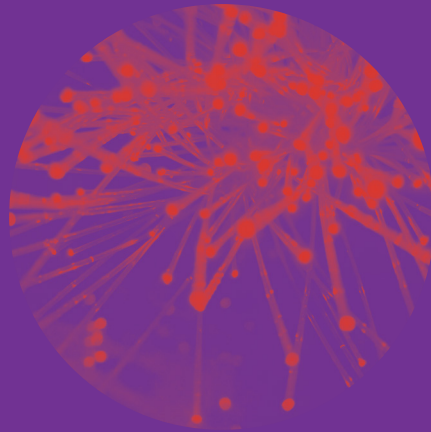




PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

ANNUAL REPORT
2023



Public Knowledge is a certified 501(c)(3) nonprofit consumer advocacy group that promotes tech policies that benefit the public interest. We work at the intersection of copyright, telecommunications, and internet law. We advocate for freedom of expression, an open internet, and access to affordable communications tools and creative works. We endeavor to promote a creative and connected future for all communities.

Your contributions help us remain an independent voice championing the public interest. Please donate so we can continue defending the public's right to connect and communicate in the digital era.

You can support us by making a [one-time or monthly donation](#) online or by mailing a check to Public Knowledge at 1818 N Street, NW, Suite 410, Washington, DC 20036. You can also make a contribution through donor-advised funds and other means. For more information, please reach out to Stephen Bennett, our Director of Development and External Affairs, at sbennett@publicknowledge.org. You can also subscribe to our newsletter at publicknowledge.org/subscribe for updates on our work and how you can get involved.



**Support Public Knowledge at
publicknowledge.org/donate**

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OUR MISSION





Public Knowledge promotes freedom of expression, an open internet, and access to affordable communications tools and creative works. We work to shape policy on behalf of the public interest.

Core Work

Public Knowledge advocates at the intersection of internet law, telecommunications, and copyright, at a time when these fields are converging. Public Knowledge works to:

- Ensure universal access to affordable and open networks
- Promote creativity through balanced copyright
- Advance government transparency and the public's access to knowledge
- Uphold and protect consumer rights
- Oppose policies that would slow technology, impede innovation, shrink the public domain, or limit fair use
- Educate the press, the public, and policymakers through white papers, blog posts, and videos
- Provide a forum for policymakers, the public, industry, and the press to exchange ideas about our core issues

How We Work

- Advocacy to lawmakers on Capitol Hill for digital rights
- Appeals for regulatory and enforcement actions at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Department of Justice (DOJ), Copyright Office (CO), and Patent and Trademark Office (PTO)
- Teamwork with allies and coalitions, inside and outside the Beltway
- Outreach to individuals and communities through public events like briefings and webinars
- Communications strategies and tactics to promote issue progress

OUR VISION



*President and
CEO Chris Lewis
presenting at the
2023 Annual IP3
Awards.*

I am proud of the broad impact that the Public Knowledge team has had on tech policy in 2023.

Our mission to promote freedom of expression, an open internet, and access to affordable communications tools and creative works is more important than ever.

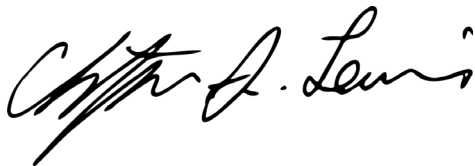
Throughout 2023, we continued to champion consumer rights issues in tech policy. The fight for open technology and fair use continues as we see libraries and digital archiving threatened in court. As many abandon the effort to close the digital divide, Public Knowledge is still leading fights to establish long-term policy solutions that increase broadband affordability, access, and adoption. In our quest for more competition and accountability for Big Tech, our proposal for a digital regulator was once again incorporated into legislation – a major step forward.

The more technology advances, the more we need to ensure the market and policy landscape hold to public interest values. This is why we are charting the next 20 years in spectrum policy through our writing and convening. We are also working in community with the entrepreneurs building the decentralized Web 3.0 solutions to the competition and privacy harms of Web 2.0. More tech is not a sufficient solution, but our Emerging Tech event continues to chart a path for policymakers to balance innovation with consumer protection. And as artificial intelligence has captured the public's imagination, Public Knowledge is working to plot a course that applies our values of competition, privacy, openness, free expression, and safety to AI.

Of course, policymaking remains incomplete without diverse voices at the table. Our commitment to developing policy advocates representing every community remains strong as we grow our PKTrains program. We continue to host our Privileged Conversations series, offering students of color a monthly forum to discuss career pathways with seasoned tech policy leaders of color. To pay homage to Sherwin Lee Siy, a fervent advocate for free expression and open information, we continue to build our memorial fund to endow a Public Knowledge post-graduate fellowship in his name. Sherwin's spirit of mentorship and legacy of activism continues to inspire us.

