INSTITUTE FOR NONPROFIT NEWS

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

> FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

INSTITUTE FOR NONPROFIT NEWS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors Institute for Nonprofit News

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Institute for Nonprofit News ("INN") (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2021, and the related statements of activities, cash flows and statement of functional expenses for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Institute for Nonprofit News as of December 31, 2021, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of INN and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about INN's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of INN's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about INN's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Douglas & Bhagat CPA Services, Inc.

Thousand Oaks, California July 21, 2022

INSTITUTE FOR NONPROFIT NEWS STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION <u>DECEMBER 31, 2021</u>

ASSETS

Current assets:

Cash Accounts receivable	\$ 5,064,678 72,112
Prepaid expenses	90,477
Total current assets	5,227,267
Total current assets	5,227,207
Restricted deposits: Fiscal Sponsorship	1,556,166
Equipment and furnishing, net of accumulated depreciation of \$12,179	12,005
Other assets:	
Intangible assets, net	55,889
Security deposit	1,461
Total other assets	57,350
Total assets	\$ 6,852,788
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$ 138,997
Accounts payable - Fiscal Sponsorship	96,277
Deferred revenue	79,175
Total current liabilities	314,449
Net assets:	
Without donor restrictions	
Undesignated	1,683,445
Board-designated operating reserve	1,029,000
Total without donor restrictions	2,712,445
With donor restrictions	3,825,894
	3,825,894
Total net assets	6,538,339
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 6,852,788

See accompanying auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

INSTITUTE FOR NONPROFIT NEWS STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

CHANGES IN ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS:

Grants and contributions	\$ 1,318,253
Membership dues and program service fees	159,786
Investment return	1,908
Loss on equipment scrapped	(1,631)
Other income	526,985
Total public support, revenue and reclassifications without donor restrictions	 2,005,301
Net assets released from restrictions - satisfaction of program restriction	5,108,498
Total public support, revenue and reclassifications	 7,113,799
Program expenses	2,767,667
Supporting services	
Management and general	291,436
Fund-raising	340,230
Total supporting services	 631,666
Total expenses before Fiscal Sponsorship expenses	3,399,333
Fiscal Sponsorship Expenses	 2,615,630
Total expenses	 6,014,963
Increase (decrease) in net assets without donor restrictions	 1,098,836
CHANGES IN ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS:	
Grants and contributions	2,570,840
Fiscal sponsorship grants and contributions	2,395,075
Funds released to separated Fiscally Sponsored Organizations	(248,022)
Net assets released from restrictions	(2,492,868)
Net assets released from restrictions - Fiscal Sponsorship	(2,367,608)
Increase (decrease) in net assets with donor restrictions	 (142,583)
Increase (decrease) in total net assets	956,253
Net assets - beginning of year	 5,582,086
Net assets - end of year	\$ 6,538,339

See accompanying auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

INSTITUTE FOR NONPROFIT NEWS STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS <u>YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Change in net assets	\$	956,253
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to		
net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Realized (gains) or losses on property and equipment		1,631
Depreciation and amortization		15,250
Change in operating assets and liabilities		-)
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable		104,528
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses		(21,691)
(Increase) decrease in deposits		350
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable		52,353
Increase (decrease) in deferred income		12,220
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		1,120,894
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Decrease in deposits restricted for fiscal programs		201,648
Purchase of fixed assets and intangible assets		(24,655)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		176,993
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Loan proceed - Paycheck Protection Funds		(215,800)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		(215,800)
Total increase/(decrease) in cash		1,082,087
Cash at beginning of year		3,982,591
Cash at end of year	\$	5,064,678
Supplemental information		
Supplemental information: Income taxes paid	\$	0
-	Ф Ф	0
Interest paid	Φ	0

See accompanying auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

INSTITUTE FOR NONPROFIT NEWS STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES <u>YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021</u>

			Supportin	ıg Sei	vices	Tot	al Expenses
	 Program	Ma	nagement				
	 Services	&	General	Fu	ndraising		2021
Salaries and related expenses	\$ 1,366,106	\$	159,816	\$	213,229		1,739,151
Support to Members	525,242		0		0		525,242
Professional fees	640,176		46,045		89,677		775,898
Printing and postage	1,006		578		283		1,867
Travel and conference	1,170		0		2,824		3,994
Dues, licenses & education	22,568		2,955		5,449		30,972
Telephone	4,400		2,916		340		7,656
Rent	0		6,819		0		6,819
Insurance	183		10,263		0		10,446
Banking/Merchant Fees	7,411		121		1,251		8,783
Office expense	557		1,397		638		2,592
Employee benefits and payroll expenses	140,199		16,354		21,712		178,265
Technology expenses	21,549		33,936		916		56,401
Marketing	10,000		1,118		2,078		13,196
Conferences and meetings	14,779		6,633		315		21,727
Meals and entertainment	 1,010		0		63		1,073
Total expenses before							
depreciation & amortization	2,756,356		288,951		338,775		3,384,082
Depreciation and amortization	 11,311		2,485		1,455		15,251
Total expenses	\$ 2,767,667	\$	291,436	\$	340,230	\$	3,399,333

