Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association

OLD TOWN CHINATOWN CRIER

WINTER EDITION 2004

A Publication of the Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association

Tribe: OTCT's Art and Wellness Haven

Dani Vitali had been teaching Spanish at the University of Oregon in Eugene while working on her graduate degree in Romance Languages. When she graduated in spring, 2003, like so many recent graduates, she found herself unsure what to do next. Her first choice was to take a year off. She would travel, visit new places, meet new people, and figure out in what direction to take her life. She asked herself what made her happiest, and found herself returning to the same answer: immersing herself in the arts, while giving back to her community. Art and community, Dani believed, could be intertwined like a woven tapestry.

Moving to Portland in March of this year, Dani began planning to transcribe her dream. Dani took her vision to others, who believed both in her and what she wanted to create. With the help of these artistic, dedicated people, Tribe Theater and Art Gallery escaped from dream into reality. Located at the corner of NW 5th and NW Flanders, Tribe is an artistic co-op. It serves as an artistic melting pot, where visual arts, theater, live music, and the movement and healing arts meet. Local artists, performers, and musicians gather at Tribe to share their energies and work with the community.

Tribe owner Dani Vitali (center) pictured with Micah Sunshower Klatt and Daniel Shea

Dani chose Old Town Chinatown for Tribe's location after talking with many local people in the artistic community. Most of them said the same thing: Old Town Chinatown is the best place to be; an up-and-coming artist's haven neighborhood. OTCT, Dani learned, had the Everett Station Lofts and galleries, Motel, Backspace, Jadestone Gallery, Ogle, 1 of 4 Studio, and many other places sharing her vision of art and community. Tribe makes a great addition to OTCT's electric art scene. It also makes a great neighbor. "Tribe is founded on the goal of creating a space that promotes arts as well as community sensibilities," Dani says. OTCT still has problems. Dani mentions that drug trafficking, though less prevalent than before, is still an issue. Drug dealing does not promote a welcoming image of the neigh-

Continued on page 5

Orchid Salon Conquers the Heart of Portland

After starting successful salons in Hillsboro in 2002 and in Gresham in 2003, Lan Nguyen has arrived to conquer the heart of Portland. Her bright and spacious Orchid Salon on Second Avenue between Davis and Everett offers men and women everything from a quick haircut to pedicures and facials. The new Old Town Chinatown business attracts regulars from the nearby offices and a surprisingly high number of out of state and out of country visitors.

While Orchid's selling point is its affordable prices, the salon offers professional talent, personal attention and Asian-style pampering. The spacious, well designed shop radiates hues of mauve and peach; Lan's own floral sculptures and fresh orchids, her namesake flower in the Vietnamese language, add to the warmth.

The sixth of seventeen kids, Lan honed her skills in Viet Nam. After coming to the United States in 1996, she immediately set about perfecting her English while completing a two-year cosmetology course, managing a large salon, and becoming a citizen in 2001. The busy SE Portland resident also raised a daughter, who shares her focus and energy: after completing a stint as a graphic designer at Nike, she's moved on to a new position in Los Angeles.

Lan Nguyen in front of Orchid Salon

As soon as Lan saw a perfect location—the former home of a photocopy shop—she decided to invest in Old Town Chinatown. The huge, mirrored face of NW Natural looks down on the traditional retail block between Saturday Market and the Chinese Classical Garden, one well served by public transportation.

Renovation of the premises inconvenienced the homeless people who slept in the doorway's alcove, and inconvenienced Lan who had to clean up after them every morning. Rather than complaining about a problem, Lan sought a solution. She met the perpetrators face to face and told them about their impact on her business. Then she laid down an offer: If they made

Continued on page 5

Old Town Chinatown CRIER

Mayor's Plan Tackles Array of Social Ills in Old Town

The city will experiment with a trio of programs aimed at the crime, substance abuse and homelessness plaguing the area

Reprinted with permission from *The Oregonian*, Thursday, October 28, 2004

AMY HSUAN

Mayor Vera Katz says she will give the green light to three pilot projects aimed at combating drug dealing, homelessness and substance abuse in Portland's urban core.

