**FCC Workshop**

**Summary** (750 Characters)

This project will bring digital, graphic- and video journalists to an intensive 3-day FCC workshop so that they can better translate media policy to the public. The FCC regulates the internet: the FCC decides if internet access will be equal and open or monopolized by one or two companies (the policy is net neutrality). The FCC decides if internet access is a right that should be affordable to all (the policy is lifeline broadband).

Without open and affordable access, there can be no free expression. Yet jargon-filled media policy is rarely translated for the public. Usually only business reporters cover the FCC. Our workshop, run by policy experts, will introduce reporters to FCC staffers and teach them how to read FCC docs. Following the workshop, text reporters will work collaboratively with visual reporters to find innovative ways to educate the public about FCC policies.

**Video or Image**

Susie Cagle

**One Sentence**: **how this project strengthens the Internet for free expression and innovation**

The American people need to understand media policy in order to ensure that their government maintains an internet that the open and affordable platform on which free expression and innovation can flourish.

**Four Sentences**: Who will benefit from the proposal? What have you observed that makes you think that?

The American people will benefit from having a better understanding of media policy. In 2012, after we trained 9 reporters about the FCC’s inadequate prison phone regulations, their stories helped advocates push through a new set of regulations. In 2014, net neutrality, lifeline benefits, and many other policies that are absolutely critical for keeping the internet free and open are coming up for votes at the FCC and in Congress. The American people need to understand the issues so that they can act to preserve the internet as a medium where free expression and innovation can flourish.

**Three Sentences**: What progress have you made so far?

We have been training reporters in media policy since 2011—we have trained close to 50 reporters and created hundreds of media policy stories. In 2013, we brought 20 reporters to NCMR and discovered that in-person trainings were more effective and efficient ways of training reporters. For the FCC training, the Center for Media Justice and Free Press (the creator of NCMR) have signed on to lead trainings, Symbolia magazine (a digital journal of graphic journalism) has agreed to help us locate graphic journalists to attend, and the Media Democracy Fund has given us a seed grant to start workshop planning.

**Three Sentences**: What would be a successful outcome for your idea or project?

First, that we educate over 30 reporters in media policy, because that training on the importance of the internet as a locus for free expression will last over their professional life. Second, that we bring text-based reporters and visual reporters together to work collaboratively on media policy stories, because we believe that visually rich stories will be the best way to educate the American public about the danger that the internet may cease to become a platform for free expression and innovation. Finally, we will use both qualitative and quantitative metrics to see if the stories created as a result of this training have changed the conversation about media policy in this country, both opening up the conversation and moving it toward policies that will promote free expression and innovation.

**Who is on your team, and what are their relevant experiences or skills**

Jo Ellen Green Kaiser, Executive Director, Media Consortium.

Jo Ellen has led the Media Consortium for three years; she is a skilled conference organizer, creating an annual conference each year for over 100 reporters, and has been the lead organizer of the Media Consortium’s Media Policy Project.

Amalia deloney, Policy Director, Center for Media Justice

Amalia coordinates the media policy initiatives of the Center for Media Justice and the Media Action Grassroots Network.

Josh Stearns and Timothy Karr, Free Press

Free Press organizes the biannual National Conference on Media Reform each year.

Erin Polgreen, Founder, Symbolia

Symbolia is a tablet magazine that merges illustration and journalism,. Erin began the Media Consortium’s Media Policy Project when she worked as Associate Director of the Media Consortium in 2011.

Susie Cagle, graphic journalist

Susie created the graphic that headlines this proposal. She is one of the journalists we would like to bring to DC.

**Location**:

The effort is national. The FCC workshop will take place in DC. The Media Consortium is headquartered in San Francisco, CA.

Additional Files