NEW MEXICO
Collaborative Journalism Roundtable

Global Ties | Albuquerque, NM

July 12, 2019

CONVENER:
Sarah Gustavus, New Mexico Local News Fund

FACILITATION, REPORT:
Heather Bryant, Project Facet

NOTES:
Amanda Nezzie

PARTICIPANTS:
Marjorie Childress, New Mexico In Depth
Elaine Baumgartel, KUNM News
Antonia Gonzales, National Native News
Trip Jennings, New Mexico In Depth
Michael Marcotte, University of New Mexico
Fred Martino, KRWG Public Media
Kevin McDonald, New Mexico PBS
Jessica Onsurez, Carlsbad Current-Argus
Laura Paskus, Freelance
Lucas Peerman, Las Cruces Sun-News

Purpose

Collaboration between, not only journalists in New Mexico, but also journalists and communities, audiences and other stakeholders is an opportunity to create news coverage that is more nuanced and reflective of New Mexico, its unique stories and cultures and the complexity of the challenges faced. It's also an excellent opportunity to ensure important stories get covered despite a shortage of resources and narrowing capacity of local newsrooms.

The purpose of this convening was to begin mapping out how collaboration might look and function for interested partners in New Mexico. We set out to define a baseline of steps and principles essential to effective, equitable collaboration specific to the challenges and opportunities of doing journalism in New Mexico. The journalists in this small gathering were selected because of the cross-collaboration among their organizations in recent years. Additional newsrooms across the state are collaborating and will be included in future convenings around these issues.

The following pages reflect a series of group conversations around different aspects of collaboration, including the state of collaboration at large and lessons learned from existing and previous projects, the unique circumstances and needs of New Mexico news organizations and freelancers and the ideal conditions for future collaborative projects.

Overview

Collaborative Journalism as a Practice

Over the past two decades collaborative journalism has expanded beyond informal partnerships to a professional practice that facilitates reporting that might not happen otherwise as newsrooms grapple with declining resources and complex topics with widespread reach.

Since the early 2000s, there have been more than 200 news collaborations with likely many more that haven't been documented. These projects span more than 1,500 newsrooms across 100 plus countries. More than that, collaborative journalism projects have attracted more than $200 million in funding.

Culture Shift

The significant transition from competition to collaboration has in many respects reflected the strain most newsrooms now operate under alongside an evolving shift toward including more people in the editorial process. Newsrooms are grappling with declining resources across the board while the share of reporting to be done and the complexity of investigations has only increased. Collaboration is not only a positive way to broaden the inclusivity of journalism, it is a strategic deployment of resources that has the potential for a high return on the investment of planning and resources to implement.

Partnerships

Enable reporting where there aren't **RESOURCES** to cover the issue independently.
Build **TRUST** with audiences and create **ACCOUNTABILITY** between organizations.
Foster **DIVERSITY** of thought and perspective.
Facilitate being able to both obtain and provide **EXPERTISE** needed for complex stories.
Expand the **REACH** and **IMPACT** of content that needs larger audiences.
Create **ACCESS** to new topics, regions and sources without duplicating efforts.
Marshall **INFLUENCE** that might not be possible alone.
Focus the **ATTENTION** of the public on important stories by coordinating coverage.

Collaborative Journalism Forms

Content Sharing
Parallel Reporting
Back End Resource Consolidation
Content Distribution
Joint Reporting
Joint Event Hosting
Coordinated Coverage
Source Referral
ICE Distribution

Contribution to a Larger Product
Shared Reporter
Coordinated FOIA/Lawsuits
Peer Review
Newsroom Embeds
Domain Expertise Training
Community Driven Reporting
Hub Reporting
Open Editorial Meetings

Collaborative Journalism Models

In research from the Center for Cooperative Media, Sarah Stonbely identifies two parameters that she considers the two biggest factors in how collaborations are organized:

