

# 2024 Maynard 200 Fellows

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## Aaron Foley



Aaron Foley is a journalist and author who divides his time between Brooklyn and Detroit. He is currently news editor at the New York Amsterdam News, the oldest Black newspaper in New York, and also serves as managing editor of the Detroit-based Model D, a weekly publication covering news and development.

Previously, Foley was a John S. Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University, spearheaded the digital Communities Initiative at the PBS NewsHour, was the founding director of the Black Media Initiative at the Center for Community Media at the Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY, and was the first appointed chief storyteller for the City of Detroit Government.

Foley was also former editor of BLAC Detroit Magazine, a longtime contributor to Jalopnik, and was a founding staffer of MLive Detroit. He is also an author of fiction ("Boys Come First") and nonfiction ("How To Live in Detroit Without Being a Jackass" and "The Detroit Neighborhood Guidebook") and veteran freelance journalist, having contributed to "This American Life," The Atlantic, Columbia Journalism Review and more.

## Allison Jing Yang



Allison Jing Yang, a distinguished producer, editor, and community leader, is celebrated for her groundbreaking work at the intersection of Journalism, Academia, and Video Games. With a career spanning prestigious Chinese journalistic agencies across Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, and North America, she has made a significant impact as a feature reporter, senior editor, and columnist.

Since 2023, Yang has served as the senior editor of Initium Media, leading initiatives to revitalize Chinese journalism through the establishment of the sole in-house news mentorship program in the Chinese-speaking world. She also spearheads Initium's efforts in creating engaging news games that illuminate the complexities of misinformation globally.

Yang's dedication to pioneering the use of video games as a medium for storytelling and information dissemination has garnered acclaim. Her award-winning cultural sci-fi game "Forgetter" explores intricate narratives of political upheaval and inter-generational trauma within contemporary Chinese families.

She is also recognized for her contributions in fostering communities of female and Asian game makers, challenging the prevailing narrative of a predominantly white and male-dominated industry. Additionally, as a passionate advocate for mentorship, Yang extends her expertise to journalism and gaming communities, offering guidance and support to aspiring talents. Her influence extends beyond borders, as she is frequently sought after to deliver compelling talks and workshops at esteemed institutions.

## Blanca Méndez



Blanca Méndez serves as the community engagement editor at the San Antonio Report, a nonprofit digital news outlet dedicated to serving San Antonio and Bexar County. Her primary focus lies in amplifying community voices and sharing stories centered around the community.

An advocate for diversity in news, Méndez has played a pivotal role in advocating for diversity in hiring practices, spearheading a citywide listening tour, and conducting a source audit at the San Antonio Report. Through these initiatives, her aim is to guide the newsroom towards coverage that better reflects and serves the people of San Antonio.

Prior to her role at the San Antonio Report, Méndez's background included organizing queer Latin dance parties in Chicago, teaching English in Seoul, and writing about music and pop culture for publications such as Glamour, Jezebel, Rolling Stone, and Spin.

Méndez hails from Eagle Pass, Texas, and holds a degree in journalism from Northwestern University.

## Carmen Castro-Pagán



Carmen Castro-Pagán is an attorney turned journalist and editor. The career change nearly a decade ago tied her biggest passions: law and journalism. At Bloomberg Industry Group, Castro-Pagán found a new way to apply her vast legal studies and work experience outside a law firm and into a newsroom.

Castro-Pagán is currently a News Team Lead for Bloomberg Law in Arlington, VA. She leads a team of 10 reporters and editors who focus on employment and corporate legal developments in federal courts. She assigns, coordinates, and edits daily legal coverage throughout the newsroom to provide professional readers the information they need to serve their clients.

In her previous role as a deputy team lead, she co-led a team of reporters who covered general litigation developments in federal and state courts. During this time, she started developing her skills as an effective manager and editor.

In 2015, Castro-Pagán transitioned from a practicing attorney career into journalism, becoming a legal reporter at BINDG. As a reporter she covered employee benefits and ERISA litigation, a job she held for three years. Castro-Pagán wrote hundreds of daily stories, breaking news items, and enterprise articles.