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION:

INN was organized to help nonprofit news organizations produce and distribute stories with impact; to achieve cost efficiencies by pooling resources and services, and to develop new revenue streams that will help member organizations become sustainable businesses.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP").

Financial Statement Presentation

Net assets, revenues, gains, and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor or grantor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, net assets and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions – Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the Organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of the Organization's management and the board of directors.

Net Assets With Donor Restrictions – Net assets subject to donor (or certain grantor) imposed restrictions. Some donor-imposed restrictions are temporary in nature, such as those that will be met by the passage of time or other events specified by the donor. Other donor-imposed restrictions are perpetual in nature, where the donor stipulates that resources be maintained in perpetuity. Donor-imposed restrictions are released when a restriction expires, that is, when the stipulated time has elapsed, when the stipulated purpose for which the resource was restricted has been fulfilled, or both.

In accordance with GAAP, contributions received are recorded as net assets with or without donor restrictions depending on the existence and/or nature of the transaction. Time-restricted contributions are temporary in nature; therefore, they are reported as net assets with donor restrictions and are then reclassified to be net assets without donor restriction upon expiration of the time restriction. All contributions are considered to be available for use without donor restrictions unless specifically restricted by the donor.

Expenses are reported as decreases in net assets without donor restrictions. Expirations of net assets with donor restrictions (i.e., the donor-stipulated purpose has been fulfilled or the stipulated time period has elapsed) are reported as reclassifications between the applicable classes of net assets.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES: (Continued)

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash equivalents consist of highly liquid investments with an initial maturity of three months or less. Fair value approximates carrying amounts. As of December 31, 2021 INN has no cash equivalents.

Equipment and Furnishings

All acquisitions of equipment and furnishings in excess of \$500 and all expenditures for repairs, maintenance, renewals, and betterments that materially prolong the useful lives of assets are capitalized. Purchased equipment and furnishings are stated at cost. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over their estiamated useful lives.

Expenditures for maintenance and repairs are charged directly to the appropriate operating account at the time the expense is incurred. Expenditures determined to represent additions and betterments are capitalized.

Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives, and are reviewed for impairment. The assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortization. For the year ending December 31, 2021, there was no impairment of intangible assets. The net balance of the intangible asset as of December 31, 2021 is \$55,889.

Contributed Services

No amounts have been reflected in the financial statements for contributed services. INN generally pays for services requiring specific expertise.

Revenue Recognition

INN recognizes revenue from membership dues which are nonrefundable and comprise an exchange element based on the value of benefits provided over the membership period (which is normally one year from date the membership is due). Membership fees related to the exchange element of the transaction that carry member benefits which can be utilized in future periods have been recorded as deferred revenue in the statements of financial position.

Income Taxes

INN is exempt from federal and state income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and therefore has made no provision for federal income taxes in the accompanying financial statements. In addition, the Internal Revenue Service has determined that INN is not a "private foundation" within the meaning of Section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. There was no unrelated business income for the year ended December 31, 2021. At December 31, 2021 the Organization's information returns generally remain open for the three preceding years.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES: (Continued)

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and contingent assets and liabilities (e.g., the fair value of financial instruments, potential impairments to fixed assets and accrued expenses) at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Fiscal Sponsorships

INN effects change not only through the direct impact of its own programs but also by supporting members who have yet to receive their exempt status. One of the ways that INN does this is by becoming a fiscal sponsor to independent projects to further their mission. As a fiscal sponsor, INN receives donations and provides organization infrastructure, legal and tax-exempt status for the projects for a small fee. The funds received for the projects are restricted and held in a separate bank account. In 2021, INN is a fiscal sponsor for twenty six projects.

