

CHRIS BOWLING

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER/NEWS EDITOR, THE OMAHA READER: (JANUARY 2020 - CURRENT)

Responsible for breaking news, investigative reporting and editorial leadership across a variety of stories and beats for The Reader, a monthly newsmagazine in Omaha, Nebraska with a circulation of 16,500 print copies.

I've published more than [300 stories](#) as well as started a daily newsletter, podcast, community engagement initiatives, grant-funded reporting projects and collaborations with local and national media organizations. As an editor, I've helped writers win awards in investigative, solutions and feature reporting.

I've also overseen the paper's transition from print to online-focused journalism including:

- increasing our website's traffic five-fold to reach more than a million annual pageviews;
- doubling our traffic from social media;
- introducing new digital-first editorial processes;
- establishing a membership program that grew to several hundred people.

FREELANCE REPORTING

- **Flatwater Free Press (September 2021 - Current):** Reported with Nebraska's first nonprofit newsroom on stories like Native American mothers suing their rural school district for cutting their childrens' hair, which appeared in [USA Today](#) and [influenced state legislation](#).
- **The New York Times (September 2018 - Current):** Contributed reporting on topics such as politics, mass shootings and crime trends.
- **Omaha Magazine (August 2018 - October 2022):** Covered a variety of features and business stories for Nebraska's largest magazine.
- **Lincoln Journal Star (September 2017 - January 2020):** Wrote features like those about refugees who [survived the Cambodian genocide](#) and [two gay business owners fighting for acceptance in a conservative small town](#).

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

- **Minneapolis Star Tribune (June 2018 - August 2018):** Covered daily, enterprise and breaking news stories in the Twin Cities.
- **Tampa Bay Times (May 2017 - August 2017):** Covered education, business, local government, courts, crime and general features.
- **Atlanta Journal-Constitution (June 2016 - August 2016):** Covered [LGBTQ+ issues](#), [police brutality](#) and [politics](#).
- **Omaha World-Herald (January 2016 - May 2016):** Wrote features, news and business stories for the largest newspaper in Nebraska.
- **Lincoln Journal Star (August 2015 - December 2015):** Covered crime and features for Nebraska's second-largest newspaper.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN: (AUGUST 2014 - MAY 2018)

Majors: Journalism and Economics. Recipient of George Beadle, Kinmin Oldfield and Carl and Ruth Olenberger scholarships.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- **Great Plains Journalism Awards:** Won the top award for a [business feature](#) in 2022 in the eight-state contest.
- **Solutions Journalism Network Climate Beacon Newsroom:** Won a [2022 grant](#) to expand solutions-oriented climate change reporting in The Reader — one of nine organizations selected in the program's first cohort.
- **Hearst Journalism Awards:** Won [first place](#) in the 2017 enterprise category and [third place](#) in the 2018 breaking news category.
- **Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards:** Part of a team that won the [RFK Journalism Award for humanitarian efforts in journalism](#) college and grand prize categories in 2017.

SKILLS

- **Solutions Journalism** — Intermediate — Certified trainer for the Solutions Journalism Network. Experienced in reporting solutions stories.
- **Data Journalism** — Intermediate — Experienced in finding, cleaning, analyzing and visualizing data in Python, R, Excel and Datawrapper.
- **Adobe Creative Suite** — Advanced — Proficient in InDesign, Photoshop, Lightroom and Audition.
- **Photography** — Advanced — Experienced in taking photos with either a DSLR, mirrorless or iPhone camera.
- **Social Media** — Intermediate — Experienced in using social media for storytelling as well as audience engagement.
- **HTML/CSS/Javascript** — Intermediate — Knowledgeable about building websites and news apps.

REFERENCES

- John Heaston — Publisher/Editor at Pioneer Media and The Omaha Reader, (402) 547-7319 — john@thereader.com
- Katie Humphrey — Topics Team Leader at the Minneapolis Star Tribune, (612) 708-3106 — katie.humphrey@startribune.com
- Matt Wynn — Executive Director of the Nebraska Journalism Trust, (402) 290-1783 — mwynn@flatwaterfreepress.org
- Robyn Murray — Projects Editor at The Omaha Reader, (402) 617-5243 — robynmurray28@gmail.com