DC HISTORY CENTER + HUMANITIESDC COMMUNITY JOURNALISM PROGRAM
2027 Overview

What is Community Journalism?

Community Journalism combines the professionalism and far-reaching network of traditional media with the internal knowledge and connections of local communities to create more accessible and collaborative research, sourcing, reporting, and news-making. From identifying underreported stories to shaping how they are told, community journalists produce local news that better informs the public, strengthens their neighborhoods, and bolsters civic participation.

About the Community Journalism Program (CJP)

Launched in Fall 2023, the CJP is a free 17-week training program designed to equip D.C. residents with the knowledge, skills, and mentorship to tell the stories that matter most to them and their communities. Under the guidance of professional, local journalists, participants receive training and mentorship and write a news article that is pitched to local news outlets.

Over 17 weeks, bi-weekly workshops alternate with bi-weekly small group sessions. The workshops cover basic print journalism skills and best practices, including:

- Finding credible information and sources
- Conducting interviews
- Outlining and writing news stories
- Editing articles
- Pitching stories to local media
- The ethics and impact of the journalism you create

In the small group sessions, journalist trainers reinforce workshop content, mentor, and serve as story editors.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this program, you must:

- Be a D.C. resident over the age of 18
- Have minimal formal journalism experience
- Have an interest in local reporting
- Enjoy the craft and task of writing
- Make a commitment to the entire program, which includes:
  - a virtual orientation
  - 17 weeks of workshops and small group trainings
  - additional hours each week (approx. 3-8) outside of meeting times for researching, reporting, and writing a news story, and

    - attending the closing event.
    - (Some essential reading materials may also be assigned.)

Timeline

Workshops will occur on Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library in Mount Vernon Triangle. Small group training sessions will take place on alternate Tuesday evenings, either in-person or at public locations across the city.

- Application Opens: October 22, 2026
- Application Closes: November 13, 2026
- Applicant Notifications: Mid-December 2026
- Virtual Orientation: January 19, 2027
- Workshops + Small Group Sessions: January–May 2027
- Closing Event: May 18, 2027

Click here to complete the 2027 application!

For questions, or assistance, including to request reasonable accommodations, please contact the programs team at programs@humanitiesdc.org.

Please note that the 2027 Community Journalism Program, including all dates and activities outlined above, is contingent upon securing funding and is subject to change.