> *"We have identified two of what we think are the most important elements by which collaborations are organized: duration of time, and degree of integration among partner organizations.*
>
> *As both of these increase, the level of commitment required to make the collaboration work also increases. Using these two variables, we have identified six different models of collaborative journalism."*

	One-Time | Finite	Ongoing | Open-Ended
Partners create content separately and share it	Temporary and Separate	Ongoing and Separate
Partners work together to create content	Temporary and Co-creating	Ongoing and Co-creating
Partners share content/data/resources at the organizational level	Temporary and Integrated	Ongoing and Integrated

The variables of collaborative models

Level of Integration

Level of commitment

Duration

Models of Collaboration Matrix. Courtesy Center for Cooperative Media, Montclair State University.

Collaborative Mindset

It's helpful to think partnerships as being built with magnets not bricks.
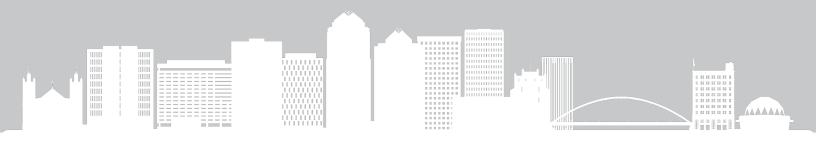
There has to be an attraction.
You have to connect the right ends for it to stick.
The bond is strong but not permanent.
The arrangement can change and take different shapes.
The components don't have to be the same or similar sized to be able to connect.
You can build with many something you could not with only one.

Participant Reflections

All of the participants in the roundtable have previously collaborated among themselves and with other partners throughout New Mexico.

In a discussion around what is exciting about collaboration, the takeaway was that collaboration facilitates work that is more difficult or even impossible when working alone. Collaboration is about possibility, whether it's digging deeper and further into complex stories, pursuing accountability and especially forging stronger and more inclusive relationships with audiences and communities.

Goals

The group defined a shared set of goals for what collaboration should do for their organizations, their reporting and the communities of New Mexico.

- More news coverage, more in-depth reporting, more sustained coverage of important topics
- Bridging the gaps between northern and southern regions, rural and urban New Mexico
- Sharing of New Mexico's history, culture and perspectives both across the state and with larger audiences
- Better understanding the people and populations that are being changed/introduced by current events and larger trends
- Making better use of the variety of platforms available to reach different audiences
- Including students to train the next generation of journalists

Unique Challenges to Overcome

There is no shortage of challenges to confront while doing journalism. This is a line of work perpetually beset by problems with money, access, staffing, resources and more. Add in the challenges faced by communities spanning rural and urban areas, unique issues for local communities and diverse populations, the work of telling the stories of a state and holding those in power accountable and we have a long list of things to overcome. While it does little good to dwell on challenges, naming them makes it possible to prioritize and identify which challenges we can apply our energies and expertise to in the short term and plan for those that will require a more sustained effort.

The primary challenge spaces that our group identified as addressable through collaboration fell into four groups: serving audiences, handling parachute journalism (both from national news and in-state), networking and training and the use of resources.

For newsrooms in New Mexico, collaboration is a tool to be leveraged to many ends.

Serving audiences
- Address news deserts
- Forge a more nuanced understanding of different audiences across the state
- Share the history and culture of New Mexico

Networking and Training
- Build relationships across newsrooms and with freelancers
- Support freelancers and creating guidance for organizations that hire freelancers
- Address equity issues and backing up smaller organizations that have lower risk tolerance

Parachute journalism *(within the state and from national organizations)*
- Recognizing that parachuting can come both from national organizations and within the state when reporters move from urban areas to rural areas
- Support relationships between newsrooms to facilitate thoughtful, respectful reporting trips to other parts of the state
- Address the rural/urban divide

Resources
- Reduce unnecessary, duplicate efforts
- Share sources and tips with each other
- Reduce the workload on journalists and newsrooms already working over capacity
- Bolster investigative, accountability reporting

Stakeholders and Partners

For collaborations to be truly effective and equitable, it's necessary to convene a diverse group of stakeholders to inform the design and management of the project. To ensure a project can move forward, it's essential to not only have the reporters who will be doing the work in the room, but also the owners, editors and other decision-makers whose buy-in is essential to actually making things happen when it comes time to assign people and expend resources. Outside of the newsroom, collaborations better reflect the needs of the community by including the community where possible. The group highlighted the need to seek out the input of community opinion leaders, audiences that are to be served by the project and younger people in the community in order to engage them more with the news.

