INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

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Douglas & Bhagat CPA Services, Inc.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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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, 2022, 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, 2022, 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 November 6, 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION <u>DECEMBER 31, 2022</u>

ASSETS

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Cash	\$ 5,769,464
Contributions receivable	286,581
Prepaid expenses	152,457
Total current assets	6,208,502
Restricted deposits: Fiscal Sponsorship	2,328,185
Equipment and furnishing , net of accumulated depreciation of \$9,939	17,608
Other assets:	
Intangible assets, net	35,889
Total other assets	35,889
Total assets	\$ 8,590,184
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
EMBIETTES AND NET ASSETS	
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$ 159,863
Accounts payable - Fiscal Sponsorship	42,033
Deferred revenue	90,550
Total current liabilities	292,446
Net assets:	
Without donor restrictions	
Undesignated	1,990,471
Board-designated operating reserve	1,029,000
Total without donor restrictions	3,019,471
With donor restrictions	5,278,267
	5,278,267
Total net assets	8,297,738
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 8,590,184

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

CHANGES IN ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS: Grants and contributions Membership dues and program service fees Investment return Loss on equipment scrapped	\$ 1,077,615 182,505 37,823 (2,034)
Other income Total public support, revenue and reclassifications without donor restrictions	 429,882 1,725,791
Net assets released from restrictions - satisfaction of program restriction Total public support, revenue and reclassifications	5,023,872 6,749,663
Program expenses	3,221,972
Supporting services	
Management and general	409,861
Fund-raising	314,036
Total supporting services	723,897
Total expenses before Fiscal Sponsorship expenses	3,945,869
Fiscal Sponsorship Expenses	 2,496,768
Total expenses	 6,442,637
Increase (decrease) in net assets without donor restrictions	 307,026
CHANGES IN ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS:	
Grants and contributions	3,070,333
Fiscal sponsorship grants and contributions	3,405,912
Funds released to separated Fiscally Sponsored Organizations	(122,786)
Net assets released from restrictions	(2,527,104)
Net assets released from restrictions - Fiscal Sponsorship	(2,373,982)
Increase (decrease) in net assets with donor restrictions	1,452,373
Increase (decrease) in total net assets	1,759,399
Net assets - beginning of year	6,538,339
Net assets - end of year	\$ 8,297,738

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	:
--------------------------------------	---

Change in net assets	\$ 1,759,399
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to	
net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:	
Realized (gains) or losses on property and equipment	2,034
Depreciation and amortization	25,401
Change in operating assets and liabilities	-, -
(Increase) decrease in contributions receivable	(214,469)
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses	(61,980)
(Increase) decrease in deposits	1,461
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(33,378)
Increase (decrease) in deferred income	11,375
	1 400 042
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	1,489,843
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Decrease in deposits restricted for fiscal programs	(772,019)
Purchase of fixed assets and intangible assets	(13,038)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(785,057)
Total increase/(decrease) in cash	704,786
Cash at beginning of year	5,064,678
Cash at end of year	\$ 5,769,464
Supplemental information: Income taxes paid	\$ 0
Interest paid	\$ 0

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

		Supporting Services		Total Expenses			
	Program	Ma	nagement				
	 Services	&	General	Fu	ındraising		2022
Salaries and related expenses	\$ 1,827,921	\$	199,672	\$	204,765	\$	2,232,358
Support to Members	317,578		0		0		317,578
Professional fees	595,363		75,155		64,092		734,610
Printing and postage	1,891		607		1,417		3,915
Travel and conference	38,537		14,251		7,604		60,392
Dues, licenses & education	21,820		3,227		7,139		32,186
Telephone	5,270		3,200		960		9,430
Rent	0		1,591		0		1,591
Insurance	0		11,235		0		11,235
Banking/Merchant Fees	8,822		1,116		906		10,844
Office expense	1,251		4,479		20		5,750
Employee benefits and payroll expenses	179,058		17,343		19,744		216,145
Technology expenses	45,857		34,714		3,175		83,746
Marketing	8,952		4,947		0		13,899
Conferences and meetings	148,286		29,304		1,518		179,108
Meals and entertainment	2,076		5,022		583		7,681
Total expenses before							
depreciation & amortization	3,202,682		405,863		311,923		3,920,468
Depreciation and amortization	19,290		3,998		2,113		25,401
Total expenses	\$ 3,221,972	\$	409,861	\$	314,036	\$	3,945,869

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS <u>DECEMBER 31, 2022</u>

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.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS <u>DECEMBER 31, 2022</u>

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, 2022 INN has no cash equivalents.

Equipment and Furnishings

All acquisitions of equipment and furnishings in excess of \$250 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 estimated 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, 2022, there was no impairment of intangible assets. The net balance of the intangible asset as of December 31, 2022 is \$35,889.

