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Ethos Music Center founder Charles Lewis stood by the statue of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Oregon Convention Center with his supporters to announce his candidacy for the Portland City Council.

Music Activist Runs for City Council

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The pieces began to move in the chess game for City Hall last week when an activist from northeast Portland set his sights on a city commission seat.

Ethos Music Center founder Charles Lewis' announcement, almost a year before the May Primary election, puts pressure on his former employer Sam Adams, who currently holds the seat, to make a move for mayor or accept a role as incumbent in the race.

Lewis' candidacy also came with the symbolism of picking up the

fallen torch from two civil rights heroes. The June 6 announcement was made next to the statue of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Oregon Convention Center and on the anniversary of Robert Kennedy's assassination.

Lewis cited his work as a small-business owner targeting tourists and in the nonprofit youth organization Ethos. He also made mention of the fact that he helped raise money for the King statue.

Vowing to avoid special-interest money and campaign waste, Lewis said he plans to use public monies from the city's Voter Owned

Elections law and use biodiesel transportation in his campaign.

He said his experience at Ethos, located on Killingsworth Street between Portland's north and northeast neighborhoods, better positions him to represent city diversity.

Instead of his usual T-shirt, Lewis donned a suit and got a haircut for the announcement.

To avoid a call for higher taxes or cutting services, he said, "Portland's creative community can develop innovative, cost-effective solutions to address our community's social ills."