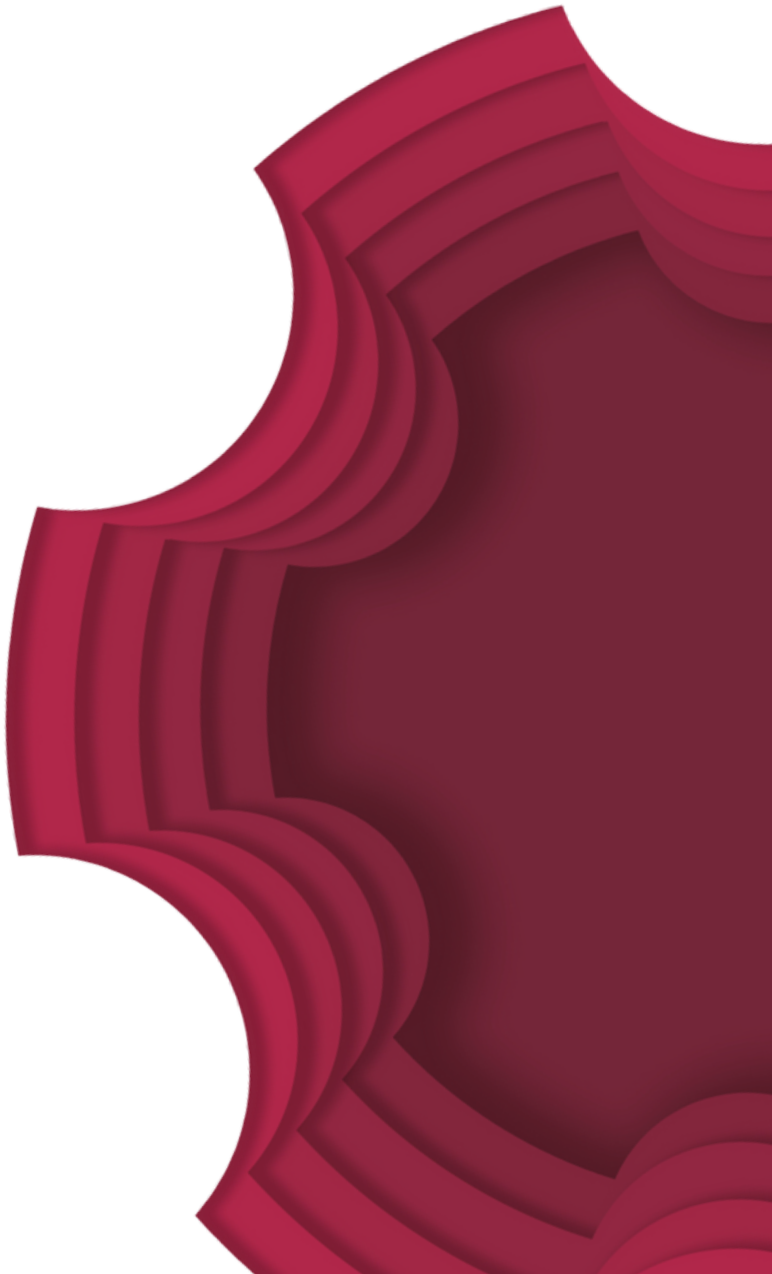


COLLABORATIVE JOURNALISM SUMMIT

May 19-20, 2022 · Chicago, IL · Center for Cooperative Media



CENTER^{FOR}
COOPERATIVE
MEDIA
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SUMMIT SPONSORS

The Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University would like to thank the following sponsors of the 2022 Collaborative Journalism Summit for their generous support.





COLLABORATIVE JOURNALISM SUMMIT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A note from the Center	3
Summit extras + accessibility options	4
Day one schedule	5
Day two schedule	11
In-person workshops	18
List of speakers	22
About the Center	26

A NOTE FROM THE CENTER



Dear Summit attendees,

Welcome to the 2022 Collaborative Journalism Summit!