Prior to joining BINDG, she worked as an associate attorney in a San Juan, P.R. mid-sized law firm, focusing on employment law. She represented management-side clients by providing off-court advice and litigating cases in Puerto Rico and federal courts. She served as second-chair in court cases and arbitration procedures under the American Arbitration Association.

She received a B.A. in Political Sciences from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus; a Juris Doctor from the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law; and an LL.M in International Business Law from the American University Washington College of Law. She's admitted to practice law in Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C., and is a certified mediator.

## **Carolyn Copeland**



Carolyn Copeland is a San Francisco Bay Area-based news editor with more than a decade of diverse experience in print and broadcast media. Some of her written work can be found in the San Francisco Chronicle, Washington Post, The Forge, Prism, San Leandro Patch, Huffington Post, Daily Kos, Palo Alto Weekly, Popsugar, and San Francisco Examiner.

She has also appeared as a guest commentator on CNN, PBS, KRON 4, and various radio shows and podcasts. Many of her Op-Eds and essays have discussed the biracial experience and finding self-acceptance in a world that tells people that multicultural people don't belong.

Copeland has extensive mass media experience in major market broadcasting. She has worked as a writer and producer for KGO810 AM radio, a writer for ABC7 News, and a producer for iHeartMedia. She is currently the Managing Editor at Prism, an independent newsroom that aims to amplify the voices of marginalized groups.

## **Daarel Burnette II**



Daarel Burnette II is a senior editor at The Chronicle of Higher Education. Before joining The Chronicle in 2022, he served as an assistant managing editor and reporter for Education Week and the bureau chief of Chalkbeat Tennessee, a start-up news organization based in Memphis.

He has worked as an education reporter at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the Minneapolis Star Tribune, and the Louisville Courier Journal.

He also worked as a general-assignment reporter at the Chicago Tribune. He received his undergraduate degree in print journalism from Hampton University and a master's degree in politics and journalism from Columbia University.

## Darius Ajani Dixon



Darius Dixon is a deputy managing editor for POLITICO focused on coordinating the newsroom's federal policy coverage as well as finding interconnection with state policy. Based in Washington, D.C., he joined POLITICO in 2010 as a founding member of its energy policy team, covering nuclear waste and power, the electric grid and the early rise of renewable energy – and where those issues intersected across Capitol Hill, the courts and federal agencies.

Dixon turned to editing in 2019 in what became a four-year run working with and eventually co-leading the newsroom's States operation of about 40 journalists. He's edited daily news, homepage features, newsletters and in-depth explainers. His first gig in the news business was as a summertime fact-checking intern and immediately prior to POLITICO, Dixon was a technology reporter for E&E News' Climatewire, which later became part of POLITICO.

Journalism is a second career for Dixon – who earned graduate degrees in materials science and geology (which took him on a trip along the ring road in Iceland) before making the leap to journalism. He's a graduate of Carnegie Mellon, the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and Columbia University. He and his wife have two young sons and regularly engage in Lincoln-Douglas-style debates over getting a pet.

## Erica McIntosh



As the Senior Regional Editor for Southern Connecticut, WNPR (CT Public), Erica McIntosh played a key role in the successful launch of a new CT Public news bureau situated on the campus of Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut. This bureau functions as a central hub for reporters, interns, and serves as the broadcasting location for CT Public's midday newscasts.

McIntosh recently earned selection as one of 24 public media newsroom leaders nationwide to participate as a fellow in the Poynter Institute's "Editorial Integrity and Leadership Initiative (EILI)."

The skills she acquired through this program were instrumental in the development of "Black Voices," a new platform launched by CT Public on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January of 2024. Hosted on ctpublic.org, the initiative aims to challenge harmful stereotypes and negative portrayals of Black individuals in the media. Black Voices operates as a collaborative effort across content teams, focusing on a wide array of topics including business, education, arts, culture, and human-interest stories spotlighting individuals making a positive impact in Black communities.

