

The image features a light blue background with horizontal white lines. The title 'NOTES FROM NORTH AMERICA' is centered in a large, bold, dark blue font with a slight drop shadow. The text is surrounded by decorative elements: two dark blue four-pointed stars in the top-left and bottom-right corners, and three teal-outlined triangles in the top-right and bottom-left corners.

NOTES FROM NORTH AMERICA

RHIANNON J DAVIES - CHURCHILL FELLOW

Issue 8 Autumn 2022

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Behind the Lens: An Interview with Simon Murphy
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Having travelled the world for his work, photographer and lecturer Simon Murphy has always felt ...

By Melanie Goldberg, Greater Govanhill

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By Marc Hindley, Forres Local

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Applications for Fellowships are now open and close on 14 November 2023 at 5pm. You have **26 days** to apply

A COMMUNITY OF CHANGEMAKERS

ABOUT US →

Learning from the world. Inspiring change in the UK.

We are the Churchill Fellowship: a UK charity which supports individual UK citizens to follow their passion for change, through learning from the world and bringing that knowledge back to the UK. Together our community of Churchill Fellows use their international learning to lead the change they wish to see across every area of UK life. We were founded by public donation in 1965 as the living legacy of Sir Winston Churchill for the nation.

FELLOW'S PROFILE

RHIANNON DAVIES



Plugging the democratic deficit: civic engagement in local reporting

FELLOWSHIP

Themes

COMMUNITY AND CITIZENSHIP

Focus

Preventing the decline of local democracy by encouraging local reporting





UNITED STATES

Gulf of Mexico

MEXICO

CUBA

THE BAHAMAS

JAMAICA

HAITI

DOMINICA REPUBLIC

Puerto Rico (US)

British Virgin Islands (UK)

Anguilla (U.K.)

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Guadeloupe (FR)

DOMINICA

Martinique (FR)

BELIZE

Kingston

Port-au-Prince

Santo Domingo

Santiago

Montserrat (U.K.)

Havana

Cayman Is. (UK)

Navassa Island (US)

Turks and Caicos Islands (UK)

Merida

Toluca

Aguascaltecas

Oaxaca

Tampara

Manzanillo

Nassau

San Juan

San Pedro de Macoris

San Juan

St. John's

St. George's

St. George's

St. George's

St. George's

Chihuahua

Coahuila

Durango

Guerrero

Hidalgo

Morelos

Nayarit

Oaxaca

Puebla

Queretaro

Sinaloa

Tamaulipas

Tlaxcala

Zacatecas

Chihuahua

Coahuila

Durango

Guerrero

Hidalgo

Morelos

Nayarit

Oaxaca

Puebla

Queretaro

Sinaloa

Tamaulipas

Tlaxcala

Zacatecas

Chihuahua

Coahuila

Durango

Guerrero

Hidalgo

Morelos

Nayarit

Oaxaca

Puebla

Queretaro

Sinaloa

Tamaulipas

Tlaxcala

Zacatecas

Chihuahua

Coahuila

Durango

Guerrero

Hidalgo

Morelos

Nayarit

Oaxaca

Puebla

Queretaro

Sinaloa

Tamaulipas

Tlaxcala

Zacatecas

Chihuahua

Coahuila

Durango

Guerrero

Hidalgo

Morelos

Nayarit

Oaxaca

Puebla

Queretaro

Sinaloa

Tamaulipas

Tlaxcala

Zacatecas

Chihuahua

Coahuila

Durango

Guerrero

Hidalgo

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Chihuahua

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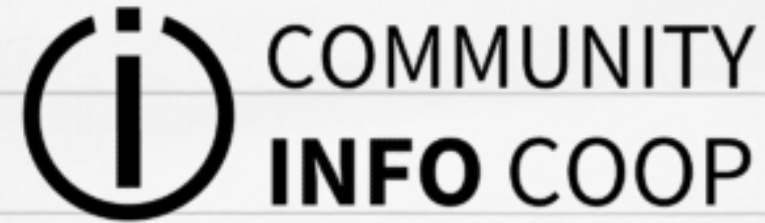
Durango

