

REALTIME FILE  
MIF  
ANNUAL FORUM-(ZOOM)  
JUNE 18, 2020

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>> Greetings everyone. I'm Vince Stehle, Executive Director of Media Impact Funders and I want to welcome you to our media impact forum session on environmental media grantmaking. We are just past the halfway point in our newly reconfigured remote forum and while we are sorry we can't be with you in person as we normally would be we very much appreciate your continued attention as we explore important topics in media and journalism focused on climate and the environment. Today's program is extremely important to us at Media Impact Funders because it will focus on our brand-new report, environmental media grantmaking, how funders are tipping the scales. It is important because it helps to give us a baseline understanding of just how much media grantmaking is happening in this critical area of environmental journalism, filmmaking and other activities.

We are heartened to see that this is one of the most active areas of media philanthropy. At the same time given what we know about the imminent threat of a climate disaster looming just over the horizon, there certainly could be much much more. As always in these programs we will conduct expert conversations over the next hour and then open it up to all of you listening in to invite your questions and comments. And today we would really encourage any of you to share your own work and grants and perspectives as well as your questions and you can let us know if you have a comment or question at any time by hitting the Q and A button at the bottom of your screen and we will come back to you in our discussion period. With our cast of thousands I'm not going to introduce them all, and you can really learn more about all of them in the full program online anyway, so we don't waste too much time exchanging honorifics in this discussion. But I do want to say a brief word or two of introduction for the first session. The report is offered by Sarah Armour Jones who has recently joined the Media Impact Funders as a research consultant and she has worked with MIF for many years and we greatly value all of her contributions over the years. But our next

segment will be moderated by Nina Sachdev, communications director of Media Impact Funders and she is responsible for editing and overseeing all of our reports and other communications. So if like me you find that the newsletters and social media accounts that you see for Media Impact Funders carry a smart funny and engaging tone, that is not me, that's Nina. And so thanks Nina for always bringing a bright and professional style to everything we do.

>> Thank you, Vince. Hi everyone and welcome. I just want to add that we did not get this report professionally printed. It seemed appropriate given the topic. So earlier this week, during our Tuesday session we heard about a few really top-notch environment till journalism projects from outlets like the Guardian which has been a leader in climate coverage for some time. Today we are going to focus on leaders from the funding side so that you come away with a better understanding of what your peers are doing in the field. So first we will share some of our top level findings from the report, including who the big players are and some of the trends we are seeing. We will also share some examples of innovative grantmaking and high-impact media projects. And one thing I will add is when I say leaders, I don't necessarily mean the largest foundations.

We will hear more about this from Sarah in a minute, but smaller funders are playing an important role in this space. Then in the second and third segments of our conversation we will hear from a few funders and media makers who contributed essays to the report, and offer a variety of perspectives on what's happening in the field and I think that the addition of these insights help to bring some of this grants data to life.

And speaking of data, MIF has been tracking data in the fields of media and philanthropy since 2013 thanks to our media grants data map which we developed in partnership with Kendeda. A couple years later in 2016 we released a report showing the fields rapid growth in the US and I think we found that it was much bigger than we anticipated. Having looked at national funding trends we followed up with a thorough analysis of the international media funding picture.

And since that time we realized that there was a need to more deeply understand trends and questions around a variety of issues that are central to the work of our members and supporters, many of you who are on this call today. So knowing that, we have published reports in the past on trends in audio and radio funding, journalism funding and a funders guide to assessing media impact. And you can find all of these reports on our website at [Media Impact Funders.org](http://MediaImpactFunders.org). None of this would have been possible without the work of Sarah Armour Jones, a long time MIF research consultant, former communications director of MIF, and she has spent the better part of four years pouring over and making sense of this media grants data. So is the author of this new report and many other MIF research projects, Sarah has a very deep understanding of the bigger funding picture.

So Sarah, thank you so much for joining us. I want to stop short of telling everyone that this is the first report of its kind to focus specifically on environmental media grants but it

is certainly a comprehensive look at what has been happening over the last decade so please tell us about the world of environmental media grantmaking

>> Thank you, Nina. I really appreciate that. That's very kind and I want to say thanks to MIF for letting me continue explore the data in the media philanthropy data map. I want to note for those of you who don't know that the map is totally free to use. It is accessible on the MIF website and I put up a link there. There are tutorials and video instructions in the frequently asked questions section so I really encourage you to check it out. So I'm going to go ahead and share my screen and just run through a little bit here of some slides. Hmm.. That is not what we are supposed to be showing. All right. Hopefully you can see that. Nina can you just confirm that you are seeing slides?

>> Yes ma'am.

>> Okay great. So to me the big take away of this whole report is that environmental media philanthropy was a pretty slow burn at the beginning and really for too long especially given the scope of the problem but I'm happy to say that the flame has caught and we are seeing really positive trends in getting across a range of media types. So you will see here the sort of 2009 through 2018 through Harrison in 2009 US-based funders gave only 7.8 million in media grants for climate change and that number has bumped up to 18,000,000 x 20 18. Really small numbers in 2009 for ocean related work, only 300,000. And that has obviously increased tenfold, but only 3.8 million. So given the scope of the problem I'd really like to see these numbers much larger. I was reflecting earlier this year we have been working on this report for a while and I was thinking how we might be incorporating Australian wildfires into our discussion back when that felt like that was going to be the biggest story of 2020. But between the Australian wildfires and of course the tragic consequences of wildlife markets and human encroachment into wildlands I really think we are at a point where we need to see much greater, more robust funding around environmentally focused media. So as we say in the report, without environmental media there is really no effective environmental movement. Because environmental work is so broad, in the report we highlighted four areas of work. Wildlife conservation, climate change and the ocean environment. And obviously there's a lot of overlap between those sections. But what we wanted to do was give a sense of the projects being funded, and we wanted to break it down and show you how funders are applying their funding, what types of media they are really looking at.

So over the next couple of slides we have breakdowns of the media types. So you can see there have been, sorry I want to... So troubling dollars in media grants for wildlife, and I want to note that media content and platforms, that is the documentary film, radio, platform, more of the sort of production value type work. And I will just help us move through the next slide so that you can see the breakout here. 56 million in media grants for conservation. Media applications and tools which is generally a geographic information system. This is typically what that falls into. We have 81 for climate change, which is positive to see that uptick given the 2009 numbers. And 18 million in grants for

oceans, which I feel is pretty small. The other thing the report includes is the top 10 funders across these environmental areas so you see who major players are and the scope of their funding, which I think is really helpful. And as Nina mentioned, you know it's not always the largest players that we have seen in other areas. Of media philanthropy. So I'm going to pause on that. In turn this back over to Nina for some questions. Let me see if I can stop sharing my screen.

>> So Sarah I know from working with you on these reports over the last few years that taking a massive amount of raw data and turning it into something meaningful is not easy but you have turned the research into a really organized snapshot. And so I know that in particular this data set was difficult to wrestle to the ground because of the way it was coded. Can you talk about your methodology a little bit? and more importantly what surprised you if anything as you were doing your research?

