

Introduction and Purpose

This is the second issue of the Asbury Voice. You may have received it as a “link” from a group, an organization, a church, a school, a friend, a neighbor or a family member, or found it on social media. Keep passing it along, don’t let it stop with you.

We are in our infant stages as a publication and are in process. We are working towards creating an inclusive editorial board and are looking to spotlight the stories of the young, those experiencing homelessness, long term residents of Asbury, as well as those who are struggling because of the structural injustices of sexism, transphobia, homophobia, ableism, colonialism, classism, racism and its nephew: gentrification.

We often hear stories from each other that never reach the printed page. We believe there are critical stories right here in our Asbury communities that aren’t being told. We want to courageously share these stories, not by putting people down, but by honestly correcting misrepresentations of neighborhoods and people in Asbury. Our aim is to be both responsible and non-inflammatory. We are aware that this can be a fine line and we commit to operating with integrity and accountability as we share our stories. We depend on you to tell us what you want from us.

We are looking to publish unheard voices of Asbury and the creative artists of the community - Hip Hop artists, poets, journalists and writers. We are anticipating that you will share your gifts, as we believe it will be because of you that our community may be able to listen deeply and be motivated to learn and grow.

We hope to honor the fierce love that James Baldwin spoke of, a love that is not weak or shallow, but a love that is about truth, freedom, and true racial reconciliation in the land.

Dr. King warned us “a riot is the voice of the voiceless.” We strongly feel everyone has a voice and we want our community to have the opportunity to be heard. We are interested in your stories and hope you will share them with us.

What better time than now? What better place than here?

Send your stories to theasburyvoice@gmail.com