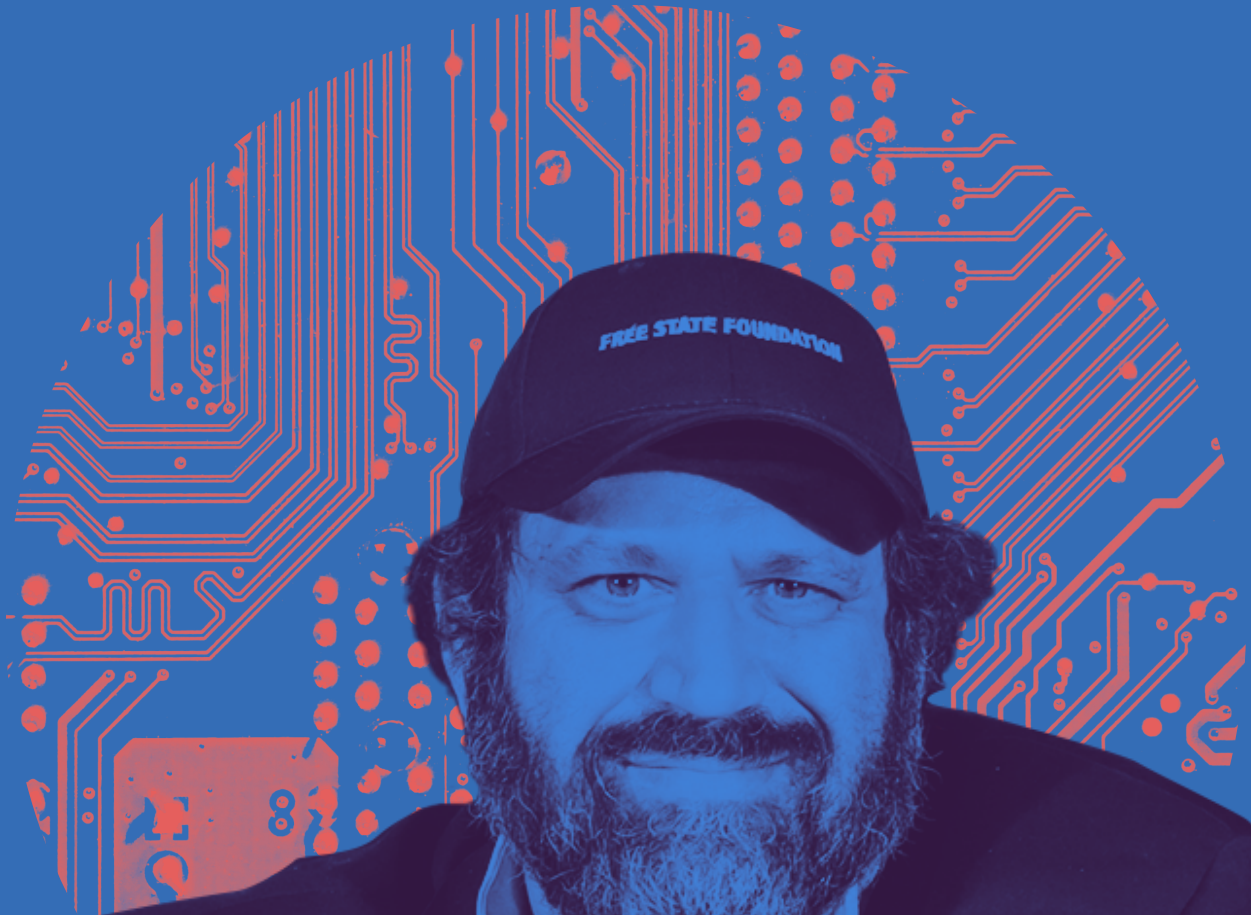
Our work only becomes more critical as technology advances. Thank you for supporting our mission and joining our commitment towards a creative and connected future.

In solidarity,

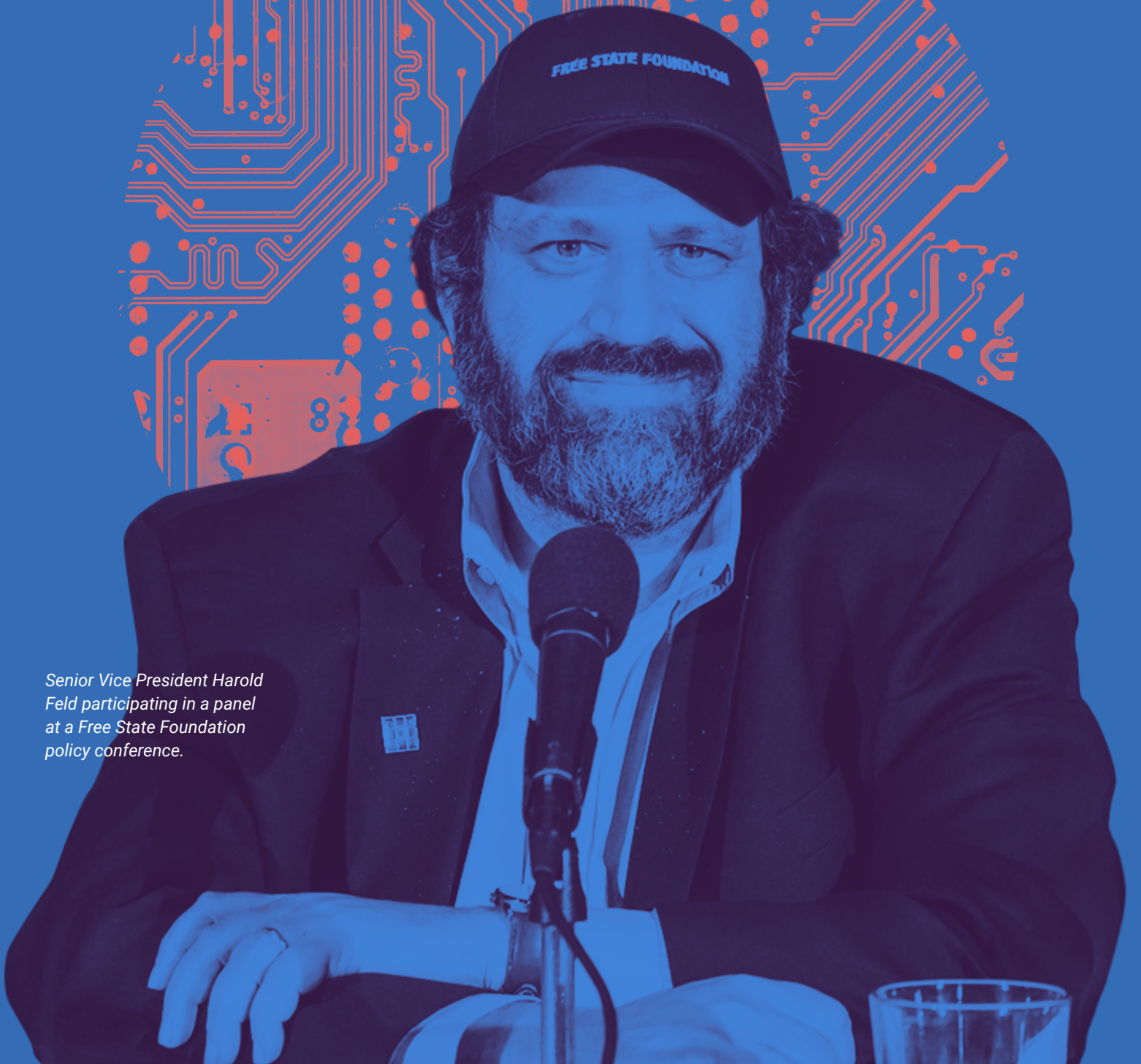


Chris Lewis
President and CEO
Public Knowledge

OUR WORK



Senior Vice President Harold Feld participating in a panel at a Free State Foundation policy conference.



