



DIGITAL STRATEGIES for COMMUNITY and PLACED-BASED FOUNDATIONS
Knight Digital Media Center
USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
in partnership with the
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the Community Foundation of New Jersey
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SPEAKERS



Rebecca Arno

Vice President Communications, The Denver Foundation

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Rebecca Arno is vice president for communications for The Denver Foundation, a community foundation serving the seven-county Metro Denver region. Arno serves as chair of the board of the Colorado Nonprofit Association and on the board of Hunger Free Colorado. She also serves as chair of the board of the Communications Network, a national network of communications professionals.

Arno is a columnist for CausePlanet.org and has written for numerous publications in the philanthropic sector on a broad range of subjects. She lives with her husband and son in Denver, Colorado.



Steve Beatty

Editor, The Lens

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Steve Beatty is the editor of The Lens, New Orleans' first nonprofit investigative newsroom, which launched in January of 2010. This Web-based project is a change of medium but not message for Beatty, who has more than 20 years of experience as an editor at major daily newspapers, including *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and *The Times-Picayune* in New Orleans. Beatty runs a staff of 11 who write a mix of short daily stories and

longer, in-depth looks in topics such as education, the environment, politics, and the spending of Hurricane Katrina recovery money. In its four years, The Lens has won a National Edward R. Murrow Award, and a dozen New Orleans Press Club awards, including Best News website two years running, and nearly all investigative-reporting awards for which it was eligible. Beatty holds tightly to his only sheepskin, a bachelor's degree in journalism granted by Kent State University in Ohio in 1988. He lives in New Orleans with his wife, three kids, two full-time dogs and a rotated-in foster dog.



Chris Daggett

President and CEO, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

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Chris Daggett has been a respected leader in New Jersey's nonprofit world for nearly 20 years, serving on a number of boards, including the Schumann Fund for New Jersey, Regional Plan Association, and The Trust for Public Land.

As the independent candidate for governor in 2009, he was the first independent candidate to raise the threshold amount of money to qualify for public matching funds and to participate in public debates with the major party candidates. He was also endorsed by The Star-Ledger, the state's leading newspaper.

Previously, Chris served as Deputy Chief of Staff to the Governor of New Jersey (1982-1983), Regional Administrator of the USEPA (1984-1988), and Commissioner of the NJDEP (1988-1989). In addition, for six years he was a managing director of William E. Simon & Sons, a private investment firm and, since 1996, has operated a brownfields development company, acquiring, remediating and redeveloping environmentally impaired real estate. Just prior to coming to the Dodge Foundation, he was a Principal with JM Sorge, Inc. (JMS), an environmental consulting and management firm providing assessment, investigation and remediation services to the public and private sectors.

Chris holds an undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He lives in Basking Ridge with his wife Bea. They have two grown children, Alexandra and Justine.



Molly de Aguiar

*Director of Media & Communications,
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation*

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Molly de Aguiar directs the Foundation's Media grants, which strengthen and expand New Jersey's news and information ecosystem, support and experiment with collaboration and resource-sharing, and encourage deep community engagement throughout the state.

She also directs Dodge's communications initiatives, exploring the intersections of philanthropy, communications, media and community

building. In 2012, she led the overhaul of the Dodge website and brand update, and continues to oversee special projects that shine a spotlight on Dodge grantees as well as promote the value and impact of philanthropy in New Jersey.

Prior to joining the Dodge staff in 2005, De Aguiar spent 10 years working for arts and education nonprofits in Philadelphia and was active in independent media issues. She is a blogger, a list maker, a weekend baker, and an avid traveler with her family. Molly has a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Hans Dekker

President, Community Foundation of New Jersey

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Hans Dekker has served as president of the Community Foundation of New Jersey since June 2003. During Mr. Dekker's tenure the Foundation's funds have made over \$280 million in grants to charitable causes. A key element of the Community Foundation's mission is to play a leadership role on the critical issues facing New Jersey and its communities. It has recently focused on:

- Public media -- helping to found the online newspaper njspotlight.com to provide needed reporting on public policy issues in New Jersey;
- New Jersey's recovery from Superstorm Sandy;
- Human trafficking awareness and enforcement related to the Superbowl and,
- Public safety by supporting the Newark Violence Reduction Initiative and the deployment of the Community Eye system – a camera surveillance and gunshot detection system in Newark.

Dekker is a past chair of the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers and a trustee of the Hyde and Watson Foundation and the Ohi Foundation.



Amy Gahrn

Independent Journalist and Media Consultant

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Amy Gahrn is a journalist, editor, trainer, entrepreneur, strategist, and media consultant based in Boulder, Colorado. In addition to writing articles and doing educational programming for KDMC at the University of Southern California, she also covers mobile technology for CNN.com and Entrepreneur.com. She was a cofounder of the hyperlocal news site OaklandLocal.com. In 2006 she won a Knight News Challenge award for the Boulder Carbon Tax Tracker project. Her blog is Contentious.com.



