



Local News Solutions 2026

**Our communities
aren't waiting.
*Neither are we.***

THURSDAY

Why does local news matter?

FRIDAY

How must local news adapt?

SATURDAY

Who do our communities need us to become?

CONVENTION PROGRAM

148th Colorado Press Association Annual Convention

August 27–29, 2026 • Delta Hotels Denver/Thornton

HOSTED BY



PRESENTED BY



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Media, Design and Information

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Welcome to Local News Solutions

FROM THE CPA BOARD PRESIDENT

A welcome from Lee Bachlet



One hundred forty-eight years. Take a moment and think about that. Colorado itself is only three years older than this convention.

In fact, only a handful of newspapers in our state have been around longer. Through wars, recessions, technological revolutions, and countless changes in the way news is gathered and delivered, the Colorado Press Association has continued bringing journalists, publishers, and media professionals together.

When the Association was founded in 1878, its purpose was twofold: advancing the business interests of its members and building relationships among publishers, editors, and writers. While much has changed over the last century and a half, that second purpose still resonates deeply with me. As important as our conversations about revenue, technology, legal issues, and industry trends may be, one of the things I value most about this convention is the opportunity to reconnect with the people who understand this work better than anyone else.

And honestly, I think we need that connection now more than ever.

Everyone attending this convention knows the challenges facing local journalism.

We've all seen newspapers close, colleagues lose jobs, and communities struggle after losing their local news source. Many of us have experienced those hardships firsthand. I know I have. During my career, I've been laid off as companies downsized. I've been part of difficult decisions to close presses and newspapers.

But I've also experienced the other side of this story. I've helped launch newspapers in communities that had lost local news. I've been fortunate enough to help save publications that were on the brink of closing. I've seen firsthand the impact local journalism can have when a community gains back a trusted source of news and information.

So why do we keep doing it?

Because it matters.

We do this work because informed communities are stronger communities. We do it because local journalism still makes a difference every single day. We do it because we care about the places we serve. And, if we're being honest, we do it because despite all the challenges, we still love it.

As you look around this convention, you're surrounded by people who feel exactly the same way.

Whether you've traveled here from the Front Range, the Western Slope, the Eastern Plains, or a mountain community, we hope you'll find something that speaks to you in this year's program. More importantly, we hope you'll find the conversations, connections, and friendships that remind you that you're not in this fight alone.

I still remember attending my first Colorado Press Association convention nearly 30 years ago as a young salesperson at The Denver Post. I was inspired by the people I met, the passion they brought to this industry, and the commitment they showed to their communities. That spirit is still here today.

So take advantage of it. Learn from one another. Share ideas. Reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Carry that energy home with you and let it renew your commitment to the important work we all do.

The challenges are real, but so is the value of what we provide.

The fight is worth it.

And we are always stronger together.

Lee Bachlet
CPA Board President, 2025-26

Revenue.

All year.

We do that.

Let's talk about it.

ANC

Advantage Newspaper Consultants

Focus

Revenue

Solutions

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Inside this program

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LATEST SCHEDULE

Scan for live updates

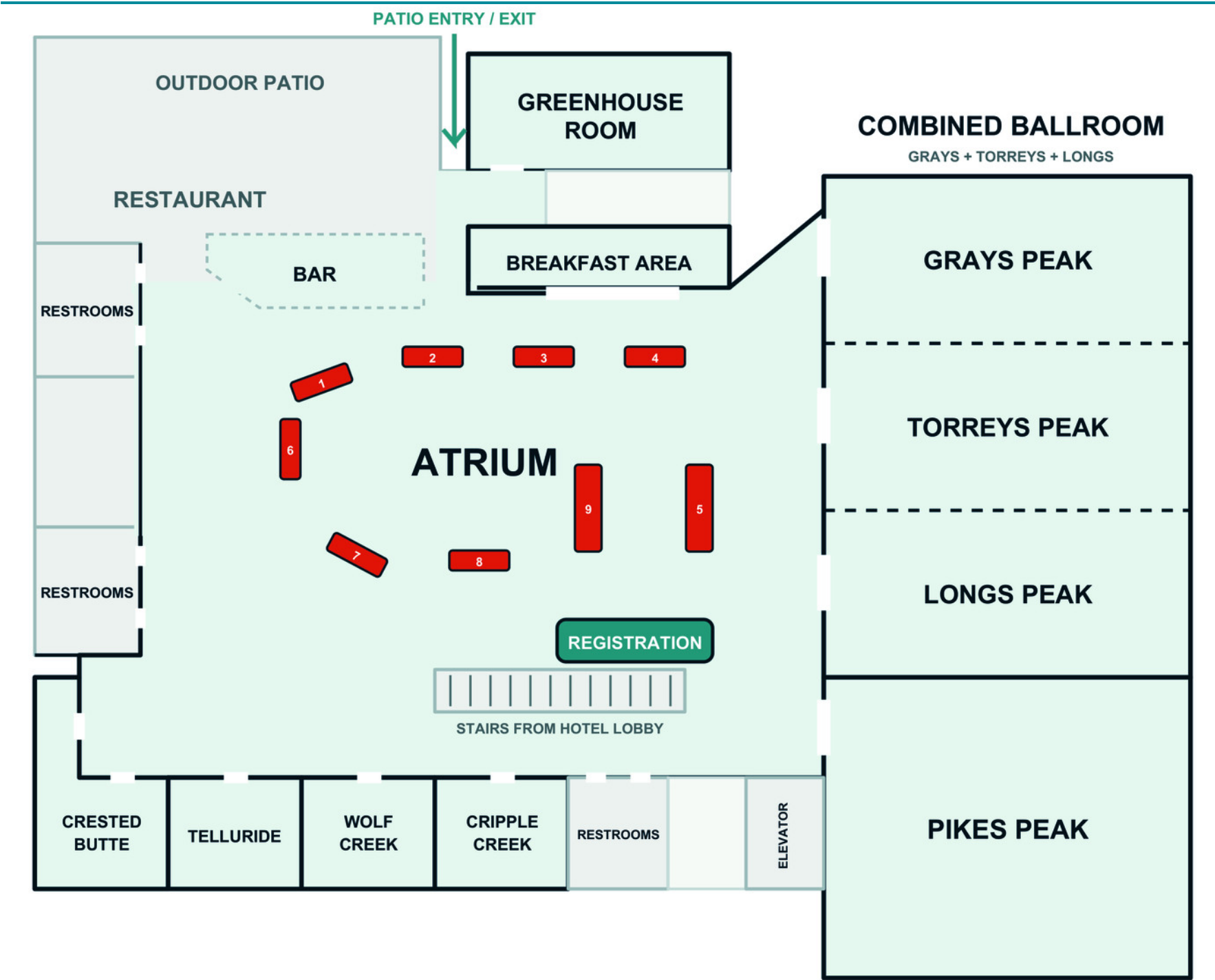
Rooms, speakers + last-minute changes

LOCAL NEWS SOLUTIONS 2026 · WELCOME

3

Find your way

Convention rooms, registration and attendee landmarks.



SPONSOR TABLES

- 1 Advantage Newspaper Consultants
- 2 SPJ Colorado
- 3 Colorado Office of Film
- 4 Cherry Road
- 5 Recycle On
- 6 The Mountain-Ear
- 7 Software Consulting Services
- 8 Colorado College
- 9 Xcel Energy

WHEN FREE SPEECH IS UNDER ATTACK, WE FIGHT BACK.

A free press is a cornerstone of our democracy.
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**ACLU
CO**

3 PM

 Atrium

4-4:15 PM

PLENARY

Combined Ballroom

4:15–4:40 PM

OPENING STORIES

Jeremy Wade Shockley · Luige Del Puerto · Patti Brown

Combined Ballroom

4:40–5 PM

KEYNOTE

Laura Frank

● Combined Ballroom

5-5:30 PM

PUBLIC POLICY CONVERSATION

Emily Sirota · Rick Taggart · Tim Regan-Porter

 Combined Ballroom

5:30–5:45 PM

AWARDS CEREMONY

 Combined Ballroom

5:45–7:15 PM

SOCIAL

 Atrium

7:30–8:10 PM

SUNDANCE CONVERSATION

Eugene Hernandez · Tim Regan-Porter

 Combined Ballroom

8:15–9:50 PM

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

Sharon Liese

Combined Ballroom

9:50–10:30 PM

FILMMAKER Q&A

Eugene Hernandez · Sharon Liese · Tim Regan-Porter

Combined Ballroom

Your focus is local journalism

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LEE BACHLET

Sr. Vice President - Growth & Innovation

KEY ■ **Plenary** ■ **Breakout** ■ **Social + logistics**



LATEST SCHEDULE

Sessions, speakers + room updates

convention.press/schedule

Schedule subject to change

How must local news adapt?

Friday moves from practical choices about AI to broader questions of relevance and sustainability.

7:30–8:30 AM

Registration + breakfast

Atrium

7:45–8:25 AM

CONCURRENT CONVERSATION

The Future of Public Notices

Tim Regan-Porter · Jennifer Mello

Greenhouse Room

8:30–9 AM

KEYNOTE

Civic Leadership and Local News

Kent Thiry

Combined Ballroom

A keynote on civic leadership and the future of local news.

