

PROFESSIONAL

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**Founder and CEO, DIY Television, Silver Spring, MD** **1/2019—Present**

- Founded company to share the untold story of *Realidades*, the first national Latino and bilingual television series in U.S. history
- Archival research at the Library of Congress, the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, the American Archive of Public Broadcasting, WNET Channel 13, the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Paley Center, Video Data Bank, Media Burn Archive, University of Maryland, and the University of Georgia
- Conducted oral history interviews with author Joe Torres for companion book to *News for All the People: The Epic Story of Race and the American Media*
- Directing and producing *Barrio Television*, a feature-length documentary film about *Realidades*, to include exclusive interviews and photographs
- Designed social impact strategy with several national grassroots groups campaigning for racial justice in media, including Free Press, MediaJustice and the Change the Terms coalition
- Working with media scholars and archivists to find, digitize and notate *Realidades* artifacts
- Advised the Library of Congress on the exhibit “Latino Empowerment in Public Broadcasting”
- Advising on long-term growth of the Media Burn Archive, as a member of the Board of Directors
- Social impact and publicity consultation for Media Burn’s ongoing Guerrilla Television Network project, to digitize and share more than 1,000 previously unseen videos from the 1970s created by independent Black, brown, women, rural and youth filmmakers in the U.S. across six institutions and at imminent risk of permanent loss

**Founder and CEO, Balestra Media, Silver Spring, MD** **12/2015—Present**

- Taught graduate-level coursework as visiting faculty at the University of New Hampshire’s Carsey School of Public Policy
- Executive produced the four-part short documentary series *Demand More* for the Public Welfare Foundation, supporting community alternatives to incarceration
- Executive produced, researched, scripted and supervised post-production of Youth First Initiative short documentaries, *Youth Lead the Way*, *Jim Crow Juvenile Justice* and *A New Vision of Youth Justice*, supporting the closure of youth prisons
- Executive produced, researched, scripted and supervised post-production of the short documentary *Crime Survivors Speak* for the Alliance for Safety and Justice
- Executive produced, researched, scripted and supervised post-production of Youth First Initiative short documentaries, *The Movement of New Jersey’s 94%* and *150 Years in Enough* screened by major foundations and community groups
- Progressive media director for actress Robin Wright’s screening of *When Elephants Fight* at Tribeca with StandWithCongo
- Pro-bono communications director for trans activist and whistleblower Chelsea Manning’s successful campaigns for presidential commutation, release from federal prison and grand jury resistance
- Coordinated with the *XYChelsea* documentary team around Manning’s release and interviews with ABC, *New York Times Magazine* and *Vogue*
- Media trained youth and clergy in Charlottesville, Virginia, ahead of the violent white supremacist rally in 2017, and supported local press efforts of Minneapolis activists after killing of George Floyd in 2020
- Lead storytelling efforts for the Change the Terms civil rights coalition to foster media platform accountability on hate and disinformation, leading to the removal of David Duke and multiple militias organizing on Facebook
- Run storytelling campaigns for MediaJustice to end government surveillance of Black activists and e-carceration, expand broadband access and advance public interest rules for diversity at the Federal Communications Commission
- Led media coverage for annual red-carpet Latinx Impact Awards Gala, National Hispanic Media Coalition campaigns to end Latinx media exclusion and launch of Free Press’ NewsVoices program for community-led newsroom collaborations

**Associate Vice President, FitzGibbon Media, Washington, D.C.** **1/2014—12/2015**

- Prepared Ferguson youth leaders for print, radio and TV interviews after the killing of Michael Brown
- Managed political media strategy for films including IFC’s *Good Kill* and Oscar-nominated *Dirty Wars*
- Launched Chelsea Manning’s Twitter and Medium accounts, and executed successful campaign against her solitary confinement in 24 hours

