

2021 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Free. Fair. Local.

Responsible Journalism for Tarrant County.

FWR
FORT WORTH REPORT

FROM THE PUBLISHER



Fort Worth Report launched in 2021 as a dream and a promise.

The dream? To build a self-sustaining nonprofit newsroom devoted to Fort Worth. One that would cover the essential local news about schools, government, healthcare, business, arts and culture, and other important issues that were no longer consistently covered by other local media.

The promise? To be fair, accurate and nonpartisan in all our coverage. To publish facts, not opinions. And, because we believe access to factual local journalism is a right, not a privilege, our journalism would be free to read, so that the whole community could join the conversation.

We began publishing online April 12, 2021, with a staff of three reporters and a package of stories about the important May city and county elections. We ended Dec. 31 with a staff of 14, including 11 journalists, all dedicated to making Fort Worth and Tarrant County a better place to live through our free, fair, and local journalism.

In 2022, we pledge to expand our coverage, giving our readers the facts they need to be educated, engaged and empowered to get more involved in our community.

Chris Cobler
CEO and Publisher

OUR TEAM

We grew from 6 employees in April 2021 to 12 in December 2021 to the current 18, as of March 2022.



WHO WE ARE

Our mission

We pledge to produce high-quality objective local journalism that informs public decision-making, addresses the quality of life of our community's citizens, holds our policymakers accountable and tells our readers' stories by listening to them and making sure they are valued and understood. In all that we do, earning the trust and respect of our audience is paramount. Our reporting will be free to all who access our primary digital channels.

Our vision

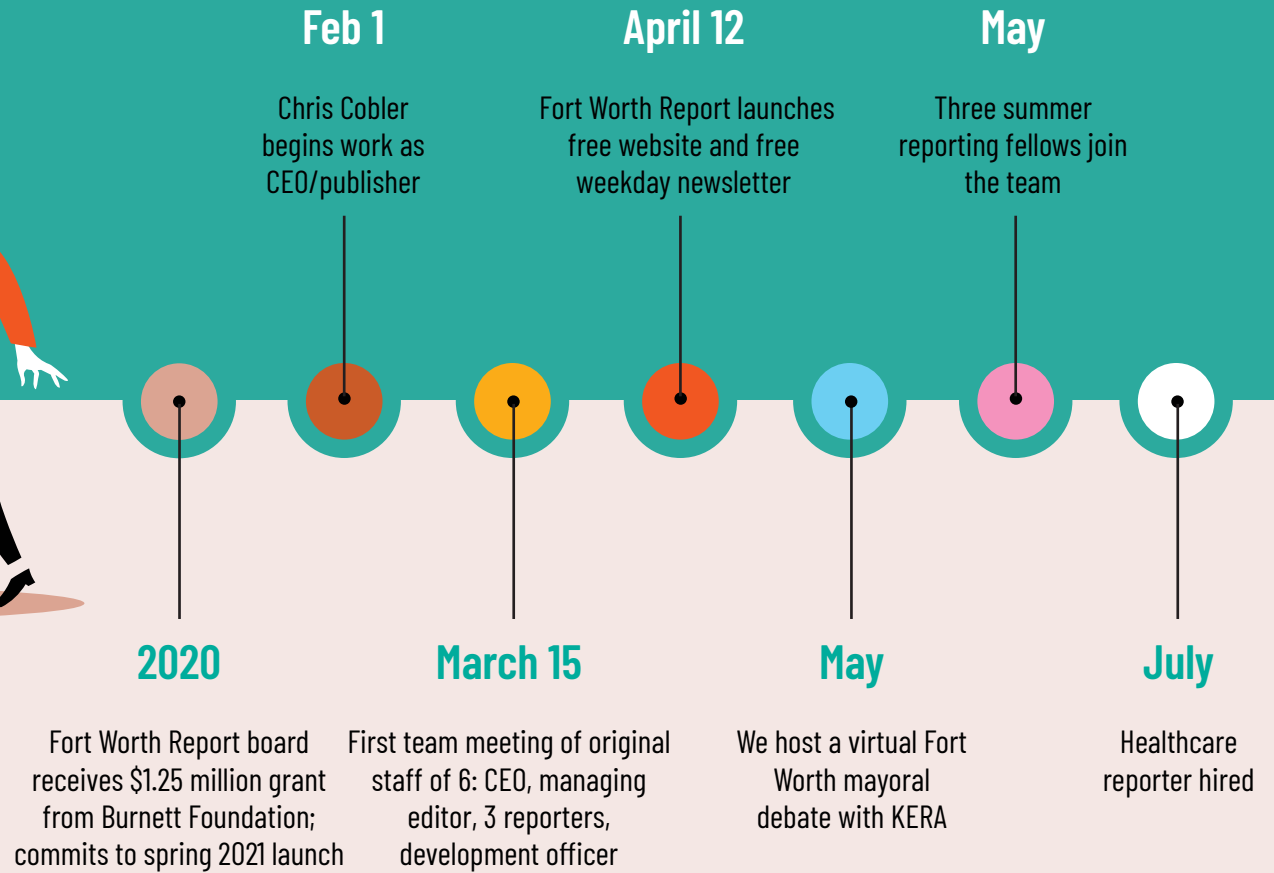
The Fort Worth Report is committed to making Fort Worth and Tarrant County better through reliable local news reporting and information.

