

# INDYPENDENT READER

toward building a new society on the vacant lots of the old . . .

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[Home](#) > Announcing the Closing of Baltimore's The Indypendent Reader

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## Announcing the Closing of Baltimore's The Indypendent

### Reader

#### Contributed by:

The Baltimore Independent Reader[1]

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Since 2006, *The Independent Reader*, affectionately known as *Indyreader*, has worked as an outlet for social justice media in Baltimore City and beyond. We have produced sixteen print papers throughout the years focusing on issues that we believe vital to the community. The topics have been various, ranging from the prison industrial complex, gardening, public education, media, war, social movements, labor rights, the Occupy movement, and much more.

Additionally, *Indyreader* has maintained a website throughout these years in order to better manifest our dream that media can be source for activists to inform one another about the news that corporate media rejects, empower voices that are usually silenced, and motivate action against oppression. We have organized and worked alongside other activists for a better city and society. Sometimes this work was done at conferences, like The City from Below Conference (2009) or the Mobilizing and Organizing from Below Conference (2012). Oftentimes, it was in meetings, on the streets, on email lists, in events, in fundraisers, or over cups of coffee, pints of beer, or meals shared.

*Indyreader* has been honored to be a part of Baltimore's social justice struggle these past seven years. We feel profoundly privileged to have helped document a near decade of movement struggle.

With sadness, but we believe in wisdom, we at *Indyreader* announce the end of this beautiful project, a project which has meant so much to us. We came to this decision after a meeting with

our Board of Advisors, trusted organizers and project supporters within the city, and many collective meetings, this decision was agreed upon. It was not taken lightly. We have profound respect for all of *Indyreader's* founders and past and present organizers, contributors, readers, and supporters.

The media terrain has dramatically changed since 2006, not just in Baltimore, but worldwide. Activism in Baltimore no longer looks as it once did. Sustainability of the project is a crucial question as a very small collective faces these realities. It has always been worth it and it has definitely always been a struggle. However, things change and we have had to reassess and discuss the project's ability to achieve what we aim for now and in the future.

We believe that *Indyreader*, along with all activist projects, deserve an incredible amount of respect. As a collective, along with our advisors, we do not wish to see the project slowly fade away into irrelevance. It deserves better. Over the next month and a half, we will bid adieu to our fair project. On the website, we will feature past articles that were important to us and others (suggestions encouraged!). We will also post articles critically examining *Indyreader*, the role of media in Baltimore and elsewhere, Baltimore's activist terrain, and so forth. We will be featuring interviews with past organizers of the project. If you would like to write an article about *Indyreader* or something relevant about media and activism in Baltimore, please contact us at [indypendentreader@gmail.com](mailto:indypendentreader@gmail.com) [2].

In the weekend of **October 25-26**, we will have a **goodbye party for *Indyreader***. We would love for you to join us in remembering this great project and bidding it farewell. We will announce the specific location and time very soon. After the party, the *Indyreader* website will become an archive for all of the amazing content that has been contributed over the years. However, publishing will cease.

After that, we will produce one last print issue: a retrospective of *Indyreader's* history, the relationship of media to activism, and the current media ecosystem. The aim will be to have it produced and distributed by the end of the year.

*Indyreader* is ending, but we do believe that sometimes things have to end in order for other things to begin. Please consider this a new opportunity to inform, agitate, organize, and become the media.

It has been a supreme honor to be a part of social justice organizing in Baltimore these past seven years. Thank you for working with us, alongside us, and supporting us.

As always, we work "toward building a new society on the vacant lots of the old".

Yours in Gratitude, Love, and Struggle,

*The Independent Reader Collective*

Corey Reidy, Stephen Roblin, and Daniel Staples

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