MEDIA DEMOCRACY DAY

SOLUTIONS MEDIA:

HOW CAN SOCIETY FIX ITSELF?

NOVEMBER 2017 | PROGRAM GUIDE

THE MEDIA DEMOCRACY PROJECT is in its 17th year of working to support, promote and share alternative media and ideas in Canada. Our small team brings our community together with leading media makers, activists, and scholars to discuss the relationship between media and democracy. This year MDD is focusing on Solutions Media, and includes speakers who are using media and technology to document and spread the word about the real ways people are making social and environmental change.

ROOMS >	ALICE MACKAY	ALMA VANDUSEN	PETER KAYE
10am-10.15	Opening remarks/ welcome		
10.15-11.30	Spry Memorial Keynote Exchange with Darin Barney and Angela Sterrit		
11.30-11.45	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
11.45-1pm	Solutions Media Showcase (10 six minute talks)		
1.00-1.30	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK
1.30-2.45	DESIGN JAM pt. 1	ROUNDTABLE • How can the media sector better share power with underrepresented or misrepresented communities?	WORKSHOP • From Digital Currencies to E-democracy: How to engage with the transformative potential of blockchain technology
2.45-3.00	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
3.00-4.15	DESIGN JAM pt. 2	ROUNDTABLE • What is solutions media?	WORKSHOP • Citizen Engagement Campaigns 101: Five simple steps for launching an effective DIY digital advocacy campaign
4.15-4.30	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
4.30-5.45	WORKSHOP • Not your average Muslim: Tools for challenging your well-meaning assumptions	ROUNDTABLE • Rebuilding Sustainable Media: How do we build a sustainable media sector?	WORKSHOP • Making the Case for Community Broadband
5.45-6.00	CLOSING PLENARY		

PROGRAM GUIDE

Unfinished Stories – Participatory Art Installation

Location: Atrium, Vancouver Public Library
By: Pete Fung and Samein Shamsher, Discordant Projects

In an age of global media monopolies, social media, algorithm curated news, confirmation bias, media echo chambers, distraction, and post-truth, Unfinished Stories seeks to unpack the production of news, and is designed to challenge our understanding of what being informed means. Partnering with *Ming Pao Daily News*, and *Discourse Media*, Unfinished Stories invites participants to select from a daily menu of headlines and political cartoons, piecing together the content of their own personalized newspaper, which is then printed on site.

Solutions Media Video Gallery

Location: Moat, Vancouver Public Library
MDD video gallery coordinators: Pietro Sammarco and Helena Krobath with help from VIVO Media Arts Centre

Media Democracy Day strives not only to know and change the media, but *to be the media* by working with local media makers to share messages and forms of expression that intervene in cultural and political life. This year's video gallery features a variety of works that stimulate and strengthen critical reflection on diverse topics, including corporate mining practice, foster care, Sḵwx̱wú7mesh language, DIY electronics, access and claims to public space, and other inspiring examples of Solutions Media in response to social problems.

Look for the video gallery right outside the MDD roundtables and workshops, screening for free all day, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PLENARY: SPRY EXCHANGE AND SOLUTIONS MEDIA SHOWCASE

10:00AM - Intro & The Spry Memorial Keynote Exchange
Location: ALICE MACKAY room

The Fonds Graham Spry Fund invites Darin Barney and Angela Sterritt for a critical discussion of Solutions Media and how it can play a role in a strong, vibrant, and civically engaged Canadian media landscape.

Presenters:
Angela Sterritt is an award-winning journalist and writer from British Columbia. She is Gitxsan and belongs to the Gitanmaax band. Sterritt has worked as a journalist for close to twenty years. Her reports have appeared in the *Globe and Mail*, *The National*, CBC's *The Current*, and various other national and local news programs. She currently works with CBC Vancouver as television, radio and online reporter, producer and host. Her CBC column "Reconcile This" launched in September.

Darin Barney is the Grierson Chair in Communication Studies at McGill University. He is the author and editor of several scholarly works, including *Prometheus Wired: The Hope for Democracy in the Age of Network Technology* and, most recently, the co-edited volume *The Participatory Condition in the Digital Age.* Barney's current research focuses on materialist approaches to media and communication, infrastructure and radical politics.

11:45AM - Solutions Media Showcase • Six-minute reports (or stories) about Solutions Media
Location: ALICE MACKAY room

1. How can journalists better cover B.C.'s complex child welfare system? (Brielle Morgan and Diana Oproescu, Discourse Media)
2. Empowering Fresh Voices: Media that help young immigrant and refugee youth influence policy, combat hate and advance inclusion (Tanvi Bhatia and Ashvan Wal, Fresh Voices)
3. Decolonizing Journalism (Emilee Gilpin, National Observer)
4. Love Intersections: Provoking artful social change through media (Jen Sungshine, Social Justice Institute)
5. The Housing Fix: Reporting on Solutions to the Housing Crisis (Christopher Cheung, The Tyee)
6. The ReMatriate Collective: Using online visual arts to honour and empower Indigenous women (Tsēma Igharas, Denver Lynxleg and Jeneen Frei Njootli, The ReMatriate Collective)
7. Banning Big Money in Politics: Crafting media campaigns that influence mainstream discourse (Kai Nagata, Dogwood Initiative)
8. Data Visualization as Story Telling (Robin Puga, Affinity Bridge)
9. Karmik & the Opioid Crisis: Social Networks Save Lives (Munroe Craig, Karmik Opioid Crisis Response)
10. Watts in the Water: Our oceans contain enough energy to power the planet—if we could just get our hands on it (Bruce Grierson, Hakai Magazine)
11. Line in the Sand: Can storytelling stop a pipeline? (Peter McCartney, Wilderness Committee)

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NOTE: The speakers are representing their own viewpoints only. Organizational affiliations are mentioned for information purposes only.

SESSION ONE • 1.30PM - 2.45PM
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Solutions Media Design Jam (Part 1)
Location: ALICE MACKAY room
Facilitated by: Vancouver Design Nerds

Fun, fast, creative brainstorming session that engages participants in exploring the possibilities for Solutions Media. Participants form teams, rapidly generate ideas that address a key challenge for solutions, present their ideas back to the group, and vote on the best. Best ideas receive prizes!

The design jam runs from 1:30PM to 4:15PM and all attendees are asked to stay for its entirety.

Roundtable #1: How can the media sector better share power with underrepresented or misrepresented communities?
Location: ALMA VANDUSEN room

Often the perspectives of people who don't fit dominant cultural narratives are unheard, unseen or misrepresented in the media. This roundtable explores how media makers can use their social capital to tell more just and equitable stories.

Participants: Samaah Jaffer (rabble.ca), Kathryn Gretsinger (UBC), Tsēma Igharas, Denver Lynxleg and Jeneen Frei Njootli (ReMatriate Collective), Derrick O'Keefe (Ricochet)
Facilitator: Am Johal, Director of SFU's Vancity Office of Community Engagement

Workshop #1: From Digital Currencies to E-democracy: How to engage with the transformative potential of blockchain technology
Location: PETER KAYE room

Blockchain is a vast, globally distributed database that runs on millions of devices and is open to anyone. Some claim it is a revolutionary solution to growing political and economic inequality, where mass collaboration can take the place of powerful intermediaries like governments and banks. This workshop will give a brief overview of the unique promise of blockchain technology and guide participants through setting up a digital currency wallet.

Workshop lead: Chelsea Palmer, Dctrl Community Commons

SESSION TWO • 3.00PM - 4.15PM
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Solutions Media Design Jam (Part 2)
Location: ALICE MACKAY room
Facilitated by: Vancouver Design Nerds

Roundtable #2: What is Solutions Media?
Location: ALMA VANDUSEN room

Solutions Media is a two-word phrase loaded with fascinating questions about the role of media makers, ideology vs. pragmatism, power relations, theories of social change and more. This roundtable asks emerging practitioners and thinkers to share their perspectives on the meaning and potential of solutions media.

Participants: Brielle Morgan (Discourse Media), Alejandra Lopez (Fresh Voices), Kai Nagata (Dogwood Initiative), Shane Gunster (SFU School of Communication), Abeer Yusuf (Roundhouse Radio)
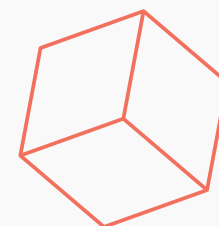**Facilitator:** David Beers, Founder, The Tyee

Workshop #2: Citizen Engagement Campaigns 101: Five simple steps for launching an effective DIY digital advocacy campaign
Location: PETER KAYE room

In today's digital world, a strong digital advocacy strategy for your cause is crucial. Come join this crash course in engagement strategy, learn new tools and explore the many ways in which you too can influence decision-makers and win. This workshop will explore how every citizen can utilize digital tools to impact how decisions are being made and how stories are being framed.

Workshop lead: Petra Klupková and Dammy Ogunseitan, New/Mode

SESSION THREE • 4.30PM - 5.45PM
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Roundtable #3: Rebuilding Sustainable Media: How do we rebuild a sustainable media sector in the era of unreliable funding and an erosion of public trust?
Location: ALMA VANDUSEN room

The traditional, ad-focused model for media funding has been under strain for decades, but in the past five years of community papers folding, newsroom cuts and buy-outs, it has become acutely obvious that we need to rethink how our industry is supported. This roundtable explores examples of successful, original funding platforms—both in the media industry and beyond.

Participants: Phillip Smith (Founder of Uncharted Journalism Fund and Fellow in Media Innovation at Stanford University), Jennifer Moreau (reporter and secretary-treasurer for Unifor Local 2000), Taylor Owen (Assistant Professor of Digital Media and Global Affairs at UBC and founder of OpenCanada.org), Stefania Seccia (Managing Editor, Megaphone), Jagdeesh Mann (South Asian Post, Asian Pacific Post, and Filipino Post)
Facilitator: Erin Millar, CEO, Discourse Media

Roundtable #4: Making the Case for Community Broadband
Location: PETER KAYE room

Community (or municipal) broadband is a public alternative to the privately-owned Internet services sold by Bell, Rogers, Telus, and other Internet service providers. Because it is not market-driven, community broadband can help bridge the "digital divide" by providing cheaper and more accessible Internet access to those who experience barriers to getting connected. This roundtable will explore what community broadband is, why it matters now and how communities across Canada can take their digital future into their own hands.

Participants: Laura Tribe (Executive Director, OpenMedia); Denise Williams (Executive Director, First Nations Technology Council); and Andrea Reimer (Vancouver City Councilor); Tracey Axelsson (Executive Director, Vancouver Community Network)
Facilitator: Dr. Stuart Poyntz, SFU School of Communication

Workshop #3: Not your average Muslim: Tools for challenging your well-meaning assumptions
Location: ALICE MACKAY room
This workshop will explore narratives and problematic misrepresentations of Muslims in the well-meaning liberal discourse.

Participants will walk away with tools to identify as well as complicate narratives for marginalized voices.

Workshop lead: Rabia Mir, Global Reporting Centre at the University of British Columbia

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CLOSING PLENARY • 5.45PM - 6.00PM
Location: ALICE MACKAY room

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Post MDD Media Production Workshops

During the month of November MDD is co-presenting media production workshops with VIVO Media Arts Centre including:

- Podcasting: Finding the Story (Nov 23rd and 30th)
- Intro to Final Cut Pro X (Nov 20th)
- Intro to Video Journalism (Nov 21st and 24th)

See **mediademocracyproject.ca** for more details.

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Thank you!

A huge thank you to the volunteers and advisors who make MDD happen – we couldn't have done it without you!

Steering Committee: Tara Mahoney, Stuart Poyntz, Robert Hackett, Caroline Brown, Dave Beers, Frédérik Lesage

Community Advisory Committee: Brielle Morgan, Abeer Yusuf, Adrian Duke, Jorge Salazar, Rabia Mir, Alejandra Lopez

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NOTES

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