During 2021, nine of INN's fiscally sponsored organizations received their 501(c)(3) determination from the Internal Revenue Service and subsequently ended their fiscal sponsorship relationship with INN. As a result, INN disbursed remaining held funds to the organizations in accordance with their separation agreements for nine of the organizations. The total funds released to separated fiscally sponsored organizations consist of the following at December 31:

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	 2021
Book Club Chicago	\$ 68
Evanston RoundTable Media NFP	43,890
Grey Matter Media LLC	1,068
Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting, Inc	36,132
Salish Current	20,482
The Land	17,149
The Record Community News Group	1,401
The War Horse	21,350
Underscore Media Collaboration	67,592
Virgina Center for Investigative Journalism	 38,890
Total funds released to separated Fiscally Sponsored Organizations	\$ 248,022

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES: (Continued)

Concentrations of Credit Risk Arising from Cash Deposits in Excess of Insured Limits

In its normal course of business, INN deposits cash with financial institutions which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The balance in these accounts will, at times, exceed the insurance limitation. It is Management's policy to review on an ongoing basis the financial condition of the financial institutions in which funds are deposited. At December 31, 2021, the Company had \$6,030,501 that exceeds amounts covered by insurance. Management believes that there is no significant risk with respect to such deposits.

NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE:

Accounts receivable is due and receivable in less than one year.

NOTE 4 – FIXED ASSETS:

Fixed assets consist of the following at December 31:

	Estimated Useful Lives	2021
Equipment & furnishings	5-7 Years	\$ 24,184
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		 (12,179)
		\$ 12,005

NOTE 5 - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Accounts payable consists of normal operating expenses of INN that occurred prior to December 31, 2021; there were no unusual items accrued.

NOTE 6 - DEFERRED REVENUES:

Income from membership dues is deferred and recognized over the period to which it relates. Deferred revenue from membership dues for the year ended December 31, 2021, are \$79,175.

NOTE 7 - PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM LOAN:

On April 23, 2020, INN received loan proceeds in the amount of \$215,800 under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The PPP, established as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), provides loans (through the U.S. Small Business Administration) to qualifying businesses for amounts up to 2.5 times of the average monthly payroll expenses. Section 1106 of the CARES Act contains provisons for the forgiveness of all or a portion of a PPP loan, subject to certain requirments. The unforgiven portion of the PPP loan is payable over two years at an interest rate of 1%, with a deferral of interest payments for the first six months. INN used the proceeds for purposes consistent with the PPP requirements and this loan was forgiven on May 20, 2021.

NOTE 8 - NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS:

Net assets with donor restrictions are restricted for the following purpose and periods:

	 2021
INN - Purpose and time restriction	
Purpose restriction:	
Amplfy News project	\$ 50,000
Assist with training, DEI and Member Nework Growth	1,142,832
Building stronger nonprofit new businesses	93,951
Chief Develeopment Officer Position	167,385
Collaborative reporting, investigating critical health care issues	15,000
Collaborative reporting, issues and inequalities impacting Rural America	24,000
Columbia Journalism grads intern program	64,180
GNI digital growth program	25,000
Insurance resources for Nonprofit News	57,559
Major gifts coaching program	49,000
NewsMatch Project Manager	 85,358
Total purpose restriction	1,774,265
Cash Reserve	250,000
Time restricted	 350,000
Total INN Purpose and time restriction	2,374,265
Fiscal Sponsorship	 1,451,629
Net assets with donor restrictions	\$ 3,825,894

NOTE 9 - SIMPLE RETIREMENT PLANS:

INN has a Simple IRA retirement plan. The plan is available to all employees in the first calendar year after their hire. They must have earned \$5,000 in that year and be expected to earn at least \$5,000 in the year of eligibility. INN contributes 2% of their salary, no voluntary contributions by the employee are required for participation. For the year ended December 31, 2021, the retirement plan expenses were \$31,981.

NOTE 10 - LEASE COMMITMENTS:

714 W. Olympic Blvd. Suite 929, Los Angeles, CA

On February 5, 2016, the Company entered into an original 7-month lease with Petroleum Holdings, LLC. INN signed a 12-month extension on this lease on August 19, 2019, September 9, 2020 and September 1, 2021. The lease expires on March 31, 2022. The monthly lease is \$501.28.

Rental expense on the leases was \$6,819 for 2021.

