

**X-Grants Narrative Reporting Guidelines 2017**

A narrative report must be completed for all X-Grants. MacArthur Foundation staff may contact you to learn more about your X-Grants experience.

**Name of Organization: The Media Consortium/ FNP**

**Participant Contact Name:Jo Ellen Kaiser Participant Contact Email:joellen@themediaconsortium.org**

**Date(s) or date range of funded activities: March 1, 2017-March 4, 2017**

**1. Describe how the X-Grants funds were used. If you used the funds to attend a meeting, please also submit a copy of the agenda if possible. The Media Consortium used X-Grant funds provided via the MacArthur Foundation to bring 10 community journalists to our TMC2017 Transformative Media conference. The focus of our conference was to respond to the crisis in jouranalism by jumpstarting a conversation about how we can transform the news media system so that we put communities at its center. The 10 people we brought using this grant represented the diversity we wanted in the room. All of our grantees work in or with community media. We were especially pleased to have Melissa Begay with us from Native Public Media and Leanne Ferrer from Pacific Islanders in Communication. We used an “unconference” format which really doesn’t have a set agenda. The closest to an agenda that we had can be found at http://tmcmedia.org**

**2. Describe the progress made in achieving the purpose(s) for which the funds were provided and any lessons learned.**

**Thanks in part to this generous grant, we succeeded in our goal of seeding over a third of the room with journalists who work with community media and a room in which a third of the individuals present were people of color. Those two groups overlapped but were not identical—we had a number of white people representing community media and a number of journalists of color who work with national TMC outlets.**

**The result of having this diversity in the room made our event possible. Using the unconference format, we invited attendees to propose sessions, The initial set of sessions the attendees proposed included: Local Content Development, White Privilege and Gender, Amplifying Content Across Language Barriers, Strategies for Equitable Partnerships and Local/National Collaborations. The effect was like a mash-up between Race Forward and ONA!**

**What’s more, real results came out of the conference. Conference followups include:**

**1. Creating an Asset Bank of resources that can be used by both Media Consortium members and our allies in community media—including members of New America Media, AAN, NFCB and ACM.**

**2. Creating a Code for Equitable Partnerships that can be used to help outlets structure collaborations—attendees particularly pointed to inequities between large/small outlets, white-dominant/PoC dominant outlets, and English-dominant/other language dominant outlets.**

**3. Creating a Sanctuary Project to gather the content being created about the Sanctuary movement; to co-promote and co=distribute that content during May; and possibly to create new content collaboratively, especially to fill in gaps in what is already being produced.**

**4. Hold regional meetings to facilitate networking between local and national outlets. We are pleased that the most active regional group—thanks to this grant—is the Chicago group, with meetings already scheduled.**

**All of these projects are already underway, one month out.**

**We did learn some important lessons.**

**1. Capacity. A significant number of community media outlets are hungry to connect with national outlets, but they have even fewer resources than independent news media.**

**2. Implcit Racial Bias. We have spent several years at the Media Consortium talking about and working on racial bias, including a full-day workshop at our 2016 conference. White privilege still remains however, and PoC experienced scattered incidents during the conference. We were pleased that these were mainly “micro-aggressions” and not more overt instances of racism, and that all of these instances to our knowledge were addressed in a way that satisfied the person of color.**

**3. Increasing and enhancing communciation. We heard once more that we at TMC were not communicating well enough. We are redoubling our efforts in that direction this year with the launch of a new website.**

**3. Please respond to the questions below using the following scale 1 = very easy; 2 = easy; 3 = neutral; 4 = hard, 5 = very hard (choose one).**

* **Rate your experience with preparing and submitting the X-Grants application. Response 1**
* **Rate your experience working the Institute of International Education. Response 1**

**Do you have any additional feedback or recommendations for how MacArthur could improve the X-Grants award making process in the future?**

We have been very happy with the X-Grant award process. Thank you.