

Interview Transcript: Melissa Robb and Michael Klindt

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Michael 00:00:00

Michael Kay Media once again bringing you the Springfield History Museum Illumination Project today. I am here with Marissa Rob. Marissa how is it going?

Marissa 00:00:13

It's going good.

Michael 00:00:15

It's going good?

Marissa 00:00:16

Thanks for having me back...

Michael 00:00:17

Yea, of Course

Marissa 00:00:18

Without the little. So...

Michael 00:00:21

For those who don't know, we did this interview once, and she has a wonderful, beautiful child that was a little busy. So she said, you know, can I come back and do this again? So...

Marissa 00:00:36

Yes. Thank you, appreciate it.

Michael 00:00:40

So my first question is, what is your family or personal origin story for Springfield Oregon. Like, what brought you here?

Marissa 00:00:53

Well, my family moved here and not to Springfield actually, to Eugene when I was two. They were pretty tired of raising kids in Southern California. So we moved actually during like the

riots in 92 from Los Angeles to Oregon. And my dad was finishing his doctorate at the University of Oregon for music. And so this is home is all I really know. And my parents still live in the house that I grew up in when I was two. So southwest hills of the Eugene, actually. So not a native Springfield person. But, you know, I'm also adopted, so I feel like my experience growing up here as like multiracial is quite different than other people's experiences. I mean, obviously I always knew I was adopted ever since I can remember. But I also didn't really realize the impact of what being a person of color or mixed meant, honestly until my teens. And then, you know, when you're a teen, you're trying to figure out also who you are. So definitely would through some identity crisis issues for a couple of years. And like, what did being Black mean? And unfortunately, I think because there wasn't like a huge community here in Lane County anyways... I mean, I remember looking up my library and actually looked at how many students of color, how many African American students went to the school, and that was at Churchill. And she was like, "there's 54". And I'm like, Where are they all hiding? I only see about 20. Like, where are they? So out of 1300 students... And even for me to say where are 54%... (whispers) That's nothing. You know? So, it wasn't easy. You after... Especially like probably junior or senior year, then like early twenties, to like kind of figure out where I belong... And the and how do I want to portray myself or like, what does being a Black woman mean? And I have to figure that out for some time. And I and I did. Pretty unscathed. Thankfully. But, you know, for a while I thought, you know, what you see on MTV music videos like you... You know, I think Hustle and Flow had just come out at that time. I was like, that's what being Black means. Like being a hustler... (whispers) Naive... I sound so naive. Gangster, you know, thug, tough, no emotions. And then I realized, Well, that's not true. Leah Dunbar, my teacher, she's Mixed. You know, there's all these doctors and lawyers out there. And maybe not Oregon per se, in the general area, but, like, there's such a bigger, broad spectrum than just that. So then I really settled into my own. I don't know how much more you want me to keep rolling on about this, but, you know, like, I lived here until I was 26. Then I moved up to Portland for five years almost. And, you know, I worked from age 21 to 26, an average of 60 to 80 hours a week by choice. Did private hospice and geriatric care. Threw myself into work, and I traveled a lot. So that was the plus side. I worked all those hours. And then because I did hospice, when someone would pass, I would take some time off and go travel and take a break. So... And that was also what I then appreciated in my twenties about Oregon, because I would go experience all this diversity and culture. But then I come back to Oregon. I'm like, it's so green. It's not a concrete jungle. The traffic is only 15 minutes, like you know? So, I just I appreciated that, and that's probably what's kept me here so long and I didn't move away was because I got to travel in my twenties and, and I had job security here. And then moving to Portland like that was a little bit difficult restarting because like all my clientele, all the people that referenced me were obviously here in this surrounding area of Springfield, Eugene, Creswell, you know, Cottage Grove. And then moving to Portland was like, okay, here we go, starting over. And I did and you know. I had a family up there and then we moved back during the pandemic. Didn't think I would come back to Eugene. But you know now I'm here, I'm actually now like a single mom. All my family lives here. I've got three older siblings, nieces and nephews. Good community. And I'm content. I'm content. And I feel like Eugene is more diverse. I remember like, you know, people would come and visit me like, wow, I mean, you know, is it diverse? And like, well, I can go like seven days, five days without seeing another Black person, even at the market unless I go to like by campus,

you know, because that's where everyone was, because they're all students. And then it was like moving back here in 2020, slowly, in 2021, it's like, oh! Hello, I see other people. And it's not maybe like we're not the majority by any means, but it's like, I'm not the only person of color in the theater or, you know, Yeah, that kind of thing.