Guerrero

Hidalgo

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ORGANISATIONS I MET WITH



NEW JERSEY
CIVIC INFORMATION
CONSORTIUM



COLORADO NEWS
COLLABORATIVE



CENTER FOR
COOPERATIVE
MEDIA

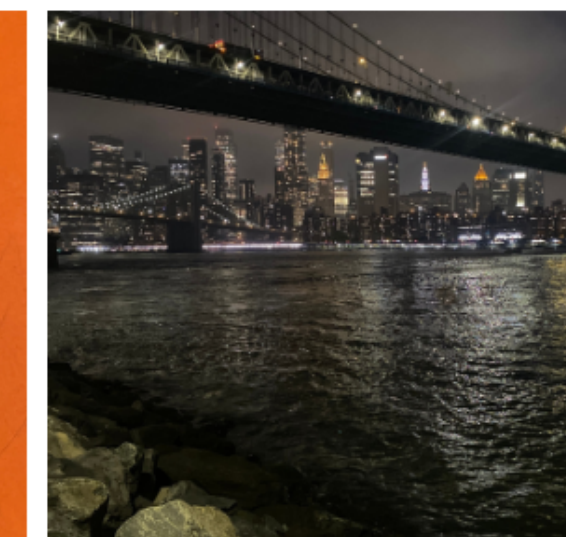
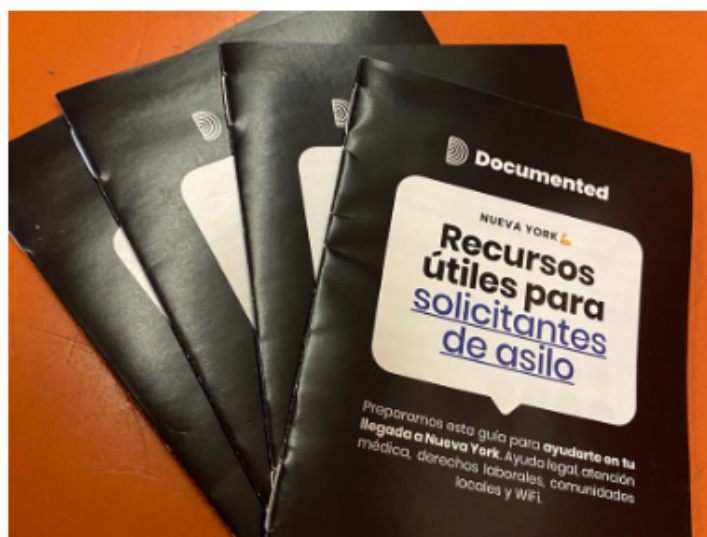
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BUREAU

COLORADO
MEDIA
PROJECT





A BIT OF CONTEXT – USA

- America is incredibly divided. National media has played huge role in this.
- People who have lived comfortable lives are finding their foundations shaken.
- Local news is seen by some as an answer.
- Philanthropy was already huge - due to wealth/tax breaks/need for it.
- Threats to democracy has increased that. (See Press Forward)
- They have a problem with hedge fund owners dismantling newsrooms - consolidating/cutting. It's no longer a money spinner, so owners are trying to extract what they can - without thought for quality of journalism or community needs.
- Supporting local journalism feels like a urgent question.

A BIT OF CONTEXT – CANADA

- Canada is currently doing battle with big tech.
- Meta has blocked news from appearing on its platforms in response to law requiring tech companies in the country to pay news publishers for using their content. Google is threatening the same.
- Publishers are worried.
- A group of industry leaders has come together called Press Forward (they had the name first) to advocate for policy that supports independent media. No one else was.
- The Local Journalism Initiative is a means through which the Canadian government is funding journalists covering underserved communities.
- They don't have the sort of philanthropy funding the US does, and are still struggling for funds.

INNOVATIONS I LIKED

WhatsApp Newsletter

Documented NY report on - and serve the information needs of - newly arrived migrants in New York. They have a Spanish language weekly newsletter and channels on things like housing/health etc. They use Botalite to answer commonly asked questions

Ad Boost Initiative

The Center for Community Media lobbied city government to put 50% of their ads in community media. Now trying the same in NY State. It works because it's not new money.

Detroit Park Watch

Public radio station, WDET partnered with Data Driven Detroit and got audience to send in pics of what was happening with their park. This informed their reporting but they also made the data accessible to council/community groups etc.

National Trust for Local News

Colorado Community Media is a news group of 24 newspaper that is now owned by the Colorado News Conservancy as a way of keeping papers in local hands and out of the hands of hedgefunds.

Second Bite of the Apple

Resolve Philly now has a policy of always doing a follow up of every story - doesn't have to be a public output - could be a meeting or something else - can lead to building lasting relationships.

Media Power Collaborative

Free Press is building a community and a political constituency, as well as education about, policy that impacts media. It helps journalists to be organisers - builds power. It sharpens people's political awareness. you need to build political education in order to get to agitation.

Phone/text line

Detroit Outliers have a phone line where citizens can phone/text and ask questions that they have. This then informs the journalism that they do.

Documenters

Set up by City Bureau in Chicago and now with programmes across the US, it trains citizens on how to report on public meetings. It serves as civic education, journalism engagement and makes officials more accountable.



