

CRAIG AARON

EXPERIENCE

Free Press

Washington, D.C.

President and Co-CEO (2011– present)

- Lead nation's largest public interest group devoted to media and tech policy.
- Guide political, communications and organizational strategy.
- Oversee nearly 40 staff; primary liaison to board of directors.
- Fundraise to support operations.
- Represent organization as public speaker, in the press, on TV and radio.

Managing Director (2010 – 2011)

- Coordinated day-to-day program, advocacy and public education work.
- Led planning for 2011 and 2013 National Conferences for Media Reform.

Senior Program Director (2009 – 2010)

- Reorganized and managed program, outreach and communications teams.
- Developed major campaigns on journalism, public media and the internet.

Communications Director (2004 – 2009)

- Guided communications, press and Web staff; primary press contact.

Public Citizen

Washington, D.C.

Investigative Reporter, Congress Watch (2003 – 2004)

- Created WhiteHouseforSale.org website tracking money behind 2004 presidential candidates for national, nonprofit consumer advocacy group.
- Investigated undue influence of pharmaceutical and energy lobbyists.

In These Times

Chicago

Managing Editor (1997 – 2003)

- Directed daily operations of biweekly political newsmagazine; supervised staff; coordinated production; assigned, edited, wrote and proofread stories.
- Also worked as news and features editor and assistant editor of the magazine.

EDUCATION

Northwestern University, Medill School of Journalism

Evanston, Ill.

- Bachelor's degree in journalism and political science, June 1997.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

- Contributor to numerous publications including *Columbia Journalism Review*, *Daily Beast*, *The Guardian*, *HuffPost*, *MSNBC*, *New York Daily News*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Politico*, *Seattle Times*, *Slate*, *USA Today* (2003 – present)
- Editor/co-author of the books *Changing Media: Public Interest Policies for the Digital Age* (2009) and *Appeal to Reason: 25 Years In These Times* (2002); wrote chapters for the books *Strategies for Media Reform* (2016), *Will the Last Reporter Please Turn Out the Lights?* (2011) and *Dream of a Nation* (2011)
- Board member, *In These Times* (2023 – present)
- Advisory board, Media, Inequality and Change Center, University of Pennsylvania (2019 – present)
- Yearlong fellow, Rockwood Leadership Institute (2018)
- Adjunct professor, Columbia College (2003)

Biography

Craig Aaron is the president and co-CEO of Free Press and Free Press Action. Craig joined Free Press in 2004 and has led the organization since 2011. For nearly two decades, he has been a leader in major campaigns to safeguard Net Neutrality, stop media consolidation, oppose unchecked surveillance, defend public media and sustain quality journalism. He works in Washington and speaks often to policymakers, the press and the public on media and technology issues.

Craig has written for *The Columbia Journalism Review*, *The Daily Beast*, *The Guardian*, *HuffPost*, *MSNBC*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Politico*, *The Progressive*, *The Seattle Times*, *Slate* and many other outlets. He is the editor of two books, *Appeal to Reason: 25 Years of In These Times* and *Changing Media: Public Interest Policies for the Digital Age*.

Craig was a 2018–19 yearlong fellow at the Rockwood Leadership Institute and serves on the board of *In These Times* and on the advisory board of the Media, Inequality and Change Center at the University of Pennsylvania. Before joining Free Press, he was an investigative reporter for Public Citizen’s Congress Watch and the managing editor of *In These Times*. He is a graduate of Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism.

-