Michael 00:06:31

Rewinding a little bit, if I could ask, were you adopted by a family of color?

Marissa 00:06:37

No. My parents are both white. My birth mom was a youth at the church that they did youth group at. And so when she became pregnant, my mom was older. She's 43 and my dad was nine years younger. So she couldn't have more kids biologically. And so my birth mom was like, I know you've been trying to have kids. Do you want to adopt mine? And so, I've always known my birth mom, and that's a whole 'nother story. She's white. I actually do not know the Black side of my family. I thought I did. Did the DNA test and it wasn't him. But I still consider him kind of a Black father figure. He lives in Chico and we stay in touch. But DNA wise, like he's mine, taught me to drive. Actually, I didn't learn to drive those 20. And so my parents, being the rule abiders, were like, You need to get your permit. And my biological dad came up to the first time to meet me, knew I didn't know license. He... And we were driving and he pulled over. I was down the road, was like, "your turn." I was like, No, I don't... He was like "No. I'm teaching you how to drive. I haven't been here all your life, but I'm a teach you how to drive." So that's like, I have a special place for him in my heart. Just as someone that I care about, you know, and always kind of like dad, but not dad 'cause he didn't raise me. Does that make sen... It's. I mean, it's complicated, right?

Michael 00:08:12

Yeah, it is. I... Because I'm adopted myself. Okay? And like, I don't even I don't even know my biological father's name. Like, I have these weird, mysterious clues of who he might have been.

Marissa 00:08:24

Have you done an DNA test?

Michael 00:08:25

I have not.

Marissa 00:08:26

So I've done the ancestry, and that's why I found out that Reggie wasn't my dad. And then I had bought him one, and it didn't come up at all. And then 23 of me is completely different database. And I feel like part of me is like I'm worried about because I'm 32. If their dead, you know, if I'll even find them. I love my parents. They're my biggest support system. I think they did the best they could with obviously being in Eugene and not having the diversity that they wish they could have had. But for the most part, I would say I'm not mad at the childhood I had. You know? I never said once like, I wish you weren't my mom! You know, you're not my mom! I'm adopted! You know? You're not my real mom! You know? I never said anything like that. So,

yeah, I uh... It's interesting. It's still complex. I don't think... You know, my parents try to relate and understand and I think they've also, like, now that I've got kids and there's grand babies African American... Like they're Black, you know? It it's... They're even more protective and like doing the research and the history to understand where we come from and what we have to face on a daily basis. Especially raising two boys. I worry about that sometimes here. Like raising two Black boys. Not like safety wise, but diversity wise. So I always think to myself... At least need to get them more exposure to Black community outside of what is Lane County. But I also think this is a great place to raise families because it's safer. And we have a good, you know, for the most part, great community... In that like Eugene Springfield area. You know, I obviously think about when you go past, you see Confederate flags and, you know, all those things and it... It makes me nervous when I drive past that. I think... I think it does for any person that's of a minority. And it's like, please don't break down as we're driving... Please don't break down. Yeah, but yeah... Yea, I'm here. And then and actually appreciating Lane County and Springfield more as an adult than I ever would have as a teen or young adult. I mean, the reputation was 'Springtucky', you know, Springfield High School, 'Springtucky'. Like, I don't think you can call it that anymore. I feel like it's the most diverse... As we were talking earlier, diverse school in like 4J... Lane County area. (Whispers) Obviously it's not 4j, but you know...

Michael 00:11:14

So then what, what brought you from Eugene to Springfield right?

Marissa 00:11:19

Well...

Michael 00:11:20

Well, from Eugene, to Portland, to Springfield right?