**Director, Media Relations, FitzGibbon Media, Washington, D.C.** **4/2013—1/2014**

- Designed satirical “leak” communications strategy for *The Internet Must Go* and social impact campaign outreach plan
- Facilitated media profiles of the first survivors of drone attacks to testify before U.S. Congress for social impact of *Unmanned* by BraveNewFilms
- Led press strategy for largest U.S. rally against surveillance with over 100 StopWatchingUs coalition members

**Associate Director, Press Relations, Center for American Progress, Washington, D.C.** **2/2011-4/2013**

- Led communications strategy for the immigration, national security, energy and LGBTQ+ teams

- Published *Think Progress* and CAP articles on environmental policy, cited in *New York Times* and *Rolling Stone*

**Deputy Press Secretary, Joe Sestak for U.S. Senate, Media, PA**

**7/2010-11/2010**

- Spearheaded editorial board presentations, resulting in 16 newspaper endorsements and becoming the subject of final TV ad
- Coordinated, pitched and staffed press events in the Philadelphia area while assisting field and fundraising efforts

**Ward Executive Committeewoman, 46<sup>th</sup> Ward, 8<sup>th</sup> Division, Philadelphia, PA**

**Elected 5/2010-Retired 2/2011**

- Increased applications for state property tax/rent rebates and unclaimed property by 15 percent
- Actively registered voters and prepared comprehensive election briefs for distribution to constituents

**Policy Advisor, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Harrisburg, PA**

**3/1/2008-7/1/2010**

- Drafted bills enacted into Pennsylvania law to increase alternative energy use in the state, provide affordable home energy to qualified residents and protect state forest land from fracking
- Convened the Green Dog Caucus to organize state legislators in favor of environmental protections, prepared whip counts, and drafted opinion pieces

**PUBLISHED ARTICLES**

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- "The Rise of Sanctuary: Getting Local Officers Out of the Business of Deportations in the Trump Era," *Immigrant Legal Resource Center*, January 25, 2018
- "It's Time for the Patent System to 'Man Up,'" *Science Progress*, November 21, 2012
- "'Great Green Fleet' Sail Toward Pentagon's Reduction in Oil Use," *Climate Progress*, July 10, 2012
- "Cognitive Dissonance: White House Greenlights Arctic Drilling as Congress Sends Billions to Restore Gulf Coast," *ThinkProgress*, June 29, 2012
- "Top 10 Reasons Why Green Jobs Are Vital to Our Economy," *Center for American Progress*, September 7, 2011
- "Reserve Oil Sale Will Boost Economy," *Center for American Progress*, June 23, 2011
- "Drilling Down on Fracking Concerns," *Center for American Progress*, Mar 21, 2011

**PUBLIC PANELS**

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- Keynote Speaker, "Progressive Campaigning in International Media," 15 Seconds Festival, Graz, Austria (June 2019)
- Panelist, "Starting and Growing a Media Company," Women in Business Conference at George Washington University, Washington, DC (2017, 2018)
- Panelist and Moderator, "Creative Digital Rights Campaigning in the U.S.," San Jose, CA (2015)
- Panelist, "Creative International Digital Rights Campaigning" with Nobel Peace Prize Winner Maria Ressa, RightsCon Conference, Manila (2015)
- Panelist, "How to get media on grassroots campaigning in the U.S.," RootsCamp, (2014)
- Panelist, "How to create social impact with documentary film," Docs In Progress (2014)
- Panelist, "How to get media and breakthrough on your issue," NetrootsNation (2013)
- Panelist, "Approaches to Refugee Policy," European Union Conference, Tallinn, Estonia (2006)

**EDUCATION**

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**Villanova University** (Villanova, PA)

Bachelors of Arts and Masters of Arts in Political Science (2007, 2008)

**AWARDS**

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Emerging Leaders Finalist, presented by Washington Women in Public Relations (2014)  
 Young Alumna Medallion, Inaugural Recipient, presented by Villanova University (2007)  
 Certificate of Appreciation, presented by the U.S. Department of State (2002, 2003)