Free Expression, Content Moderation, & Thriving Online Communities

Creating a Better Internet for Everyone

More than 60 organizations spanning the globe have joined Public Knowledge in supporting the [Movement for a Better Internet](#), a diverse community of advocates and activists working together to promote policies that create a better internet for people everywhere. The movement is a collaborative effort seeking to drive policy change based on a [public interest vision](#) for an internet that benefits us all.

Public Knowledge has worked steadfastly over two decades to support an internet guided by public interest values – including privacy, openness, diversity, and equity. As a part of this movement, we are dedicated to collaborating with other members to advance these and other values we determine together.

As one of six [Organizing Partners](#) of the movement, Public Knowledge updates a digital hub at movementforabetterinternet.org to facilitate connection and communication among those striving to build a better internet. The movement also launched a listserv and [X presence](#) to help amplify member work. Additionally, the movement hosted multiple Open Houses welcoming new members and facilitated a generative AI workshop, culminating in the movement's first report: [Generative AI: Opportunities, Concerns & Solutions from MozFest 2023](#). The movement also conducted its first [policy lab](#) to map alignment on generative AI.

Public Knowledge will continue to support movement convenings and uplift member work, as well as design a structured Knowledge Exchange program bringing youth community advocates together with D.C. policy advocates to create an internet that works better for everyone.

Supporting Online Communities and Local News

Public Knowledge continued fighting the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act (JCPA), a bill that would allow news organizations to collude on negotiations with digital platforms under an antitrust exemption. The bill endangers the very journalists it claims to protect, offers no accountability for how funds are spent (or even ensures that actual journalists obtain said funds), and threatens the end of fair use protections for sharing and hyperlinking content online.

Public Knowledge led efforts to oppose the JCPA and joined with other consumer advocacy groups to urge Congress against it. Public Knowledge's advocates published articles highlighting the JCPA's flaws and providing alternative solutions, including a "Superfund for the Internet" and the "Local Journalism Sustainability Act." In 2023, Public Knowledge and its allies again succeeded in fighting against the JCPA's inclusion in a must-pass defense bill.

Public Knowledge also launched a paper, "Go Local! Combating Misinformation Through Media Policy Promoting Localism and Diversity," by Senior Policy Analyst Lisa Macpherson to explore how best to use media policy to mitigate disinformation and its impact on democracy as local news – one of the most credible sources of information – dries up. This paper reveals how to learn from past policy choices to foster a news environment that serves the needs of all communities, particularly those that have historically been under-served.

Public Knowledge will support the information needs of communities by opposing the JCPA and developing thought leadership on how to create more transparency and accountability for platform content moderation while protecting free expression.

Policy Counsel Elise Phillips participating in a briefing on navigating AI's future as hosted by the Center for AI Policy.



Defending Your Ability To Communicate Freely Online

Public Knowledge has long supported Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, a U.S. law that protects the ability of internet users to engage with each other by granting online platforms immunity from lawsuits over their content moderation practices.

Public Knowledge tracked several Supreme Court cases challenging Section 230 – including *Gonzalez v. Google* and *Twitter v. Taamneh* – and led a coalition effort to craft a position balancing the importance of free expression and content moderation protections with platform accountability. The Supreme Court ultimately refused to consider these cases further because the plaintiffs failed to establish liability. Public Knowledge [praised the decisions](#) and agreed that Congress should act by addressing the power of the dominant digital platforms by strengthening antitrust law and promoting competition.

Public Knowledge also monitored *Murthy v. Missouri*, working in concert with allies across industry and the public interest to protect quality content moderation practices. Originally known as *Missouri v. Biden*, the case revolves around incorrect claims that the Biden administration improperly coordinated with social media companies to censor conservative views. Public Knowledge also filed an [amicus brief](#) in support of NetChoice in the cases *Moody v. NetChoice* and *NetChoice v. Paxton*. The debate focuses on a series of laws passed in Florida and Texas that would require social media companies to publish content that violates their policies.

Public Knowledge will cover the NetChoice oral arguments as well as continue tracking and evaluating new bills proposing Section 230 reform in order to protect consumers' ability to communicate online.

Public Knowledge tracked several Supreme Court cases challenging Section 230 and led a coalition effort to craft a position balancing the importance of free expression and content moderation protections with platform accountability.



Competitive Markets for Innovators & Consumers


Fighting for a Digital Regulator

As Big Tech problems continue to grow, so, too, does the need for a digital regulator to protect key public interest values on dominant platforms. Public Knowledge advocates for a nimble, sector-specific digital regulator to help limit consumer harm and remove competition barriers before they occur via rulemakings and other agency tools.

Public Knowledge again supported the Digital Platform Commission Act, which would create an independent agency overseeing the technology sector in order to enhance competition, protect consumers, and promote civic discourse and democracy. The bill draws on regulatory concepts first articulated by Public Knowledge Senior Vice President Harold Feld in his 2019 book, “The Case for the Digital Platform Act,” as well as advocacy by Public Knowledge President and CEO Chris Lewis and Vice President Charlotte Slaiman.

Public Knowledge also co-hosted an event with the Center for American Progress to promote the concept of an expert digital regulator. Entitled “The Next Wave of Technology Regulation: The Need for New Authorities in the U.S. and Beyond,” the event brought together multiple thought leaders to discuss the next wave of technology policy and regulation ideas. We also hosted several private listening sessions throughout 2023 to learn how stakeholders view regulatory power and how a digital regulator should function.