Marissa 00:11:23

I actually moved back to spring... To Eugene when we came back to Portland. I've been in Springfield now about a year. I met my landlord at the Black Cultural Festival last year. Excuse me. And I was selling jam. I started a business called Black Wolf Homestead, and I started selling jam and making jam. And I knew I was going to be a single mom soon. I was living with my children's father and it just wasn't working out. And so, I was like, what can I do to make money because I'm a full-time student still and like having extra cash on the side, right? Or at least, like, pay all the bills. And I knew that Cottage Kitchen Law, you could make your own like shelf stable jams and preserves and other things like. But I was like, there's no way I can do bread and one oven. There's no way I can make, you know, muffins enough to sell in one... Like, you know, oven. So I was like, What can I do that's a bigger scale and that I can sell without having to have a commercial kitchen, right? So I was like, making jams and jellies! And I was like, okay, here's my deadline, three-month-old bab... Or no, I think my son was son was like two months. I had 31 days to make jam and jellies and I did it. And I got to the Black Cultural Festival. I remember my mom being like, "Marissa, you have a newborn and a two-year-old. How are you going to have enough time in 21..." No, it was 21 days, "to like have enough product to sell at this event?" And I was like, just going to do Mom. I'm going to do it. Stayed up almost every

night like just 5 a.m. until... Just getting it done, making jam. Sweating away in that kitchen. And then I got to the festival and my landlord bought jams from me, and was like, I've got a plum tree. Would you like some plums? I was like, yes, please. You know? Went out there to the country off of like Camp Creek Road, and I went and picked some jam (sic). And then I saw that there is this high tunnel, not even being utilized. It was just empty and bare. And I was like, you know what? My mind was like, closed mouths don't get fed. So I asked. I was like, I going to come back and ask her, like, Can I rent it for cheap, do some trade? But I'm like... I was like a see some tall grass. Maybe I can mow for her or something? And so I came back like four days later 'cause I knew she was leaving soon because she doesn't live in town. And I was like, knocked on the door. No one home. Then I called her. I was like, Hey, like I'm back. I brought you some jam. I have a question to ask you. My parents had my oldest son, 'cause I just had the baby because I didn't really want a toddler running around while ask such an important question. Like hey, can we... Can I rent this space from you? And so she said, "Oh, I'm at my other farm. 5 minutes down the road, I'm at work." I was like, oh. Is there a time that works for you? I would love to ask you some (incomprehensible) questions like in person. She was like, "Here's the address. Come down." So I asked her 45 minutes later, like, hey, like that high tunnel, can I rent it? Do some trade work? She's like, "Oh! I've got one here too." Like, you know, "Do you want to check that one out?" And she's like... I was like, my gosh, thank you so much. Like, that means so much to me. She's like "You're a new single mom, do you need a place to live?" And I was like, Actually, yes, I do need a place to live. She's like, "Got an abandoned farmhouse. Go take a look. I've got a meeting, meet back here in 45 minutes." That's exactly what I did. I drove around with my baby to the end of the property and I walked in there and I was like, (whispers) Oh my God, there's so much work. But I could see the potential too. And I was like, a safe place, three bedroom, two bath, lots of places to run for my kids. Backyard gardens, fenced garden space that you couldn't even see through when I moved in. But I was like, I can see the vision. Like, you know, I can see it. Lots of fruit trees and just yeah. And I was like, okay. I went back and we talked about it. And three days later she let me hire my family friend who's a handyman, and... Because there was so much work to be done... And for five weeks maybe, maybe like 5 and a half weeks, he and I... I was... I had the baby on my back. Sometimes I had Cassian with me which is my oldest, and I was doing 14-hour days just to get ready because I started school. But September 27th or 20th last year. So it was like, okay, it's now or never. So I moved in officially October 1st. And just put in all that work to get it livable. And now I'm still working on it. It's like endless projects, but it also feels good. And my kids love the space, you know, walk out and play on the porch or walk down the... To the river. And I don't to worry about cars or people. And it's just like... I call it my pocket a peace.

