Jon Sawyer: Okay so I hope the panelists can come join us on stage. I think that we're going to get some chairs brought out and talk about each of these films. Anyone who thinks that these issues are far away, not related to our country I hope you caught those names, Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro. Two of- two of the videos we just saw.

Jon Sawyer: Uh, so if you all can come Up and take your seats and we'll- we'll begin the discussion. And we're going to ... We have microphones set up at the [inaudible.] I think we're getting mics on those stands. So, if you have questions for, um, any of these films, just come on down and- and- and line up at the mics, and- and we'll go to those questions as soon as we can.

Jon Sawyer: I want to start just going by ... We'll go through each filmmaker, just to tell us very briefly of what attracted you to your topic, and the biggest challenge you faced in recording the story. And I'll start with Katherine Carlson, a filmmaker and video editor from North Carolina, who produced the Uganda Widows story, uh, for National Geographic along with photographer Amy Toensing.

Kathryn Carlson: Thanks everyone for being here. Um ... I started working on this story in the context of the National Geographic Magazine feature story about widowhood around the world. Um ... And we wanted to focus on Uganda because it's this weird inner-section of where the cultural traditions of widows and property rights, directly contradict the constitutional law of the country. Um, so there's this program called International Justice Mission that is trying to make sure that the laws of the country are actually abided by in these- in these areas ... these rural areas where people are illiterate, no education, and are just responding to their cultural traditions first.

Kathryn Carlson: Um, so that's kind of why we ended up in that particular place. And one of the biggest struggles for me and Amy was trying to find the other side of the story. Um, what the actual Uganda culture was that fueled this discrimination. And it's hard to get somebody who is committing a crime to, um, talk to you about why they are doing that. Uh, so the closest we could come was talking to the [Sequi Bobo] which is the, um, the chieftain of the Uganda Kingdom about where those cultural traditions stem from. And so we really ended up just focusing on Betty's story, and what happens to these widows, and why they are fighting so hard, and why it is so hard of a fight.

Jon Sawyer: So, next Kiah Collier and Todd Wiseman from the Texas Tribune, uh, on The Taking. Uh, maybe, perhaps one of you could focus on the backstory and- and how this project came to be and- and- and the other maybe talk about the challenges and opportunities in translating this to a video.

Kiah Collier: So we first started looking at, um, the existing border fence, um, because of what's under discussion now with, uh, president Trump wanting to build a border wall. The border ... existing border fence, built under the Bush administration and finished under the Obama administration, the main point of reference, um, for, you know, what a new border wall would look like. Um, and

so we started looking at, um, all the land seizures that took place, um, for the federal government to build that wall. Um, most of them occurred in Texas because 95% of the land is privately owned. In California, Arizona, and New Mexico, um, the federal government already owns much of- much of the land. And so they had to do this massive land grab, um, and we started digging into that. There's more than 400 eminent domain cases, and discovered that, um, there were, you know, as you saw on the video, super inequitable payments. Um, and it was a just rushed, very kind of sloppy process in a lot of ways. Um, and so yeah it sort of grew out of the interest in president Trumps proposed border wall and- and, you know, a point of reference for what that might look like. Yeah, and what the implications could be.

Jon Sawyer: So what [inaudible] aside, one of the striking things to me about this project, and if you haven't looked on site at the Texas Tribune, the reporting, it's this massive, wonderful piece of reporting. The documents, what happened. And we tend to think of the ... We associate the border wall with president Trump, but this is- this is policy that was enacted under the George Bush administration, and implemented by the Obama administration. So this is ... it's a case really of more continuity than something different today. And this has reached 700 miles or so of- of border fence were constructed as a result of the 2007-2008 laws that were past. So, Tom?

Todd Wiseman: As far as challenges, uh, as far as I was concerned is being responsible for the video component of this project. There also was a 10,000 word print piece hand comic book, if you could check it online. Um ... Uh-

Jon Sawyer: Excellent, excellent comic book.

Todd Wiseman: Yes. Uh ... was just to make eminent domain interesting, I think was the challenge I thought. Um, it's really a testament to Kiah and the other reporters from ProPublica who did the legwork, um, identifying ... basically pouring over these old documents, um, and looking at just names, and numbers, and dollar amounts, and little plots of land. I mean, it's really easy to miss that there might be a story there, or that there was a real human being there, a real family that, um, you know, was forced to endure this- this process. So, uh, that's what was the challenge for me, is to, um, get down there and bring that statistic to life.

