Harriet "Hattie" Redmond came from a family of political activists and became one of Oregon's early "Freedom Fighters" for the rights of Oregon women. Redmond served as secretary and later president of the Colored Women's Equal Suffrage Association.

The Colored American School provided educational opportunities for the young African American students of Portland who were barred from the Portland public school system. The school opened in the fall of 1867 due to the efforts of the African American women of Portland who were the first African American woman journalist to work for the federal government and dedicated her life to groups like the NAACP. She helped found the Golden West Hotel to preserve the building's legacy.

Kathryn Bogle broke down many racial barriers for African Americans in Portland and Oregon. Her 1937 article "An American Negro Speaks of Color," made her the first African American woman journalist to have an article published in The Oregonian. Bogle was one of the first African American women in Oregon to work for the federal government and dedicated her life to groups like the NAACP. She helped found Friends of the Golden West to preserve the building's legacy.

The Golden West Hotel opened in 1906 under the operation of African American businessman William D. Allen, providing services to African American railroad and hotel workers denied accommodations in white-only business. Local businesses housed within the hotel and the surrounding area also made the Golden West Hotel an important social center for the local African American community.

Lillian Allen, wife of William D. Allen, was a socially and socially engaged member of Portland's early African American community. Allen participated in various women's clubs, was active in the Women's Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and hosted card parties and luncheons at her residence offering her community another social outlet.

The Portland chapter of the Women's Auxiliary of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters protested at Union Station for better wages and working conditions for Pullman porters and maids. As members of the auxiliary, Minniebell Johnson, Lillian Allen, and Verdell Burdine Rutherford intervened on behalf of African American women because the man could be fired from their jobs for raising those issues with rail management.

The Walk of the Heroines reflects the diverse accomplishments of women, and offers a powerful legacy for future generations. Developed through university and community partnerships, Portland's Walk of the Heroines is a public park honoring women's civic and cultural contributions.

To Learn More:
Walk of the Heroines, www.woh.pdx.edu
Monumental Women Capstone, http://capstone.uvm.pdx.edu/courses/monumental-women
Oregon Historical Society, www.ohs.org
Oregon Black Pioneers, www.oregonnorthwestblackpioneers.org/
Oregon Encyclopedia, www.oregonencyclopedia.org

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All photographs courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society and PSU Special Collections
Pauline Bradford came to Portland to work in the shipyards in WWII, and became a pioneer in the fight to desegregate Oregon’s workplaces. She was one of the first African American women to work for the IRS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and later worked as a teacher at Peninsula Elementary School for many years. Pauline Bradford was extremely active in the Northwest Coalition of Neighborhoods, and the Eliot Neighborhood Association, as well as the Oregon chapter of the Colored Women’s Clubs & Youth Affiliates.

**Women’s Auxiliary of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters**

The Women's Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters was a support system for the organization’s struggles to gain union recognition. The Portland chapter promoted Unit Station for better wages and working conditions for Pullman porters and conductors, and held annual dinners for retired members of the union at the Matt Dishman Community Center. Lillian Allen, Verdell Burdine Rutherford, and Minniebell Johnson were active participants in the auxiliary.

**NaACP office & Federal credit union**

The Portland chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was established in 1914 and has worked to ensure rights for Portland's African American community since. The chapter helped repeal the chapter's law in 1936, which established African American presence in labor unions, and worked to repeal real estate codes and housing policies that restricted African Americans to living in the Albina community. The NAACP often met at the nearby Williams Avenue YWCA, and moved its offices there in 1956.

The NAACP Federal Credit Union began in the late 1930s, created by Otto G. and Verdell Burdine Rutherford, and operated out of various locations for over 60 years. As the NAACP and its branches grew, the union flourished and moved to this location in 1964 where they remained for many decades.

**Verdell Burdine Rutherford**

A member of the Culture Club, the African American Women's Association, the Urban League, and Bethel A.M.E. Church, Verdell Burdine Rutherford was a prominent African American in Oregon's civil rights movement. She was also an avid historian who created an extensive collection that documented the African American experience in Oregon.

**Beatrice Morrow Cannady**

Beatrice Morrow Cannady, “the city’s ambassador of international goodwill,” was a leading champion of Portland progress and racial equality. Cannady and her husband E.D. Cannady, owned and published the Portland’s African American newspaper The Advocate. She was one of the founders of the Portland branch of the NAACP, and the first African American woman to run for Oregon elective office.

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