Michael 00:16:32

It sounds like too like you were conditioned for that by the 60, 80 hours you worked.

Marissa 00:16:39

Oh... Absolutely.

Michael 00:16:40

(Incomprehensible) ... in hospice.

Marissa 00:16:41

Yea...

Michael 00:16:42

And all them hours with the jam.

Marissa 00:16:44

Yeah, I'm not afraid of hard work. So... And it's interesting like - 20, 14, 16 (years old) I started watching people on YouTube about homesteading and I was like, one day, one day I'm going to have my own, like just to like ten, 20 acres, right? Didn't think I'd be like managing a property of 120 acres, running an Airbnb and then doing my own business. And yeah, like my ultimate dream still, obviously... And whether that's on this property or one day my own is, I'm in school for midwifery, nurse midwife. So I want to be able to have women come birth on my property because I think it's really important for Black women to have magical experiences with birth because we don't get that more often than not being a minority. Like Black women are three times more likely to die. So me realizing that I couldn't dedicate what I used to the hospice after having my kids, I chose to go back to school for nurse midwife. Because I knew that would bring stability but also still flexibility with what I chose to take on and I could still have like a vacation with my kids, you know what I mean? And not be doing all those hours. In the same... You know, it's different. It's completely different. So, I mean, I've still got five years of school left, but that's my dream, is to have women come birth on the property, and run a nonprofit with my farm business eventually. To like talk about sustainability. To help people that live even in apartments to know you can grow food no matter where you are. Like you don't have to be on a farm. You can be, you know, windowsill. And it's possible anyways. So that's just like a little bit of what I am working towards.

Michael 00:18:40

That must be an incredible amount of experiential human knowledge to go from hospice to midwifery to like birth and death. That's like the full gamut of human experience.

Marissa 00:18:55

It really is... You know, in hospice, people describe death as like birthing someone into death because there's so many stages, just like in having a baby. There's lots of stages to death as well. And it really you know, you've seen it all. You see in sudden I've seen sudden and I've seen the progression where it takes like, you know, like one moment you think someone's going to pass and the next moment they're still here 14 days later holding on. And usually that's for a phone call from somebody. They're waiting to hear from somebody. And I've definitely been to more funerals than weddings at my age because of what I've done for a living. But it's been the biggest gift being able to do hospice, and I think it's given me appreciation for life. I always say getting old is a privilege. You know what the aches and pains that come along with it. But you know, we're not guaranteed tomorrow. So I'm grateful that I've gotten to. Also, I always tell my clients I should be in the rocking chair next to you knitting. I'm such an old soul that I just really

appreciated their knowledge and learning from their generation because that generation like of World War Two, even like that's dying. That's not... They're not going to be around much longer, you know? And, and a lot of those practices that I'm doing on my homestead, making jam, you know, baking from scratch like, so many people are losing that, you know? Making your own medicine, you know, really into like medicinals, you know, so... Medicinal herbs, not the other stuff, (whispers) but you know.

Michael 00:20:36

So yeah. So I mean, you mentioned that you haven't lived in Springfield for very long, but in terms of history, we'd have to check. But you might be the first African-American in Springfield to manage 120 acres.

Marissa 00:20:55

Thank you... (laughs) It's a good... It's a big undertaking, but I feel really grateful to be doing it. And it brings me joy every day and like watching the sunset out my window, like in the hills and hearing the cows in the fields, like it's... It's pretty incredible. I'm not trading it for anything. That's for certain. Yeah.

Michael 00:21:16

What are what are some of your most impactful memories in Springfield.

Marissa 00:21:21

Good or bad?

Michael 00:21:23

Both. Either or.