Our accomplishments

We bring a fair, refreshing approach to local news. On our website and in our weekday newsletter, we've published hundreds of pieces of original journalism since our launch April 12, 2021. We've closely covered the challenges facing Fort Worth ISD, the city and county elections and their aftermath, how to navigate the risks of Covid, and turmoil at the Tarrant County Regional Water District. We've launched a series profiling the city's emerging leaders and another that shares the stories of individual neighborhoods. Our coverage holds government officials accountable, helps prompt change, and helps our community understand itself and become more connected.



OUR TIMELINE



October

Fort Worth Report surpasses 500 individual donors mark

December

Reporting staff grows to 7 with addition of arts editor and environmental reporter

September

Two fall interns come on board, replacing summer reporting fellows

October

Community engagement reporter hired

December

Director of corporate and community relations and Director of audience and membership bring full-time staff to 12 – doubling in eight months.



JOURNALISTIC IMPACT

Keeping our government accountable

Our ongoing reporting on Tarrant Regional Water District, which oversees water distribution to 2 million residents and manages flood control projects, inspired community activists to work together across party lines to demand needed change at this taxpayer-funded institution.

The District Attorney opened a full investigation of the agency in late summer 2021 and referred it to a grand jury.

The Board of Directors voted to disallow two illegal payments totaling \$360k to current and former employees.

New lawyers are reviewing internal documents and developing new agency policies to improve the agency's inner workings.

Connecting our community

Two ongoing series help readers better understand their neighbors.

In our **Where I Live** series, readers share what makes their neighborhood special. The weekly entries have covered more than 30 diverse communities across Tarrant County, introducing hidden gems like the vibrant parks and street art in the Northside, the rolling hills and mid-century modern architecture of Meadowbrook, covering ground from South Arlington to the Cultural District.

Our **Profiles in Leadership** series has introduced dozens of emerging leaders. These included Anette Landeros, the dynamic young CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Patrick Newman, who's working to increase visitors at Fort Worth Botanic Gardens and Botanical Research Institute of Texas while expanding its national profile; and contractor Dante Williams, who also launched a nonprofit, Community Frontline, to strengthen the Stop Six community where he grew up and is now raising his family.



JOURNALISTIC IMPACT

Educating, engaging and empowering our readers

Our reporters delve beneath the surface, explaining the issues and what's at stake.

Jessica Priest heard that a neighborhood pool, Forest Park Pool, was slated to be closed and turned into a glorified splash pad. Following her coverage, the city ultimately decided to re-hab the pool and keep it open.