Public Knowledge will continue raising awareness and expanding support for a digital regulator to better protect consumers in the digital era. In addition to educating policymakers, Public Knowledge will also host a series of events to engage the broader policy community on the concept.



Increasing Competition in Big Tech

Digital platforms like Google and Facebook have grown into massive digital gatekeepers, controlling access to increasingly wider swaths of the internet. At the same time, both antitrust law and our enforcement mechanisms have proven insufficient for addressing the consequences.

Public Knowledge worked to give consumers more choice and power online by supporting bills designed to help rein in Big Tech. These bills include the American Innovation and Choice Online Act, which prevents Big Tech from discriminating against competitors on their platforms, as well as the AMERICA Act, which imposes divestiture and transparency requirements to improve competition in the advertising technology space.

President and CEO Chris Lewis testified before Congress, arguing for pro-competition legislation, consumer protection laws, and a digital regulator equipped to solve some of the most pressing problems we experience online. Public Knowledge Vice President Charlotte Slaiman also testified before Congress, arguing for preserving competitive markets through both antitrust enforcement and by establishing new merger guidelines.

Public Knowledge supported multiple lawsuits targeting Big Tech in 2023, including an antitrust case filed by the Department of Justice against Google for monopolization of the ad tech market. Similarly, Public Knowledge advocated in favor of a second antitrust case – U.S. v. Google – filed by the Department of Justice against Google for monopolizing the search market. Finally, we supported the Federal Trade Commission’s suit against Amazon for pricing mechanisms used to block competition.

Public Knowledge will continue advocating for competition legislation and will also continue seeking opportunities to strengthen antitrust enforcers.

Public Knowledge staff meeting reviewing key issues and priorities in the tech policy space.





Copyright & Access to Information

Supporting Your Right To Repair

Public Knowledge has long supported the public's right to repair. Although the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) was never intended to prevent consumers from repairing things they own, all too often, Section 1201 of the DMCA is used as a weapon to limit consumer repair rights.

To this end, Public Knowledge joined with iFixit to petition the Copyright Office to allow people to repair consumer devices as well as commercial equipment, including soft serve ice cream machines similar to those available at McDonald's. The two organizations also filed comments with the Copyright Office to this effect. The comments were filed as part of the Copyright Office's Section 1201 review process, which encourages advocates to present arguments for exemption from the DMCA.

Both Public Knowledge and iFixit also worked across with bipartisan offices to introduce legislation that would permanently enshrine the right to repair. Doing so would make it possible for the public to avoid begging the Copyright Office to be allowed to fix their own things. Finally, Public Knowledge joined the Digital Right to Repair Coalition and other public interest groups and scholars in filing an amicus brief in Green v. Department of Justice – a challenge to the constitutionality of Section 1201 itself.

Public Knowledge will continue engaging policymakers on the right to repair and the Copyright Office to preserve needed DMCA exemptions. In the end, these exemptions must become permanent to allow the public to freely fix the devices they own.



Public Knowledge will continue engaging policymakers on the right to repair and the Copyright Office to preserve needed DMCA exemptions.

Breaking Open the Black Box of Music Streaming

As any music fan or independent artist can confirm, the music streaming market is a messy, broken, anticompetitive, and inequitable time bomb. The market actively incentivizes anticompetitive behavior, posing a substantial threat to innovation, choice, and quality for music listeners and musicians alike.

Public Knowledge took a major step toward improving this market for artists and consumers by launching a white paper, "[Streaming in the Dark: Where Music Listeners' Money Goes – and Doesn't](#)," to shine a light on the dysfunction of the music streaming ecosystem. A culture of secrecy and unchecked market power have created an environment in which consumers pay to rent (rather than own) their music library, competition is dwindling, and artists struggle to profit from their own work. At the same time, powerful middlemen allow major labels and "superstar" talent to claim the majority of the financial pie – leaving independent artists and labels begging for scraps.

Public Knowledge led the fight to break open the black box of music streaming by urging the Federal Trade Commission to conduct a study of the industry itself. Public Knowledge also engaged congressional staff and public interest advocates to support reform, paving the way for both music listeners and artists to benefit from a more competitive and innovative market.

Public Knowledge will continue championing the need for reforming the music streaming industry. Only by piercing the nondisclosure agreements curtain can we begin gathering the information necessary for lawmakers, artists, and activists to effect meaningful change.

Advocates delivering petition signatures urging the FTC to defend the right to repair. Photo credit to Yazan Aboushi, U.S. PIRG Education Fund.





Data Protection & Privacy

Protecting Your Privacy and Civil Rights Online

Despite decades of digital platforms monetizing user data, consumers still lack choice and control over the personal information they provide to companies. The U.S. lacks clear standards that dictate acceptable data collection and use, leaving companies' data practices largely unmitigated and consumers in the dark about how their information is used.

Public Knowledge continued supporting the American Data Privacy and Protection Act (ADPPA), which would introduce stronger online protections for minors and install strict limitations for the collection, use, and sharing of private information. Public Knowledge educated policymakers on the bill and worked to demonstrate its broad base of support as well as the need for a comprehensive privacy law, championing the issue at a series of [congressional hearings](#).

Public Knowledge President and CEO Chris Lewis also [testified](#) before the U.S. Senate's bipartisan AI Insights Forum on privacy and liability, urging Congress to establish a regulatory framework to ensure that artificial intelligence transforms society for the better. We argued for passing the ADPPA to protect consumer data privacy and for creating a digital regulator equipped with the expertise and authority over algorithmic decision-making, AI systems, and the digital platforms that incorporate them. Both efforts would help ensure that any regulation of AI remains effective and in the public interest.

Public Knowledge will continue fighting for the comprehensive federal privacy protections Americans deserve, whether by supporting agencies eager to protect privacy or by pushing Congress to move privacy bills forward.



