

KIRSTIN GARRISS

Award-winning Political Journalist | Public Relations Strategist |
Creative Problem Solver | Media Training Coach

www.kirstingarriss.com

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

PR & Communications Director for URL Media & URL Collective

January 2026 - Present

- Conducting strategic media pitching for URL Media, a national network of 65+ multicultural outlets and creators, securing local, regional, and national coverage
- Developing and pitching conference panels featuring URL Media leadership, staff, and partner outlets across journalism, philanthropy, and mission-driven sectors
- Creating press materials for company announcements, including releases, social graphics, and leadership communications
- Leading end-to-end production of in-person events, from concept and programming to logistics, messaging, and on-site execution
- Elevate URL Collective's mission and public profile as a nonprofit advancing community media and independent journalism, along with designing and executing workshops and programs for independent publishers, community newsrooms, and content creators in partnership with funders

Independent Journalist & Host of "Here's the Deal with KG"

April 2025-January 2026

- Creator of a Substack/TikTok series that simplifies big-picture national headlines into smart, digestible online explainers
- Freelance reporter for national publications, including *The Guardian*, producing deeply reported enterprise stories on politics, equity, and policy

CMG Washington News Bureau - DC Correspondent

August 2021-November 2024

- Delivered daily live shots and Q&A segments, distilling federal policy into clear, audience-first storytelling
- Conceptualized enterprise stories with real people, experts, lawmakers & federal agencies for 12+ local TV/radio stations
- Built strong sourcing with lawmakers, agencies, and congressional staff to secure high-profile interviews
- Expanded the Bureau's digital strategy with daily web articles and social pushes
- Specialty beats: federal transportation, healthcare policy, racial equity, consumer protection

WHBQ FOX13 Memphis - Investigative Reporter, Fill-in Anchor

October 2018-July 2021

- Led A-block investigations driven by FOIA and public records, exposing systemic issues in crime, politics, and public institutions while covering race relations and community-police relations with impact-driven storytelling

Spectrum News, Charlotte, NC - Government Reporter

January 2016-October 2018

- Lead city/county government reporter covering Charlotte City Council and Mecklenburg County
- Provided in-depth 2016 election coverage, including NC/SC primaries and both national party conventions

WDVM (formerly WHAG-TV) Hagerstown, MD - News Reporter

July 2013-January 2016

- Covered enterprise stories across the MD-PA-WV tri-state region and Maryland General Assembly

AWARDS

2021 Regional Murrow Award Winner
2021 National Gracie Award Winner
2021 NABJ Salute to Excellence Award Winner
2023 Paul Miller Washington Reporting Fellow

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, MAY 2011
B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication