

The Emerging Progressive Media Network

Historically, foundations have not focused on building a progressive media infrastructure. Messages flow from a variety of organizations and individuals but fail to coalesce into unified narratives that penetrate the mainstream. Recently, progressives have begun coordinating their messages and talking points, but gaps remain between Beltway politics and grassroots efforts. The groups and individuals highlighted below are among the most visible hubs in the progressive media network.

1 NOT-SO-BIG MONEY FOR MEDIA

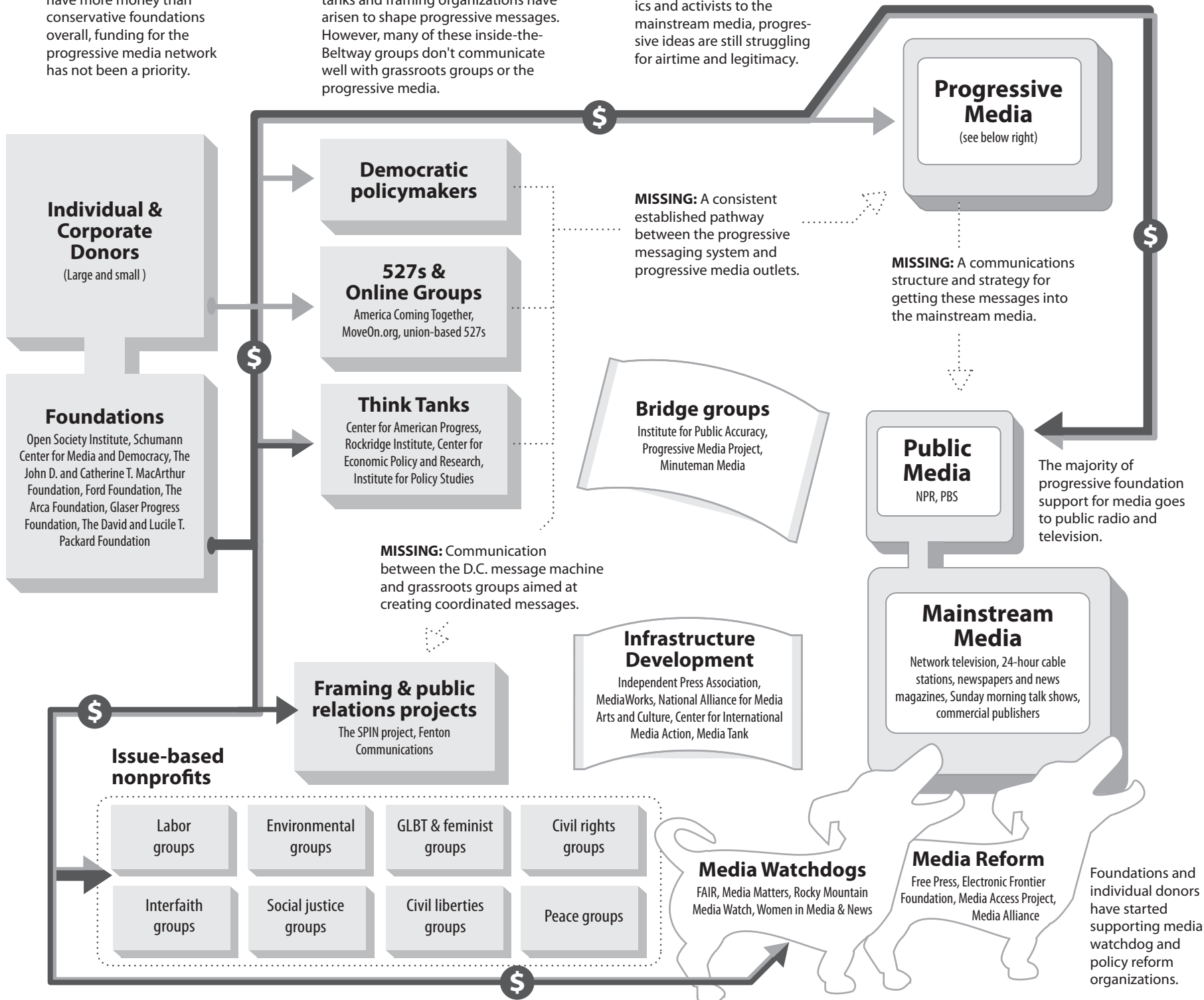
While liberal foundations have more money than conservative foundations overall, funding for the progressive media network has not been a priority.

2 THE EMERGING MESSAGE NETWORK

Over the past few years, both think tanks and framing organizations have arisen to shape progressive messages. However, many of these inside-the-Beltway groups don't communicate well with grassroots groups or the progressive media.

3 MISSING LINKS

Although some "bridge groups" work to connect progressive experts, academics and activists to the mainstream media, progressive ideas are still struggling for airtime and legitimacy.



Key Differences

This table points out the structural and political differences between the conservative and progressive media sectors.

PROGRESSIVE MEDIA	CONSERVATIVE MEDIA
Ad hoc	Deliberately organized
Diverse and democratic	Top-down
Social justice agenda	Corporate agenda
Underfunded, difficult-to-sustain media projects	Successful for-profits and fully funded nonprofit media projects
Multiple messages	Coordinated messages
Struggling for coverage and legitimacy	Large-scale mainstream media impact

Progressive Media

Online magazines
AlterNet, TomPaine, Grist, Women's eNews, Pop and Politics

Online portals
Common Dreams, BuzzFlash, OneWorld.net, Institute for Global Communications

Independent community media
Alternative newweeklies, public access cable TV, Low Power FM, Indy Media Centers

Publishers
Seven Stories Press, The New Press, Nation Books, Soft Skull Press

Magazines
The Nation, *The American Prospect*, *Mother Jones*, *In These Times*, *The Progressive*, plus many issue-based periodicals, like *ColorLines* & *Bitch*

Public intellectuals
Howard Zinn, Naomi Klein, Cornel West, Barbara Ehrenreich, Tom Frank, Laura Flanders, Norman

Solomon, Noam Chomsky, among many others

Radio networks
Air America Radio, Democracy Radio, Pacifica, Free Speech Radio, nonprofit community radio stations

Satellite/cable/digital TV
Free Speech TV, Independent World Television (pending), many independent producers

Documentary producers
Robert Greenwald, Michael Moore, Shola Lynch

Journalists/pundits
Bill Moyers, Al Franken, Arianna Huffington, Michael Eric Dyson, Amy Goodman, Molly Ivins, Eric Alterman, Gloria Steinem, Jim Hightower

Blogs
Daily Kos, Eschaton, Talking Points Memo

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