

The Media Consortium

2017-18 CIF Grant Cycle

The Media Consortium/ Foundation for National Progress

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LOI Form

Organization Information

Project Name*

For "Project Name," please use the following format:

[Organization Name] 2017-18 Pillars Cycle

The Media Consortium

Common Name or Acronym

If different than your full legal organization name, please list your organization's common name or acronym.

TMC

Board Chair's Name*

(use n/a if not applicable)

Steven Oh

Board Chair's Email Address*

steve@tytnetwork.com

Board Chair's Professional/External Affiliation*

CFO, The Young Turks

Please list the names and titles of any additional key staff members.

Optional information.

Manolia Charlotin, Associate Director

Max Horten, Business Manager for our Fiscal Sponsor, the Foundation for National Progress

Year Organization Was Established*

2005

Number of Full-Time Employees*

2

Number of Part-Time Employees*

0

Number of Board Members*

11

Are you a 501(c)(3) organization?*

If you have a fiscal agent, please complete fiscal agent information below.

No, but we have a Fiscal Agent

Fiscal Agent Name (if applicable)

Foundation for National Progress

Fiscal Agent Contact Name

Max Horten

Fiscal Agent Street Address or P.O. Box Number

222 Sutter St. Ste 600

Fiscal Agent City

San Francisco

Fiscal Agent State

CA

Fiscal Agent Zip Code

94108

Fiscal Agent Phone

415 517-1106

Fiscal Agent Email Address

mhorten@motherjones.com

Fiscal Agent Website

www.motherjones.com

Programming and Reach

What is your organization's primary geographic focus?*

Online

Please select your organization's U.S. region.*

If national, please select the region where your organization is physically located. Please note that Pillars does not fund organizations or programming outside of the United States.

West

Please indicate which Pillars focus area is MOST closely aligned with your organization's work.*

Pillars makes grants to advance three priorities:

- **Rights:** We support social and policy change efforts that allow American Muslims to live and thrive with dignity and that protect and expand the human and civil rights of us all.
- **Wellness:** We support the growth and nurturing of whole, healthy American Muslim communities that are equipped to serve those nearest to them and society at large.
- **Understanding:** We support a range of approaches to amplify American Muslim voices, create a deeper understanding of American Muslims and American society, and encourage people to learn more and take action.

Leadership and Institutions: We also invest in individual leadership development and organizational capacity to strengthen the American Muslim civic engagement community as a whole.

Please visit pillarsfund.org for more detailed descriptions of our focus areas.

Understanding

Please explain how your organization's work aligns with one or more of the Pillars focus areas.*

TMC is a national network of 80 independent news media, including Democracy Now!, Mother Jones, Colorlines, In These Times and the Nation. Adopting racial equity as a key strategic principle, our members prioritize Understanding—building bridges with communities to deepen relationships and improve coverage. We do this via leadership initiatives and reporting projects. We identify, support and bring together media leaders in specific communities—particularly communities of color—to create news media hubs. Then, we link these hubs to our national members, and provide opportunities for journalists and community leaders to work with national reporters. For instance, in Chicago, we developed a network that serves communities of color that began as part of our Who Counts project which centered immigrant narratives in the 2016 election coverage. It has grown into a sustainable community-based infrastructure that lifts up marginalized voices to address challenges across neighborhoods.

Please briefly define the problem or issue you are working to address.*

News stories about Muslims in America are too often misleading, inaccurate, or most of all, absent. If the only stories told about American Muslims appear in relation to a bombing or political crisis, then Americans will think of Muslims only within those negative contexts. To help change this frame, we need to work in two directions. First, we need to support and center Muslim-created news content; journalists within Muslim communities are best able to tell stories of national interest that underscore the critical role Muslims play in civil society. Second, we need to ensure that these stories spread to the broader public through a reporting project that amplifies these voices. Our network of independent media and partners provides a coordinated, multi-faceted platform to do so.

Please indicate the type of support your organization would seek from the Pillars Fund.*

Please check all that apply. If other, please describe below.

Program/Project
Collaboration/Convening

If you selected Other, please explain.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Organizational approach to diversity*

Pillars values diversity, equity, and inclusion in the philosophy, practice, board, management, and staff of its grantees. We recognize that diversity can be defined and expressed in a multitude of ways.

Please share your organization's approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion and indicate how these values are currently present within your organization and/or in which ways your organization could use support.

The Media Consortium is a leader in racial equity in the news media sector. In 2016 we adopted racial equity as the primary strategic goal for our organization. That same year, we dedicated a full day of our annual conference to a racial equity training and followed up with members. As a result, many more of our members have changed staff, procedures and content to be more equitable.

We have worked to ensure our organization itself is equitable. Our two staff are women, and one is Haitian American. Our advisory board is composed of eleven people, of whom eight are women and six are people of color. Among our board and staff we also have sexual and religious diversity. Critically, we ensure people of color are in leadership positions.

The work we propose to be funded by Pillars stems from this equity work and contributes to it.

Budget and Finances

Does your organization currently have a zakat opinion?*

No

Has your organization ever received support from the Pillars Fund.*

No

If yes, please indicate the most recent year Pillars support was received.

If applicable, has the Fiscal Agent ever received Pillars Fund support?

No

If yes, please indicate the most recent year the Fiscal Agent received Pillars support.

What is your organization's current fiscal year budget?*

\$223,000.00

What was your organization's budget for the previous fiscal year?*

\$275,000.00

Funding Sources

Please indicate how much funding you received from each source for this fiscal year. If you don't have current information for FY17, please use information from the most recent year available and indicate that below.

Example:

Foundations: \$204,980
Government: \$175,000
Sponsorships & Fundraisers: \$60,573
Individuals & Board: \$90,153
Fee-for-Service: \$35,600
Membership Dues: \$0
Other: \$7,895

Fiscal Year: 2016

Foundations*

\$150,000.00

Government*

\$0.00

Sponsorships & Fundraisers*

\$30,000.00

Individuals & Board*

\$0.00

Fee-for-Service*

\$15,000.00

Membership Dues*

\$14,500.00

Other*

\$11,250.00

Fiscal Year*

2017

Optional Information

Optional Information

Please include any additional information you would like to share about your organization, program or project. You may submit attachments below.

We propose an initiative that delivers on two fronts: support and training for media leaders from diverse Muslim communities; and a coordinated storytelling project that takes full advantage of our national audience.

First, we will support the development of regional news media hubs with large populations of American and immigrant Muslims. These hubs will provide collaborative infrastructure for the many diverse Muslim American news projects already in existence, support leaders of such projects as they learn from each other, and amplify the content they produce. The work to support these hubs will draw from our experience building the Chicago news hub and from our experience creating a collaborative culture among our 80 national member outlets.

The second phase of the project will be to link these Muslim media hubs to our national members and partners, as we provide opportunities for local journalists and community leaders to educate reporters at national outlets. This approach brings stories up from the grassroots, while retaining the nuance and depth that usually get lost in the national dialogue. We will create campaigns that cross-promote these stories on multiple platforms--tailored to diverse audiences of our members and partners. This reporting project will be based on successful projects we have completed amplifying stories around two social justice areas: media policy and building new economies.

Optional Attachment

Please attach any supplemental information you would like to share.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded