

**CENTRO DE
PERIODISMO
INVESTIGATIVO**

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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Photo by Nahira Montcourt

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OUR MISSION

Be an instrument to produce, promote and defend investigative journalism and the public's right to access information.

OUR VISION

Enable a well-informed public with the ability to hold those in power accountable.

The CPI provides essential coverage of issues that have the deepest impact on our communities in Puerto Rico and across the diaspora.

We have done this while continuing to invest in our team, even as we contend with the extraordinary challenges of the pandemic.

Our ongoing coverage of government officials and agencies continues to provide a critical spotlight on accountability.

Our work to unlock government data for our reporting is often the last line of defense for the public's right to access information.

We have been building a broad coalition of readers, funders, stakeholders, and supporters to ensure our economic security in the future.

LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

“¡2020, be gone!”

I suspect there will be bombas and plenas evoking the nerve-wrecking moments of 2020 in Puerto Rico. For the CPI, it was nearly 12 months of uncertainty, lots of anxiety, adjusting plans and expectations, changing strategies and paying close attention to the emotional state of both our team and the population.

We started the year covering the effects of the numerous earthquakes and aftershocks that occurred on the south end of the island. From there, we jumped into a state of emergency prompted by COVID-19 while still in the midst of “recovery” from Hurricane María. Then we delved into in-depth coverage of the 2020 election in Puerto Rico. What seemed like a relay race left us almost breathless.

We wanted to do more, but it was a challenging year for everyone. We had to deal with both personal and family logistics as well as changes in routine while managing work remotely, which turned out to be very productive in some cases and more complicated in others. We have definitely learned a lot. But we were also exhausted by New Year's Eve.

Amidst unprecedented and multiple crises, our team kept a cool head and mustered the energy to execute the best investigative journalism we've produced time and again. The CPI also grew stronger at the institutional level, beginning the year with a new home and ending it with new hires and new benefits for our employees, including health insurance -- a goal we had for a long time.

Thankfully, the year is over. That gives us the impetus to begin a new year with renewed energy.

This annual report summarizes the work that we did in 2020 and the impact it had. I am incredibly proud of all that our team managed to accomplish. The yearly recap of the CPI's editorial and legal work serves as a reminder of many of the social problems Puerto Rico must still contend with.

There are many books that lay out the fundamental role of investigative journalism: the quest for social change.

The reference book for investigative journalists edited by Mark Lee Hunter and published by UNESCO establishes that investigative journalism “uses objectively truthful material (facts with which any reasonable observer can agree) to achieve the subjective objective of changing the world. It is not a license to lie for a Good cause: it is the responsibility of finding the truth so the world can change.”

This is the path we have chosen as members of the CPI team and we are committed to it.

Hoping we can meet soon,

Carla Minet

Executive Director

Center for Investigative Journalism

WHO WE ARE

TEAM



Carla Minet
Executive Director and Editor

She has been a journalist for independent publications and has served as a researcher and producer for radio, television and websites like WIPR, Radio Universidad, El Nuevo Día, Primera Hora, Univisión and NotiCel. For six years, she was the executive director of the Prensa Comunitaria. She obtained her bachelor's degree from the School of Public Communication at the University of Puerto Rico, and her master's degree in journalism is a joint degree between the University of Barcelona and Columbia University, in New York. She is a member of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) and board member of the News Leaders Association (NLA).



Rígel Lugo
Development Director

After obtaining her bachelor's degree in Sociology from the

University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, she completed advanced course-work at the Oñati International Institute for Sociology of Law, in the Basque Country, Spain and continued to doctoral studies in the Complutense University of Madrid. Before joining the CPI in 2017, she was Deputy Secretary of Planning and Information Technology at the Department of the Family and worked as professor of Sociology at the University of Puerto Rico. From 2012 to 2020 she was editorial coordinator and board member at Revista 80grados and is currently Vice-President of Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico's Board of Directors. She also has had broad experience in events production, graphic design, and as an editor.



Omayra Sosa Pascual
Co-founder, journalist, and coordinator of the Institute of Journalism Training

Investigative journalist and entrepreneur with 25 years of experience currently working as a free agent. She has done work for radio, television and websites and was a staffer for El Nuevo

Día newspaper for more than a decade. Her work has been published in various local and international news outlets and has been honored by journalistic organizations in Puerto Rico and abroad. She was president of the Overseas Press Club.



Oscar J. Serrano
Co-founder and coordinator of the Transparency Program

Journalist and lawyer with 25 years of experience at newspapers, radio, television and internet sites. He has served as a reporter, editor, director, and president of the Puerto Rico Journalists Association (ASPPRO). He was a member of the founding teams of El Nuevo Día Interactivo (Endi.com), the Primera Hora newspaper, the Red 96 FM news station, the Center for Investigative Journalism and NotiCel.com. He has taught courses on Media Law and Ethics at the University of the Sacred Heart and on Freedom of Information at the Faculty of Law at Inter-American University. He has also been a lecturer on these topics in Continuing Legal Education programs for lawyers.