McIntosh's broadcasting career began 18 years ago in television as a news producer. She has worked in diverse news markets across the East Coast, including Washington, D.C., New York, and Connecticut. Throughout her tenure as a television News Producer and Executive Producer, McIntosh has been responsible for producing various content types such as breaking news, political coverage, and entertainment segments.

Education-wise, McIntosh holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mass Communication from Trinity-Washington University and a Master's of Science Degree in Journalism from Quinnipiac University.



## Estefania Morales Mitre



Estefania Mitre is an award-winning multimedia producer with experience in social media content creation, video editing and strategy.

During her time at NPR, she has taken on larger roles like coordinating with international correspondents and coaching them on best practices to deliver in front of the camera. Currently she is working on a series in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institute looking at the intersection of history, culture and Latinidad. She also helped launch the NPR alt.Latino TikTok channel, growing it to over 90k followers in less than four months, not only surpassing existing KPIs month by month but also helping build NPR's presence among the Latine community.

Mitre is deeply connected to the traditions and also aware of the misconceptions about the Latino community – like her own experience as an immigrant from México. She has dealt with assumptions for my upbringing in Juárez, México and the unconscious bias associated with her upbringing and the drug war. That's what drives her passion for journalism, breaking up the stereotypes.

As a Mexican immigrant, woman and creative she seeks to find the intersection between preserving culture and representation in media through her work. In her free time, she likes to dance Mexican Folklorico & Polynesian dance.

## Fahmida Rashid



As Dark Reading's managing editor for features, Fahmida Y. Rashid focuses on stories that provide security professionals with the information they need to do their jobs. She has spent over a decade analyzing news events and demystifying security technology for IT professionals and business managers. She focuses on ways security impacts how people live, work, and play in our highly interconnected digital world.

She is always on the lookout for elevating voices not often heard within the industry by speaking with people from underrepresented communities, as well as those in security-adjacent roles and industries to provide context. One way is to highlight the intersection of security and other topics.

As both a reporter and an editor, her main rule is to avoid spreading Fear, Uncertainty, and Doubt. That means taking the time to thoroughly vet a tip and make sure the story gives clear guidance on what the reader should do next.

At Dark Reading, she works closely with the team at Black Hat, one of the premier hacker conferences in the world, and the analysts at industry research firm Omdia, on joint projects. She works with Sales and Marketing to develop products that can be sponsored. Over the years, she has seen enough to make her overzealous about her personal threat-model, but she doesn't hold it against anyone for having a more relaxed worldview.

Prior to specializing in information security, Rashid wrote about enterprise IT, especially networking, open source, and core internet infrastructure. Before becoming a journalist, she spent over 10 years as an IT professional -- and has experience as a network administrator, software developer, management consultant, and product manager. Her work has appeared in various business and test trade publications, including VentureBeat, CSO Online, InfoWorld, eWEEK, CRN, PC Magazine, and Tom's Guide.

## Fernanda Santos



Fernanda Santos is the managing editor of The 19th News. She has focused her journalism on elevating the stories of underrepresented and misrepresented communities since immigrating from Brazil in 1998, building a diverse career as a staff writer for The New York Times, contributing columnist for The Washington Post, editorial director at Futuro Media and professor at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University.

Santos is a writing coach in the Poynter Institute's Power of Diverse Voices program, which lifts up the voices of journalists of color, and one of the creators of the Off-Broadway musical "¡Americano!," based on the life of an Arizona Dreamer.

She is the author of "The Fire Line: The Story of the Granite Mountain Hotshots" and is writing a memoir.

## Heather J. Chin



Heather J. Chin is deputy editor at Billy Penn at WHYY, in Philadelphia, after previously working as a digital producer at the Philadelphia Inquirer, as well as a breaking news editor at Flipboard, digital editor, EIC, and reporter with various Brooklyn and NYC publications.

An award-winning reporter and editor specializing in breaking news, health, the arts, and Asian American issues, Chin has worked in journalism for 15 years and has centered her career around using solutions journalism and innovative storytelling to connect communities and newsrooms.

A third-generation Brooklyn native, Chin is also active with the Asian American Journalists Association, serving as co-director of their Freelance affinity group and national board representative for the Philadelphia chapter. She also co-founded a women-led hyperlocal audio storytelling collective Local Switchboard NYC and was a 2020-2021 Lenfest Constellation News Leadership Fellow.

Chin strives to use her skills as an editor and writer to both inform the public and encourage camaraderie and communication between journalists and the communities they serve.

## Iftikhar Hussain



Currently, I am the managing editor at Voice of America, providing editorial leadership to Voice of America's multimedia Pashto language broadcast aimed at the Afghanistan-Pakistan region, reaching over 50 million Pashto-speaking audiences. In this role, I oversee 24/7 digital content, five hours of daily live TV broadcast, and a 24/7 satellite broadcast, supervising a team of 57 professional journalists based both in Washington, D.C., and the Afghanistan-Pakistan region. I joined Voice of America in Washington, D.C., in 2006.

In addition to my language reporting, I contribute to VOA English on major issues concerning the broadcast's target region. You can find my latest English piece on the Iran-Pakistan conflict here: [Link](#).

Since 2015, I have trained more than 200 journalists on polio reporting in the volatile AfPak region as part of a joint project between Voice of America and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Polio remains endemic in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

My reporting portfolio includes coverage of China's growing influence in Pakistan, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, intra-regional trade initiatives, Pakistan's military policies in the Pashtun and Baloch regions, the impact of violent extremism on the lives of Pashtuns across the region, and stories about detainees at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp. Additionally, I have covered the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of State, and U.S. think tanks, examining policy toward the Afghanistan-Pakistan region in the post-9/11 period.

I hold a master's degree in journalism from the University of Peshawar, Pakistan, as well as a professional certificate from the International Institute of Journalism in Berlin, Germany. In 2004, I was a Jefferson Fellow at the East-West Center in Hawaii.

## Jacob Sanchez



Jacob Sanchez serves as the fellowship coordinator and enterprise journalist for the Fort Worth Report. His articles have been featured in publications such as the Temple Daily Telegram, The Texas Tribune, and the Texas Observer.

Notably, his coverage of local government, education, and politics has garnered several awards from the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors, including first place in business reporting, deadline writing, and Star Breaking News Report of the Year.

Sanchez is a graduate of St. Edward's University and originally hails from Fort Stockton, a small town in rural West Texas.



## Jamilah King



Jamilah King is an award-winning Brooklyn-based writer and an editorial director at Mother Jones. She hosted HBO's podcast; *Last Call: When a Serial Killer Stalked Queer New York* and helped develop Showtime's Emmy-winning docuseries *We Need to Talk About Cosby*.

As a reporter, she's profiled Kamala Harris, Stacey Abrams, and wrote one of the first national profiles of the Black Lives Matter movement in the California Sunday Magazine. Her profile of housing activist Carole Fife's run for Oakland City Council was shortlisted for a National Magazine Award, and she won the Newswomen's Club of New York's Front Page Award in 2019 for podcasting.

Originally from San Francisco, King is an avid runner, cyclist, pet enthusiast, and newly converted plant parent.

## Joshua Barajas



Joshua Barajas is a senior editor at the PBS NewsHour. In his current role, Josh co-leads a team of remote journalists as part of the Communities Initiative, the NewsHour's reporting project that focuses on U.S. cities that receive little attention in national news coverage. He also manages multiple newsletters, including its flagship Here's the Deal politics email, for the Washington, D.C. newsroom.

During his 12-plus years at the NewsHour, he's occupied various roles on the NewsHour's digital team. As a reporter, he has reported on national affairs, with a focus on immigration and LGBTQ+ issues, and accountability journalism. In 2016, Barajas was selected as part of Poynter's inaugural class for the Leadership Academy for Diversity in Digital Media.

