

MEDIA IMPACT FUNDERS

March 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 map



Girl Rising is one of five powerful films selected for our 2015 **Media Impact Festival**, which celebrates the social impact of media and its capacity to transform society.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Documenting impact: OVEE screening & live chat featuring *Girl Rising*

April 21, 2016 | Noon-1 p.m. EST

[Register now](#)

Girl Rising journeys around the developing world to witness the strength and courage of nine young girls who face incredible obstacles to obtaining an education. Their unforgettable stories recount the tremendous challenges and nearly impossible odds the girls had to overcome to pursue their dreams. Prize-winning authors put the girls' remarkable stories into words, and renowned celebrities like **Alicia Keys**, **Kerry Washington** and **Cate Blanchett** give them voice.

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

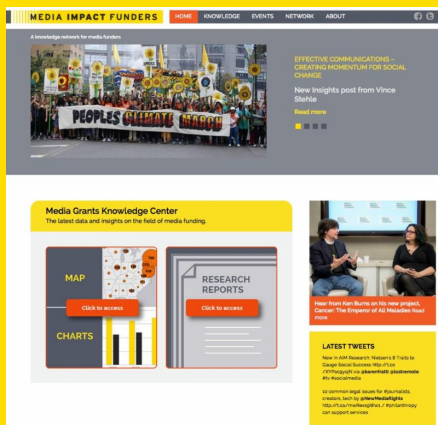
We want to make sure your organization is on the map and that your grants data is accurate. 990 tax forms don't tell the full story of your grantmaking, but e-reporting via the Foundation Center does capture nuanced information such as support strategies, goals, funding geography and more. It's easy 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 mediaimpactfunders.org for an interactive data map of media funding, research, examples of member-supported media, event resources and more.



MIF board news

We've had some changes in recent months that we'd like to share with you.

Through a partnership with OVEE, an online cinematic social visual experience created by ITVS, we'll screen the trailer, watch several clips, and speak with executive producer **Holly Gordon** and **Hilary Sparrow** from **Vulcan Productions**, which was a funder/producer of the film.

Girl Rising has led a global movement to break the cycle of poverty through education. We'll discuss the film's impact at length, and its ongoing efforts to send 62 million girls around the world to school.

Register now for this excellent opportunity to delve deeper into the use of a documentary film as a driver of social change.



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. Join us for fast-paced dialogue, moving media presentations, and the chance to network with your peers to deepen learning and spark collaboration. Stay tuned for more details as we plan our program, but mark your calendars now for this **funders-only event!**

- **David Rousseau** of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation has taken **David Haas'** place as our board chair. Haas, of the Wyncote Foundation, remains on the board.

- We created a video testimonial in recognition of David Haas' long tenure as board chair and of his many contributions to the field of philanthropy over the years. Watch that video [here](#).

- Warm welcome to **Molly de Aguiar** of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and **Rahsaan Harris** of the Emma L. Bowen Foundation, who are new to the board.

- **Amy Yenkin** of Open Society Foundations has stepped off. Thanks for your service, Amy!

For a complete list of our board members, click [here](#).

About us

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

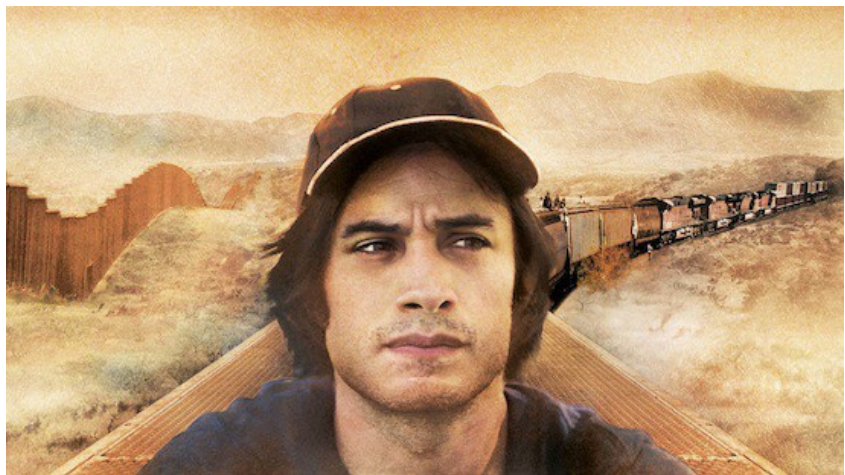
Membership is a powerful tool that enables you to stay connected, facilitating more strategic funding through networking and resource-sharing.