Todd Wiseman: 'Cause you said, I mean, this is something that happened ten years ago. I think people even forget that it's there. I mean, a lot of people aren't even aware that there already is a border fence down there, as we talk about building new- new fence. So, this was just, for me, just go down there and show it to people 'cause I think most people don't know what it looks like. That was it.

Jon Sawyer: So, next my colleague Steve Sapienza from the Pulitzer Center on the Barbuda Project.

Steve Sapienza: Yeah, so, um, I have to say that we got interested in this story, um, because Gregory Scruggs, who's a freelance journalist, now contributor to Thomson Reuter's PLACE, um, applied for a grant. And he wanted to go to Barbuda after the hurricane and look at this communal way of, uh, living, this communal, uh, land system that they had in place and- and how that was being challenged in the wake of this hurricane. And we thought that this was a really interesting story, because there are lots of stories around the world where communal land rights are, uh, being challenged. But this hurricane really put it into sharp focus, um ... and involved the international community with the, um, recovery aid.

Steve Sapienza: So, um, we came up with a plan to, um, to also with his Guardian story and his Thomson Reuters story, to do a video very quickly. Um, and within about a month the challenge, um, was to get in the field quickly, do this. Um ... my challenge as- as a video producer were, uh, time and distance. Um ... we were there for five days on the ground. Um, you have to take a two hour boat trip from Antigua, where most of the displaced people from Barbuda are- are being housed. It's a two hour boat trip. So we really only were able to spend a few hours a day on the island. So I think in total we shot about ten hours over two days on the island to get what we could get and to- to bring that back. So that was a struggle.

Steve Sapienza: Another one, minor, was that we had intended to interview the Prime Minister, but he was in New York. So we had to hire a producer/shooter to go cover that, um, in New York for us while we were on the island.

Jon Sawyer: And lastly, Astrid Zweynert... Astrid did not direct, "Green: at what price?". That was Nicky Milne, who couldn't be with us tonight. Astrid is the managing editor of PLACE, the digital media platform created by Thomson Reuters foundation, to draw attention to land, and property rights issues. Uh, perhaps Astrid you can tell us a bit about the- the- the film, but also the mission in place and the role of stories like "Green: at what price?" in spreading the word.

Astrid Zweynert: Sure. So, I mean specifically with the film, I mean what we had come across in our reporting for place, which is like a digital platform that reports about under reported land rights issues and property right issues. So with this film what we had come across was all over the world even when there is a law that says people's land rights are protected, you very often find when it comes to, uh ... a big company arriving and saying, "We want to buy all this land from you", uh, the government caves in and- and doesn't respect these rights.

Astrid Zweynert: And in- in the case of Uganda, this has happened as well as you can see in the film. And I think the challenge for us was to- to find a case where the company would actually be prepared to talk about it openly. And Green Resources, I have to say, was very open about everything. Almost like they thought that everything they do is right. And I think this is partly because the land is leased, it wasn't bought. And I think that makes quite a difference when companies lease land, they- they- they don't have the same sort of responsibility in their own view. You know, like should ... the woman said the spokesperson said, you

know, this is- this is not for us to decide. This is for the government to decide. And I think that's partly why they were a lot more open and were prepared to, uh, let Nicky and our cameraman film there and- and come on camera, be really open about it.

Astrid Zweynert: Um ... Generally speaking in our reporting on place, we're trying to sort of tease these things out that are perhaps not so much in the mainstream media but that are not yet reported. And companies in general, it's very hard to get stories out of them about what their attitude to respecting land rights is. Uh, it's mostly when there's a clash, when there's you know a big land deal is struck and there are violent addictions or if it's in cities, it has to do with slum evictions, that's when it's sort of, uh, is in the news, in the mainstream media. And then companies sometimes feel compelled to say something about the attitude because they- they- they feel under pressure and their- their reputation is at risk. But in general, it's a very difficult story to tell.

Astrid Zweynert: And you know, this week in Washington we have the World Bank land conference. And what struck me was how few companies were actually present there. I mean there was some there trying to- to sort of probably, uh, promote their products. Some talked about their land rights policy. But it's always the same kind of companies and generally speaking there isn't a lot of information available. And so I think this is [inaudible] try to sort of tease that out as well, and company have a responsibility, but they often do their utmost to get out of it.

Astrid Zweynert: And actually as I was ... That's why I brought my- my notepad as I was, um ... looking at the film again I thought I must have a look whether they have actually done anything. And whether these, uh ... the residents now have their land title. I couldn't find any information about that. But they'll say on their website because the land is leased, Green Resources does not have the same community development obligations as in other countries in Africa where they have bought the land. And then they have this whole list of what they did. They provided medical equipment, et cetera. They drilled boreholes. And they [inaudible] education. They do HIV and AIDS awareness programs with the help from the Norwegian agency, so that they- they can say on their website quite openly that they don't feel they have responsibility towards people. But at the same time as we can see in the film they have really, um ... destroyed livelihoods there and they keep planting trees. So there is [inaudible] almost fully planted now so that they'll be running out of space now. But it's all full of trees.

Jon Sawyer: Do make your way to the mics if you have questions for any of these- any of these filmmakers. I just think it's striking, these two films about Uganda, in both instances there- there were in [inaudible] they kind of win victory and sort of get to their [inaudible] but then the second half of the films, how do you- how do you actually execute ... how do you make that implement the victory. That's still pending. And I think in after in the widow's film it's- it's- it's amazing the shots that you got of the vows in sort of what it means to sort of go into something that's not- none of these records are digitized. None of them are

accessible. Maybe, how did you get that shot? How did you get access to that? And- And what did you learn from it?

Kathryn Carlson: That was actually a really scary moment of my career. We were, uh ... led into the court house. Um ... we were contacted by JM, who worked there, and brought into the archives, um, which are largely run by bribes. Um ... and while we were down there filming, the archivist who is, you know, just going through, trying to find anything, um, one of the admins came down and threatened to take our cards and equipment from us. So, it was like taking the card out of the camera, sticking it in my shoe, trying to get out as quickly as possible.

Kathryn Carlson: Um ... But, you know, we were given access for a very short amount of time. Um

... But I think that shot is one of the most important shots in the film because it shows exactly how, you know, high the odds are stacked against them. And why these women are unable to actually seek legal recourse, even though the law is on their side. Because, you know, even bus fare to go find ... go to the court house and argue their case is sometimes more than they make in a year.

Jon Sawyer: Now we have a question. On this side first.

Audience 1: Thank you very much for making [inaudible]. Everyone should see them. Um ... would you be able to, um, tell who's the biggest land owner in the world and who is the biggest land owner in the United States? Is it church? Is it the government? Is it a private ownership? And I was wondering whether you could, uh, name the country where land ownership rights is the most respected [inaudible 00:15:26] perhaps and where they're least respected?

Kathryn Carlson: The US government owns a whole lot of land, um, the Interior, you know, Department. Um ... I don't know if the federal government is the largest land, uh, owner?

Jon Sawyer: I think it is in the United States.

Kathryn Carlson: It is in the U.S, right? Um ... And, you know, I don't think a lot of Americans realize that, you know, the, uh, government can file a, you know, declaration of taking at 8 AM, you know, open of business and if a judge finds it they can roll bulldozers on your land by 5 PM. You know, they just don't do that very much (laughs) for obvious reasons I guess. But, um, that was something that was super shocking for me to learn. Because I knew about eminent domain, but I didn't realize, um ... that, that particular provision, the declaration of taking was so strong and allowed them to build first, take the land, and pay people later, which is why there are so many of these court cases that are still open.

Jon Sawyer: I think out of all of the topics you've mentioned, private ownership, church ownership, government ownership, I mean, they're- they're applicable all over the world and they're ripe for reporting and they are huge, huge presences. And this is part of what we're talking about, why these issues are ripe for exploring.

Jon Sawyer: A question on this side?

Audience 2: Yeah. Amazing story telling. Um ... I was curious how much climate change mattered into some of the stories?

Todd Wiseman: How much what?

Audience 2: Climate change?

Jon Sawyer: Climate change. The role of climate change in some of the reportings, some of the issues that are being covered.

Todd Wiseman: After you.

