
Knight Media Forum 2021

March 2–4, 2021

[KF.org](https://kf.org) | [#KMF21](https://twitter.com/KMF21)

March 2

All times listed in ET

Welcome

2 p.m.

SPEAKERS

Lilly Weinberg, Knight Foundation and Knight Media Forum Day 1 Host
Alberto Ibarguen, Knight Foundation

Cesar Conde, Chairman, NBCUniversal News Group

2:30 – 3:15 p.m.

Conde has been at the forefront of diversifying the workplace to reflect our society and will share his observations.

Breakout Sessions

3:20 – 4:20 p.m.

▪ **Breakout 1: Community Media**

Meaningful approaches to supporting founders and owners of color

MODERATOR

Tracie Powell, Borealis Philanthropy

PRESENTERS

Graciela Mochkofsky, Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism
Hilda Gurdian, La Noticia (Charlotte)
Sonny Messiah-Jiles, Houston Defender Network

▪ **Breakout 2: Local Funder-Grantee success story: American Journalism Project**

A look at a venture philanthropy organization dedicated to local news, and how it could work in your community

MODERATOR

Karen Rundlet, Knight Foundation

PRESENTERS

Courtney Bengtson, Wichita Community Foundation
Sarabeth Berman, American Journalism Project
Ken Ward Jr., Mountain State Spotlight

▪ **Breakout 3: Case Studies: Community Foundations and Local Journalism**

A look at efforts in Seattle and Fresno, California to support local journalism

MODERATOR

Joaquin Alvarado, The Seattle Times

PRESENTERS

Michele Matassa Flores, The Seattle Times
Ashley Swearengin, Central Valley Community Foundation
Mary Snapp, Microsoft

▪ **Breakout 4: Funders Responses to Crisis: From COVID to Racial Reckoning**

Two community foundations address COVID and place race, equity and inclusion at the center of their investment

MODERATOR

Raul Moas, Knight Foundation

PRESENTERS

Rebecca Fishman Lipsey, The Miami Foundation
Lisa Adkins, Blue Grass Community Foundation

- **Breakout 5: Funders Addressing Polarization**

Strategies for finding common ground in communities

MODERATOR

Paul Waters, Democracy Fund

PRESENTERS

Sarah Ruger, Stand Together

Daniel Stid, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

- **Breakout 6: Countering the 2020 Infodemic**

The latest research on misinformation and the way forward

MODERATOR

John Sands, Knight Foundation

PRESENTERS

Jevin West, University of Washington

Claire Wardle, First Draft News

COVID-19: Navigating the World's First Infodemic

4:25–5:10 p.m.

Leading players in the field talk about how communities can manage the copious amounts of information – and misinformation – surrounding COVID.

MODERATOR

Dr. Helene Gayle, The Chicago Community Trust

PRESENTERS

Deborah Blum, Knight Science Journalism Program, MIT

Renée DiResta, Stanford Internet Observatory

Elisabeth Rosenthal, Kaiser Health News

Knight Foundation Grantee Showcase

5:15–5:45 p.m.

March 3

Breakout Sessions

1–1:55 p.m.

- **Breakout 1: New Solutions to Rebuild Local Journalism**

Strategies for communities to support local journalism

MODERATORS

Paul Cheung, Knight Foundation

PRESENTERS

Elizabeth Hansen, National Trust for Local News

S. Mitra Kalita, URL Media

Steven Waldman, Rebuild Local News and Report for America

- **Breakout 2: COVID-19 Funds: Informing Underserved Communities**

Getting news and information to communities of color

MODERATORS

Nate Wallace, Knight Foundation

PRESENTERS

David Rousseau, Kaiser Family Foundation

Roxann Stafford, Knight-Lenfest Local News Transformation Fund

Courtney Stewart, Missouri Foundation for Health

- **Breakout 3: Building Community Engagement that Powers Journalism**

Ways to work across silos and develop programs that inform community work

MODERATORS

Charles Thomas, Knight Foundation

PRESENTERS

Ashley Alvarado, KPCC /So. California Public Radio

Cynthia Benjamin, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle

Seth Ervin, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

- **Breakout 4: NewsMatch: The Gift that Keeps on Giving**

Collaborations between funders, newsrooms and industry experts that strengthen nonprofit newsrooms' funding capabilities

MODERATORS

Barbara Raab, Jonathan Logan Family Foundation

PRESENTERS

Pahoua Yang Hoffman, Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation

Courtney Hurtt, NewsMatch

Alice Dreger, East Lansing Info

- **Breakout 5: Local Funder-Grantee success story: Report for America**

A case study on the national service organization placing journalists in local newsrooms across the country

MODERATORS

Kyle Kutuchief, Knight Foundation

PRESENTERS

Zoë Jackson, Minnesota Star Tribune

Greg Farmer, The Kansas City Star

Marian Kaanon, Stanislaus Community Foundation

Welcome

1:55 – 2 p.m.

HOST

Kelly Jin, Knight Foundation, Day 2 Host

In conversation: Thomas Chatterton Williams and Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

1:55 – 2:45 p.m.

These two speakers will explore the themes in Chatterton Williams' book, "Self-Portrait in Black and White," a meditation on race and identity in America.

INTRODUCTION AND Q&A

Alberto Ibarгүйen, Knight Foundation

SPEAKERS

Thomas Chatterton Williams, Author and Cultural Critic

Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Harvard University

Stories from the Field: Funders and Local Journalism

2:45 – 3:35 p.m.

With place-based funders increasingly investing in local journalism, media and philanthropy leaders provide their insights into emerging best practices.

MODERATORS

Karen Rundlet, Knight Foundation

PRESENTERS

Laura Frank, Colorado News Collaborative (COLab)

Tom Gougeon, Gates Family Foundation

Angelique Power, The Field Foundation

Tiffany Walden, The TRiBE

Dismantling Systemic Racism: The Way Forward for Funders and Newsrooms

3:40–4:25 p.m.

As the racial reckoning in the U.S. continues, we look at ways that funders and newsrooms can work together to dismantle inequities in news organizations.

MODERATORS

LaSharah Bunting, Knight Foundation

PRESENTERS

Alicia Bell, Free Press

Michelle Morales, Woods Fund Chicago

Cara Reedy, Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund

Lea Trusty, Democracy Fund

Can Democracy Survive Social Media?

4:25–5:15 p.m.

How can we as a nation preserve free expression, while also safeguarding U.S. democracy?

MODERATORS

John Palfrey, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

PRESENTERS

Jameel Jaffer, Knight First Amendment Institute, Columbia University

Tristan Harris, Center for Humane Technology

Dr. Latanya Sweeney, Harvard University

Carole Cadwalladr, The Guardian

Networking and Happy Hour

5:20–6:00 p.m.

March 4

Welcome

2 p.m.

HOST

Jennifer Preston, Shorenstein Center

In Conversation: Brad Smith and Alberto Ibargüen

2:15–3 p.m.

Smith and Ibargüen will explore the future of journalism on changing platforms and the role of technology and information in our democracy.

INTRODUCTION

Jennifer Preston, Shorenstein Center

SPEAKERS

Brad Smith, Microsoft

Alberto Ibargüen, Knight Foundation

Isabel Wilkerson, author and former journalist

3–4 p.m.

Pulitzer Prize-winner Isabel Wilkerson, talks about how castes have fundamentally shaped American society.

INTRODUCTION

Stephanie Bell-Rose, Trustee, Knight Foundation

Q&A

Jennifer Preston, Shorenstein Center

Closing Remarks

4 p.m.