Collaboration in Practice

The experiences of the participants have spanned the range of widely successful projects to ones that fizzled out or had less than ideal dynamics. Their varied projects have informed their perspective on collaborations and clarified their expectations and goals for collaborating. In the following sections, we discussed each of these aspects of collaborating. The ideas and concerns that emerged as important to participants are summarized here as a starting point for future collaborations. In practice, these phases can be as formal or informal as appropriate for a project or group of partners. Some benefit from a formal process that steps through each of these components, others, especially those with a longer history of collaborating, can be less strict in working through this list. However all collaborations benefit from some consideration of each of these areas of planning and implementation.

Consider - Determining when collaboration is the best approach
Design - Deciding expectations, deliverables and the overall form and function
Manage - Ensuring the project works on a day to day basis
Assess - Evaluating the efficacy of the journalism and the

Consider

Story and Audience
A collaborative project is the right fit for a newsroom when it matches the newsroom's reporting focus and the needs of the audience. The project should be at least one of the following:
- Relevant to the newsroom's area of focus
- Important to the audience or helping to reach a new audience
- Filling a gap in coverage

Capacity and Preparation
Successful participation in collaboration hinges on accurately assessing your capacity and understanding the capacity of each of your partners. Key things to address internally and with partners:
- You and/or your organization's capacity to do the work needed
- An understanding of each partner's capacity
- Assessing how prepared each partner is in terms of skills and knowledge with the work required and with the subject matter
- Whether there is sufficient lead time to adequately plan and begin the work

Values, goals and motivation
Collaboration requires being aware of the alignment of goals among partners, the power imbalances that may be in play, and what shared values can foster trust. The group discussed these issues as being important as a shared understanding that can help a collaboration function successfully and equitably.
- Discuss and establish shared goals
- Be clear on motivations and intentions
- Trust good intentions in communication and effort
- Respect and value the unique contributions of partners in whatever form and quantity they may take
- Acknowledge the cultural and practical differences between organizations

Innovation and Outcomes
Part of evaluating an idea for collaboration includes considering what innovations and outcomes might be possible. When examining the collaboration and its goals, it should provide one or more of these results:
- Connecting with journalists
- Working with talented people
- Learning new skills
- Publishing on additional platforms
- Creating a new tool or resource that will continue to provide value

Design

Scope

Designing the scope of the project is an essential first step that bridges considering whether a collaboration fits each partner and how it will work. Important aspects to this include:
- Timelines and benchmarks
- Detailed extent of project
- Enumerated/agreed upon deliverables
- Mutually agreed upon deadlines
- Staffing commitments of each partner
- A sense of how the project will conclude or evolve

Roles and Expectations

We do our best work when we are clear on what we are expected to do, how we can use our skills and how that fits into the larger picture of what's being accomplished. Some valuable things to design for:
- How to correct for uneven power distribution to ensure that each partner is equitably included and each contribution is valued and respected
- What expectations are applicable to all partners
- What unique expectations will exist for each specific partner
- How will talent at hand be utilized
- What the leadership structure and project management process will be

Audiences

True collaboration accounts for the dynamic between journalists and newsrooms and the audiences the work is being done for and with. Collaboration is also highly conducive to including audiences in the process. In the design phase, consideration of the audience encompasses:
- Deep discussion and acknowledgement of audiences
- How audiences will be included
- Who is being served and their needs
- Understanding partner audiences
- Establishing what systems/resources will go to these efforts
- Seeking community input across regions and communities