The mayor's proposal attempts to close a revolving door of drug-related crime in Old Town Chinatown by tackling social problems, such as drug abuse and homelessness, that tie up police resources.

The projects will make the neighborhood the testing ground for a nontraditional approach that extends beyond the police. The initiative includes a police street beat and extensive outreach to mentally ill and homeless people.

Several initiatives are under way, and Katz says they all will be in place by January and will run for a year. If they are successful, Katz would like to see them extended citywide.

The criminal justice system has broken down with the county's inability to pay for the operation of jail beds, Katz said this week. "That's not the way to run a criminal justice system. You have to be blind not to see it."

The pilot projects will use a three-pronged approach, creating: A Neighborhood Livability Crime Enforcement program that will put officers on walking beats and launch missions against common social crimes such as drug dealing and property theft. A database will be used to track repeat offenders and, with cooperation from the district attorney's office and sheriff's department, keep them from being released early. An Access pilot project, an intensive street-intervention program to help those who suffer from chronic mental health issues or substance abuse. The program will be run by Samantha Kennedy, a retired psychologist who formerly was a crime prevention coordinator for the Portland Business Alliance. Kennedy, known in the Old Town Chinatown neighborhood for her success in helping drug addicts, will be the police and neighborhood's liaison to various social service agencies. A First Response program, which will coordinate the services of multiple agencies to find long-term housing for the chronically homeless and establish a primary contact point for reporting homeless individuals and camps. It will set aside about $20,000 for rent assistance and move-in deposits for people to move off the streets and will contract the services of JOIN, a Southeast Portland nonprofit that finds housing for the homeless.

The projects are aimed at the problems that use most of the resources reserved for crime enforcement and social services, said Charlie Makinney, the mayor's liaison to the Police Bureau.

"The whole concept is that it's not just a police problem," Makinney said. "The criminal justice system now is not equipped to deal with social problems like drug abuse and homelessness."

The city is paying for the projects, at a cost of $400,000, through savings in the Police Bureau's budget. The money is a one-time resource. If the projects are successful, the city will have to find money to pay for continuing and perhaps extending them.

The pilot projects are the product of the Mayor's Livability Group, a committee of businesses, residents, police, TriMet officials, social service agencies and advocates for the homeless. The group has met since February to address growing problems that have chipped away at the city's livability, including aggressive panhandling and homeless youth.

In addition to the three projects, Commissioner Erik Sten plans to announce a more comprehensive initiative in December to address the city's growing number of homeless people.

"It's a relatively small pilot project but tests out the theory to see if the demand on public resources really goes down as a result of intervention on the chronic users," said Bob Durston, Sten's chief of staff.

For residents and business owners in the Old Town Chinatown neighborhood, the mayor's proposal quiets their mounting frustration at a lack of action from City Hall to deal with the area's growing social problems. Larry Norton, an Old Town resident who has written dozens of letters to the mayor and Commissioner Randy Leonard, says the community's pleas have been largely ignored by City Hall.

"It seems that they keep saying the system's broke, and it's become an excuse for everything," Norton said. "I hope that what the mayor's doing will make a difference, but it's not going to change how the city communicates with its citizens. They are not the ones who live down here."

Amy Hsuan: 503-221-8330; amyhsuan@news.oregonian.com

華埠老城三街四街
OLD TOWN CHINATOWN
3rd & 4th AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS
街景改善工程

QUESTIONS?

Contact the
Portland Office of Transportation:
Ellen Vanderslice, Project Manager
503.823.4638
ellen.vanderslice@pdxtrans.org

www.portlandtransportation.org/projects/3and4ave

Project funded by the Portland Development Commission

Meet Rebecca Liu, Chinese Language School Principal

The desk in the principal's office of the Chinese Language School is piled with interesting things: stacks of kids' books, wooden trays of old-fashioned Chinese typeface, and two huge, leather-bound volumes which turn out to be 100-year-old burial records from a Portland Chinese cemetery. It is Saturday and school is in session, so Rebecca Liu is multi-tasking: ringing bells, signing records, helping out teachers and students, and welcoming members of the community.

This dynamic full-time restaurateur, amateur historian, and talented artist has been principal of the school since 1991. Liu is also a board member of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA), which hosts the school. There is network of CCBAs in large cities throughout North America, and to a lesser extent in Central and South America.

The Portland CCBA started around 1880, and its school is the oldest in the city. Liu explains that the Association and the school moved to its current location either in 1908 or 1911. Documentary evidence leaves it unclear if the building was bought or purpose built.

In its early years, the school addressed the historical realities of being Chinese in America. At the beginning of the century Chinese could not own property or become American citizens. In those days, maintaining culture and language was an economic necessity. Today they are the links to heritage and ancestry.

The school's regular student body varies between 140-150 children and adults. There are children of Chinese descent who speak English, recently arrived Chinese, Vietnamese and Indonesian, and many others. Liu remembers an ethnic Chinese family of six spanning three generations who all studied together; a group of engineers from a local high-tech firm who continued their studies for more than five years; a man who after only two years of Saturday study went to China and interpreted for his entire group of American visitors.

Liu notes that villages used to raise their kids communally. Even at mid-century in the United States most adults felt responsible to educate all the children in their community. Parents worked together to instill respect and discipline. Today this educational philosophy has changed, shifting responsibility onto educators.

Rebecca Liu at the Chinese Language School

The Portland Chinese School is the only school in the Northwest that offers instruction in Cantonese (Saturday mornings 9am-noon), as well as Mandarin (Saturdays 12:30-3:15 pm). The quality curriculum has won the approval of Portland Public Schools for "off campus credit." A 1987 ruling required candidates for the Oregon State system of universities to have two years of a foreign language, and Old Town Chinatown's Chinese school has played an important role in helping students fulfill this requirement.

The faculty of the Chinese Language School has remained stable, with some individuals there for more than 20 years. All are university graduates, trained teachers who have taught in China. A mature institution that responds to the changing needs of the community, the school is open 35-weeks a year and keeps tuition fees low: $160 a year for children and $260 for adults.

The school has a small museum created during a 1978-80 renovation. Unfortunately it is not open to the public on a regular basis due to lack of funding. However, visitors to the school can enjoy the captioned reproductions of historical photographs that line the halls and stairways. These photos, from the Oregon Historical Society, illustrate the special intertwining of Chinese and Oregonian roots.

The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association is at 315 NW Davis Street. 503.524.4020. The Chinese Language School located upstairs and is in session on Saturdays.

Zimmerman Community Center is Moving

Zimmerman Community Center will have a new home in the Honeyman Hardware Lofts building at 816 NW Hoyt Street. They will open in this location on January 3 and plan to stay there until they are able to move into a larger permanent location. For more information on ZCC, visit www.zcommunitycenter.org.

Former rebel uses experience to help addicts, homeless improve their lives

Richard Harris has led the expansion of Central City Concern, a social service agency, into housing and rehab services

Reprinted with permission from *The Oregonian,* Friday, September 10, 2004

FRED LEESON

Rebelling against his Mormon upbringing, Richard Harris dropped out of high school, chased girls, drank booze and took drugs. He raced Triumph motorcycles on Wasatch Mountain trails at the eastern edge of his native Salt Lake City, where the risk of serious injury or worse lay inches below his feet.

But rebellious didn't necessarily mean careless. Before the era of mandatory helmets, Harris always wore one. "Whenever I went down, I landed on my head," he recalled. "I had to."

Little did Harris know that his youthful indiscretions would amount to occupational training. Decades later, he channels his sense of rebellion and risk-taking into managing Central City Concern, a creative social-service agency with a $28 million budget that provides housing, drug treatment and employment for hundreds of people whose lives led them to addiction.

"I was definitely a substance-abusing individual," said Harris, now 64. "It was never addictive, but it was a dangerous life."

