

ALLISON DIKANOVIC — community-engaged journalist

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EXPERIENCE

Engagement reporter, THE CITY, New York, New York — March 2021-present (temporary position)

Coordinate and co-lead the Civic Newsroom, a series of newsletters, explainers, SMS updates and virtual/outdoor events to help New Yorkers navigate the local election season. Pitch and report stories demystifying city government based on reader questions and search trends. Plan social distribution and write social copy. Build and maintain collaborations with community partners. Plan multilingual events. Oversee adaptation of explainers to audio. Manage callout of reader election questions.

Engagement fellow, THE CITY, New York, New York — Nov 2019-June 2020, Sep 2020-Feb 2021

Pitched, developed, launched, reported and wrote an email/SMS newsletter about renting and working in NYC during the pandemic. Co-planned/facilitated community events at libraries to shape reporting. Managed COVID-19 callout and wrote FAQs.

Engagement reporting fellow, Wisconsin Watch/News414, Milwaukee, Wisconsin — April 2020-Nov 2020

Co-managed texting system modelled after Outlier Media to fill info needs in Milwaukee and provided journalism to residents via SMS. Created callouts. Reported on local budget and calls to defund the police amid protests and on the eviction crisis. Developed social media, outreach and audience strategy. Created impact report to demonstrate success from GNI pilot.

Staff reporter, Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service, Milwaukee, Wisconsin — Sep 2018-Aug 2019

Neighborhood reporting ranging from day turns to enterprise utilizing data, multimedia and public records. Planned events. Collaborated within a small team. Received a grant to report an award-winning solutions-focused series on youth justice reform.

Production assistant, WUWM 89.7 Milwaukee's NPR, Milwaukee, Wisconsin — May 2019-Aug 2019

Wrote and produced web posts. Edited longform two-ways for air. Pitched stories, conducted interviews, edited and mixed.

Research assistant, O'Brien Fellowship in Public Service Journalism, Milwaukee, Wisconsin — 2016-2017

Conducted legal research and analyzed data as part of a project that won a George Polk Award for immigration reporting.

Founder/editor, Youth Rise MKE, Milwaukee, Wisconsin — 2016-2017

Conceptualized idea for youth-led digital magazine collaborating with local youth organization. Got grant funding. Developed curriculum and taught journalism to students. Leveraged community partnerships for space, equipment and mentorship.

Education reporting intern, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin — 2016

Reported on education and general news for the metro desk. Published stories weekly, including two front page pieces and a feature for the Precious Lives multimedia series and podcast about gun violence. Live tweeted presidential campaign rallies.

Reporting intern, Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service, Milwaukee, Wisconsin — 2015-2016

Reported at neighborhood level. Created an award-winning investigative series on sex trafficking in Milwaukee.

EDUCATION

Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism, New York, NY — M.A. Social Journalism, December 2020

Focused on innovative community engagement, audience development, analytics, impact and equity in journalism.

Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, — B.A. International Affairs and Journalism, May 2017

SKILLS

Engagement: Design thinking, facilitation, organizing online and in-person events, trained in trauma-informed care

Software: Adobe, Microsoft and Google Suites (including data analysis with Excel/Sheets), Canva, Reach (SMS), AirTable

Social media: Basic design for social, Facebook groups, Twitter threads, Instagram stories/posts, Slack, Mail Chimp, Hootsuite

AWARDS

Sidney Hillman Foundation Award for Social Justice Reporting (2021), Milwaukee Press Club Best Multi-Story Coverage of a Single Feature Topic and Best Journalistic Use of Social Media to Tell or Enhance a Story (2021), LION Awards Best Solutions Project of the Year (2020), EPPY finalist for Best Use of Social Media/Crowdsourcing (2020), Regional Edward R. Murrow Award (2017), Rev. Andrew J. Thon, S.J. Award for Leadership (2017), Jack Keating Student Civic Leadership Award (2017)