

Before becoming the **Alberta Art District** the area had a rich history. Newcomers were fueling the renaissance. The first developers were immigrants in the 1880s. Alberta has always been a street of pioneers.

1890-1920: At one time there were streetcars running on the street, which started around 1903 then ended in 1948. But during this time of the streetcar, many businesses began opening with the increase of pedestrian traffic. Many of the businesses were incorporated with second-floor apartments, so the owners could live above their shops. Neighborhoods began to fill up around Alberta with modestly sized homes, during the housing boom of 1905- 1913 and again from **1922-1928**. These newly established communities provide homes for German and Russian immigrants. With these neighborhoods and with all the commercial activity the community almost became a city in and of itself. Offering a wide range of services, catering to just about every need of the residents. From food stores, restaurants, a theater, and library. Religious organizations had a strong presence in the community. With Saint Andrews Parish at NE 7th which was completed in 1908 only to burn down in 1920 then rebuilt in 1928. Alberta has a very diverse mix of ethnicities

1920-1950: Alberta made significant changes in the 1940s with the opening of Interstate Ave. Being that it runs North/South to Vancouver. This took auto traffic from Alberta, also with the increased use of the autos led to a decrease in pedestrian traffic. The changing demographic began with the Vanport Flood of 1948, which displaced many African-Americans and other low-income families. Many relocated to the Alberta and the Albina areas. These areas became the home of the majority of the black population in 1939. But from 1940 to 1950 numbers nearly tripled in size from 1600 to 4500.

1950-1990: Projects throughout the 50s, 60s, and 70s had a detrimental effects on housing and transportation in the area. Homes were cleared in the 60s for construction of the Minnesota Freeway now known as the Interstate 5. The freeway shifted automobile traffic away from neighborhood arterial streets. As neighborhood conditions became increasingly poorer, banking institutions refused to provide mortgages for dwellings within a broad area of the inner northeast. With the lack of investments in the area, buildings began showing signs of neglect. Alberta's was becoming known as an unsafe area, with the lack of capital available to the surrounding residents. During the 1960s racial discrimination, disparities and divestment was common throughout the country. This resulted in increased levels of crime and vandalism, gang activity was also on the rise. When in the 80s the Bloods and Crips moved from California to the Alberta area. Bring with them more violence and drug use. Hearing gunshots and drug deals were not uncommon in the 90s.

1990-Present: It was time and the community took action when crime had reached intolerable levels. In 1989 the North/Northeast Economic Development Taskforce and the Sabin Community Development Corporation were formed to develop the neighborhood. They published an action plan. This formed the Albina Community Plan which was adopted by the City of Portland in 1993 and revised in 2000. The plan was to highlight Alberta as a corridor that would be centered around the development of small neighborhood oriented businesses

Artist and activist Roslyn Hill has been a driving force behind the renaissance of Alberta can be attributed to. Recognized by AARP Inspire Award in 2008 for her work, Hill sought to establish roots in the community in which she saw a future. Hill transformed a dilapidated building on 14th Place and Alberta. After rehab, Hill opened Roslyn's Garden Coffee House, (now known as The Tin Shed). Soon other businesses began opening. The street was on its way to becoming the up and coming street you see now. With many art studios, restaurants, and unique shops. As you can see the street has many new buildings going in, but are being made to fit the neighborhood.