

# Grace Ferguson

fergusonreports.com

## Experience

**The New Bedford Light** — Local nonprofit news website — New Bedford, MA June 2022 - present

### Enterprise Reporter

- Exposed how a private tax collection company profited from predatory foreclosures in New Bedford, and across the state, after hosting meals and buying gift baskets for public employees
  - After the investigation, New Bedford stopped selling tax debts to outside firms
- Broke the story of a mass eviction and revealed the rise of the secretive real estate syndicate behind it
  - Triggered a response from housing and legal aid organizations, which provided services for evicted tenants
- Mapped lead pipes in New Bedford using city data and highlighted lagging city efforts to replace them
  - Persistent follow-up coverage caused city officials to come forward with information on causes for the lag
- Fact-checked the mayor's proposal to crack down on "absentee" landlords with higher fines. Obtained and analyzed city data showing that the most neglectful landlords were already ignoring large fines
- Analyzed microdata on drug overdose deaths for an investigation about the local opioid crisis

**WBUR** — National Public Radio member station — Boston, MA Jan. 2022 - May 2022

### Undergraduate Fellow, COM Fellows Program

- Obtained, organized, and analyzed misconduct records from over 100 law enforcement agencies
  - Contributed to multiple award-winning reporting projects on police accountability

**GBH News** — National Public Radio member station — Boston, MA Sept. 2021 - Dec. 2021

### Investigative Student Journalist

- Examined property records, analyzed data, and interviewed local sources for an investigative story that showed how property developers in Springfield profited and displaced low-income homeowners using a state receivership program
- Analyzed real estate transaction data for an investigative story about secretive companies buying single-family homes

**The Daily Dot** — National news website focused on internet issues — Remote Sept. 2021 - Dec. 2021

### Freedom of Information Act Intern

- Revealed emails showing that Buffalo Public Schools staff shared concerns about cybersecurity vulnerabilities weeks before a ransomware attack that cost \$10 million
- Highlighted efforts by school districts across the country to conceal the costs of ransomware attacks to taxpayers
- Broke a story based on 700 pages of court documents showing that a late billionaire's cryptocurrency fortune faced legal challenges, disproving a popular belief in the crypto community that the fortune had been lost

## Education

**Boston University College of Communication** — Boston, MA May 2022

### Bachelor of Science in Journalism, Minor in Political Science

- GPA: 3.9 — Summa Cum Laude
- Relevant coursework: Newswriting, Investigative Reporting, Data Journalism, Journalism Research, Media Law and Ethics, Photojournalism, Narrative Radio, Reporting with Audio and Video

## Skills

- Obtaining, negotiating, and appealing for public records
- Data visualization with Tableau; cleaning data with Open Refine; spreadsheet and SQL analysis
- Adobe: Audition, Premiere, Photoshop, Lightroom; Microsoft: Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- AP style
- Photography on DSLR