He comes to work with an enthusiasm that has driven him for 25 years at Central City.

"I love stories where good overcomes evil," Harris said. "Everyone we work with has had lousy and rotten experiences, but they manage to maintain humor and optimism. I'm hooked on the idea that people really do transform themselves."

Harris spent eight years at the University of Utah while working in a motorcycle shop, earning a master's degree in public administration and social work. He landed in Portland in 1974 and in 1979 signed on as the third employee of the Burnside Consortium, as Central City was then known. The new agency had received a federal grant to help coordinate services to late-stage alcoholics who slept on sidewalks and in doorways of Portland's Old Town neighborhood.

Architect George "Bing" Sheldon, who moved his office into Old Town in 1972, was one of the few tenants working on a second floor amid mostly empty old buildings. "Everybody else was horizontal, lying on the sidewalk," he recalled.

The agency provided no direct services in the early years. But over time, it created services and adopted others from agencies that faltered.Today, Central City owns or manages 22 residential buildings and runs businesses employing approximately 500 people, many of whom are graduates of Central City rehab programs.

In 1982, Harris and Central City assumed management of the Hooper Detoxification Center, where inebriates sobered up and were sent on their way. Harris quickly detected a problem.

"You couldn't keep sending people back to the street and expect them to be clean and sober," he said.

Central City took its first tentative steps into the housing business with 16 units of drug-free housing in 1983. The agency has continued to expand its housing inventory, with a current count of 1,259 and a few hundred more in planning stages or near completion.

The agency's concentration of housing in Old Town has raised concerns in the neighborhood, especially among businesspeople who see a wider range of incomes as a key to vitality.

"Richard's properties are well-managed overall," said Paul Verhoeven, director of Saturday Market and vice chairman of the Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association. "But the neighborhood would like to see social services spread throughout the city rather than concentrated here."

"Plays everything straight"

Bob Durston, an assistant to Portland City Commissioner Erik Sten, who oversees city housing policy, said Harris has improved Central City's relations with the business community, even if disagreements remain.

"He plays everything straight and is not confrontational," Durston said. "I think the businesspeople see him as a reasonable advocate they can work with."

Numbers suggest that Harris was right about the importance of housing and rehabilitation. Central City records show that more than 80 percent of residents living in "clean" housing complete their treatment programs, compared with a 25 percent completion rate for others fighting addictions.

"The painful lesson we've learned is that the community of people you live with matters more than anything else," Harris said. "They learn from one another and support one another."

But just as Central City started to get a handle on Old Town's late-stage alcoholics, the neighborhood started changing. Instead of older alcoholics, younger people hooked on opiates started showing up at the Hooper Center.

"No one believed you could treat heroin," Harris said.

Enter acupuncture. The ancient Chinese practice of sticking small pins into strategic body locations has calmed the jitters of detoxed opiate users, even if there is no scientific explanation of why it works. Central City established a center where addicts relax with pins in their earlobes. Combined with traditional drug treatment and clean housing, Central City's success rate is comparable to the earlier generation of alcoholics.

Continued on page 5

Richard Harris, *continued*

"Few addicts and alcoholics want to remain in that lifestyle," Harris said. "They're highly motivated to change if you give them the tools."

Taking the helm
Harris advanced to executive director in 1996, a job he was reluctant to take. Though recognized as an expert in detoxification circles, Harris wasn't sure he had the political skills to hold together the complex network of county, state federal and private money sources and local government support.

"Of course, he's done a magnificent job," said Sheldon, who has been on Central City's board since the beginning. "He has really grown into it."

During Harris' tenure as director, Central City has expanded a range of services, with housing in Gresham and Clackamas County. The Clackamas County residence for tenants with mental issues hit the news last week when a resident was fatally shot by a sheriff's deputy after reportedly lunging at him with a knife.

Low-key approach
Harris oversees the social service empire with a collaborative, low-key approach. He wears his white hair in a boyish cut. Added to a near-full beard, he presents a comforting appearance that seems to blend Santa with former Mayor Bud Clark.

