I am writing first to thank you for your support of The Media Consortium over the past several years. Thanks to you, we built a vibrant collaborative network of over 80 independent news outlets. Progressive independent news media have never been stronger—our members have developed sustainable businesses, fact-based journalism operations, and increased their impact, all because of your support.

On June 14, 2018 the Media Consortium will meet for the last time as an AMC Network Gathering in Detroit. [Please join us](https://www.themediaconsortium.org/page/media-consortium-relaunch-network-gathering-june-14-2018).

We would like you to celebrate with us as we close this chapter of independent media history. And we would like you to join us in planning how we can best move forward the projects and initiatives that have spun out of the Media Consortium.

Some of the ideas we’ve had:

* Build a Movement Journalism Network, based on Anna Simonton’s brilliant report [Out of Struggle](https://projectsouth.org/movement-journalism/), and modeled after the Solutions Journalism Network. The aim would be to teach journalists how to partner with activists and advocates to tell stories that emerge from and benefit specific communities while maintaining the essential differences that separate our work. There will be a [Movement Journalism track](https://www.alliedmedia.org/amc2018/movement-journalism-track) at AMC June 15-17.
* Build a Hub/Spoke system for News. Building off the work being supported by the [Democracy Fund](https://www.democracyfund.org/portfolio/entry/new-jersey-local-news-lab-fund) and so many other philanthropists, can we create a center that designs best practices for hubs, brings members of a particular hub together, and brings members from different hubs together with national news media?
* Develop Resources and better access for Journalists of Color. Alongside the many pipeline and mentorship projects now being developed, journalists of color need cohorts of peers. The [TMCinColor](https://www.themediaconsortium.org/page/tmcincolor) group has been essential in providing this kind of support in independent media. Can we work with the many groups now focusing on racial equity to extend this project outwards?
* Rethink the Economics of Journalism. Why haven’t we tried [cooperative models](https://neweconomy.net/about), syndication based [on distributed identity](http://itega.org), or other emerging ways to organize groups while personalizing content? Now, if ever, this is the time for journalism and those who invest in journalism to be bold!

All of these ideas spring from projects and practices that the Media Consortium and its members have experimented with. On June 14 in Detroit we will have a day designed to surface the most promising of these ideas, geared towards strategic planning and next steps.

We invite you to attend—and we invite you to invite anyone you think should participate in these conversations. You can register for our Network Gathering here: <https://www.themediaconsortium.org/page/media-consortium-relaunch-network-gathering-june-14-2018>

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

Jo Ellen Green Kaiser

Executive Director

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