Media Impact Funders offers [several levels of membership](#), based on your organization's giving budget.

Links

WHILE WE WERE OUT...

Must-see excerpts from our *Who Is Dayani Cristal?* OVEE screening & live chat



Last week, we hosted an OVEE screening featuring clips and conversation from *Who Is Dayani Cristal*, a 2013 Sundance award-winning documentary that retraces the steps of Yohan, a Honduran migrant who died on a journey to cross the border into the United States.

The story begins in the Sonoran Desert, where Arizona border police discover a decomposing male body with a tattoo that reads, "Dayani Cristal." Who is this person? What brought him here? How did he die? And who--or what--is Dayani Cristal? Director **Marc Silver** seeks to answer these questions and give this anonymous man an identity. As the forensic investigation unfolds, Mexican actor and activist **Gael García Bernal** retraces the man's steps by embedding himself along the migrant trail in Central America. He experiences first-hand the dangers migrants face and learns of their motivations, hopes and fears. As we travel north, these voices from the other side of the border wall give us a rare insight into the human stories which are so often ignored in the immigration debate.

If you missed the screening but want to be a part of thought-provoking discussion around immigration and the film's impact, here is the [recorded OVEE and recap](#) with **Vince Stehle**, our executive director, director **Marc Silver**, impact producer **Lina Srivastava**, and **Robin Reineke**, one of the subjects of the film. Special thanks to **Philanthropy New York** and **Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrant Refugees** (GCIR) for co-

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 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.

sponsoring this online event with us.



If You Build It: A screening & conversation about building better communities

Earlier this month, in partnership with **Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia**, we hosted a special screening of ***If You Build It*** with filmmakers **Christine O'Malley** (*Wordplay; I.O.U.S.A.*) and **Neal Baer** (*ER; Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*). The special gathering took place immediately following the welcome reception for the 2016 annual conference of the **Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities**.

If You Build It follows designer-activists Emily Pilloton and Matthew Miller to the poorest county in North Carolina, where they work with local high school students on year-long, full-scale design project that does much more than just teach basic construction skills; it shows 10 teenagers the power of design-thinking to re-invent not just their town, but their own sense of what's possible.

In other *If You Build It* news, "America ReFramed"--the independent film series co-produced and broadcast by World Channel--has **won** the 2016 Christopher Spirit Award in the TV/Cable category. *If You Build It* **appeared** in Season 3. Congratulations!

And for those interested in education reform or how to use

media to illuminate the importance of design and place making, Stanford University is now accepting applications for its two d.school fellowships. They are awarded to those who are innovating in the way children learn and building more effective and dynamic communities. Click [here](#) for more info.

MEDIA IMPACT NEWS



Reality bytes

Much like Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg (above), **Jessica Clark**, our research and strategy director, has her sights set on virtual reality. This spring, the release of much-anticipated headsets will further boost the technology's popularity. But so what? In our [AIM Analysis section](#), Clark asks: VR may be the exciting new thing on the minds of funders, nonprofits and public interest media makers, but what about its role in driving real change? Impact is mixed, and here's [why](#).

Speaking of VR, over the last six months we've convened and interviewed public interest VR producers and funders at a series of media and ideas festivals, including Sundance, frank, IDFA, Journalism Interactive and **PopTech**--which, by the way, we'll be returning to again later this year. (See highlights from last year's event [here](#), and stay tuned for more details on how to register for this year's conference happening **Oct. 20-22**).

So: If VR is your thing, stick with us. We'll be watching this trend closely.

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

Jessica Clark.



The Hunting Ground is a disturbing exposé of rape culture that pervades college campuses nationwide.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

- **Vince Stehle**, our executive director, spoke with Ethan McCoy and Ellie Buteau of the **Center for Effective Philanthropy** about how documentaries (such as *The Hunting Ground*, above) can drive real change, and what foundations are doing to be more involved. [Read more](#)
- In November 2015, the federal government "banned the box" by removing questions about past criminal convictions on its applications for employment. In late February of this year, 42 philanthropic foundations--many of whom are in MIF's network--**followed suit** by adopting fair chance hiring policies within their own organizations.
- The Local News Lab--a website launched by the **Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation** to document the sustainability of local news journalism--has issued a report by Josh Stearns and MIF board member Molly de Aguiar that documents several experiments in revenue and community engagement in local news. Read the report [here](#).
- **#PopJustice** is a series of reports--released by the

Nathan Cummings Foundation, Unbound

Philanthropy and the **Ford Foundation**--intended for funders and entertainment industry professionals who are interested in pop culture as it relates to social change. We tweeted about it. **A lot.**