Astrid Zweynert: Okay. I think climate change plays a huge part. I think that in many countries you can observe that, uh, people have to migrate because they lose their livelihoods due to climate change. And in fact we have, uh ... we are making a film now about Mongolia, where herders are migrating to the capital city because they- they- they just don't have the- the land anymore to- to do what they used to do. Their traditional livelihood is being destroyed.

Astrid Zweynert: I think here in the US it's in Louisiana, lots of cases where people have to, uh, migrate. So I think it's a very big factor in- in land issues. And it was, I mean, from what I can tell, only likely to become a bigger factor.

Jon Sawyer: Question? Can we go ... Go ahead. Go ahead. [inaudible]

Kathryn Carlson: Um ... So, uh ... Climate change I think plays a huge role, especially in impoverished populations around the world because they rely on the land for everything. You know, water, growing their crops, even getting wood to make food. Um ... And so when climate change causes drought, or heavy rainfall that drowns out the crops, or whatever, they're there on the front lines of that battle. Um, and for women who are often, you know, the marginalized and the marginalized and they are the caretakers of their family. They're responsible for the water, who are responsible for getting the fire wood, um, and to have no voice in the decision making of how to actually manage the land, they are just become the victims of climate change, the invisible victims of climate change.

Jon Sawyer: We have a question on this side.

Audience 3: Hi. Uh, thank you for your films. I think it's really important that we all saw them. Um ... I'm wondering if you've brought them back to the community's impacted? And if so, how they've been received and how they've played into some of these conflicts that are still going on?

Kiah Collier: We haven't.

Todd Wiseman: No.

Kiah Collier: Actually, we were just talking about that earlier today and we were like, "Wow.

We should do that."

Audience: (laughs)

Kiah Collier: I've talked to a few of the people since our stories ran, um ... and they're like, "Yeah, that's pretty much how- how it went." You know.

Jon Sawyer: One of- One of the things that we did as part of this project was we translated all of the stories into Spanish. And so it's available in the Spanish language, which is ... a lot of people on the border are only speaking Spanish. So that was, you know, purposefully done to ... in hopes of reaching, uh, people who were most directly affected by these policy's.

Todd Wiseman: [inaudible 00:19:43] this- this video, we posted it kind of anywhere we could. And it did appear, we posted it out through, um, the Tribune's Facebook page and I did see it getting picked up by a lot of, sort of, border community pages, and like, south Texas pages. So, I mean, that's where we actually saw some of the most traffic from it is I think these groups that were ... that lived down there, and are interested in these issues, and affects them most.

Todd Wiseman: So we haven't physically gone down there, um, and shown it to people. And I haven't spoken to like, [Juan Cabazos 00:20:13] since this has come out, but I would like to know what he thinks of it. Um ... But, uh, it does seem like it did get some- some traction down there, where that is actually happening.

Kiah Collier: And the print story ran in almost every border paper in Texas, so.

Jon Sawyer: You know, it's interesting 'cause just in terms of how stories develop, Katie you might speak a little bit to some of the reporting that came afterwards about the- the individual who made a lot of money out of this. And sort of, that was ... you didn't know really who had that story in the beginning, but it turned out to be a significant secondary story.

Kathryn Carlson: Yeah, it was sort of random. We stumbled across it as we were reporting on this. There's a particular section of border fence in South ... for South Texas that is a levy wall. And it was basically, kind of a politically, uh, palatable solution because, um, they needed ... they had crumbling levees along the Rio Grande. They needed to revamp the levees. They were about to be de certified by FEMA, which required a bunch of people to get flood insurance. And so they were prepping to rebuild these levees when, um, president Bush signed this Secure Fences act in 2006. And they were like, "Let's combine the two". And DHS basically gave all authority and, you know, handed ... deposited, you know, 200 million dollars into a local bank account and said, "Get this done by December 31st, 2008. We really don't care how." And as a result of that, um, this local

bureaucrat ended up making, um, several million dollars in commission on this project, um, that-

Jon Sawyer: And his family. And his family.

Kathryn Carlson: And his family, um ... It's the subject of a lawsuit. Um, and so we stumbled across that, you know, lawsuit while we were reporting on this. And, um, we found out that Homeland Security found out about it later and they were really mad about it, but they didn't, you know, try to recoup any of the money. So-

Jon Sawyer: Question over here?

