

Maya Chen

Investigative Journalist & Multimedia Reporter

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Profile

Investigative journalist with 7+ years of experience turning public records, data, and source-driven reporting into clear, high-impact stories. Proven record covering housing, public accountability, and climate resilience under daily and long-form deadlines. Skilled across print, digital, audio, and video, with a rigorous approach to verification, trauma-informed interviewing, and newsroom collaboration.

Experience

Senior Investigative Reporter | Metro Ledger, New York, NY **2022–Present**

Accountability, housing, and urban policy desk

- Led a six-month investigation using 18,000+ inspection records and 70 interviews to reveal systemic safety failures in city-supported housing; the series drew 1.4 million digital views and prompted a council oversight hearing.
- Cultivated a cross-borough source network of tenants, civil servants, advocates, and subject-matter experts while applying secure communications and careful source-protection practices.
- Produced enterprise stories, rapid-turn analysis, live coverage, and companion video scripts; regularly translated complex budgets, court filings, and datasets for general audiences.
- Mentored four early-career reporters on records requests, interview strategy, data cleaning, and fact-checking; helped cut prepublication corrections by 30% year over year.

Staff Reporter | The City Current, Brooklyn, NY **2019–2022**

Local government and climate resilience beat

- Broke news on a delayed \$120 million flood-mitigation program by reconciling procurement data, capital plans, and on-the-ground reporting across five neighborhoods.
- Filed 4–6 stories weekly for web and print, including election explainers, breaking-news updates, profiles, and deeply reported features; consistently met tight, shifting deadlines.
- Co-produced an eight-episode audio series on post-storm recovery that averaged 42,000 downloads per episode and was adapted for community radio partners.

General Assignment Reporter | North Shore Daily, Salem, MA **2017–2019**

Breaking news, courts, education, and community affairs

- Covered municipal government and breaking news across six communities, building a reputation for fast, accurate reporting and accessible public-service journalism.
- Increased newsletter click-through by 22% through audience-focused headlines, concise news briefs, and follow-up reporting based on reader questions.

Selected Work & Recognition

- “Locked Out of Recovery”** — three-part investigation into disaster-aid inequities; finalist, 2024 Investigative Reporters & Editors Award, local category.
- “The Heat Between Us”** — data-led multimedia project mapping neighborhood heat exposure; winner, 2023 Society of Professional Journalists regional award for explanatory reporting.

Education

M.S., Journalism | Columbia University, New York, NY **2017**

Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism

B.A., Political Science, magna cum laude | University of Massachusetts Amherst **2015**

Minor in Spanish

Skills

Reporting: Investigative reporting, public-records requests, source development, fact-checking, copy editing, live coverage, media law and ethics

Data & production: Excel, Nexa Sheets, SQL, Python, Datawrapper, Flourish, ArcGIS, Audition, Premiere Pro, WordPress, AP style

Languages: English (native), Mandarin Chinese (professional), Spanish (conversational)