It's hard to believe we are back in person for our sixth symposium on collaboration and partnerships across the news industry. Well, kind of. We've got about 150 people attending in-person and another 100 joining virtually, and dozens of others who will watch the recordings later.

If there's one thing that's been reinforced over the last couple years — through a global pandemic, an insurrection in the U.S., intense campaigns of disinformation, wars and more — is that humankind needs us working together. Democracies need us working together. Strategic collaboration can make a huge difference. It can be the difference between life and death.

That's because this is not just about journalism anymore. Access to real, accurate information is about survival in so many parts of the world.

The Center's research director, Sarah Stonbely, Ph.D., recently published research co-authored with Hanna Siemaszko, examining how civil society organizations collaborate with journalists globally, to achieve shared impact goals. It makes so much sense, and shows the power of journalists adapting their craft to a changing era.

As I also said last year, the pace of new collaboratives launching is not slowing down. Every week, it seems, we hear of new partnerships. You'll hear about several of those at the Summit. You'll also be treated to discussions about three new research papers examining different facets of collaboration, wisdom from Marina Walker Guevara of the Pulitzer Center and so much more.

New to the Summit this year is a group of in-person workshops, including sessions focused on legal considerations for collaborations, digital safety, newsroom policy, finding consensus, spreadsheet management and community engagement.

We could not do this work without the generous support of our funders. We are so thankful to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Knight Foundation, Inasmuch Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The Lenfest Institute for Journalism, News Revenue Hub, Newspack, City Bureau, Columbia College Chicago, BlueLena, Open Campus and the Center for Public Integrity. And of course, we are thankful for the support of Montclair State University, which makes this work possible.

Enjoy the conference!

Stefanie Murray

Director, Center for Cooperative Media

SUMMIT EXTRAS:



Collaborative meditation breaks



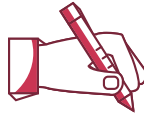
"Asks + Offers" board



Live chat and Q+A



CJS beats playlist



Graphic illustration by Derrick Dent



Use #CJS2022 or #collaborativej

ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS:



Closed captioning



ASL interpretation



Spanish interpretation

AMA SESSIONS:



Newspack

Thursday from 3-5:00 p.m.

News Revenue Hub






Thursday from 3-5:00 p.m.

DAY ONE

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Sponsored by MacArthur Foundation

Emoji key:

-  session will include live graphic illustration by Derrick Dent.
-  session will be hosted in person.
-  session will be available to virtual attendees.
-  session will include live ASL interpretation.
-  session will include live Spanish interpretation.

[CC] session will include closed captions via Zoom.

10 a.m. CST | Welcome! [CC]

Welcome to the 2022 Collaborative Journalism Summit!

The 2022 Collaborative Journalism Summit will open with a thank you to Columbia College Chicago for hosting, and a welcome from the Day One sponsor, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Hosts:

- **Stefanie Murray**, director, Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University
- **Erin McCarthy, Ph.D.**, interim chair, Communication, Columbia College Chicago
- **Lauren Pabst**, senior program officer, MacArthur Foundation

10:10 a.m. CST | Overview [CC]

The 2022 State of Collaboration

Speaker:

- **Stefanie Murray**, director, Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University



Newspack

The open-source publishing and
revenue-generating platform
for news organizations.



City Bureau and Yollocalli Arts Reach participants work together to create neighborhood stories for the Watz Up! Youth Radio show (Photo: Max Herman)

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation welcomes the Collaborative Journalism Summit to Chicago, where collaboration is a core ethos of the local independent media ecosystem.

MacArthur Foundation



City Bureau Chicago documenters Bonni McKeown and Clair Hauser on assignment together covering an Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting in 2018 (Photo: Pat Nabong)

DAY ONE

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Sponsored by MacArthur Foundation

10:15 a.m. CST | Opening session ✍️ 👥 📺 🗣️ 🌐 [CC]

Solving for Chicago, one year later: A discussion about the collaborative history of media in Chicago and how a new collaboration among 20 news outlets focusing on solutions journalism is changing how news works.