Public Knowledge will continue fighting for the comprehensive federal privacy protections Americans deserve.

Spectrum

Expanding Our Wireless World

Communications technologies rely on invisible electromagnetic waves, known as spectrum, to function. As the wireless world grows, finding ways to free up spectrum becomes even more critical for American innovation and competition.

Public Knowledge advocated for new ways to ensure the Federal Communications Commission manages spectrum in a manner that benefits everyone by launching a white paper, "[Back to the Spectrum Future: The 20th Anniversary of the Spectrum Policy Task Force](#)." The paper proposes adopting a backcasting model rooted in core public interest principles to help guide our spectrum policymakers toward a wireless future that serves and includes all Americans. Public Knowledge hosted a [conversation](#) with Alan Davidson, head of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, to discuss putting this proposal into action.

Reflecting this proposal and other Public Knowledge spectrum advocacy, the NTIA unveiled its [National Spectrum Strategy](#) to secure the future of U.S. wireless innovation – the first such policy since 2017. Since that time, interagency feuds, such as [the fight](#) between the Federal Aviation Administration and the FCC that nearly shut down air travel in January 2022, have undermined wireless innovation and deployment. This National Spectrum Strategy focuses on creating processes to resolve tensions between federal agencies and the FCC on spectrum reallocation – an area of significant Public Knowledge [advocacy](#) in recent years.

Public Knowledge will continue supporting spectrum policies that promote competition, innovation, and economic opportunities in addition to devising proposals for spectrum management that put the public first.

President and CEO Chris Lewis participating in a CES panel on opening up spectrum bands for 5G and beyond.





Internet Access, Affordability & Reliability


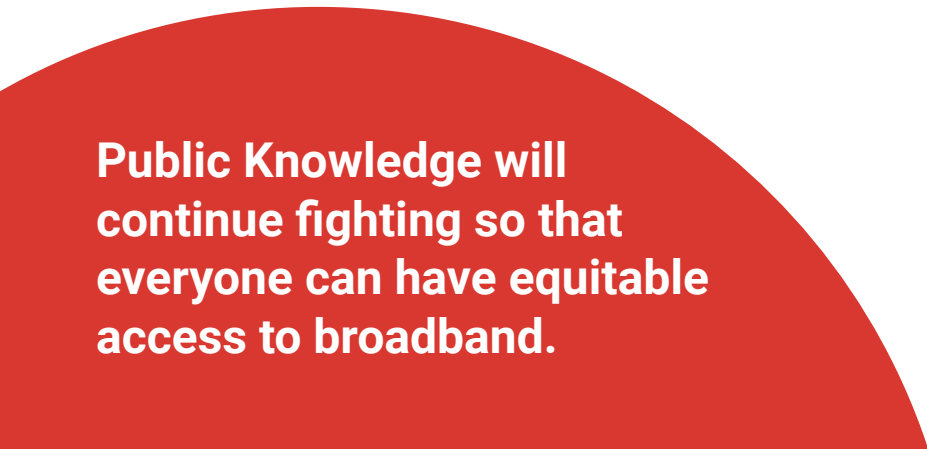
Ending Digital Redlining

The same neighborhoods that were once redlined by banks and insurance companies now face similar discrimination by internet service providers, further growing an already substantial digital divide. This practice of investing less in broadband infrastructure in low-income and marginalized communities is called “digital redlining” or “digital discrimination,” a practice Public Knowledge led an effort to stop through the Federal Communications Commission’s digital discrimination proceedings.

Public Knowledge led a gathering of digital and civil rights organizations through the 2023 [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) process at the FCC, organizing calls to ensure that these groups worked together to cover the full gambit of consumer issues. Public Knowledge also rallied allies to outline what future digital discrimination rules should look like in their comments with the FCC even as we [filed our own comments](#) urging the agency to [promote equal access to broadband in every community](#).

In a major win after years of work by Public Knowledge and allies, the FCC [voted to set rules](#) to end digital discrimination and promote equal access to broadband. Congress required the agency to adopt rules preventing digital discrimination in response to [reports](#) that providers were refusing to deploy fiber in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. Public Knowledge advocated for building digital discrimination language into the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) in 2021 with an eye toward forcing broadband providers to connect all Americans.

Public Knowledge will continue the fight when these rules are challenged in the courts so that everyone can have equitable access to broadband.



**Public Knowledge will
continue fighting so that
everyone can have equitable
access to broadband.**


Ensuring Affordable Broadband Access

As broadband remains an essential service, finding creative ways to get and keep Americans connected remains a top priority for Public Knowledge. The Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program has served as a critical lifeline for low-income households across America, ensuring that families can afford the high-speed internet access needed to function in today's world. Unfortunately, the funding for this essential program will run dry in 2024 if Congress fails to act.

Public Knowledge worked to keep low-income and rural people connected by championing the ACP. Government Affairs Director Greg Guice testified before Congress, arguing for ways to renew ACP funding by restructuring how money is contributed to the Universal Service Fund – a program designed to subsidize telecommunications access to low-income households. Public Knowledge also partnered with New America's Open Technology Institute and Network:On to organize an event as part of the White House's campaign on affordable connectivity. Alan Davidson, head of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, opened the discussion and Vice President Kamala Harris presented video remarks.

Public Knowledge also renewed efforts to provide strategy and mentorship to those participating in the National Digital Inclusion Alliance's annual Net Inclusion conference. Through the NDIA's conference and training activities, Public Knowledge experts serve as policy advisors to rural and Tribal advocates working to connect their communities.

Public Knowledge will continue fighting for affordable high-speed broadband access for everyone, no matter how much money they make or where they live.



*Senior Policy Counsel
Meredith Rose preparing
for a panel discussion.*

Restoring Net Neutrality Protections

Net neutrality is the principle that the company that connects people to the internet does not get to control what people do online. Public Knowledge remains a staunch defender of net neutrality at the FCC, in the courts, and among the public, having spent years leading coalition efforts, agency comments, and media campaigns to set these vital consumer protections in place.

