

**Maureen Kelleher**  
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**WHO I AM, WHAT I BRING**

As a communicator, editor and journalist, I've spent more than two decades building expertise in K-12 and higher education, early childhood, employment, health, and other issues. My colleagues will tell you that I'm a strong and astute writer, a strategic thinker, a sensitive editor, and well-networked among journalists and editors in the K-12 and higher education spaces.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Independent Journalist, Policy Researcher & Communications Consultant**

**2024-present, 2007-17**

- Launched [Board Rule](#), an insider's newsletter covering Chicago's transition from an appointed to an elected school board, and within six weeks grew to 150 subscribers, including board members, state and city electeds, and leaders from school-adjacent civic and nonprofit organizations. Co-authored October 2024 [commentary](#) on school closures for The 74. Reporting appeared in Chicago Reader, Education Week, Illinois Issues, The Grade, The 74 and on Vocalo.org. Successfully pitched commentary to Chalkbeat, Education Week, The Hechinger Report, The 74, and Real Times Media, publisher of legendary Black media, including the Atlanta Daily World and Chicago Defender.
- Wrote and edited blog and social media content for the Upjohn Institute, a labor economics think tank, 2014-2017. Consulted on structure and wrote all content for their 2015 website redesign. Increased Twitter following tenfold.
- Conducted policy research on education and immigration reform for the Center for American Progress, the Roosevelt Institute, and the Center on Education Policy. Authored [New York City's Children First: Lessons in School Reform](#). Served as lead writer for the 2014 version of Advance Illinois' annual data report, [The State We're In](#).
- As a scribe with LISC Chicago's New Communities Program, wrote two of the five neighborhood-school partnership plans that won an \$18 million, 5-year grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies to build five school-based health centers with wraparound services for families. Helped secure an additional \$7 million from Atlantic and additional sources during the grant period (2007-2012) through documentary reporting on their impact on early childhood, health, employment and financial stability for low-income families.

**FutureEd**

**Editorial Director, September 2023-August 2024**

Led content and social strategy, production, media relations and communications for a nationally-regarded education policy institute. Combined a breakneck production pace—releasing four major reports in six months—with writing and public speaking that helped shape the national education reform conversation. My op-ed on [Virginia's statewide tutoring program](#) caught the attention of Gov. Glenn Youngkin and was referenced in a November 2023 [New York Times editorial](#). Assisted in hosting national tutoring advocates for two days of Hill briefings and meetings with Congressional staff.

**EdPost**

**Partner, Editorial, 2022-23**

**2017-2023**

Set editorial direction for EdPost website, two newsletters and Ed Post Conversations podcast. Managed media partnerships with The74 and Real Times Media to expand the reach of EdPost stories and commentary. Co-produced a limited-run podcast, [Across Colors](#), hosted by Tanzina Vega and featuring BIPOC parent and community leaders across the country fighting for education equity. Managed team of 2-3 reporters, plus freelancers and interns. Built partnership with Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University.

Guided editorial strategy and project management for [Jane Crow: Then and Now](#), a multimedia microsite documenting the history of white women's resistance to integrated schools and how that history influences today's education culture wars.

- Videos generated over 60,000 views; average time on page was 2:38.
- Generated 10 op-eds and podcast appearances.

### ***Senior Writer/Editor, 2017-22***

Wrote news, features, columns, and explainers. Coached columnists and edited commentary. Occasionally ghosted commentary for Executive Director Chris Stewart.

As editor-in-chief of the EdPost-affiliated blog, [Chicago Unheard](#), grew the platform from zero to over 200,000 pageviews per year for multiple years. In 2019, collaborated with three other reporters to produce features on high-scoring, non-selective CPS elementary schools on the South and West sides, generating thousands of Facebook engagements. In 2020, cosponsored Facebook Live shows featuring parents discussing school reopening and connecting them with other local and national media outlets.

### **NONPROFIT BOARD SERVICE**

Two decades of supporting nonprofits focused on youth, housing and violence prevention. In the 1990s and early 2000s, raised a total of \$65,000 for two small nonprofits, Asian Youth Services and the Thousand Waves Foundation, through annual appeal letters and grant requests to small faith-based funders.

### **Chicago Free School**

#### ***Board Member, 2020-2022***

Successfully recruited the hire for a middle school teaching position at this independent K-8 school with a mission to create a racially and economically diverse community. Coached and supported the new hire to manage a challenging classroom. Managed social media for the 2020 year-end fundraising campaign. Participated in anti-racist training and co-led a reading circle for "Me and White Supremacy."

### **Cornell Square Park**

#### ***Advisory Council Member, 2014-2016***

Helped organize a series of events to encourage neighbors to return to the park after a mass shooting wounded 13 people. Hosted Día del Niño book giveaway for three years; solicited donations from South Side bookstores.

### **SKILLS AND TOOLS**

- Podcast co-creator, producer, interviewer and host; working knowledge of the Riverside.fm virtual studio
- Content management systems: WordPress, HubSpot
- Office technology: Slack, Asana, G Suite, Microsoft Suite (Word, Excel, Power Point)
- Social media: Bluesky, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Substack, X
- Working proficiency in Spanish

### **EDUCATION**

*Intermediate Spanish, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Chicago campus, 2007.*

*M.A.T. in English education, University of Chicago, 1993.*

*B.A. in English, Yale University, magna cum laude, 1989.*