



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Jan. 20, 2023

We hope you enjoy this first issue of the Bulletin for 2023. Featured items for our January installment include:

- A [recap and video](#) of last week's 'How I Did It' program with Los Angeles Times Photographer Marcus Yam.
- A look at upcoming events, including the launch of a new OPC event series titled "In the Thick of It" with a discussion about reporting issues in Haiti [on Jan. 26](#); a film screening and panel on *The Perfect Story* with director Michelle Shephard [on Feb. 2](#); and the OPC Foundation's Scholar Awards Evening Reception [on March 1](#).
- A [profile](#) of OPC grantee and member Bhat Burhan.

Plus, catch up on OPC member news in the People Column, find tools, programs and opportunities in our Resources section, and more.



Jan. 31 Deadline: OPC Annual Awards



The banner features a background of colorful, tangled lines. In the top left, there is a green circular logo for the Overseas Press Club of America with the text "Honoring the Best in International Journalism". To the right, it says "We are now accepting applications online." The main text in the center reads "CALL FOR ENTRIES ANNUAL AWARDS" in large, bold, yellow and white letters. At the bottom left, it says "Enter Online: www.opcofamerica.org". On the right side, there is a dark green box with white text detailing eligibility and deadlines. Below that, a blue box contains the "Eligibility Period" information. At the bottom right, there is a list of deadlines for the general submission, the Cornelius Ryan Book Award, and the awards dinner.

Annual awards for INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE in Newspapers, News Services, Digital, Magazines, Radio, Podcasts, Television, Video, Cartoons, Books and Photography.

ELIGIBILITY: Work must be published or broadcast in the U.S. or by a U.S.-based company or be accessible to an American audience for the first time during 2022 with reporting primarily outside the U.S.

Eligibility Period:
January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

General Deadline:
January 31, 2023

Cornelius Ryan Book Award Deadline:
January 9, 2023

Awards Dinner:
April 27, 2023
at Cipriani, 25 Broadway

The deadline is fast approaching for submissions in the OPC Annual Awards to honor the year's best in international journalism across 22 categories. Click on the button below to read more and submit entries. Please continue to help us spread the word on social media and professional networks!

[OPC Annual Awards Submission Page](#)



'How I Did It': Marcus Yam Discusses Covering Global Conflict for the LA Times

by Chad Bouchard

In early 2020, Los Angeles Times photographer Marcus Yam was feeling restless and stuck in a career rut. He sought advice from Norman Pearlstine, the paper's executive editor at the time, who urged Yam to consider becoming a foreign correspondent.

"When he said that, my jaw just dropped," Yam said during an OPC program on Jan. 12 to discuss his work. "Because in our business, these opportunities are so rare, for photographers at least, and it almost never happens."

As the COVID-19 pandemic took hold and protests following George Floyd's murder dominated U.S. headlines, Yam was starting trial runs as correspondent abroad. The paper's executive director of photography, Calvin Hom, said he wasn't enthusiastic about the idea at first, as Yam had been Hom's go-to photographer for major news assignments.

“And here’s Marcus, going off temporarily to South Korea, and it just didn’t sit well with me. I said, ‘I think it’s great for you, but I’m not sure it’s great for me,’” he said. “It took me a while to come around on that. And it turns out, I hate to admit, that I was probably wrong.”

The program, moderated by OPC Governor Sandra Stevenson, deputy director of photography at The Washington Post, is part of the OPC’s “How I Did It Series,” which features successful journalists discussing their work and process with their editors and producers.

[Read the Full Recap](#)



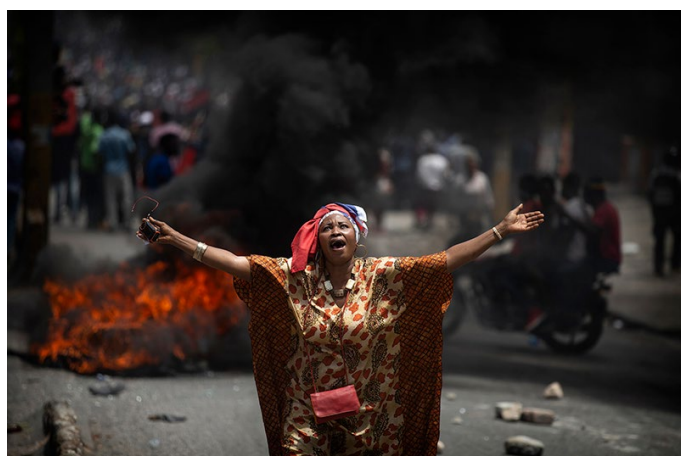
Upcoming Events

Jan 26: In the Thick of It - Haiti

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Location: Online via Zoom

2022 was a harrowing year for journalists covering Haiti: six Haitian journalists were killed, while scores more were threatened or injured in the course of their work. Foreign news outlets pulled back dramatically on deployments



