



# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

**PARTICIPATORY JOURNALISM INTEREST GROUP**  
JULY 2024

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**INSIDE:** TEACHING Q&A WITH ANDRE SIMMS | GUIDE TO PHILLY  
| PREVIEW OF AEJMC 24 CONFERENCE

# NOTE FROM OUR CHAIR

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## **SUMMER GREETINGS, PARTICIPATORY JOURNALISM INTEREST GROUP MEMBERS!**

It's been a busy year in the world of participatory journalism and for many of you, and somehow, the 2024 AEJMC conference is already around the corner.

I'm excited to get to welcome many of you to Philadelphia, my home base, and the home of many exciting initiatives in the world of participatory journalism. In this newsletter we'll spotlight a few of those—including an opportunity to join a visit to Resolve Philly and PhillyCAM. I'll also share a Q&A with a Philadelphia community organizer who has been collaborating with me on participatory approaches to journalism education. And of course we'll give you a run-down of some great panels PJIG is co-sponsoring.



I also want to express my gratitude for all of you who have joined me contributing to PJIG over the past few years. My term as chair will finish after this conference, but I'll continue to be a PJIG fan/member—and look forward to continuing to follow the work all of you are doing. Please keep us posted on work you are doing and things you'd like us to share in future newsletters!

With gratitude,

**Andrea Wenzel**

*Head of PJIG*

*Associate Professor, Temple University*

# PJIG TOURS

JOIN US TO TOUR PHILLYCAM AND RESOLVE PHILLY



Interested in learning more about some community-centered organizations in Philadelphia doing excellent participatory journalism work?

JOIN US FOR A TOUR ON THURSDAY, AUG 8, 12:30 PM - 2 P.M.

RSVP [HERE](#)



Join Us for a Tour of PhillyCAM and Resolve Philly!

PJIG invites AEJMC attendees to a special off-site tour of Philadelphia Community Access Media (PhillyCAM) and Resolve Philly, just around the corner from the Liberty Bell in Center City, Philadelphia.

PhillyCAM and Resolve are remarkable community-centered organizations committed to amplifying diverse local perspectives in Philadelphia's vibrant media ecosystem. Come with us to get a first-hand look at PhillyCAM's state-of-the-art media production facilities and its participatory approach to supporting residents in local storytelling, news-making, and information-sharing process. We will also learn how Resolve uses its unique collaborative, solutions-oriented journalism model to ensure residents have unfettered access to news and information that is action-oriented, accurate, authentic, and reflective of the community's wealth of assets.

The tour is scheduled for **Thursday, August 8, from 12:30 pm - 2 p.m.**

PhillyCAM and Resolve are within walking distance of the conference hotel. They are also two blocks west of the 5th Street Market Frankfort line SEPTA train station. The street address is 699 Ranstead Street (the corner of 7th and Ranstead).

# GUIDE TO PHILLY!

PF&R CHAIR ANTOINE HAYWOOD TOP PICKS IN THE CITY.

Here are a few of my favorite things to see and do in Philly. They are all reachable via a lovely stroll or rideshare from the conference hotel.

You can view these places on this [Google Map](#).

## 1 Reading Market Terminal

Reading Terminal Market is one of my favorite places in Philadelphia. It offers a wide variety of food options and local vendors selling eclectic merch.

## 2 Cheesesteaks!

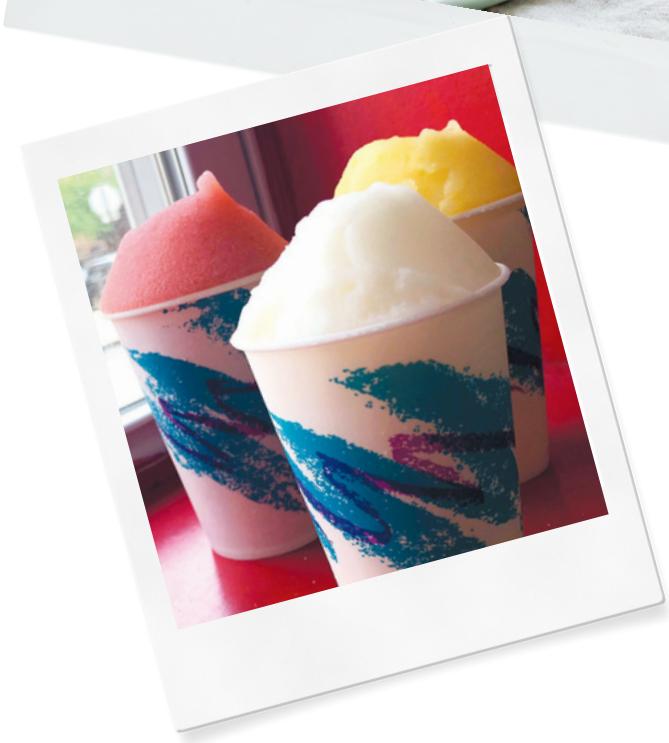
If you're into cheesesteaks, take a worthwhile trip to South Street and get one from Jim's Steaks or Ishkabibbles. Locals prefer places like Jim's and Ishkabibbles. The Reading Terminal also has good cheesesteak options!

