

Richard Weiss

Richard “Dick” Weiss has dedicated his professional life to journalism, racial understanding and community-building in the greater St. Louis area.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in Russian studies from Colgate College. He began his newspaper career at the Kansas City Star before spending 30 years at The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, where he served as a reporter, editor and writing coach, mentoring and inspiring young reporters.

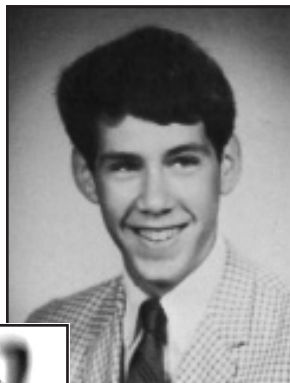
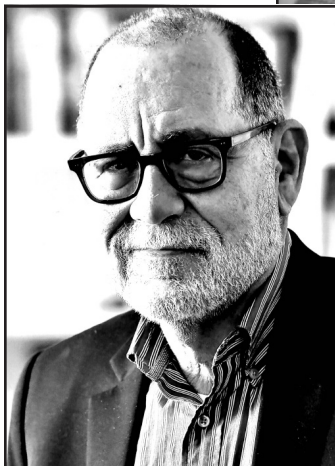
His reporting covered many historical events. He is most proud of his work amplifying the voices and experiences of African American youth in marginalized communities.

After retiring from the Post-Dispatch, he co-founded The St. Louis Beacon, a digital news pioneer that later merged with St. Louis Public Radio.

At 67, he established Before Ferguson, Beyond Ferguson, a non-profit journalism organization highlighting voices and experiences of individuals impacted by regional racial segregation and its lasting impact.

When the pandemic struck, Weiss saw further opportunities to highlight health disparities through The 63106 Project, which focused reporting on health inequities and how one of St. Louis’ most distressed neighborhoods coped with a global pandemic. In 2021, Weiss ensured continued reporting on race, inequity and differing voices and perspectives by co-founding the River City Journalism Fund, which supports independent journalists and shares their work with legacy media and their audiences.

Weiss continues to be a powerful supporter of The School District of University City through his writing, reporting and his deep inquiries regarding the District’s history, its students and its resolve for racial equity and academic excellence.



**Richard
Weiss**
Class of 1969