"People respect him," Sheldon said. "He's sort of a beacon, a guy they can respect because of where he's been himself.."

Harris likes working with employees who have battled addictions and won. "You don't have to spend any time negotiating a value system," he said. "They are highly motivated. They are optimistic and enthusiastic. They think they can solve any problem."

Around the office, Harris works in casual clothes with shirts open at the neck. He ramps up to coats and ties for appearances before government bodies. "Whatever costume is required by the day," he said.

Harris knows retirement is looming. Gisvold and Sheldon would like to leave the board soon. The three of them plan to sit down soon and figure out a succession strategy.

Harris, for one, is in no rush. "I don't particularly want to quit," he said. "It's fascinating to me to figure out solutions to problems as they come up."

Fred Leeson: 503-294-5946; fredleeson@news.oregonian.com
Copyright 2004 Oregon Live. All Rights Reserved.

Tribe, *continued from page 1*

borhood and belies the community's values. Tribe hopes to help drive illicit activity out of Old Town Chinatown.

Tribe offers the community a versatile, spacious arts center. Visitors step into a large, open gallery displaying rotating collections of visual art. Live musical performances also take place in the gallery, which might be a visitor's first impression, but certainly not one's last. Tribe also has a 60-seat theater for live plays, offers affordable movement and yoga classes, and its space can be rented out. Perhaps most impressively, Tribe holds benefits to aid local businesses and holds a free community healing clinic every Sunday night.

OTCT's diverse and open community helps keep Tribe vibrant and exciting. With the help and dedication of the Old Town Chinatown community, Dani definitely believes the neighborhood is becoming a destination. Events, such as Tribe's Monday Open Mic nights and trade-and-barter fairs, bring people into the neighborhood. Tribe promotes the importance of community building. The more visitors in the neighborhood, the better for everyone, Dani believes. "We provide a conduit for the neighborhood to share our customers," she says. "For example, our customers come in to see theater but want a drink or dinner before the show. We suggest an establishment in the neighborhood; a movement class participant wants a coffee or lunch after classes and we suggest local restaurants, coffee houses, and bakeries." Not only does Tribe provide a great service to the neighborhood, it directs visitors to OTCT's other great businesses.

One year off, a little travel, and a little soul searching. Dani Vitali discovered her direction, and Old Town Chinatown reaps the reward of her convictions. Art and community, Dani has shown, can be weaved into a beautiful pattern.

Orchid Salon, *continued from page 1*

sure that her entryway was spotlessly clean when she came to work in the morning, she would make sure it was a clean place for them to sleep when she left at night. She has not had a problem since.

"Life is too short" says this practicing Buddhist, using words that are her mantra. Lan is reluctant to spend money on temple construction because "small temples, become big temples." An admirer of Mother Theresa, Lan wants to help out with small things—like shaves and haircuts. "When you help with small things, people can do the big things themselves." As long as there are empty chairs at the new Orchid Salon, Lan is standing by with haircuts and manicures for people who are rebuilding their lives. "Life is too short", she says again. "We have to help each other. When I die maybe somebody can say, I got a job after I went to Orchid Salon and she cleaned me up."

Orchid Salon is located at 203 NW 2nd Avenue. 503.226.9500 Open Monday through Saturday.

Letter to the Editor - Opinion

By Larry Norton

The ever increasing illicit drug sales in Old Town China Town prohibit the creation and maintenance of a safe environment for residents, businesses, employees, tourists, and those patronizing the restaurant and entertainment venues.

The past *Crier* noted that the blame for drug dealers has been wrongly placed on residents of the non-profits that provide needed social services in OTCT. A correct analysis by the city would have determined that the drug dealers are outsiders who for the most part sell to outsiders. The analysis was flawed because the city failed to consult the residents and businesses. The blame should be owned by the city, yet I have not seen any ownership.

There is an access gap between the city and its citizens. This gap, really a rupture, is a product of the present Katz administration whose insiders remain unavailable to its citizens. This gap is an important factor in the city's failure to solve our neighborhood's problems. These drug dealers, along with prostitutes, permeate our neighborhood. They can be seen roaming the streets without restriction mostly from Burnside to Glisan bounded by 4th and 5th Avenues.