Audience 3: Thanks. My question is for, uh ... is for those [inaudible 00:22:08]. I just wanted to know if you have, uh, or if you know the historical context of the= of the company, of the company that you're reporting. I just would like to know more about the non-formal tenure system and how it evolved to sort of a conflict- conflicted relationship that you described. I assume, um, this has been around for some time, but you mentioned in the film that, um, the recently sort of the community's become, um, more aggressive towards widows, and would like to know what triggered that?

Kathryn Carlson: Yeah, that's a great point that you picked up on there. So, um, the traditional culture before the kind of modern Government was called Buganda. Um, and it is a chieftain kingdom. And in that- in that culture, women are not able to inherit land. They are often actually property themselves, um, and are part of the inheritance of the males family's. So, when the husband dies sometimes the wife is taken on automatically as the second, third, fourth wife of a brother-in- law or an uncle. Sometimes even the father. Um ... their children, if they say, "No, I don't want to marry you." Or you know, "I want to marry somebody else.", sometimes the children themselves are taken away from them.

Kathryn Carlson: So they are coming from centuries of that mentality, of that a woman is by rights not allowed to have property.

Kathryn Carlson: Um, the Ugandan constitution from 1995 that affords women ... it's a very progressive constitution actually. It gives equal rights to men and women and specifies widows in that constitution, but it's written in English. So, in these communities that are in these rural areas where, you know, 70% of the population is illiterate, how are they supposed to know that they have these rights. Um ... And the law enforcement is very underpaid, very corrupt, um, and when these widows have no money to pay for these investigations, or when they have, you know, 30 relatives kind of surrounding them saying, "This is not yours. This is ours.", they really don't have much to do themselves.

Kathryn Carlson: Um ... In terms of how they have gotten, how the violence has kind of escalated recently, it's because of development in the area that is taking away land. Um ... And so land it becoming even more valuable now, so they will go to, you know,

deeper lengths to actually secure rights to that land. If that answers your question.

Audience 3: Yeah. Thank you.

Astrid Zweynert: [inaudible 00:24:52] I think that the lack of information, um, combined with traditions is the place out in many part of the world and often to the detriment of women. But it's not confined to Africa. If you go to parts of Europe, for example, in the Balkans, in Kosovo, in Albania the- the law is very progressive there, but women will when they- when they're due to inherit land and they're legally entitled to it they will not do it, because they don't want to be seen to be, um, taking property and land from their brothers because it will make them an outcast socially.

Astrid Zweynert: So, you know A, they might not really that they're entitled. And B, it's- it's- it's socially not acceptable. So I think this is a- is a, you know, problem in many, many parts of the world. And the- the lack of information is often the first problem, but even if women do have the information they- they find it very hard to- to exercise their rights.

Jon Sawyer: Question on this side?

Audience 4: Thank you. Um ... I noticed that a lot of the stories were about people of color and predominately former colonized nations, so I wanted to know how that factored into your story telling, and how you chose to tell these stories?

Audience 4: And then also, how the legacy of colonization plays into the current status of the, um, a lot of these people and the lives that they live?

Kathryn Carlson: Great question. Um ... Yes. So, this ... the reason we chose to do Uganda was the three of those countries that were part of that story on widowhood for National Geographic, um, was India, Uganda, and Czechoslovakia, which was where there was, like, a war in Bosnia that hurt, um ... where women were the widows of soldiers, um, were ostracized from their community's but ended up taking power back, and celebrating their own widowhood as, kind of these war heroes.

Kathryn Carlson: Um, India is of a similar case, especially with colonization, where these widows are basically stripped of all rights upon widowhood, um, similar to Uganda. Uh, for colonization, when you're going into these places that are developing countries, especially as, like, white privileged, um, journalists, you have to basically, or what at least my tactic, is by getting local fixers, which are translators, people that are in- in the community, and they're basically leading the reporting. I am there to document. So, I want to know from them, they feel comfortable speaking with people who speak their language, who look like them, who can understand what's happening in their communities in a way that I cannot, and I am there to simply document, and share that particular, you

know, thread of a story, as best as I can with the world who doesn't even see this as a problem.

Astrid Zweynert: I- I think it's ... I mean, the- the question of, you know, is it actually right for us as- [crosstalk 00:28:12]

Jon Sawyer: [crosstalk 00:28:13] the mic.