Amanda Hickman

Visiting Lecturer
CUNY Graduate School of Journalism
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Amanda Hickman is an innovative leader in online reporting and media strategy and has deep experience working with low income communities in New York City and across the United States. She has spent more than a decade working at the intersection of journalism and civic engagement, reporting on local and international events and helping community organizers understand and draw their membership into the political process.

As director of technology at [Gotham Gazette](#), her work won numerous awards, including multiple notable entries to the Knight Batten Awards for Innovation in Journalism and an award in General Excellence in Online Journalism from the Online News Association and a Knight News Challenge Innovation grant. In 2009, Hickman left Gotham Gazette to launch [DocumentCloud](#), an award winning reporting tool and catalog of primary source documents now used by thousands of journalists around the world.

Hickman now teaches multimedia storytelling and data visualization at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, and has taught reporting at Columbia's Journalism School, where she also helped launch [The New York World](#). As a consultant, she works with diverse clients who share a genuine interest in reaching new audiences and engaging them in campaigns and reporting. In addition to Union Settlement House, her current client list includes Studio Rev, a visionary pioneer in transmedia and interactive storytelling, and Adapt NY reporting project that is expanding citizen involvement in New York City's climate adaptation planning.



Beth Kanter

Speaker, Author, and Master Trainer, Networks and Social Media
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Beth Kanter is the author of *Beth's Blog: How Nonprofits Can Use Social Media*, one of the longest running and most popular blogs for nonprofits. She co-authored the book, *The Networked Nonprofit* with Allison Fine (J Wiley, 2010), which received Honorable Mention for the Terry McAdams Award. Kanter has over 30 years experience working in the nonprofit sector in technology, training, capacity building, evaluation, fundraising, and marketing. Her second book, *Measuring the Networked Nonprofit*, with co-author KD Paine, was published in October, 2012.

In 2009, she was named by Fast Company Magazine as one of the most influential women in technology and one of Business Week's "Voices of Innovation for Social Media." She was named Visiting Scholar for Social Media and Nonprofits for the David and Lucile Packard Foundation in 2009-2013.



Michele McLellan

Senior Consultant, Knight Digital Media Center

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Michele McLellan is a consultant who helps news organizations, online news startups and news entrepreneurs adapt to a dynamic emerging local media environment. She is senior programming consultant with Knight Digital Media Center at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism and is a contributor to the KDMC Community News Leadership 3.0 blog. McLellan also works as a circuit rider for the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, advising foundation-funded news and information projects around the United States. She has created and currently manages Michele's List, a searchable database of promising independent online news start-ups.

From 2003-07, she directed Tomorrow's Workforce, a \$2.5-million Knight Foundation project that demonstrated the link between strategic newsroom training, newsroom culture and a news organization's ability to adapt and innovate. She is a journalist who worked for more than 25 years as an editor and manager in newspapers, most recently at *The Oregonian* in Portland. A Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 2001-02, she has taught journalism and journalism ethics nationally and internationally, developed online courses for News University, and is an author of two books, *The Newspaper Credibility Handbook* and, with Tim Porter, *News, Improved: How America's Newsrooms Are Learning to Change*.



Lee Rainie

Director of Pew Internet & American Life Project, Pew Research Center

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Lee Rainie is the director of the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, a non-profit, non-partisan "fact tank" that studies the social impact of the Internet. The Project has issued more than 350 reports based on its surveys that examine people's online activities and the Internet's role in their lives. All of its reports and datasets are available online for free at: <http://www.pewinternet.org>.

Rainie is a co-author of the new book, *Networked: The New Social Operating System*, with sociologist Barry Wellman about the social impact of the Internet and cell phones. In addition, he is co-author of four books about the future of the Internet that are based on Project surveys and a fifth volume is due in 2013. Prior to launching the Pew Internet Project, Rainie was managing editor of U.S. News & World Report.



Vikki Porter

Director, Knight Digital Media Center

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Vikki Porter is director of the Knight Digital Media Center and supervises professional development programs for news entrepreneurs and community foundations engaged in news and information projects at USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism in Los Angeles. In addition, she works with news organizations on strategies for digital transformation. She was the founding director of the Western Knight Center for Specialized Journalism at the USC Annenberg School. During her 30-year journalism career, Porter worked in five Western states, started a newspaper, served as top editor for three community newspapers, and shared a 1986 Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal as part of a five-person team while city editor of *The Denver Post*. Most recently, she was executive editor of *The Desert Sun* newspaper in Palm Springs, CA. Porter was a Knight Professional-in-Residence at the William Allen White School of Journalism at the University of Kansas in 1987-88 and a Knight Journalism Fellow in Studies of Law at Yale Law School in 1988-89, where she earned her Master in Studies of Law. She is active in the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Online News Association, and has been invited to participate in conferences hosted by Poynter Institute, ONA, the Freedom Forum, Harwood and Associates and the American Press Institute.