Nearly 1,200 evictions were filed in Tarrant County in June 2021 and three of the top five eviction filers were from out of state. Cristian ArguetaSoto in conjunction with Pew reporter Kristian Hernandez reported why evictions rose despite more than \$100 million in rental assistance being available.

Jacob Sanchez broke the news on how a new charter school planned to set up shop in Stop Six. His story increased awareness of a controversial subject and motivated people to voice their opinion on whether the charter should be approved.



Our reporters are out in the community daily, finding the news that matters to our readers.



**Our journalists cover
the primary candidate
debate we hosted.**

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BY THE NUMBERS

52

Public records requests filed

43,909

Monthly unique viewers, as of December 2021

1,500+

Original photos, including multiple photo galleries from news events across the county

517,267

Page views, April 12- Dec. 31, 2021

5,250

Newsletter subscribers as of Dec. 31, 2021

607

individual donors

456

Stories Published

Nearly \$2 million

raised to support factual local journalism



2021 SUPPORTERS

Fort Worth Report thanks our community for funding independent local journalism, especially our major donors:

Foundation and Corporate Donors

Burnett Foundation	\$600,000
Knight Foundation	\$150,000
Marilyn Brachman Hoffman Foundation	\$75,000
Texas Health Resources	\$75,000
Inasmuch Foundation	\$50,000
The Rainwater Foundation	\$50,000
William & Catherine Bryce Memorial Trust	\$50,000
Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation	\$25,000
North Texas Community Foundation	\$25,000
HEB Central Market	\$25,000
Mary Potishman Lard Trust	\$25,000
The Sumners Foundation	\$20,000
William E. Scott Foundation	\$15,000
Amon G. Carter Foundation	\$10,000
Sid W. Richardson Foundation	\$10,000
The Roach Foundation	\$4,000

Individual Major Donors, \$5,000+

David & Dana Porter
John & Cami Goff
Marianne Auld
Vernon & Nancy Bryant
Bill Meadows
Bob & Patricia P. Schieffer
Wes & Shirley Turner



OUR COMMUNITY COVERAGE



Artes Academy students practice dance moves at the Rose Marine Theater.

Photo by: Cristian ArguetaSoto | Fort Worth Report



OUR COMMUNITY COVERAGE

A child holds a sign at a community protest against COVID-19 regulations.

Photo by: Cristian ArguetaSoto
Fort Worth Report

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WE HAVE BIG PLANS FOR 2022

Continue growing our newsroom:

In June, we'll add a growth/development reporter, through the prestigious Report for America program.

We're raising money to hire more reporters to cover important topics, including religion, criminal justice and transportation.

Hiring at least three new reporting fellows this summer.

Launch events where the community can come together to discuss vital issues:

Our Candid Conversation discussion series hands the mic to emerging leaders and experts.

Candidate debates include such events as our debate featuring Tarrant County races before the March primary, partnering with Steer Fort Worth and KERA. We'll mark our first birthday with an April event to celebrate our readers and newsmakers.

We're committed to giving you the free, fair, local news you depend on. And you can be part of this mission:

Ask your friends and family to read our journalism, subscribe to our newsletter - and if they find value in our work, to donate.

Book our publisher or one of our journalists to speak to your group.

Share your story ideas and your feedback on our reporting.

Board of Directors

Wes Turner, co-chair
Bill Meadows, co-chair
John Lumpkin, secretary
Marianne Auld
Jonathan Morris
Rachel Navejar Phillips
Mitch Whitten



OUR COMMUNITY COVERAGE

**Representative Ramon Romero Jr.,
who represents District 90,
lights a candle at the Lake Como Cemetery
Association All Souls Day Celebration.**

Photo by: Cristian ArguetaSoto | Fort Worth Report

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NON-PARTISAN, NONPROFIT JOURNALISM

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