Dear TMCers,

Our 10th Anniversary conference in Philadelphia February 17-20 set the stage for a renewed Media Consortium. A special thanks to the Quixote Foundation for sponsoring the conference. Thanks also to Vincent Stehle and Media Impact Funders for hosting our opening event and to the Ford Foundation’s IIE Travel Fund. And thanks to continuing support from the Wallace Global Fund, the Media Democracy Fund, the Voqal Fund, and, as our public TV friends like to say, members like you.

I’ve attached a detailed report on the conference. In this email, I want to foreground initiatives that came out of our annual business meeting: TMC’s new strategic focus on race equity and our commitment to better member communications.

I. **Member Communications**

We heard you when you said you want better communications between TMC members. So here are some initial steps we are taking:

* **Cloud-based Member Database.** By this summer, we will implement a cloud-based civicrm database that you can update and that we can use to quickly pull reports on, for example, all . Eventually, we will be able to add functionality to allow you to pull your own reports from this database.
* **TMC Facebook group.** Some of you just don’t like email. We get it. For you, we are setting up a Facebook group. If you want to join, please friend Jo Ellen or Manolia and then we will get you on the group. We are looking for a volunteer to manage “join” requests.
* **Video-Conferenced Affinity Groups**. We are starting up monthly video-calls for affinity groups. If you want to start up a group, let us know.
	+ Engaging Audiences: 2nd Thursday at 1PT/4ET.
	+ Collaborations: tba
	+ Other ideas?? Let us know!

All groups will use our Zoom info: Meeting ID: 902 610 4845, <https://zoom.us/j/9026104845> : phone 408 638 0968

In the longer term, we will be launching a new Drupal-based website that will provide a rich community section. Stay tuned for surveys about that—and an invite to be on the working group.

**II. Race Equity Strategy**

Better internal communications is part of our race equity strategy, as we work to ensure that all voices in the Media Consortium are heard. But the Coordinating Committee is working hard to implement a Consortium wide-race equity strategy as well, based on feedback from the business meeting and Race Forward workshop.

Our Race Equity Strategy has three components: a race equity fund; a diversity pipeline; and the collaborative #TMCinColor project.

**I. #TMCinColor**

      TMCinColor semi-monthly newsletter

      Rebelmouse webpage collecting TMC stories at [www.tmcincolor.org](http://www.tmcincolor.org) (was blackspringindymedia)

      Immigrant2016/OurAmerica, an intiative combatting nativism

1.    Set up webinars w/ immigration activists/advocates/seasoned beat reporters to provide sources, framing, for stories

2.    Set up 3-5 in-person events around the country with scholars/experts from TMC outlets as a way to promote TMC member content.

3.    Create co-promotional opportunities via a joint hashtag, rebelmouse site, social media promotions, and more.

We are seeking individuals who would like to support our #TMCinColor work, for example, by helping to plan webinars, work on events or set up a communications plan. If you are interested, please contact Manolia@themediaconsortium.com

**II. Diversity Pipeline**

* Create monthly affinity calls with outlets that have implemented diversity fellowships or diversity hiring programs
* Work with organizations like Emma Bowen Foundation and Maynard Institute to provide resources for journalists of color accepted into these fellowship programs.

**III. Structural Race Equity Fund**

      Raise moeny to create a fund that would enable independnet news outlets to put in place structures for their race equity work

On behalf of the entire Coordinating Committee, I can say that it is a pleasure working collaboratively with all of you, to support your work and to have a real impact on the conversations that shape people’s lived experience. Please contact me, Manolia, or any Coordinating Committee member if you’d like to volunteer or provide input—the Media Consortium is a network and only works when you participate.

Sincerely,

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**Please consider joining one of our committees:**

Membership Committee (votes on incoming members)

Chair, Shay Totten, STotten@chelseagreen.com

Program Committee (plans annual conference)

Chair, Rachel Kenison, rachel@rethinkingschools.org

Race Equity Committee (supports race equity project)

Linda Jue, nvijdirector@gmail.com