



MEDIA & STORYTELLING PROGRAM: A BACKGROUNDER

In 2019, the Field Foundation will launch a new grant program supporting Chicago journalists, media companies and artistic storytellers in the city's communities of color. The *Media & Storytelling* program grants will be supported by contributions of \$3 million from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and \$200,000 from the Democracy Fund.

WHAT WILL GRANTEES RECEIVE?

The *Media & Storytelling* program will award \$1 million every year for the next three years.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Qualified 501(c)(3) organizations, including Chicago nonprofit news, media and storytelling outlets, and community-based organizations of color, as well as nonprofit organizations and associations providing supportive services to advance journalism and storytelling are welcome to apply. The grant program supports pivotal investments that will increase the production of news and innovative content that is by, for, and about African, Latinx, Asian, Arab and Native American (ALAANA) communities and helps create a more inclusive, accurate and comprehensive narrative of Chicago.

HOW WILL THE GRANTS WORK?

The Field Foundation will award a range of grants, each in the amount of \$25,000 to \$50,000 three times per year, including for content creation, editorial collaborations and partnerships, and operations and equipment. Emergency funding for travel and professional development will also be available. Grants will be reviewed by the *Media & Storytelling* Program Officer with support from other Field Foundation representatives.

Details on the selection process, including requirements, deadline information and application are available at <https://fieldfoundation.org/how-to-apply/program-grants/>.

WHY NOW?

Chicago's media landscape is undergoing seismic shifts. Media giants are consolidating ownership even as smaller independent non-profit outlets emerge. But as news and information sources change, one constant remains: a handful of mostly downtown, for-profit news and media outlets define what is newsworthy. The often incomplete or inaccurate narratives about communities of color, in particular, reinforce existing power structures and perpetuate misleading stereotypes. The *Media & Storytelling* program will support visibility for journalists and storytellers of color, many of whom have limited resources to support their work.

WHAT WILL RESULTS LOOK LIKE?

Informed by recommendations from nearly 70 journalists, media makers and storytellers from communities of color, the program will:

- Invest in space, technology and equipment to serve news audiences with innovative content;
- Support forums for journalists to exchange ideas and build skills; and
- Support programs enhancing the professional development of journalists and storytellers.

For more information, contact Laurie R. Glenn, Thinkinc., 773.704.7246, lrglenn@thinkincstrategy.com.

###

AN INITIATIVE OF



SUPPORTED BY

MacArthur
Foundation