About five months ago I began searching for answers. I wrote several people at the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, Mayor Katz, Commissioner Leonard and Police Chief Foxworth. I received no answers. I started attending neighborhood meetings and noticed that with each meeting an increased attendance and participation by our community. It is important to know that the chair of the neighborhood association has a place on Mayor Katz's livability committee.

At the livability committee meeting, 10/29/04, Mayor Katz announced three proposals to combat problems in OTCT. The most significant proposal establishes and maintains for a year walking, bicycle, and mounted patrols in OTCT. At the recent neighborhood's Public Safety Committee meeting, Commander Benson announced that the proposal will be effective December 1st. I believe this implementation was, in part, a result of neighborhood meetings.

We need to close the access gap. Portland's mayor has control over city planning, police and all other bureaus. The new mayor has pledged to obtain public input before making important decisions. His attention is being sought by everyone. OTCT needs his attention too. We have the most diverse community in Portland. It is a community that contributes to the cultural and socioeconomic welfare of the city. The past Katz administration was unavailable—let us make sure that mayor-elect Tom Potter knows our problems and our values.

A good start is to attend neighborhood meetings especially the public safety meetings. These meetings are well attended by the police department, district attorney's office and our crime prevention specialist. For an excellent calendar, checkout your website at www.oldtownchinatown.com and click on the 'This Week's Events' link. From there and from the neighborhood meetings you will learn of other relevant city meetings.

Your attendance at meetings will have an effect because politicians act more responsibly under watchful eyes. Voice your concerns and opinions. Expect results by participating.

3rd and 4th Avenue Streetscape Update

Project will re-bid in December to select contractor

Construction for the 3rd and 4th Avenue Improvements Project has been re-scheduled to begin in early 2005. Previously construction was expected to begin at the end of the summer this year. The project was advertised in July. Bids were received from two general contractors, but both were approximately 30% over the engineer's cost estimates and had to be rejected.

The Portland Development Commission (PDC) and the City of Portland plan to bid again in early December. PDC has already approved the funding for the project. "We consider this a momentary set-back in our plans to improve these key streets in Old Town/ Chinatown," said PDC Executive Director Don Mazziotti. "Our Commission remains committed to the project and we must all be patient while we try again for a more favorable bid."

The Portland Office of Transportation (PDOT) identified some minor changes to the construction documents and the design. PDOT hopes to gain a competitive bid without changing any crucial elements of the current project design.

Construction on the project is now expected to begin in March, 2005, and extend through the summer of 2006. For more information, contact Ellen Vanderslice, Project Manager, Portland Office of Transportation. 503-823-4638 or ellen.vanderslice@pdxtrans.org

PDC Moves to Old Town Chinatown

Portland Development Commission has relocated its offices from Portland State University area to the Mason-Ehrman Building in Old Town Chinatown. This historic structure, built in 1908, has also been known as the Kalberer Building and, most recently, the Creative Services Center (CSC). The new PDC offices opened for business on Monday, September 27, with the Housing Department opening on Monday, October 18.

With the move, PDC has consolidated its employees and its administrative services into one building. The consolidation will reduce administrative costs and make PDC more efficient.

Importantly for Old Town Chinatown, PDC's move brings 200 new professionals into the neighborhood. These professionals will be working, shopping, eating, walking, recreating, and commuting in one of PDC's top-priority revitalization neighborhoods. Earlier this year, City Council extended the Downtown Waterfront Urban Renewal Area four more years. This extension focuses on urban renewal and economic development in Old Town Chinatown. PDC's presence infuses OTCT businesses and streets with exciting new neighbors.

PDC's new address: 222 NW Fifth Avenue. For more information, contact Julie Rawls @ 503.823.3294

Fire Station #1 Update

The development agreement between PDC and PF&R for the new Fire Station #1 requires PDC to obtain the property and/or authorize PF&R to proceed with design and development by October 18, 2004. Each month of delay past that date reduces PF&R project funds by $55,000 due to interest payments and inflation.

