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Beyond Bars: Re-envisioning the Prison System*REACH Partners with Oregon Humanities Project*

PORTLAND, Ore – January 14, 2013 – What role do prisons serve in our country? Is it possible to envision a world where people are safe and secure without them? These are questions we'll explore as we re-envision our criminal justice system. [REACH CDC](#) is proud to again partner with [Oregon Humanities](#) to host a free discussion with writer Walidah Imarisha as part of the [Conversation Project](#) on **Tuesday, January 29th at 6:00 pm at Station Place Tower, 1020 NW 9th Ave., Portland, Oregon**. Imarisha helped found the Human Rights Coalition, a prisoners' family organization in Pennsylvania that now has three chapters. She also facilitates writing workshops in correctional facilities and public schools.

Through the Conversation Project, [Oregon Humanities](#) offers free programs that engage community members in thoughtful, challenging conversations about ideas critical to our daily lives and our state's future. The Conversation Project provides free programs for nonprofit organizations to engage community members in humanities-based discussions about critical issues and ideas.

"REACH is honored to be partnering with Oregon Humanities on this important project," says Debbie Lowder, Resident Services Manager. "As we provide services to tenants living in our developments, it's important for all Oregonians to have a thorough understanding of the challenges faced by those experiencing the criminal justice system."

About REACH CDC

For 30 years, REACH has built innovative and affordable housing for low-income families and individuals in the metropolitan region. REACH develops and manages affordable housing and provides supportive services to our residents, as well as free home repairs to senior homeowners. Today, REACH's portfolio includes 1,607 units including single family homes, apartment buildings and mixed-use developments located across the City of Portland. REACH has won numerous state and national awards for its creative approach to building healthy communities and its innovative housing projects. More information available at <http://reachcdc.org>.



A healthy community begins at home

About the Oregon Humanities Project

Through the Conversation Project, Oregon Humanities offers free programs that engage community members in thoughtful, challenging conversations about ideas critical to our daily lives and our state's future. Oregon Humanities connects Oregonians to ideas to change lives and transform communities. More information about Oregon Humanities' programs and publications, which include the Conversation Project, Think & Drink, Humanity in Perspective, Happy Camp, Public Program Grants, Responsive Program Grants, and Oregon Humanities magazine, available at <http://oregonhumanities.org>. Oregon Humanities is an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) and a partner of the [Oregon Cultural Trust](#).

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