Damaris Suárez

Journalist with more than 20 years of experience specializing in government, economic and political news. She has worked for leading radio news networks, The Associated Press, the digital newspaper NotiCel and other specialized publications in the Caribbean. Her work has been recognized by the Puerto Rico Journalists Association (ASPPRO), the Overseas Press Club (OPC), the Puerto Rico State Department, and the University of the Sacred Heart, among others. She recently received the Malén Rojas award for excellence in Investigative Journalism from the OPC. She is part of the team of investigative journalists at the CPI and moderates the radio program "Damaris Suárez Now" on Radiola 1320 news network. She has served as President of the Puerto Rico Journalists Association (ASPPRO) since 2017.



Eliván Martínez Mercado

Investigative journalist specializing in energy, environment, agriculture, and tax privileges. He studied foreign languages at the University

TEAM

of Puerto Rico. He earned a master's degree at the UAM / El País School of Journalism, in Madrid. He began his journalism career in 2001 at el Nuevo Herald in Miami and later joined the Sunday magazine of El Nuevo Día. He has worked with the CPI since 2012. He has collaborated with international publications such as The New York Times and the Miami Herald. In 2019, he was chosen as an energy journalism fellow at the University of Texas at Austin. He has participated in workshops of the Fundación Nuevo Periodismo Iberoamericano and the Investigative Reporters and Editors organization. His series and chronicles have earned him awards from the Puerto Rico Journalists Association and the Overseas Press Club.



Laura Moscoso

Journalist with a bachelor's degree in creative writing from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras campus and a master's degree in journalism from the Rey Juan Carlos University in Madrid. She is a member of the founding group of the 80grados magazine. She has worked at Prensa Comunitaria, El Nuevo Día, WIPR, and collaborates with independent publishing projects. She has been working at the CPI since 2015 and has collaborated with the feminist publication Todas since 2020. In

2018, her essay, "Morena, monta mi guagua" was published in the book, "Santurce y 8 crónicas de viaje," a project sponsored by the Museum of Contemporary Art of Puerto Rico. She also offers workshops on data journalism and visualization tools for journalists and students of the trade. She lives and works in Santurce, Puerto Rico.



Joel Cintrón Arbasetti

Investigative journalist focused on issues of culture, politics, debt economics, fiscal crisis, migration, urban developments and the prison system. He began his career at the independent magazine Noctámbulo, then joined the newspaper Diálogo, and later worked as an editor for the online magazine 80grados and the Post-Data blog. He is also a book author. In 2019, he obtained the Visiting Professional Specialist Fellowship in Latin American Studies at Princeton University and the following year received the El Serrucho de Beta-Local scholarship to complete a book on sound experimentation in Puerto Rico. His work has been recognized by the Association of Puerto Rico Journalists (ASPPRO), the Casa de Puerto Rico in Spain, and the International Translation Cabinet of Madrid, among others. In 2014, he won the Overseas Press Club National Investigative Reporting Award for the series "Walmart Uncovered."

TEAM



Luis J. Valentín

Studied economics at Pennsylvania State University and law at the University of Puerto Rico. He began his journalism career at the Caribbean Business weekly publication in 2010. Six years later, he was honored by the Puerto Rico Journalists Association with the Laura Rivera Meléndez Award for his coverage of the island's fiscal crisis. In 2018, he began working for the CPI, where he continues his coverage of the fiscal management of Puerto Rico, in addition to business and corruption issues. His work has been honored with awards by ASPPRO and the Overseas Press Club, including the Teodoro Moscoso Award for Excellence in Business and Finance Journalism in 2018 and the Malén Rojas Daporta Award for Excellence in Investigative Journalism in 2019.



José Encarnación

Born in Luquillo, PR. He graduated from the School of Communication at the Río

Piedras Campus of the University of Puerto Rico, where he also completed a Master's of History in the Humanities Department. He began his journalism career at the university newspaper Diálogo. He has written for Noticel and was a staff member for the Metro newspaper. He has a special interest in sports, education and society stories. He is a corps member of the Report For America program and a doctoral student at the UPR School of Education, as part of the Curriculum and Teaching program in History and Social Studies.



Vanessa Colón Almenas

Journalist with more than 25 years of experience. She completed a BA in Communications at the University of Puerto Rico and an MA in Journalism at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York. She has held multiple posts at the newspaper Primera Hora, including reporter, deputy director of the entertainment section and multimedia editor. She also served as digital deputy director of the two largest news sites in Puerto Rico: elnuevodia.com and primerahora.com. Her work has been featured in CNN en Español, City Limits, Latino

Rebels, Hunts Point Express and Mott Haven Herald. She has participated in workshops of the Fundación para un Nuevo Periodismo Iberoamericano, WAN-IFRA y GDA, among others.



Víctor L. Rodríguez

He directed the newspaper Diálogo at the University of Puerto Rico from 2016-2018. Before that, he was an editor and reporter of the economics and business beats at the Metro Puerto Rico newspaper. He holds a Master's Degree in Communication Theory and Research from the University of Puerto Rico. He also obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Information and Journalism and minored in Foreign Languages with an emphasis on French and Italian.



Rafael Díaz Torres

He has been with the CPI since June 2019. He also is a professor in the Department of Geography at the Río Piedras Campus of the University of Puerto Rico. Previously, he

taught undergraduate courses at UPR in Humacao, Atlantic University College and Penn State University. He has a Ph.D. in History of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. His doctoral research focused on the coverage and media representation of the Puerto Rico women's national basketball team. As a journalist, he worked for The Puerto Rico Daily Sun and NotiCel.com. He is currently a staff member for Todas, a feminist digital site, and he served as editor of the academic journal Caribbean Studies at the UPR.



