

Megan Burbank *Independent Journalist*

Based in Seattle, Washington

Journalism & Editorial Experience

Independent Journalist

September 2021 - present

Writing

- Enterprise reporting on reproductive health policy for local and national outlets
- Reported and wrote features, news stories, and essays on gender, politics, and culture, with an emphasis on local and national news
- Published with NPR, *The Seattle Times*, *Crosscut*, *Reed Magazine*, *The New Republic*, *Willamette Week*, Town Hall Seattle, *Lakeside Magazine*, REI, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and the *Portland Mercury*, among others
- Contributing writer covering reproductive justice at the *South Seattle Emerald*
- Copywriting, branded content, and social media management for corporate clients including Microsoft, Salesforce, and the Port of Seattle

Editing

- Edited branded content for clients including social service agencies, health organizations, and tourism boards
- As temporary morning editor at *The Seattle Times*, edited early-morning digital breaking news coverage
- As interim associate editor at *The Stranger*, edited culture coverage and managed arts writers
- Developmental editor for book-length nonfiction

The Seattle Times

April 2018 - September 2021

Interim Morning Editor

May - July 2021

Features Reporter

September 2019 - 2021

Features Desk Editor

April 2018 - September 2019

- As interim morning editor, edited all early-morning digital breaking news coverage, assigned stories based on analytics and reader engagement, contributed to daily newsletter production, collaborated with midday team to build strong uninterrupted digital daytime coverage and drive homepage traffic, managed coronavirus live updates, and edited enterprise stories.
- Revitalized and upgraded the paper's travel and outdoors section, with a focus on deepened reporting.
- Project lead on special issues and weekly print travel supplement.
- Covered both breaking news and enterprise reporting, with stories running on A1 and section centerpieces.
- Was one of a few rotating reporters assigned to yearlong live coverage of the coronavirus outbreak.
- Recruited and trained new freelance writers.

The Portland Mercury

September 2014 - April 2018

Senior Editor

September 2016 - April 2018

Arts Editor

September 2014 - 2016

- Project lead on quarterly special issues. Originated an International Women's Day special issue with only women and nonbinary contributors that became an annual tradition.
- Provided sensitivity reads, judgment calls, and high-level editing on stories concerning sensitive and/or controversial subject matter, or complex corroboration and sourcing.
- Along with other editors, brought freelancer pay up to industry standard.
- Was one of few staffers assigned stories with turnaround times that meant no editing was possible.

- Wrote political commentaries that gained a following, grounding hot topics like the 2016 election and the #MeToo movement within a local context and building readership.
- Expanded coverage areas to include politics, sexual assault, and women's health.
- Was one of the *Mercury* blog's two most prolific contributors.
- Actively recruited, supported, mentored, and managed emerging writers, with an emphasis on making space for QTBIPOC and women's voices.

The Stranger

January - August 2011

News Intern

- Covered breaking news including police misconduct, the Green River Killer, and state health policy.
- For a cover story, went undercover to investigate pregnancy centers with ties to extremist right-wing groups.
- Reported on campaign finance data and made public records requests.
- Advocated for more and better coverage of women's health care policy at the state level; bolstered existing coverage by teaming up with another reporter to deepen the overall beat, incorporating policy analysis and investigative tactics.

Awards & Grants

First Place: Editorial & Commentary Writing (Small Media Outlets), Society of Professional Journalists
Northwest Excellence in Journalism Awards, 2023

Second Place: Editorial & Commentary Writing (Extra Large Media Outlets), Society of Professional Journalists
Northwest Excellence in Journalism Awards, 2023

School of the Art Institute of Chicago Trustee Fellowship, 2011 - 2013

School of the Art Institute of Chicago Graduate Teaching Fellowship, 2012

Juniper Summer Writing Institute Merit Scholarship, 2012

French Ministry of Education Teaching Fellowship, 2010

Public Speaking & Appearances

Panel moderator, "The New Abortion Underground," [Crosscut Ideas Festival](#), May 2023

Guest expert, "Washington and the Fight for Reproductive Rights," [Seattle Now podcast](#), April 2023

Guest expert, "The State of Reproductive Health in Washington," [Hacks & Wonks podcast](#), March 2023

Reporter, "What has changed in Washington since the fall of Roe?," [Crosscut Reports](#), January 2023

Guest speaker on reproductive health policy reporting, School of the New York Times, July 2022

Panelist, 36th Legislative District abortion access policy panel, October 2021

Guest interviewer for Kathryn Bond Stockton, author of *Genders*, [Town Hall Seattle](#), October 2021

Guest expert, "You're Wrong About *Roe v. Wade*," [You're Wrong About podcast](#), November 2018

Moderator for a panel on speculative fiction and reproductive health, Town Hall Seattle, June 2018

Guest lecturer on solutions journalism, WANT Summer Journalism Fellowship, August 2017

Education

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

M.F.A. in Writing

Chicago, IL

September 2011 - May 2013

Smith College

B.A. in English Language & Literature

Northampton, MA

September 2005 - May 2009

Skills

Style guides: Chicago & AP

Computer skills: HTML, Chartbeat, Wordpress, Adobe Creative Suite, Hearken, CrowdTangle, social media management (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram)

Language: French (Fluent)