

SOPHIA CHANG

bysophiachangnyc@gmail.com

Storyteller, researcher, and communicator with 20+ years of journalism experience bringing complex issues and problems to life. Highly skilled at research and data analysis, interviewing, and strategic communications across multiple platforms, with a personal mission to create powerful narratives that inspire change. Issue expertise spans public health, climate change, sanitation and waste policy, education, and social justice. Career highlights include Pulitzer Prize finalist recognition for coverage of dangerous public transit structures, and impact through exclusive news coverage leading to historic \$75 million city investment in wastewater infrastructure for a neglected neighborhood. Seeking to bring my narrative and communications skills to catalyze solutions to global systemic issues.

Experience

New York, NY
2019-2024

New York Public Radio (America's largest public radio nonprofit station) **Reporter, WNYC and Gothamist**

- Created audio and written coverage of breaking news, public policy, and local issues. Duties included drafting, editing, voicing, and producing diverse styles of radio and written news content that is accessible and compelling for the broader New York and national audience.
- Conducted in-depth research on diverse issues under tight deadlines by finding and analyzing information and interviewing stakeholders for written and audio coverage on multiple content management systems and social media platforms.
- Pitched, generated, and managed multiple story ideas by leveraging issue expertise and connectivity, resulting in two written stories and four radio items each week.
- Helmed the company's Saturday news coverage through reporting and editing stories, enforcing AP style standards, curating photos for web publication, and writing social media content.

Recent examples of issue expertise and coverage:

- Public health and education: Led digital coverage of the New York City school system's response to the pandemic with detailed reporting on policy changes, student and educator mental health, delivery of social services and food security, and Asian and Asian-American student reaction to a rise in bias crimes. Research included analyzing city budgets, meeting testimonies, and contracts. Field interviews included cultivating sources among educator, student, and city official groups to develop a full picture of evolving crises and solutions.
- Environmental justice: For a series about substandard living conditions in a neglected neighborhood that still relies on septic tanks, conducted field interviews with affected residents and analyzed and synthesized the response from multiple city agencies. My audio and written coverage compelled New York City officials to commit to a historic \$75 million investment in the area's infrastructure and wastewater system.
- Renewable energy project: For a series about New York City's efforts to convert organic waste into residential heating gas, researched and analyzed meeting documents and budgets, and interviewed city and National Grid officials and environmental advocates. Broke news of the progress and setbacks of this ambitious renewable energy project, which aimed to be a model for cities across the United States tackling emissions and climate change.

Long Island, NY
2006-2019

Newsday (Top 10 newspaper and media company)

Reporter

- Researched and reported on numerous issues including government accountability, climate change, and criminal justice on print and digital platforms. Pitched, produced, and managed multiple story ideas based on issue expertise, sourcing, and investigative analytical reportage. Developed productive relationships with stakeholders and worked in teams with peers and supervisors for impactful coverage.
- Launched the company's updated digital breaking news desk as lead morning reporter, helming Newsday's competitive and comprehensive coverage of top news stories for daily digital and print platforms.
- Collected data in field reporting as part of a team covering the Long Island Rail Road's neglect of platform safety problems, resulting in crucial reforms and leading to finalist nod for the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service.

Queens, NY
2004-2005

TimesLedger Newspapers (Award-winning community newspaper)

Reporter

- Researched and reported breaking news, social issues, and community updates in Queens with an average of four written stories a week.
- Built connections with residents, community leaders, and stakeholders to cover social, political, and business stories in one of the world's most diverse counties.
- Helped produce, edit, and fact check the final print product each week.

Education

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Master's of Science, Journalism

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Bachelor of Arts, English with High Honors

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology with High Honors

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

AED/Ford Foundation Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Studied English literature and European migration during semester abroad