Host: **Susan Smith Richardson**, managing editor, The Guardian US

Speakers:

- **Sam Cholke**, project director, Solving for Chicago, Local Media Association
- **Alden Loury**, senior editor, Race, Class and Communities, WBEZ
- **Dr. Evan Lyon**, Illinois director for Partners in Health U.S., Chicagoland Vaccine Partnership

11:00 a.m. CST | Roundtable ✍️ 👥 📺 🗣️ 🌐 [CC]

Chicago Independent Media Alliance: How a coalition of dozens of news outlets collectively raise money to support sustainability.

Host: **Yazmin E. Dominguez**, media partnerships coordinator, Chicago Reader

Speakers:

- **Shawn Campbell**, founder and general manager, CHIRP Radio
- **Anna DeShawn**, founder and CEO, E3 Radio | The Qube
- **Tracy Baim**, co-publisher of the Chicago Reader and founder of CIMA
- **David Moran**, multimedia director, Soapbox Productions and Organizing



11:45 a.m. CST 👥

Collaborative meditation break

Relax as **Rise Osby** leads us through a collaborative meditation session.



#collaborativej

DAY ONE

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Sponsored by MacArthur Foundation

12:00 p.m. CST 🧑🏿‍🦱

Lunch break!

If you're in-person in Chicago, the Summit will provide lunch. If you're virtual, take this time to make yourself an awesome sandwich and relax!

1:00 p.m. CST | Session ✍️🧑🏿‍🦱🗣️🌐 [CC]

Change Agents: A look inside a new podcast series by Chicago community organizers and emerging journalists of color who produce stories of grassroots activism and empowerment in the city's communities of color.

Host: **Judith McCray**, founder and CEO, Juneteenth Productions

Speakers:

- **Jesus J. Montero**, multimedia reporter, Cicero Independiente
- **Alex Torres**, podcast participant, Organized Communities Against Deportations (OCAD)
- **Huy Minh Do**, student producer, Juneteenth Productions
- **Christian Aldana**, KINETIC and Youth Organizer, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago

1:45 p.m. CST | Session ✍️🧑🏿‍🦱🗣️🌐 [CC]

Medill's social justice and local news partnerships: collaboration, investigation and education: As part of Medill's Metro Media Lab and the social justice specialization in its master's degree program, Medill students work with many Chicago media outlets and professional reporters on in-depth investigative and immersive stories on a wide range of topics. These collaborations allow students to learn from experienced reporters while helping local media outlets benefit from the skills and diverse experiences of students.

Host: **Kari Lydersen**, lecturer, Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications at Northwestern University

Speakers:

- **Josh McGhee**, reporter, Injustice Watch
- **Courtney Kueppers**, digital reporter/producer, WBEZ
- **Apps Mandar Bichu**, graduate student, Northwestern University
- **Hugo Balta**, owner, Latino News Network
- **Tim Franklin**, senior associate dean, professor and Local News Chair at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University

DAY ONE

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Sponsored by MacArthur Foundation

2:30 p.m. CST | Session [CC]

The role of translations in collaborations

La Raza, a Spanish community newspaper in Chicago, has collaborated with a diverse group of local English community media on translation. This discussion will examine how effective English to Spanish translations (and vice versa) of news stories are for successful multilingual collaborations among diverse community media outlets, and how translation limitations reduce its effectiveness.

Host: **Anthony Advincula**, ethnic media director, Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University

Speakers:

- **Jesús Del Toro**, director and general manager, La Raza Newspaper
- **Jonathan Kealing**, chief network officer, Institute for Nonprofit News
- **Nissa Rhee**, executive director and cofounder, Borderless Magazine



3:15 p.m. CST

Collaborative meditation break

Relax as **Rise Osby** leads us through a collaborative meditation session.

