



Telling Stories, Changing the Conversation

Cannabis: Legalize it + Criticize it + Advertise it

Ark Republic's Major Collaborative Project April 2019

CALL FOR PROJECTS

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Newark, N.J. (February 20, 2019) — Media start up, Ark Republic launches another major collaborative project (MCP) and is looking for some really great storytellers. Our MCPs are Ark Republic's signature reporting initiative in which we call on the voices of the people to explore a theme, topic, event or person. For our second MCP, we will explore cannabis in as many angles as possible.

Ark Republic espouses to be a “media revolution” that holds the power and perspective of the people as its greatest resource. With that said, we are creating a multilingual, multimedia collaborative project that mobilizes the many voices that make up our stories. We call on storytellers such as professors, journalists professionals, community members, artists, activists and everyday folk to tell a story that has many layers to unfold.

Now, we ask you to be a part of this massive, powerful narrative. The title of the project, “**Cannabis: Legalize it + Criticize it + Advertise it,**” is inspired by Jamaican recording artist and Rastafarian, Peter Tosh who released, “Legalize it,” a single and album with the same name in 1976. The song advocated for the legalization of cannabis use on the Caribbean island.

During this time, the Jamaican government profiled the Rastafarian community for their cultural practices, one of which was the growing and smoking of marijuana. Tosh predicted that cannabis would be so commonplace in the future that it would be used like a cigarette.

Speed up four decades later, countries around the world have introduced and passed legislation allowing for the use of marijuana. As nations decriminalize the selling and consumption of cannabis, old histories and issues emerge. At the same time, new narratives come forward. In short, much is still very complicated. Let's unpack cannabis and tell the stories we will never hear.

Currently, we are accepting proposals about possible stories and projects for this exploration. **Submit** all proposals to the following email by March 1, 2019: buildwithus@arkrepublic.com with the subject line: **Cannabis**. If you do not have a particular topic and would like for one to be assigned then indicate that in an email, as well.

At the same time, we want to allow, and in fact, encourage, all contributors to be creative in their submissions to this project. Look below the message for more information on the MCP.



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Please spread the word on this major collaborative project. We are welcoming as many contributors as possible in telling these intriguing, yet poignant stories. Thank you for your attention and efforts. We hope to hear from you soon.

About Ark Republic

Ark Republic launched in May 2017 as a membership-based, media outlet providing original multimedia coverage of under-explored, under-examined and underreported stories. It is comprised of a collective of newsmakers, narrators and curators who examine the world using innovative storytelling techniques, all the while, engaging with communities offline.

We are members of NewsGuild-CWA, Communications Workers of America Local 38010

Ark Republic was named one of the companies to watch in summer 2018 by the NYU Entrepreneurial Institute. Its founder, Kaia Shivers is a NYU professor.

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THE DETAILS

SUBMISSIONS

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ENTRIES CAN COME IN MANY FORMS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- Traditional/Reported piece
- Narrated
- Feature story
- Long form journalism
- Think piece/Commentary
- Photojournalism
- Audio Op-ed
- Podcast
- Pictorial/photo-journalistic piece
- Mapping or Geo-spatial mapping
- Short Docs
- Short films
- Q&A interviews (written or video'ed)
- Pictorial Cartoons
- Comic Strips
- Poems
- Short stories
- Abstract art

TIMELINE

Proposals submitted: March 1

First drafts: March 15

Second drafts: March 25