

# Editorial Partnerships

Presented by: Tim Covi and Sean Condon

The areas we had the most discussion about were:

Regional Content Sharing

Mentorship Programs

Editorial Committee: Coordinating Editorial Content (and using editorial calendars)

Online Networking: sharing special knowledge and research

Article Database

**Regional Content Sharing** was discussed as a way for papers within a geographical area to coordinate efforts and increase content. Depending on the interests of the papers involved, the cooperation could resemble something like WRAP, which shares both content, coordinates campaigns and roundup stories, or it could simply be like a mini version of the street news service, providing content that would interest respective readers (for instance DC, New York and Boston might share content as each city might be of interest to their readers).

**Mentorship programs** were discussed as a way for papers to gain knowledge and practical solutions to problems we face. This was discussed mostly from the editorial perspective, but also briefly concerning vendor programs and general start up practices. Mentorship's could be structured so that one paper teams up with one or two other papers in monthly meetings to present problems and brainstorm solutions. Papers that are more developed might have mutual mentorship; for instance where one paper has an excellent vendor program, but lacks local coverage or story ideas, etc.

**Coordinating Editorial Content** took the shape of trying to bring editors of several papers together by phone or skype once a quarter or every couple of months to discuss long range story ideas, campaigns and potential roundup stories. The idea would be to generate good stories for each paper, and see where there are stories that cities can work on collaboratively. The group discussed the use of editorial calendars to plan feature stories well in advance, and to present these ideas to the committee.

**Online Networking** was talked about as a way for journalists and editors at various street papers to get in touch with writers at other papers on stories of mutual interest. For example, Margo Pierce was interested in writing about Human Trafficking. With an online network, each paper could have a page where they could post what they are working on. If someone else is working on similar issues, Margo would be able to contact them.

**Article Database** was something we didn't get to discuss, but I wanted to see if others have an interest in. I think with the amount of resources we have, we could create a categorically organized archive. So, for instance, if someone is working on a story about immigration, they could simply go to a list of articles organized chronologically on that subject. The same could be done for shelters, HUD/public housing, Foreclosures, etc....This differs from just a searchable archive in that you don't have to rely on putting the right search terms in to get every article you might want. You could start with your topic and narrow it from there if you want to be more specific.