

Erika Owens * hello@erikaowens.com

Nonprofit, journalism, and technology experience

Knight-Mozilla OpenNews-remote (July 2012 - present)

Program Manager (January 2014 - present) Manage Knight-Mozilla OpenNews, which supports the journalism technology community to build connections and leadership.

- Coordinate program with an annual budget of \$1.3 million, four staff, and seven fellows.
- Center inclusion in our work by leading outreach and awareness activities so that our programs welcome the diversity of communities we serve.
- Lead the Knight-Mozilla Fellowship program, which places coders in newsrooms for 10 months to work on open-source tools and support reporting in the public interest. Manage the search process, selection, orientation, and support of the fellows.
- Administer micro-grant program to support open-source journalism events around the world with \$100,000 in sponsorship funds. Provide planning and publicity support for over 75 events. This program has assisted in creation of annual community events in Argentina, Spain, Armenia, and the US.

Community Manager (July 2012 - December 2013) Provided logistical support to Knight-Mozilla Fellows and co-developed a fellowship recruitment strategy that diversified the pool of candidates and focused on the needs of fellows throughout the process.

Philadelphia Public School Notebook-Philadelphia, PA (September 2007 - July 2012)

Web Editor (February 2009 - July 2012) Managed content and site administration for thenotebook.org, the website for a community-driven, nonprofit news organization.

- Structured the website to be responsive to the needs and interests of the community. Prioritized the comments section as a place for conversation and reader engagement that became a robust community online and off.
- Implemented technical and editorial processes to ensure information was reliable and easy to find, which resulted in 500% growth of web traffic after site redesign.
- Supported the workings of a small nonprofit by assisting with grant reports and proposals. Researched and helped create membership program.

Managed development of CiviCRM database and assisted with tech projects.

Business/Operations Manager (September 2007 - May 2009) Sold ads and tracked prospects and payments. Increased ad sales by 30%. Played lead role in planning of annual fundraising event that raised \$35,000 per year. Helped proof print edition and managed citywide newspaper distribution.

Solutions for Progress-Philadelphia, PA (June 2005 - May 2007)

Content/Usability Editor for The Benefit Bank (January 2006 - May 2007) The Benefit Bank is a software that streamlines filing taxes and applying for benefits for low-income people. Edited software text to ensure user-friendliness and thoroughness. Coordinated with other teams to develop and maintain content for Federal Taxes module. Achieved proficiency with command-line interface, version control, and HTML/CSS.

Systems analyst (June 2005 - January 2006) Compiled, analyzed, and synthesized research into detailed software requirements. Served as development manager for 2005 Ohio State Taxes program.

Leadership and volunteer experience

- Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower, and Rebuild (POWER), board of directors (2016 - present)
- Media Mobilizing Project, development committee (2015 - present)
- Bread & Roses Community Fund, community grantmaking committee (2014-15)
- South Philadelphia Food Co-op, founding board of directors (2011-13)

Event experience

Speaking about journalism, technology, and community (selected):

- US: National Institute for Computer Assisted Reporting, Online News Association, SRCCON, Allied Media Conference, LibrePlanet, Open Source Bridge
- International: Hacks/Hackers Buenos Aires Media Party, Coliberator in Bucharest, Mozilla Festival in London

Facilitation and organizing:

- **SRCCON** (2015-16) Co-led session outreach, selection, and support. Developed programs with 40% of session leaders who identify as women and 25% who identify as people of color. Managed travel scholarship program, which doubled in size in order to allow 20 people from a diversity of backgrounds to attend. Planned facilitation training for session leaders to enable them to feel more comfortable leading small, collaborative sessions and to engage them as allies in putting into action the values of the event.
- **NICAR** (2015-16) Co-organized a “conversations track” of small, facilitated discussions on topics ranging from salaries to international journalism communities. Co-led facilitation training for session leaders who immediately used the tips and thrived.
- **Hacks/Hackers Philadelphia** (2011 - present) Co-founded chapter to build connections between people interested in the shared public-good missions of journalism and civic hacking. Helped foster hackathon project Ad Hawk that was adopted by the Sunlight Foundation.
- **Mozilla Festival** (2012 - present) Co-organized 20-35 hands-on, collaborative journalism sessions in multi-track conference. Created a space to celebrate, share, and hack on code and connect journalism with privacy, data, teaching, and science on the open web.
- **Allied Media Conference** (2016) Co-organized Community Technology and Independent Media Track of sessions about how to use technology to support our communities. Administered travel grants to facilitators.

Education

George Washington University, Washington, DC (2001-05)

Political Science, *cum laude* B.A. University Honors Program, Pi Sigma Alpha, Dean's List.