



## The 9th VANPORT MOSAIC FESTIVAL

May 18- June 1, 2024

[bit.ly/vanport2024](https://bit.ly/vanport2024)

*"The annual festival is a highlight of Portland's cultural calendar, blending history, culture, arts and activism into a living and highly creative memorial."*

*Oregon Arts Watch/ Bob Hicks*

### **FUNDERS and SPONSORS**

Regional Arts & Cultural Council, Portland Events and Film, Oregon Historical Society, Metro, Prosper Portland, Multnomah County Drainage District

For a taste of the Vanport Mosaic Festival and its impact, we invite you to watch these short documentaries:

[\*History From The Bottom Up\*](#)

[\*Legacy of A Forgotten City\*](#)

[\*A Call For Memory Activism\*](#)

### **AWARDS**

The Vanport Mosaic was awarded the Oregon Heritage Excellence Award, the Spirit of Portland Award by City Commissioner Nick Fish, and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council's Achievement Award.

In 2022, our community-grounded, art-infused and story-centered approach to placemaking was recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which named Vanport Mosaic as one of 80 organizations nationwide, using historical places as catalysts for a more just and equitable society and illuminating the multi-layered intersections of underrepresented communities of people that we serve.

In 2023, the American Association for State and Local History selected Vanport Mosaic as a Award of Excellence winner by the Leadership in History awards committee - the nation's most prestigious competition for recognition of achievement in state and local history.

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## **PROGRAM (in progress)**

Please check our official website [www.vanportmosaic.org](http://www.vanportmosaic.org) or contact the festival organizers at [info@vanportmosaic.org](mailto:info@vanportmosaic.org) for the latest updates, additional events, and details.

### **Saturday, May 18**

- 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM: **Annual Reunion for Vanport Residents, Flood Survivors & Descendants**

A luncheon honoring former Vanport residents, flood survivors, and their descendants. By invitation only. With the launch of **EcoTrust Mapping Memories** interactive installation.

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### **Sunday, May 19**

- 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM: **All Power to The People: Black Panther Party Legacy Tour of Albina**

A walking tour with Kent Ford, co-founder of Portland's chapter of the Black Panther Party, exploring memories of revolutionary activism in NE Portland

- 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM: **Buffalo Soldiers: Fighting On Two Fronts**

*Historic Alberta House 5131 NE 23rd Ave, Portland, OR 97211*

Screening of a new documentary film directed by Dru Holley that combines a multitude of diverse perspectives to examine the profound and often-contradictory roles played in American history by the often forgotten black regiments who served in some of America's earliest wars and how they fought on two very different sets of front lines -- military conflicts abroad and civil rights struggles at home. Followed by a Q&A with director

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### **Friday, May 24**

- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM: **The Music of Miracle City**

- *Historic Alberta House 5131 NE 23rd Ave, Portland, OR 97211*

Public historian and ethnomusicologist Kelly Bosworth shared her findings from years of archival exploration on the music of Vanport and the nearby Kaiser shipyards. With music performance by Marilyn Keller

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## Saturday, May 25

- 7:00 PM: **Precipice: re-membering, forgetting and claiming home as a Black woman in this white utopia**  
a new solo play conceived and performed by Damaris Webb; directed by Olivia Mathews; written by Chris Gonzales  
*- Historic Alberta House 5131 NE 23rd Ave, Portland, OR 97211*  
Combining direct experience through overnight camping in different parts of the state, with the relative safety in a NE Portland multigenerational home, **Precipice** pushes against the boundaries of memory, media reports, geological truths, legacy, DNA reports, and the value of listening to the land. *Who owns your idea of belonging? What is the legacy of the place you call home? As far as you can tell, is everyone free?*
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## Sunday, May 26

- 2:00 PM: **Precipice: Re-membering, Forgetting, and Claiming Home (Repeat Performance)**  
*- Historic Alberta House 5131 NE 23rd Ave, Portland, OR 97211*
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## Wednesday, May 29

- Morning (During City Council Meeting): **City of Portland's Proclamation for a Vanport Day of Remembrance**  
*Portland City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave, Portland, OR 97204*  
Join Vanport survivors and descendants, and Vanport Mosaic memory activists, as we commemorate the anniversary of the Memorial Day flood that destroyed Vanport in 1948, and Mayor Ted Wheeler declares May 30 Vanport Day of Remembrance.
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## Thursday, May 30

- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM: **Lost City Living Memories: Vanport Through The Voices of Its Residents**  
*Historic Alberta House 5131 NE 23rd Ave, Portland, OR 97211*  
Screening of short oral history documentaries from the Vanport Mosaic collection: *Lost City, Living Memory: Vanport Through the Voices of Its*

*Residents*, followed by a facilitated dialogue connecting. With special guests from the Vanport Community and the **NW Freedom Singers**.