He is a graduate of the University of Texas. In 2018, he co-produced an Emmy Award-winning investigation into the sexual harassment and retaliation within the U.S. Forest Service. The digital and broadcast work led to changes in the agency, including the chief's resignation, and a congressional hearing months later. The investigation was also recognized as a Peabody nominee.

During the pandemic, Barajas was the NewsHour's digital arts editor when COVID-19 shuttered concert halls, movie theaters and other venues and performance spaces. He nurtured an online community through the NewsHour's Facebook page, using art to connect people throughout the global health emergency. That included monthly "Show & Tell" prompts in the group, where folks shared their latest artwork or poem or napkin doodle with one another.

Before Barajas moved to D.C. for work, he taught himself video to help co-lead the multimedia team at The Daily Texan, the official newspaper of the University of Texas at Austin, where he also earned his bachelor's degree.

## Juan Michael Porter II



Juan Michael Porter II has been living with HIV since 2015. He serves as the senior editor of TheBody and TheBodyPro—making him the first person openly living with HIV to hold the position—the host of the International AIDS Society's podcast (HIV Unmuted), and is a Dorian Award nominator as well as the first Black man to serve as a Drama Desk Award nominator in history.

He has written for PBS, SF Chronicle, Philadelphia Inquirer, Christian Science Monitor, NY Observer, TDF Stages, Playbill, American Theatre, Queerty, Positively Aware, and Dance Magazine and served as the managing editor and critic-in-residence of BroadwayWorld Dance.

Juan Michael is a fellow of the National Critics Institute at Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Poynter's Power of Diverse Voices workshop, and the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education's Maynard 200 Program.

## Kai Teoh



I'm the Data & Interactive News editor at The Dallas Morning News. The talented team of journalists I lead are responsible for The Dallas Morning News' data reporting, interactives, illustrations and graphics. We aim to elevate the work of all our coworkers.

In my free time, I try to support and advocate for other immigrant journalists in the US as that is a journey and struggle that I am well familiar with. Additionally, I periodically mentor Columbia University's data journalism or Lede program students.

In the past, I've occupied different roles and responsibilities in various local newsrooms, from copy desk chief to social media producer, from data reporter to photographer, and the thread that has always tied them together is my desire to be a force multiplier for my colleagues.

## Kim Flodin Johnson



Kim Johnson Flodin is a native Californian who became interested in photography as a child but it was in college where her passion for journalism sparked a career in visual storytelling.

She began her career as a photographer in Wichita, Kansas in 1990 where she covered 40 days of abortion protests in Wichita, Kan., known as The Summer of Mercy. At The Times-Picayune in New Orleans, she covered the first free elections in South Africa. She went on to photograph refugees in Thailand, tensions from the Northern Ireland independence struggle for the Sacramento Bee then wildfires, major league sports, Academy Awards and other entertainment awards shows for The Associated Press.

In 2010 she transitioned to become a photo editor and later a multi-platform regional news editor directing reporters, photographers, and video journalists in coverage of both breaking news, such as Hurricane Harvey, mass shootings, college and major league events and enterprise projects. During protests in Minneapolis in the wake of George Floyd's killing, she edited photos that were a part of The AP's winning entry for the 2021 Breaking News Photography Pulitzer Prize.

Currently, Johnson Flodin is the morning Deputy Director of News, US Newsgathering at The Associated Press where she is part of a leadership team that oversees the United States' news report in all formats. She and her husband, web developer Scott Flodin, live in Chicago. Their daughters Isabella, 21, and Simone, 19 attend college.

## Kris Hooks



Kris Hooks is the editor-in-chief of the Boston Globe's team Money, Power, Inequality: Closing the Gap, which focuses on addressing the racial wealth gap in Greater Boston. Hooks was previously an assistant metro editor, covering criminal justice, courts, and city hall.

Prior to coming to the Globe, Hooks was a news editor at Capital Public Radio, the NPR affiliate in Sacramento, California, where he oversaw reporters covering city government, education, housing, and homelessness.