Marissa 00:21:25

I think I start with some negatives and then we'll switch to positives. I think when I was younger, like the joke obviously of being like 'Springtuky' or like the Springfield cops like are a little more checking people that aren't white. And I've had that experience with being pulled over before when my girlfriend and I, I think I told this last time. My girlfriend and I were leaving the bar for just, you know, having a girl's night. And it was three days for two days before Christmas Eve. And I joked to her saying, don't have another drink, because, you know, we're in Springfield. And so we didn't, and we were driving and we're going up towards the Glenwood Bridge and that like 35... Actually, I look the other day, I'm like, there they removed it because there is no 35 miles zone anymore. But there used to be, right before you hit the Glenwood Bridge. And... And we were looking at it so she's speeding up and we get pulled over right before we get to it. It's like you were going 26 and then 20, and she's like, I'm sorry. I didn't realize that. And he asked for both of our IDs. And you're not supposed to ask for a passenger I.D. unless there's something like significantly suspicious. He asked if the car wasn't insured but never actually took the insurance card or asked to see it. So it was just he ran out id's and give us a warning. So what were you looking for? You know what I mean? Like, and I didn't want to say anything at the time obviously, because I'm like, it's two days before

Christmas. (Whispers) I'm not trying to use trouble. Not that I should even have to feel that way, but feel like that's probably one of my most, you know, like... Ah well, just proved me right. Totally. I don't have another drink. We're going to get pulled over and look what happened. Or maybe I wrote that and like, you know, by saying it, it came to fruition. So that's probably one of my most negative.

Michael 00:23:18

Is it, does it keep you on your toes even to this day? When you're out and about?

Marissa 00:23:22

I think... I feel like... Maybe it's not, I don't think it's just me, but like being a Black woman, like any time I see a police officer, I feel like I sit up straighter in my car. And I just to try to like, you know like, less movement as possible. Hi. (Waves) you know, I still get nervous even if I'm doing nothing wrong. Like I right... When I'm doing nothing wrong, that's what I'm trying to say. I still get nervous, even if I'm following the rules of the road.

Michael 00:23:51

What do you think would ease your nerves or, you know, settle, settle you more about that? Like what would need to happen?

Marissa 00:23:59

I think that like having more conversations with like the, the Springfield like Police Department in general. I think that they don't always have the best reputation sometimes. And I think that continuing these conversations about minorities and like... We're also seen but not seen as like a threat would be more comforting.

Michael 00:24:24

So more like direct community outreach.

Marissa 00:24:26

Yeah

Michael 00:24:27

Community relationship development.

Marissa 00:24:29

Exactly. And maybe it's still like psychological from growing up here for so long. Hearing stories throughout my years of like growing up in Lane County. But like, yeah, I think community outreach and like, having a, like... Understanding that mental health, even... Not even just for... Even for homeless people, that mental health is real and we shouldn't be using physical violence always. Like call Cahoots for a reason kind of thing. You know, there's a time and place for it. And then I think there's a lot that can be talked down and we know how to speak right and not escalate things. But I also I'm speaking out of like my past experience. Maybe I'm still in that kind of mode. Could have changed. I don't know how much it's changed.

Michael 00:25:20

I know it's... It's challenging because, you know, I know that not all officers are like that.

Marissa 00:25:28

No, and I don't want to say all officers are like that.

Michael 00:25:29

Like here at Springfield High School where I work, like we have a resource officer that like, works really well with, you know, the students and whatnot. But, you know, it's one of those things where unfortunately it's those bad experiences that...

00:25:47:01 - 00:25:47:19

Marissa

Taint.

00:25:47

Michael

Are so powerful that the trauma is really hard to let go of. Like I haven't had any negative encounters with officers in Springfield. And, you know, I've gotten pulled over a few times and they weren't negative interactions other than the ticket.

Marissa 00:26:07

(laughs) Lead foot.

Michael 00:26:08

But like, also like when I was married, I was living in Eugene and my wife at the time was driving on the highway by the mill back to Eugene from Springfield. And she came home crying because she said that like an officer, like, sped up behind her and then like, got next to her and kind of like, swerved like to run her off the road and then, like, sped off and was gone. She came home like, crying. I'm like, it's so hard when...

Marissa 00:26:41

You've got those hotheads.

00:26:43 Michael

Yea.