>> Sure so the challenge I ran into with this report was a level of data cleaning that I had to do. In previous research , the search features, and if you check out the map there's keyword searching and a whole host of ways to search but for this the search features in the data map did not get us quite as close. So for example if you use environment as a keyword search it will bring up things , great descriptions that include things like the classroom environment or the political environment in the same way grants for conservation produce data that would produced data and book conservation and so it requires a little more data cleaning and obviously environmental work is so broad and often overlaps. So what we did and why the sections on the slides that I show you were broken out we selected for four primary areas of environmental work to see how a range of funders are supporting different types of media and also to showcase areas that are seeing the most growth and where there are gaps. In terms of what surprised me I would say three things. First how shockingly low the numbers were in 2009. I have been doing research in the data map for a while as you mentioned a I knew based on previous research the funding would increase but I didn't expect to see the small amounts of giving a decade ago.

The second was how much support has gone to telecommunications. I assumed there would be a lot of geographic information systems and media content and platforms but not necessarily telecom. And just as an example a telecom grant for wildlife came from the more foundation to support the use of wireless sensor networks and advance imaging technologies. In the national reserve system in California. So that was sort of surprising and interesting to me.

And then finally I would say as we alluded to there aren't as many large-scale funders. So other areas of focus like media philanthropy, focusing on education for example includes funders giving in the tens or hundreds of millions of dollars themselves. And environmental media doesn't have that level of giving from single funders so you can look at that from the downside but you could also say the good news is that small funders really can play a strong leadership role which to me is very exciting.

>> Yeah that is exciting and I think we made a conscious decision to include those smaller but innovative grants because it is so important to reflect back to the network the full menu of what is possible. And you talk about some of the more compelling examples of grants that you found?

>> Sure. There's a ton of great content to choose from and I really encourage everyone to explore the examples and links within the report. There's just great stuff there. Journalism, documentary film, impact campaigns and on and on. So obviously we don't have time to do that today but I can highlight a few projects. The first is funded by the Tiffany foundation for conservation international. And that is for valence reef which is a virtual-reality film focused on protecting birds had a seascape in the remote islands of Indonesia and we will put a link to that clip in the chat function so you can check it out. And I would say be sure to move the cursor around to see the 365° view. It's pretty amazing. Another really terrific project as the years project in the years of living dangerously serious. So that's a TV and Internet project dedicated to finding solutions to climate change. And it features leading voices and culture, business and activism. That has wide philanthropic support including the bar and Ford foundations. And I thought it did a really good especially good job of dynamic storytelling and I want to say a meaningful use of media makers and entertainers it feels a little bit more authentic and also put a clip into that, and I think the clip we have there is from the sixth extinction series and it features a story about elephant conservation and the impact of climate change and finally I naturalist is a wonderful committee science project and it helps scientists identify the animals around them and collect with the global community over 1 million scientists and naturalists and creates research policy data for scientists working to better understand and protect nature and one of the things I really liked about it is that it helps people connect with and contribute to science in our natural world and we know that is the central and we want people to protect our natural world so I thought that was a particular equal tool. i naturalist is a project of the California Academy of science and National Geographic with support from the nor Hirsch and gold foundations and I think we're going to run a clip to give you a sense of that.

>> I naturalist is a social network where anyone can record and share their photographs of living things. When you share a photograph on I naturalist it becomes more than just picture. It becomes an observation. It is a record of an organism in the place at a time. Each observation is shared with the global community of naturalists where it can be [indiscernible] discussed and used to give us a greater understanding of life on earth. Wherever you are biodiversity is there too. Get out and observe it.

>> That's great. I have a seven-year-old who's being a backyard scientist right now. So I'm going to need to show her this resource. Very quickly, Sarah my last question before we hand it back to Vince, we have been compiling this data for a long time. We've been presenting it to funders for a long time. What do you want funders and media makers to do with this data? what can they do with the data?

>> Sure. So the biggest take away from me is there's a real need around environmental media funding and the report and data map really highlight the gaps that need to be filled. So often here in philanthropy what is the data, what are the gaps we can fill and because smaller funders can play and outsize leadership role here I think looking at the gaps, where, where are there areas that are not being funded, how can I build on the work of other funders who are doing work in a different area, learn from them and apply it locally or at a state-based level. Climate change and environmental health is an issue for everyone. If 20/20 does nothing else it teaches us that. And I think if you are funding education there's environmental education work that needs to be done. If you fund in the justice space there is a huge need and environmental justice so the short answer is environmental media is work for everyone and I think the report can really highlight some areas that can fit in a really important way into existing portfolios or possibly expand portfolios. So look for the gaps. And if you have questions later I'm happy to answer them. I'm also happy to receive those questions specifically about the data if I can help anybody at all sort it out I'm happy to play that role.

>> Great, thanks Sarah. Thank you for sharing your data expertise as always. I think I'm going to pass the mic back to Vince to tell us what's next.

>> Thank you Nina and Sarah. I think you really brought the report alive for us it's such a rich report. It's not long. It is not too long to read, folks but it is really rich with examples. For anyone to be inspired to do their own grantmaking. And the other thing about this is that it includes really thoughtful essays from contributors and we are going to hear several of those from several of those authors in just a moment here, but before we do that I want to show just a short clip of encouragement from a major media personality, Chris Hayes from MSNBC's all in with Chris Hayes, who among other things I also participated in the years of living dangerously project as well as covering the climate and environment in his own program and I think he has a message for all of us as funders.

>> Hey there. It's Chris Hayes of all in MSNBC. You can tell I'm in my casual wear right now. With the year of my birth on my hat. I wanted to just check in to say that I think it's becoming clearer and clearer by the day amidst this pandemic and with consolidation of social media that the current market based journalism incentives and solutions are coming up short. There are some places that are really thriving but on the whole I don't think the current market structure produces the kind of journalism we need and I think that is why it's incredibly incredibly important for nonprofit funders to come in to do some of the funding of the basic civic infrastructure of our democratic society, including and particularly on things like climate. It's never been clear that at this moment, I think the, I think as far a dollar can go as never... Been further if that makes sense. I think there's tremendous opportunities all around right now and I hope you will consider it.

>> All right, well thank you, Chris, for giving us that message. And now we are going to turn to a discussion of some of these essays. And for that we are going to ask Christie George, who is currently senior advisor to new media ventures where she was until just

very recently president of the organization and is also a board member of Media Impact Funders so thank you Christie for once again bringing your thoughtful approach to moderating our conversations.

>> Yeah. Thanks so much Vince. Hi, everyone I'm delighted and honored to be here and particularly honored to be joined by Diane Ives of the Kendeda fund, and your Simon from Grist and Angie Chen of the Libra foundation. And I see everyone on video. Great so much everyone. One of the pleasures of this conversation is that the three of you have been working in community with each other for so long and that to me is a benefit to the audience to really learn from you and replicate and iterate models that you all have worked on and have collaborated on. So what we are going to do to start is I will have each of you starting with Diane, then Andrew, then Angie introduce yourself and maybe say a little bit more about how you are showing up in this moment given everything that's happening in the world and then we will move to questions to each of you and then into a conversation. So Diane why don't we kick it off with you?

