



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Media Justice Fund of the Funding Exchange announces 9 grants totaling \$140,000 to media and social justice organizations in 2006.

July 26, 2006 NEW YORK, NY - Now celebrating its third year of grant making, the Media Justice Fund of the Funding Exchange is pleased to announce that 9 grants totaling \$140,000 have been awarded to media and social justice organizations from the 2006 Community Media Collaboration (CMC) Grant. CMC grants support campaigns that change the structure of the media and expands a community's right to use and be fairly represented within it. They support projects that work directly with community members to increase the voice and influence of the community within the media. Projects include substantive collaborations between media advocacy groups and community activists organizing for social justice.

An activist-advised grantmaking panel, comprised of community media and social justice activists, carefully reviewed proposals and awarded grants to the following outstanding projects.

ABOUT MEDIA JUSTICE FUND

Launched in 2002 with an initial grant from the Ford Foundation, the Media Justice Fund recognizes that social and economic justice will not be realized without the equitable redistribution and control of resources that necessarily includes media and communication technologies. The MJF promotes the rights of all people and communities to have their information and communication needs met. The Fund supports leadership of people of color, low-income, women, LGBT communities, and youth working within traditionally marginalized communities to organize around media to affect accountability, community-controlled media, and policy.

DESCRIPTIONS OF 2006 COMMUNITY MEDIA COLLABORATION GRANT AWARDEES

American Forum / Georgia Forum - \$12,000

www.mediaforum.org

Atlanta, GA

Funding supports an intergenerational collaborative on media justice and media policy. The Georgia Forum will connect university students of varying academic disciplines from Georgia's historically black colleges and universities with four leading media organizations. The collaboration will educate and therefore empower young people to be a part of the progressive grassroots voice in their communities' media policy and public policy debates.

Deep Dish TV - \$13,000

www.deepdishtv.org

New York, NY

Support is for the 'Waves of Change' project, a twelve-part television series that will serve as a tool for organizing groups to promote communication rights and community involvement in media policy. The series will offer a provocative, clear, and energizing portrayal of key issues in domestic and global media that will help organizers present media policy matters to the general public in a more interesting and accessible manner.

National Black Coalition for Media Justice - \$8,000

Evanston, IL

The funded project seeks to end legalized media monopolies and restore free speech to the black community. Locally, the Coalition will organize the black community to pressure Clear Channel to put Chicago broadcasting icon Cliff Kelley back on the air. Nationally, it will coordinate community-based efforts to pressure Congress and the FCC to enforce existing antitrust laws and declare media monopolies such as Clear Channel illegal.

People's Production House - \$25,000

www.radiorootz.org

New York, NY

Funding will support the Community News Production Institute which partners with community organizing groups to create media literate youth and workers who can create and demand media that works in their interests. CNPI serves as a bridge between the media policy world and the community by developing materials and trainings on media policy for use in radio and journalism workshops that are entertaining, accessible, and action-oriented.

Philadelphia Independent Media Center - \$13,000

www.phillyimc.org

Philadelphia, PA

Support is provided for the Media Mobilizing Project which sponsors training and workshops in media policy analysis and production (video, audio, and web) for Philadelphia labor, immigrant, and anti-poverty movements. Through broad political education and organizing workshops, MMP helps movements to create successful media outreach strategies. In addition, MMP provides technical distribution and coordination support for various media productions.

Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste - \$20,000

www.pcun.org

Woodburn, OR

Support for PCUN's Farmworker Community Radio project will aid the construction and operation of a low-power FM radio station that reaches thousands of farmworkers and Latinos within a five-mile radius of Woodburn, Oregon and many more via the internet. As well as expanding the diversity of voices participating in the Latino media in the Woodburn area, the radio station will also magnify the power and ability of PCUN to inform, organize, and empower the local constituency.

Prometheus Radio Project - \$12,000

www.prometheusradio.org

Philadelphia, PA

Funding is to support an outreach campaign spurred by the opening of the Non-Commercial/Educational (NCE) Full Power licensing window at the FCC. Prometheus Radio is working to support and organize as many progressive and community-based organizations as possible to apply for an NCE license from the FCC during this short five-day window.

Texas Media Empowerment Project - \$12,000

www.texasnep.org

San Antonio, TX

Funding supports a media teach-in series providing media capacity-building, discussions of media justice, and media access and meetings with city officials and community leaders to mobilize for the community control of media access, as well as to advocate for media reform policies led by women, queer people, and people of color. The Esperanza and Texas MEP will also work with Buena Gente (volunteers) to use their English/Spanish media-monitoring tool to

document local media injustice and inaccuracies, thereby making media entities accountable and more open to implement community recommendations.

Youth Media Council - \$25,000
www.youthmediacouncil.org
Oakland, CA

YMC is developing and mobilizing media activists to respond to media bias while increasing national coordination among similar efforts. The grant supports a program that will: mobilize local communities of color for media accountability; launch an upgraded online media action center and resource hub; conduct public education and cultural messaging on media policies such as broadcast license renewals, FCC media ownership rules, and the COPE franchising bill; and continue the work previously done by YMC in the local Unplug Clear Channel campaign.

Total Grantmaking: \$140,000