He was also an adjunct professor for three years at Sacramento City College, where he taught a course on Race & Gender in the Media.

## Luella Brien



As a journalist, Luella Brien, the founder of Four Points Media, shares the triumphs and tragedies of her people, which she feels is the natural evolution of the Native storytelling tradition. She also believes strongly in serving her community. Has worked as a media consultant with the tribe, a communication arts instructor at Little Big Horn College, and an outreach coordinator.

Brien's Apsáalooke name is Akbaaítchesh, or One Who Keeps Things Good. Her name was given to her by her maternal grandfather Benjamin Big Man Sr., as a tribute to his own mother. She is the descendant of powerful healers, educators, and leaders and most importantly storytellers.

She is a 2006 graduate of the University of Montana School of Journalism, where she received a BA in print journalism. She is a 2002 graduate of the Freedom Forum's American Indian Journalism Institute and a 2004 Chips Quinn Scholar and Associated Press Diverse Voices graduate.

Brien lives on the Crow Indian Reservation in southeastern Montana, where she is the executive director of Four Points Media and the editor-in-chief of Four Points Press. She is the mother of twin boys, who are in college, and a high school-aged daughter.

## Martin Garcia



Martin Garcia works at The Marshall Project, a nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization that seeks to create and sustain a sense of national urgency about the U.S. criminal justice system. Garcia is the Manager of News Inside and Inside Story, their print publication and video series, both of which are distributed in hundreds of prisons and jails throughout the U.S. Garcia is also one of the co-chairs of their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Garcia focuses on production, audience engagement, correspondence, data, metrics, research, distribution outreach, copy-edit training and diversity initiatives. Garcia is a member of the National Association for Black Journalists and is well-versed in corrections policies.

Garcia is 38 years old. He is from the Flushing section of Queens, NY. His family is from Colombia. His father would be incarcerated for 17 cumulative years. His mother remarried, giving Martin a brother and sister. Garcia's three children, Penelope, Melanie, and Daniel would grow up while he served a 10-year sentence in New York state. He was released on September 19, 2019.

While incarcerated, he achieved an Associate of Science with Summa Cum Laude honors from Mercy College through Hudson Link for Higher Education. Garcia was also an executive member of the Inmate Liaison Committee, a teacher's aide for English as a Second Language, a volunteer in the Law Library, a facilitator for multiple programs, and part of The Osborne Association as a Clerk for its Parenting & Relationship classes, a Caregiver for its Children's Center in the Visit Room and an Advisor to its NY Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents.

Previously, Garcia was a community coordinator for Worth Rises, focusing on community relations, advocacy support and public education. He was one of the instrumental members of the ConnectFamiliesNOW phone justice campaign, achieving a historic victory by making Connecticut the first state to make phone calls from prisons free.

## Mason Bryan



I am a senior editor at Prison Journalism Project, a national, independent nonprofit organization dedicated to training incarcerated writers in journalism and publishing their stories. PJP's mission is to equip writers inside with the tools of journalism so they can tell their own stories. In my role, I work to ensure that the articles and essays we publish meet a high standard of quality and accuracy, and reach a wide audience through collaborations with local and national media organizations. Meanwhile, alongside the education arm of our team, I help cultivate editing, coaching and writer-correspondence standards. A strong "duty of care" philosophy — which prioritizes the safety of our writers — animates everything we do at PJP.

Previously, I interned at The Santiago Times, an English-language newspaper in Santiago, Chile, and served as the managing editor of Seattle University's campus weekly. After college, I reported for various Seattle-based outlets, writing stories on politics, culture, higher education and social issues. Eventually, I landed at Crosscut, Washington state's largest independent news organization, where I was an editorial assistant before assuming the role of associate opinion editor. In this capacity, I edited op-ed writers and a team of columnists, and contributed my own stories and essays on race, culture and homelessness.

After ten years in Seattle and one year in Oakland, I now live just outside Albuquerque, New Mexico, not far from where I grew up.