to Haiti, citing safety concerns including an uptick in kidnapping, armed conflicts between rival gangs, and clashes with police. For a country already suffering from a lack of international attention, the difficulty in obtaining accurate up-to-date reports has never been more difficult.

Please join the Overseas Press Club at 6:00 p.m. on Jan. 26 for a conversation with reporters who've continued to cover Haiti amidst the turmoil of the past year. This is the first installment of a new series launched by the OPC called In the Thick of It, bringing together journalists to discuss region-specific reporting challenges.

Registrants will receive a link to join via Zoom about an hour before the program on Jan. 26. Please register early so we can be sure to email you the link before the program begins.

Panelists include:

Jacqueline Charles, Haiti and Caribbean Correspondent for the Miami Herald.

Macollvie Neel, Executive Editor of the Haitian Times.

Natalie Kitroeff, New York Times Bureau Chief for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

Evens Sanon, reporter for The Associated Press.

The moderator is **Singeli Agnew**, a governor of the OPC and an independent cinematographer, producer and director of documentary films and current affairs series on a range of platforms. She was a member of the New York Times team that won the OPC's Edward R. Murrow Award in 2019.

Stay tuned for upcoming "In the Thick of It" conversations on Iran and Brazil.

Photo above: A protester in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on June 9, 2019. Photo: Dieu Nalio Chery, winner of the 2019 Robert Capa Gold Medal Award.

[RSVP Now](#)



Feb 2: 'The Perfect Story' – Film Screening With Director, Michelle Shephard

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Location: Online via MS Teams and in-

person at 333 Bay St, 29th floor,
Toronto, Canada

Join us for a screening of the award-winning film *The Perfect Story* and a discussion afterwards with filmmaker Michelle Shephard. In 2010, Shephard met a young Somali refugee during a reporting trip to Mogadishu and told his compelling story to the world. *The Perfect Story* examines what happened next as well as the ethical and moral challenges sparked by their relationship. The film questions what stories are told, why and who gets to tell them.

Online registrants will receive a link to join via MS Teams about an hour before the program on Feb 2. Please register in advance.



RSVP to Attend Online

RSVP to Attend In Toronto



March 1: OPC Foundation Scholar Awards – Evening Reception

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Location: Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice, 320 East 43 St, New York

The [Overseas Press Club Foundation](#) Scholar Awards are back and in-person for the first time since Feb. 28, 2020, when the pandemic sent us online. The 2023 event will be an Evening Reception on March 1, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice, 320 East 43 St, New York City. OPC members and friends are invited to join us as we celebrate the 18 journalists chosen by our judges to be among the best of their generation. This year, in a special ceremony, the OPC Foundation will award the first Seymour and Audrey Topping Scholarship.

Tickets are not required but donations are always appreciated. While we missed the personal contact, we are proud of our virtual events and what our 2021 and 2022 scholars were able to accomplish. Please catch up on the OPC YouTube Channel. Email foundation@opcofamerica.org with questions.

RSVP Now



Image, above: The 2023 class of OPC Foundation Scholars gathered online in January.

Spotlight on OPC Grant Recipients:

Bhat Burhan

The following is an installment of our periodic series covering the work of journalists who have received grants from the OPC.

by Chad Bouchard

Bhat Burhan, a Kashmiri multimedia journalist now based in New Delhi, grew up in a region steeped in decades of armed conflict. Inspired by the dedication of local journalists covering the conflicts in the face of government crackdowns, he saw a need for reporting in Kashmir by Kashmiris.



“If I will not tell the story of this place, then someone else will,” he said. “During a crisis a lot of stories disappear. It’s where a local journalist, particularly the one who knows the story of the place and is a part of that story, has a responsibility.”