Astrid Zweynert: It's not on. I'll try this one. Is it actually- Is it actually right for us to, as white privileged journalists, to go to countries and- and do that kind of reporting. And then, um, use local people- people, as we call them fixers. You know, they are journalists in their own right very often. Um ... and I think they deserve all the credit that we- that we get for making these films, um, because they're not, you know, they're not just a handy person that helps us. I think they're- they're instrumental in helping us to make these films. And they- they should really be on the credits. And I'm ashamed to say, they were not on the credits on our film, except for the researchers. So, you know, that's a good point. Very important.

Jon Sawyer: I think it's- it's- it's significant, worth noting that in- in these four films, videos represented on the stage just now, the stories are all told I think entirely through the voices of people in the country. And the ... [Don Williams's 00:29:15] piece on [inaudible 00:29:17] is the exception, where she very much is the white outsider journalist who's kind of the hero of the story that's being told. And I think there's a good case to be made for that as a narrative device.

But I think this is more the norm for what is ... you know, what we try to make the hallmark of a lot of Pulitzer Center Reporting. But just to your point, I think it's- it's so important to show people as agents in their own stories, not as simply subjects, or victims, or whatever. And it makes all the difference in the way the story's being told. Whether it's- Whether it's actually the reporter, the person who's driving the reporting is coming from the outside or not, it's in how you choose to convey the story.

Jon Sawyer: One more question back behind this side?

Audience 5: Uh, yes. A specific question about the Barbuda, uh ... film. Um ... I know the last couple of years I think, uh, cruise lines have purchased, uh, areas of land in the Caribbean, like [inaudible 00:30:18], Royal Caribbean, things like that. Um ... in the wake of the hurricanes have, uh ... did ... while you were down there, was there any ... did you come across anything, um, about the cruise industry having interest in Barbuda, building a port there? Um ... you know, just leasing land kind of in the same way that we saw in other films? Taking advantage or tourist opportunities?

Jon Sawyer: [crosstalk 00:30:44] You saw- You saw the big ship in Antigua? Audience 5: Yeah, that was implied. [crosstalk 00:30:48]

Jon Sawyer: Bigger than the island.

Audience 5: Yeah, it triggered the question. Yeah.

Steve Sapienza: It's a prime destination for cruise ships. And actually, Antigua is, um, not Barbuda yet. Um ... But the hurricanes that went through the Caribbean, damaged some of the other ports that Antigua was actually doing phenomenal business with the cruise ships, being re-routed and going through. And, um, and that was one of ... maybe one of the factors that the government was thinking they- they could use to help develop Barbuda into a destination. They already have some docks there. They have a very small airport. Um, but they, um, you know, we're talking about allowing cruise ships to dock there in the future. And they're building a massive airport. I mean, this airport is huge. It- It, um ... from what it looks like, it would at least be, if not bigger than the one that was on Antigua, it was very big, being build. Mostly it looked like we didn't get to talk with them, but we were told Venezuela and Cuban builders. That was sort of interesting to learn.

Steve Sapienza: And, um ... yeah. So there's this tension. Barbuda has had traditionally a tourist industry. We, um, got to spend some time with the spoke guys that you say very briefly. Um ... he's a fishing guide. He's very famous in that region. And they've had tourism that's really sort of scaled to the size of their island. And it looks like, in the wake of the storm, that the government in Antigua wants to- to really push past that, and really develop and open it up.

Jon Sawyer: Yeah I had just a couple of quick questions. One for Steve, following up on this question of who tells the story and how ... I mentioned at the beginning that, uh, Steve is taking the lead for us and- and working on these training workshops around the world, and also coordinating our property rights reporting in general. I just wondered if you could share a bit more about- about those initiatives and- and, you know, why in your view these topics, property rights issues, have not gotten the coverage they deserve? And- And what do we do to make sure that those stories get told, and- and- and who they get told by?

Steve Sapienza: Yeah, I think, um, if you go back a few years and look at coverage, uh, as I have.