>> Great thank you so much Christie. My name is Diane Ives. I'm a fund advisor at the Kendeda fund. I'd like to acknowledge that I'm living on the ancestral land taken from the Piscataway people. I'm living in a place where there's a long history of black lives lost to history. Most recently I want to say the name of Finian Barry who was murdered by Michael County police and for very 2020 so as an environmentalist I show up today knowing that all things are connected and how we treat people is also how we treat the planet and I'm looking forward to our conversation.

>> Thank you, Diane. Andrew?

>> Thank you so much for that Diane, I appreciate that. I'm Andrew Simon, the director of leadership programming at Grist. I've been with the organization for about seven years now -- a few projects including Grist 50 and the journalism Fellowship. Currently working on environmental journalism [indiscernible] that I think we will get into an a bit and I think what I'm showing up to today's conversation with is it's probably an understatement to say a mixed feeling of emotions. I will say within this awakening of protests of racial injustice I think even just some context of media, there have been some really open and visible public conversations around injustice just around the work we do, which I think have been hard conversations that have been kind of muzzled for a long time and so in a way I'm happy they are coming to the fore and I hope they lead to some changes [as we go out to see].

>> Thank you for that. Angie?

>> I'm Angie Chen I lead the environmental and climate justice grantmaking at Libra and I'm super excited to be here with Christie, Diane and Andrew, all of people who I have worked with I over the years and Libra is an organization's efforts is going in this moment and over time we adhere to a guiding principle that people closest to the problems are the best equipped to design and implement the solutions to the problems.

So to me it is an exciting moment to see that folks who are in the streets and really fighting for democracy and racial justice with their own bodies are getting a platform and that we are hearing their stories. And so we hope that especially in this moment funders will be more supportive of and accountable to frontline communities.

>> Thank you Angie. That seems actually like a great place to start as we think about who it is we are supporting and how we can be in relationship with them. One of the things I have really admired as a former grantee of Libra is how the foundation really builds authentic relationships that are true partnerships with the people that it funds and I'm wondering if you can say a little bit more about why and how you do that so we all might learn.

>> Sure. Yeah. I mean it's definitely a process. I think, and because of the power dynamics of philanthropy building relationships with grantees is something that takes a lot of time and a lot of authenticity from us. But I think the primary way that we do it is Libra, rather than having our own strategy really follows movement ecosystems and so we try to be guided by our grantees in terms of who we are supporting and what we are supporting them to do, and so what that looks like with media fundings is that the media groups that received funding from Libra are those working really closely together with movement or movement groups that are actually telling their own stories. So one of the examples we use a lot, which we lifted up in Crystal's essay is the center for story-based strategy which works directly with organizers and trains them to challenge dominant narratives and create new stories that center their own experiences. They are also embedded within movement networks so they work really closely with a lot of the existing formations like the climate justice alliance. Another example we lifted up is Grist. And I know that they have really been a leader especially Andrew in his work in building relationships with frontline communities to tell their stories and I know Andrew and Diane will talk about this because Keneda is pretty much doing exactly what we describe without realizing Diane was writing it in her essay but the way they are collaborating with filmmakers to actually tell the story of communities while giving communities agency.

>> Thank you for that. One of the things that I have been really interested in in the work that Libra funds is how you are connecting narrative work to movement building work. In my role at new media ventures, we funded both of those things, but sometimes they are really sidelining grantmaking efforts. So I'm hoping you can say a little bit more about how they are connected for you and how you sort of connect both movement organizations to narrative organizations or narrative change strategies.

>> Sure, yeah so I think especially again, back to this moment, we are seeing that stories and stories of individuals and their struggle has so much power especially when we are experiencing so much of people. Folks are really moved by some of the stories and some of the media that they have seen. Especially in environment people of color have been excluded from the main narrative for a really long time. But at the same time they have been living on the front lines of climate change.

So really experiencing and living stories of both struggle and resilience. So some of the groups that we work with that are really movement groups like the indigenous environmental network are also doing explicit work to create new narrators for the movement, so making sure that for instance during the resistance at Standing Rock that indigenous leaders were really at the forefront in telling their own stories and working closely with select and media partners to do that.

Another one of the groups that we think about a lot is the center of cultural power, which, it is running a program called climate woke where it is really trying to organize and connect organizers who are in community with storytellers who are writers and actors so we are getting community stories and stories of resilience into popular media. And I think the stories of resilience piece is really key for the climate justice movements because I think as Grist says all the time and as mentioned in Andrew's interview climate stories that are dominant are usually doom and gloom but environmental and climate justice stories are resilience, they are hope and success and they tell us about like little people and little communities coming together and winning cleaner air and healthier communities. There's a natural connection we just need to lift it up more.

>> Yeah thank you for that. That seems like a perfect segue, Andrew, to talk about your work, the work of Grist and particularly the environmental justice desk at Grist which I think is a model in the field and can be instructive for funders thinking about how to change the narrative and really empower storytellers of color in particular.

>> Yeah you bet. You know, Angie, that is such a really good point about when you talk about the exclusion of marginalized communities and people of color historically. When it comes to the stories around the environment I think what we do at Grist, we try to address it in one of a couple ways. One is through really, through the stories we put out into the world emphasizing the fact that we tell more of these stories in the communities and the leaders driving the solutions through the environmental justice desk that you mentioned, Christie and also this is more of an emerging one for us, but how do we also support the storytellers who are telling the stories themselves, the journalists, and how do we create more opportunities for these storytellers. So on the first point Christie you mention the environmental justice desk so this is some work that I think started back in 2014 we started working with what we believe is one of the first environment will justice desks in the country that began with the fantastic red reporter [indiscernible] currently at Bloomberg and Brenton really just took on this environment of justice feed and I have been reflecting on his work. He found a way to talk about Ferguson when those protests were happening in 2014 2015 and was connecting the outdoors and the lack of safety for people coming out a protest and it was really powerful in that era but then subbing for the environment will justice desk has really grown over time. We have five full-time staff people dedicated to this desk that includes some season writers who do investigative work including staff writer Vic [Leber], staff writer [indiscernible] we have an environment will justice fellow and an opportunity for [career journalists]. So in the current moment, that team has been doing some of the work you are seeing on the site

right now that has been connecting not just coronavirus to admirable health and social justice in marginalized communities but even the moment of protest that Yvette Cabrera just recently wrote a story that really eloquently I think connects the dots between the LA rights in the 1990s what communities are speaking out about now in terms of racial injustice and how people speaking out are coming from there committees at risk in the environment. Reese brutality may be the signal cry now but a lot of the folks are dealing with multiple fronts, right now multiple problems with pollution and climate change being among them. So there are stories from that that the environmental justice desk is doing and I think having a full team dedicated to that can take on the current moment from all different angles like this. The other piece is I will talk about the environmental [justice] network that Chris is helping to seed and I know that I'm probably starting to run on a little bit but in short that is an early-stage group that Grist is helping to launch. Notionally what we are doing is creating a network of journalists that supports one another's work , that convenes and creates safe spaces for people to connect with one another and over time really helps to build up more opportunities for journalists of color to cover environments. So over the last year we have held several meet ups.

