

## Seeznins

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Oregon alum signed to the Pacers. In Indiana he started a promotions company, which he ran for a couple of years before returning to Portland in 2007.

"That was rough," he says. "When I first

**'I got together my own business plan and seed money'**

got back I had no place, no job so I stayed with my uncle. I was sleeping on couches for 5 months."

Then Self Enhancement Inc. hired him to help low-income students graduate from high school. For two years he did just that, helping dozens of teens stay in school.

Losing one of those students, Andre Payton, to gun violence, spurred him to start the Restore the Village campaign. Now, he no longer works for SEI, but he continues advocating for youth through the campaign and as a mentor. At not quite 30 – his birthday celebration is the weekend of June 3—he says he enjoys being able to employ friends and relatives as well as host community parties and gatherings.

So did he get any seed money or business help to start Seeznin's?

"Nothing," he says. "I got together my own business plan and seed money. We renovated this whole place. What people need to know is that you have to have money saved up because there are a lot of expenses you didn't expect. Not having to owe

anything makes it all the sweeter."

Sam was prepared for the challenge of running a business seven days a week. "I was a party promoter. And I helped out at a bar called The Huddle on NE Albina and Killingsworth. I managed that in 2008 and I just decided it was something I wanted to do."

Seeznin's finally received its liquor license in March.

"We were ready to open on September 2010, but we had to wait for the Oregon Liquor Licensing Commission to give us the ok. It's supposed to take 45 days but



Andre serves up a martini.

they kept us in review for 5 months. Maybe they are not used to a young black guy with no criminal history and a good financial record."

## Asthma

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nearby highways, such as the Interstate 5 corridor.

The point of the effort, USA Today says, is that children are more sensitive to environmental toxins – especially those that are linked to asthma, cancer and other deadly diseases.

The study showed Pacific Northwest schools – particularly in Pendleton, North Portland and Northwest Portland in Oregon and in Monroe and Tacoma, Washington – have air pollution rates ranking in the worst one percent in the nation.

Most remarkably for Portland residents, the USA Today report showed most schools in high-poverty North Portland – as well as most schools in affluent Northwest Portland – are in the worst percentiles for industrial air pollution rates.

The report shocked area parents including Mary Peveto, whose daughters go to Harriet Tubman Girls Leadership Academy.

"It created this alarming picture about how we had – because there are no regulations around school sitings on contaminated land or really anything that has to do with environmental health – that we had a picture

of schools being sited in pretty toxic areas," she said.

In response to the USA Today report on polluting industries near public schools, in which some of the numbers were crunched by the University of Massachusetts at Amherst Political Economy Research Institute, the Environmental Protection Agency pledged to monitor the problem by choosing 63 schools nationwide and reporting back to their communities.

In Oregon those bellwether schools are Harriet Tubman Middle School (ranked in the 9th worst percentile in the USA Today study) and Toledo Elementary on the central Oregon coast (not included in the USA Today analysis but the Toledo Middle School ranked in the worst 9th percentile); in Washington the two schools are St. Helens Elementary in Longview (worst 5th percentile) and Concord Elementary in Seattle (worst 31st percentile).

In a Portland-area report back in late April, EPA officials said air quality at the Oregon schools was not bad enough to cause long-term health problems, but "slightly elevated" cadmium levels detected

by the EPA at Tubman will be monitored.

(The Washington state reports are not completely finished, according to the EPA's website.)

Peveto doesn't buy it.

"So they have a huge air pollution problem, they've modeled an amazing amount of data about our air pollution problems," she says.

"I get the proportionality of industry versus the bigger transportation issues that we have with this huge corridor of freeways and the back of Harriet Tubman is directly above I-5, right where it flows into the Rose Quarter, 131,000 vehicles a day pass that.

"And the EPA is saying, basically, there's no long term problem?"

The new film, "Hip Hop Rev," chronicles one year in Yearwood's life traveling the United States and advocating for heightened regulations on energy emissions; in the end his crusade failed, as he repeated several times during his interview with The Skanner News.

But laying the groundwork for future environmental organizing in low-income urban communities is just the beginning, he says.

"The most important thing that we wanted to do was to educate people on issues of fighting poverty and pollution, and how they can work to fight poverty and pollution

at the same time," he said.

"A lot of our communities are dealing with a lot of other issues – everything from economics, jobs, things such as education, health care, police brutality," he said.

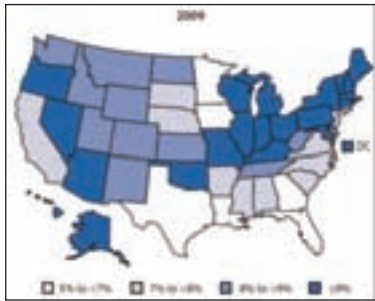
Yearwood says a critical tipping point for communities comes when local residents learn about nearby factories, industrial plants and landfills that they never thought about – even though whole families might suffer from asthma, and relative after relative succumbs to cancer.

