From *The Oregonian*, June 15 2020 by Douglas Perry:

The authors of Oregon’s constitution declared that no black people could reside in the state or hold real estate. They relied on precedent for this decree. The territorial legislature had passed a black-exclusion law in 1844 -- dictating regular public lashings until lawbreakers left the territory -- and followed it up with another such law five years later.

The state’s founders sought to create nothing short of “a white utopia,” says Oregon author and scholar Walidah Imarisha. “An idealized racist white society.”

This studio will focus on creating a Center for the Study of Racism in Oregon. It is a program that combines three main objectives:

- to educate visitors to the history of racism in Oregon through changing exhibitions
- to establish a forum for the discussion of racism in Oregon through public lectures and events
- to create a research center of educational materials and artifacts for scholars and the general public regarding issues of racism both historical and current in the state of Oregon.

The center will be approximately 15,000 sq.ft and is located in an existing building on the edge of the Pearl District in Portland Oregon.