We have a steering committee in the recent moment and we have drafted a manifesto and mission statement and what we are really trying to identify right now is we actually had a work session 2 weeks ago. We are really trying to think of a public presence right now and what that means in the current moment. But I will say being able to create some safe spaces for journalists of color to convene and connect and continue to flag that as something that is really important and this current moment speaks to that more than any other time I can remember.

>> Andrew can you say a little bit more about either the attention or the connection or questions that you are asking kind of between the safe space that the environmental journalists of color network provides and then the question of the public presence?

>> This may not directly answer your question, Christie but I will say the one thing that has come up among our group and other journalists is the notion of objectivity. I'm finding there's some really refreshing conversations being had right now where, and especially among journalists of color where those that are in the work because they want the reporting, they want the greater truth to have changed in the world, and it just trying to reconcile the current moment of protesting it is interesting Axios is a media organization just released a statement that said they are okay with the journalists going out and protesting so there are interesting conversations to be had because going out to the presence --- you're talking about wrestling with what is my role as a journalist, how objective do I need to be, and there is the added burden, right, you know we cannot hide our skin color out there as journalists, so if we are out there in the field how do we, negotiate that line, how do we negotiate some maybe kind of more traditional notions... Not necessarily wrong notions but traditionally notions of what a reporters objectivity should be. So I think we are wrestling that in terms of public presence and then I would also add the current media landscape has been tough with the economy. There are a

have been so many media layoffs happening, and yet I imagine most people on this call would agree that the demand and the hunger for the journalism that this group is doing has never been higher. So how do we reconcile that moment as well, how do we somehow through this create as many opportunities as we can for journalists of color to continue tackling the issues in what is a tough economic environment.

>> We would love to come back to the questions of objectivity in the discussion. One quick follow-up... As it relates to what funders can do is was there something in particular that allowed the environmental justice desk to grow from that kind of one reporter to what it is now? is it about money or buy-in from the top or audience reader demand, or all of it? or something else?

>> Those are great great questions, Christie. I think it is a few things. One, it is definitely a point of resources. I mean, I think Grist had the foresight to just even say that we needed to have an environmental justice writer just to begin with because the times called for it. It was long overdue. I think once Brenton got his work going in 2014 2015 we really did see an audience gravitating toward that. And then I think over time what we were able to do is by covering these communities that as you talked about Angie as well, these communities not just on the front lines of the problems but driving solutions I think from a perspective there was a lot of excitement. I think we were sort of innocence or Brenton was in particular almost doing these case studies of frontline communities that again were not only emblematic of marginalized communities at the front lines of the problem but again the leaders who were driving the change so I think that sparked a lot of --- funders put more resources into building up this environmental justice desk because what we have done over time is I would say the strength in numbers are there but having five people on the desk is we are able to have some representation of diversity just within the reporters and perspectives. So I think that's really valuable too... I think anyone who is following journalists on social media right now is probably aware of a lot of people talking about tokenizing right now are being one of one in the newsroom, being isolated. So I think there's real strength in having multiple perspectives, multiple journalists to cover these issues. So it is not so tokenizing, not so singular and isolating. So that has been a huge win for Grist is by having the robust team not just the volume of stories we can pretty and the variety but a variety of storytellers.

>> Thank you for that, Diane perfect segue to you. Because we want to make sure that we are not doing the tokenizing or lone journalist of color intern of color in the organization and thinking that is some type of strategy or solution. Can you talk about what funders can actually do to help organizations in this moment?

>> I would be happy to. And it's great hearing Angie and Andrew's kind of presentations and conversation to kind of begin to pivot and focus on what funders can do. I want to say we are in our environmental media funding we have a lot of our grantees who are on their own racial equity journeys further institutions which means that they are not starting in a place of being totally aligned with movements and totally

aligned with communities in terms of how they tell stories and they are not necessarily all people of color organizations. So they are on the journey and I feel like as a funder, our obligation is to be on the journey with them but also encourage them to not make mistakes. If they come to us and say we want to have an internship for people of color or we want to hire our first journalist of color, to not accept that and just say we need to do more. Here's how you can do more. And to make sure that what is being resourced is the full opportunity.

So the people who are coming in, who are young and hungry and eager to be media makers actually see peers and mentors within the organization of how they can grow and become better able to tell these kinds of stories. So I just want to emphasize that kind of the work that Grist has done to build out its environmental justice desk has been a really important example of that. They are not the only organization that has done it but I feel like part of the opportunity came about because funders were resourcing and asking questions as well. That is one thing. I think the other piece is there is kind of the racial equity journey that the institution goes on but there's also kind of a surround of how institutions live in a structural environment around racial equity and I just want to kind of give one example of the work Sundance Institute has done around their festival. A couple years ago some funders came to them and explore the opportunity to support expanding the credentialing of critics who are coming to the festival to include critics of color. And it costs a little bit of money. It costs a little bit of outreach and a little bit of tweaking to the institutional structure but what it did to the ecosystem was pretty phenomenal because it gave so makers of color much greater visibility and leverage coming out of the festival for their own distribution platforms. So just these even little things that we can do to help build the ecosystem as well as the institutions is really important.

>> That is such a good example of how a small point of leverage can have such an outsized effect and kind of him downstream effects on even audience learning, because journalists covering them it is so much richer. I'm curious learning from anyone Angie Andrew or Diane, if you have got other examples of how you have seen other people move along the journey that Diane references. There's lots of momentum in the field but we are not where we need to be so what do you think is necessary in order to move people along?

>> Does anyone else want to jump in? [laughter] are you guys giving it to me?

>> Go ahead.

>> I would say, when we talked about the prep conversation talking about the moment we are in really this is an ongoing commitment as funders and I think that is the most important thing that we can take it manage of these moments for true transformation but luck comes to those who are prepared. And the moment that we are in is in part possible because of all the work that has been done before. So I think kind of rooting

and committing ourselves as funders to this work for the long term is probably the most important thing.

>> We are at time. We have so little time to talk to these amazing people. So I would really encourage people to ask some questions. We've got a Q and A so we can hear a little bit more from Angie, Diane and Andrew.

