

NEWS RELEASE
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THE TIZIANO PROJECT TO CREATE GLOBAL CITIZEN JOURNALISM PLATFORM

CAMBRIDGE, MASS. – The Tiziano Project announced it will create a collaborative multimedia storytelling platform with support from The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. A \$200,000 Knight News Challenge grant was awarded to the organization to develop technology that will promote citizen journalism around the world.

The new platform will be based on the nonprofit's award-winning Tiziano 360 | Kurdistan, which displays the work of both professional and community journalists in an immersive and interactive website. The new platform will enable news organizations, community groups and individuals to easily manage their own citizen journalism digital content across multiple devices.

The Tiziano Project also plans to build an interactive map to serve as a hub for the Tiziano 360-style projects developed by other organizations and communities. The map will allow site users to directly communicate with citizen journalists around the world.

"Through the development of this platform, we seek to not only elevate the quality of community journalism as a whole through collaboration," Jon Vidar, executive director of The Tiziano Project, explains, "but to empower local community members with the ability to change perceptions of the communities in which they live."

The Tiziano Project is one of 16 winners of the 2011 Knight News Challenge, an annual contest funded by Knight Foundation. Winners were announced at MIT-Knight Civic Media Conference.

"The Tiziano team impressed us with their approach to using digital technology to help people tell their stories," said John S. Bracken, director of digital media at Knight Foundation.

The Knight News Challenge is an international contest to fund digital news experiments that use technology to inform and engage communities.

About The Tiziano Project

The Tiziano Project strives to develop and encourage first-class collaborative journalism on a global scale. The organization provides community members in conflict, post-conflict and underreported regions with the equipment, training, and affiliations necessary to report their stories and improve their lives. In 2011, the project was the recipient of honors from SXSW Interactive, The Gracie Awards and The Webby Awards, among others, for their work on Tiziano 360 | Kurdistan. To learn more, visit www.TizianoProject.org.

About The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts. We believe that democracy thrives when people and communities are informed and engaged. To learn more, visit www.knightfoundation.org.

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