



Vivid Contributor



## Preamble statement by keynote speaker Janelle Orsi

Freelance journalists, filmmakers, musicians, designers, photographers, and other independent creatives, are facing shared struggles as it becomes increasingly difficult to build sustainable livelihoods while preserving the integrity of their work. The media and distribution channels on which creators rely have become increasingly centralized and have the leverage to skim most of the value generated by creative professionals.

What if creative professionals could own the means of their own production? We need musician-owned replacements for iTunes, filmmaker-owned replacements for YouTube, and democratic media outlets that put control in the hands of journalists. What will this look like and how can we embed principles of equity into the legal DNA of the tech platforms? What will make this possible? What are emerging and promising models? What are the barriers? The opportunities?

As tech platforms rapidly become a new means of production for nearly every industry - from creative work to domestic work and far beyond - we have a window of opportunity to decisively reject "business-as-usual." Instead, we can build tech companies as cooperatives and mutuals that are designed to create a just, equitable, and democratic society. ©2016