3:30 p.m. CST | Workshop

Unleash spreadsheet magic: In this interactive workshop, Bridget Thoreson will guide participants through exploring how spreadsheet automation can inform collaboration development and reporting. Based on insights from INN's survey on members interested in pursuing collaborations and an audience engagement survey from 10 outlets reporting on the economic status of Indian Country, participants will leave with:

- *Best practices for creating surveys to surface insights*
- *Concrete examples of easy-to-use formulas to automate updates*
- *Applications for reporting and building audience*
- *Excitement to apply these lessons to their own work*


Whether you're a spreadsheet novice or a pivot table black belt, come experiment with how to make technology better serve our collaborative work.


Facilitator: **Bridget Thoreson**, member collaborations editor, Institute for Nonprofit News


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DAY TWO

Friday, May 20, 2022

Sponsored by Knight Foundation

9:00 a.m. CST | Welcome back! 🗺️👤🌐 [CC]

Welcome back to Day 2 of the Collaborative Journalism Summit!

Host: **Jim Brady**, vice president of journalism, Knight Foundation

9:05 a.m. CST | Keynote ✍️👤🗺️👤🌐 [CC]

Marina Walker Guevara

Marina Walker Guevara is the Pulitzer Center's executive editor. Before joining the Center, Walker Guevara was deputy director of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ). She managed two of the largest collaborations of reporters in journalism history: The Panama Papers and the Paradise Papers, which involved hundreds of journalists using technology to unravel stories of public interest from terabytes of leaked financial data. Walker Guevara was instrumental in developing the model of large-scale media collaboration, persuading reporters who used to compete with one another instead to work together, share resources and amplify their reach and impact.

Host: **mago torres**, data editor, Centro Latinoamericano de Periodismo de Investigación (CLIP)

10:00 a.m. CST | Research roundtable ✍️👤🗺️👤🌐 [CC]

Cross-field collaboration: How and why journalists and civil society organizations around the world are working together.

Speaker: **Sarah Stobely**, research director, Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University

Collaboration between universities and news organizations: This research paper identifies more than 100 student/professional partnerships in various forms and examines how such partnerships contribute to journalism education and news content.

Speaker: **Mark Berkey-Gerard**, associate professor, Department of Journalism, Rowan University

The interplay between collaborative scaffolding and solutions journalism: This research paper traces the outcomes of solutions journalism collaboratives according to their developmental phases.

Speakers:

- **Elizabeth Hansen Shapiro**, CEO and co-founder, The National Trust for Local News; senior research fellow, Tow Center for Digital Journalism
- **Caroline Porter**, researcher and strategist, Ralstin



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freedom of expression and in the values expressed in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

an informed citizenry as essential for a representative democracy to function effectively.

engaged, equitable and inclusive communities.

DAY TWO

Friday, May 20, 2022

Sponsored by Knight Foundation

11:30 a.m. CST 📺 [CC]

Lunch break

Relax and get some food!

12:00 p.m. CST | Roundtable ✍️ 📺 🗣️ 🌐 [CC]

Sponsored by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting

Collaborative approaches to state government coverage in public media:

Recognizing the decline of state government coverage in communities across the country and public media's ability to help address the gap, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) commissioned a first-of-its-kind station survey to better understand the breadth and depth of this coverage at public media stations. CPB will share major findings from the 2021 study, and spotlight collaborative approaches to covering state government in public media.

Moderator: **Joy Lin**, vice president, journalism, Corporation for Public Broadcasting

Speakers:

- **Tracy Brown**, chief content officer, Chicago Public Media
- **Scott Cameron**, managing editor, Indiana Public Broadcasting (IPB) News
- **Scott Canon**, managing editor, Kansas News Service

1:00 p.m. CST | Session ✍️ 📺 🗣️ 🌐 [CC]

Sponsored by the Lenfest Institute for Journalism

Making money beyond grants: A look at how collaboratives are earning the revenue they need to grow and sustainable.