## Matthew Vann



Matthew Vann is an Emmy nominated, award-winning, Senior Producer for ABC News based in Washington, D.C., where he organizes news coverage for the network's flagship television broadcast Good Morning America.

Vann is passionate about media content strategy and developing sustainable business models to secure the future of media through high-impact content that opens the door to strategic partnerships, audience growth, and new revenue opportunities.

He serves as a journalism faculty lecturer at New York University's Washington D.C. campus where he teaches classes on journalism ethics, and the intersection of news, media, and politics.

Additionally, Vann is a collaborations advisory board member of the Institute for Nonprofit News, working to expand the audience reach and impact of local news organizations.

He holds an MBA from the University of Virginia Darden School of Business, an M.S. in Journalism from the Columbia Journalism School, and a B.S. in Broadcast Journalism and Political Science from the City University of New York at Brooklyn College.



## Maya Valentine



Maya Nicole Valentine, an Afro-Latina native of Chicago, is a photo editor and visual storyteller currently serving as a Photo Assignment Editor at The Washington Post. In her role, she focuses on curating stories within the realms of features, health, science, and well-being.

Prior to her tenure at The Washington Post, Valentine participated in the inaugural Visura Mentorship program and completed a photo editing internship with National Geographic Magazine. Subsequently, she secured a two-year full-time position as a Photo Coordinator. Valentine's educational background includes graduating from the Missouri School of Journalism with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Multimedia Production, along with a minor in African American Studies.

Beyond her work in photo editing and research, Valentine possesses a keen interest in all aspects of visual storytelling, including social media visual representation, content strategy, and production.

## Pamela De La Fuente



Pamela de la Fuente is an assigning editor on NerdWallet's investing and taxes team. Her team covers taxes, retirement, and general investing topics. She has been a writer and editor for more than 20 years.

De la Fuente joined NerdWallet after working at companies including Hallmark Cards, Sprint Corp. and The Kansas City Star, but says journalism was the foundation for every job she's had since. It taught her how to work with all personality types, and how to maintain grace under deadline pressure.

She is a thought leader in content diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. At The Star, de la Fuente led the newsroom diversity committee in addition to her work as an editor. At Sprint, she covered both internal and external diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. At Hallmark, de la Fuente was senior director, and then editorial director, of the Mahogany card line for Black consumers.

Her varied work experience has helped her find ways to make every piece of content more inclusive and accessible for more readers. She was a leader on NerdWallet's Content team DEIB efforts for two years, and in her role as a manager, she encourages her own team of writers to look for ways to make content more inclusive.

The most fulfilling part of de la Fuente's job is coaching and developing others, to help them grow – and recognize – their skills. creating an inclusive writing presentation and guide for the Content team. She was a presenter at the National Association of Black Journalists 2023 and is a two-time winner of the Kansas City Association of Black Journalists' President's Award.

She is also a founding co-chair of NerdWallet's Nerds of Color employee resource group. Pamela is a firm believer in financial education and closing the generational wealth gap. She got into journalism to tell the kind of stories that change the world, in big and small ways. In her work at NerdWallet, she aims to do just that.

## Sabrina Bodon



Sabrina Bodon is the editor for The Sacramento Bee's Equity Lab, which operates on two pillars: representation and accountability reporting. She moved to Sacramento after a term covering state and county governments at Hawai'i Public Radio.

At that state Capitol, she was one of the only women of color covering the Legislature full time. Bodon first moved to Hawai'i days before the pandemic shut down the state to cover public safety at The Garden Island Newspaper on Kaua'i. She led coverage at the newspaper before taking on the role of editor at the island's only daily paper. There, she uncovered an investigation into the Kaua'i police chief's hiring practices and discriminatory remarks against Asians.

She also wrote about homelessness on the island, a council member's arrest for leading a drug trafficking ring and the ongoing permitting woes faced by the former Coco Palms Resort, the dilapidated hotel featured in Elvis Presley's "Blue Hawai'i" destroyed in 1992. Bodon got into journalism to write about the people and cultures she saw growing up in her Filipino and Puerto Rican household.