Burhan lived through three major civilian uprisings in 2008, 2010 and 2016 followed by a crackdown in 2019 when he said the Indian government blocked communication and civilian movement in Kashmir for months.

"I have witnessed killings of thousands of militants, civilians and others for resisting Indian rule. I have seen fellow journalists being harassed, beaten and arrested for merely doing their job," he said.

In 2021, Burhan was among the 92 recipients of an OPC COVID-19 micro-grant of \$1,000, which was funded by the Ford Foundation. He said the grant was a "lifeline" during the pandemic.

"It helped me in a lot of ways — one was by providing me with financial support to go out in the pandemic and report about the deadly virus. I reported so many different stories about the pandemic and its aftermath on people in India. I could not have done it without the support from OPC," he said.

[Read More](#)

Photo: Bhat Burhan speaks at the Rory Peck Awards ceremony in London.

Welcome New Members

Ayah Kutmah

Guantanamo Researcher
ACLU
Washington, DC
Associate Non-Resident, Young
(29 and under)



Yvonne Murray

Correspondent
RTÉ
Dublin, Ireland
Active Resident

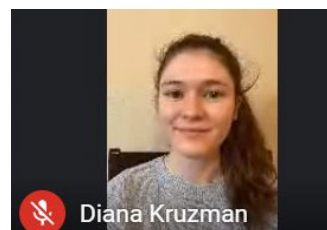


People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Diana Kruzman, the 2021 recipient of the Harper's Magazine Scholarship in Memory of I.F. Stone, announced [on Jan. 17](#) that she will soon be moving to

Kyrgyzstan on a Fulbright Program grant to study the effects of climate change on water and agriculture. She wrote in a tweet thread that she would provide updates on her work and on climate and environment news from Central Asia, adding that “stories from this region are underreported in U.S. media and I’m hoping to help bridge that gap.” She most recently had a fellowship with Grist covering climate solutions and justice. Fluent in Russian, Kruzman has experience covering the region. [Here](#) is a story she wrote about nuclear waste in a small town in Kyrgyzstan in November 2021.



Serginho Roosblad, the Harper’s winner in 2017, was named as a member of FRONTLINE’s [Investigative Journalist Equity Initiative](#) (IJEI), a new effort aimed at increasing diversity in the documentary filmmaking landscape. The journalist-filmmakers in the IJEI’s first cohort will receive support for the full trajectory of the documentary filmmaking process from FRONTLINE’s senior editorial team. Roosblad, a video journalist with Associated Press Global Investigations, will work with Trilogy Films on his documentary.



The 2016 Reuters Fellowship winner, **Neha Wadekar**, received a [mention](#) in the University of Southern California, Annenberg’s 50th anniversary magazine issue as one of two alumnae honored for journalism excellence. Wadekar graduated in 2016 and has been reporting on conflicts in Africa since receiving her MS in journalism. She received the 2022 Breakthrough Journalism Award from the Pulitzer Center, for what judges called her “nuanced and persistent reporting on the growing Islamic insurgency in Mozambique.” Wadekar had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Nairobi.



UPDATES

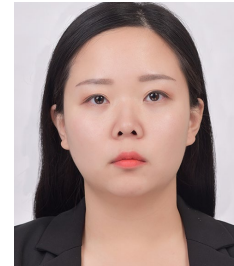
OPC member **John Avlon** appeared on a segment of CNN This Morning [on Jan. 8](#) to discuss a new documentary series about Rudy Giuliani in which he was interviewed due to his past role as speech writer for the former New York City mayor. The documentary, titled “Giuliani: What Happened to America’s Mayor?” follows his career from New York to counsel and mouthpiece of election deniers for President Donald Trump. Avlon, an anchor and senior political analyst for CNN, served as Giuliani’s chief speech writer from 1999 to 2001. He said the documentary examines Giuliani’s “descent” from his “distinguished record” as a law-and-order figure as Mayor, to “being Donald Trump’s lackey, trying to overturn the election, and playing a role in inciting on January 6 with his ‘trial by combat’ comments, which I thought was unforgivable.” The four-episode series debuted on CNN on Jan. 8 and concluded on Jan. 15, available on CNN, Hulu, Apple TV and other streaming services.