Jeniffer Wiscovitch

Journalist with more than 10 years of experience, covering health and environment issues. She began her career in the western part of Puerto Rico, where she was born, after having studied journalism at the University of the Sacred Heart. She has developed an expertise in health issues, working with distinguished health content providers such as the Journal of Medicine and Public Health. Her journalistic work and her impact on the community has been recognized by community organizations, including the Lions Club and the Union of Women of the Americas. She has collaborated with the CPI since October 2017.

TEAM



Tatiana Díaz

Journalist from Aguadilla with a decade of experience. She graduated from the University of Sagrado Corazón. Her work experience began in the civic sector with organizations such as Prensa Comunitaria and Scuba Dogs Society. She worked as an editor for the digital newspaper NotiCel and currently does research on education for the Center for Investigative Journalism.



Angélica Serrano

She is pursuing a Master's degree in Business Journalism and Economics at New York University. She has a BA in Journalism with a minor in Marketing from the University of Sagrado Corazón. Her work has been published in various media outlets, including the CPI, El Nuevo Día, Caribbean Business, Metro Puerto Rico and CT Latino News. She was the first Puerto Rican to be awarded a scholarship by the Facebook Journalism Project in 2019 and won the ProPublica Diversity Scholarship in 2020. She also served as student representative

on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and has been working for the CPI since 2019.



Cristina del Mar Quiles

Journalist and educator, born and raised in Caguas, Puerto Rico. She has worked in print, radio, multimedia and independently as a reporter, editor, and producer for the past 12 years. She has been researching and writing about recovery issues for the Center for Investigative Journalism since 2018 and is the co-founder of the Puerto Rican feminist journalism outlet Todas, todaspr.com, where she is also a reporter and editor.



Laura Candelas

Journalist with four decades of experience. She was the director of The Associated Press in San Juan, Puerto Rico and she also directed Radio Universidad de Puerto Rico and has worked in different newspapers and magazines. She was CPI's Executive Director between 2010 and 2015 and is still a collaborator.



Photo by Gabriel López Albarrán

WHAT WE DO

The Center for Investigative Journalism (CPI) was founded in 2007 with the objective of fostering access to information for the people of Puerto Rico on three different levels: investigative journalism, litigation, and training.

Established as an independent, nonprofit entity by its founders — renowned journalists Omayra Sosa Pascual and Oscar J. Serrano — the CPI does not accept funds from commercial or political interests but rather operates with donations from institutions and citizens who share its vision of civic empowerment and respect its integrity.

We publish new investigative pieces every week on our website and disseminate the content via social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram); on other platforms with more than 10 established media partners; and at a variety of workshops and forums our team members participate in.

The Center was born inspired by a tradition of nonprofit journalism organizations such as the Center for Investigative Reporting (United States, 1977), the Center for Public Integrity (United States, 1989), Investigative Reporters and Editors (United States, 1975), Centro de Investigación e Información Periodística (Chile, 2007), Fundación Poder Ciudadano (Argentina, 1989), and the Phillipine Centre for Investigative Journalism (Philippines, 1989).



Over 125 thousand followers on social media

Since operations began in 2008, the CPI has published more than 350 in-depth articles uncovering issues detailing corruption among politicians; favoritism within government agencies; campaign financing; problems within the public health, economy, environment, education, agriculture and justice sectors; as well as questionable benefits gained by private groups managing government entities.



CPI's Board of Directors: Patricia Gutiérrez, Oscar Serrano, Janice Petrovich, Carlos Ramos González (secretary), Carlos Rodríguez Vidal (president), Luis Guardiola (vicepresident), Judith Berkan (treasurer), Efrén Rivera, Daisy Sánchez and Omayra Sosa Pascual. Photo by Cristina Martínez.

Keynotes, conferences and more than 25 training workshops offered

In 2015, the CPI formally developed a Training Institute that offers workshops on investigative journalism and access to information. Annually, we host a three-day conference with specialized investigative training resources, which is free of charge and open to the journalists who are members of our Training Institute from other media outlets in Puerto Rico and The Caribbean, and our staff.

Among featured speakers who have participated in our coaching sessions are internationally renowned journalists such as John Lee Anderson, Javier Darío Restrepo, Marcela Turati, Oscar Martínez, Michael Barstow, Alejandra Xanic, María Ressa, Carlos Burgueño, Giannina Segnini, Eduardo Bertoni, Hugo Alconada, Marina Walker, and Chequeado Argentina.

As part of our Transparency and Litigation Program, we also train and help citizens or entities with Freedom of Information requests to government agencies such as the Department of Justice, the Department of Education, the State Elections Commission, and the Office of the Comptroller or the Department of Health, among many others. This program is possible with the support and legal representation provided by our partner, the Law Clinic at the Law Faculty of the Interamerican University. Since CPI inception, the organization was conceived as an access to public information hub in the island and during the past years, more than 20 cases have been filed with successful results.

