

ANDREA HOUSTON

Strategic Communications // Media Relations // Politics // Advocacy

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EXPERIENCE SNAPSHOT

Ricochet Media — Managing Editor

APRIL 2022 - PRESENT

Ricochet's first Managing Editor // Collaborate with editors and journalists to edit and balance investigative projects and stories // Devise strategies to fill gaps in media landscape // Inspire change by holding power to account and covering untold stories

Toronto Metropolitan School of Journalism — Instructor

AUGUST 2016 - PRESENT

Develop and teach Toronto Metropolitan University's first course on Queer Media // Stimulate first-year students through Introduction to News Studies // Inspire journalism students to become more engaged with politics and students from outside journalism to become more engaged with media

Office of MPP Jill Andrew — Legislative Assistant

MAY 2020 - SEPTEMBER 2020

Speech writing, media relations, and social media advocacy for Women's Issues Critic at Ontario Legislature

Rainbow Railroad — Communications & Development Officer

MARCH 2018 - FEBRUARY 2020

Crafted and oversaw campaigns increasing awareness of, and bringing new donors to, the premier international organization helping LGBTQ+ people flee violence and persecution // Collaborated on shared objectives with partner organizations and governments around the world // Maximized organization's media presence, converting that into monetary contributions

Torontoist — Managing Editor

FEBRUARY 2017 - SEPTEMBER 2017

Recruited and managed new, diverse contributors // Increased and broadened audience among young readers // Reinvigorated brand with rekindled sense of purpose and relevance

Office of MPP Cheri DiNovo — Executive Assistant

JANUARY 2015 - JANUARY 2016

Worked with stakeholders across political spectrum and civil society to advance human-rights legislation, including Canada's first ban on conversion therapy // Managed legislative office, including budget

NOW Magazine — Writer and Organizer

JANUARY 2015 - JANUARY 2016

Mobilized coalition fighting for repeal of new laws criminalizing sex work // Covered law's passage and implications

KEY SKILLS

- // Public speaking (teaching, mentoring, lecturing)
- // Journalism
- // Research
- // Human Rights and Social Justice
- // Writing and editing
- // Fundraising and donor stewardship
- // Media strategies
- // Social media
- // Project management
- // Campaign organizing
- // Grassroots activism
- // Legislative politics
- // International human rights

AWARD HIGHLIGHTS

- 2016** – LGBTQ Role Model of the Year, Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity
- 2012** – Canadian Newsperson of the Year, J-Source (finalist)
- 2014 & 2015** – LGBT Person of the Year, Inspire Awards (two-time finalist)
- 2012** – Honoured Dyke, Pride Toronto
- 2008** – Best Community Journalist award, Peterborough Race Relations Committee
- 2007** – Ontario Newspaper Award for feature writing

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Xtra — Staff Reporter

OCTOBER 2010 - JANUARY 2014

Exposed discrimination against LGBTQ people in Toronto and around the world // Investigated systemic injustices, advanced rights through journalism

Peterborough Examiner — Staff Reporter

APRIL 2006 - OCTOBER 2010

Reporter and photographer on news team, covering courts, justice, and education

Toronto Star — Staff Reporter

MARCH 2000 - MAY 2004

Crime and police reporter on City Desk // Trainer for new radio room interns

EDUCATION

Humber College — Fundraising Management Certificate

2017 - 2018

York University — Honours B.A. English/Theatre

1999 - 2003

Humber College — Journalism Diploma

1996 - 1999

SELECT PROJECTS, SPEECHES & WORKSHOPS

- // Member of Canadian Journalists for Free Expression's International Committee, assisting Afghan journalists seeking to flee Afghanistan
- // Consultant on Historica Canada's first LGBT-themed Heritage Minute
- // Presented to 300 youth at Historica Canada Trailblazers in Women's History Forum for International Women's Day (2018)
- // Member of African Centre for Refugees board, advising on campaigns and fundraising
- // Keynote at Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation's Status of Women Awards (2013)
- // Founding member of Dignity Initiative working group, a network of Canadian organizations pushing political leaders to take stands on international LGBT issues
- // International Day of Pink speaker for banking executives in Toronto, as well as Montreal, Trinidad, Bahamas, & London via Skype (2016)
- // Panelist on TVO's The Agenda with Steve Paikin, "Democracy & Rainbows" episode on international LGBTQ human rights (2014)
- // Addressed Massey College's Southam Journalism Fellows on social media in reporting (2013)
- // Judging panel for Journalists for Human Rights student journalism award (2017)

COMPUTER SKILLS

- // Google Analytics
- // Salesforce
- // Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- // WordPress
- // Google Docs
- // iMovie
- // Adobe Photoshop

REFERENCES

References are available upon request.

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