Marissa 00:26:44

But then you've got the good ones actually make a difference. And that's... Exactly. I feel like you can be that anywhere, though. You know what I mean? It's that in Eugene, it's that... It's all over our country. We talk about it all the time in the news, you know. And so it's... It's an issue, I think, that starts with training. And obviously we don't dive into the whole police brutality or even like, you know, like the conduct of like how we address things like mental illness or other

issues so that we don't come off... But I think there's something skewed in our justice system in the way that police protect. But then you've got the ones that trickle through and taint the entire system.

Michael 00:27:29

Yeah, it is something that even just talking locally in Springfield that if they come and they do another Illumination Project in ten or 20 years. If we can have that conversation.

Marissa 00:27:42

Right?

Michael 00:27:42

Maybe that interview in 20 years will be a little bit...

Marissa 00:27:45

(points at an imaginary watch) How old will I be in 20 years? (laughs)

Michael 00:27:46

(laughs) a little bit different. What about what about the positive, impactful memories that you that you were referring to?

Marissa 00:27:54

I think that it's reinforced in me a (incomprehensible) being more inclusive and in like recognizing people's heritages. Like the library putting on in the park with like for kids and families to come see, which is like, you know, like South African music and dance and, and like Latinx, like culture and dancing and folk, you know, Native American heritage. And I think that my kids have really enjoyed going to those Wednesday events because it's just like, gets you thinking about not just us, but other cultures. And I think Springfield's doing a really good job at like making the downtown area better and like more desirable to, like, venture out with your family and there's more spaces to go like... What's that church called that you can go eat at? It's like a... You know what I'm talking about.

Michael 00:28:55

Public House?

Marissa 00:27:56

Yeah, Public House. So like converting that into a space where it's not far from like the library or like Tap House and, you know, other things like that. Like go and enjoy being out and about. So I think that they're doing a better job at... At recognizing people's heritages.

Michael 00:29:16

I think along that same lines (sic), what would you say some of the biggest opportunities are in Springfield and some of the biggest challenges?

Marissa 00:29:26

You know, I think that just bringing more awareness to the Black community that is here and like saying, hey, we are here like support businesses. And not just the Black community obviously, but right now we're talking about the Black community, but minorities in general too. Like I think it's important for us to be seen and in a positive way and like supported and so many like what you're doing as a teacher, you know, or you know, what other people are bringing to the community. Who's the man? I'm sorry, mom brain... That we did his we went to the shop it's right off of Main Street.

Michael 00:30:14

Bryan at OG Studios.

Marissa 00:30:17

Right like his studio. That's not only a barbershop, it's like a yoga studio. It's fantastic.

Michael 00:30:23

I didn't know it was there until...

Marissa 00:30:24

We went?

Michael 00:30:25

We had the meeting.

Marissa 00:30:26

Exactly.

Michael 00:30:27

And I work down the street.

Marissa 00:30:28

And me neither. Exactly. So it's like creating a list in Springfield of, like communities and businesses and people that are doing good things and the... For this city and saying hey we're here, like, come check us out yeah come support. Because I think that's where it starts is like us being seen because I don't think we are seen in a lot of ways and we don't know. I mean, I know that I've never met you and other people in the community even, and I've lived here all the time, you know, my majority of my life. So I think that in this project and things like this making us even as a Black community, more aware that we're here and that there are so much there's so much diversity in... In what we're doing. Like everyone has something. A different niche. Sorry... Mom brain. Everyone is a different niche. And what is that? I want to know more. And, Oh my gosh, I think that's amazing that you're doing this, you know? And just really realizing that even as a Black community that we can grow and be more centered and be like, Let's do more things here, you know.

Michael 00:31:46

Because that was going to be my next question is what... What sort of... What would you like to see happen in terms of developing the Black community in Springfield?

Marissa 00:31:54

I would love to see like... Like I said, I think last time, like Black Cultural Festival, Juneteenth, like things like that. We don't have obviously anything in Springfield like that. And maybe it's just across the bridge, but... And obviously the two communities come together, but like still, like realizing that we're here and bringing people over on this side of the bridge to do something would be great to see. And... And bringing the Black community together in a way that, like we continue to grow. Because I feel like transplants are moving here all the time. And I think that's also one of the biggest issues, is that it's so white and that we don't get a chance to like really set roots because we don't feel like not, not maybe not me, because I've got community, but transplants don't feel community because we don't like... Where have you been? Where, where are you? You know, where can I go to, like, just supported and see people that look like me?

