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|  | **Using the original proposalâ™s evaluation framework as a guide, what did the project accomplish, measured against the original objectives?**  Our primary goal for 2017 was to establish the infrastructure for continued collaboration. We were pleased to accomplish that. In the February of 2017, our new website went live. The website gives the Media Consortium a means to aggregate and showcase the collaborative content produced by our members under the Impact/ Project page. For example, in 2017 we aggregated content from our New Economy Reporting project and in 2018 we are aggreagating content for our DisHonorRoll project.  In addition, we launched our new CiviCRM database in spring of 2017. That database allows Media Consortium members to look each other up by name, outlet, job type and topic area. The aim of that database was wholly to promote collaboration by allowing editors to find reporters, reporters to find editors, and business people to find each other.  Our second goal was to build on our 2016 focus on racial equity by deepening our members’ engagement with community-based reporting. We facilitated that effort in a number of ways:  1. For our 2017 annual meeting in February 2017 in DC, we used the generous travel grants we received from the IIE program (via Ford and MacArthur) in order to bring in 30 community-based journalists, primarily journalists of color. To flatten out the power dynamics at this meeting, we used a facilitated unconference format—without panelists or speakers. The effect was stunning—sessions proposed included the ethics of journalism, how to tell immigration stories from an immigrant perspective, and a focus on building journalism hubs. Our members came away with a new understanding about what it would mean to work equitably with community-based journalists, and those local journalists felt newly empowered to interact with national outlets.  2. With the support of a grant from the Chicago Community Trust, and using the What Counts rubric of reporting on immigrant communities, Media Consortium Associate Director Manolia Charlotin was able to bring together for the first time a number of outlets run by journalists of color in the Chicago area. These outlets, from the Triibe to City Bureau, found so much in common, and continue to keep meeting, now under the aegis of City Bureau and Public Narrative.  3. In 2017 we launched a New Economy Reporting Project in partnership with the New Economy Coalition (and through them with generous support from the Park Foundation). In talking with national reporters, we realized that many of them did not know how to tell solutions-based stories focused especially on economic solutions being developed. That mattered to us particularly because, while good at focusing on theorizing white urban progressives, our outlets had been missing out on practical solutions being implemented by communities of color. The New Economy Reporting Project trained 11 journalists in New Economy reporting and will be continued in 2018. |

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|  | **Did the project encounter any unanticipated problems, or even anticipated resistance? If so, please describe the problems and the adjustments required in the original strategy.**  Yes. Our project was turned upside-down by the election of Donald Trump. While his election strengthened giving to many of our member outlets, the election negatively impacted the work of the Media Consortium in several ways.  One result of Trump’s preference for chaos is that our members have had difficulty simply reporting on the daily news. In just one year, Trump has already had major impacts on climate change, immigration, racial justice, LGBTQ anti-discrimination laws, gender and abortion laws, labor laws, media policy, health care—basically every issue our members care most about. They are hard put to simply report on the news, and find themselves with little or no free time to volunteer for the interstitial work that leads to collaborations. Without funding support, members have been unable to participate as much as they would like in collaborative efforts.  Most frustratingly, in the wake of the Trump election, the major journalism funders made a joint decision to refuse to fund “partisan” news. At the Media Consortium, we define what we do as news rooted in social justice values—values that belong neither to the left nor the right, to Democrats or Republicans. However, the fact that we proudly state that we are values-based led these major funders to tell us in face-to-face conversations that we should not expect any funding from them in any form for years to come. This was a blow we hadn’t anticipated, especially as we had been in talks with several of these funders to expand our racial equity work.  The result was that, while we were able to put an infrastructure in place for collaborative storytelling, we were only able to support reporting projects that were fully funded, and there were fewer of those than we would have preferred due to the shift in foundation focus.  Based on extended conversations with a number of program officers at journalism philanthropies, and with a strong analysis of the current need within the independent journalism sector, we have made the difficult decision to shut down the Media Consortium in its current configuration. We hope and plan to launch a new organization that will unabashedly advocate for a values-based journalism—a journalism that is not at all partisan, but that transparently starts from a perspective deeply rooted in social and racial justice. This new organization will center communities, working explicitly to move journalism off the platforms and back to specific communities, whether those be geographic, demographic, or topic-based. |

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|  | **Would you consider this grant a success or not? Provide a brief explanation of this assessment. (i.e., Did it achieve the goals/objectives laid out in the proposal?)**  We do consider this grant to be a success. We successfully built the collaborative infrastructure we set out to build; we developed stronger ties between local and national reporters; and we engaged our members in collaborative reporting that centered racial and social justice.  One sign of our success is that, despite the difficult funding landscape for values-based journalism, we received second-year funding for our New Economy Reporting Project (which will focus on Climate Reporting in 2018), and received an unlooked for major donation to fund a Campus Sexual Assault collaborative reporting project which is now launched as #DisHonorRoll.  The Media Consortium membership agrees that sunsetting the current organization and relaunching with a clearer mission and vision around a values-based journalism is also the right move for us at this time. The unrestricted grant from the Wallace Global Fund has supported our strategic thinking in this area, and for that we are especially appreciative. |