

# Colored Pencils Art and Culture Night Reggae Party at New Columbia.

February 24, 2012

New Columbia's Community Building,  
N.Trenton Street, Portland, Oregon 97203.

5.30-9.30 pm

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New Columbia, formerly called Columbia Villa, is today a robust community packed with possibilities. Great Artists and local talents: poets and musicians. It is a community managed by HomeForward (formerly the Portland Housing Authority). A variety of educational, social, financial literacy, and civic engagement, opportunities are built into the brick and mortar of the neighborhood.

A casual artists reception starts at 5:30 with New Columbia resident Narcisa Diaz presenting traditional Mexican culinary arts for sale -- including her home-made tortilla chips and lively guacamole; savory tamales filled with vegetables, chicken, or pork; tostadas topped with fresh ceviche; for your thirst: Jamaica water, rich horchata, just-squeezed lemonade, and soothing cinnamon tea. For dessert: her famous Tres Leches cake.

Featured fine artists interviews begin at 6:00. Artists include Malaysian American painter Paul Tee, Ukrainian American photographer Igor Sobolevskiy; local Mexican painter Monica Mackenzie, and Camaroon Portlander story-teller and artist Kwa Franklin.

Performing artists warm up at 6:00 with Portland's very own Mezzo Soprano Jennifer Eastwood, followed by Palestinian Portlander author Mohammad Bader reciting from his book "The Traveler;" contemporary and traditional Somali music by Deno; Cambodian American Author Kilong Ung and violinist son Killin performing out of his genocide survivor's tale "Golden Leaf;" rap and hip hop by New Columbia's "March 4th" crew; Russian traditional and contemporary folk songs by Natalia Hougen.

The New Columbia celebration ends with an hour of energetic pop and country reggae by The Utopian Rebels. This may be the your only chance, ever, to dance with Portlanders of this many ethnicities and ages, abilities and disabilities. All simply celebrating Portland.

Colored Pencils, a local nonprofit arts organization has produced last-Friday "family room events" in all parts of town in venue ranging from the Pearl's Portland Center Stage to the far Eastside's Immigrant & Refugee Community of Oregon (IRCO) to leafy Westside's Multnomah Arts Center. Every event is a community-building process involving the venue's organization, a community host such as the Iraqi Society of Oregon or the Cambodian American Community of Oregon, plus Colored Pencil's pool of culinary, fine, and performing artists. Each event is carefully designed for an intercultural and intergenerational evening.