>> Yeah, thank you Christie. And for sure, this conversation can continue. Thanks. That was really rich for all three of those perspectives and thank you, Christi for moderating expertly as we have come to expect. I will build on a couple points that I heard there, which is we also heard in our first program discussion in the first installment of the forum Amy Goodman interviewed Ayana Elizabeth Johnson who is a great marine biologist but also a marine biologist and they talked a lot about the connection between racial justice and environmental justice. And in particular, Ayana is leading a very important new anthology project, which is called all we can save, truth, courage and solutions for the climate crisis. And she's going to be hearing from 40 different women scientists and activists and lawyers in the project. So that one project alone has the opportunity to raise up more voices.

So people can certainly explore ways of supporting that work and certainly there are other connections we can make as well to other programming that we have already heard. But Nina is now going to turn to the next conversation set. Again we have a short amount of time, even shorter now, but it all carries over into the final half hour we have together so we want to bring questions and comments from all of our participants into that as well and continue the dialogue with all of the participants who are able to stick with us as well. So take it away, Nina.

>> Thanks, Vince. So our next lineup of speakers, they also contributed essays to the report. And their insights reflect local regional and international perspectives. So we have Joya Banerjee Program Director, S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, Meaghan Calcari Campbell Program Officer, Marine Conservation Initiative, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Devon Terrill, Program Officer, Journalism and Media, Stanley Center for Peace and Security. Thank you all for being here and sharing to the report, Joya, I would like to start with you, the ST Bechtel foundation started a 10 year program focusing on California water management and you wrote in your essay that when it comes to water California is data rich but information poor. So can you tell us what that means and then also how is the foundation using media in each of these strategies that you wrote about. You said that there's like three buckets, converting data into information, information to knowledge and knowledge to action.

>> Great, thank you Nina, and good morning everyone. You can tell I'm on the West Coast here, so it is still morning. It is a real pleasure to be with you all especially because quite frankly when I was invited to contribute to the essay, I did not consider myself, our work media work. But in listening to the conversations and understanding more about this group I think it absolutely is so it is exciting to be in this community.

Nina, as you said we have spent a large amount of our grantmaking focus on California water. And sort of the context for those who may not be as deeply familiar with some of the issues, you know our water system out here, and frankly across the nation is under significant distress. We faced declining water quality, water scarcity, increased flood risk. We have declining ecosystems and all of this can be wrapped up in sort of wildfires, health, land-use.

So it is a really important issue for the state, but I think it is also an issue that is characterized by its complexity and the conflict that is often associated with California water. And also a mix. So the complexity leads to misinformation and a lot of misunderstanding about the way that water works in the state and who benefits and who it does not. So as we set out, as I mentioned 10 years ago the foundation [indiscernible] we launched a 10 year grantmaking program and we really wanted to honor the fact that water is a system and not to try to pick it apart and just work on conservation or just think about quality and actually think about the entirety of the system. So what we did is actually take some really deliberate steps to say how do you make information and solutions to our water challenges more accessible? and we thought of that in three prongs as you mentioned. Data to information information to knowledge and knowledge to action.

So creating a pipeline. And an example of data to information, California as you mentioned with respect to water at least is data rich and information poor. So we actually started to work with the scientific community which included a range of research institutions. NASA and technology companies like Google and their ascension to really start to fill some key data gaps and information gaps, one of which is sort of a simple question. How much water do we use? something that he would think, a simple question with a very complicated answer. So we have been building on a platform that will be launched early next year. It is in sort of the beta phase right now. That has been working with the agricultural community to really make information about water use much more accessible. And really creating a shared basis for decision-making. So that's a powerful example

of sort of working within the scientific community and working with data. But data and information and knowledge, they are necessary conditions but not sufficient. So one of the things that we also recognize when we started out with the grantmaking program is that leaders have to share a vision and contextualize some of this information so we are actually moving toward change. Toward solutions. We funded a range of projects. And so in the spirit of not trying to pick my favorite child but I will pick what we did support the launch of something called the water hub. So this is a way to think about it is a pro bono PR firm for organizations that are working on water solutions. And the water hub is really focused on supporting underrepresented voices in media to ensure that the perspectives link back to the conversation earlier, so that we are really hearing from the communities that are most directly impacted by these issues. So the team at the water hub really works closely with nonprofits and other partners to really craft narratives in

advance strategies across the field. So that is one example. Again I do feel like I'm picking my favorite child in naming one, but I will stop there.

>> So, Joya you are at the finish line of the 10 year spend down, so, and I know that you are unable to stay for the Q&A portion so I want to ask you kind of a twofold follow-up question. So you're at the end of the spend down. So what are the top lessons that you have learned and recommendations for future work? and then on top of that, Covid has brought renewed attention to access to clean water. So I'm wondering if you have any... If you have anything to tell funders in this space specifically about what Covid has revealed?

>> Yeah, sure. Well I think one of our lessons learned, and it is not unique to media and some... But I think it is especially important for media funding is sort of investing in multiyear flexible capacity well before the crisis. So with water, with so many of the issues we work on we know change will be punctuated by crisis moments. Those are also moments of opportunity and responsibility to change. So what has been really important for us is that really stepping back and saying, rather than sort of funding specific outcomes and focusing on really sort of the... Just the program work, or just, is to actually think about how do we set up these initiatives and projects and organizations to have sufficient flexibility and sort of the depth in their work to be able to sufficiently respond to moments of crisis. So that when they hit, we are not just studying the problem but actually lifting up solutions, and I think that does require an investment.

An example of where that was really true for us was with the California drought and frankly we could have done more. I don't mean to suggest that we got it right. But we had been investing a lot in how we think about our sort of underwater reserves, and our groundwater, which is critically important for California. And change on that issue, we needed that infrastructure and that capacity well before. And we did not know when the drought would hit, but that early capacity was critical. Your question on Covid is a great one. Thank you for raising it. I think similarly we are in a moment of crisis and I think that both represents opportunity and responsibility to do something differently. And I think we are seeing unprecedented attention on the importance of safe and affordable drinking water across this country. And what that means for for frontline communities in particular.

An example , sort of to think that because we were able to provide early capacity for the water hub that I mentioned, a lot of that early work was really focused on building relationships, at sort of the quiet face of frankly for the first year, if we had expected massive amounts of change we had to be patient. And so the water hub really spent time talking to communities. And because of that they had built authentic relationships that allowed them to really lift up critical voices in this time of attention on the issue.

>> Great, thanks, Joya. And if anyone has any questions for Joya, please let us know we will make sure she gets in. Thank you for coming on Joya. I know you have to run. So let's move over to Canada. Meaghan, the Gordon and Betty Moore foundation is

according to our data one of the top funders if not the top funder in the four key environmental areas that we highlighted in our report, and your essay focused specifically on ocean health in Canada. We wrote about the importance of local trusted storytellers for ocean health and that a resilient marine ecosystem must encompass more than just the oceans inhabitants. You say that what's also equally critical is a civic we engaged and diverse group of people. So tell us how Moore is supporting Marine health through that lens.

