



Proximate Press

Opinion – Submission Guidelines

Proximate Press seeks pitches for articles by independent journalists and researchers as well as practitioners working across grassroots movements as well as institutions in philanthropy, finance, aid and development.

- Create strong pitches for Proximate stories, and
- Understand our editorial workflow and timelines.

Writers from all backgrounds are welcome to pitch us. We are especially interested in hearing from writers outside the United States. A track record of writing and publishing articles is helpful but not mandatory.

And please read several [Proximate stories](#) before reaching out, in order to understand our editorial voice and coverage areas. More on those below

Our Coverage Areas

Proximate covers the future of funding: how money and other resources move, and emerging models that give communities greater control. Our journalism looks at efforts to rethink funding systems and shift power through three areas:

- Philanthropy
- Aid & Development
- Solidarity Economies

Philanthropy

Our philanthropy coverage examines how philanthropic resources move, who makes decisions about them, and how those systems are changing. We are especially interested in new approaches to shifting power and resources to communities, including trust-based philanthropy, participatory practices, philanthropic infrastructure in the Global Majority, and efforts to rethink the institutions and infrastructure of philanthropy.

Representative Philanthropy opinion pieces:

- [Is the Era of Foundation Dominance Coming to a Close?](#)
- [Setting the Philanthropic Advising Field Free](#)
- [We're Not Intermediaries. We're Infrastructure.](#)

Aid & Development

Our aid and development coverage examines how resources and power move through international development – and how that system is being challenged and reimagined at a turbulent moment. We are particularly interested in community-led development and locally-led development, new approaches to foreign assistance rooted in the Global Majority, and models that give communities greater power over the decisions and resources that affect them.

Representative Aid & Development opinion pieces:

- [How I Lost Respect Doing Community-Led Work](#)
- [Want Effective Philanthropy? Look to the Global South](#)

Solidarity Economies

There is no single economy. Around the world, communities are experimenting with different ways of owning, investing, exchanging and sharing resources. Our solidarity economies coverage explores models that put cooperation, participation and democratic control at the center of economic life – from community-controlled investment vehicles and cooperative ownership to mutual aid and other forms of solidarity economics.

Representative Solidarity Economies opinion pieces:

- [The Next Fight for New York City: Who Controls the Money?](#)
- [Reclaiming Place: the Kensington Corridor Trust Model](#)

What we look for in a pitch

Any pitch should fall in at least one of the coverage areas above; it is OK for a topic to cross multiple areas, for a compelling reason.

When thinking about the pitch, focus on *specificity*. A strong Proximate story has something specific to say about how a certain practice is shifting or a norm is evolving. We look for pitches that:

- **Identify a specific problem, tension or opportunity.** The problem can be large or small, but the story should be clear about what isn't working, what is changing, or what question needs to be answered.
- **Surface a specific solution, model or approach.** We are especially interested in new and emerging ways of solving problems, shifting systems, or moving power and resources differently.
- **Speak to a specific audience.** Avoid writing broadly to “philanthropy,” “funders” or “the development sector.” Consider who specifically needs to hear the argument, what power they have, and what you want them to understand or do differently.
- **Offer a fresh insight.** Our readers already know many of the broad arguments in our fields. A strong pitch goes beyond familiar calls to “shift power,” “fund communities” or “center lived experience” to tell us something new about what that looks like, why it matters, or how it can be done.

Some more guiding principles:

- **Connect the particular to the systemic.** A particular organization, project or community can provide the starting point for a story, but it shouldn't be the whole story. Show us what the example reveals about a larger challenge, opportunity or change underway in the field.
- **Leave the reader with something to use.** A story should offer an insight, question, framework, practice or idea that readers can act on or reflect on in their own work.

We are often pitched the following, which we are unlikely to publish:

- Articles that express an organizational point of view.
- Articles that must run in a quick timeframe in response to breaking news. Think of Proximate as a magazine with most articles remaining relevant in months, not days.
- Case studies, grantee profiles of a single funder, or articles that boost a single organization's project(s) without any critical perspective or broader contribution to the field.
- Op-eds that restate a familiar proposition with only a slight tweak in perspective or voice.

How to pitch us, and what to expect

Send an email to hello@proximate.press with PITCH in the subject line. You are welcome to pitch a single article, a series, or a few different ideas. It's fine to submit a complete outline or draft, but note that it is likely to require significant rewriting; we almost never publish prewritten op-eds.

It is helpful if you include any links to recent bylines (if applicable), as well as your bio, organizational affiliations, and/or LinkedIn profile.

We are a small team and we aim to respond to pitches in a timely manner.

Should your pitch be accepted, your editor will let you know the deadline and word count for your article.

We value a strong editor-writer relationship and often work with contributors on multiple pieces over a period of time. Our editors are significantly involved in shaping articles, so you can expect a collaborative revision process.

We publish new articles on the website on a rolling basis, publicize them on social media, and promote them via an email newsletter to subscribers every two months. Typical development time for an article can range from one to four months depending on where we are in the editorial cycle.

After publication, we welcome our writers' partnership in creating continued audience engagement around the topic of your article, including social media, events, and multimedia content. As part of our participatory editorial commitment, we may also reach out to you to suggest other pieces or to ask for your input about upcoming topics and Editorial Campaigns.