Host: **Mary Walter Brown**, CEO, News Revenue Hub

Speakers:

- **Leah Todd**, collaborative manager, Solutions Journalism Network
- **Mollie Kabler**, executive director, Coast Alaska, Inc.
- **Andrew Ramsammy**, chief content and collaboration officer, Local Media Association
- **Cassie Haynes**, co-executive director, Resolve Philly



1:30 p.m. CST 📺 [CC]

Collaborative stretching + meditation break

Relax as **Rise Osby** leads us through a collaborative meditation session.

Collaborative Journalism is the future of news.

We want to help you fund it.



Join The Lenfest News Philanthropy Network, a free community of practice supporting fundraising in journalism with virtual courses, workshops, and learning resources.

Learn more and join at newsphilanthropy.org.

DAY TWO

Friday, May 20, 2022

Sponsored by Knight Foundation

1:45 p.m. CST | Lightning talks [CC]

Our most popular feature of past Collaborative Journalism Summits: Lightning talks! These are either five- or 10-minute presentations about specific projects.

Topics and speakers:

- Tayo, a project of the Filipino Young Leaders Program, **Leezel Tanglao**, **Melissa Palma** and **Mark Calaguas**
- New York and Michigan Solutions Journalism Collaborative, **Jack Rosenberry**
- Open Campus, **Sara Hebel**
- Democracy Day, **Rachel Glickhouse**
- New Mexico Local News Collaborative, **Rashad Mahmood**, **Diana Alba Soular** and **Reyes Mata**
- WHYY's N.I.C.E., **Eric Marsh** and **Christopher Norris**
- Rural News Network's work examining how rural Indigenous communities are addressing economic issues, **Dianna Hunt**



3:15 p.m. CST [CC]

Collaborative stretching + meditation break

Relax and center yourself as **Rise Osby** leads us through a collaborative meditation session.

3:30 p.m. CST | Roundtable [CC]

Methods of distribution: As collaborative efforts become more sophisticated at the local level, we'll look at how four different organizations have set up systems to distribute co-produced or shared content between partners.

Host: **James Frazier**, Newark News + Story Collaborative

Speakers:

- **Tegan Wendland**, editorial director, Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk
- **Melanie Plenda**, director, Granite State News Collaborative
- **Coburn Dukehart**, multimedia director, Wisconsin Watch
- **Michael Crowe**, Local Media Association



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COLABORATIVO

DAY TWO

Friday, May 20, 2022

Sponsored by Knight Foundation

4:15 p.m. CST | Roundtable [CC]

Regional collaboration: Lessons from public media: NPR and groups of member stations have built regional collaborations to reduce duplication of effort, add reporters in news deserts, and generate more content for local, regional, and national audiences. The collaboration leaders will discuss how they foster a sense of partnership and joint purpose.

Host: **Kathy Goldgeier**, network hub content manager, NPR

Speakers:

- **Kenya Young**, managing editor for collaborative journalism, NPR
- **Adriene Hill**, managing editor, The California Newsroom
- **Corrie MacLaggan**, managing Editor, The Texas Newsroom
- **Priska Neely**, managing editor, Gulf States Newsroom

5:00 p.m. CST | Awards [CC]

We'll wrap up the Collaborative Journalism Summit with our community awards, some thank yous and more!

Host: **Joe Amditis**, assistant director of products and events, Center for Cooperative Media

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SHAPE WHAT'S NEXT

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WORKSHOPS

Friday, May 20, 2022

9:00 a.m. CST | Workshop

Digital safety in collaborations: Learn how to begin conversations with teammates and external partners about keeping shared materials safe with the Freedom of the Press Foundation. This session pools experience from editorial and digital security training experts to discuss how to overcome the challenges of keeping data secure while working with collaborators. We will explore how you and your partners can develop practical digital security plans to keep your shared documents, research and communications defended, even if your organizations' tech infrastructure and internal regulations for digital security differ.