>> Thanks, Nina. So in the foundations ocean conservation initiative we focus on ocean health. That is our priority. And our funding partnerships really help local communities and governments to focus on solving two really critical issues, overfishing and habitat destruction. When we approach any type of funding at the Moore foundation we access all of the tools in the toolbox, and think about them really in a type of portfolio and coming together as one. The one tool might mitigate risk from another tool or might create an enabling condition for another tool to thrive so some of these tools that I'm thinking of are like policy and law reform advocacy, engagement organizing, public-private partnerships with different levels of government and really anything you can think of, lawsuits, too. So when we think about the portfolio affect, all of these tools come together to help support or enable a really targeted outcome. And so on that sense of a strategic philanthropy side of the spectrum. And the targeted outcome could be something like network [protected areas] are established in British Columbia or a first nation has the tools or skills or whatever resources that it needs to drive forward and indigenous area. So with this frame it becomes really clear that media is one of the tools in the toolbox and that makes really good strategic sense for all of us to be funding, and I think looking at the participant list of folks who are in this webinar and who had RSVPed I think I just want to note that I'm really grateful that there are funders who are here and concerned about the infrastructure of the media and journalism world. Because that's not something I think as Joya said I think I'm not really a media funder but I guess we are all, and to think about that plumbing of the media so that others like us at the Moore foundation can also help our partners be successful. One grant I want to share with you that has been really high impact is around the grantee organizations called green fire productions. So they work with local communities who have identified a strategic issue that really needs some elevated storytelling. The filmmakers then spent time in community helping folks map out goals, map out the narratives that are solutions oriented to get to the goals, and in doing so they center the local storytellers, which the panel before really has been talking about and provided so many rich examples around. And these stories really matter, and these voices matter and I think what we have seen is they help correct the inaccurate and residual narratives that conversation and stewardship are only for white people or wealthy people or parks and protected areas are about exclusionary... Are just being exclusionary in their own nature. Green fire, the other thing that they do in the process is help identify target audiences for the film. So these aren't films that are necessarily going to be seen on the big screen, or be blockbusters. That's not the intention to have kind of [map the] general public into interaction or engagements of the target audience might be somebody, like a prominent

decision-maker or industry actor. So the film screening opportunities and become really targeted to get those individual decision-makers into the room and maybe you can give them up panel of speakers after the film is shown. The films have been cited when certain initiatives are crossing the finish line as something that's really contributed toward that last push.

>> Great. Thanks Meaghan. And before I ask you a follow-up we are going to go past our 2 PM segment because I know we still have to get to Devon. But really quickly, speaking of tools in the toolbox you mention the importance of impact evaluation and impact is a huge area of work for us. So what insights can you give to other funders on this call on measuring and assessing it?

>> Yeah absolutely. So I ask a few questions of our grant partners. The first is what our folks Artie measuring. How are they assessing their work and let's find ways to use those in our own metrics because our measurement as we all know is not necessarily better and people have better things to do and the second question I ask is what time frame are we looking at and as Joya mentioned about how Bechtel works, I'm grateful that the Moore foundation is actually able to give multiyear grants because this gives grant partners ways to experiment and learn and not be judged on a compressed or unrealistic time frame. I think we know that short grants can force grantees to track indicators that are more about busyness or busywork and less about impact and we want to move away from the number of clicks to understanding kind of what the impact of those clips might be and that can take some time. The third thing that I want to ask of partners is how do we focus more on adaptive management and [progress] rather than the binary success or failure. And I think if we frame measurement up as an either or, that really can introduce unfortunate incentives for partners. Weathermen should be a tool like a thermometer where we take the temperature along the way and understand are we headed in a trajectory. And if not, let's adaptively manage. I think a grand for us that really shines here is with the Institute of journalism and natural resources. The organization ran an Institute in coastal British Columbia in 2016. They brought 15 journalists from the US and Canada up to the region for two weeks, spent a lot of time and met with dozens of community members and got to know the place, the people really nuances of what is happening in this really special region and it was also a two-way street because the communities, there was space for the community members to engage about the journalism world. So that we can get away from this journalism as an extractive exercise and find there is more to offer in the exchanges. In 2020 we are still seeing some stories come out of journalists. So that four years later they lift up the community voices and the stories around unpacking complex issues, what folks are for journalism in the solution space. So that is one suggestion we are seeing has impact for years later. And one thing I will say is some of the journalists have been able to highlight some of the same storytellers. Recently the indigenous guardians are the eyes and ears for foundations who are on the water patrolling, measuring animals or observations and these guardians have actually now become first responders during Covid, as many of the nations have closed their territories to any outsiders. And so they are putting their

life at risk to protect their nations and cultures and all the communities so it's been fantastic to have that amplified and have those people's voices be heard.

>> Great. Thank you Meaghan. Those are great insights but if anyone has impact related questions for the Q and a session Meaghan has anointed herself the impact expert. Okay, let's get to Devon. Hi Devon. Thanks for your patience. So the Stanley Center is a globally oriented private operated foundation committed to action and policy progress on three core issues, one of which is mitigating climate change. So while the Stanley Center isn't a grant maker it does leverage strategic partnerships to enable critical climate journalism at the policy level. Can you tell us what that looks like?

>> Yeah sure. So that is right. We aren't a traditional funder or grant maker but I know that there are actually many members of this group that feel like they don't exactly fit in and as Joya mentioned too, somehow we don't fit the profile of other media funders but I think the report and the contributions from others that have been on the panel really show that they, they have shown that there are 70 different ways to support good and needed climate journalism in the environmental climate space this is really a global crisis that demands all hands on deck from organizations that are big and small and there are different ways that we can effectively contribute to solutions to this. So one way that we have found our way to contribute is primarily in the international climate policy space. So we as an organization focus on peace and security challenges and specifically global challenges that can't be solved by one country or actor alone. So obviously climate change is one of the challenges that really requires cooperation and collective action and transformational changes in the way we interact with our planet. So with our journalism and media work we collaborate with journalism organizations, networks and other kinds of partners around the world to create reporting trips and fellowships and journalism, training and workshops that are designed specifically for journalists who are covering climate change. And we zero in on specifically helping journalists better understand international climate diplomacy and the UN framework convention on climate change or the UN F triple C, if you have heard the acronym out there, the annual UN climate talks and international spaces where countries are essentially shaping how they are going to implement the commitments they have made as part of the Paris agreement.

