

Susan Elizabeth Shepard (she/her)

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Freelance Writer and Reporter
Portland, OR

2005 - present

- Contributed award-winning commentary and reported work on popular culture and policy to Study Hall, Pitchfork, Willamette Week, Montana Free Press, BuzzFeed News, Jezebel, Vox, SBNation, VICE, and others.
- Longtime tech and media coverage contributor to SXSWorld for South by Southwest.
- Reported and co-wrote two popular episodes of Texas Monthly's Boomtown podcast.
- Selected clips available at susanshepard.com/writing

Virtual Event Producer
Portland, OR

May 2020 - Sep 2021

- Produced live shows via Zoom during Oregon venue lockdowns.
- Managed promotions, sales, accounting and communications for weekly events.
- Achieved five-figure sales goals over six months marketing primarily via Instagram and direct email. Press coverage included mention in the 2021 "Best of Portland."

Staff Writer and Special Sections Managing Editor
Missoula Independent, Missoula, MT

2017-2018

- Responsible for a general and flexible beat and two to three stories in the print weekly.
- Stories resulted in the state attorney general's office overhauling its inaccurate human trafficking website, prompted investigations into fraud at a veteran's home, and revealed the expansion of federal immigration activity in the area.
- Assigned freelance stories and photos for the paper's recreation, dining and holiday special publications. Oversaw service roundups and lists. Initiated recurring local Indigenous food coverage.
- Coordinated and publicized story-related live events; collaborated with UM J-school students to run a local media survey.

Founding Editor / Editor Emeritus
Tits and Sass

2010-2020

- Co-founded and operated titsandsass.com, a site that revolutionized coverage of sex work policy and media. T&S was cited in The New York Times, the New Yorker, Vox, The Atlantic, The Guardian, Colorlines, BuzzFeed, Salon, and on NPR.
- Recruited academics with industry experience and focus and writers from within the community.
- Collaborated on a style guide and set of best practices and protections for reporting from within marginalized and vulnerable spaces.

Skills

- Public speaker at Portland Startup Week and guest lecturer for classes at Clemson University, Augustana College and UX Night School.
- Experience creating a strong social media presence from scratch, including for entertainment venues, publications and organizations.
- WordPress, Excel, Photoshop, G Suite, Twitter Ads, Facebook Ads.

Awards

- 2018 Best Sports Story, Montana Newspaper Association
- 2018 Oregon Literary Fellowship in Nonfiction
- The Dish 2014 Poseur Alert of the Year for "Abolish 69," for ADULT w/Charlotte Shane
- The Best American Essays 2014 Notable Essay for "Wildcatting"

Education

Bachelor of Arts, English

The University of Texas at Austin

2005