Systems

Complex projects require systems to facilitate the daily work. Logistically, collaborations must account for systems that facilitate (at minimum):
- Communication
- Content and Assets
- Schedules
- Task Management

Systems also encompass the people and culture aspect of a project, including the methods for accountability. At minimum, consider how to account for:
- Addressing when people are not meeting deadlines, delivering their contributions or adequately participating in project communication
- Addressing a partner that has not abided by mutually agreed upon processes and language for publishing timelines, embargoes, credit or other aspects of the collaboration that is public facing
- Creating processes where participants, regardless of seniority, can elevate concerns they have about how things are working and those concerns can be reviewed and adjustments can be made when needed
- How changes and developments will be communicated internally and externally

On Ramp/Off Ramp
The most successful collaborations are ones that can adapt and change and this means that partners can exit or join projects in clear and positive ways. Effort is essential in this regard to maintain healthy working relationships with people across newsrooms and organizations that might be future collaborators.

Partners should be able to exit a project should a need arise if their circumstances or capacity has changed in such a way that trying to persist causes them significant burden or would happen at such a decreased level that they can't reasonably deliver on their commitments to the project. The more complex version of the exit planning is if a partner has violated any rules of engagement that had been established for the project. It's worth considering this when designing how accountability will work for the project.

When projects are successful, they can expand or enter a new phase where additional partners come on board. Having infrastructure, documentation and established processes for on-boarding new partners will ensure those partners are equipped to effectively participate. It will also help guard against last minute scrambles or important details slipping through the cracks.

Funding
Collaborative projects vary widely in formality and whether they use contracts and MOUs. A frequent, deciding factor is the degree to which the project involves money moving around. Designing a project should account for how paying for the work will be handled. As part of the design process, look at:
- Establishing fixed costs
- Establishing budgets for variable costs
- Understanding how the organization structure of partners impacts how money is handled and the timelines for doing so
- Accounting for equity in how funding is utilized
- Ensuring that reporters and freelancers are paid a sustainable, living wage

Marketing
While partners are aware of a collaboration and their goals for the project and outcomes, that is less obvious to audiences. How audiences will view, identify and understand a collaborative project is dependent on the extent to which the project is marketed to audiences. Project design should consider:
- Preparing audiences for projects
- Explaining why collaboration is important to audiences
- Creating opportunities for the inclusion of audiences
- Managing community expectations for beginning and ending *(Particularly important when audiences are included)*

Manage

Leadership
Many collaborative projects cite the presence of a project manager as essential to the functioning and success of the work being done. A dedicated eye keeping track of all the details and ensuring things don't stall is a helpful component as all partners are going to be handling their own workloads and demands in addition to the collaboration. The concerns of leaders break into two main categories:

The work being done and how it's being done touches on managing expectations, the editorial work itself, facilitating and supporting the teams doing the daily work and facilitating the check-ins and communication that keeps things moving.

The systems and logistics that support the work is the detail management around ensuring everyone has access to what they need and an understanding of the processes and workflow the project is operating on.

Communication
Consistent and accessible communication is the linchpin of effective collaborations. There are two main considerations when it comes to how communication will work.

Culture
- Creating opportunities for partners to communicate with leadership
- Understanding communication styles
- Creating and managing expectations for communication and frequency
- How absences from conversations are handled
- Creating ways to communicate expectations for response time with consideration to everyone's workloads

Means
- The platforms in use for communication
- How and where team members can access notes and information

Problem Solving

The day to day operations of project spanning multiple partners and participants requires making use of the accountability and problem-solving systems designed for a collaboration.
- Facilitating the implementation of accountability mechanisms designed for the project--checking in on deadlines, following up on deliverables, and so on.
- Fostering the culture where participants can raise concerns as things happen so adjustments can be made when appropriate
- Having consistent check-ins and benchmarks that can help keep the project moving forward and to address any concerns or roadblocks as they happen

Assess

It's an easy step to skip with busy schedules, but taking the time to review how a project unfolded compared to how it was planned is an important learning step. The group's discussions largely focused on these key areas:

Goals and Outcomes
- "Did we get what we needed?"
- Did the project meet the goals outlined at the beginning of the project?
- What measurements of impact, reach and response are possible?

