

# To: The Pulitzer Prizes

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April 22, 2022

Marjorie Miller  
Administrator  
The Pulitzer Prizes

Dear Marjorie,

We are appealing to The Pulitzer Prizes to help us improve the diversity and transparency in the news industry. On Tuesday, April 12, [Nieman Lab reported](#) that there was “crushing resistance” by news organizations to participate in an annual diversity survey by the News Leaders Association. The group planned to have 2,500 organizations participate and in the end only 303 completed this important survey.

That is unacceptable.

Our country is reckoning with racial inequity and many in the journalism industry can't or won't provide essential newsroom transparency on staff diversity. If we can't collect crucial data, how do we expect to improve newsroom diversity and represent our communities? NLA is the only organization that has collected this essential data for more than 40 years and it must continue, but it will only continue if news organizations are incentivized to participate in these demographic surveys.

We are asking your organization to promote this survey and reporting of demographic data by adding the following criteria to your selection process for Pulitzer Prizes in Journalism:

*In order to qualify for an award, organizations must provide proof of participation in the most recent general survey/census by the News Leaders Association or another industry reporting system that shares data publicly, effective 2024 (i.e., they must participate in this year's data collection to be eligible for awards/funding in 2024).*

By implementing this new criteria, the Pulitzers would honor not only great journalism, but journalism from newsrooms willing to be accountable to the public. NLA supports this addition to the Pulitzer's criteria for entry, and is committed to prioritizing this survey and working with newsrooms to increase participation.

Journalists have an ethical duty to be accountable and transparent. We must be accountable to our readers and our workers by making sure our newsrooms reflect the demographics of our readers. And we must be transparent with that data to improve the diversity of our newsrooms so they can operate at their full potential.

Sincerely,

100 Days in Appalachia  
Africa Institute for International Reporting (AIIR), Minnesota  
AIR (Association of Independents in Radio)  
Anchor media  
Asian American Journalists Association  
Bay City News Foundation  
Black Video News  
California Health Report  
The Center for Investigative Reporting  
Center for Public Integrity  
Cityside Journalism Initiative  
Colorado Media Project  
Connecticut Health I-Team  
Dallas Free Press  
EDM Publications  
FMB Radio  
Georgia News Lab  
Get Current Studio  
The Ida B. Wells Society  
Indigenous Media Freedom Alliance  
Institute for Nonprofit News  
International Women's Media Foundation  
Investigate Midwest  
Investigative Newsource dba inewsource  
LION Publishers  
The Marshall Project  
Media Bridge Partners  
The Mendocino Voice  
Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service  
MindSite News  
Mojatu Foundation (Mojatu Magazine)  
National Association of Black Journalists  
National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ)  
Native American Journalists Association (NAJA)  
Native News Online  
News Revenue Hub  
The NewsGuild of New York  
The Objective  
OnlySky Media, Inc.  
OpenSecrets  
Our Body Politic  
Outlier Media  
Prism

Prison Journalism Project  
Racine County Eye  
Renaissance Journalism  
Reporte Hispano  
Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education  
Sahan Journal  
Society of Professional Journalists  
Spotlight PA  
Trans Journalists Association  
Tucson Sentinel  
URL Media  
Vision25: Building Racial Equity in Newsrooms  
Vox Media  
West View Media  
Whong Community Media  
Writers Guild of America, East  
WURD Radio

[Let us know if you want to add your name or organization](#)