Facilitators:

- **Kirstin McCudden**, vice president of editorial, Freedom of the Press Foundation
- **Olivia Martin**, deputy director of digital security, Freedom of the Press Foundation

10:30 a.m. CST | Workshop

Legal considerations for collaborations: Join lawyers with the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press for a workshop about legal support available pro bono to journalists across the U.S. and how to access help. They'll be available to answer any questions you might have about legal issues facing you and your collaborators.

Facilitators:

- **Flavie Fuentes**, pro bono director, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
- **Lisa Zycherman**, deputy legal director and policy counsel, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

12:30 p.m. CST | Workshop

Creating a collaboration policy for your newsroom: Your news organization has an ethics policy, right? And likely a corrections policy, a social media policy and more. But have you given thought to a collaboration policy? This workshop, led by Heather Bryant of Project Facet, will help participants think about how a collaboration policy could be useful to their organization and begin designing it.

Facilitators:

- **Heather Bryant**, founder, Project Facet; interim executive director, Tiny News Collective
- **Andre Natta**, collaborations editor, MuckRock

Making news together.




City Bureau is a Chicago-based journalism lab working together with our communities to reimagine local media.

We aim to equip every community with the tools it needs to eliminate information in equity to further liberation, justice and self-determination.

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WORKSHOPS

Friday, May 20, 2022

2:00 p.m. CST | Workshop

Training community members to reimagine journalism in collaboration

with you: In this interactive workshop, participants will learn how to recruit community members to be community reporters, identify the assets that community partners bring to local information ecosystems, and provide frameworks and activities that better equip people to share high-quality information and elevate local stories.

Facilitators:

- **Christina Noble**, community organizer, Stories of Atlantic City at Stockton University
- **Cole Goins**, engagement lead, Journalism + Design at The New School
- **Erin O'Hanlon**, coordinator of service-learning, Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning at Stockton University
- **Toby Rosenthal**, project manager, Stories of Atlantic City at Stockton University

3:00 a.m. CST | Workshop

Finding consensus in collaboration: Learn how the founding members of the New Jersey Community Media Collective used democratic process to determine the goals, mission, and first project for a statewide collaboration focused on addressing the news and info needs of underserved communities in the state. Participants will be introduced to the process used to share power and find consensus when launching editorial and marketing collaborations.

Facilitators:

- **Simon Galperin**, founder, Community Information Cooperative
- **Vanessa Maria Graber**, News Voices project lead, Free Press





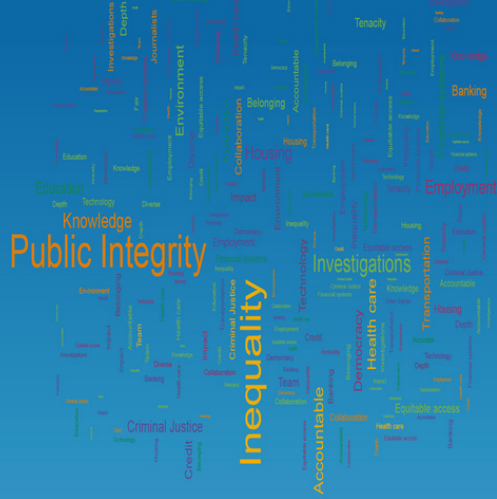
Open Campus

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We collaborate with local newsrooms to dedicate reporters to covering colleges and universities.

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Collaboration is at the heart of our nonprofit newsroom's approach to investigative reporting on inequality in employment, housing, health care, education and democracy.