Multiple honors to our work

Over the past decade, the CPI has been honored with multiple awards for its work. Most recently, we were honored with the Louis M. Lyons Award by the Nieman Foundation at Harvard University for Conscience and Integrity in Journalism. Judges cited the CPI's "relentless drive in investigating the most pressing issues on the island, including the government's mismanagement of public funds; the death count after Hurricane María; the ongoing debt crisis; and the secret communications among the island's top political leadership through an encrypted messaging app, which when revealed by the CPI.

In 2010, founders Oscar Serrano and Omayra Sosa Pascual received the Malén Rojas Daporte Award for Investigative Journalism from the Overseas Press Club, in one of many recognitions we have received from the OPC, including another one on that same category awarded to Eliván Martínez in 2013 for his investigation on municipal taxes.

Every year our team receives awards from both the OPC and Puerto Rico Journalists Association. In 2015 our reporters received four local awards in different categories. In 2016 our series on coal ashes and health impact on Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, by Omar Alfonso, received an award in the investigative journalism category and was republished in more than 10 local and foreign media vehicles.

The investigation, Los muertos del Huracán María, received the Philip Meyer Journalism Award by the Investigative Reporters and Editors in 2018. That same year we received six awards from the OPC and the Puerto Rico Journalists Association. In 2019 we received the James Aronson Award for Media in the Public Interest for providing in-depth information and analysis vital to the people of Puerto Rico and in the US.

During our journey thus far, the CPI has demonstrated the critical need for fact-based accountability reporting focused on the fundamental objective of defending citizens' right to information.

We are proud of our achievements and look forward to carving out new paths and setting new goals in the years to come as we renew our commitment to our mission.

2020

CPI is awarded the Louis M. Lyons Award by the Nieman Foundation

2019

James Aronson Award for Media in the Public Interest

2018

Philip Meyer Journalism Award by the Investigative Reporters and Editors

2013

Forbes Magazine recognized the CPI as a key force for economic restructuring and the previous year we received an Honorable Mention in the Solidarity Award category from the Miranda Foundation

THE JOURNALISM

The CPI has been a key player in the production, promotion and defense of investigative journalism and the public's right to access information not just in Puerto Rico, but across the Americas.

Our work has contributed to efforts to hold those in power accountable. We have unveiled the real death tolls due to natural disasters and a global pandemic; published reports that have resulted in the ousting of political figures because of corruption, mismanagement, and abuse of power. Following the devastation from Hurricane María in 2017, we joined forces with media partners in the U.S. mainland to document all that went wrong with both the Puerto Rican and U.S. government **response** to the tragedy. Two years later, we partnered with journalists in the Dominican Republic and Haiti to document the effects of climate change on freshwater supplies in the Caribbean. And in the midst of the coronavirus outbreak this past

summer, we formed an alliance with investigative journalists in the Dominican Republic, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Cuba for an in-depth look at how dilapidated infrastructure and the digital gap impacts **education**. It has been a tough few years, but we are committed to keep digging, stay focused and push hard to provide essential coverage of the issues that have the most profound impact on our communities, in Puerto Rico, and across the diaspora. The work we do is crucial, particularly at a time when it is increasingly difficult and yet more important than ever to help protect citizens' rights and our democratic aspirations.



COVID-19

A significant increase in the number of deaths during the height of the first wave of the pandemic fell under the government radar. The CPI took a hard look at mortality rates and consulted experts to determine if some of those deaths were somehow linked to the novel coronavirus and what lessons could be learned as the island continues to battle the pandemic:

[The Excess of Hundreds of Deaths in Puerto Rico has not been Investigated by the Government](#)

[Rise of COVID-19 in Minors and Risk Indicators must be Evaluated to Reopen Schools](#)

[The Government Left the Plan to Protect the Homeless from COVID-19 to Nothing](#)



RECOVERY

Only four of the 10 most costly and essential infrastructure projects — including those related to water supply, power service, education, and recreation — have been allocated funding by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as part of rebuilding efforts in the aftermath of the 2017 Hurricane María. That means it will take years for

a multitude of other recovery efforts to get off the ground. The CPI provides a detailed breakdown on finance:

[Puerto Rico's Main Recovery Projects Yet to Get Off the Ground Three Years After Hurricane Maria](#)



ELECTIONS

Some voters could have voted more than once. Others had not submitted a request to vote early from home but were on the voting list anyway. These were among the multiple irregularities tied to home voting procedures in the 2020 electoral process unveiled by the CPI:

[Lack of Controls to Guarantee and Protect Voting from Home in the 2020 Elections](#)

[Electronic Vote Count in Puerto Rico was Overpriced, but Mostly Failed Across-the-Board on Election Day](#)

[Early Voting 2020 in Puerto Rico: A Disaster that Threatens Democracy](#)



ECONOMICS

In a place where the fishing industry has long been among the most vital contributors to the economy, fishermen had yet

to receive any funding to help with recovery efforts three years after Hurricane María devastated their island and livelihood. The CPI uncovered how bureaucracy and negligence affected the disbursement of funds:

[Fishermen in Puerto Rico Approach Third Year Without Receiving Funds for Losses After Hurricane María](#)



