

Ground broken on new affordable housing site in Southeast Portland

by KATU Staff

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City officials and members of Home Forward broke ground on an affordable housing project near 30th and Powell on Monday, Sept. 20, 2021. (KATU)



PORTLAND, Ore. — New homes are being built in Southeast Portland, four years after the city promised the former site of the Safari Club would be used for affordable housing.

City officials and members of Home Forward were at the site Monday near 30th and Powell for the groundbreaking.

The city of Portland bought the property in 2017, forcing the well-known strip club out of business.

Planners are hopeful that this site will be a step toward alleviating the housing crisis.

"This is not the end of the effort, it's a step in the right direction, and when it comes down to it, a drop in the bucket," said Damien Hall, chair of Home Forward board of commissioners. "We need more and more projects like this as more and more of the market forces turn to gentrification and tearing down old units and putting up more expensive units that are pricing people out of many areas in Portland."

In 2017, City Council approved \$3.7 million to redevelop the site for affordable housing.