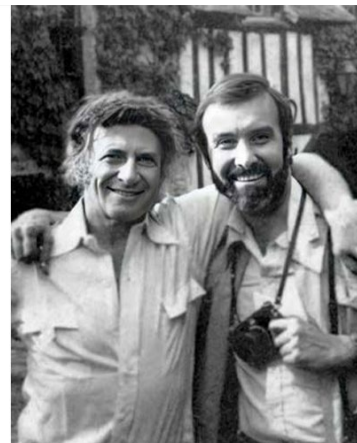
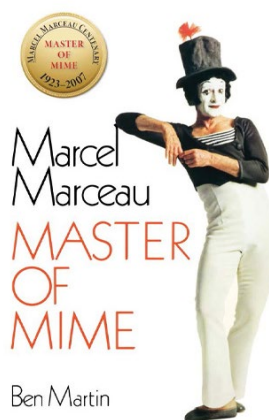
OPC member **Sewell Chan**, the editor-in-chief of The Texas Tribune, served as a panelist on a Harvard Kennedy School program [on Jan. 17](#) about the need for newsrooms to prioritize mental health. He said when the Tribune sent reporters to cover the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde County last year, the paper immediately reached out to the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma and the Trust for Trauma Journalism, limited the amount of time each reporter could spend on the ground reporting the story, and set up mental health sessions with staff. “Newsrooms are getting better at this, but we need help,” he said. Newsroom managers should be proactive, Chan added, “and our default should be that covering a massively traumatic event demands that we think about the processing of it and the aftermath of it, and offer people the help, rather than waiting for them to come forward and say that they need it.” Other panelists were Scott Blanchard of the public media station WITF; Elana Newman of the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma and psychology professor at the University of Tulsa; and Dave Seglins, an investigative journalist and well-being champion at CBC News. The moderator was Naseem Miller, senior health editor at The Journalist’s Resource. The recording of this program will be posted on the Kennedy School’s website [“The Journalist’s Resource.”](#)



OPC member **Qinling Li** was recently [interviewed](#) in the online magazine Our Culture Mag and the International Business Times [about](#) her award-winning short documentary about gun ownership among African-Americans. Li is a freelance journalist, founder of Dec8 Productions, and contributor to Reason TV, an affiliate project of the Reason Foundation, a Libertarian think tank. Her short film for Reason TV, titled *The Reawakening of the Black Gun-Rights Movement*, [won](#) second place in the National Political/Government Reporting category at the 63rd Southern California Journalism Awards in 2021. She spent months following Black activists calling for armed self-protection in the wake of George Floyd’s death in 2020. Li was born in Hunan, China and has studied and practiced journalism in China, Australia and the United States. Her work has appeared on PBS Frontline, Al Jazeera English, Newsweek, Politico and the Christian Science Monitor, among others.



From March 13 to April 28, the National Arts Club in New York will celebrate the centenary of the birth of the world’s most famous mime, Marcel Marceau, with an exhibition of taken by TIME/LIFE photographer **Ben Martin**, a past member of the OPC. An exhibit of Martin’s photographs was presented as part of the OPC Foundation’s Scholar Awards Luncheon in February 2020. The exhibit this April will accompany the



publication of a new edition of the book *Marcel Marceau: Master of Mime*, Martin's visual tribute to his friend and renowned performer. Martin's collaboration with Marceau, who died in September 2007 at the age of 84, started with a pictorial for LIFE magazine in the mid-1970s. The book includes more than 350 photographs, 80 in color, that capture Marceau behind the scenes, rehearsing, applying makeup and performing. The National Arts Club will host a reception on March 20 at 15 Gramercy Park South in New York. Marceau's wife, Anne Sicco, will be in attendance representing the Marceau family.

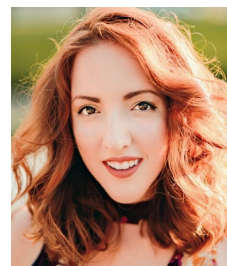
OPC member **Ari Schneider** wrote a piece for Teen Vogue last year that [made](#) the magazine's year-end 2022 Best Features list in December. The piece chronicles one teenager's experience with so-called wilderness therapy, shedding light on the multi-billion dollar "troubled teen" industry. "In 2007, the U.S. Government Accountability Office testified before Congress regarding concerns of abuse and deaths in wilderness therapy programs, boot camps, and boarding schools for troubled teens," Schneider wrote.



