

Seeking: Volunteer Opinion Editor

Background

Street Sense Media's mission is to end homelessness in the Washington, D.C. area by empowering people in need with the skills, tools, and confidence to succeed. Since 2003, we have published news, occasional opinions, and art (poetry, fiction, personal essays, etc) about and often by people experiencing homelessness.

In 2015, the organization added a dedicated opinion section. To make this possible, a founding team of volunteer editors — Rachel Brody, Arthur Delaney, and Britt Peterson — were hired to lead the section: reviewing, curating, and soliciting submissions while maintaining a firewall between our gathering of news and opinions.

Time Commitment

Our opinion section is tied to the production deadlines of our print publication that is released every other Wednesday.

To-date, this 3-person team has divided the work by:

- One person consistently sorting through all submissions every other week and assembling those they accept into a shared document.
- The other two people split up editing those accepted submissions, with each person editing 1-2 articles. There are roughly two days between when the section is curated and when it is due back to the editorial staff members.
 - The average length of an article is 600 words.
 - 1800-2300 words fills out the 2-page section nicely if some art is available. With a maximum of 2800 words possible.
- We have not had the bandwidth for but would like to add regular efforts to solicit submissions from outside contributors. (Currently, roughly 90% of our content comes from Street Sense Media vendors or is republished from partner newsrooms)

The team reports they each volunteer 2-4 hours of work for Street Sense Media every other week. We are looking for someone who can commit to this role for at least 6 months.

Within the next year, Street Sense Media plans to increase circulation to a weekly paper. Additional dedicated volunteers will need to be brought on to make this possible and as the timeline for this transition becomes clear, the opinion team will be consulted for what is needed to sustainably support the section.

Contact

Apply by sending a resume with writing and/or editing samples to Eric Falquero, the editorial director. ericf@streetsensemedia.org

Founding Volunteer Opinion Editors Rachel Brody and Britt Peterson have also offered to speak with interested candidates to share their experience and answer questions. They can be reached at opinion@streetsensemedia.org.