



## Metropolitan Learning Center Celebrates 50 Years of Public Alternative Education

Portland, Oregon—Metropolitan Learning Center (MLC) celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 15, 2018 with an all-day fair and evening panel discussion at MLC. As the oldest continually operating alternative school in America, MLC has plenty to celebrate. The day will be filled with photo, video, and art displays encompassing the school's entire history from the free-wheeling first days in 1968 when students were invited to create their own learning program right up to today where MLC students thrive in a progressive educational environment.

"The founders of MLC created a public school where thinking for oneself was paramount," said celebration organizer and MLC parent, Alisa Welch. "For the past 50 years, MLC has occupied a unique space in Portland Public Schools. It's a true alternative school in that students are honored for their opinions and encouraged to seek out their own interests while still pursuing academic excellence."

Graduates and alumni of MLC have gone on to contribute to the arts and social justice in Oregon and beyond, including:

- Rebecca Skloot, whose book "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" spent two years on the New York Times Best Seller List
- Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge, Hon. Leslie Bottomly
- Playwright and television writer, Tanya Barfield who has written for "The Americans" (FX) and the upcoming "Here and Now" (HBO)
- Multi-discipline artists Arnold and Jacob Pander
- Artist Tad Savinar
- *New York Times* artist David Chelsea

MLC's celebration will include an evening panel discussion that will include a keynote address from Oregon Sen. Lew Frederick and panelists Lewis Holland, Susan Beaird, Pam Shelly, Lee Gordon, and the son of the school's founder Emil Abramovic, artist Karl Abramovic.

Admission is free but tickets are required for the panel discussion (\$10) and available here: <https://mlc50.bpt.me>

For more information contact Alisa Welch, [mlc50party@gmail.com](mailto:mlc50party@gmail.com)

Photo gallery for use in publication here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c98oCN59pMgmnddDPvkf9NkPdHQOItoA?usp=sharing>

All events take place at Metropolitan Learning Center, 2033 NW Glisan St., Portland OR 97209

**Quick Facts:**

Event Date	September 15, 2018
Event Name	MLC 50th Anniversary
Event Time	1 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Event Price	Free, Tickets for panel discussion are \$10
Ticket URL	<a href="https://mlc50.bpt.me">https://mlc50.bpt.me</a>
Event URL	<a href="http://mlchistoryproject.org">http://mlchistoryproject.org</a>
Event Description	To celebrate where we have been and where we are headed, we will celebrate MLC's 50th birthday with a daylong festival at Metropolitan Learning Center on September 15, 2018 with history displays, movie screenings, arts and cross-age activities, and music. Our evening panel discussion will feature current and former MLC teachers and keynote address by Senator Lew Frederick. Presented by the MLC PTSA and the MLCEF.
Venue:	Metropolitan Learning Center
Venue Address	2033 NW Glisan St., Portland OR 97209
Contact name	Alisa Welch, Organizer
Contact email	mlc50party@gmail.com