OPC member **Jill Langlois** wrote a piece for NPR's Goats and Soda from Brazil [on Dec. 31](#) about how Indigenous Amazonians are using WhatsApp to track mercury in fish. She wrote that the Mebêngôkre Kayapó tribe, which has a population of about 9,400 and occupies a tract of the Amazon about the size of Iceland, knew scientists had done studies to track toxins in other rivers and in other Indigenous territories, "but they didn't want to wait for outsiders to discover what was happening on their own land." The group found that fish from key rivers had unsafe levels of mercury, which could indicate mining operations upstream. Langlois received an OPC COVID-19 micro-grant in March 2021, and was [profiled](#) in the Bulletin in December.



Amanda Florian, an OPC member and freelance multimedia journalist, wrote a longform piece for Wired magazine [on Jan. 11](#) recounting her strange experience investigating how an image of a woman that looked uncannily like her ended up in an advertisement for a camping stove on a Chinese retail website – despite having no memory of posing for the photo or giving permission for its use. Using some common digital sleuthing tools, she discovered a photo used in an Amazon ad of a woman the company said was one of their employees, which had been reposted and repurposed multiple times across the internet until it appeared to transform closer to her own face. She brought her findings to a private U.S. Department of Defense contractor who specializes in deepfakes, who said the Chinese company might have incorporated actual images of Florian's face as part of a process to alter the original image for their own needs.



MEDIA NEWS

Joel Simon, who served as the executive director of the

Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) from 2006 to 2021, will [join](#) the Newmark J-School on Feb. 1 as the founding director of the Journalism Protection Initiative. The program will foster research into the growing threats to journalists in the U.S. and around the world. Simon served as panelist at numerous press freedom events hosted by the OPC and other organizations. Since stepping down from the CPJ, Simon has served as a fellow at the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University and a senior visiting fellow at the Knight First Amendment Institute, also at Columbia.



NBCUniversal has [announced](#) that **Rebecca Blumenstein**, who currently serves as a deputy managing editor at The New York Times, as the president of editorial for NBC News. She will succeed Noah Oppenheim, who has been president of the company's news operation since 2017. Blumenstein is a former foreign correspondent and was deputy editor-in-chief of The Wall Street Journal before joining the Times in 2017. She was the keynote speaker at the OPC Foundation's Scholar Awards Luncheon in 2017.



PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Michael Eugene "Buck" Tharp, a former president of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan (FCCJ) and member of the Overseas Press Club community, died in Dallas, Texas, [on Jan. 6](#) at the age of 77. The cause of death was bone marrow cancer. He served as FCCJ president from 1989 to 1990. Tharp's journalism career started in 1976 as Wall Street Journal bureau chief in Tokyo. He also



worked in Japan for The New York Times, the Far Eastern Economic Review and U.S. News and World Report, and in San Francisco as bureau chief for the Journal. Tharp later taught journalism at California State University in Fullerton and then joined the Merced Sun-Star as local news editor, becoming its executive editor in 2008. In March 2010, he spoke at the OPC's Japan Hands Reunion and wrote a piece about the event for the Sun-Star, which was also posted [on the OPC website here](#). Tharp received numerous mentions in the People column when Al Kaff, himself a veteran of many years in Asia with UPI, was writing the feature, including notable updates on Tharp's career with the Sun-Star and his trip to Iraq in the summer of 2009 to report for McClatchy newspapers. The accompanying photo shows Tharp, on the left, posing with OPC Past President Bill Holstein at the Japan Hands event in 2010. Tharp and Holstein overlapped stints at U.S. News and World Report. He said in an email

that Tharp “was always a gracious host at the FCCJ, one of the finest press clubs in the world.”

