

The future of local news is “civic information,” not “declining legacy systems,” says new report | Nieman Journalism Lab

By Laura Hazard Owen

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A [WhatsApp group](#) that gives immigrants information on social services. An [analysis of the bus lines in Detroit](#), conducted in partnership with Detroit residents. An [online memorial](#) for New Yorkers who died of Covid-19. Local residents [documenting public meetings](#). [Office hours](#) and “pop-up newsrooms” in public libraries.

Projects like these, which focus on giving people [information](#) they need to make the places they live better, are the focus of a [new report](#), out Thursday, that calls on local journalism’s would-be saviors to focus their energy and funding on collaborative efforts, startups, and community groups — not on legacy news organizations.

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