So kind of underpinning this whole approach is a belief from our organization that strong and independent journalism builds better forms of societies and strong accountability. So it is therefore an essential part of the process we have to support that in order to really see any changes out there. So what I talked about in the report was our work on collaborative reporting fellowships over the last several years in partnership with different organizations like Earth journalism network, which is a project of inter news that brings your list from countries around the world to international or UN level climate summits, where the policies from countries are being negotiated, so journalists from non-Western countries or countries that are typically very much underrepresented in these venues, even while decisions that leaders are making are just as critical if not

even more critical to the countries most impacted by climate change. So what we focus on bringing journalists from those kind of underrepresented countries to those venues with the idea of basically kind of creating pressure points. So essentially pressure to drive collective action to decrease the warming of the planet needs to come from every direction. So our role in this is that we bring journalists into these international venues where these conversations are happening to create another pressure point. Along with all of the other efforts we have seen in the report, this is one space that may be does not have as much attention. And so we feel like bringing journalists there to hold power to account, to ask tough questions and inform audiences that are not included in these conversations and actually bringing those voices into these venues, they are able to create a fuller picture of what's actually happening there. And I just think that like right now there's so much going on outside of these kind of formal international processes and obviously there's inherent flaws in the systems we have created for change, but when you have journalists there that are looking at the entire picture including the protests that are happening around these meetings, the indigenous populations that are bringing representatives there to talk about things that have been ignored for years, though stories are getting covered by the journalists just as much as the negotiating point that was either won or lost in the conference itself. So that is kind of our approach is bringing journalists into these things and creating sort of a runaway to them being able to actually cover these conferences well because they are very complicated and difficult to navigate. So there's a kind of training and learning process for understanding what's happening there and how to make it relevant to the audiences back home.

So that is just one example of something we do, but it is finding that space at the international policy level that we feel complements the kind of work that everybody else has been talking about.

>> And Devon, similar to the question that I asked Joya, what about Covid and your work on the global stage? has that changed anything, does it move you in a different direction? or reveal anything else that is urgent?

>> Well, you know part of our work looks at these intersections of climate policy and other sectors like health and finance and our journalism in media programming can be very flexible in that sense. We can figure out where we want to put our efforts and resources. You know, after sort of surveying the needs and what the landscape looks like. But that said, Covid has completely upended our normal approach to things. Because we were focusing on you know, bringing journalism into international venues. So it means travel obviously. People coming from all over the place and convening essentially. So by not being able to do that we have had to get creative about how we can still accomplish these things without actually bringing them there. But what it points to I think for us is that these kinds of discussions are still happening you know, at the global level. People, countries and leaders are talking about these things, but journalists aren't there. They are physically not there. Asking the questions and seeing what is going on behind the scenes. So that is concerning to us very much so because along

with journalists not being there, civil society is not there. The protesters are not there. All of these things aren't happening because of the lack of opportunity to convene. So that is something that we are trying to work around. We have come up with a number of different ways to work with our partners to continue to engage journalists and help them kind of continue to track these stories and get them ready for when we actually can convene again. To be prepared to do their jobs with as much effectiveness as possible.

>> Great, thanks Devon. So I think we are way over time but that is okay. Vince, take it away.

>> Absolutely. We are well within our time. We had an hour and a half and we broke it into an hour of this and a half hour of that. But that's kind of an artificial barrier. And we are very happy. We know we crowded the stage with talent so we just let the stage out a little bit to make room for all of the contributions. It was a really rich dialogue. I want to thank Nina and Christie for leading it, and all of the panelists for contributing to it.

I have asked our panelists if they want to think about questions for each other too, as well as asking the attendees for questions. I just want to make a couple quick observations. One is that this dialogue is rich in its own right. And there's so many connecting points we can make within this discussion, but also this program is also connecting to previous programs maybe the coming programs as well and I can think to Meaghan's comments about indigenous voices and making sure we are going to the front lines themselves and not just helicopter ring in as an outside observer. That is something we heard very clearly in the second session on June 11. Sharing stories from the front lines. And so I would encourage people to go back if they have not heard that conversation to hear from the global press Institute and witness and others about that really rich discussion that definitely reinforces what Meaghan was saying there. As well as I think we heard an interesting point of view on the first program where Ellen Dorsey, the head of the Wallace global fund, made a very strong pitch for increasing the outlays of philanthropy now in a moment of crisis. And people are experiencing the crisis in a lot of different ways. Some people are feeling that 20/20 is a crisis just as a calendar year. That Covid brings its own crisis and the campaign for racial equity that we are all experiencing, you know, on the streets of our cities nationwide and around the world for that matter is creating its own sense of urgency and that for all of these reasons, foundations should think hard about increasing their outlays, maybe doubling the grants budget, maybe thinking strongly about sunset, you know, spending now and accelerating the time in which you spend your resources. And I know that on two of our presenters were spend down funders. Joya is gone already from Bechtel but Diane I wonder if you would reflect on the perspective that Kendeda brought from the spend down [foundation and] would like to reflect on that perspective as well.

>> I would be happy to. I would say we started as a spend down foundation with no clear date of when we were going to spend down and then we got clarity on it over time. But for us it has always been this really important balancing act between kind of investing in the here and now and moment we are in because that feels very much like

the resources that we have. And investing for perpetuity even though we aren't going to be here for perpetuity. So for us it's really about embedding in grantees the capacity to do good work after we are gone. So it's an interesting dynamic that we have that as we see these moments we want to lean in and be as helpful as we possibly can with grantees but what we really want to do is lean and with capacity for them to be their own best self because there would be plenty of these moments moving forward.

>> Great. Does anybody else want to reflect on the urgency of the moment, and then need to accelerate spending? anybody else have a perspective to share on that? not forcing.

>> I would be happy to jump in. So I think Vince knows, and some of our partners knows that Lieber made the decision last year to double grantmaking for 2020 and that's when we only knew about a couple of the crises that were happening. We knew there was a climate crisis and a democracy crisis. We did not yet know there was a public health crisis and the racial justice crisis. And I think when the board made the decision it was really focused around this year being super pivotal and not wanting to look back and wish that it had done more. They also made the decision to invest all of the increased payouts an additional 25 million on top of the plan 25 million in payout in existing grantees because they didn't want, I mean I think there is a tension between responding to the moment and investing for the long term like a lot of folks talked about. And so I think we just wanted to recognize the fact that the same folks who are fighting against pollution and extraction in their communities are the ones who are registering people to vote. They are the ones providing mutual aid and they are the ones now putting their bodies on the line to fight for racial justice. So we are recognizing that they were doing a lot more and needed a lot more resources in this year. And I think it is an interesting challenge to philanthropy because there is the argument for needing resources to be maintained for the long-term to invest in the communities that do not often get funding as well as the challenge to, and the call to actually invest more now. I think for me at least over the 15 years that I worked in this field I've never been in a moment of so many intersecting crises.

>> Yeah, I would concur with that point and I have been in the field of covering the field in one way or another for more than twice that long. And certainly there's always been a time, the perspective that philanthropy can do either. They can be an important player for the long-term and have a long view and that is important but I think certainly the urgency around climate, which is the a point that brought us together in all these programs raises the question, will there be a tomorrow in the same way that we have always thought, because the crisis is that fundamental as to whether life on earth can continue if we have another 2° of temperature globally. And so that shifts the balance of that question as well. I also want to reflect on something we heard from several of you. And that is the fact that you are supporting this media but you do not think of yourselves as a media grant maker. It is a common refrain that we always here, we are the island of misfit grantmakers, the, nobody feels like they belong in the space because they are

fundamentally focused on climate, or environment or education or whatever and they do their media grantmaking as it relates to the program concerns. It is a small portion of all media grantmakers who have a dedicated program in media itself. And a much larger group that actually do the media grantmaking related to their other work too.