EDUCATION

These schools were forced to close due to structural damage from Hurricane María's fierce winds and storm surge in 2017. Then came the rumbles from earthquakes in early 2020. Now, COVID-19 is keeping students out of traditional classrooms. As a new administration settles in, the Department of Education has no plan to address the most urgent needs for the hundreds of schools and the students left in limbo. The CPI investigates:

[Another Year, Another School: The Trauma and Lag Overlooked by the Department of Education](#)

[Grandparents Raising Their Grandkids are Now Also Their Teachers](#)



PIERLUISI'S TEAM AND THE PEOPLE BEHIND THEM

ELECTIONS

CPI WILL ASK THE QUESTIONS AT THE GUBERNATORIAL DEBATE: INFRASTRUCTURE 2030



MILLIONS OF DOLLARS SPENT IN HEALTH WILL GO TO ROSSELLÓ NEVARES' STRATEGISTS



COVID-19: THE EXCESS OF HUNDREDS OF DEATHS IN PUERTO RICO HAS NOT BEEN INVESTIGATED BY THE GOVERNMENT

HEALTH DEPARTMENT PAID OVER PRICE FOR MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO A CONTACT REFERRED BY THE NATIONAL GUARD



EDUCATION

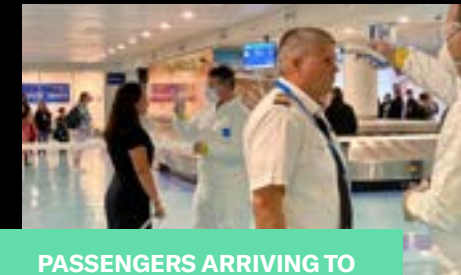
BUYING OF CLOSED SCHOOLS ACCELERATED IN 2019 AND IT WAS A GOOD DEAL FOR SOME INVESTORS



POST-EARTHQUAKE PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTIONS A HIT-OR-MISS PROCESS



PASSENGERS ARRIVING TO PUERTO RICO FROM THE AREAS WITH HIGHEST RATES OF CORONAVIRUS



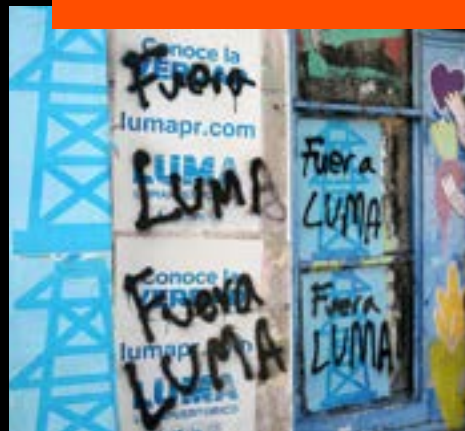
PUERTO RICO HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S COVID-19 MATH IS WRONG



THE FALSEHOOD OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EPIDEMIOLOGIST IN CHARGE OF THE RESPONSE TO COVID

SELLING DREAMS TO PUERTO RICO'S YOUNG BALLPLAYERS

WILL LUMA KEEP ITS PRICE?



ECONOMY

PUERTO RICO FACES A NEW CRISIS WITHOUT INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE



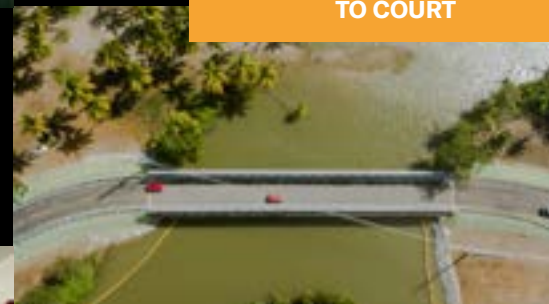
REVERSE MORTGAGES IN PUERTO RICO FAIL TWICE AS MUCH AS IN THE US



ONGOING TRAUMA: THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN PUERTO RICO'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REFUSES TO PUBLISH INFORMATION ON BRIDGES, CPI TAKES THEM TO COURT