Bernard Kalb, a longtime correspondent for CBS, NBC and The New York Times who won an OPC award in 1968, died [on Jan. 8](#) at his home in Maryland at the age of 100. His career spanned six decades of the Cold War, starting as reporter for the Times from 1946 to 1962, then CBS for the following 18 years, and NBC from 1980 to 1985. He served in the U.S. State Department for nearly two years under the administration of President Ronald Reagan, a stint that ended with his resignation due to a disinformation campaign against Libya’s Muammar el-Qaddafi. His first overseas assignment was to accompany Richard Byrd in 1955 on a mission to Antarctica. He was posted in Hong Kong, where he covered assignments in India and Southeast Asia, including the Vietnam War. He later served as anchor for CBS Morning News and moderator for CNN’s Reliable Sources show. Kalb won the OPC’s 1968 Asia Magazine Award for his coverage of the Vietnam War for CBS News. He was also a guest on a correspondent panel hosted by the OPC in 1958, and was moderator on an OPC panel 1998 to mark the opening of an exhibit of photos from the book *Requiem: By the Photographers Who Died in Vietnam and Indochina*.

Nate Thayer, a foreign correspondent whose career included an exclusive interview in Cambodia with Pol Pot for the Far Eastern Economic Review in 1997, died in Massachusetts in early January at the age of 62. He wrangled the interview after weeks of meetings with Khmer Rouge fighters, crossing into Cambodian wilderness from Thailand. He scooped Elizabeth Becker of The New York Times, who had been closing in on an interview at the same time, but Thayer used connections to block her entry to keep the exclusive. His piece won a 1997 Citation for Excellence in the Hal Boyle Award category. Justin Doebele wrote a piece about Thayer’s interview for the [September 1997](#) issue of the Bulletin.

People Column

New Resources

RESOURCES

The Reuters Institute has released a report on technology trends and predictions in journalism for the coming year. The report covers what author Nic Newman called a “pivotal year” for changes in the social media landscape and tech developments like text and images generated by artificial intelligence software. [Read the report here.](#)

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

On Jan. 26 at 10:30 a.m., the **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** will host a webinar on journalism and artificial intelligence storytelling, including

issues surrounding the uncanny text-generating chatbot ChatGPT and “how the AI landscape is evolving, the roles, positioning, vulnerability, and culpability of journalists, and the media landscape.” [Read more and register here.](#)

The Journalist’s Resource has posted a recording of its Jan. 6 webinar on how to use academic research to do investigative journalism, with five key tips from investigative journalist Neil Bedi, criminologist Rachel Lovell and host Denise-Marie Ordway. The tips focus on seeking research in the early stages of a project, finding interpreters for the information, interrogating research used by an agency you’re investigating, ensuring older studies are still relevant, and relying on expert advice. [Read more and watch the webinar here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **Reuters Institute** is accepting applications for its **Journalist Fellowship Programme** for mid-career journalists to “take some time out from their day jobs to explore journalism in depth.” The organization says the majority of its Journalist Fellows are fully funded and also receive a stipend to cover living and travel costs. The deadline to apply is Feb. 6. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Applications are open for the **Knight-Bagehot Fellowship** at Columbia Journalism School. This is open to full-time editorial employees of newspapers, magazines, wire services, digital media, television and radio news organizations, as well as to freelance journalists, from anywhere in the world. The deadline to apply is Jan. 31. Decisions will be announced in mid-April. [Read more and apply here.](#)

ProPublica is looking for three new projects to join its **Local reporting Network** in 2023. The organization will pay the salary, up to \$75,000, plus an allowance for benefits, for each full-time reporter. “We are looking to take on ambitious accountability projects that wouldn’t otherwise be done,” a release from the organization says. The deadline to apply is Feb. 1. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The New America National Fellows Program is calling for applications for “projects that advance ideas through research, reporting and analysis.” The deadline to apply is Feb. 1. [Read more and apply here.](#)

More Resources

- The **OPC** hosted a psychological safety and resilience training session with the **Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma** on Oct. 12 that is available to watch on our YouTube channel. The program included a model to help understand the impact of trauma and other stresses in journalism, strategies for enhancing individual wellbeing and tips for building peer support networks. [Watch the program here.](#)
- The **Columbia University’s Brown Institute for Media Innovation** has a large repository of documents on COVID-19 via FOIA requests. [Explore the database here.](#)
- **ACOS** [assembled](#) a substantial list of COVID-19 resources for journalists, including links to practical safety advice, funding opportunities, hardship

and emergency funds, and reporting resources such as guides for fact checking.

Click the button below to go directly to the OPC's Resources page, or find it in your Member Dashboard under "Resources."

If you have any issues accessing the resources page, please contact Chad Bouchard at chad@opcofamerica.org for credentials.

OPC Resources Page



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