**FCC Workshop**

**Summary** (750 Characters)

Can we be sure that the internet will remain a platform for free expression and innovation? The answer depends on the FCC. Through policies like net neutrality and lifeline broadband, the FCC has the power to decide if access to the internet will remain equal, open and affordable.

Many of these policies will be decided in 2014; it is critical that the public understands what is at stake. Yet reporting on internet policy is often buried in jargony tech blogs.

We propose to cut through the jargon with innovative visual reporting. We will bring 35 digital, graphic- and video journalists to an intensive 3-day FCC-focused workshop in DC. Run by policy experts, our workshop will introduce reporters to primary source material and FCC staffers. Using these sources, reporters will work collaboratively to marry graphics and video to storytelling 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**

Training thirty-five journalists to use innovative visual media to tell compelling stories about internet policy will take that policy out of K street and put it back in the hands of main street, strengthening the movement to keep the internet accessible as a platform for free expression and innovation.

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

Participating journalists, news outlets, advocacy organizations and the movement for free expression on the internet will benefit from this project. Reporters who now rely on second-hand sources for information about internet policy will benefit from learning to use primary sources and developing relationships with FCC staff. News outlets are eager to replace boring, jargony policy stories with clear, compelling visual storytelling. And we know reporters with good stories to tell can impact policy directly: in 2012, reporting by journalists we trained helped advocates push through a new set of FCC prison phone regulations.

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

The Media Consortium has been training reporters in internet policy since 2011—we have trained close to 50 reporters and created hundreds of internet 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 tablet magazine that merges illustration and 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 35 reporters in internet 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 internet 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 internet 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

The Media Consortium is an international network of 75 independent progressive news organizations. Jo Ellen has led the Media Consortium for three years 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. The Center for Media Justice works at the intersection of media and social change to remove institutional barriers to media equity and ensure that movements for justice have a public voice—so communities of color and America’s poor have a fighting chance

Josh Stearns and Timothy Karr, Free Press

Free Press has been on the forefront of the fight for the open Internet in DC and in communities around the country for a decade.  Josh Sterns directs Free Press’ campaigns on press freedom, public media and media ownership. Timothy Karr is Free Press’ Senior Director of Strategy.

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