FRIDAY MORNING THEME

AI, tools, trust and judgment

How can local news organizations use AI and other emerging tools thoughtfully and ethically?

9–9:30 AM

SHARED CONVERSATION + DEMONSTRATION

AI in Local News: Useful Tool, Existential Threat, or Both?

Cheryl Phillips · Kevin Berrier · Kevin Slimp · Dan Grech

Combined Ballroom

A shared conversation about where AI is useful and risky, plus What AI Can Actually Do for Local Reporting, a concise demonstration.

9:30–10:35 AM

ROUNDTABLES

Morning Roundtables

Combined Ballroom

Two rotations. Choose a table for each round. See p. 8.

10:45 AM–NOON

WORKSHOPS + DEEP DIVES

Morning Workshops + Deep Dives

Various rooms

Choose one longer session. See p. 9.

12:15–1 PM

BREAK

Lunch

Atrium

12:15–1 PM

CONCURRENT CONVERSATION

Tackling the Challenges of Today’s Student Journalist

Vicky Sama

Greenhouse Room

1–1:30 PM

KEYNOTE

Will They Miss You When You’re Gone? Why Sustainability Starts With Relevance

Amalie Nash

Combined Ballroom

Sustainability begins with becoming valuable enough that a community would notice and respond if its local news disappeared.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON THEME

Relevance, impact and sustainability

Relationships, products, stories and public value all shape whether communities continue to need and support local news.

1:30–2 PM

STORIES + SHARED CONVERSATION

Sustainability Is Everyone’s Business

Ben Arthur · Garry Pierre-Pierre · Amber Côté · Tim Regan-Porter

Combined Ballroom

A conversation about how stories, audience and community relationships connect to the long-term sustainability of local news.

2–3:15 PM

ROUNDTABLES + AI SALES GAMES

Afternoon Roundtables + AI Sales Games

Combined Ballroom

Two rotations. See p. 10. AI Sales Games meets in the Greenhouse Room.

3:15–3:45 PM

BREAK

Ice Cream Truck Break

Join colleagues for ice cream from the Sweet Cow Ice Cream truck, a convention favorite.

3:45–5 PM

WORKSHOPS + DEEP DIVES

Afternoon Workshops + Deep Dives

Various rooms

Choose one longer session. See p. 11.

5–5:30 PM

CLOSING PLENARY

Friday Wrap

Combined Ballroom

Come back together for reflection and synthesis, connecting the day's ideas before the evening begins.

5:30–7 PM

SOCIAL

Young Professionals Reception

Atrium

Join your peers for drinks, snacks and conversation as we celebrate the next generation of local news leaders. All convention attendees are welcome.



LATEST SCHEDULE
Sessions, speakers + room updates
convention.press/schedule

Who do our communities need us to become?

Saturday looks ahead at what we can build together and what the work will require of us.

8–9 AM

Breakfast + CPA Past Presidents Breakfast

Atrium

Begin Saturday with breakfast and conversation. CPA past presidents will also gather for their annual breakfast.

9–9:20 AM

KEYNOTE

Local News, Civic Life and What Comes Next

Amanda Mountain

Combined Ballroom

What communities need from local news now, and how journalism, arts and civic engagement can keep organizations connected.

9:20–10 AM

INTERACTIVE PLENARY

Story Magic: Turn Your Media Organization’s Story into Trust and Growth

Dan Grech

Combined Ballroom

Turn your organization’s story of community service into a strategic asset for trust, relevance and growth.

SATURDAY MORNING THEME

Stronger together

How can local news organizations, CPA and partners share capacity, solve common problems and strengthen local news across Colorado?

10–11 AM

MEMBER DISCUSSION

What Colorado Newsrooms Need to Thrive

Laura Frank · Kimberly Spencer · Tim Regan-Porter · Tamara Chuang · Tonya Maddox

Combined Ballroom

Guided conversations about the challenges newsrooms face and how Colorado’s journalism support network can respond.

11 AM–NOON

FRAMING + WORKING SESSIONS

How Statewide and Local Newsrooms Can Work Together

Dana Coffield · Kevin Dale · Lee Ann Colacioppo · Melanie Asmar

Combined Ballroom at 11 · Various rooms at 11:15

A rapid conversation about where statewide and local newsrooms can work together, followed at 11:15 by peer exchanges and working sessions. See p. 12.

NOON–1 PM

BREAK

Lunch

Atrium

12:30–12:55 PM

OPTIONAL

Mindfulness Reset

Tim Regan-Porter

Greenhouse Room

SATURDAY AFTERNOON THEME

What does the work ahead require of us?

How must individuals, news organizations and leaders grow as local news and the communities it serves keep changing?

1–1:20 PM

SHARED CONVERSATION

What Skills Do Local Newsrooms Need Next?

Leonor Ayala Polley · Dan Petty · Tim Regan-Porter

Combined Ballroom

A short framing conversation about the skills local newsrooms need next.

1:20–2:30 PM

ROUNDTABLES

Saturday Afternoon Roundtables

Combined Ballroom

Two rotations. Choose a table for each round. See p. 12.

2:30–2:45 PM

BREAK

Break + Transition

2:45–3:45 PM

WORKSHOPS + DEEP DIVES

Afternoon Workshops + Deep Dives

Various rooms

Choose one session. Joy Breaks continues until 4:15 PM. See p. 13.

4:30–7:30 PM

AWARDS DINNER

Hall of Fame + Better News Awards Dinner

Combined Ballroom

4:30 PM Hall of Fame honors

5 PM KEYNOTE Garry Pierre-Pierre

Refusing to Look Away: Local Journalism When Communities Need It Most

5:20 PM Dinner

5:45 PM Better News Awards

6:30 PM A-Mark Prize + Member Awards

6:55 PM Closing



LATEST SCHEDULE

Sessions, speakers + room updates

convention.press/schedule

Roundtables

Two 25-minute rotations · Choose two

📍 All roundtables are in the Combined Ballroom.

2026 Pulse Poll: What Coloradans Are Saying About Health and Community

Katie Peshek

Use the 2026 Pulse Poll to identify local reporting opportunities and strengthen community conversations.

AI Workflow Starter Kit for Small Newsrooms

Kevin Slimp

A starting point for small newsrooms deciding where AI tools belong in everyday workflows.

Big Local News Tools for Small Newsrooms

Cheryl Phillips

A practical preview of Big Local News tools that can help small newsrooms surface and pursue accountability stories.

Co-op and Community Ownership Models for Local News

Nathan Schneider

A roundtable on co-op and community ownership models as one possible path for local news sustainability.

Election Answers on Deadline: Inside Votebeat’s Election Expert Desk

Zack Newman

A practical Votebeat roundtable on getting authoritative election answers quickly and using the free Election Expert Desk.

Events and Sponsorships That Actually Work

Julia Campbell

A practical conversation about events, sponsorships and sustaining supporters that can build revenue and deepen community relationships.

Is This a Real Threat? Safety Questions for Newsrooms

Jerry Glotzer

Evaluate threats, harassment and intimidating situations without overreacting or ignoring real danger.

Local News and Community Resilience in a Wildfire Era

Andrew Holder

Explore how local journalism can help communities understand wildfire risk, prepare for disruption and recover after disasters. Facilitated by convention sponsor Xcel Energy.

Podcasting for Policy: HABITUAL, Justice Reform and Civic Engagement

Ryan Conarro · Herbert Alexander · Kristen Nelson

A case study in documentary podcasting, justice-system storytelling and civic impact.

Sales Hiring, Training, and Accountability

Charity Huff

A practical conversation about recruiting, onboarding, training and retaining sales staff in small and midsize news organizations.

Student Newsrooms and Editorial Independence: Lessons from FoxTalk

Andy Green

A student-newsroom case study on election reporting, institutional pressure and editorial independence.

Training Journalism Entrepreneurs, Not Just Journalists

Vicky Collins

A roundtable on preparing student journalists to understand audience, revenue and sustainability alongside the work of reporting.



LATEST SCHEDULE

Sessions, speakers + room updates
convention.press/schedule

ZB

ZANSBERG
BEYLKIN

The Media and First Amendment lawyers at Zansberg Beylkin congratulate this year’s award winners.

We also thank all CPA members for the incredibly important work you do every day.

www.zblegal.com

Workshops + Deep Dives

Choose one 75-minute session.

📍 Rooms are shown with each listing.

AI Sales Games: Training and Client Assignment

Kevin Berrier

📍 Greenhouse Room

The AI Sales Games begin with focused training on the tools, team process and client assignment participants will use throughout Friday. Kevin Berrier will introduce the challenge, help teams organize and prepare them to build an AI-assisted sales proposal for a realistic local-business scenario. Participants should plan to attend all three connected blocks.

Bridging News Fellowship Meetup

Laura Frank

📍 Cripple Creek

Participants in the Greater Good Science Center’s Bridging News Fellowship meet to explore reporting approaches designed to build understanding, trust and belonging. Fellows will share lessons from the year-long program, while journalists curious about the model can examine the science behind it and consider how those practices could inform their own community reporting.

Getting Better Answers: Tools to Conduct Unforgettable Interviews

Ryan Warner

📍 Torreys Peak

Using revealing audio examples from Colorado Public Radio, Ryan Warner demonstrates techniques for conducting sharper, more memorable interviews. The session covers earning candor, asking stronger follow-ups and creating moments that listeners remember, whether the interview subject is a governor, a gardener or anyone whose story deserves careful attention.

Making Sense of AI

Kevin Slimp

📍 Telluride

Kevin Slimp moves beyond AI hype with a clear framework for understanding how today’s tools work, where they add value and where they introduce risk. He will examine applications in reporting, research, editing and production alongside the legal and ethical questions news organizations should consider before adopting new tools.

Small Newsrooms, Bigger Investigations: AI, Data and Big Local News Support

Cheryl Phillips

📍 Crested Butte

Small and midsize newsrooms can pursue ambitious accountability work when local knowledge is paired with the right data, AI-assisted tools and outside support. Cheryl Phillips will show how to identify promising data-driven stories, surface and verify leads, localize findings and decide when a project would benefit from a partner such as Big Local News.

When Should a Newsroom Sue the Government?

Steve Zansberg · Jeff Roberts · Patti Brown

📍 Pikes Peak

When a records denial, closed-door decision or pattern of obstruction persists, legal action may become a newsroom’s best tool for defending public access. This workshop helps editors, publishers and reporters weigh editorial, legal, financial and community considerations; document the problem; involve counsel; explain the decision; and keep the focus on the public’s right to know.

When the Assignment Gets Risky: Practical Safety Training for Journalists

Jerry Glotzer

📍 Wolf Creek

Jerry Glotzer prepares reporters, photographers, editors and newsroom leaders for assignments that can become unpredictable. The session covers risk assessment, communication plans, body positioning, situational awareness, legal and medical lifelines, PPE considerations and field decontamination. The goal is a set of questions and habits that support safer coverage before, during and after a risky assignment.



LATEST SCHEDULE

Sessions, speakers + room updates
convention.press/schedule



Roundtables + AI Sales Games

Roundtables: two rotations · Choose a table for each round.

📍 AI Sales Games continues in the Greenhouse Room. All other sessions are in the Combined Ballroom.

AI Sales Games: Team Buildout

[Kevin Berrier](#)

📍 Greenhouse Room

A hands-on work period for teams to build their AI-assisted client proposals.

Beyond Philanthropy: Building News Organizations That Last

[Amalie Nash](#)

How to use grants and major gifts to leave your news organization stronger after the funding ends.

Building an Ecosystem Around Your Newsroom

[Garry Pierre-Pierre](#)

A roundtable on turning community relationships into stronger audience, trust and revenue opportunities.

Community Voices and Civic Engagement: Working with RMPM

[Amber Coté](#)

A practical conversation about how newsrooms can connect with RMPM's ambassadors, Above the Noise initiatives and other community programs.

Covering Contentious Issues: What Support Do Journalists Need?

[Kimberly Spencer](#) · [Katie Peshek](#)

Help shape practical training and support for covering contentious issues.

Locking Down Your Digital Life: Social Media Safety for Journalists

[Beth Rankin](#)

A practical roundtable on protecting journalists and their families from online exposure, harassment and doxxing risks.

QuizTheVote / Voter Guide Demo

[Sandra Fish](#) · [Laura Frank](#)

A practical roundtable on QuizTheVote, voter guides and election-information tools that help voters make sense of their choices.

The Jewish Experience in Journalism Since Oct. 7

[Shana Goldberg](#) · [Scott Levin](#)

A conversation about covering Jewish communities, Israel and Gaza, antisemitism and related tensions with greater accuracy, context and awareness of lived experience.

The Records You Should Be Looking At

[Jeff Roberts](#)

A practical idea-sharing roundtable on the public records, filings, logs and documents that can lead reporters to stronger local stories.

What Happens After the Bin? Inside Colorado's Recycling System

[Rachel Zerowin](#)

Follow recyclables from curbside collection to end markets and explore Colorado's new producer-funded recycling system.

When Childcare Doesn't Work, Work Doesn't Work

[Sarah Glover](#)

A practical conversation about childcare as workforce infrastructure and the role employers can play in supporting working families.

Where Journalism, Art and Lived Experience Meet

[Ben Arthur](#)

A conversation about how journalists, artists, researchers and community storytellers can reinforce one another's work.

Why Aren't More People Reading Our News?

[Kevin Slimp](#)

A diagnostic conversation about why audience growth is hard and what questions local newsrooms should be asking first.



LATEST SCHEDULE

Sessions, speakers + room updates

convention.press/schedule

Workshops + Deep Dives

Choose one 75-minute session.

📍 Rooms are shown with each listing.

AI Sales Games: Presentations and Takeaways

Kevin Berrier

📍 Greenhouse Room

AI Sales Games teams present the proposals they created for their assigned clients, compare approaches and receive feedback on both strategy and use of AI. The closing conversation will identify transferable lessons for sales work: where AI helped, where human judgment mattered most and how the tools can support stronger advertiser solutions. This is the final connected block.

Beyond the Grant: Building Real Relationships Between Local News and Local Philanthropy

Latia Henderson · James-Allan Holmes · Carlos Martinez · Paul Lhevine · Kimberly Spencer

📍 Pikes Peak

Explore how local news organizations can build durable, non-transactional relationships with foundations, nonprofits and civic institutions, even when no grant is on the table. Panelists will discuss shared community outcomes, responsible collaboration, editorial guardrails and ways to begin conversations that deepen an organization’s understanding of local needs while protecting independence and trust.

Building News People Actually Need: Applying the User Needs Framework in Local News

Amalie Nash

📍 Telluride

Amalie Nash introduces the User Needs Framework as a way to make local journalism more relevant, useful and sustainable. The session considers how stories can provide greater insight, context, inspiration, utility and connection, and how audience research and analytics can guide editorial choices without chasing empty clicks or losing sight of mission.

Covering Immigration in Colorado: Reliable Information, Trusted Sources and Community-Centered Reporting

Seth Klamann · Hector Paniagua Morales · Jesús Sánchez Meleán · Christian Burney

📍 Cripple Creek

Journalists experienced in covering immigration in Colorado will share approaches to finding reliable information, building trust with sources and navigating language or access barriers. Participants will examine how to report on enforcement and policy changes with accuracy, nuance and accountability while centering the communities most affected and providing readers with meaningful local context.

Environmental Justice: Global Forces, Local Impacts

Jenae Barnes · Sam Brasch · Amanda Eggert · Ayurella Horn-Muller · Sam Price-Waldman · Stephen Robert Miller

📍 Torreys Peak

Ted Scripps fellows from CU Boulder’s Center for Environmental Journalism examine how fast-moving global forces are reshaping local environmental justice reporting. Participants will consider emerging threats, familiar challenges in new forms and ways to maintain critical focus on the systems that determine access to a livable environment in Colorado and beyond.

How to Get More People to Read Your News

Kevin Slimp

📍 Grays Peak

Growing readership comes from connected decisions about content, storytelling, presentation, design, distribution and community relevance. Kevin Slimp moves from diagnosis to action with strategies for making journalism more engaging, accessible and valuable across print and digital platforms. The focus is on ideas local news organizations can apply to build engagement, loyalty and long-term sustainability.

The Story Collaboration Lab: Journalism, Art and Community Experience

Ben Arthur · Amber Coté · John Moore

📍 Crested Butte

Ben Arthur’s SongWriter process provides a starting point for designing an interdisciplinary local storytelling project. Participants will choose an issue and map the reporting, lived experience, research, artistic form and community participation it needs. The goal is a collaboration model that expands reporting, invites community voice, reaches new audiences and creates deeper public impact.

What’s Next for MATCH Lab?

Alex Pasquariello

📍 Wolf Creek

New director Alex Pasquariello will share what is ahead for MATCH Lab, then participants will brainstorm projects and partnerships connecting newsrooms with students, faculty and business mentors. Bring an idea, a problem to solve or simple curiosity, and help identify ways the lab can support real-world newsroom challenges.



LATEST SCHEDULE

Sessions, speakers + room updates

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Peer Exchanges + Working Sessions

Choose one. Some peer exchanges share larger rooms with multiple tables.

Audience peer exchange

📍 Grays Peak
Meet with audience peers to exchange practical ideas, useful tips and lessons for building stronger community relationships.

Covering Immigration as Latino Publishers When Communities Are Under Fire

[Hector Paniagua Morales](#) · [Jesús Sánchez Meleán](#)
📍 Torreys Peak
A peer exchange with Latino publishers on covering immigration, community trust and what mainstream and community outlets can learn from one another.

Donor Development for Local News

[Brandy Bertram](#)
📍 Crested Butte
A practical workshop on philanthropy fundamentals and building stronger individual-giving programs for local news.

Editorial peer exchange

📍 Torreys Peak
Continue the statewide-local collaboration conversation, or connect with editorial peers around common beats, projects and newsroom challenges.

Help Build a Colorado Revenue Working Group

📍 Pikes Peak
What would make an ongoing revenue working group genuinely useful? Bring the challenges you're trying to solve across advertising, sponsorships, underwriting, reader revenue and philanthropy — whether you're a one-person operation or part of a larger team — and explore how revenue peers can learn from and support one another beyond the convention.

Launch Colorado Tradeoffs

[Laura Frank](#)
📍 Telluride
A hands-on introduction to Colorado Tradeoffs and its potential for engagement, audience insight and journalism.

Publisher Forum: What's Working? What Isn't?

[Kevin Slimp](#)
📍 Greenhouse Room
A facilitated peer forum for publishers and local news leaders to compare challenges, questions and working ideas.

The Future of Local News Is Already Here. It's Being Built by Community Media.

[Garry Pierre-Pierre](#)
📍 Wolf Creek
A practical peer exchange for ethnic, immigrant-serving and community-centered media leaders and allies.

Working with Big Local News: What Can Your Newsroom Do with Outside Support?

[Cheryl Phillips](#)
📍 Cripple Creek
A working session on how local newsrooms can scope projects and collaborations with Big Local News.

Roundtables

Two rotations · Choose two · All roundtables are in the Combined Ballroom.

Audience Growth Without a Big Audience Team

[Dan Petty](#)
Explore ways smaller teams can understand who they reach, build habits that bring people back and grow audience without chasing empty traffic.

Beyond Rates and Reach: The Mission-Driven Sale

[David Cook](#)
Build stronger advertiser conversations around both business goals and the public value of local journalism.

Building the Local Journalism Talent Pipeline: Interns, Students and Shared Capacity

[Linda Shapley](#)
A practical conversation about internships, student preparation and shared approaches to developing the next generation of local news talent.

Data Reporting Office Hours: Bring a Problem, Leave with a Plan

[Cheryl Phillips](#)
Bring a real reporting problem or data question and leave with a practical next-step plan.

PBS12 Creator Academy: Building New Storytelling Pipelines

[Bobby Springer](#)
A public-media roundtable on creator training, community storytelling and new talent pipelines.

Is This a Real Threat? Safety Questions for Newsrooms

[Jerry Glotzer](#)
Evaluate threats, harassment and intimidating situations without overreacting or ignoring real danger.

Selling Trust

[Garry Pierre-Pierre](#)
A revenue roundtable on selling from mission and community value without losing clarity or discipline.

The Creator Class: Journalists created a training course for Colorado content creators. Hear how it went.

[Kimberly Spencer](#) · [Corey Hutchins](#)
Discuss lessons from a Colorado pilot that trained creators in news gathering and media bias, and what an expanded program through CSU Extension could look like.

What Makes Advertising More Effective?

[Kevin Slimp](#)
A quick interactive look at what makes local advertising work, from design and messaging to strategy.

When Public Records Requests Get Stonewalled

[Jeff Roberts](#) · [Rachael Johnson](#)
A practical open-records roundtable on delays, denials, costs, incomplete responses and when to escalate.

Writing from the Inside Out: Incarcerated Voices and Local News

[JoyBelle Phelan](#)
A roundtable on incarcerated voices, prison journalism and ethical partnerships with inside writers.



LATEST SCHEDULE

Sessions, speakers + room updates
convention.press/schedule

Workshops + Deep Dives

Choose one 60-minute session. Joy Breaks continues until 4:15 PM.

📍 Rooms are shown with each listing.

Campaign Finance Data

Sandra Fish

📍 Wolf Creek

Campaign finance records can reveal who is funding candidates, committees and ballot efforts, but the data can be difficult to find and interpret. Veteran data journalist Sandra Fish will help reporters identify useful records, spot patterns and promising questions, and turn complex filings into clear, meaningful election coverage for their communities.

Creators + Journalists: A Better Way to Collaborate

Laura Frank

📍 Crested Butte

Local creators and newsrooms often reach the same communities, yet collaboration can be difficult. Journalists and creators will examine what successful partnerships require, preview a new MATCH Lab pilot with CBS Colorado and help shape a model designed to avoid common pitfalls while expanding trust, reach and public impact for everyone involved.

From Layoffs to Career Pivots: Navigating Today’s Media Workforce

Leonor Ayala Polley · Amber Payne

📍 Telluride

Media workers facing layoffs, leadership changes and shrinking newsrooms need preparation as well as talent. This session offers strategies for expanding influence without a competing offer, navigating advancement in a tight hiring market and preparing before disruption hits. Participants will leave with tools to protect both their careers and their peace of mind.

From Publisher to CEO: Building Systems That Scale

Garry Pierre-Pierre

📍 Longs Peak

Independent publishers often spend so much time on stories, sales and daily crises that they cannot build the systems needed for sustainable growth. This workshop focuses on moving from working in the newsroom to working on the organization through sales processes, pricing, partnerships, customer management, AI-assisted workflows and operating routines that reduce burnout.

Joy Breaks: Making Space for Joy in Journalism

Marita Pérez Díaz

📍 Greenhouse Room

Journalists covering crisis, conflict and trauma need intentional ways to reconnect with creativity, perspective and purpose. This restorative, hands-on workshop helps participants identify personal and newsroom “joy breaks,” build practices they can carry home and create a small piece of art for their desk. This extended session runs until 4:15 PM.

Runway, Not Revenue: What to Build While Philanthropy Buys You Time

Kimberly Spencer · Libbie Randolph · Dan Petty

📍 Torreys Peak

Philanthropy can buy time, but it cannot substitute for a viable organization. This working session follows a three-step sequence: stabilize, prove, ask. Participants will use their own numbers, audience evidence and partner priorities, leaving with concrete next steps and a template for a fuller 30-day plan, whether the next dollar comes from a funder, advertiser or audience.

Sponsored Content That Works

Julia Campbell

📍 Cripple Creek

Sponsored content can support revenue only when it is packaged clearly, sold honestly and built with strong trust guardrails. Publishers, editors and sales teams will examine workable products for small and midsize newsrooms, how to explain and price them, how to produce them efficiently and where to draw firm lines around editorial independence.

The Story Behind The Denver Post: A Conversation with Lee Ann Colacioppo

Lee Ann Colacioppo · Dan Grech

📍 Grays Peak

For more than 130 years, The Denver Post has chronicled Colorado’s growth, held powerful institutions accountable and served as one of the state’s most consequential civic institutions. In this candid conversation, Executive Editor Lee Ann Colacioppo will explore the personal story behind her commitment to journalism, the experiences and values that guide her leadership, and her vision for the future of The Denver Post and local news. Dan Grech will use his Story-Driven Growth framework to connect Lee Ann’s personal story with the history, mission and future of the institution she leads.



LATEST SCHEDULE

Sessions, speakers + room updates

convention.press/schedule

Keynote speakers

FULL SPEAKER BIOS

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Laura Frank

Executive Director
COLab, the Colorado News Collaborative

Laura Frank is executive director of the Colorado News Collaborative, where she works with more than 175 news outlets and their communities to strengthen local journalism and democracy across the state.

SCHEDULE Opening keynote (p. 5)

Workshop: Bridging News Fellowship Meetup (p. 9) • **Roundtable:** QuizTheVote / Voter Guide Demo (p. 10) • 3 more (pp. 7, 12, 13)



Amalie Nash

Vice President of Journalism
Knight Foundation

Amalie Nash is vice president of journalism at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, where she guides investments aimed at strengthening local news and advancing sustainable, independent journalism.

SCHEDULE Friday lunch keynote (p. 6)

Roundtable: Beyond Philanthropy: Building News Organizations That Last (p. 10)
• **Workshop:** Building News People Actually Need: Applying the User Needs Framework in Local News (p. 11)



Dan Grech

Founder, YBYS; Author
YBYS

Dan Grech is the founder of YBYS, a storytelling consultancy that helps organizations turn their authentic stories into strategic growth assets, and the author of the forthcoming book Your Business Is Your Story.

SCHEDULE Storytelling keynote (p. 7)

Shared conversation: AI in Local News: Useful Tool, Existential Threat, or Both? (p. 6) • **Workshop:** The Story Behind The Denver Post: A Conversation with Lee Ann Colacioppo (p. 13)



Kent Thiry

TNC Global Board Member and Former CEO & Executive Chairman of DaVita
Unite America / former DaVita

Kent Thiry is an entrepreneur, philanthropist and civic leader whose work focuses on renewing democracy, protecting natural places, expanding economic mobility, developing leaders and improving health care.

SCHEDULE Friday morning keynote (p. 6)



Amanda Mountain

President & CEO
Rocky Mountain Public Media

Amanda Mountain is president and CEO of Rocky Mountain Public Media. A first-generation college graduate with a master's degree from the University of Denver in Organizational Leadership and Change Management, she is the first female CEO in RMPM history.

SCHEDULE Saturday morning keynote (p. 7)



Garry Pierre-Pierre

Director of Partnerships
URL Media

Garry Pierre-Pierre is director of partnerships at URL Media and the founder and former publisher of The Haitian Times, one of URL Media's inaugural network partners. He brings more than 35 years of journalism experience to his work supporting independent media organizations that serve Black, Brown and immigrant communities.

SCHEDULE Awards keynote (p. 7)

Shared conversation: Sustainability Is Everyone's Business (p. 6) • **Roundtable:** Building an Ecosystem Around Your Newsroom (p. 10) • **Peer exchange:** The Future of Local News Is Already Here. It's Being Built by Community Media. (p. 12) • 2 more (pp. 12, 13)



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THEMTNEAR.COM

Special guests

Visiting experts and outside voices bringing additional perspective to this year's convention.

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Emily Sirota

Chair, Joint Budget Committee; State Representative, District 9
[Colorado General Assembly](#)

Rep. Emily Sirota represents House District 9 in Arapahoe and Denver counties. She chairs the Joint Budget Committee and serves as vice chair of the House Appropriations Committee.

SCHEDULE Plenary: Colorado's Budget and the Future of Local News (p. 5) • **Awards:** Legislative Collaboration Awards (p. 5)



Rick Taggart

State Representative, District 55
[Colorado General Assembly](#)

Rep. Rick Taggart represents House District 55 in Mesa County. He serves on the House Appropriations Committee and the Joint Budget Committee.

SCHEDULE Plenary: Colorado's Budget and the Future of Local News (p. 5) • **Awards:** Legislative Collaboration Awards (p. 5)



Eugene Hernandez

Director, Sundance Film Festival & Public Programming
[Sundance Institute](#)

Eugene Hernandez is director of the Sundance Film Festival and head of public programming. He guides the festival's vision and strategy and leads the Sundance Institute's year-round public programming, championing the social and cultural role of artists and developing programs that foster dialogue and community around Sundance-supported work.

SCHEDULE Plenary: The Arts, Journalism and Community Life (p. 5) • **Q&A:** A Conversation After *Seized* (p. 5)



Sharon Liese

Filmmaker and Director of *Seized*
[Herizon Productions](#)

Sharon Liese is an Emmy Award-winning director who is passionate about telling stories that move people. Her film *The Flagmakers*, released by National Geographic and Disney+, won the 2023 Emmy for Outstanding Short Documentary and was shortlisted for an Academy Award. Her short documentary *Parker* premiered at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival and is distributed through The New Yorker.

SCHEDULE Screening: *Seized* (p. 5) • **Q&A:** A Conversation After *Seized* (p. 5)



Cheryl Phillips

Hearst Professional in Residence; Founder and Co-Director, Big Local News
[Stanford University](#)

Cheryl Phillips is the founder and co-director of Big Local News at Stanford University. Big Local News collects, standardizes and shares public data, builds tools, and partners with local and national newsrooms to help journalists pursue data-driven accountability reporting. The program has helped newsrooms work with public data on issues ranging from police accountability and education to COVID-19, the 2020 Census and government transparency.

SCHEDULE Shared conversation: AI in Local News: Useful Tool, Existential Threat, or Both? (p. 6) • **Shared conversation:** What AI Can Actually Do for Local Reporting (p. 6) • **Roundtable:** Big Local News Tools for Small Newsrooms (p. 8) • **Workshop:** Small Newsrooms, Bigger Investigations: AI, Data and Big Local News Support (p. 9) • 2 more (p. 12)



Kevin Berrier

Marketing Director
[MDDC Press Association](#)

Kevin Berrier is marketing director for MDDC Advertising Services, the full-service marketing agency of the MDDC Press Association. Drawing on more than two decades in marketing and advertising, he helps businesses and organizations define the results they need and then builds campaigns around those goals.

SCHEDULE Shared conversation: AI in Local News: Useful Tool, Existential Threat, or Both? (p. 6) • **Workshop:** AI Sales Games: Training and Client Assignment (p. 9) • **Roundtable:** AI Sales Games: Team Buildout (p. 10) • **Workshop:** AI Sales Games: Presentations and Takeaways (p. 11)



Kevin Slimp

Founder
[Newspaper Academy](#)

Kevin Slimp is a newspaper consultant, adviser, trainer, columnist and speaker who has spent decades helping community newspapers improve their products and strengthen their operations. In 1997, he founded the Institute of Newspaper Technology and went on to direct the Newspaper Institute at the University of Tennessee from 1997 through 2018. He is the chief guru of NewspaperAcademy.com and CEO of Market Square Publishing.

SCHEDULE Shared conversation: AI in Local News: Useful Tool, Existential Threat, or Both? (p. 6) • **Roundtable:** AI Workflow Starter Kit for Small Newsrooms (p. 8) • **Workshop:** Making Sense of AI (p. 9) • **Roundtable:** Why Aren't More People Reading Our News? (p. 10) • 3 more (pp. 11, 12)



Andrew Holder

Director, Community Relations and Local Government Affairs
[Xcel Energy](#)

Andrew Holder serves as director of community relations and local government affairs at Xcel Energy.

SCHEDULE Roundtable: Local News and Community Resilience in a Wildfire Era (p. 8)



Jerry Glotzer

Safety and Risk Manager
[Chicago Tribune Publishing](#)

Jerry Glotzer is a safety and risk-management specialist and published author whose work spans employee and environmental health and safety, emergency management and risk mitigation. He has trained more than 500 reporters and photographers in safety strategies for high-risk assignments.

SCHEDULE Roundtable: Is This a Real Threat? Safety Questions for Newsrooms (p. 8) • **Workshop:** When the Assignment Gets Risky: Practical Safety Training for Journalists (p. 9) • **Roundtable:** Is This a Real Threat? Safety Questions for Newsrooms (p. 12)



Julia Campbell

Co-Chief Executive Officer
[Local Media Association](#)

Julia Campbell is co-chief executive officer of Local Media Association. She previously served LMA as a branded-content strategist and innovative project manager, leading a joint initiative with Local Media Association, Local Media Consortium and the Facebook Journalism Project.

SCHEDULE Roundtable: Events and Sponsorships That Actually Work (p. 8) • **Workshop:** Sponsored Content That Works (p. 13)



Katie Peshek

Senior Communications Officer
[The Colorado Health Foundation](#)

Katie Peshek is a senior communications officer at The Colorado Health Foundation, where she leads storytelling around the Foundation's policy and advocacy work and oversees the CHF Pulse Poll, an annual survey of more than 2,000 Coloradans that captures community perspectives on the state's most pressing issues.

SCHEDULE Roundtable: 2026 Pulse Poll: What Coloradans Are Saying About Health and Community (p. 8) • **Roundtable:** Covering Contentious Issues: What Support Do Journalists Need? (p. 10)

Special guests

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**Nathan Schneider**

Associate Professor of Media Studies;
Founder, Media Economies Design Lab
[University of Colorado Boulder](#)

Nathan Schneider is an associate professor of media studies at the University of Colorado Boulder and founder of the Media Economies Design Lab. He studies technology, democracy and religion, with current work focused on models for democratic ownership and governance for online platforms, protocols and media institutions.

SCHEDULE Roundtable: Co-op and Community Ownership Models for Local News (p. 8)

**Ben Arthur**

Creator and Host, SongWriter;
Songwriter and Musician

Ben Arthur is an Emmy-nominated songwriter, and the producer and host of SongWriter, a multimedia

creative project that turns stories into songs. Featured guests include Questlove, Joyce Carol Oates, David Gilmour (Pink Floyd), George Saunders, Sharon Van Etten, Jamila Woods, and Isabella Rossellini.

SCHEDULE Shared conversation: Sustainability Is Everyone's Business (p. 6) • **Shared conversation:** When Stories Become Songs: Art, Attention and Impact (p. 6) • **Roundtable:** Where Journalism, Art and Lived Experience Meet (p. 10) • **Workshop:** The Story Collaboration Lab: Journalism, Art and Community Experience (p. 11)

**Rachel Zerowin**

Communications Manager
[Circular Action Alliance Colorado](#)

Rachel Zerowin leads statewide education and outreach supporting the implementation of Colorado's Extended Producer

Responsibility (EPR) law for packaging and paper. Her work focuses on collaborating with local governments, recycling collectors, nonprofits and other organizations to deliver clear, accessible recycling education to Colorado's diverse communities.

SCHEDULE Roundtable: What Happens After the Bin? Inside Colorado's Recycling System (p. 10)

**Sarah Glover**

Engagement Director
[Executives Partnering to Invest in Children \(EPIC\)](#)

Sarah Glover joined EPIC's client services team in 2026 as an engagement director, partnering with business and community leaders to design and implement childcare solutions that strengthen the workforce. She brings more than two decades of experience in education and the nonprofit sector, supporting the growth of students, teams and leaders and leading large-scale program design and strategic initiatives.

SCHEDULE Roundtable: When Childcare Doesn't Work, Work Doesn't Work (p. 10)

**Carlos Martinez**

President and CEO
[Latino Community Foundation of Colorado](#)

Carlos Martinez is president and CEO of the Latino Community Foundation of Colorado, where he has led the organization's transformation since 2014. With more than 36 years of executive leadership in philanthropy and nonprofit management, he has helped build a network of more than 400 nonprofit partners.

SCHEDULE Workshop: Beyond the Grant: Building Real Relationships Between Local News and Local Philanthropy (p. 11)

**James-Allan Holmes**

President & CEO
[Bonfils-Stanton Foundation](#)

James-Allan Holmes is president and CEO of Bonfils-Stanton Foundation and a leader in arts advocacy. He previously served as CEO and executive director of Cherokee Ranch & Castle Foundation and is also a visual artist.

SCHEDULE Workshop: Beyond the Grant: Building Real Relationships Between Local News and Local Philanthropy (p. 11)

**Latia Henderson**

Director of Strategic Communications and Informed Communities
[Gates Family Foundation](#)

Latia Henderson is director of strategic communications and informed communities at Gates Family Foundation. She is a strategic communications, marketing, events and public relations leader with nearly 20 years of experience in nonprofit leadership and management. Born and raised in Colorado, she brings deep regional knowledge and experience in storytelling, brand development, digital strategy, media relations and community engagement.

SCHEDULE Workshop: Beyond the Grant: Building Real Relationships Between Local News and Local Philanthropy (p. 11)

**Paul Lhevine**

President & CEO
[Colorado Nonprofit Association](#)

Paul Lhevine is president and CEO of Colorado Nonprofit Association. He has more than 25 years of experience in community building, resource development, political affairs and nonprofit management, working at the intersection of social innovation and civic engagement. Before joining the association, he served as CEO of Swallow Hill Music and executive director of the Aurora Public Schools Foundation.

SCHEDULE Workshop: Beyond the Grant: Building Real Relationships Between Local News and Local Philanthropy (p. 11)

**Brandy Bertram**

Founder and Principal
[Great Big Good](#)

For more than two decades, Brandy Bertram has helped leaders and organizations advance what matters most by attracting, engaging and growing resources that fuel impact. Her work has taken her around the world, leading fundraising, stakeholder engagement and strategic growth initiatives in workforce development, educational equity, homelessness, land conservation and rural transportation infrastructure.

SCHEDULE Workshop: Donor Development for Local News (p. 12)

**Leonor Ayala Polley**

Chief of Recruitment and Business Development
[URL Media](#)

Leonor Ayala Polley leads URL Media's recruitment and talent development. Before joining URL Media, she worked at NBC News in New York for 18 years. Most recently, she led NBC News network's diversity and inclusion programs, developing curriculum and implementing internal and external DEI-centered newsroom training programs in collaboration with HR, talent development and recruitment teams.

SCHEDULE Workshop: From Layoffs to Career Pivots: Navigating Today's Media Workforce (p. 13) • **Shared conversation:** What Skills Do Local Newsrooms Need Next? (p. 7)

**Marita Pérez Díaz**

Senior Web Engineer
[American Press Institute](#)

Marita Pérez Díaz is a Cuban American web developer and multi-hackathon winner with a background in journalism. She is senior web engineer for the American Press Institute, where her work focuses on the intersection of journalism and technology and supports dozens of newsrooms in the U.S. and around the world.

SCHEDULE Workshop: Joy Breaks: Making Space for Joy in Journalism (p. 13)

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Co-Director
[Colorado Radio for Justice](#)
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Songwriter and Musician
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Melanie Asmar
Bureau Chief
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Jenae Barnes
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Kevin Berrier
Marketing Director
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Business & Technology Reporter;
Co-Founder
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Dana Coffield
Editor and Co-Founder
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Ryan Conarro
Co-Director, Programs & Partnerships
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Amber Coté
Senior Director, Statewide Civic
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Executive Editor, News
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Environmental Journalist
[Montana Free Press](#)
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Director, Sundance Film Festival &
Public Programming
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Staff Writer
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Charity Huff
CEO and Publisher, 5280; CEO & Owner,
January Spring
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Corey Hutchins
Journalism Institute Manager
[Colorado College](#)
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Rachael Johnson
Senior Staff Attorney, Colorado
[Reporters Committee for
Freedom of the Press](#)
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Seth Klamann
Statehouse Reporter
[The Denver Post](#)
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Sharon Liese
Filmmaker and Director of Seized
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Tonya Maddox

Founder & CEO, Our Town Matters;
Founder & Publisher, Montrose Business Times

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President & CEO
Latino Community Foundation of Colorado

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Jesús Sánchez Meleán

Editor and Co-Owner
El Comercio de Colorado

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Jennifer Mello

Founder
August Policy Strategies

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Stephen Robert Miller

Assistant Director
CU Boulder Center for Environmental Journalism

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John Moore

Senior Arts Journalist
The Denver Gazette

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Hector Paniagua Morales

Editor & Publisher
Entérate Latino

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Amalie Nash

VP, Journalism
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Kristen Nelson

Executive Director
Spero Justice Center

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Zack Newman

Community Editor
Votebeat

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Alex Pasquariello

MATCH Lab Director
COLab, the Colorado News Collaborative

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Amber Payne

Chief Experience Officer (CXO)
Rocky Mountain Public Media

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Katie Peshek

Senior Communications Officer
The Colorado Health Foundation

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Dan Petty

Independent Consultant

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Co-Founder & Executive Director
Unbound Authors

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Cheryl Phillips

Hearst Professional in Residence;
Founder and Co-Director, Big Local News

Stanford University
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Garry Pierre-Pierre

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Leonor Ayala Polley

Chief of Recruitment and Business Development

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Sam Price-Waldman

Documentary Filmmaker
Independent

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Luige Del Puerto

Editor
The Denver Gazette and Colorado Politics

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Libbie Randolph

Grantee Relations Manager
Colorado Media Project

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Beth Rankin

Director, Audience
The Denver Post

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Tim Regan-Porter

CEO
Colorado Press Association

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Jeff Roberts

Executive Director
Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition

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Vicky Sama

Director, Student News
CU Boulder

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Nathan Schneider

Associate Professor, Media Studies;
Founder, Media Economies Design Lab
CU Boulder

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Linda Shapley

Interim President & CEO
Rocky Mountain Student Media Corp.

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Jeremy Wade Shockley

Freelance Photojournalist

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Emily Sirota

Chair, Joint Budget Committee; State Representative, District 9

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Kevin Slimp

Founder
Newspaper Academy

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Kimberly Spencer

Executive Director
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Bobby Springer

President & General Manager
PBS12

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Rick Taggart

State Representative, District 55
Colorado General Assembly

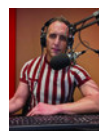
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Kent Thiry

TNC Global Board Member and Former CEO & Executive Chairman of DaVita
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Ryan Warner

Colorado Matters Senior Host
Colorado Public Radio

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Steve Zansberg

Attorney
Law Office of Steven D. Zansberg, LLC

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Rachel Zerowin

Communications Manager
Circular Action Alliance Colorado

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Past presidents



Past presidents at the 2025 convention.

1878-1911

1878 · W.B. Vickers — Denver Tribune
1879 · C.W. Bowman — Las Animas Leader
1880 · R.M. Stevenson — Pueblo Chieftain
1881 · O.H. Rothacker — Denver Tribune
1882 · John Arkins — Rocky Mountain News
1883 · B.W. Steele — Colorado Springs Gazette
1884 · Gen. George West — Golden Transcript
1885 · Charles P. Bryan — Idaho Springs Gazette
1886 · W.G. Smith — Golden Globe
1887-88 · J.D. Dillenbeck — Denver WNU; Denver Mercury
1889 · Frank P. Sheafor — Canon City Clipper
1890 · W.E. Pabor — Fruita Star
1891-93 · A.E. Pierce — Denver Eye; A.O.U.W. Record
1894 · J.E. Temple — Denver Western Newspaper Union
1895 · C.H. Frowine — Manitou Daily Journal
1896-98 · Charles S. Sprague — Colorado Springs Telegraph
1899 · Clarence O. Finch — Castle Rock Journal
1900 · Howard Russell — Ft. Collins Express
1901 · I.N. Bunting — Grand Junction Sentinel
1902 · J.T. Lawless — Lamar Sparks
1903 · Otto H. Wangelin — Boulder Herald
1904-05 · H.J. Holmes — Glenwood Springs Avalanche
1906 · O.E. Blair — Trinidad Chronicle-News
1907 · Charles E. Adams — Montrose Press
1908 · Guy U. Hardy — Canon City Record
1909 · George E. Hosmer — Ft. Morgan Herald
1910 · Frank A. Moore — Florence Paradox
1911 · Henry F. Lake, Jr — Gunnison News-Champion

1912-1939

1912 · John Barkhausen — Denver Democrat
1913 · W.E. Cain — Cheyenne Wells Republican
1914 · George McCormick — Fort Collins Express
1915 · Charles H. Leckenby — Steamboat Pilot
1916 · Roy Ray — Windsor Poudre Valley
1917 · David C. Elliott — Colorado Springs Telegraph
1918 · J.A. Barclay — Grand Junction News
1919 · C.F. Wadsworth — Denver WNU; resigned (term completed by S.A. Crary, Lamar News)
1920 · Lois F. Allen — Canon City Leader
1921 · L.I. Griffin — Ordway New Era
1922 · Edwin A. Bemis — Littleton Independent
1923 · J. Leo Sterling — Canon City Record
1924 · Patrick Byrnes — Pueblo Indicator
1925 · John N. Green — Colorado Springs Farm News
1926 · Arthur L. Craig — Greeley News
1927 · R.J. Ball — Loveland Reporter-Herald
1928 · A.W. Quin — Alamosa Journal
1929 · R.B. Spencer — Ft. Morgan Times
1930 · Mary H. Isham — Brighton Blade
1931 · Ray Lanyon — Longmont Times
1932 · M.O. York — Weldona Tribune; resigned (term completed by T.E. Nowels)
1933-34 · T.E. Nowels — Colorado Springs Gazette & Telegraph
1935 · Charles A. Stoddard — Craig Empire-Courier
1936 · Charles E. Adams — Montrose Press
1937 · Harold H. Smith — Julesburg Grit-Advocate; resigned (term completed by John L. Dier)
1938 · John L. Dier — Alamosa Courier
1939 · C.O. Unfug — World-Independent / Sterling Farm Journal

1940-1969

1940 · Preston Walker — Grand Junction Sentinel
1941 · J. Ember Sterling — Hugo Plainsman
1942 · Don Hardy — Canon City Record
1943 · Rae L. Laird — Central City Register-Call
1944 · Frank S. Hoag, Jr. — Pueblo Star-Journal & Chieftain
1945 · Rial R. Lake — Gunnison News-Champion
1946 · Clyde E. Moffitt — Fort Collins Coloradoan
1947 · Roscoe Bullard — Wray Gazette
1948 · James Madison — Sterling Farm Journal
1949 · Dean Hammond — Del Norte Prospector
1950 · Robert W. Spencer — Fort Morgan Times
1951 · Richard G. Lyttle — Meeker Herald
1952 · Lu P. Monroe — Boulder Camera
1953 · C. Dewey Brown — Cortez Montezuma Valley Journal
1954 · Al Burtis — La Junta Tribune-Democrat
1955 · Lonnie Pippin — Monte Vista Journal
1956 · Fred M. Betz, Jr — Lamar News
1957 · Maurice Leckenby — Steamboat Pilot
1958 · Glen Edmonds — Pagosa Springs Sun
1959 · Glenn Prosser — Estes Park Trail
1960 · John E. Holden — Loveland Reporter-Herald
1961 · Dale Cooley — Limon Leader
1962 · Charles A. Stoddard, Jr. — Craig Empire-Courier
1963 · George E. Oyler — Salida Mountain Mail
1964 · Joe Payton — Westcliffe Wet Mountain Tribune
1965 · Laurence T. Paddock — Boulder Camera
1966 · John Jameson — Englewood Herald
1967 · Coyne Cooley — Akron News-Reporter
1968 · Ken Johnson — Grand Junction Sentinel
1969 · Russ Brown — Cortez Newspapers

1970-1997

1970 · Ed Lehman — Longmont Times-Call
1971 · Gene Wells — Delta County Independent
1972 · Roy Robinson — Woodland Park Ute Pass Courier
1973 · Robert W. Spencer, Jr. — Fort Morgan Times
1974 · Charles J. Leckenby — Steamboat Pilot
1975 · Wallace Foster — Gunnison Newspapers
1976 · Tom Reeves — Loveland Reporter-Herald
1977 · Wilbur E. Flachman — Eagle Valley Enterprise
1978 · Garrett Ray — Littleton Independent
1979 · Robert Sweeney — Craig Daily Press
1980 · John Sheldon — Alamosa Valley Courier
1981 · Percy Conarro — Louisville Times
1982 · Ruth G. Lehman — Longmont Times-Call
1983 · Gibb Green — Windsor Beacon
1984 · Tom Betz — Lamar Daily News
1985 · Robert Rawlings — Pueblo Chieftain
1986 · Don Schlichting — Durango Herald
1987 · Robert Lombardi — Castle Rock Daily News-Press
1988 · Steve Haynes — Monte Vista Journal
1989 · Merle Baranczyk — Salida Mountain Mail
1990 · Barclay Jameson — Pueblo Chieftain
1991 · J.R. Thompson — Rocky Ford Gazette
1992 · Kay Turnbaugh — Nederland Mountain-Ear
1993 · Dennis Dressman — Rocky Mountain News
1994 · Jean Gray — The Haxtun-Fleming Herald
1995 · Bill Kezziah — The Monument Tribune
1996 · Barrie Hartman — Boulder Daily Camera
1997 · Bill Muldoon — Craig Daily Press

1998-2025

1998 · Jacque Scott — Golden Transcript
1999 · Richard Ballantine — Durango Herald
2000 · Jack Wyss — The Pueblo Chieftain
2001 · Ken Amundson — Lehman Communications
2002 · Dorothy Bland — Fort Collins Coloradoan
2003 · Suzanne Schlicht — Steamboat Pilot & Today
2004 · Suzy Meyer — Cortez Journal
2005 · Andy Stone — Colorado Mountain News Media
2006 · Randy Sunderland — Delta County Independent
2007 · Tom Bredehoft — The Flagler News
2008 · Steve Henson — The Pueblo Chieftain
2009 · Dean Lehman — Longmont Times-Call
2010 · Jeanette Chavez — The Denver Post
2011 · Bob Moore — Fort Collins Coloradoan
2012-13 · Brenda Brandt — The Holyoke Enterprise
2014 · Bryce Jacobson — The Greeley Tribune
2015 · Terri House — The Pagosa Springs SUN
2016 · Keith Cerny — Alamosa Valley Courier
2017 · Bart Smith — The Greeley Tribune
2018 · Matt Lubich — The Johnstown Breeze
2019 · Lisa Schlichtman — Steamboat Pilot & Today
2020 · Mike Wiggins — Ouray County Plaindealer
2021 · Jerry Healey — Colorado Community Media
2022 · Dan Petty — Media News Group / ProPublica
2023 · Niki Turner — Rio Blanco Herald Times
2024 · Brian Porter — Prairie Mountain Media
2025 · Linda Shapley

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Hall of Fame

2026 inductees



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE SWEENEY FAMILY

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS

Bob and Gerri Sweeney

For decades, Bob and Gerri Sweeney have built and sustained community newspapers across Colorado. After Bob's early work in school journalism, Colorado State University and the U.S. Army, the couple returned to Craig, where he began selling advertising for Northwest Colorado Press. A year later, they purchased the paper. Gerri brought her business experience into every part of the operation, including business, news and advertising.

Over nearly 20 years, the Sweeneys grew a struggling letterpress weekly into a five-day Associated Press daily and a regional operation that printed more than 15 newspapers and employed about 80 people.

After selling the Craig properties, they moved to Cherry Hills Village and launched The Villager on Dec. 2, 1984. In 2021, they purchased the Weekly Register-Call, founded in 1862, to preserve Colorado's oldest continuously published weekly newspaper. Their induction honors a partnership defined by family, persistence and a lifelong commitment to local journalism.



PHOTO VIA SPJ COLORADO PRO

JOURNALIST AND NATIONAL ETHICS LEADER · POSTHUMOUS

Fred Brown

Fred Brown spent 39 years at The Denver Post, mostly covering politics and government and serving for many years as Capitol bureau chief. After retiring from the Post in 2002, he continued writing about politics, worked as a longtime analyst for KUSA-9News and taught journalism ethics at the University of Denver from 2006 to 2021.

Brown served as national president of the Society of Professional Journalists in 1997–98, chaired its national ethics committee, helped rewrite the SPJ Code of Ethics and wrote and edited the organization's ethics book. SPJ honored him with its Wells Memorial Key in 2006 and, after his death in April 2026, renamed its national ethics award the Fred Brown SPJ Ethics in Journalism Award.

In Colorado, Brown led the SPJ Colorado Pro Chapter, supported the Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition and mentored generations of journalists. His induction recognizes distinguished political journalism, national leadership, teaching, open-government advocacy and an enduring commitment to the public's right to know.

PREVIOUS INDUCTEES

- 2025 Jeanette Chavez · Jerry Healey · Steve Zansberg
- 2024 Ken Amundson · Rosalind "Bee" Harris · Albert J. Manzi
- 2023 Jeff Roberts · Alfonzo Porter · Lonnie Nixon
- 2022 Houston Waring · Percy Connaroe · Patricia Calhoun
- 2019 Ed Lehman · Richard Ballantine · Merle Baranczyk
- 2018 Morley Ballantine · Garret Ray · Randy Bangert
- 2017 Robert Hoag Rawlings



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Denver Weekly News
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La Voz
Left Hand Valley Courier
Littleton Independent
Littleton Report
Lost Creek Sentinel
Metro West Advertiser
Mile Saver Shopper
MO Print
Nederland Mountain-Ear
New Falcon Herald
Northglenn-Thornton Sentinel
Park Hill News
Prime Time News
Ranchland News
Rangeview High School
Rocky Mountain Chinese Weekly
The Catalyst- Colorado College
The Jeffco Transcript
The Metropolitan- MSU
The Mountain Jackpot
The Parker Chronicle
The Record Burlington
The Rocky Mountain Collegian
The Sentinel-Aurora
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Chris Klein
Sales Director
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Kevin Smalley
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2026 WINNERS

The three winners are listed alphabetically by newsroom. First, second and third place will be announced during Saturday's awards dinner.

Jesse Paul

THE COLORADO SUN

Yadira Caraveo’s former aides say they were mistreated, traumatized

Aldo Svaldi • Jessica Alvarado Gamez • Judith Kohler • Kevin Hamm • Donovan Henderson

THE DENVER POST

At a crossroads: Downtown Denver is waiting for its rebound

Chris Vanderveen • Chris Hansen • Aaron Adelson

9NEWS (KUSA)

At Risk

FINALISTS

Alan Domínguez • Raúl Paz Pastrana

PBS12

Decode: Water

Jordan Hedberg

WET MOUNTAIN TRIBUNE

Exposé of DA’s Office coverup

Taylor Dolven • Jesse Paul

THE COLORADO SUN

The Opportunity Caucus

Chris Vanderveen • Chris Hansen

9NEWS (KUSA)

Refuge

Parker Gabriel • Noelle Phillips • Sean Keeler • Bennett Durando • Patrick Saunders • Kyle Newman

THE DENVER POST

The \$tadium Game

Steve Staeger • Anna Hewson

9NEWS (KUSA)

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Legislative collaboration awards

Recognizing collaboration on specific public-information and press-policy initiatives during the 2026 legislative session.

Sen. Marc Snyder · Sen. Lisa Cutter · Rep. Matt Soper

SB26-091 · Preserving Colorado's newspaper delivery system

Sen. Katie Wallace

SB26-107 · Strengthening transparency

Senate President James Coleman · Sen. Mike Weissman · Rep. Jennifer Bacon

SB26-190 · Improving public access after fatal police uses of force

Rep. Kenny Nguyen

HB26-1095 · Preserving free online access to Colorado's public notices

Sen. Janice Rich · Sen. Dylan Roberts · Rep. Meghan Lukens

SB26-061 · Modernizing legal notices

Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer · Rep. Rick Taggart · Rep. Emily Sirota

Budget directive · Increasing state spending with local news

CPA PEOPLE

Staff



Tim Regan-Porter
CEO



Randia Toledo
Director of Operations



Terri Glassman
Director of Strategic Partnerships & Revenue

Board of directors



Lee Bachlet
SVP of Growth and Development
CherryRoad



David Cook
Owner and Publisher
Aspen Daily News



Nicole Miller
Publisher
Summit Daily News



Mark Craddock
Assistant Editor
World Journal Newspaper



Linda Shapley
Owner
LinShapley Media



Vince Bzdek
Executive Editor
Denver and Colorado Springs Gazettes & Colorado Politics



Tamara Chuang
Business and Technology Writer
Colorado Sun



Lee Ann Colacioppo
Executive Editor
The Denver Post



Patrick Ferrucci
Professor and Chair, Department of Journalism
University of Colorado Boulder



Charity Huff
Owner
January Spring and 5280 Magazine



Brittany Winkfield
Director
Colorado Ethnic Media Exchange

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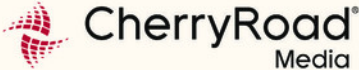
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Media Services Guide

A quick guide to the sponsors, partners, education programs and community organizations joining us for this year's convention.

MEDIA + JOURNALISM

The Mountain-Ear

The Mountain-Ear is Nederland's trusted local news source, serving the mountain community with print and digital coverage of local issues, events, outdoor culture, and community voices. Their work reflects the essential role local newspapers play in keeping communities connected and informed.

CherryRoad Media

CherryRoad Media supports and operates community newspapers across the country, including several in Colorado. Their model combines trusted local reporting with digital tools, revenue services, social media support, SEO, creative campaigns, and technology resources that help rural newsrooms thrive.

Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition

The Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition is a nonpartisan alliance dedicated to transparency, open government, and freedom of the press. CFOIC supports journalists and the public through education, advocacy, and access to public records and open meetings.

Advantage Newspaper Consultants

Advantage Newspaper Consultants (ANC) has delivered revenue solutions to media and newspaper companies for more than 26 years. Led by experienced media professionals, ANC helps newspapers identify advertising opportunities, strengthen sales teams, and grow sustainable revenue.

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press provides free legal services, media law resources, newsroom training, and advocacy for journalists and news organizations. Its Colorado-based Local Legal Initiative offers direct legal support to newsrooms across the state.

Colorado Trust for Local News

Colorado Trust for Local News strengthens independent community journalism by investing in sustainable nonprofit news models and expanding access to trusted local reporting across Colorado.

Zansberg Beylkin LLC

Zansberg Beylkin is a Denver law firm specializing in First Amendment, media, intellectual property, civil litigation and appellate law. Co-founder Steve Zansberg has extensive experience representing journalists and news organizations and supporting access to public records and open government.

The Denver Post

The Denver Post has served Colorado readers for more than 135 years, delivering award-winning reporting on state and local government, business, sports, culture, and communities across the Rocky Mountain West. Its print and digital platforms connect a statewide audience with news and information that matter.

Software Consulting Services

Software Consulting Services (SCS) builds publishing technology for the free press. Its advertising, editorial workflow, production, pagination, and digital asset management systems help newspapers streamline operations and produce print and digital publications efficiently.

Rocky Mountain Public Media (RMPM)

Rocky Mountain Public Media is Colorado's largest statewide, member-supported multimedia network and the home of Rocky Mountain PBS, KUVU JAZZ, and THE DROP 104.7. Through public television, community radio, digital content, educational resources, trusted news, arts, and local storytelling, RMPM works to strengthen Colorado's civic fabric and help people across the state feel seen, heard, and connected.

CIVIC + COMMUNITY

New Era Colorado

New Era Colorado is a leading civic engagement organization empowering young people to participate in the democratic process through voter engagement, leadership development, and advocacy.

ACLU of Colorado

ACLU of Colorado defends and expands civil rights and civil liberties through advocacy, litigation, public education, and community engagement.

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)

Great Outdoors Colorado invests Colorado Lottery proceeds to protect parks, trails, wildlife habitat, rivers, and open spaces while strengthening communities statewide.

Xcel Energy

Xcel Energy provides electric and natural gas service to communities across Colorado, with a focus on safe, reliable, and affordable energy. The company also invests in cleaner energy, grid resilience, and community partnerships that support Colorado's future.

RecycleOn Colorado, powered by Circular Action Alliance

RecycleOn Colorado, powered by Circular Action Alliance, is a statewide education initiative helping residents understand Colorado's producer-funded recycling system for packaging and paper products. It provides clear recycling guidance and community resources as services expand across the state.

HIGHER EDUCATION

CU Boulder — College of Media, Communication and Information

CU Boulder CMCI prepares the next generation of media professionals, journalists, and information leaders through programs in journalism, strategic communication, media studies, data-driven storytelling, and public-interest communication. Students gain hands-on experience through newsrooms, labs, research, and industry partnerships.

CSU Colorado Springs

Colorado State University prepares future leaders in journalism, media, communication, and digital storytelling through hands-on learning, applied research, and strong industry connections.

University of Northern Colorado

The University of Northern Colorado prepares students for careers in journalism, communication, broadcasting, and digital media through experiential learning, close faculty support, and practical media training.

Colorado College

Colorado College is a nationally recognized liberal arts institution whose innovative Block Plan supports immersive learning in journalism, communication, media studies, and civic engagement.

CREATIVE + PUBLIC SECTOR

Meow Wolf

Meow Wolf is an award-winning arts and entertainment company creating immersive experiences that blend storytelling, technology, and creativity while supporting artists and Colorado's creative economy.

Colorado Office of Film, Television and Media

The Colorado Office of Film, Television and Media promotes Colorado as a premier destination for film, television, commercial, and digital media production through incentives, location support, and workforce development.

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

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Preparing for wildfires takes strong partnerships and a shared commitment to community safety. That's why we're proud to support the Colorado Press Association and recognize the important role Colorado journalists play in keeping communities informed and prepared.

xcelenergy.com/Wildfire





Winning reporting

It was another good year for journalism Buffs at the **College of Communication, Media, Design and Information**. Students and faculty alike brought home awards for important journalism and research.

Recent journalism graduate **Lincoln Roch** won a Hearst award for his sports feature about fan misbehavior at a CU vs. BYU football game last fall.

PhD student **Muhammad Ali** shared his research into how newsrooms are incorporating A.I. anchors during the Three Minute Thesis competition.

Who gets to be represented as an American—and why? **Professor Angie Chuang** won the prestigious Frank Luther Mott/Kappa Tau Alpha Research Award for her new book, *American Otherness in Journalism*, which explores the topic in depth.

And our student-run station **Radio 1190** won multiple awards, including SPJ's National Mark of Excellence for in-depth reporting and news reporting.

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