Welcome to the 11th annual TMC conference.

Jo Ellen Green Kaiser

Thank members

Thank those who come from community media

Thank partners—repubHub, Kevin Goldberg, Conguity Works, Cividesk and Contexture

Thank allies—Free Press, New Economy Coalition, Black Youth Project

Thank funders—Wallace Global, Media Democracy, and the John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation for supporting so many of you to come here.

We call ourselves a consortium—and that’s what we believe; that we are most powerful when we work together as an ecosystem.

We are at a critical moment—when the right to free speech is openly mocked by our own president. But this attack must make us stronger. We can’t just play defense. We have to join with everyone whose basic rights are under attack—I name particularly transpeople, immigrants, black youth, and those who live at the intersection of these identities. We have to take this opportunity to grow stronger so that this moment can never happen again.

That’s why I asked Maya Schenwar to lead us off. In addition to having served as the

Maya Schenwar is the Editor-in-Chief of Truthout. She is the author of the book "Locked Down, Locked Out: Why Prison Doesn't Work and How We Can Do Better," and the co-editor of "Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect? Police Violence and Resistance in the United States."  She has written for Truthout, The New York Times, The Guardian, The New  Jersey Star-Ledger, Salon, In These Times, and many other publications. She is the recipient of a Society of Professional Journalists Sigma Chi Award, an Independent Publisher Book Award, the Women's Prison Association's Sarah Powell Huntington Leadership Award, and a Lannan Residency Fellowship. Maya is a member of the boards of the Chicago-based anti-prison group Love & Protect and the Chicago Community Bond Fund, as well as the advisory board of Waging Nonviolence. Previous to her work at Truthout, Maya was Contributing Editor at Punk Planet magazine and served as media coordinator for Voices for Creative Nonviolence.