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Newsrooms that work with us earn an average **\$234,000** in annual member revenue

To learn more contact: hello@fundjournalism.org or visit fundjournalism.org



News Revenue Hub

2022 SPEAKERS

Oni Advincula | @10thprecinct
Center for Cooperative Media

Diana Alba-Soular | @AlbaSoular
New Mexico Local News Fund

Christiana Aldana | @xtian_as
Asian Americans Advancing
Justice | Chicago

Joe Amditis | @jsamditis
Center for Cooperative Media

Tracy Baim | @TracyBaimWCMG
Chicago Reader

Mark Berkey-Gerard | @mabege
Rowan University

Jim Brady | @jimbrady
Knight Foundation

Tracy Brown | @tracylbrown
Chicago Public Media/WBEZ

Heather Bryant | @HBCompass
Tiny News Collective

Mark Calaguas | @ghostshowers
Tayo

Scott Cameron | @_scottcameron_
Indiana Public Broadcasting

Shawn Campbell | @thursdayinjune
CHIRP Radio

Scott Canon | @ScottCanon
The Kansas News Service

Sam Cholke | @samcholke
Local Media Association

Michael Crowe | @MichaelReports
Local Media Association

Jesús Del Toro | @JesusDelToro
La Raza

Derrick Dent | @dentslashink
DerrickDentDraws.com

Anna DeShawn | @annadeshawn
E3 Radio | The Qube

Huy Min Do
Juneteenth Productions

Yazmin Dominguez | @ChiIndyMedia
Chicago Reader

Coburn Dukehart | @cdukehart
Wisconsin Watch

Tim Franklin | @timafranklin
Medill School, Northwestern University

James Frazier | @jimmysodope
Newark News & Stories Collaborative

Flavie Fuentes
Reporters Committee for Freedom
of the Press

Public Media:

Delivering Value to the American People for More than 50 Years



Public media plays a vital role promoting participation in democracy through trusted content that **educates**, **informs**, and **engages**.

Public media serves an America that is diverse in **race**, **age**, **gender**, and **geography**, with content and storytellers representing many points of view and connecting us beyond our differences.

CPB is the steward of the federal government's investment in public media and the largest single source of funding for public radio, television and related online services.



Corporation
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CPB.org

Simon Galperin | @thensimOnsaid
Community Information Cooperative

Rachel Glickhouse | @riogringa
News Revenue Hub

Cole Goins | @colegoins
Journalism + Design

Kathy Goldgeier | @kgoldgeier
NPR

Vanessa Maria Graber | @newsjawn
Free Press

Elizabeth Hansen Shapiro | @ehansen02
The Tow Center for Digital Journalism

Brittany Harley | @britharley
Newark News & Story
Collaborative | Five Wards Media

Sara Hebel | @shebel
Open Campus

Danielle Helgeson
Freelancer

Adriene Hill | @adrienehill
The California Newsroom

Dianna Hunt | @DiannaHunt
Indian Country Today

Mollie Kabler | @MollieKabler
CoastAlaska, Inc.

