

EDITORIAL

Post election, the real work begins

There's a lot to be proud of coming off the heels of the election. Four states moved marriage equality forward. Colorado and Washington voted to legalize marijuana.

Nine communities in Massachusetts, Washington, Rhode Island and California passed affordable housing measures and levies — with San Francisco passing a proposition for \$1.1 billion dollars that will go toward affordable housing. That's amazing.

Locally, Portland and Multnomah County stepped up and voted to support education, the arts and the library.

We expect our newly elected leaders, the business community and Portland as a whole to tackle these issues. We need leadership and we need innovation from the top.

Statewide, we made investments in the future by passing Measure 85 that would divert the corporate kicker into our public schools.

After all is said and done, \$6 billion was raised in the presidential election and millions on local elections. We don't need

to tell you, that's a lot of money.

In a time when many people and businesses are struggling, it's a reminder that in the United States there is still an enormous amount of wealth. Election results also remind us that we are far more progressive than is often projected by corporate media and those on the fringes.

Now that the election is over, it's time to collectively roll up our sleeves and get to work.

We know that it's time to bring marriage equality to the State of Oregon. We know that we will be moving forward on health care reform, and Oregonians will help lead the way. We know that a much more robust strategy on education and housing has to be created, both locally and nationally. We know that it's time to change the criminal justice system and to approach drug users and others with new and innovative hard reduction models.

It's time to reinforce the hope and change that has received so much lip service of late, and work to maintain an environment that will allow both local communities and the nation to move forward.

We are lucky in Portland. We have a wealth of natural resources, which are the individuals and families that make up this great city. But we also have our work cut out for us on both the equity and poverty fronts, and with police reform. When compared to San Francisco and Seattle, we are woefully behind on creating revenue for affordable housing, homeless services and opportunities for people of color.

We will never be able to truly compete with those cities unless we face these problems straight on. We expect our newly elected leaders, the business community and Portland as a whole to tackle these issues. We need leadership and we need innovation from the top.

Molds are being broken, not overnight, but gradually we are reshaping how we perceive and manage a just and functional society. And we will move forward, with responsive leaders — provided we remember that we all have our hands on the reins.

Join the talk of the town in Street Roots

One of the most powerful things about Street Roots is the community that is built between people experiencing poverty and the public. We can't express

enough what it means to people to have an income, while also being able to develop relationships with Street Roots customers and local businesses. It means having hope for many, and hope goes a long

special story about an experience with a Street Roots vendor this past year, post your story on Facebook.

We will take selected submissions from vendors and readers and publish them in the December edition of the newspaper.

This year Street Roots is asking for your support to help us maintain both the vendor program and the newspaper. A donation to Street Roots goes further than you could ever imagine.

From now until Dec. 31, Street Roots will be holding our annual fundraising efforts. When you give to Street Roots, you know your donation is guaranteed to go directly to supporting the vendors and the editorial work we do.

How do I give? There are several ways to give this year. You can simply write a check to Street Roots and mail it to 211 NW Davis, 97209, or go online at streetroots.org or through the Willamette Week Give!Guide at wweek.com/giveguide.

We can't thank you enough for your love this holiday season. From all of us at Street Roots, we salute you.



Israel Bayer is the executive director of Street Roots. You can reach him at israel@streetroots.org

DIRECTOR'S DESK

By Israel Bayer

way.

We're asking readers to tag Street Roots on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram throughout the month of November.

For example, you find your partner or friend enjoying a cup of coffee and reading a Street Roots on a rainy Saturday morning? Post a pic on Instagram using the #StreetRoots hashtag. The next time you purchase a paper from your local neighborhood vendor, take a photo and drop it on Twitter and tag @StreetRoots. Have a

Immigration, local police relationship too cozy for some readers

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Letters to the editor are welcome at the Street Roots office, 211 NW Davis St., Portland, OR 97209, or e-mailed to joanne@streetroots.org.

Re: "Local enforcement of fed's immigration law weakens public safety" (Partnership for Safety and Justice, Street Roots, Oct. 12) This article demonstrates the problem that our community faces. Trust and resources are lost when the police and Immigration collaborate with the purpose of deporting people. I agree that Multnomah County can set an example by ceasing to honor ICE holds in our county jails. It is up to Sheriff Stanton to implement such a change. So far,

the sheriff has been unresponsive to a draft policy that was submitted to his office for consideration. The community needs to speak up. Contact the sheriff by phone, 503-988-4300, and the county commissioners, 503-823-4000, and tell them you want an end to police/ICE collaboration and our jail personnel must not honor ICE holds.

— BOB BROWN
Multnomah County

The Seed of Unity

By Echo Logic

He planted the seed of today
She planted the seed of tomorrow
Shall we plant a seed of infinity's way?
Give this tree birth, let her grow
Nay! Let her flourish!

Let all intricate branch growths reach to the stars
Singing into our spirits the song of silence
How bold this moment, ecstatic whispers
Channeling forth into graceful, alert presence

Let this flow live on in all things, born to reflect
As these tears, being crafted of joy, find remembrance
Reach to the heavens, pull back to Earth a sacred object
Let this flute breathe into space its mystical fragrance

May we live on, strong and aware of purpose
Together, all is possible, so long as we see
We have each other, something to live for
Forgetting material distractions, we have unity!
Let all life forms find this, beyond words:
Thousands of tears fall to Earth, living on
Through the ages, we shall know, feel all!

Our mission

Street Roots creates income opportunities for people experiencing homelessness and poverty by producing a newspaper and other media that are catalysts for individual and social change.

Street Roots publishes every two weeks, launching on Fridays, and is available exclusively through our street vendors or by subscription. We are proud members of the North American Street Newspaper Association and the International Network of Street Papers.

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Street Roots Rose City Resource

Street Roots publishes the Rose City Resource, a comprehensive booklet of services for people experiencing homelessness and poverty. To inquire about getting an order of the Rose City Resource for distribution, please write to pdxrosecityresource@gmail.com. Resources are also available online at www.rosecityresource.org.

Vendors

Street Roots vendors buy the newspapers for 25 cents each and sell them for \$1, keeping the 75 cents in profit for themselves. In order to keep the cost low to our vendors, we receive additional support from donations and in-kind contributions.



75¢
goes directly to the vendor
who sold you the paper

25¢
goes toward
printing costs

Vendor orientations are at 1 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Street Roots office.