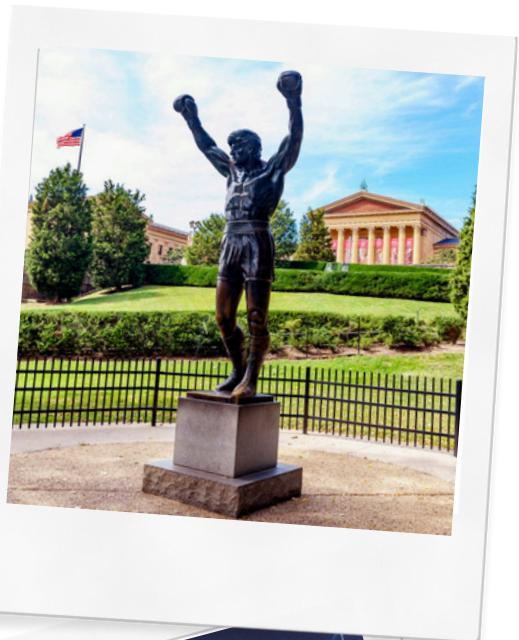
## 3 John's Water Ice

John's Water Ice (pronounced "wooder") is a local favorite located in the South Street District. They have the most fantastic water ice with old-school flavors.

## 4 Take a Stroll

Logan Square and Ben Franklin Parkway are great places to stroll while noshing on a hot Philly pretzel. The Whole Foods just off the Parkway is a convenient gem!





## 5 Must-See Attractions

Philadelphia Museum of Art and Boathouse Row are must-see attractions (the Rocky statue is located there, and Boathouse Row is busy this time of year, but it's worth the scenic view).

## 6 Museums

Eastern State Penitentiary is a fascinating museum in the Art Museum/Fairmount neighborhood, which also has plenty of excellent restaurants and neighborhood bars.

## 7 Nightlife

If you're looking for a turn-key, all-inclusive nightlife situation, take a rideshare to the Fishtown neighborhood (Frankford and Girard Ave). There are tons of neighborhood bars, live music options, and youthful energy!

## 8 Views

Morgan's Pier and Race Street Park have the best Ben Franklin Bridge, Camden, and the Delaware River views. Morgan's is an excellent choice for outdoor happy hour drinks and bites (you'll need to take a rideshare to get there.)

**DEEP CUT PICK #1: SHOFUSO JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER IN FAIRMOUNT PARK.  
DEEP CUT PICK #2: SOUTH PHILLY BARBACOA.**

There are plenty of food and drink options near the conference hotel, but I highly recommend exploring local spots. Bar-ly, City Tap House, Franky Bradley's, Uptown Beer Garden, Reading Terminal, and Chinatown are all close to the hotel and are solid, convenient options. The nearest grocery store is the Giant on 8th and Market Street (they sell wine and beer in the back).

For many more options and updates about events and activities happening around the city, check out Uwishunu <https://www.visitphilly.com/uwishunu/>

# AEJMC CONFERENCE PREVIEW

In addition to the preconference, PJIG has organized **five panels**: one teaching, three PF&R, and one research. A number of these panels focus specifically on journalists' relationship with and approaches to underserved communities

## **Examining how student journalists can (and should) cover underserved communities**

Teaching panel, co-sponsored by the Media Ethics Division

## **Exploring how journalists who cover underserved communities navigate burnout as a result of the emotional labor involved in their work**

PF&R panel, co-sponsored by Community Journalism Interest Group

## **Examining local journalism projects that create spaces and opportunities for "community joy."**

Research panel

## **Can engaged journalism counter distrust among conservative news consumers?**

PF&R panel, co-sponsored by the Political Communication Division

This year, we continue to collaborate with the **Engaged Journalism Exchange** project to organize a pre-conference workshop. Building on the success of the previous two years, this year, we have expanded to offer a full-day offsite preconference focused on connecting researchers, journalists, and journalism support stakeholders interested in research that supports more equitable, engaged, and sustainable journalism & civic media. The workshop will use **an unconference format** where participants are invited to co-design sessions exploring possible interventions to support or create infrastructure for collaborative research. This year's session will also be in collaboration with the **Journalism Bridging Project**, a collaborative devoted to hatching initiatives to close the journalist-researcher gap, and the **American Press Institute**. The Mass Communication and Society and the Community Journalism Interest Group have joined us to co-sponsor the preconference this year (as well as several universities and funders who have acted as financial co-sponsors).