NOTE 11 - FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS:

In 2021, INN was a fiscal sponsor for the following projects:

- Breckenridge Texan is a nonprofit community news website dedicated to providing accurate, high-quality, current, local journalism to the residents of Breckenridge, Texas and the surrounding area.
- Cecil Public Media's mission is to actively promote civic engagement through education and development of community media throughout Cecil County, Maryland.
- Documented is an independent and non-partisan news organization dedicated exclusively to covering immigration as it impacts New Yorkers and their neighbors, providing original reporting and consistent, informed coverage.
- Evanston RoundTable Media NFP provides high-quality news to inform the Evanston community. Published since 1998, the paper has earned a solid reputation for high-quality and fair journalism that is free and accessible to all.
- Feet in 2 Worlds is a journalism training organization and news outlet for immigrant voices dedicated to addressing the historic underrepresentation of immigrants and people of color in the news media.
- Georgia News Lab is an award-winning investigative reporting collaborative between the top college journalism programs in Georgia and leading news outlets within the state. The News Lab provides affordable investigative reporting for news organizations, while increasing diversity in professional newsrooms and bringing marginalized voices into the public debate.
- Grey Matter Media is a nonprofit news organization providing creative, innovative, entertaining, and humanizing coverage of issues affecting central Ohioans.
- The Land is a civic news organization that publishes in-depth news about Cleveland's urban communities.
- LocalStandard, a news organization devoted to bringing NYC neighborhoods local news, information, and accountability journalism.
- Migratory Notes is a weekly guide to rapidly changing immigration issues for journalists, policymakers, lawyers, academics, advocates, and immigrants themselves.
- Mineral Wells Area News provides accurate, current high-quality, local journalism to the residents of Mineral Wells, Texas.
- Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting, an investigative journalism outlet covering the criminal justice system, public education funding, prisons, public corruption, political cronyism, generational poverty, health woes, racial disparities, and other issues important to Mississippi citizens.

NOTE 11 - FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS: (Continued)

- The Objective is a collective of reporters covering marginalized communities to make newsrooms more open to people from those communities.
- Open Campus Media, a nonpartisan news organization covering higher education for the public.
- Public Square Amplified is a cooperative newsroom creating a space for local journalists of color to represent their geographic and ethnic communities in Newark, New Jersey, reporting on democracy, social and economic justice, racial equity and the immigrant experience.
- The Record Community News Group is dedicated to producing credible, courageous, community-first journalism on a variety of platforms, including a daily website and weekly newsletters and podcasts. Their goal is to build reliable and sustainable community-news that enables and engages the public.
- Salish Current protects and strengthens democratic governance in Washington State's Whatcom, San Juan and Skagit counties, by reporting local news with independence and strict journalistic integrity.
- Shasta Scout is an independent civic news media organization dedicated to telling the diverse and investigative stories of Shasta County, California.
- Solitary Watch is a watchdog project that investigates, documents, and disseminates information on the widespread use of solitary confinement out of the shadows and into the light of the public square. Their mission is to provide the public as well as practicing attorneys, legal scholars, law enforcement and corrections officers, policymakers, educators, advocates, people in prison and their families with the first centralized source of unfolding news, original reporting, firsthand accounts, and background research on solitary confinement in the United States.
- Tradeoffs is a podcast exploring the confusing, costly, and often counterintuitive health care system. They go beyond the problems, delving into the pros, cons, and consequences of potential solutions.
- True Speech, an independent, nonpartisan organization, provides voters with objective, timely, and comprehensive fact-checks of advertisements and statements from candidates, elected officials and third parties.
- Underscore Media Collaboration specializes in collaborative journalism, partnering with established media organizations to leverage resources across newsrooms and produce tough-to-fund, important stories that really matter.
- Virginia Center for Investigative Journalism, an independent, nonprofit newsroom, drawing on the resources of veteran journalists and advanced university students to cover stories vital to the state.

NOTE 11 - FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS: (Continued)

- Voices of Monterey Bay is a bilingual news organization serving Monterey and Santa Cruz counties (California). It was launched in 2017 by veteran local journalists who believe the region needs a new journalist vision, while providing a central location for people to express themselves or to report news from their neighborhoods.
- VoxPopuli provides well-researched, reliable reporting that makes government more transparent, holds local public servants accountable and covers the communities that legacy media typically overlook.
- The War Horse is an intuitive, database-driven, nonprofit investigative journalism outlet focused on the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the U.S. Armed Forces.

NOTE 12 - LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY:

INN strives to maintain liquid financial assets sufficient to cover 90 days of general expenses. Amounts in excess of operations liquidity needs are invested in various highly liquid saving and money market accounts.

Additionally, INN considers net assets with donor restrictions for use in current programs that are ongoing, major, and central to its annual operations to be available to meet cash needs for general expenditures. The governing Board's designated operating reserves are also available for general expenditures.

The Financial assets that are available for general expenditures within one year of the financial statements of financial position comprise the following:

	2021
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,064,678
Accounts receivable	72,112
	\$ 5,136,790

NOTE 13 - EVALUATION OF SUBSEQUENT EVENTS:

On Subsequent events have been evaluated through July 21, 2022, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.