Documented

DACA ILEGAL, PERO LAS RENOVACIONES CONTINUAN.

PAID FOR by FWD.US EDUCATION FUND

¡Hola! 🙌 Acá Rommel con Documented Semanal

La organización Mixteca lanzó un curso de inglés para inmigrantes 📖 que viven en la ciudad de Nueva York. Las clases serán por Zoom los lunes y miércoles de 6 a 9 de la noche. ➡ Para suscribirte necesitarás hacer una entrevista en persona y llenar este formulario: <https://docu.nyc/xd0>

Si no te alcanza ese horario 🕒, tenemos esta lista organizaciones que ofrecen clases de ingles gratis en los cinco condados: <https://docu.nyc/classes>

★ El boletín de noticias **Inmigrante Informado** escribe sobre la salud mental y cómo cuidarse a sí mismo y a sus seres queridos <https://docu.nyc/2lr>

NY1 Noticias enlista atracciones gratis en Nueva York para toda la familia: <https://docu.nyc/ttl>

Les deseo una linda semana. Cuídense mucho y no duden en escribirnos si tienen alguna pregunta. Acá estamos todo el equipo de Documented ❤️

18:18



Documented

New York's Go-To Source For Immigration News

FIND NEWS IN YOUR LANGUAGE: CHINESE | ESPAÑOL | KREYOL

RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRANTS

RESEARCH & INSIGHTS

OUR STORIES

ABOUT US



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Jun 11, 2020 | Nicolás Ríos

Guide of Resources for Immigrants

All of the resources we can find to help the immigrant and undocumented population in New York City find legal representation and financial relief

[English](#) [Resources](#)

Documented has gathered all of the resources we can find to help immigrant New Yorkers. New links will be added and the following pages will be constantly updated. If you would like us to add information to this list or have questions, please reach out to us at info@documentedny.com.

[Visita este enlace para ver los recursos en Español.](#)

Immigration News, Curated

Sign up to learn about immigration news from New York and

Education & Children Resources

Free English Classes for Chinese New Yorkers

How to Access High School Equivalency Diplomas and GED Exams in New York

NYC Schools and Head Start: What Immigrant and Undocumented Parents Need to Know

How to Apply for Child Care Subsidies if You Are A Low-Income Undocumented Family

How Immigrants Can Take a Free English Course in NYC

Employment & Workers Rights Resources

Wage Theft Prevention: Know Your Rights at Work

How NYC Protects Against Job And Housing Discrimination

How to Apply for a Street Vendor Permit and License in New York City

How to Start a Business if You Are an Undocumented Immigrant

Finances Resources

NYC Taxes Benefits Guide: Tax Credits and Deductions

How to File Personal Income Tax in New York City

NYC Free Tax Prep: Where Immigrants Can Get Help Filing

How to Open a Bank Account for Undocumented Immigrants in the

No is saying 'when are these libraries going to become sustainable'. it's a public service. The propaganda mission is to incept the idea that it's good to put more public funding in it

What journalism is is changing - now can be information source, voter guides. Even legacy newspapers now have service journalism desk and community engagement desk.

As a sector, we need to be more action orientated - so we don't just keep talking about the same problems, but actually do something about them.

We need to incentivise local funders to fund local news.

But they need to be trained on how to fund media.

Increasingly it feels like journalism is divided - the old way, and the new way. One word doesn't really cover both. Civic media is now a recognised term.

News deserts are about news, not about how communities talk to each other... we should want to help citizens be connect to each other. Everything else follows on from that. Need to be more radical.

There is lots of innovation happening on the editorial side of things, but not enough on the business side - if they're not enough money, we can't do the work.

Newsrooms can't be passive - they have to be part of the community and want better for their community.



Big tension question currently is what is the point of the news? Just covering something is not sufficient any more. We have to want to improve things. We take a more interventionist approach.

Policy happens whether we participate in it or not, so we need to make sure we have a seat at the table and are educated and organised.

One of the biggest concerns for the future of journalism is lack of relevance of news for various people for various reasons.

We need to recognise that journalism is often part of the power structure in a local community, when it should be reporting on it.

How does your news org express its love for your community? Love is essential in this industry, it can be tough love but journalism must be rooted in care

How we tell the story, and who gets to tell the story matters.

We need to ask 'who is benefitting from our journalism?' because someone always is.

There are increasingly two camps in the US :
save local news
build something better



A FEW MORE QUOTES/ REFLECTIONS TO SHARE

**WHAT WOULD MAKE THIS USEFUL
FOR YOU AND YOUR WORK?**

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