

MEDIA IMPACT FUNDERS

April 2016

Help us improve our newsletter!

In the coming months, we will be giving our newsletter a makeover. Before we do that, we want your feedback on how to make it better.

This survey should take you less than 5 minutes to complete, and your responses will go a long way in helping us improve how we communicate with our network.

[Click this link to take the survey now.](#)

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us.

Connect with us



Learn more:

mediainpactfunders.org

[Contact us](#)

Share your media grants data: Become an e-grant reporter

We're set to unveil a significant upgrade to our media grants data

MIF dives into New Orleans for a lesson on culture & community



A view of the Mississippi River from Place St. Charles.

Southern comfort

It was a real privilege for the Media Impact Funders Board of Directors to convene its quarterly meeting this week in the Crescent City in the midst of Jazz Fest-the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. [Read all about what we were up to there.](#)

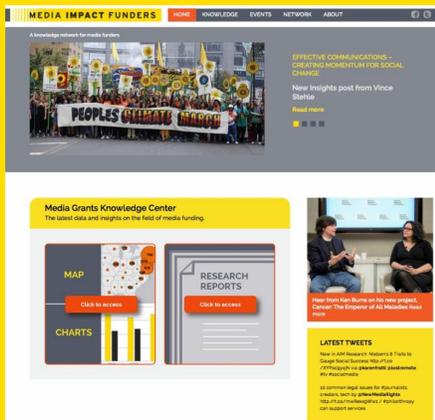
map in June. The new map offers much more information, and highlights trends and networks among funders and grantees.

We want to make sure your organization is on the map and that your grants data is accurate. 990 tax forms don't tell the full story of your grantmaking, but e-reporting via the Foundation Center does capture nuanced information such as support strategies, goals, funding geography and more. It's easy to do, and we hope you'll participate by May, in time for your foundation's data to be added to the map before the June unveiling.

Report your data today.

Questions or comments?
Contact us.

Go to mediainpactfunders.org for an interactive data map of media funding, research, examples of member-supported media, event resources and more.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Media Impact Forum: Mapping the Power of Story
June 28 | Civic Hall, New York, NY

Register now (funders only)

Each year, we bring funders from across the country together with innovative and inspiring media makers and analysts to share insights about the field's most influential projects and trends.

This June, we'll explore the networks, data and collaborations that support and amplify powerful narratives in film, journalism, virtual reality and more. We will present a newly revised grants data mapping service we are developing with the Foundation Center, and we'll feature important investigative reporting projects that include the **Panama Papers** and the **Flint water crisis** in Michigan. We'll talk with Amy Goodman, co-host of **Democracy Now!**, and we'll hear from the **Discovery Channel** on its global release of *Racing Extinction*.

And there's more. Much more. So stay tuned as we solidify our program for the day. We'll also celebrate our third annual **Media Impact Festival**, where we'll honor the interactive media projects selected by our nominating committee, and connect with the extraordinary media makers to experience their innovations.

Mark your calendars now for this **funders-only event!**

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

WHILE WE WERE OUT...

About us

Media Impact Funders is a membership organization serving the funding community.

Membership is a powerful tool that enables you to stay connected, facilitating more strategic funding through networking and resource-sharing.

Media Impact Funders offers **several levels of membership**, based on your organization's giving budget.

Links

Benton Foundation's Communications-Related Headlines is a free, daily news summary service on the latest communications news. You can view today's headlines on the Web to see a sample of the newsletter. Headlines are available both via e-mail and RSS. Also check out the **Benton Foundation calendar** of upcoming events.

Sign up for the **Public Media Scan from AIR** for a quick, weekly hit of projects at the intersection of technology, journalism, and blended media craft.

Subscribe to **The Local Fix** for the latest developments in community news innovation, curated by Josh Stearns, Director of Journalism and Sustainability



"If you're not moved, you're not breathing." --Alicia Keys on the beauty and inspiration of *Girl Rising*.

Girl Rising OVEE recap: Catch our discussion on the film taking girls' education by storm

Earlier this month, **we hosted an OVEE** featuring clips and conversation from *Girl Rising*, an incredible film that chronicles the lives of nine girls in various countries across the developing world who must overcome enormous challenges to do what most of us take for granted: go to school.

If you missed the screening but want to be a part of the fantastic discussion we had around the relationship between education and poverty, and the film's impact--including the global campaign's efforts to send 62 million girls around the world to school--**here are some excerpts** of the conversation between **Vince Stehle**, our executive director, **Holly Gordon**, the film's executive producer, and **Hilary Sparrow** from Vulcan Productions, a funder/producer of the film. (For those who are unfamiliar, OVEE is an online screening platform from Independent Television Service--ITVS--that allows viewers to watch and chat live together in a virtual theater.)

Girl Rising has led a global movement to break the cycle of poverty through education. It invites viewers to watch the girls' unforgettable stories of overcoming rape, slavery, homelessness, forced marriage and more. Prize-winning

at the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Common Cause Media Reform Listserv provides timely information on issues relating to media and democracy.

See commoncause.org for more information.

authors put the girls' remarkable stories into words, and renowned celebrities such as **Alicia Keys**, **Kerry Washington** and **Cate Blanchett** give them voice.

MEDIA IMPACT NEWS



The negative side of impact: When commercial media practices pollute our political discourse

Across a wide political spectrum, from right-leaning supporters of Donald Trump to left-leaning advocates of Sen. Bernie Sanders, **there's a rising consensus that unaccountable money from wealthy donors and companies is polluting our political system.** And far from providing vigorous scrutiny of this corrupting influence, commercial media companies are the principal beneficiaries of this flood of money in politics, receiving hundreds of millions of dollars spent on political advertising. Read the full piece [here](#).

As troubling as that all is, however, there is hope: Nonprofit news outlets are providing a healthy antidote. **Find out how.**

Questions or suggestions for coverage? Want to receive the monthly AIM Bulletin for more information on the impact assessment field? Contact

Jessica Clark.



ProPublica and the Marshall Project won a Pulitzer for their collaborative exposé of massive failures by law enforcement to properly investigate reports of rape.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

- The Pulitzer Prize announcements came and went, but left us with some thoughts: While we must acknowledge that for-profit media continue to produce excellent journalism, **this year's Pulitzer winners and finalists show that they're doing more of it with the help of smaller nonprofits** such as the **Marshall Project** and **Inside Climate News**. Congratulations to all the winners--and to the foundations that helped make these important stories happen.
- Speaking of the importance of nonprofit news outlets, the 10th Annual Reva & David Logan Symposium on Investigative Reporting at the University of California, Berkeley, showcased several compelling projects. We were there. **And we have a Storify to prove it.**
- The American Press Institute has **released a report** examining the current ethical landscape of nonprofit funding. We will be watching this one closely as it develops.
- The first OurTomorrow report--which delves into the hopes, fears and insights of our country's LGBTQ residents--was released. **Read it here.**
- Gannett takes a minority stake in the Philadelphia-based mobile news startup, **Billy Penn**.