I've been closely paying attention to these land issues and coverage of land issues for three years now. And, um, it was largely kind of quick, breaking news about land- land disputes, small scale conflicts, and even large scale, um, land grabs. And a lot of that reporting was happening at a regional level. So you didn't have much of that reporting, sort of, reaching out beyond these different areas, um ... around the globe, and reaching an international audience, or a broad audience. And I think, um ... what we've seen with Thomson Reuters place and some of the projects we've been doing too, it's more sustained coverage, um, on these issues. Um, and also find more unique stories. And I think all of these films up here today, have those aspects to them, really finding interesting characters, um, and telling these property rights stories through the characters.

Steve Sapienza: So, you know, we're interested in what we do with, um, finding just new ways of story telling, um, when it comes to property rights. So we have started data journalism grants related to property rights. We did five last year. We're gonna do at least four or five this year. Um ... encouraging, um, data journalists to- to find new ways of, um, telling, um, these land issue stories. And, um, we also started these, um, uh ... workshops in partnership with Thomson Reuters place that John mentioned, and that's about training local people building capacity with local journalists, to tell the stories in their region. And then look for ways to get it out onto the larger platform, whether it be Thomson Reuters place or perhaps some other outlet. But once they're trained, and once they're aware of these issues, and interested in them, then they're prepared to do that.

Jon Sawyer: Right. And last thing, I wanted to come back to- to Todd and Kiah, who are really sort of our heroes of the night because, because of our so called storm yesterday, their flight was canceled, which then they graciously agreed to take a 5:30 AM flight from Austin this morning to get in today.

Jon Sawyer: But not only that, that we wanted them here because we ... I mentioned in the beginning that- that we do a lot of educational outreach, and so Todd and Kiah have been in- in schools all day, and- and talking with students. And- and we think that is so important, in terms of, it's wonderful to work with National Geographic, and New Hour, and Thomson Reuters, and all the other wonderful media partners we have, but we think in this kind of fragmented media environment that we're in, and all of the political divides that we face, that we as journalists have to work very proactively and aggressively to kind of take these issues out to any audience we can find, whether it's a great audience like tonight, or a middle school or a high school audience.

Jon Sawyer: So maybe just your impressions of, you know, what did the kids think? What did they know about the border situation? What struck them about your reporting? Any surprises that you had in conversation today?

Todd Wiseman: I really liked going out to the schools today actually. We spoke to an entire sixth grade in one school. Um ... So they were- [crosstalk 00:36:04]

Jon Sawyer: [crosstalk 00:36:04] sixth grade dawning.

Todd Wiseman: Yes, they were, uh ... we were a little anxious going in 'cause we saw how little the kids were and, you know, if I have time making eminent domain interesting to adults, it's gonna be really challenging with these sixth graders. But, you know, we just- we just tailored the approach to them and, you know, I think we got ... I got a rise out of them, explaining was this a lease? Um, I asked them to guess how much she was paid for having the fence put in her backyard, and they were guessing anywhere from $5,000 to $5 million. And, uh, I told them that she didn't get paid anything. And I think that there were, um, audible gasps, um, from the sixth graders today.

Kiah Collier: They also liked Google Earth a lot.

Todd Wiseman: Oh yeah, I gave them- I gave them ... I had all the maps and the, um, video I created with Google Earth Pro. And so, I did, like, a demo and I took them around to see, and I took them down to the border, and showed [inaudible 00:36:52] and all those maps, so ...

Kiah Collier: Yeah, we presented it with a very privileged school and, you know, an underprivileged school, and the juxtaposition was nice. Um ... and I started out both of my presentations asking, "How many of you know about the wall president Trump wants to build? And how many of you know there's already a wall there?" And it seems like a pretty even amount of kids kind of knew- knew- knew what was going on, and knew that there already was a barrier. Um, and they had of course been prepped by their teachers, but, um, um, yeah. It was a lot of fun and, um ...

Kiah Collier: Yeah. I was less anxious about explaining eminent domain once we got into it. 'Cause the concept is really, you know, sort of simple, your land being taken by the government, you know. And that's fairly easy to explain. Yeah.

Jon Sawyer: That part I think is probably surprising to a lot of people. [crosstalk 00:37:43] Kiah Collier: Yes.

Jon Sawyer: Well, the- they're doing this again starting at 7 tomorrow morning, so we'll cal this to a close so they can get some- some rest. But thank you all for being here. Thank you- [crosstalk 00:37:54]

END OF PROGRAM