Partners
- What feedback can be provided to each partner for their own learning and development?
- Did the project attract additional partners, funders, or resources beyond the initial group?
- Did partners come away with new skills? New tools? New connections with sources or other journalists?
- Was anyone missing from the project who should have been a stakeholder?

Audience
- Was the audience served by the collaboration?
- What feedback is available from the audience?
- Was audience or reach increased as a result of the project?

Funders
- What qualitative and quantitative information has been collected throughout the project and at the conclusion that is useful for funders?
- What feedback can be communicated to funders about working with them on this project?

Documentation
- What was learned about collaborating that can inform future projects?
- Are there any elements that can be reused? (Toolchain, workflow, etc.)

Logistics: Tools and Technology

Most organizations that collaborate are using between 4-8 third party services and some are using 12+ tools.

The primary tool needs are usually structured around:
- **Communication**
- **Editing**
- **Asset Management**
- **Task Management**
- **Schedule Management**

Tools that newsrooms are using include:

∞ Email chains
All in the CMS
Airtable
Asana
Basecamp
Caspio
CoSchedule
Dropbox
EditFlow
Evernote
Facebook Messenger

Flow
FTP Server
G-Chat
Google Calendar
Google Docs
Google Site
Hipchat
Jira
Methode
Microsoft Word
OneNote

Outlook Calendar
Paper
Podio
Screendoor
Slack
Submittable
Trello
Or bespoke builds for specific projects

+100s more platforms

Choosing Tools

There is no one system for collaboration and in the majority of cases, collaborative projects are assembling chains of tools that largely meet their needs as they collaborate. Considering which tools may be appropriate for a project depends on a variety of factors.

Important questions to weigh when considering different tools:
- How many users will need access?
  (This affects potential cost and the effort to onboard everyone)
- Is it a free or paid product? If it's premium, how is the tool being paid for?
- Is the friction of adopting the tool and ensuring everyone able to use it worth the benefit?
- How much work will it take to use this tool compared to how complicated the task is?
- Is it made by a company that's likely to be around for a while?
- What is their business model?
- How safe and secure is your work on the platform?
- Is there customer support to help users?

Looking Forward

Over the course of this focused summit, participants shared what was essential for any partner to understand about working with them, what they needed to hear from each other in order to evaluate whether there was compatibility, and examined past successes and obstacles to create a series of questions that can inform how their next project should work.

These summaries, principles and pathworks can be implemented in upcoming projects so that they can continue to be refined for the unique circumstances of New Mexico. As this initial group branches into working, not only among themselves, but with additional partners, new information and perspectives can be adapted and adopted into these foundational frameworks as it suits the group.

Questions for further exploration

Though we covered a broad range of foundational questions and topics, more remains to be explored by the leading group. We collected questions about opportunities and challenges that are still to be addressed as more collaborations unfold within New Mexico and potentially with partners outside of New Mexico.

- In the long run, how can we best leverage collaboration to raise revenue, share payments and resources?
- How can we best measure the impact of collaboration in New Mexico?
- What opportunities are there to educate and include funders in collaborative opportunities in New Mexico?
- How do we begin building a coalition of collaborative partners in New Mexico that can easily step into collaborative projects with each other?

Closure

Collaboration among New Mexico newsrooms is an extensive opportunity not just for advancing reporting on important topics but for doing so in a way that captures more nuance and complexity by bringing audiences, communities and stakeholders to the table. There has been enough collaboration, that there is a good understanding of what does and doesn't work. The opportunity now is building collaborations based on that understanding and informed by thoughtful consideration, well-informed design, diligent management and frank assessment.

Upcoming Opportunities for Collaboration

To close out the day, participants collectively brainstormed what opportunities exist in the near future for collaboration. The list spans geographies and topics. By a show of hands, the top suggestions were then turned over to break out discussion groups for further consideration.

