

Susan Shepard

susan@susanshepard.com | (512) 912-7827 | Philadelphia, PA | susanshepard.com

WORK EXPERIENCE

Freelance Journalist and Content Writer

Sept. 2005 – Present

Remote

- Published award-winning commentary and reported work on popular culture and policy in Texas Monthly, Defector, Pitchfork, Willamette Week, Montana Free Press, BuzzFeed News and other publications.
- My reporting on issues in the service industry highlighted policy and social issues and resulted in changes at the state legislative levels and public information content in Oregon and Montana. Reported on employment abuses at a Montana shelter for unhoused veterans that resulted in state agencies investigating its practices.
- Reported and co-wrote two episodes of Boomtown, a podcast for Texas Monthly that has been adapted for television as the Taylor Sheridan show “Landman.” Presented as a guest speaker at Portland Startup Week and at multiple universities including Clemson University, Ursinus College, Augustana College and UX Night School.

Missoula Independent

2017 – 2018

Managing Editor for Special Sections; Staff Writer

Missoula, MT

- Wrote multiple stories each week for the Missoula Independent, which included cultivating sources, conducting interviews, and researching public records and data sets.
- Coordinated special interest periodicals including timeline, resources and budget and aligned production calendar with parent publication. Assigned freelance stories and photos for the paper's recreation, dining and holiday special publications. Recruited 12 local contract writers and photographers to expand coverage of local events and interests.

T&S Media

2011 – 2020

Co-founding editor

Remote

- Co-founded and edited a highly influential community journalism website that covered policy, culture, and activism internationally. Cited by The New York Times, the New Yorker, Vox, The Atlantic, and NPR. Recognized as a landmark project for sex worker advocacy.
- Recruited and trained dozens of writers from the global community and edited international stories that highlighted labor issues and increased access to worker protections in the service industry.

Contract and Consulting Work

2016 – present

Remote

- **ATX Zine Fest, 2023:** Directed an Austin nonprofit's first foray into fundraising on the city's Amplify Austin philanthropy platform. Created messaging for multiple channels on social media and via email that resulted in a doubling of donations from the previous year.
- **StrollPDX, 2016-2022:** Assisted Portland-based unhoused outreach and drug use harm reduction nonprofit with policy analysis and messaging. Simplified multi-source political communications into an actionable, compelling message. Assisted with testimony at the state legislature that succeeded in achieving desired outcomes.
- **The Missoula Pulp, 2018-2020:** Project managed the initial planning stages for a local news nonprofit, including initiating the process of successfully securing a six-figure launch grant from the community news publishing startup IndieGraf.

EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin

Bachelor of Arts, English

Austin, TX