JOSH STEARNS

Director of Journalism & Sustainability Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation



Creative experiments in journalism sustainability and community engagement.



GRDodge.org & LocalNewsLab.org

@jcstearns, ONACamp



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Community Engagement

- Builds trust between communities and journalists
- Builds an understanding of the journalism process
- Builds loyalty to specific journalists and brands
- Builds more diverse sources and stories
- Builds news people can and will use
- Builds more effective eyewitnesses
- Builds and expands your reach
- Builds new revenue streams
- Builds better stories
- Builds community





@jcstearns, ONACamp

LEVEL 1: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Sharing ourselves, our expertise and our content with our community.
- Taking the content to the audience, rather than hoping they'll find us.
- Identifying information needs, catering our products to meet them.
- Being willing to participate in the community as individuals.



Founded by the Center for Investigative Reporting

EXPLORE FURTHER



necklace was sold with matching earrings and was labeled "kids."

LEVEL 2: CONVERSATION

- Listening as well as talking, and adjusting what we do and cover based on what we hear.
- Hosting discussions in person and online on topics that matter to the community.
- Participating in conversations we're not hosting, both in person and online.
- Recognizing that journalism is a process, not just a product, and involving more voices in the process means more diverse journalism.

*based on @mayerjoy's RJI fellowship



Jersey Shore Hurricane News

A two-way news outlet with 223,000 "contributors"

"It is really not just a news platform. It is really a place where the community can come together."

















WHY ARE YOU MAD? TXT: 504-303-4348

WHAT'S FOR DINNER? TXT: 504-303-4348 THE LISTENING POST

WHAT'S MISSING IN NEW ORLEANS? TXT: 504-303-4348

THE LISTENING POST

WHY DID YOU COME TO NOLA? TXT: 504-303-4348 THE LISTENING POST



LEVEL 3: COLLABORATION

- We have a shared investment in and influence over our journalism.
 - Soliciting and relying on user contributions.
 - Allowing community to shape what we cover and how we allocate our resources.
 - Recognizing that we can accomplish things with the cooperation of the community that we could not do alone.



Vote	leave?		
	Asked by Matthew		Comments
	How many Chicago churches offer services in languages that their neighborhoods' early immigrant groups? (e.g., Lithuani German)		
	Asked by David		Comments
Traditional Journalism	n Model		PUBLISH
PITCH	ASSIGN	REPORT	FEEDBACK
\/			\External: Audience/
Curious Nation Model			
РІТСН	ASSIGN	REPORT	FEEDBACK
\/			
Audience Submits Questions	Audience Votes	Winning Q Asker Accompanies Reporter	Audience Reacts

Know your goals, be clear about what you want to accomplish and design engagement strategies that will help get you there.



Image via the Knight Fnd

@jcstearns, ONACamp

Reorienting the fundamental processes of journalism around serving communities is good for communities, good for democracy, and good for business.

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> Links and resources from this talk: bit.ly/engagelocal

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SHANNON MCDONALD

Community Manager BillyPenn.com

@sacmcdonald

LEVEL 1: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Channel your inner customer service rep
- Think like a reader
- Familiarize yourself with new platforms

• Don't link and run



shannonmcdonald 12:15 PM

Would love thoughts on this story and the subsequent conversation:

https://twitter.com/billy_penn/status/601777181375729664

Billy Penn @billy_penn
A Center City bicyclist claiming to be a road rage victim wonders why the guy who allegedly did it isn't in jail.
http://www.myfoxphilly.com/story/29130335/bicyclist
May 22nd at 11:50 AM

12:18 🖈 The law says a person is innocent until proven guilty. But what about when video pops up ahead of police charges? You'll see we're sticking with "alleged." Thoughts on that?



marniduffy 12:31 PM

yeah - I see why journalists can't get stuck making legal claims, but I worry that reporting it as "alleged" and "claiming" can reiterate the public's perception that the cops don't take road rage and verbal/physical assaults on cyclists seriously



shannonmcdonald 12:32 PM

Yeah, we get it. If it matters, we'd use the same language is this was a car-on-car thing, too



marniduffy 12:32 PM of course



shannonmcdonald 12:33 PM

There's definitely a gap between legal language and the pretty sudden increase of man-on-the-street video



marniduffy 12:33 PM

and there needs to be a bigger emphasis on educating the public on cyclist rights

when these issues come up

reiterate exactly the state law pertaining to cyclists right to the entire lane



shannonmcdonald 12:35 PM

Yes, so that's something we (Billy Penn, media in general and the public) need to keep an eye on as this story moves forward - will there be charges, what are they and will this create a policy change?

LEVEL 2: CONVERSATION

- Adjust content based on feedback
- Participate in conversations you didn't start
- Never underestimate the value of face time and free

beer

Can you get 50 people to show up to an event in less than a week? Yep.

- Free beer
- Food
- Giveaways
- Sponsorhips and
- packaged content
- Minimal
- programming
- Interaction



LEVEL 3: COLLABORATION

- Elevate niche voices
- Listen and respond to what the community wants

Create reasonable expectations on what that response looks like

Build collaboration into your site

#PHLVOTES: 2015 MAYORAL RACE

Doug Oliver's 8 lessons from #PHL2015: 'The electorate is not particularly courageous' (guest column)

By Doug Oliver May 27, 2015 at 1:00 pm

PHILLY BIKE SHARE

Counterpoint: Bike share will help make Philadelphia better, just give it time (guest column)

By Randy LoBasso April 29, 2015 at 3:55 pm

April 29, 2015 at 10:46 am

Cities with the highest bicycling rates had the lowest traffic fatality rates. It's just that simple.

A Philly cop on blind faith, 'evil' cops and how to heal after Baltimore (guest column)

By Anonymous



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Community Manager Billy Penn

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