"A lot of times people don't understand how the pollution and particularly the health effects – which include asthma and cancer – combine with everything."

Yearwood says a key point in environmental justice as an urban movement is showing communities how to change policy – which is hard to do.

"Because if we just get them mad about it and say this is messed up you're in this community and you're being polluted more than other communities, that's tough," he said. "We were pushing for clean energy legislation last year, and we lost pretty bad as a matter of fact."

Find out more about Rev. Lennox Yearwood's documentary at [www.HipHopRev.com](http://www.HipHopRev.com). Find more links to the websites mentioned in this article online at [www.theSkanner.com](http://www.theSkanner.com).



## Metro

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January 2013.

According to Metro, the new districts are described as such:

Beginning with the 2012 election cycle, the six Metro Council districts will cover the following areas:

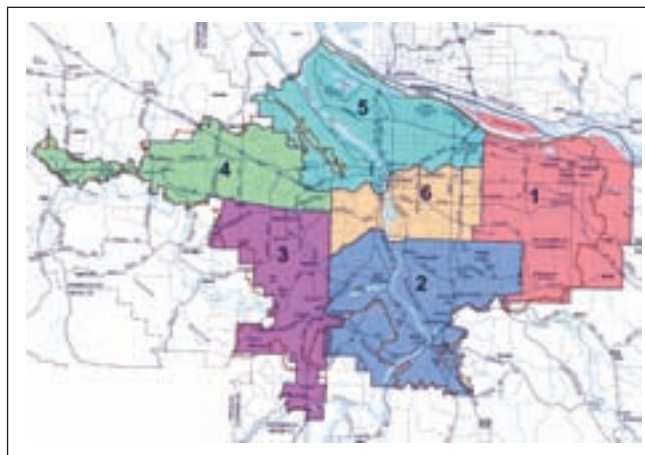
District 1 will include all of the cities of Fairview, Gresham, Troutdale, Wood Village and Damascus, plus Boring and unincorporated areas in Multnomah County east of Gresham and Troutdale. It will also include all of the City of Portland east of 122nd Ave. (and east of 112th Ave. south of Foster Rd.). District 1 will no longer include the cities of Happy Valley (now in District 2) and Maywood Park (now in District 5).

District 2 will include all of the cities of Happy Valley, Gladstone, Johnson City, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Oregon City, Rivergrove and West Linn, along with many unincorporated areas in northern Clackamas County. It will also include a portion of Southwest Portland and unincorporated Multnomah County to the east and south of Interstate 5 and south of SW Canby Street east of Brier Pl. The district will include all of the Stafford area within Metro's jurisdiction (the portion of Stafford south of

Interstate 205 was previously in District 3).

District 3 will include all of the City of Beaverton to the south of Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy./Farmington Rd. east of Watson St., south of Broadway between Watson St. and Cedar Hills Blvd., and to the south of Tualatin Valley Hwy. west of Cedar Hills Blvd. It also includes all of the cities of Durham, King City, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin and Wilsonville, plus the unincorporated communities of Aloha (south of Tualatin Valley Hwy., which was previously in District 4), Raleigh Hills (south of Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy.), Bull Mountain, Garden Home and Metzger. It will no longer include any portion of Stafford.

District 4 will include all of the cities of Forest Grove, Cornelius and Hillsboro. It will also include a portion of the City of Beaverton and unincorporated areas in Washington County to the north of Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy./Farmington Rd. east of Watson St., north of Broadway



between Watson St. and Cedar Hills Blvd., and to the north of Tualatin Valley Hwy. west of Cedar Hills Blvd., except for the unincorporated community of Cedar Mill lying north of U.S. Hwy. 26 and north and east of the Beaverton city limits, which will become part of District 5. District 4 will include the unincorporated communities of Aloha (north of Tualatin Valley Hwy.), Raleigh Hills (north of Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy.), Bonny Slope, Bethany, West Slope

and Cedar Hills. District 4 will be entirely within Washington County.

District 5 will include all of North and Northwest Portland, all of Southwest Portland north of U.S. Hwy. 26 (including downtown), and all of Northeast Portland north of Interstate 84 and west of 122nd Ave. District 5 will include the City of Maywood Park, which was previously in District 1. District 5 will also include an area in Washington County north of Hwy. 26 and north and east of the Beaverton city limits (the Cedar Mill area), which was previously in District 4.

District 6 will include all of the east side of Portland south of Interstate 84 and west of 122nd Ave. (except for the portion south of Foster Rd. and east of 112th Ave., which will be in District 1). District 6 will also include all of Southwest Portland south of U.S. Hwy. 26, west and north of Interstate 5 and north of Canby St. east of Brier Pl. District 6 will be entirely within Multnomah County.