RECOVERY

COR3 DIRECTOR'S SISTER LEADS COMPANY WITH MILLIONS IN CONTRACTS FOR RECOVERY



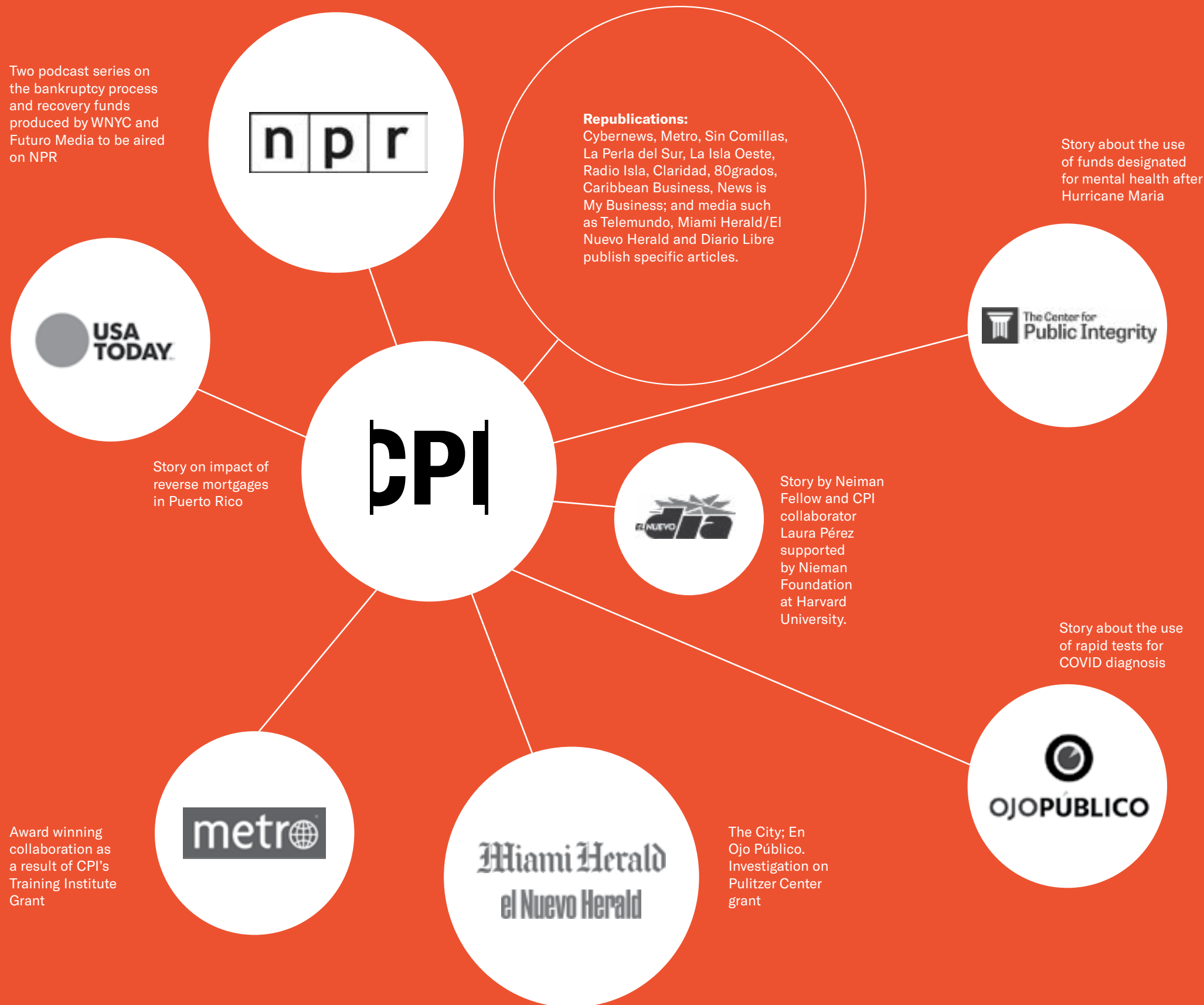
THE USE OF ONLY 2% OF CDBG-DR AVAILABLE FUNDS SHOWS PUERTO RICO GOVERNMENT'S SLOW SPENDING

HUD'S EX-SECRETARY WORKS IN COMPANY HIRED FOR RECOVERY EFFORTS



A PERSONALIZED FEMA ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DOES NOT DELIVER AS PROMISED

COLLABORATIONS



PARTNERS

- Print and Digital**
 Metro PR
 La Perla del Sur
 Claridad
 Caribbean Business
 El Nuevo Herald (USA)
- Digital Native**
 Noticel
 Sin Comillas
 La Isla Oeste
 Cybernews
 News Is My Business
 Latino Rebels/Latino USA
- Radio Air & Online**
 Radio Raíces
 Radio Isla
 WPAB



Photo by Juan Costa

TRANSPARENCY AND LITIGATION

Our Transparency Program advances our mission of providing access to information and transparency in order to have more knowledgeable citizens that are capable of holding the powerful accountable.

The Program offers workshops on the topics of transparency and access to information for the benefit of journalists and the general public.

The transparency team works towards the advancement of our mission on access to information with the support of the Legal Clinic of the Inter-American University School of Law including litigation when necessary.

The CPI continues to successfully pursue litigation

to secure access to public information.

CPI joined forces with the Legal Clinic, which obtained a multiannual grant from the Legal Clinic Fund to increase the number of access to information cases they can take in from CPI and tackle additional cases of public interest from other independent media outlets and citizens. We have been working collaboratively to identify high public interest cases.

CASES IN 2020

Requested a list of bridges that remain vulnerable, were destroyed, and have since reopened following Hurricane María from the Highways and Transportation Authority (ACT).

The CPI and the Puerto Rico Journalists Association sought a court order for Gov. Wanda Vázquez Garced and two of her officials to release a report on the storage warehouse managed by the government after residents in Ponce discovered it was filled with food and emergency supplies intended for victims of Hurricane María.

As a result of a case led by CPI Puerto Rico's Health Department had to make public data base information about mortality between 2008 and 2020.

To obtain information from the Puerto Rico Department of Education, including: a list of schools closed after Hurricane María; post-hurricane inspections; the current fiscal year budget detailed by area, office, program, and school; the current directory or organizational chart of the agency with its offices and contact personnel; the number of internal auditors and the names of the firms hired for the annual audits to be carried out by the Department of Education.