The Portland Development Commission (PDC) authorized PF&R to proceed on October 18, 2004 after reaching tentative agreement with the H. Naito Corporation on a voluntary sale of Block 8. Because of the number of complexities of this transaction, PDC continues to negotiate terms with H. Naito Corp to acquire Block 8. Here's why:

- Following City Council's approval of the 27th Amendment to acquire Block 8 last July, H. Naito Corporation filed an appeal with the State's Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) in August 2004. The case has been scheduled for consideration in December 2004.
- On October 11, 2004, the Portland Development Commission filed for "immediate possession" of Block 8 through condemnation. Concurrently, PDC and H. Naito Corp. continue to negotiate for a voluntary sale which resulted in the tentative agreement.

On October 18, as a result of significant progress in negotiations, PDC requested from the court a 30 day continuance (to November 19, 2004) of the immediate possession hearing, while the H. Naito Corporation agreed to stipulate a 30 day continuance of the LUBA appeal.

The current expectation is that a purchase and sale agreement for a voluntary sale of Block 8 will be concluded prior to the November 19, 2004 court date. If the details of the purchase and sale agreement have not been reached by the parties, either could agree to a further extension or proceed to an early possession hearing.

Bronze Plaques Will Feature Plants and History

The 3rd & 4th Avenue Improvements Project is working with Nevue Ngan Associates and Suenn Ho to develop twenty bronze plaques to be installed in the furnishing zone of the sidewalks throughout the project area. When the design process is complete, the plaques will be cast by Five Rings Cultural Relics, the Chinese foundry that produced and donated the elephant sculpture in the North Park Blocks.

The large plaques will feature botanical elements related to the history of the area and the many cultures that have left their mark on the neighborhood. Each plaque will also mention relevant historical information about the intersection or adjacent building. Dr. Jacqueline Peterson of the Old Town History Project and Chet Orloff of Oregon History Works will assist with developing the historical information.

Marketing Old Town Chinatown

The Lunch Bus will bring diners during construction

The Portland Business Alliance, Portland Development Commission and the Portland Office of Transportation are partnering to develop a targeted marketing effort for Old Town Chinatown businesses. The goal is to attract visitors and shoppers during construction of the 3rd and 4th Avenue Improvements.

Once construction is underway, the Lunch Bus will bring employees from Portland-area businesses to Old Town Chinatown restaurants for lunch and a tour of the neighborhood. The Lunch Bus is a way to introduce Portlanders to Chinatown and encourage them to return. Typically, one business or office building will participate in the tour at each time. The employees pay for their own lunch. The bus picks up employees at their workplace and returns them after lunch, making it a convenient lunchtime option.

Restaurants take turns hosting the bus riders. Staff from the Alliance will invite businesses to participate in the program and will coordinate with the restaurants to make reservations.

As part of the overall marketing effort, the Portland Business Alliance is publishing an Old Town Chinatown map and directory. The directory will function as a visitor's guide to the area and will list the majority of ground floor businesses. The directory will also be available online. 40,000 copies are being printed.

The directory will be available shortly and will be distributed to every ground-floor business in Old Town Chinatown. It will also be available from the Sidewalk Ambassadors, at the POVA Visitor Information and Services Center in Pioneer Square and at hotel concierge desks.

For more information about the Old Town Chinatown marketing program, to sign up your restaurant for the Lunch Bus, or to advertise in the directory, contact Jodi Jordan or Ashley Heichelbech at the Portland Business Alliance at 503-224-8684.

NORTHWEST RESOURCE
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
A Better Way to Bank
Serving people who live or work in Portland's central city neighborhood
Surcharge-Free ATM • Free Online BillPay • Great Rates
221 NW Second Ave • 503-220-2592 • www.nrfcu.org

OLD TOWN CHINATOWN CRIER

A Publication of the Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association

Thanks Supporters!

