Dear Media Consortium members and friends,

**I’m writing to ask you to attend—and participate in—our upcoming annual meeting February 17-20, 2016 in Philadelphia.**

This year we celebrate our 10th anniversary as a mission-based nonprofit organized to grow the impact of the independent progressive news sector. The Consortium’s founders sought to build a progressive media network. To a large extent, we’ve done that, having grown to over 80 members with a strong collaborative culture.

**What we have not yet done, however, is create an inclusive media network built upon the pillars of racial equity and justice.** I know, as progressive media, that we all embrace these values. However, the re-awakening of public discussion on race over the past couple of years has convinced me and the TMC leadership that our sector needs to become much more aggressive in our internal efforts to achieve racial equity. I’m asking you to come to Philadelphia to start that work.

After a special evening event February 17 hosted by Media Impact Funders, we will offer you all the regular conference sessions you need to support your day to day business activities on February 18. The most important work of our meeting will happen on February 19, when we ask you to participate in a full-day workshop on racial equity led by Race Forward, and at our business meeting the morning of February 20, when we will put the skills we’ve gained to use in charting our goals for the independent progressive news sector’s next decade.

**The objective of the workshop is to provide us with practical tools to address structural racism in our individual organizations and in the independent news sector as a whole.** Most of the day will be spent in working groups, as we examine our own practices for “choice points” –- the structural aspects of our operations that we could change in order to create more equitable, just and inclusive organizations.

We’ve chosen Race Forward to lead this workshop in part because they know media—they are the parent organization of Colorlines. But we also chose them because Race Forward’s work focuses on looking forward. Race Forward assumes that we all support racial justice and seek better skills. People of color are strongly encouraged to participate, as people of all races need to work together to dismantle structural racism.

**Please make plans now to attend our conference, February 17-20** **in Philadelphia. Register at www.tmcmedia2016.org**

Sincerely

Jo Ellen Green Kaiser

Executive Director, The Media Consortium

**The Media Consortium Coordinating Committee:**

Chair, Maya Schenwar

Antoinette June

Steve Katz

Sharon Kyle

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Rory O’Connor

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**The Media Consortium Program Committee:**

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