We finally received dozens of emails as a result of a FOIA request submitted to the Treasury Department in 2016, regarding the Fiscal Control Board financial disclosure agreements and evaluation process. We are in the process of reviewing those emails. The same happens with a FOIA submitted to FEMA, that has produced thousands of documents about the recovery process this year.

We have pending lawsuits filed against the Fiscal Control Board and the government related to an exchange of documents.

DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

After three years of having a Development Director dedicated to both development and administrative responsibilities, 2020 marked a great leap for the sustainability of the CPI with the addition of three new positions, thanks in large part to a development-focused multiannual grant by the American Journalism Project. We were able to recruit an Administrator and two positions to build the core of our development team: a Corporate Sponsors Officer and a Development Officer. This has allowed us to achieve major strides in organizing and implementing development initiatives toward fiscal sustainability, even in a challenging election year and in the midst of a pandemic.

Among 2020's most notable achievements in the development area, the following stand out:

New Headquarters

Thanks to the support of individual donors during 2019, and a matching donation from the Miranda Family Fund, we were able to purchase a two-story building on December 30, 2019 for our day-to-day operations. We spent 2020 preparing the

space to accommodate our needs and growth. The space has lots of potential for fundraising activities, workshops and more. Also, it represents an upgrade in terms of work conditions and security for our team. Renovations and upgrades have been underway throughout 2020, including solar panels for resiliency during hurricane season.

Employee Benefits

One of our long-term organizational goals is for the CPI to be a first-rate employer in order to attract and retain the best talent. Among employment benefits secured for our employees are:

- Medical insurance — CPI's contribution to the insurance prime will double and the plan will feature additional benefits starting Jan 2021.
- Budget allocation for employee retirement fund, to launch in 2021.
- Remote mental health services were made available for our employees during 2020 at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

General Donation Webpage

Having previously used a basic donation page on our site that only accepted PayPal as a method of payment, our revamped and upgraded donation page was launched in August 2020, featuring user-friendly features and additional payment options like credit card donations via Stripe.

Online Kiosk

As an additional method to raise funds, we created a CPI merchandise kiosk where donors can select items in exchange for a donation. It was launched in August 2020 and has had great success, attracting new donors and prompting repeat donations. Multiple strategies have been implemented onto the platform to have a more engaging connection with our donors. We added new collections, limited edition items and discounts to our end-of-year campaign with great success.

New sources of revenue



The CPI secured multi-annual backing from the American Journalism Project, which aims to provide a transformative investment and close collaboration with nonprofit journalism organizations to promote sustainability.



We were among 2,000 applicants selected for the Facebook Journalism Project COVID initiative, which provided a \$100,000 grant that helped cover the cost of our coverage of COVID-19, including investigations, fact-checking, and access to information litigation.



We also were selected to be part of the 2021 Facebook Sustainability Accelerator to promote sustainability among independent media, which comes with six months of mentorships for development and a \$100,000 grant by ICFJ.



In 2020, the Fundación Segarra Boerman expanded its support for the center with a 1 three-year grant of \$120,000 to support our new Education beat coverage.



The Center also secured a joint grant from OSF London and Fokal for \$50,000 to support our environmental journalism beat and our efforts to continue the work of our Caribbean network of investigative journalists.



CPI was selected among thousands of applicants to receive a grant from the Google News Initiative with \$7,000 for COVID coverage.



The CPI received a \$6,000 reporting grant from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.



We renewed our agreement with Report for America (RFA) for our three current positions and will receive matching funds for an additional position in 2021.



\$9,924
Total funds raised from online kiosk

7,500
Mailing list subscribers

\$15,450
Total Corporate donations

We welcomed more than **350**

donors in 2020 for a total of

1,406
donors and **2,835** gifts

AUDIENCE

Newsletter subscribers
7,497

Readership in Our Top Cities

California
14,866
3.41%

U.S.
426,865

New York
25,359
5.8%

Texas
20,058
4.60%

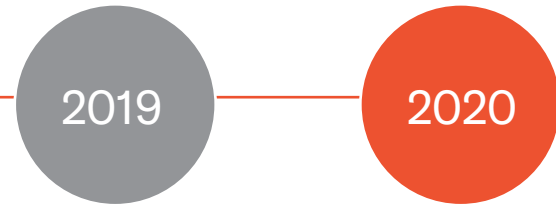
Georgia
12,586
2.89%

Florida
236,336
54.2%

Puerto Rico
761, 951

Radio Isla weekly listeners
250,000

70
stories translated to English in 2020



	2019	2020
Unique visitors to website	1,093,169	1,229,975
Facebook	58,517	65,752
Twitter	34,717	41,944
Instagram	8,119	12,600



JOURNALISM TRAINING INSTITUTE

In 2015, the CPI formalized its training institute for Caribbean journalists, students, and the general public. The institute provides journalism skills training on data, public information and fact-checking, among other services.

Through this initiative, we offer professional education opportunities for journalism students and professionals. The service is free of charge or through an annual membership of \$20 (\$15 for university students) with a focus on investigative journalism skills to improve

the quality of investigations on the island. The institute offers educational workshops on specialized beats such as the environment, the economy, data management or chronicles. Workshops, panels and seminars about access to information or investigation topics also are held for the general community. Beyond Puerto Rico, we have a mentorship program with a network of investigative journalists in the Caribbean.