Michael 00:32:55

Yeah. Because and you know, back to that, the biggest challenges and the biggest opportunities in Springfield and talking to so many people, it sounds like one of the biggest opportunities is just that there is space here available and that, you know, the opportunities to rent or to buy a home or property are pretty unique here.

Marissa 00:33:19

Yeah.

Michael 00:33:20

But then once you do that...

Marissa 00:33:21

Right.

Michael 00:33:22

There's a sense of how do I actually make this feel like home? And part of that is...

Marissa 00:33:29

Exactly.

Michael 00:33:30

Where's the community?

00:33:31

Marissa

Where's the community?

Michael 00:33:31

Like Where do I go? Who do I interface with?

Marissa 00:33:35

Right. And I'm still looking for that in a sense. I feel like sometimes the Black community in itself really stick to each other, like families stick to one another and they don't really want to go outside of that bubble to like, interact with new people either. Which I find really strange. And I hope that that starts to change. Like and projects like this, like, I said. Or getting out of a community and like doing more activities and yearly things that aren't just in the summer, like The Black Cultural Festival. Like it needs to... We need to do things together. And I hope that continues to grow over the years, and somebody else wants to take on doing an event that, you know, it's like, hey, we should be seen. We should, we should come together and hang out. I don't know. You know what I mean?

Michael 00:34:24

So, yeah, there's a physical bridge between Eugene and Springfield. We need more of a social bridge.

Marissa 00:34:31

Yeah.

Michael 00:34:32

Between the two.

Marissa 00:34:33:14

Exactly.

Michael 00:34:35

I have one more question, which is this is a history project. So what, what message do you have to, like, leave in, in the historical record that, you know, people maybe in the future will look back on?

Marissa 00:34:58

I think that if you are a family and that you want to raise your kids, it... It's a good place to do it because not only like do you have the mountains, you have the ocean an hour away in the cities, an hour and a half away. It's a city, I mean, Portland. And I think that if people stay in, are willing to like, put in the work to build a better community as more diverse and like, you know, really come together as a Black community that I think actually could be something good. Because I think I from growing up and now obviously that I see the difference and I feel like there's more diversity here. Even though in Springfield, technically it's 0.84% and 1.3 over in Eugene. Like, I still feel like I see more (Black people) on a on a daily basis now. It's really taking the time to, like, introduce ourselves, come together as a community and do more things together so that transplants, or people that want to move here and consider this place beautiful in so many ways because of all the, you know, things it has to offer between nature

and like diversity and community farmers markets, school system is pretty good. You don't... Don't... Don't run. Don't move. Like, give it time. Because I feel like if we continue to keep building, there'll be more people that come to.

Michael 00:36:30

Sounds like you have some significant things to contribute to that with offering an opportunity for people to come have an amazing birth experience.

Marissa 00:36:40

Yeah. (Laughs) I sure hope so...

Michael 00:36:41

To learn about homesteading and how to raise their own food.

Marissa 00:36:47

Yeah.

Michael 00:36:48

And to taste some delicious jams while they're at it.

Marissa 00:36:52

Absolutely. Tuesday farmer's market and come see me. Course you're in school soon so. Yeah. Christmas break. (laughs)

Michael 00:37:01

All right. So, yes, that is the Springfield History Museum Illumination Project shedding light on the people with roots in the Springfield community. And even if they're a bit newer to creating a home in the community, planting roots and and, and... Adding to the palette of perspectives and backgrounds so that Springfield can continue to grow its, its diversity. And me, I'm Michael Kay Media signing off until next time we got to hear from Marissa Robb thank you so much.

Marissa 00:37:42

Yeah, thanks for having me.

Michael 00:37:45

So till next time be well.

Marissa 00:37:49

Be Well. Thank you...

Michael 00:37:51

Thank you.