She's a graduate of Point Park University in Pittsburgh with an undergraduate degree in journalism. Sabrina finds immense joy in reading memoirs on the beach, but will settle for a river or lake.

## Teri Henderson



Teri Henderson is the Arts and Culture Editor of Baltimore Beat. She is the author of the 2021 book *Black Collagists*.

Previously, she was a staff writer for BmoreArt, gallery coordinator for Connect + Collect, and served on the board of Maryland Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts.

Henderson was a 2020 Momus Emerging Critics Resident and a 2023–2024 Poynter-Koch Media and Journalism Fellow.

### **Tierra Hayes**



Tierra Hayes is the digital and engagement editor at the Chattanooga Times Free Press. She started at the paper as a digital producer after graduating from Southern Adventist University with her bachelor of science degree in mass communication with a concentration in writing and editing in May 2020.

In her current role, she oversees the team that runs the local paper's website, newsletters and social media strategy.

### **Torrance Latham**



Born and raised down the bayous of South Louisiana, Torrance Latham grew to be a connoisseur of crab legs, shrimp, crawfish and boudin. For the past three years, he's now added ropa vieja, arroz con pollo and stone crab to his culinary repertoire, while also steering the ship on the Pulitzer Prize-winning breaking news desk as night editor for the Miami Herald.

Prior to living in the 305, Latham made a home in Chicago, also working in breaking news — this time at The Associated Press as a reporter / editor for AP's Central region, covering 14 states.

He is a father of two beautiful kids: daughter Tamera, 6, and son Tristan, 2.

## William Sanchez



Willie Sanchez, a media veteran with 30 years of experience in TV, radio, and podcasts, currently serves as the VP, Business Development/Digital Audio Operations at Fox News Audio. Raised in Washington Heights, New York, amidst inner-city challenges of the '80s, Willie's parents enrolled him in Catholic school, shaping his persistence.

At the age of 16, he began his career as a production assistant for ABC in Concert, igniting his journey in media. A graduate of UMass Amherst, Sanchez's career includes stints at WABC Radio, ABC NewsOne, and ABC Sports, where he managed sports programming for the NFL, NBA, and IndyCar.

Following a period of unemployment due to a merger, Sanchez found a new home at Fox News Radio, where he has excelled for 18 years. His achievements include pioneering podcast e-commerce, revamping digital audio, creating the Fox Audio network, and achieving over 30 million monthly podcast downloads with mid-seven-figure revenues.

Outside of work, Sanchez is deeply involved in community projects and causes. His roles include serving as a member of the Rochelle Park Recreation Committee, coaching youth basketball at Sacred Heart, and assisting as an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 114. He also serves as the Media Director at Sacred Heart Church and produces impactful podcasts for organizations such as the Emma Bowen Foundation, Girls On The Run, and Achilles International. As a Board Member of the St. John's University School of Journalism, Sanchez continues to make positive contributions at both the local and national levels.

## Zeke Minaya



Zeke Minaya is an assistant editor on the New York Times' metro desk and oversees coverage of transportation, cannabis, New York's economy and demographics.

Minaya, a native New Yorker, came to The Times from the Philadelphia Inquirer, where he was deputy business editor. Before that, he oversaw the Inquirer's year-long "Future of Work" project, which published scores of staff-written and freelance pieces, produced videos and held panel discussions wrestling with the impact of changing technology, the gig economy and the pandemic on the city's workforce.

After graduating from Guilford College in North Carolina, Minaya received a masters in journalism and Latin American Studies from the University of California at Berkeley. He did stints at the Los Angeles Times, the Houston Chronicle and with Stars and Stripes in Iraq, before spending five years in Venezuela for The Wall Street Journal.

Minaya lives in northern Manhattan with his wife Amanda and two kids, Cecilia and Javier. He is a diehard New York Yankees fan.