

**DIRECTOR'S
DESK**

By Israel Bayer



Welcome to the 10th Anniversary edition of Street Roots. On page 7 you will find a history of Street Roots along with other tidbits about the organization.

Readers will also notice ads for a new recurring donation campaign that Street Roots is launching. Street Roots is working to recruit new and long-term supporters to give a monthly donation online this year. It's a safe and easy way to give to Street Roots that won't burn a hole in your pocket. Five or 10 dollars a month will help keep Street Roots strong and sustainable, especially during these hard economic times when the paper and the vendor program are more relevant than ever.

Readers are also welcome to a Street Roots open house on Tuesday, March 24, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the office at 211 NW Davis. Come meet vendors, staff and volunteers and hear about the organization's mission and where we are headed.

Street Roots will be having events throughout the year to celebrate our 10 years in the Portland community. Other fun things on the horizon are a Street Roots barbecue, an annual event with a keynote speaker and awards, and an anthology highlighting 10 years of Street Roots poetry and art. If you or your business is interested in hosting an event or doing some kind of benefit for the organization, give us a call.

The demographics on the streets continue to move around the city. Northwest Portland, the Pearl and east Portland continue to see a rise in people sleeping out and on street corners. While many drug dealers and people on the streets are systematically removed from the downtown core and gentrification continues to reshape the city, an increase in poverty continues to bleed into surrounding neighborhoods that aren't equipped to deal with the rise in problems that happen on the streets. Nothing is black and white, including crime and poverty – everything on the streets comes in different shades of grey. Portland is experiencing a slew of things that are compounding these issues from bad policy to the lack of housing to the recession.

And lastly, we want to give a special thanks to everyone that has supported and continues to support Street Roots over the past 10 years. Hundreds of individuals have become housed with Street Roots, while thousands more have had life-changing experiences and turned their lives around to do positive things in this lifetime. We appreciate your readership and commitment to building relationships with folks on the beat and supporting a more just society for all of Portland.

Street Roots
211 NW Davis St.
Portland, OR 97209

Address service requested.

**ACT
NOW**

Steps you can take to make a difference

**What you can do**

Call (503.962.4910) or email (pr@trimet.org) TriMet Public Relations office and tell them you want to Fareless Square to remain the same – free and welcoming for all.

AT ISSUE: FARELESS SQUARE**Preserve Fareless Square
for everyone downtown**

TriMet is once again considering taking away Fareless Square. TriMet along with the Portland Business Alliance are all working on proposals that would range from dramatically overhauling Fareless Square geographically to charging \$1 to ride downtown and to Lloyd Center.

The police, business alliance and TriMet have alluded to Fareless Square creating an atmosphere of lawlessness. They also point to the loss of revenue for TriMet, an estimated \$800,000.

We think the proposed changes are about greed and intolerance. The proposed changes strike at the heart of what makes Portland unique. Portland's downtown is not a lawless urban environment regardless of how many lobbyists the Portland Business Alliance hires to say so. And we think the loss of revenue that small and large businesses will incur with no Fareless Square will far outweigh the \$800,000 in revenue for TriMet.

The Fareless Square system is a model that brings people together. Regardless of your class or culture, together we are able to move around the city's core in a way that promotes and celebrates what we have in common, not our differences. Fareless Square must stay.

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YOUR DONATION MATTERS

Street Roots is a 501(c)3, nonprofit organization. All donations are greatly appreciated and may be tax deductible. I would like to contribute:

\$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$_____

Send your check to:

Street Roots, 211 NW Davis, Portland, OR, 97209

Donate online at www.streetroots.org