

# Collaborating with Community Journalists to Tackle Investor-Owned Housing

Monday afternoon 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Outlets for community journalism, also known as civic or nonprofit journalism, focus on engaging communities and covering issues often underreported in traditional local journalism. These outlets prioritize topics that directly affect local residents, particularly those from underrepresented communities, and aim to address gaps left by traditional media, such as a lack of coverage on grassroots initiatives and systemic issues. By providing in-depth reporting and fostering public dialogue on these areas, community journalism contributes to a more informed and engaged local populace, addressing some of the shortcomings of profit-driven news models.

Working together, community journalism outlets and NNIP Partners can learn from one another, sharpen each other's products, and expand their collective reach. NNIP Partners provide data that can lead to more informative and nuanced journalism, educating both residents and policymakers. In turn, community journalism can amplify the reach that data entities have and communicate their findings in ways that are compelling and easily understandable.

***The purpose of this session is to showcase two collaborations of community journalism outlets and NNIP Partners relating to investor-owned housing and explore ways in which NNIP Partners and these journalists can work together to improve and amplify each other's work.***

Three panelists will discuss their work and the opportunities for partnerships between community journalists and NNIP Partners. *Tommy Pearce*, Executive Director of Neighborhood Nexus, will moderate the session. After the panel discussion, there will be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions.

- *Sarah Alvarez* is the Founder and Director of [Outlier Media](#), a nonprofit newsroom whose mission is to equip Detroiters to hold people and systems accountable for harm, use information to connect people, and contribute to a thriving community. Outlier Media combines investigative reporting with tools like map-based trackers and programs like the Detroit Documenters, in which trained Detroiters attend local public meetings.
- *April Urban* is the Director of research and impact at [Signal Cleveland](#), a non-partisan newsroom whose mission is to provide information and resources to Clevelanders to help them make informed decisions and hold people in power accountable. Signal Cleveland layers service and community reporting, using beat reporting and a network of Documenters, trained Greater Clevelanders who document official meetings of the Cuyahoga County and City of Cleveland governments.
- *Mike Vickers* is a Data Analyst at [Data Driven Detroit](#). Mike develops tools designed to provide equitable access to information and to help local actors in Detroit make more informed decisions. As a public resource, Data Driven Detroit partners with media outlets to provide free information on topics such as housing, child development, civic engagement, and digital inclusion.

## Discussion:

- What are ways that community journalists and NNIP Partners could collaborate to advance each other's missions?
- What are the challenges or barriers that you see to collaborating with new media?
- How has institutional investor-owned affected your city? What data has your organization collected, or planned to collect, on this topic?

## NNIP Strategic Framework Connections:

- Goal: A stronger and expanded NNIP network supports influence and impact in NNIP cities and nationally.
- Goal: Local actors adopt data-informed policies and practices to distribute resources more fairly and equitably across neighborhoods.
- Strategy: Increase visibility and understanding of the network's values, approach, and insights among our target audiences.

## Resources:

- [Documenters](#)
  - Local Documenters affiliates (including Outlier and Signal) in 19 cities recruit, train and pay people to participate in the news-gathering process by covering public meetings.
- [A Swedish company sold Cleveland as a plum real estate deal](#) | Signal Cleveland
  - This article describes the findings of Signal Cleveland's efforts to trace 60 properties bought and sold in Cleveland by one out-of-town company.
- [NNIP Partners Explore Investor-Owned Housing](#) | Urban Institute
  - This brief summarizes the issues that NNIP Partners in four regions are exploring related to investor-owned housing.
- [Institutional Owners in Single-Family Rental Properties](#) | Urban Institute
  - This brief provides a review of policies at the federal, state, and local levels intended to address institutional investor-owned single-family rentals and the limited research on the impact of these policies.
- [What Policymakers Should Know about Institutional Investors' Role in the Housing Market](#) | Housing Matters
  - This brief summarizes evidence on institutional investor-owned housing and suggests the next steps policymakers can consider to understand and better manage local investor behavior.