

‘Collaborative Community Journalism’

A Centre for Investigative Journalism Project, supported by the Trust for London

CALL OUT FOR EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS

Introduction

The Centre for Investigative Journalism with funding from the Trust for London is working on a project aimed at strengthening links between London-based community journalism outlets and community campaign groups. The project will bring together and support both groups, as well as an early-career investigative journalist, to work together on collaborative investigative projects focusing on issues affecting London communities.

We are looking for early-career investigative journalism fellows to participate in the project.

The project will require some commitments from you in terms of time and work, but we can offer several benefits from being involved in the project:

- Access to online investigative skills training organised by the CIJ over the summer.
- Participation in the project will cover 3 months (approx June-August 2021) of your research time to a total of £1650 as well as reasonable expenses.
- An opportunity to forge stronger links with a media outlet and campaign group in your community through collaborative work.
- Profile raising through publicity about the project and your research findings.

If you are interested, please read the below criteria, outcomes, commitments carefully and fill in the application form.

Application deadline: 28 March 2021

Application Criteria

There is only one essential criteria

- Shown commitment to ethical use of investigative journalism in the public interest

Desirable criteria

- Have brought 1 piece of work with investigative elements to successful publication
- Lived experience of poverty, inequality or other structural barriers to entering the journalism profession
- A connection to one of the following London communities:
 - Greenwich
 - Lewisham
 - Enfield
 - Waltham Forest

The only other requirement is the ability to meet the following time commitments for training attendance and research work included in the timeline below.

Required commitment

Investigative Fellows will need to commit to the following:

- Working closely with Community Campaign Partners
- Working with the Community Media Outlet editor on the focus of the investigative research and preparing a project pitch
- Attendance and contributions at planning and development meetings
- Project Outcome Reporting and Financial Reporting where relevant to CIJ
- Attendance at Investigative Skills training courses and the CIJ Summer Conference

Reporting commitment

Investigative Fellows will be required to provide information to CIJ for the purposes of reporting to Trust for London at regular intervals throughout the project as well as write a brief report at the conclusion of the project to evaluate the work completed and the outcomes achieved.

Proposed Project Timeline

- Planning meeting 15 April, 3-4pm
- Training courses:
 - Story-Based Inquiry - 17, 19, 24 & 26 May, 10-12pm
 - FOIA 28 May, 10-12pm
 - Finding Stories with Data 1 - 4 June, every morning 11am - 12.30pm
 - CIJ summer Conference - 5-8 July 2021
 - Company Accounts - July/August TBC
- Research Month 1 - June 2021 (2 days per week expected as a guide)
- Research Month 2 - July 2021 (2 days per week expected as a guide)
- Research Month 3 - August 2021 (2 days per week expected as a guide)
- Proposed publication date - Sept 2021

Project Outcomes and Impacts

This project aims to provide training, mentoring and support for collaborative projects which will investigate issues that are affecting London communities.

We aim to bring together three separate groups:

- community journalism publications
- community campaign groups
- early-career investigative journalists

and support them to produce collaborative investigations.

The support will involve:

- Providing investigative skills training
- Free entry to the whole of CIJ summer Conference
- Mentoring during the collaborative research projects
- Funding to cover time and expenses
- Editorial advice and support from a panel of experienced journalists

The training will be responsive to identified needs, but will cover:

- Data Journalism skills
- FOI requests
- Open Source Intelligence techniques
- Investigative theory and methodology

The ultimate outcomes the Project aims to achieve are:

- Published investigative stories, series or video content for each Community Journalism Outlet involved which aim to address issues around poverty, inequality and social injustice.
- Research findings to feed into evidence-based advocacy to be used for Community Campaign groups strategic communications
- Reinforced links between local journalism outlets and groups working closely with local communities