

Maia McDonald, CHICAGO-BASED FREELANCE JOURNALIST

mcdonaldmaia@gmail.com || maiamcdonald.me || <https://muckrack.com/maia-mcdonald> || (773) 226-6949

WORK EXPERIENCE

Block Club Chicago - Freelance Reporter - SEPTEMBER 2022 to PRESENT

- Interview community members, organizations, businesses, and other parties across Chicago for news stories on arts and culture, education, entertainment, housing, and more.
- Write beat-style news articles, both long-form and story briefs on quick turnarounds, for Block Club Chicago readers on several subjects.

Borderless Magazine - InPathways Community Reporting Intern - June 2023 to September 2023

- Interviewed community members, local public works employees, politicians, and others for a long-form collaborative reporting project on flooding's impact on the Calumet region.
- Attended community meetings in Dolton to interview residents on flooding issues and get information on the area's preferred approaches to flooding solutions.
- Participated in training sessions with professional working journalists to develop investigative reporting skills.
- Worked with Borderless Magazine reporters, editors, and photographers for summer reporting projects.

City Bureau - Civic Reporting Fellow - SEPTEMBER 2022 to DECEMBER 2022

- Worked on two expansive reporting projects focused on the state of temporary workers and temp work in Illinois and Chicago.
- Submitted FOIA requests from the Illinois Department of Labor for documents and complaints of the Day and Temporary Labor Services Act.
- Conducted interviews with other reporting fellows of temporary workers, labor industry experts, worker centers, workers' rights activists, and others.
- Worked with other reporting fellows to write articles on the history and current state of temporary workers in Illinois and Chicago.

The Poetry Foundation - Freelance Podcast Producer - JUNE 2021 to DECEMBER 2021

- Organized podcast recording sessions during the COVID-19 pandemic with South African-based poets and creatives for The Poetry Foundation's VS podcast on unique aspects of the Black, queer experience in South Africa.
- Edited hour-long podcast episode including multiple voice tracks, music, and other audio elements for the final podcast episode.
- Coordinated extensively with podcast episode hosts and notable South African poets Kopano Moroga and Maneo Mohale for podcast episodes to bring their creative vision to life.
- Highlighted Black and queer poets and their stories in VS podcast episode for The Poetry Foundation.

EDUCATION

University of Missouri-Columbia: Bachelor of Journalism in Radio/TV Reporting and Anchoring (2018)

SKILLS

Adobe Premiere; Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint; Photography; Video Filming; Camera Handling; Reporting; Anchoring; Interviewing