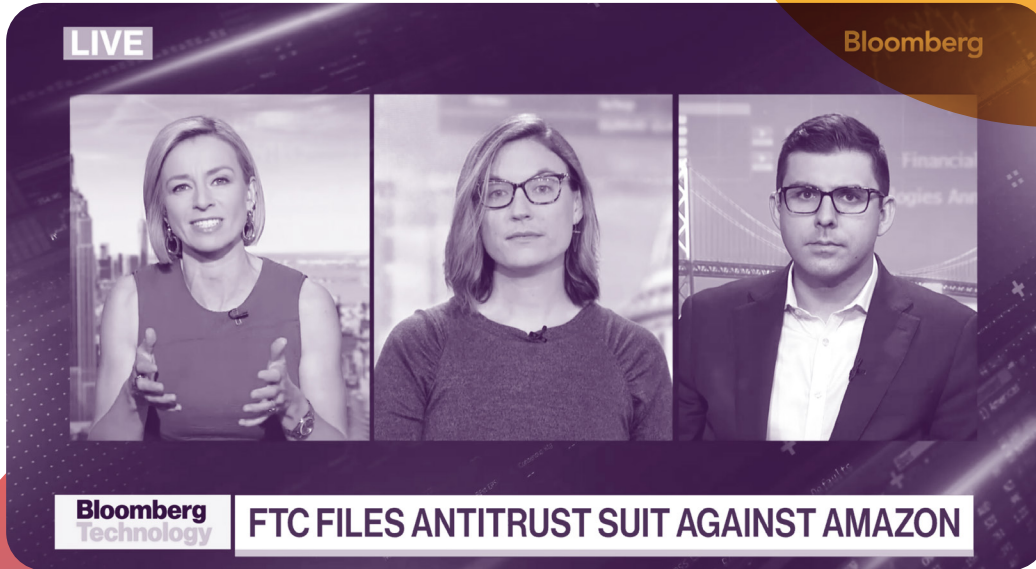
Recently, Public Knowledge joined with allies to outline the legal and political strategy needed to reinstate the Federal Communications Commission's authority over broadband by reclassifying it as a "Title II telecommunications service." Public Knowledge advocacy spurred the agency to improve its new net neutrality proceeding to restore the rules, ensuring that the eventual rules have the most solid legal foundation.

To support the agency's efforts, Public Knowledge created new advocacy materials emphasizing how reinstating the agency's Title II authority over broadband enables the FCC to step up to protect consumers in a variety of ways, including our national security and network reliability. Public Knowledge also filed proceeding comments and reply comments with the FCC, urging the agency to act in order to allow for commonsense protections for broadband users.

Public Knowledge will continue advocating for net neutrality and urging both Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to restore these vital consumer protections for all Americans with the hope that they are restored in the new year.

Public Knowledge will continue advocating for net neutrality and urging both Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to restore these vital consumer protections.

Vice President Charlotte Slaiman discussing an FTC lawsuit filed against Amazon on Bloomberg Technology.



Legal Director John Bergmayer discussing a Justice Department suit filed against Apple on Bloomberg Technology.

OUR COMMUNITY

*Guests at the 2023 Annual
IP3 Awards celebrating
the advocates working
diligently on behalf of
the public interest.*



PKTrains

As technology changes the landscape, a new, diverse generation of public interest advocates is needed to join, and ultimately lead, the fight to keep individuals at the center of laws governing the digital world. Public Knowledge trains student interns and postgraduate public interest fellows with a learn-by-doing approach at its Washington, D.C. office, training more than 20 full-time post-graduate fellows and dozens of student interns and externs since 2014.

In 2022, Public Knowledge launched a campaign for the [Sherwin Lee Siy Memorial Fund](#) to endow a fellowship through the PKTrains program in honor of former Public Knowledge Legal Director, Sherwin Lee Siy. PKTrains participants learn the fundamentals of effective public interest advocacy for laws and policies that put people first.

Fellowship Training Program

Public Knowledge puts diverse early-career advocates in positions to have their voices included in the making of tech laws and regulations. Public Knowledge's training program is an immersive experience where early-career fellows learn by working side-by-side with Public Knowledge's lawyers and advocates, in the halls of Congress, before federal agencies, in coalition meetings, and with the press. Our over 20 fellowship alumni have moved on to influential careers in tech policy in civil society, philanthropy, government service, industry, and even elected office.

Privileged Conversations

Public Knowledge recognizes that many talented but marginalized young people don't have access to the tech policy professional network to understand the variety of career options and issues in front of them.. Each month, Public Knowledge President and CEO Chris Lewis hosts a gathering of recent graduates and students of color to discuss tech policy, advocacy, and careers in the tech policy field. The group is joined by an experienced tech policy leader of color for an off-the-record, intimate, and mentoring discussion around the breakfast table.

2023 Annual IP3 Awards

Public Knowledge hosts the [Annual IP3 Awards](#) to celebrate the work of those who have made significant contributions in the three areas of IP: Intellectual Property, Information Policy, and Internet Protocol. The awards help champion the advocates working diligently on behalf of the public interest to help everyone connect and communicate.

In 2023, we presented the Information Policy Award to Rep. Yvette Clarke, Senior Member of both the House Energy and Commerce Committee and House Committee on Homeland Security. Congresswoman Clarke also serves as the Vice Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

We presented the Intellectual Policy Award to Betsy Rosenblatt, Professor of Law at Case Western Reserve University Law School. In addition to teaching courses spanning copyright, patent, and intellectual property law, Professor Rosenblatt also serves as the volunteer Legal Chair of the Organization for Transformative Works, which advocates for fans, remix culture, and fanworks.

Finally, we presented the Internet Protocol Award to Francella Ochillo, an attorney and public interest advocate working to ensure that all Americans can benefit from advances in technology regardless of geography or income. Her work at Next Century Cities highlights the importance of making digital equity a foundational principle in broadband access and adoption program development.