So everybody should feel comfortable. They are welcome in these conversations and this is really how we do our work. I have a question from Megan Parker and I will voice it for her. And Megan is the head of the Society of environmental journalists. She says in the last three months, an estimated 36,000 journalists have been laid off, furloughed or had their pay cut. The beat reporters that we support have been protected from newsroom staff cuts from grants but it's not easy for local news outlets to adapt to nonprofit funding and the lack of capacity is greatly exacerbated by the economic crisis. What advice would you offer as we seek to scale up this model so that we can keep more environment journalists and local newsrooms anybody want to offer their thoughts on that? don't all start at once. Somebody's got to take their mic off. I'm going to call on Andrew Simon, if nobody else steps forward.

>> It's funny because I was reading your question again and I sort of had the same question myself. You know, at Grist we are in the position of being a nonprofit media organization that has been around for 20 years and we have been very thankful to be in a position where we have been able to kind of pivot our coverage with the time. In really rapid time. So we have been in a fortuitous position from that respect. It is a great question. I wish I had the answer. I wish I did because it is so important, and you are asking the right person of these institutions that have been on a business model for decades, maybe more than a century, right? How do you pivot in the moment. That's a tough question. I wish I had the answer. It's the right question to ask.

>> Anybody else want to offer...?

>> I will say just a word. I feel like the challenge that we are looking at is one has a broken economic system and trying to kind of right size businesses as they currently exist for a broken economic system is never going to work, so engaging in a larger conversation about economic justice is probably going to be an important way of thinking about how do we make sure that we have the kind of reporting capacity that we want and need and with the perspective that Andrew talked about earlier around that it does not, we do not need to come to some false sense of objectivity to all of this. And so I would just encourage a broader conversation of the people in crisis and the whole question about how people are going to pay the rent and for food and I do not want to minimize that at all but I do feel like this moment we are in calls for a much larger conversation about where media goes.

You raise the point about like will be like in the future, will we have a future to look forward to and I would say we do have a future to look forward to and it is up to us to decide how much is going to be an imbalance of power and how is going to be equitable. And I think that is the moment we are in.

>> Usually important. I mean, with so many shocks to the system. We might have a chance to sort of fix everything all at once rather than the incrementalism then we have had to experience over past decades. But then we have to get it right all at once too. Christie, I wonder if you could maybe switch hats from discussion moderator to expert as well. You have just wrapped up many years at new media ventures and that media organization has done really remarkable work in fostering innovation and equity simultaneously and those are two difficult things to do simultaneously so I wonder if you want to reflect on your experiences there on some of what we have been talking about today.

>> Yeah, thank you. You know the thing that feels most resident to me right now and for those of you who do not know media ventures invests in both for-profit companies and nonprofit organizations that together will shift the balance of power in the US. So we have a power analysis that we bring to all of our grantmaking and investment work. And the dimensions that we invest along are narrative change civic and movement building and much to Angie's point earlier about the simultaneous crises that we are facing in the organizations that have been working at those intersections for so long, I have found myself sort of blown away by how much seems possible in this moment in essentially like three months or something. Many of us have been like years and years in movements for social change and obviously my hope would be that we would not have crises that would create these opportunities, but for a long time if I reflect back on when new media ventures was first starting we were having to convince people of why media was relevant, why they should even care about media's role in elevating movements for social change. What even was narrative change and now there is this facility within at least the funder community that these things are related. They are, they sort of co-create one another, to the point of what we can do now it feels like we are not putting our heads up against a wall trying to convince people that these problems exist. It is right in front of us and we have a kind of critical mass of people who did not care before or did not know it affected them. So I find in this moment like a real possibility for us to do something about things that many of us have cared about for a long time.

>> And I just wonder if I could follow up. There is a lot of talk in journalism circles of solutions journalism and it is not just solutions journalism, although that is important unto itself but solutions activism. I wonder if that is may be a framework to bring to this that it is not just as dire and maddening as some of the problems are, thinking that some of the activism is showing that it is not just about shaking our fist at how it is broken but also letting the path to how to fix it.

>> Yeah, I mean what I find is what is so critical about the role of journalism in this moment is that there solutions in all sorts of different places for these problems that we face, and it is up to us to elevate those solution so that other people can take it and run with it. Is one of the reasons I was so interested in what Andrew was saying around the sort of problematizing or interrupting of the objectivity frame that has for so long

dominated traditional journalism and the ways in which journalists of color in particular are saying hey, wait a minute there is a different way to tell the story.

>> Right. Yeah, so important. Does anybody, any of the panelists have questions for each other? or any interest in offering a last word inspired by something you heard from each other?

>> I could, I was just inspired hearing you speak, Christie if it is okay to jump in here Vince. Because I totally agree with what you just said about solutions and what I would add is I would also say even if you think of yourself as say more of a traditional reporter, just the facts there is still a way to approach solution stories where you're going to change makers and leaderships and activists on the ground, getting the perspectives and asking how the change happens. I mean I think that is something that we try to do at Grist especially with projects like the Grist 50 is not only lift up the leaders but really as reporters get to the root of how they are making change and what are they doing that is different or innovative, something to take for granted when we talk about innovation sometimes we think of business leaders or technology but we don't always think about what activists and grassroots leaders are doing that is innovative working toward solutions and I think there is a way to carry all that is journalists and reporters to tell stories that again you might think of yourself as a journalist advocate and that's okay. If you could think of yourself as a traditional reporter I think that is okay too.

>> Yeah absolutely. Nina did you want to... Offer a quick word?

>> Sure. I just wanted to remind everyone on the call, the speakers and the attendees that we are very eager to hear about your work. We aren't just in events programming organization. We do, even though I'm not a journalist anymore I do maintain a [laughter] robust publishing schedule. We do have an active news section on our website. So if anyone is interested in writing about their work or sharing in perspectives about the network it is much appreciated.

>> Great. Thanks Nina. Yeah absolutely. We want to share with the network and build the network. That's what we are trying to do here for anybody who is viewing in real time or on the recording at any point in the future. And while we are not just an event producer we are still an event producer and the next event we have is next Tuesday June 23 it's going to be a really fascinating set of discussions. Taken for granted, looking at our relationship with the planet we are going to hear from a couple of really great National Geographic storytellers. Pete Miller and to Nina Urbina in dialogue with the head of storytelling as national geographic, Caitlin [Yarnal] who happens also to be a board member of Media Impact Funders. We are going to hear from a couple activists on the front lines as well Victor Barrett and Michael people who are storytellers as well as activists so it should be a really interesting program. Hope to see you back with us on Tuesday and thank you for all of your attention and your contributions. All of our panelists. Thank you for a really rich discussion today. Oh, and stick with the prompts to

do a survey at the end. It's a three minute survey. Please let us know what you thought.  
Thank you.