**[bit.ly/AEJMC-Journalism-preconf-2024](https://bit.ly/AEJMC-Journalism-preconf-2024)**

# TEACHING: MAKING JOURNALISM EDUCATION ACCOUNTABLE TO COMMUNITIES

## **Andrea Wenzel**

I met Andre Simms after a particularly contentious community discussion connected to one of my research projects. We were in North Philadelphia, a majority Black and Brown neighborhood that has a long history of disinvestment fueled by racist redlining policies, and a contentious relationship with my employer, Temple University—who has been seen by many as a force of gentrification in the community.



Andre was participating in a workshop that invited North Philadelphia residents and community organizers to consider what it would look like for media to be accountable to North Philadelphia. Andre co-leads an organization he founded, [DayOneNotDayTwo](#), which is also the name he goes by as a hip hop artist. The organization runs a variety of programs focused on restorative justice, ending youth incarceration (Andre himself served 8 years in an adult prison after being incarcerated at the age of 17), healing through creative expression, narrative change, and more.

When Andre and I first talked after a workshop, he pitched the idea of community members taking a course at Temple, so that they could gain the skills needed for them to share their own stories. So in the Fall semester of 2023, he launched the Community Apprentice Fellowship program ([Community AF](#)), and we collaborated to co-lead a solutions journalism course at Temple where a paid cohort of North Philadelphia resident fellows studied and reported alongside Temple undergraduate students.

Recently I sat down with Andre to talk through the experience. What follows is an excerpt of our longer interview, which has been edited for length and clarity. I'm sharing here the section which focuses on our collaboration that may be of most interest for journalism educators—as Andre and his colleagues from DayOneNotDayTwo also participated in our previous AEJMC preconference focused on making journalism education more equitable.

I began by asking Andre, why he wanted to start Community AF?

Andre: This short answer is that North Philly has historically been misrepresented in mainstream media. And it was very, very obvious that the community needed, prayed, and wanted stories that were made for them, by them. And so connecting people to resources to tell their own stories just made the most sense to us.

... Community members kept saying time and time again, that they don't trust the media, they don't want to work with the media, or mainstream media ... They don't trust journalism, they don't trust reporters. But, you know, journalism is important. Being able to be involved in democracy is important. Being able to have resources and have access to information is important. And that's really like at the core of what journalism is supposed to be, right? And so, because a lot of these institutions are controlled by the top 1% of society, I've seen my community reject what could be something that could be actually very useful, beneficial, even transformative if it's done the right way.

Andrea: What was it like to co-facilitate a solutions journalism class for you?

Andre: It was extremely weird. I never saw myself like co-teaching a class, especially at a college level. So it was it was strange. But I will say that I felt the impact and I felt how different the class was to not just the Temple students, but also the six fellows that we brought in... I feel like everybody felt weird at first, but it was a very strange, but impactful experience because we had conversations that a lot of those people in the room probably never had in their life. You know, we talked about things that questioned and challenged perspectives that usually go unsaid. So I think that yeah, it was surprising. And also, I was surprised how much it resonated with folks.



...I feel like college usually is like dividing us, as a culture and as a people. So I felt like that was actually an opportunity to build a bridge from a place like Temple to North Philly, which there's already so much history, traumatic history there. And it felt like a step in rebuilding what has been a very challenging relationship to say the least.

Andrea: Can you share a little bit more about what kinds of conversations were happening that might not have happened otherwise?

Andre: I think one of the conversations that stood out, one of the discussions we had was about policing and the impact of the criminal legal system. And I honestly don't know how we got to this, because it was the very first class, but we started talking in depth about, you know, people's personal experience with the justice system, quote-unquote justice system, right. And I think that kind of, I want to say exposed the dichotomy. ...I think it was kind of like a shock that then set the tone for the rest of the course. And I felt like after those types of conversations, you had folks from the community that felt surprisingly comfortable sharing their experiences about either being harassed by police being incarcerated, or having a family member that's been incarcerated—being, you know, impacted in different ways by the criminal legal system. And you had students, you know, ...realize they're privileged. I feel like a lot of them in that moment, they got a chance to acknowledge and appreciate the protection that they've had and the fact that they didn't have to experience these things.

