

## JOURNALISM

*MacArthur supports the production and distribution of news and documentary programs that help inform the American public about important domestic and international current affairs and policy issues.*

### AT A GLANCE

- MacArthur's journalism program supports in-depth, impactful public interest journalism, mostly conducted by nonprofit organizations. The work is based on a premise that journalism plays an important role in how Americans acquire information and form opinions, what they know and understand about their community and world, the choices and decisions they make, and whether and how they exercise their responsibility as citizens.
- MacArthur places special emphasis on investigative reporting and international news, recognizing these areas of journalism are under-resourced but critical to a well-functioning democracy and the development of global citizens. The Foundation also supports work to promote the innovative use of digital technology in the production and dissemination of public interest media.
- MacArthur funds the production of documentary films and participatory web-based documentaries that combine exceptional storytelling with in-depth journalism. The Foundation looks for projects that have the potential to spark dialogue, create understanding, and contribute to social and policy change. These documentaries are intended to reach a large U.S. broadcast audience and, often, a targeted audience of educators, community leaders, advocates, and policymakers.



An NPR journalist interviews a man in Mongolia. MacArthur supports NPR's news programs and initiatives to expand digital delivery and reach new audiences.

- In 2013, MacArthur awarded more than \$10 million in journalism grants.

### WHY JOURNALISM MATTERS

Media consumption is a vital and significant portion of almost everyone's day.

A well-made and compelling documentary or news program can inform, educate, and enlighten audience members and cause them to know more about an important topic, understand it better, and sometimes take action.

Public, nonprofit and independent news and media producers, who create non-fiction content without commercial pressures, produce content that is designed specifically to educate the viewers and listeners.

Documentary and news content that is professionally produced and edited, in-depth, and engaging is costly to make and has few sources of support, but can be timeless.

### WHAT WE FUND

The organizations MacArthur supports fill a critical gap in the news and information environment with reporting and filmmaking that addresses the big (and often under-reported) issues of our day with nuance, accuracy, and depth. They are also innovative in the ways they produce and disseminate their journalism, and their work often leads to meaningful changes and impact.

The journalism program has three components:

**Analytical News Programs and Investigative Reporting.** The Foundation currently supports 15 organizations that provide domestic and international news that is in-depth, explanatory and investigative. The budget for this area of work is \$6.5 million. The funding is used to support impactful, significant reporting and innovative ways of reaching audiences.

**Documentaries.** The Foundation currently supports five organizations that fund, co-produce, and/or broadcast documentary films (Sundance Institute, Tribeca Film Institute, Independent Television Service, American Documentary, and Firelight Media) and about 10-20 individual documentary film projects annually through an open call process. The budget for this area of work is \$4



The MacArthur-supported documentary *I Learn America* follows a year in the lives of five immigrant students who attend the International High School at Lafayette, a public school in New York City dedicated to teaching newly arrived immigrant teenagers from more than 50 countries.

million. The Foundation's documentary work is well-known for supporting films that are compelling and engaging while also adhering to journalistic principles.

**Innovation, Infrastructure, and Field Building.** The Foundation supports organizations and projects that allow the field of nonprofit, public and independent media to experiment with new technologies, business models, or training. In

some cases, we support external or disruptive innovations that we believe could be beneficial to public interest journalism, and in other cases, we support innovations and experimentation that come from within the institutions we already support. The budget for this area of work is \$1 million.

### REPRESENTATIVE GRANTS

#### PROPUBLICA

\$1 million for general operations over three years (2014)

#### AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY

\$1.3 million over two years to support the production of *P.O.V.*, and also a new documentary series, *America Reframed*. (2013)

#### CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

\$750,000 to support general operations over three years. (2013)

#### SUNDANCE INSTITUTE

\$225,000 to support the Documentary Film Program film fund over one year. (2013)

#### WGBH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION FRONTLINE

\$2.25 million to support *Frontline*, an investigative reporting series on public television over three years. (2012)

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### About the Macarthur Foundation

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. In addition to selecting the MacArthur Fellows, the Foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places, and understand how technology is affecting children and society.

**For more information or to sign up for news and event updates, please visit [www.macfound.org](http://www.macfound.org).**

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