

A new year, a new paper and countless new opportunities

Welcome to the inaugural weekly edition of Street Roots! Many people have asked us how going weekly would change our editorial content. In a way, it won't change at all. Our aspiration has always been to cover a wide

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variety of issues important to Oregonians – in depth – and to represent the voices of people on and near to the streets. That has meant exposing the catastrophic gaps in our Social Security Disability services, exploring the lax oversight on our environmental resources, and reporting on the now constant population of homeless students in Oregon schools. That means award-winning coverage on not only homelessness, but poverty at large, and the issues of health care, addiction, criminal and social justice and the concerns facing our communities of color.

No – in many ways, we're not changing a thing.

And we're changing a lot. As a weekly publication, our news cycle has doubled. We've hired a full-time reporter, Emily Green, who will work alongside our team of

freelancers to bring you great coverage every week. We've changed up our look and shed some of the excess (Sorry, Soup Can Sam, but it was written in the stars.) and we've made interviews with entertainment, sports and cultural figures a regular feature.

Simply being able to become a weekly newspaper is indicative of the amazing crew of reporters, editorial contributors, volunteers and supporters. They join many other volunteers who keep our engines running, from the front desk to behind the lines. Everyone has stepped up and committed to making each edition of the paper a great read and a great buy. Thank you!

These might be unlikely times for a print newspaper to expand its publication schedule, but with each passing year, our circulation has increased, and so has the degree to which readers and vendors look to each edition for something new, something out of the ordinary. And for the vendors, particularly, this new Street Roots will mean twice as many opportunities for success. We hope our new Page 2 helps people better understand how a simple thing like a newspaper sale can turn into a lifelong investment.

Thank you, and we'll see you next week!

Join the celebration of our new weekly publication

Some of the best memories of my life have been made with Street Roots. I could write a book about the many beautiful and tragic stories that I've witnessed on the streets.

Honestly, there's nothing more rewarding than watching people come together collectively to better themselves. Some of the most powerful things Street Roots offers are self-confidence and hope. The self-confidence to get up every single day

while experiencing the hell of homelessness, and the hope that one day there will be a brighter tomorrow. The idea that people are able to earn an income through the sales of the newspaper while gaining that self-confidence and hope is what makes it all come together.

Street Roots started a little more than 15 years ago with community volunteers and five vendors. During that time we've helped thousands of individuals and families improve their quality of life. We helped hundreds of people access housing and helped maintain housing for hundreds more.

Street Roots exists to give people a hand up through the sales of the newspaper. The money and friendships developed around the city are priceless. The journalism that Street Roots is producing speaks for itself. Offering vendors the best newspaper we can produce is always our highest goal. The activism and voice Street Roots offers in the community will not only continue with a

weekly publication, but it will get stronger.

Not so long ago Street Roots set out to go from a biweekly to a weekly publication. It's been a dream since the organization started. That dream becomes a reality today with the first edition of a weekly publication.

"Going weekly will bring more customers, better dialogues, better relationships and more money for vendors," says Betty Jo who sells the newspaper at Alberta Food Cooperative.

Here's how you can help:

- Take a photo of you and the new weekly paper and/or with a vendor and post the pic on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag #SRGoesWeekly

- Purchase Street Roots on a weekly basis

- Share the paper with your friends, family or coworkers. Telling people about the quality of the newspaper and how the vendor program works makes you a Street Roots ambassador.

- Tell businesses where Street Roots vendors are located how much you appreciate having a vendor in the neighborhood. It makes all the difference in the world.

By doing one or all of these simple steps you are helping spread the Street Roots love.

The best years at Street Roots are ahead of us and that has everything to do with you. Everyone at Street Roots couldn't be more excited and looks forward to bringing you a professional publication week-in and week-out. Cheers.



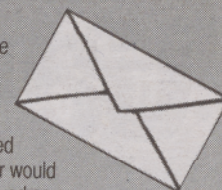
Street Roots is honored to have an original work by Northwest artist Nikki McClure on the cover of our inaugural weekly edition.

McClure, of Olympia, Wash., is a self-taught artist who has been making paper-cuts since 1996. She is known for illustrating the themes of motherhood, nature, community and activism in intricate and beautiful paper cuts using an X-acto knife and a single sheet of paper.

"I wanted to show light and eye contact. Street Roots brightens the community by making both happen. This man's smile brightened my days. I really enjoyed hanging out with him. Thank you."

Write in

If you would like to have something that you've written published in our pages, or would like to get involved as a member of our reporting staff, contact Managing Editor Joanne Zuhl at 503-228-5657, joanne@streetroots.com. We ask that all submissions include the author's name and contact information, if available.



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If you are interested in volunteering with Street Roots, please submit a volunteer application at streetroots.org/volunteer. Or call Volunteer Coordinator Grace Badik for more information at 503-228-5657.



DIRECTOR'S DESK

By Israel Bayer

Israel Bayer is the executive director of Street Roots. You can reach him at israel@streetroots.org or follow him on Twitter @israelbayer.