Education / Child Well Being	**Census 2020**	**Climate Change**
How public schools are reformed by the state has large and long term impact.	*The 2020 Census will have significant consequences on politics, culture in New Mexico.*	*An essential and timely topic, climate change is relevant to other topics of importance to New Mexico.*
Partners could survey all 89 districts (administration, teachers, parents) asking what works and doesn't work for them and analyze the data across state, regions, and different demographics.	Partners could coordinate a census story in every community that focuses on the most relevant census impact for that community and a series of overall impacts for the state. The projects can have a clear endpoint and has substantial community engagement potential.	A four-party coalition of regional groups (NM, TX, CO, Mexico) collaborating on the Rio Grande as ground zero for climate impact. The project would lend itself to community and audience partnerships.

Additional topics discussed: Education lawsuit, child well-being, redistricting 2020, water, rural/urban divide, criminal justice reform, behavioral health, health care, elder care, student loans, higher education, immigration, undercovered SW New Mexico, energy future, housing

Resources

- projectfacet.org
- bit.ly/collaborativeslack
- bit.ly/collaborationshapes
- projectfacet.org/collaborative-journalism-workbook
- collaborativejournalism.org

Appendix

Big Post-It Takeaways

What Works

- Having a Plan B (Exit Ramp)
- Trust good intentions of partners
- Keep conversations going
- Relationship building
- Clearly defined roles help avoid unmet expectations
- "We want what you can bring"
- Real audience engagement
- Involving community / audience in reporting
- Realistic expectations
- Make sure we talk about it
- "Know thyself" and know what your news room needs
- Make sure you're working with people who want to collaborate
- Work with journalists from that community (example: Native Americans)
- Get community input
- Acknowledge that seeking community in put in different places looks different
- Learn about newsroom partners and new communities
- Defining roles and contributions of news room partners
- What are you getting out of the collaboration (resources, training, social, community access, etc.)
- Deep discussion and understanding of audiences

What Didn't Work

- Last minute communication
- Platforms / sharing issues (google docs)
- Collaboration without systems and ac countability
- Collaboration without agreed-upon out comes
- Not knowing what partners do and their expectations
- Not having a shared vision
- Issues with funding
- University limitations
- Splitting funding
- Challengers with funders
- Equity in funding
- Failure to plan resources and staffing for coordination
- More time/demands = need more
- Reporters / freelancers not paid fairly
- No Acknowledgement of newsroom culture
- Need to define terms, language
- No planning for marketing (explaining to audience)
- No follow-up/ what's next with the community
- Expectations not met from the project with audience
- Public just starting to warm up
- Not making sure there is real / true investment in newsrooms
- Not understanding the capacity of newsroom partners
- Starting too late / not enough lead time

Consider

- What problem am I trying to solve?
- What story am I trying to cover?
- Let's think systemically
- Under-covered issues / communities
- Grant opportunities, pressing topics in the news (example: #metoo)
- Is it an issue that's important to us? Maybe a gap in coverage? Is it an issue we have knowledge / expertise about?
- Do we have staff / capacity?
- Is it a story we want to have reach further?
- Who is our audience? Can we reach new people?
- Do we have knowledge of partners / familiarity?
- Knowledge àtype of collaboration (looser vs tight/deep)
- Would students get real-world applicable experience, and would the partner invest in educational mission and get value from collaboration?
- Is it strategic; do we need to cover if others are? What new can we bring to bear?
- Capacity?
- Is there a history, maybe negative, or personality clashes?
- Will collaboration help us cover issues that are complex and ever-changing?
- Can we set solid deadlines, too?
- What will the final project look like and what is the goal of the life beyond it? Change, sparking more reporting, etc.
- Is it a story the community needs or what a funder wants told?