Intellectual Property Award

BETSY ROSENBLATT

Professor of Law

Case Western Reserve University Law School

Professor Betsy Rosenblatt teaches intellectual property courses including Copyright Law and Trademark Law. Professor Rosenblatt's scholarship focuses on intellectual property theory and intersections between intellectual property law and social justice.



Information Policy Award

REP. YVETTE CLARK (D)
Ninth Congressional District of New York

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke is a Senior Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Clarke has been a member of the Congressional Black Caucus since coming to Congress in 2007 and today serves as its Chair. She is a leader in the tech and media policy space as co-chair of the Smart Cities Caucus and co-chair of the Multicultural Media Caucus.



Internet Protocol Award

FRANCELLA OCHILLO
Executive Director
Next Century Cities

An attorney and digital rights advocate, Francella has worked on a variety of technology and telecommunications issues with a specific focus on assessing the impact of policy proposals on unserved and underserved communities. Francella helps policymakers and lawmakers recognize the importance of ubiquitous broadband. She is committed to creating opportunities for local leaders to participate in a national dialogue about how to connect every resident in every community.






Emerging Tech

Public Knowledge hosts Emerging Tech to bring together public interest advocates, policymakers, and companies on the cutting edge of technology. The event helps inform policymakers about the promise, potential pitfalls, and policy implications of fast-moving tech dominating headlines and impacting society in new ways. Industry experts from across the country join Public Knowledge for an all-day discussion including a reception and tech showcase, where guests experience the latest technologies first-hand.

In 2023, the event focused on generative AI, XR technologies, and the decentralized web. Science fiction novelist, journalist, and technology activist Cory Doctorow keyed the event. Doctorow proposed that the best way to stop the internet's long decline into "five giant websites, each filled with screenshots of the other four," is to restore power to users. Doctorow explained that doing so creates a web where "we freely choose our online services from a wide menu and stay with them because we like them, not because we can't afford to leave."

Speakers from Unanimous AI, Mozilla, XR Association, and Stanford University joined Public Knowledge moderator and Vice President Charlotte Slaiman in a conversation on [Warring Worlds: Competition and Openness in XR](#). Panelists discussed the opportunities and concerns that lawmakers, innovators, and consumer groups need to consider as they delve into the world of XR.



Public Knowledge remains a staunch defender of net neutrality at various agencies, in the courts, and among the public.

Speakers from Electronic Frontier Foundation, Fight for the Future, and Harvard Kennedy School joined Internet Archive moderator and Director of Partnerships Wendy Hanamura in a conversation on Decentralizing the Web Stack: Can It Fix Some of Our Biggest Problems? Panelists discussed the capabilities of a decentralized web stack and challenges to large-scale, open source digital networks.

Finally, speakers from OpenAI, SeedAI, Aspen Digital, and Latham & Watkins joined Public Knowledge moderator and Policy Counsel Nicholas Garcia in a conversation on Demystifying Generative AI: Understanding the Tech To Make Better Policy. Panelists discussed the fundamentals of this groundbreaking tech, as well as how to regulate its powerful potential.

Multiple companies and organizations joined the event to showcase some of the latest technology discussed in the panels. This showcase gave guests the opportunity to experience these emerging technologies directly so they can begin grasping both the practical and policy potential of these devices and how they might impact society.

A guest at Emerging Tech experimenting with VR during the hands-on technology showcase and reception.



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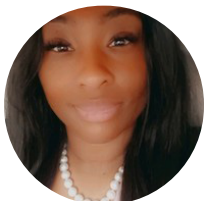
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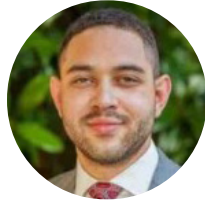
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Consulting LLC

Brian Vo
Chief Investment Officer
Connect Humanity

LOOKING FORWARD



The Public Knowledge team at the 2023 Annual IP3 Awards.

Our mission to promote freedom of expression, an open internet, and access to affordable communications tools and creative works is more important than ever in the current technological age.

Public Knowledge will continue fighting to create an internet based on public interest values – and an internet that benefits everyone. Chief among our broadband advocacy work will be the fight for restoring the Federal Communications Commission's broadband authority and consumer protections, as well as our efforts to end digital discrimination and help close the digital divide so that more people can connect and communicate.

We will continue supporting net neutrality by holding broadband providers accountable for throttling and other shady behavior, promoting a values-based spectrum policy framework that puts people first, and urging Congress to adopt a more sustainable and fair contribution mechanism for the Universal Service Fund – a program that helps connect low-income households. We will defend the Affordable Connectivity Program to keep families connected no matter where they live or how much (or how little) money they make.

We will continue to stand up for balanced copyright law including the principle of fair use that makes an open, equitable internet possible. We also aim to protect your right to repair the products you already own (including commercial equipment like certain soft serve ice cream machines), as well as your free expression online – we even filed an amicus curiae brief in the case *Gonzalez v. Google*. In order to support artists and independent record labels, we seek to crack open the music streaming black box by urging the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice to implement a study that shines a light on this broken industry.

As the fight to rein in Big Tech only intensifies, Public Knowledge will work to expand support for platform regulation in general, as well as for a sector-specific digital regulator to oversee the industry, including the development of artificial intelligence. The AI boom has expanded Public Knowledge's work applying our values and expertise to the new innovative AI uses. We will continue to host Emerging Tech to discuss the policy and regulatory implications of emerging technologies like generative AI, XR (extended reality) technologies, and the decentralized web. Finally, we will advance the need for a comprehensive federal privacy law to protect consumers as these new technologies sweep the digital landscape.



Sources of Support for Public Knowledge's Work

Public Knowledge receives financial support for its mission from various sources and ensures that its funding remains diversified and its mission independent. Funding sources include charitable foundation grants and general support contributions, including funds raised through Public Knowledge's Annual IP3 Awards event.

There are some values that are core to Public Knowledge's work, such as free speech and expression, equity for traditionally marginalized individuals and groups, and the importance of democratic institutions that preserve free expression and equal justice. Public Knowledge factors these values into its decisions on accepting support.

