Research Grant Opportunity:
The 2026-2027 Gene Burd Award for Research in Urban Journalism Studies

AEJMC and the Urban Communication Foundation invite applications for the Gene Burd Award for Research in Urban Journalism Studies. The purpose of this annual grant is to stimulate research that explains, enlightens, inspires, and improves the practice of journalism and communication in order to advance our understanding of journalism in urban environments.

The 2026-2027 grant will be $2,500. It may be awarded to a faculty member, a graduate student, or a team of faculty member(s) and/or graduate student(s). The award program is open to a diversity of methods and topics within journalism and communication studies. Grant funds may ***not*** be used for PI stipend, university indirect costs or equipment purchase. The recipient(s) of the grant will present preliminary research findings and analysis during the session sponsored by the Urban Communication Foundation at next summer's AEJMC conference in Chicago.

The deadline for submitting research proposals is Sunday, Nov. 15, at 5 p.m. EST. All application materials should be emailed in one attachment to Project Director Lillian Coleman at Lillian@aejmc.org (Attached files must have a document suffix, such as .doc, .docx, or .pdf.) All application elements should be combined into one file, in the order outlined below. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.

Proposal Criteria

- The proposal can be no longer than 1,500 words.
- Applicants must be current members of AEJMC. Applicants may join AEJMC before they apply. Information on membership is available at https://www.aejmc.org/membership/join-aejmc.
- Only one proposal per person is allowed. Applicants submitting as part of a team may not submit another proposal.
- The 1,500-word proposal must include these elements:
    a. Title, explanation of the topic, and statement of research questions.
    b. Statement of the principal activities of the project, including a description of the research method and plan for analysis.
    c. Statement on the importance of the project: how will it contribute to the body of knowledge on urban journalism and communication?
    d. Statement of the project's anticipated outcomes (e.g., an article? book chapter? dissertation?).
- The proposal must be submitted with the following:
    a. A budget outlining the main categories of spending. (Grant funds may not be used for a PI stipend, university indirect costs or equipment purchase.)
    b. A timeline by which the data gathering and analysis will be completed.
    c. A letter of support from the applicant's academic supervisor (e.g., department chair, dean, chair, or thesis advisor). For proposals with more than one applicant: If applicants are in same department at the same school, one support letter is sufficient. If applicants are in different departments at the same school or at different colleges/universities, each must have separate letter of support.
    d. A three-page *curriculum vitae* for each applicant.

Selection Process

The Gene Burd Awards Committee will announce its selection of the grantee around mid-December. At the time of the decision, the committee will award $1,500 to the recipient to help defray research expenses. The remaining $1,000 will be disbursed upon the committee's receipt of a brief report of the scholar's preliminary findings which are presented at the Burd Awards session during AEJMC's August conference.

Questions may be directed to Lillian Coleman at Lillian@aejmc.org

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