Andre: ...It started off asking questions about how has media been harmful? How has media harmed you or your community? ...And then a lot of the answers from the community were connected in some way with the criminal legal system. And a lot of the answers from the students were very different.

...And to see just how easily folks connect on a human level, I think is important for everybody that was part of that experience. I wish it could happen more.

Andrea: Yeah, I remember those conversations being really impactful. How has the way you think about journalism changed over the course of this project?

Andre: I felt like, for a long time, I was in that segment of society that rejects journalism altogether, you know, and I still don't watch the news, to be honest. I still, don't read the paper. But I think my perspective has changed from doing this work. Just because we're not happy with the quality of reporting and the quality of the stories and what we're being fed by these major media platforms, does not mean that journalism itself is bad, that journalism itself is flawed. ...I think that I'm not the only one who has had that perception change. And I feel like that's something that is big, especially where I come from. You either have people that live and die by the news, and everything they see on TV is real, or you have people that rejected it all. And now I feel like we're growing this base in the community of this kind of middle section where it's like, we're challenging everything that we're hearing. And we know that it's partly our responsibility to change the narratives that are being put out there. And it's our responsibility to actually speak truth to power in as many ways as we can. And you know, journalism is part of that. ...We want to blame journalists. We want to blame these media outlets, and these institutions definitely play a huge part perpetuating harmful narratives, stereotypes and stories. However, we do have individual responsibilities as a community.

We can definitely make an impact and we have the ability to, ...use our voices intentionally. So, yeah, I think that's been the biggest change in perception for me since this project.

Andrea: What would you like to share with other journalism educators who might be interested in doing this work? Do you have suggestions for them?

Andre: I think this is a model that I would love to see in as many places as possible. It is so powerful, when you're connecting, you know, future journalists, with the community that they're going to be reporting on. It is so powerful to start really planting those roots in community as early as you possibly can. And if you really want to do your students justice, want to do the community justice, it is important to seek out these relationships with community partners to seek out relationships with everyday people that you wouldn't usually. Let's start having conversations that might seem a little uncomfortable to begin with, but that's where often the best stories lie.

**Andre Simms is the founder and co-director of DayOneNotDayTwo. Their Community AF project is continuing, and they are now developing a Neighbors News Network platform to distribute community-produced stories and information. Thanks to the Knight-Lenfest Local News Transformation Fund, Independence Public Media Foundation, and the Lenfest Institute for their support of this work.**

# PAPER TO POSTER: CREATING ENGAGING PRESENTATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS CO-CHAIR NISHA SRIDHARAN'S TIPS AND TRICKS.

Being invited to present a research paper at a poster session, such as the 2024 AEJMC Conference in Philadelphia, is a significant accomplishment. I wanted to share some tips for an engaging and professional poster presentation in this newsletter.

First, carefully **review the size guidelines** for the poster. The poster must fit well on the display board. Aiming for about 75% of the board's area ensures a good visual impact without unnecessary cost.

When choosing a design tool, stick with what's comfortable, such as PowerPoint or Canva. The tool used isn't as important as the final product, so **sticking with familiar software** is best to avoid unnecessary stress.

When designing the poster, **avoid overcrowding it with text**. Use a bold title, a concise abstract, key findings, and some visuals. Incorporating white space will make the poster more readable and visually appealing.

**Include the presenter's name and institutional affiliation** on the poster. This ensures that people know who created it even if the presenter isn't standing by. Including contact information, such as an email or social media handles, is also helpful for networking.

A good poster serves three purposes: **attracting people to discuss the work, providing enough information to support those discussions, and potentially becoming a display piece for an office.**

If flying to the conference, consider how to transport the poster. Options include foldable posters, lightweight cloth posters, or rolled posters. Investing in a carrying tube with a strap can be helpful, though it might be cumbersome for overhead bins. The tube is reusable for future conferences, and flight attendants can often store it at the front of the plane.

Finally, **explore different printing options**. University printing centers might be convenient but not always the cheapest. Office supply stores and online services like PosterNerd offer competitive pricing. Planning and avoiding last-minute printing is important to save money and reduce stress. Presenters can create standout posters by following these tips and making the most of their conference experience. Good luck!



# THANK YOU!

Don't be shy! E-mail us at  
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