

Editorial Update

Friday mornings can be great wherever you work, but at Street Roots, they are something special. It's the morning the new newspaper arrives, and the vendors fill the office to hear what's heading our way from the printer.

It's a meeting that's at the heart of not just our vendor program and mission, but our newspaper as well. This is the time when the room fills with a sense of ownership in our publication, and a curiosity for learning something new – two elements essential to a community newspaper like Street Roots.

With each edition, readers see that Street Roots vendors contribute poetry, but they also take part in occasional interviews and provide ideas for stories from their own experiences. We love telling their stories, and our Vendor Profile section is rightfully among the most popular features of the newspaper.

Most recently, vendor experiences were the inspiration for our interview with Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw, and the stories of some of our female vendors gave readers an unsettling glimpse into what a woman on the streets experiences.

Senior Staff Reporter Emily Green has been a leader in local coverage on such issues as prison policy, forestry practices, climate change and our diverse community.

In advance of the 2018 primaries, Green's reporting revealed the misleading messages of canvassers to Oregon voters around a petition to repeal our "sanctuary state" status, and as the November election approached, we gave you a full "fact or fiction" comparison of the arguments surrounding a petition seeking to carve out tax exemptions for corporate grocers.

Our pool of amazing reporters has brought you stories on the world of foster care youth, the environmental champions in our Native American communities, and profiles of incredible people who have escaped peril and tragedy and now call Portland home.

Looking beyond our Portland roots, we have been reporting on the housing crisis throughout the state in our Housing Rural Oregon series. We've looked at the particular dynamics that impact housing in Central Oregon, the coastal counties and the frontier region in Ontario. We will be continuing our coverage into the next year, looking at affordable-housing campaigns in the Southwest and the challenges facing

towns in the Northeast.

It's remarkable the span of issues that have upset the market, from scarce development interest and resources, to the influence of the short-term-rental market.

The rural housing project was supported by a grant from Meyer Memorial Trust, which, like all of our journalism funding, comes with no strings attached. Street Roots at its core is independent media, and a firewall between funders and our journalistic integrity remains solid.

With our coverage, we strive to present an in-depth perspective, often through the lens of marginalized populations, providing a platform for the voices not commonly heard.

But that doesn't mean you won't recognize some familiar faces in our paper. We're proud to bring you conversations with a diverse collection of politicians and popular celebrities, including Robert De Niro, Bill Murray, Benedict Cumberbatch, Rep. Maxine Waters, Sen. Cory Booker, former NBA star Eton Thomas, Black Lives Matter organizer Deray McKesson, environmentalist David Attenborough, Planned Parenthood CEO Cecile Richards and musicians Stephen Malkmus and Portugal. The Man, among many, many others.

With your support, our journalism gets stronger every year. Thank you for reading our newspaper and supporting our vendors. We look forward to another Friday morning to bring you the news!

Joanne Zuhl
Joanne Zuhl
Executive Editor



About Our Vendors

In 2018, Street Roots worked with 700 vendors, and those vendors earned more than \$500,000 this past year. As in years past, our office was open 365 days in 2018, and was a welcome respite for vendors to buy the paper, grab a cup of coffee or some fresh water, use a computer, get socks and other essential hygiene and toiletry items and use the restroom. This past year, your support made the following possible:

■ An average of 150 vendors sold the paper at 100 sales posts around the metro region each week.

■ We hosted monthly health and wellness events, including two summer barbecues, an afternoon at a local movie theater, marching in the Portland Pride Parade, a Valentine's Day party, a holiday party and a trip to the Oregon Zoo.

■ We partnered with Mercy Corps NW to launch IDAs (Individual Development Accounts) for five vendors to open bank accounts to save for housing expenses. Every dollar they save is matched with \$5; up to \$600 is matched with \$3,000.

■ Concordia Nursing students hosted monthly foot care clinics in our office.

■ We continued to offer weekly creative writing workshops.

■ 95 percent of our vendors are signed up for health care through the Oregon Health Plan.

■ We published our annual holiday zine, providing an additional income opportunity for our vendors.

■ We partnered with Biketown, Uber, and TriMet and Ride Connection to make it easier for our vendors to get to their sales posts.

■ We maintained our vendor health fund, which supports vendors with medical, housing or other life emergencies.

■ Vendors participated in art projects with the Portland Art Museum, the Portland Institute of Contemporary Art and Gather: Make: Shelter, earning stipends for their artistic labor.



Street Roots Vendor John Kadubec