The Old Town Chinatown *Crier* wishes to thank the Portland Business Alliance for its start-up support and the businesses, organizations, and individuals who have supported us over the past year with their advertisements and announcements:

C.C. Slaughter's • Central City Concern Building Services • City of Portland Environmental Services • Dollar Rent-a-Car • Everett Street Autoworks City of Portland Office of Transportation • Maid Brigade • Northwest Resource Federal Credit Union • Ohm Nightclub • Portland Development Commission Savannah Carribean Restaurant • Second Chance on Broadway • Steel Bridge • The Monkey and the Rat • Zimmerman Community Center

We need your support in 2005!

In order to continue to produce the Old Town Chinatown *Crier* in 2005, we are asking for your support through advertising and sponsorships. 2,000 copies of the *Crier* are printed and distributed to all neighborhood businesses and residents on a quarterly basis. The Crier is also emailed to over 350 people who signed up to receive it electronically and is permanently posted on www.oldtownchinatown.com.

2005 advertising and sponsorship rates with a one-year commitment:

Sponsorships:
For $100, you will receive your name and address or web site printed on the back page of the *Crier* for the full year (4 issues) with recognition as a neighborhood sponsor and supporter.

Business Card Sized Ad:
For $250, you will receive a business card sized ad in each of the 4 issues of the Crier. Single issue rates are $85 each.

The deadline for reservations and commitments is January 7, 2005. Please contact Kim Faucher at kfaucher@nrfcu.org or 503-220-2592, ext 106 for reservations or more information.

Old Town Chinatown Web Site Gets Facelift

Thanks to the work of volunteers, and support from the Portland Business Alliance, the OTCT Neighborhood Association web site has a new look and is easier to navigate. Hats off to Kellee Jackson of the Portland Business Alliance, OTCT resident Arthur Lapies, and Sam Roloff of Studio Ridge, LLC, whose tireless efforts got the improved site running. Bookmark www.oldtownchinatown.org and visit often for information on housing, arts and culture, restaurants, shopping, professional services, and non-profit organizations. The site also has the Neighborhood Association's bylaws, meeting dates and times, meeting minutes, and contact information. Check out the full-color back issues of the *Crier*. Most importantly, take the time to join the OTCT Neighborhood Association on-line!

Published by the Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association (OTCTNA) with the support of the Portland Business Alliance and our advertisers, the Old Town Chinatown Crier appears quarterly. Past issues are available at www.oldtownchinatown.com

Please submit short news items, opinion pieces and letters to the editor to Ted Occhialino at topdx@comcast.net. The Crier reserves the right to abridge letters which should be no more than 150 words.

Association Committees and Neighborhood Meetings

Membership in OTCTNA and attendance at all meetings is open to people who live, own businesses or property, or work or volunteer in the neighborhood.

Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association Board of Directors. Meets first Tuesdays from 4:30-6:30 PM in the ground floor conference room of the Port of Portland, corner of NW Second & Everett. Everyone is welcome! Contact: Howard Weiner (howard@calsk8.com)

OTCTNA Joint Land Use & Design Review Committee. Meets, as required, first Tuesdays from 3:00-4:30 PM at Central City Concern, 232 NW Sixth Avenue. If you have issues to bring before the committee, contact Paul Verhoeven (paul@saturdaymarket.org)

OTCTNA Public Safety Committee. Meets third Thursdays from 11:30 AM–1:00 PM at Central City Concern, 232 NW Sixth Avenue. The public is welcome at this brown bag lunch meeting. Contact: Howard Weiner (howard@calsk8.com)

OTCTNA Communications Committee. Meets last Mondays from 4:00-5:00 PM at Northwest Resource Federal Credit Union, 221 NW 2nd Ave. Contact: Carol McCreary (carolmccreary@comcast.net)

Old Town Chinatown Visions Committee. Meets second Wednesdays from 11:30 am - 1:00 PM at Central City Concern, 232 NW Sixth Avenue. The public is welcome at this brown bag lunch meeting.Contact: Mark Riesmeyer (mark@centralcityconcern.org)