



Recognizing Hattie Redmond

A team of Home Forward and Urban League board members, volunteers, and staff undertook a 2021 naming process for the Baldwin redevelopment site. Their goal was to celebrate the lives of historic or contemporary Black people, who have rarely been recognized for their contributions to the vitality of Portland neighborhoods. With the support of the Oregon Black Pioneers, the life of Harriet “Hattie” Redmond quickly rose to the top of the list. As one resident summarized, “I’ve lived in Portland all my life and had never heard of this leader in the African American community. It’s time we value our history, especially today when attempts to limit voting rights are still underway.”

Due to her activism and vision over the three decades prior to 1912, Hattie Redmond came to be known as Oregon’s leading Black Suffragist. Her perseverance and countless hours organizing and speaking at community meetings, during a time when Black people in Oregon were mostly unrecognized as legal residents, ensured that women’s voting rights, including Black women’s voting rights, were won. After six ballot initiatives, beginning in 1884, her decades of advocacy were finally achieved in 1912 when Oregon men finally approved a woman’s right to vote. Hattie Redmond took her first opportunity to register to vote in April 1913 and continued to be active in community life until her death in 1952 at the age of 90.

More information: https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/redmond_harriet_hattie/

Thank you to the volunteers at Oregon Black Pioneers for their help with the research for our naming process. <https://oregonblackpioneers.org/>