Jonathan Kealing | @JKealing
Institute for Nonprofit News

Courtney Kueppers | @cmkueppers
WBEZ Chicago

Joseph Lichterman | @ylichterman
The Lenfest Institute for Journalism

Joy Lin | @joyindc
Corporation for Public Broadcasting

Alden Loury | @AldenLoury
WBEZ Chicago

Kari Lydersen | @karilydersen1
Medill School of Journalism

Evan Lyon | @evanlyon
Partners In Health | US

Corrie MacLaggan | @corriemac
The Texas Newsroom

Rashad Mahmood | @el_rashad
New Mexico Local News Fund

Apps Mandar Bichu | @ApoorvaaBichu
The Chicago Reporter | Illinois Latino News

Eric Marsh | @marshericrs
WHYY

Olivia Martin | @_olivemartini_
Freedom of the Press Foundation

Reyes Mata | @usborderlander
Southern New Mexico
Journalism Collaborative

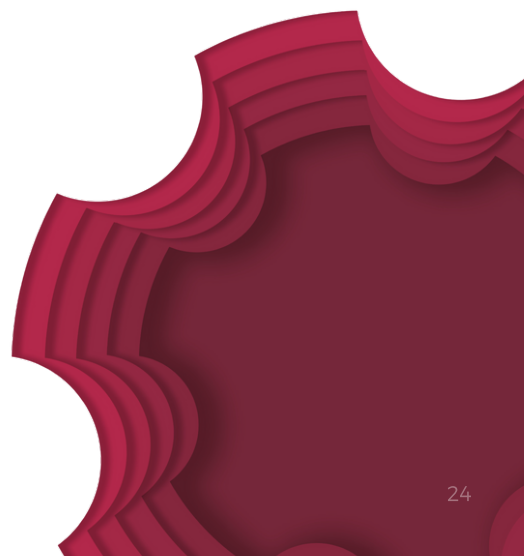
Erin McCarthy
Columbia College Chicago

Judith McCray | @JuneteenthProd
Juneteenth Productions

Kirstin McCudden | @TrackerKK
Freedom of the Press Foundation

Gina Meyer
Freelancer

Jesus J. Montero | @mrjesusjmontero
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Stefanie Murray | @StefanieMurray
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Andre Natta | @acnatta
MuckRock

Priska Neely | @priskaneely
Gulf States Newsroom

Christina Noble | @storiesofac
Stories of Atlantic City

Christopher Norris | @floodthedrummer
WHYY

Erin O'Hanlon
Stockton Center for Community
Engagement and Service-Learning

Rise Osby
Riotous Roots

Lauren Pabst | @contextmessage
MacArthur Foundation

Melissa Palma, MD, MPH | @IssaPalma
Tayo Help Desk

Melanie Plenda | @NewsGranite
Granite State News Collaborative

Caroline Porter | @carolineporter
Ralstin

Andrew Ramsammy | @ramsammy
Local Media Association | Word In Black

Nissa Rhee | @nissarhee
Borderless Magazine

Susan Richardson | @susaneudora1
Guardian US

Jack Rosenberry | @jackrosenberry
NY and MI Solutions Journalism
Collaborative

Toby Rosenthal | @storiesofac
Stories of Atlantic City

Sarah Stonbely | @SarahStonbely
Center for Cooperative Media

Leezel Tanglao | @leezeltanglao
Tayo

Bridget Thoreson | @bridgetthoreson
Institute for Nonprofit News

Leah Todd Lin | @leahktodd
Solutions Journalism Network

Alex Torres | @ChiCirc711
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Centro Latinoamericano de Periodismo de
Investigación (CLIP)

Marina Walker Guevara | @MarinaWalkerG
Pulitzer Center

Tegan Wendland | @TeganWendland
Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk

Kenya Young | @nprkyoung
NPR

Lisa Zycherman | @zycherman
Reporters Committee for Freedom
of the Press

About the Center

The mission of the Center for Cooperative Media is to grow and strengthen local journalism and support an informed society in New Jersey and beyond.

The Center was founded in 2012 in response to the downsizing of New Jersey news organizations and the changes in the ownership of regional public media. These shifts in the news and information landscape hurt the volume of local news available in a state that has historically had limited news coverage, due to its proximity to the major metropolitan areas of New York City and Philadelphia. With 565 municipalities packed into a densely populated state, New Jersey was—and is—ripe for innovation in local journalism.

The Center coordinates statewide and regional reporting, connecting more than 280 local news and information providers through its flagship project, the NJ News Commons. The Commons helps partners to share content and encourages them to collaborate and to support one another. The Center also conducts and publishes research on emerging ideas and best practices, focusing on local journalism, business models, and ecosystem mapping. The Center convenes national programs, including an annual national summit for journalism organizations to foster the conditions, ideas, and practices that lead to stronger collaborative journalism across the U.S. The Center's annual reports offer a detailed history of programs and impact.

The Center is a primarily grant-funded program within the School of Communication and Media at Montclair State University. Funding from the University supports the director's salary and benefits, office space for the Center and its staff, and infrastructure support and shared services such as IT, development, marketing, and administrative assistance. The Center receives additional core operating support from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Democracy Fund and the Abrams Foundation, as well as project support from many other grantmaking sources and sponsors.



**MONTCLAIR STATE
UNIVERSITY**



Program design by **Joe Amditis**.

CENTER FOR
COOPERATIVE
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