Design

- Detailed scope, deliverables, deadlines (semester calendar for students), number of people
- Commitment to planning and design
- Editorial outline / process / structure
- Be on same page
- Have news values discussion
- Decide on game plan, not figure it out as we go
- Goals – what are we going to accomplish?
- What do we want our outcomes to be?
- Know what your talent is and knowledge on the team—what do you have?
- Money – have a budget for costs
- How will you handle accountability?
- Contracts / agreements ... formalized
- Where does the project fit on commercial diagram?
- End dates / leaving the project / bench-marks
- How will we be adaptive if things change?
- What if the cheerleader leaves?
- Commitment higher up in organization + 1
- Is someone on the team an expert?
- Do we need a project manager?
- Major points
- Scope
- Deadlines
- Roles
- Accountability
- Budget

Managing

- Flexibility – things happen
- Have a project manager – work off of timeline and framework (check-ins are important)
- Communication – clear and consistent
- Have a plan to check in and get back on track, or agree on changes
- How to elevate concerns / engage in repairs
- Build in "expectation for challenges"
- Have a system of "checks and balances"
- Telling each other how we work best, communicate best, etc. (see SJN user manual)
- Give people permission to say it's not working, etc.
- Systems – communications, scheduling, etc.
- One place where you can find everything (notes, content, etc.)
- Be upfront about how we communicate (including expected response time)
- Who is the contact for each organization?
- Build reporting (final report) requirements into design
- Document impacts (HS, details, etc.) and put them in data/doc reservoir
- Support for reporters and clear deadlines
- Honor editorial independence of organizations
- Plan for social media and marketing
- How can we maximize rollout?
- Logos, graphics, language, etc.
- Evaluation should be ongoing in project
- Designed on front-end
- Roving masseuse

Success

- Does our audience better understand journalism?
- Surveys and tracking
- Look at yourself and your reputation as a partner
- Commitment to real evaluation (not just analytics and final report)
- Outcomes matter but relationships matter, too
- Knowing difference between accountability and unprofessionalism
- Community / audience feedback
- Partner feedback
- Did we get what we needed?
- Did we broaden reach? Get new members?
- Did people notice? (Did it make a difference)
- We can explain how we did better journalism by collaborating
- Did reporters come away with new skills?
- Changes / response... meetings, etc
- Documenting unexpected insights, new ideas during process
- Clear ending or plan for moving forward (radio: optional cutaway)
- Attract additional support / resources (from funders or community?)
- Financed and nonfinanced
- Did we build trust?
- What / who are we missing? (throughout)
- Did we attract new partners? Build an on-ramp for them!

Ideas for Collaborative Projects

- Education Lawsuit
- **Child well-being (CYFD #s in Ruidoso)**
- Census 2020
- **Redistricting 2021**
- Climate Change (related to NM)
- **Water**
- Rural / Urban divide (guns, immigration, etc)
- Criminal justice reform + crime
- Behavioral health
- Healthcare
- Elder care (especially in rural communities)
- Student loans
- **Higher education**
- Immigration and border issues
- Under covered places / issues in Southwest NM (history, science, water)
- Economy / viability of rural areas (equity in economic development)
- Energy future of NM
- Housing

Top 3 Ideas: Education / Census / Climate Change

Project	Why This Project	Details
Census 2020	Consequences of census, data, unknowns about process and consequences, politics, culture, citizenship question data	• Similarities to GOTV work • Small papers; census story in every community • How to convince so many newsrooms? • Potential for new partners • Potential for future coverage • Clear endpoint • Community engagement potential
Climate Change	Time is of the essence; feeds into other topics; climate change is something people want to do something about (engagement and empowerment)	• 4 state regional collaboration: Rio Grande as ground zero, TX, CO, Mexico • Interactive websiteà contains maps, education, water rights / history 101 • Community partnerships (example: community extensions) • Some SJN angles
Education / Child Well Being	How public schools are reformed by state has huge impact; long tail	• Need data from districts • What if we surveyed all 89 districts (administration, teachers, parents) • Survey asks, what is working for you • Collaboration on reporting on survey results