In 2023, supporting foundations and grantors included the Omidyar Network, Ford Foundation, Knight Foundation, Kahle-Austin Foundation, Democracy Fund, Mission Telecom, and Hopewood Lab.

The remainder of our support comes from companies and individuals through donations or sponsorship of the IP3 Awards. Public Knowledge recognizes individual donors and companies through the IP3 Awards event materials if they wish.

For more information, visit publicknowledge.org/2023-annual-report.



Support Public Knowledge at
publicknowledge.org/donate

Assets & Liabilities

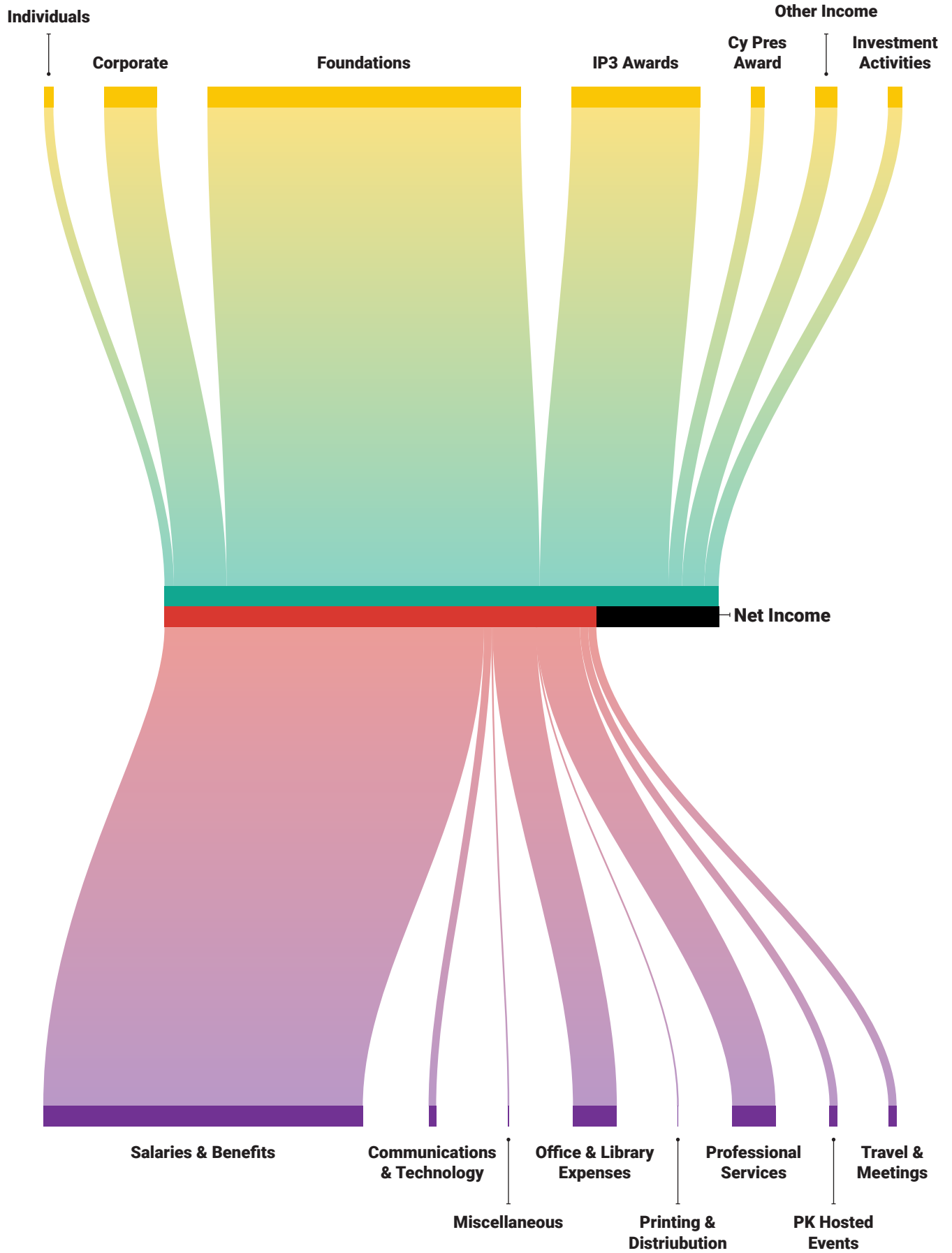
As of December 31, 2023

ASSETS	
Cash – Operating	\$884,932.94
Cash – Operating Reserves	\$2,070,787.54
Sherwin Lee Siy Memorial Fund	\$299,670.02
Contribution Receivable	\$1,554,288.78
Capital Reserve	\$1,059,832.21
Other Current Assets	\$86,648.22
Fixed Assets	\$62,176.36
Other Assets	\$1,222,169.28
Total Assets	\$7,240,505.35
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	\$227,165.72
Long Term Liabilities	\$1,378,734.72
Total Liabilities	\$1,605,900.44
NET ASSETS	
Net Assets	\$4,723,654.67
Net Income	\$910,950.24
Total Net Assets	\$5,634,604.91
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$7,240,505.35

Profit & Loss Overview

FY2023

INCOME	
Individuals	\$70,062.17
Corporate	\$391,652.56
Foundations	\$2,331,000.00
IP3 Awards	\$957,468.39
Cy Pres Award	\$102,400.00
Other Income	\$165,402.41
Investment Activities	\$107,054.57
Total Income	\$4,125,040.10
EXPENSES	
Salaries & Benefits	\$2,378,031.21
Communications & Technology	\$56,445.23
Miscellaneous	\$7,136.09
Office & Library Expenses	\$326,530.38
Printing & Distribution	\$1,656.96
Professional Services	\$322,488.97
PK Hosted Events	\$60,587.46
Travel & Meetings	\$61,213.56
Total Expenses	\$3,214,089.86
NET INCOME	\$910,950.24





PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

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