10
Fellowships
to journalists
and journalism
students to
work on special
investigative
reporting.

10
Educational
events for
journalists
and the general
public

Membership
to the Institute
grew from
60 to 75

Training and Classes

Hosted the first **IRE Watchdog Workshop** in Puerto Rico with 40+ attendees.

Masterclass: “Journalism is not a Crime” featured Maria Ressa, a Filipino-American journalist and author best known as co-founder of Rappler and a leader in the fight against censorship.

Masterclass: “Bankruptcy, Hurricanes, Earthquakes, Pandemic and Elections: the Economic Outlook of Puerto Rico after 2020” featured renowned Puerto Rican economists Sergio Marxuach and José Caraballo Cueto who presented their perspectives on issues such as the recovery process, the fiscal crisis, public debt, and economic development.

Held **webinars on access to information for citizens and organizations** and a separate session for journalists.

Webinar: journalistic chronicle

Launched a series of three webinars titled, **“First Aid Kit for Journalists: Resources for COVID-19 Coverage in Puerto Rico.”**

Partnered with experts to provide a hands-on workshop on digital tools for journalists to examine, **“What is happening to the environment while we are quarantined and how to figure it?”**

Held a **virtual discussion about the Fiscal Control Board with Natalie Jaresko** that was open to journalists.

COMMUNITY

Our journalists actively participate in community media projects as facilitators and collaborators.

EVENTS



David Begnaud Up Close



CPI in Boston

Virtual conference about access to information for the general public

Facebook Live: Three years after Maria: Where is the money?

Facebook Live: Excess in Deaths During COVID-19

TV Debate: Infrastructure 2030 with candidates to Governor

José Encarnación, a CPI journalist, has focused on collaborating with Radio Vieques, a community project battling to raise its radio antenna after Hurricane María toppled it. As part of his collaboration, he has participated in podcast production workshops and supports the creation of a journalism initiative with a community focus that aims to enrich the contributions of the station.



Photo courtesy of Taller Salud

A service project by Report for America (RFA) members in CPI team, Rafael René Díaz Torres and Víctor Rodríguez Velázquez are working with 'La Casa Comunitaria de Medios' (The Community Media House), which is an initiative led by young people from Puerto Rico's southern region. The group is part of a community based non-profit coalition called IDEBAJO or

Initiative for the Eco Development of Jobos Bay. The first phase of the service project included workshops about social media, photography and communication skills. Young people between the ages of 17 and 25 years old have attended the workshops. The population from the region where the service project is located is among the most vulnerable groups of people on the island due to poverty, high unemployment rates, lack of opportunities and environmental problems, including those related to the current climate crisis. As part of the workshops, CPI journalists share several tools and strategies aimed at gathering and organizing information that could help them to make more informed decisions regarding the well-being of the communities they represent. In addition to the workshops, journalists have also led field work events designed to encourage geographic learning and storytelling strategies.



2020

Nieman Fellows' Louis M. Lyons Award for Conscience and Integrity in Journalism, for investigating the most pressing issues on the island, from the Nieman Foundation at Harvard University.

Multimedia Category, Interview: Luis Valentín, for his interview with Puerto Rico's Secretary of Health, who admitted to serious mistakes in statistics, which resulted in Covid-19 protocol changes.

Overseas Press Club of Puerto Rico seven awards in different categories from the OPC.

Puerto Rico Journalists Association: Print, Investigative Journalism: CPI, for the investigation that revealed the devastating Telegram chat and Ricardo Rosselló's government corruption scheme.

Multimedia Category, Investigative Journalism: Ronald Ávila Claudio and Aiola Virella, in collaboration with Metro, for an investigation on the flagrant violations of the civil rights of mental health patients.

Our Executive Director, Carla Minet, was one of 19 **Women of the Century, selected by the USA TODAY Network** among women "who've made significant contributions to their communities" in U.S. territories.

Our data journalist Laura Moscoso was selected for the **CUNY Product Immersion Program**, in which she will be trained to create, launch, and grow informational products that arise from the needs of our audience.

OUR REALITY

The US Census says that 44.9% of the people who live in Puerto Rico are below the poverty line, a number that is significantly higher than the US national average of 13.4%. That is the context in which CPI operates.

COVID-19 CHALLENGES

For the CPI team, COVID-19 has meant almost entirely remote work, that demands more management capacity in terms of organizing the job in a very different way, including the need for more equipment and spare equipment for our journalists, more internet redundancy, and tech support, as well as having health security measures for journalists and photojournalists on the ground during the day or on curfew periods. It demands new skills from our team, like doing lives, zoom interviews, or even going to daily press conferences, which is not part of our investigative routine and involves risks, but now officials can only be found there.

COVID-19 has also meant a big change in our editorial agenda: stopping many investigative

projects, because they are not pertinent immediately within the new context or because sources are not available. But also, it has implied doing more short term investigations and stories to remain relevant and timely.

The pandemic has had a constricting effect on the economy, with the result of massive journalist layoffs in Puerto Rican mainstream media, at critical times, when the work of journalists is most needed to keep communities informed and for government officials to be held accountable. Considering this situation, CPI's accomplishment of having two new editorial recruitments in 2020 and assigning more hours to contract reporters, as well as two new recruitments in the Development team is to be noted.



