community Services*

Portland Housing Bureau: "The Hattie Redmond fills a critical need in our community for trauma-informed, culturally specific supportive housing. These 60 homes, located in the historic center of Portland's Black community, will provide the necessary supports to a population too often overlooked when it comes to supportive services and overrepresented in our homeless population to live with the safety, stability, and dignity they deserve," said Portland Housing Bureau Interim Director Molly Rogers. "We are proud to support this project with our Metro Affordable Housing Bond resources, and we thank Home Forward and the Urban League for their commitment to this vision." ~ *Molly Rogers, Interim Director, Portland Housing Bureau*

SERA Architects: "SERA Architects was honored to partner with the Urban League of Portland, Home Forward, and Bremik Construction to bring this important project to fruition. We are particularly proud of the rigorous community engagement process that helped shape the project. With guidance from the Urban League's permanent supportive housing program participants, we were able to co-create a design that maximizes the amenities, public spaces, and supportive services residents need to achieve a sense of stability, dignity, and hope for the future." ~ *David Stephenson, Principal, SERA Architects*

Bremik Construction: “Bremik Construction congratulates Home Forward and all their partners in making the Hattie Redmond Apartments a reality. We are honored to have played a part in building these homes and campus, and providing the community with hope for a brighter future. We wish the tenants all the best for their new lives at the Hattie Redmond Apartments.” ~ *Bremik Construction*

U.S. Bank: “U.S. Bank believes everyone deserves a place to call home and access to safe, affordable housing has the power to help change lives and communities. Our support to help make Hattie Redmond Apartments a reality is more than an investment in a building – it’s an investment in the people who will live there. They’ll have both the comforts of home and access to critical support to help build a foundation for financial stability.” ~ *Ann Melone, business development officer with U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation*