Building a movement for local civic news.

As communities across the U.S. lose their newspapers and call for a new approach to local news, the American Journalism Project is leading a philanthropic charge to support digital forward, nonprofit local news organizations.

With the help of generous supporters, we invest in nonpartisan newsrooms that hold the powerful accountable, combat disinformation, and deepen civic participation. Grantees come to us with ambitious plans to grow not only their revenue but how they serve their communities.

While traditional journalism philanthropy focuses on funding reporting, our grants focus on sustainability: revenue growth, technology investments, and talent acquisition.

Founded in 2019

Founded by:

Elizabeth Green: Founder & CEO of Chalkbeat

John Thornton: Partner at Austin Ventures & Founder of The Texas Tribune
Good for democracy. Good for communities. Good for people.

For a century, commercial media dependably delivered local news as a public good alongside business news and popular entertainment. Today that link has been broken. Over 2,100 communities have lost a local newspaper and about 60% of American newspaper jobs disappeared between 1990 and 2016 according to the Labor Department. The decline of civic journalism is a crisis for our democracy, depriving citizens of vital information that affects their lives, livelihoods, and ability to connect to one another and their communities.

In response, the American Journalism Project is mobilizing a movement to gather and deploy philanthropic capital to support and sustain high-quality local civic news organizations.

We’ve set an audacious goal: to raise $50 million from a very small, visionary group of champions to develop the civic news organizations that will define U.S. democracy for the next generation.

We invite you to join us.
Contact Alice Rhee at alice.rhee@theajp.org