

## Documenters: a new model for public service journalism



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We're investing \$1.5M in City Bureau's Documenters program

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Stephen,

Today, we're announcing a new, \$1.5 million investment in City Bureau, a Chicago-based civic journalism lab, and its Documenters program, a focused effort to train and pay residents to take notes at municipal meetings.

City Bureau is an organization that has boldly reimagined journalism through its belief in equitable access to civic information. Since its inception, City Bureau has gone beyond informing the public — they've focused on equipping people to access and produce the information they need, inviting residents to join in the community conversation. The team has moved beyond the standard practice of collecting data and publishing stories — they're listening to residents, engaging with neighbors and nurturing relationships — long after the story is published.

The Documenters network has already taken root across the Midwest, expanding from Chicago to include locally run programs in Cleveland and Detroit, with plans to continue its national growth over the next three years. Knight support will help City Bureau continue to establish itself as a strong local organization that increases the flow of accurate news, information and civic engagement.

For more on our support for City Bureau and the Documenters program, see [my blog post](#) on Knight's site. For more updates on our support for work in journalism, the arts and communities, follow [Knight on Twitter](#) or [visit our website](#).

Thanks,

Karen Rundlet  
Director/Journalism  
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