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Street Roots to Publish First Book, “I Am Not a Poet: 15 Years of Street Roots Poetry and Art”

Portland, Ore.— Local non-profit newspaper Street Roots will mark its book-publishing debut with a poetry anthology Feb. 27, 2014. The collection of poems, “I Am Not a Poet,” a curated selection of previously published poetry, explores themes concerning the human experience, tackling concepts of love and lust, addiction and recovery, street life and survival, hope and humanity.

The launch party for “I Am Not a Poet” – which will be published in both print and e-book form – will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014 at Reading Frenzy (3628 N. Mississippi Ave.) in North Portland. Books will be available for purchase at the launch party, and from local bookstores, Street Roots vendors, and the Street Roots website. All proceeds from sales return to Street Roots to fund a number of social advocacy programs.

Celebrated Portland artist Chris Haberman is donating commissioned, original cover art for “I Am Not a Poet.” Local publishing professionals have volunteered their expertise to the project, including Ooligan Press, Skint Press, and Indigo Editing staff members, and editing and design freelancers. “We saw an opportunity to use our skill set to give back to the community – and we took it,” says Vinnie Kinsella, of Indigo Editing, who is spearheading the project.

“Poetry anchored early issues of Street Roots,” says Israel Bayer, Executive Director of Street Roots. “Today – fifteen years later – poetry in Street Roots continues to be a medium to impact social change. From the vendor/poet who exorcises his experiences through the written word, to the person who reads these words, expanding his sense of the human experience – the result is a new dimension of compassion and understanding.”

“It’s always empowering to share art with the world, and to be part of an organization that allows me to share mine is an absolute honor,” says Marlon Crump, contributing poet and Street Roots vendor.

The launch party for “I Am Not a Poet” is open to the public. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

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.

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#iAmNotAPoet

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Additional press materials are available at iamnotapoet.org

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