**The Power of an Independent Media Sector**

Too often, independent media is criticized for not having the “reach” of corporate media.  Yet the power of independent media is not reach, but impact. The engaged journalism we practice excites users, listeners and viewers to become involved in our democracy.  That engagement can be further amplified when members of the sector collaborate on a story or issue.  In this panel, media makers will discuss how their collaborative efforts have created impact, built their own audiences, and built the power of the sector.

**Eric Galatas** has been leading [Free Speech TV](http://www.freespeech.org) programming and production initiatives since June of 1998, and is currently executive producing the network's original weekly series, "Occupy The Media."  Galatas led Free Speech TV's first co-production effort, “GRITtv with Laura Flanders,” and produced groundbreaking multi-city election coverage with Amy Goodman, Laura Flanders, and David Sirota in 2008 and 2010. Also in 2010, Galatas brokered a deal to bring Thom Hartmann and Al Jazeera programming to Free Speech TV viewers. Before joining Free Speech TV, Galatas produced 48 episodes of “Citizen Vagrom,” a grassroots videoZine, and spent two seasons on production for the Emmy-Award winning CBS television series “Northern Exposure.”

**Jo Ellen Green Kaiser** is the Executive Director of [The Media Consortium](http://www.themediaconsortium.org), a national network of independent, news-driven media outlets. She previously served as executive director of Zeek Media and as managing editor at Tikkun.

**Miles Kampf-Lassin** is the Development Director at [In These Times](http://inthesetimes.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), an independent, progressive magazine based in Chicago where he has written on the Occupy movement, U.S. economic policy and the movement for Palestinian rights. Miles is also a co-founder and editor of the [Occupied Chicago Tribune](http://occupiedchicagotribune.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), a publication devoted to independent reporting, commentary and analysis on activism and organizing in Chicago, the Occupy movement and global campaigns against austerity.

**Yana Kunichoff** is an Assistant Editor and Reporter at [Truthout](http://truth-out.org) and a blogger at [The Chicago Reporter](http://www.chicagoreporter.com). She has written for Democracy Now!, Interpress News Service, In These Times, Campus Progress and for Chicago’s hyperlocal RedEye Pilsen/University Village site. She writes on politics, immigration, and social movements.