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## **Saturday, June 1**

- 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM: **DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**

*Delta Park Expo Center/Assembly Center*

Altar, pop-up exhibits, tours, performances, talks, and activities on the Indigenous land where Vanport once stood and Japanese Americans were unjustly incarcerated.

A few highlights:

**The Portland Assembly Project** explores the lives of Japanese Americans who were subjected to the consequences of Executive Order 9066. Through this examination, the Project exposes the racial dynamics that continue to govern how we share the lands we call Portland, Oregon. Conceived by Chisao Hata and developed with Heath Hyun Houghton, The Portland Assembly Center Project will feature stories, movement and music honoring the legacies of space and the fortitude of the human spirit to build connections.

**Remember Us:** a temporary memorial created by Chisao Hata.

**Force Lake Birdwatching and Historical Walking Tour:** Led by historian Marti Clemmons and BIRDHERS Han Lyons.

**Vanport Walking Tours** of historic sites led by survivors, descendants, and educators.

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## **Exhibits Throughout the Festival**

*Historic Alberta House 5131 NE 23rd Ave, Portland, OR 97211*

**Gallery Hours:** FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/GALLERY HOURS: 4-6 PM FRI 19TH - SUN 21ST; CLOSED MON 22ND - WED 24TH; 4-6 PM THURS 25TH - FRI 26TH; CLOSED SAT 27TH; 1-8 PM SUN 28TH

### **Artwork by Henk Pander: "The Climate Refugees of Vanport" and "The Artist as Eyewitness to History"**

This "art giant" passed away on April 7th, 2023, but his legacy continues through his artwork. The Vanport Mosaic had the honor to collaborate with Henk Pander in the past few years and to present some of his history paintings as part of our memory activism. We are grateful to Henk and his family for entrusting us with the watercolors from the Vanport series and the large-scale paintings Henk created in response to 2020's racial justice protests.

### **Beyond Vanport: Remembering Native North Portland/artwork by Peggy Ball-Morrill**

Klamath/Modoc artist Peggy Ball-Morrill's paintings portray a community nearly invisible in popular culture where representations of native people are often limited to westerns or cartoons. The paintings remember a close-knit native community at a time when federal termination and relocation policies threatened Native survival. Peggy passed away in August of 2015.

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### **Vanport: The Surge of Social Change**

A historical photo exhibit documenting the life, destruction, and aftermath of the largest WWII shipbuilding community in the U.S., co-curated by Vanport Mosaic and Oregon Black Pioneers.

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### ***ABOUT THE VANPORT MOSAIC***

The Vanport Mosaic is a platform for memory activism. We amplify, honor, and preserve the silenced histories surrounding us to understand our present and envision a new chapter where we all belong.

Remember, Reclaim, Repair and Re-imagine: this is the framework of our "memory activism." Through arts performances, presentations, tours, exhibits, celebrations and dialogues, we amplify the personal experience of individuals and communities of color impacted by the long-endured inequalities across American economic, social, and civic systems.

- *Vanport Mosaic, established in 2014, is a grassroots collective of artists, historians, media makers, and educators dedicated to documenting the struggle, resistance, and resilience of those affected by the 1948 flood that devastated Vanport City, highlighting its significance as Oregon's second-largest city and a beacon of racial diversity and working-class unity.*
- *Our mission extends beyond preserving Vanport's history, serving as a catalyst for creative placemaking projects that explore silenced narratives, including the story of Nihonmachi, Portland's Japantown, obliterated by*

*forced removal in 1942, and Albina, a redlined neighborhood home to a vibrant Black community displaced following the flood and further fragmented by disinvestment and urban renewal.*

- *The collective also sheds light on the history of the former Portland Assembly Center, a World War II-era site of Japanese American incarceration, now recognized as the Portland EXPO, illustrating our commitment to uncovering and memorializing the multifaceted histories of displacement and resilience within the region.*
- *Through nearly a decade of collaboration with the Vanport community, Vanport Mosaic has established the largest collection of oral histories related to Vanport, ensuring the preservation and honor of one of Oregon's most pivotal historical communities.*
- *Our people-first preservation ethos and collaborative storytelling methods emphasize narratives shared with communities, not merely about them, ensuring respect, agency, and ethical representation of those whose histories we help share.*
- *Utilizing memory activism, Vanport Mosaic confronts historical injustices and erasures, fostering an inclusive narrative that promotes social change and community healing.*
- *Innovative partnerships amplify Vanport's history and its legacy, inspiring future generations and making these crucial stories accessible to wider, including national and international, audiences.*
- *Interactive exhibitions and public programs developed by Vanport Mosaic engage audiences in the significant history of Vanport and related narratives, deepening understanding and appreciation of their impact.*