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, 2022. At December 31, 2022 the Organization's information returns generally remain open for the three preceding years.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<u>DECEMBER 31, 2022</u>

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 2022, INN is a fiscal sponsor for twenty-seven projects.

During 2022, six 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 the 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:

	2022
Documented	\$ 15,737
Georgia News Lab	93,363
The Record of North Shore	3,091
The Marjorie	4,963
Indian Country Today	5,080
Prior separated organizations	552
Total funds released to separated Fiscally Sponsored Organizations	\$ 122,786

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, 2022, 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.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<u>DECEMBER 31, 2022</u>

NOTE 3 - CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE:

Contributions receivable includes unconditional promises to give. Contributions receivable consisted of the following as of December 31, 2022:

	2022
Amounts due in	
Less than one year	\$ 279,081
One to five years	7,500
Contributions receivable	\$ 286,581

NOTE 4 – FIXED ASSETS:

Fixed assets consist of the following at December 31:

	Estimated Useful Lives		2022
Equipment & furnishings	5-7 Years	_	\$ 27,547
Less: Accumulated Depreciation			(9,939)
			\$ 17,608

NOTE 5 - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Accounts payable consists of normal operating expenses of INN that occurred prior to December 31, 2022; 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, 2022, are \$90,550.

NOTE 7 - 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, 2022, the retirement plan expenses were \$32,171.

NOTE 8 - NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS:

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

	2	.022
INN - Purpose and time restriction		
Purpose restriction:		
Amplify News project	\$	50,000
Assist with training, DEI and Member Network Growth	1,0	621,266

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS <u>DECEMBER 31, 2022</u>

NOTE 8 - NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS: (Continued)

Chief Development Officer Position	10,783
Chicago translation project	30,000
Collaborative reporting, investigating critical health care issues	15,000
COOP grads from digital marketing track for full-time 6-month positions	39,000
Columbia Journalism grads intern program	189,336
GNI North America Sponsorship Labs	15,000
Insurance resources for Nonprofit News	10,300
Major gifts coaching program	58,095
NewsMatch	10,000
Rural News Network support	100,000
To support INN Infrastructure projects	218,714
Total purpose restriction	2,367,494
Cash Reserve	250,000
Time restricted	300,000
Total INN Purpose and time restriction	2,917,494
Fiscal Sponsorship	2,360,773
Net assets with donor restrictions	\$ 5,278,267

NOTE 9 - 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 expired on March 31, 2022. The monthly lease was \$501.28.

Rental expense on the leases was \$1,591 for 2022.

NOTE 10 - FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS:

In 2022, 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.
- Brookline. News is a hyperlocal newsroom in Massachusetts reporting on the community's government, schools, housing, and other major topics important to Brookline, Mass.
- Cecil Public Media's mission is to actively promote civic engagement through education and development of community media throughout Cecil County, Maryland.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS <u>DECEMBER 31, 2022</u>

NOTE 10 - FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS: (Continued)

- The Dial is a digital magazine devoted to international English-language reporting on the trends toward authoritarianism around the world. Topics covered will include populism, income inequality and institutional decay.
- 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.
- 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 was an award-winning investigative reporting collaboration between the top college journalism programs in Georgia and leading news outlets within the state. The News Lab closed in June 2022.
- Gigafact Foundation writes and distributes "fact briefs" via social media, responding to online claims with timely and trusted information.
- Indian Country Today is a multimedia news platform to reach indigenous populations that receive little to no journalistic coverage. Striving for broadcast excellence through compelling storytelling ITC disseminates news through accessible, free digital and broadcast channels.
- The Kansas City Defender's mission is to cover Black issues, news and voices in the Kansas City region including students covering the community
- LocalStandard, a news organization devoted to bringing NYC neighborhoods local news, information, and accountability journalism.
- Through the publication of Los Angeles Public Press, the Foundation for Los Angeles Journalism's aim is to democratize the news in Los Angeles County to resonate with all Angelenos. Coverage topics include homelessness and housing, environment and pollution, public safety and justice.
- The Marjorie is a woman-founded, women-led newsroom that promotes a greater understanding of issues related to women and the environment in Florida through storytelling and community building.
- 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.
- The Objective is a collective of reporters covering marginalized communities to make newsrooms more open to people from those communities.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS <u>DECEMBER 31, 2022</u>

NOTE 10 - FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS: (Continued)

- 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.
- Riverside Record is a hyperlocal newsroom covering California's Riverside County.
- 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.
- Truth Has a Voice Foundation's Ark Valley Voice is a digital newsroom in central Colorado and covers local and state news around government, housing, education, economic development, the environment.
- 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.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS <u>DECEMBER 31, 2022</u>

NOTE 11 - 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:

2022

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,769,464
Accounts receivable	286,581
	\$ 6,056,045

NOTE 12 - EVALUATION OF SUBSEQUENT EVENTS:

On Subsequent events have been evaluated through November 6, 2023, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.