

Benjamin Collins

Editor

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Senior editor with 14 years across magazines, books, and a national podcast network. Built and led desks of 6 to 20 editors and writers. Known for shaping ambitious features, hiring well, and protecting reporters when stories get hard.

Professional Experience

Senior Editor, Features | Quartzlight Studios, Asheville, NC
2021 – Present

- Run the features desk for a podcast network and its companion long-form site, oversight of 12 editors, producers, and fact-checkers.
- Greenlit and shaped a six-episode environmental series that drew 1.8M downloads in its first month and was optioned for documentary adaptation.
- Set the desk's editorial calendar and own a \$640K annual freelance budget.
- Restructured the standards review so legally sensitive stories now move through one tracked workflow instead of three.
- Hired six staff between 2022 and 2024; retention across that cohort sits at 100%.

Executive Editor | Halstead & Crow Books, Charlotte, NC
2017 – 2021

- Acquired and edited 9 to 12 titles per year across narrative nonfiction and serious fiction.
- Edited a debut novel that sold 74,000 copies hardcover and was a finalist for the Kirkus Prize.
- Chaired the seasonal pub board and presented lists to sales and marketing.
- Mentored three associate editors through promotion to editor.
- Negotiated reverted-rights deals on two backlist titles that returned them to active publication.

Editor | Cedar Lantern Magazine, Raleigh, NC
2013 – 2017

- Edited the politics and policy section of a regional monthly.
- Led the magazine's first long-form investigation, a six-month look at state contracting that triggered a legislative hearing.
- Managed a roster of 25 contributors and ran the section's \$180K annual freelance budget.
- Helped redesign the print template alongside the art director for a 2016 relaunch.

Associate Editor | Cedar Lantern Magazine, Raleigh, NC
2011 – 2013

- Edited shorter features and FOB columns for the print monthly.
- Took over the back-of-book essay section and lifted submission quality through targeted commissions.
- Filled in on copy desk shifts during issue close.
- Coordinated photo shoots and travel for cover features.

Education

M.F.A. in Creative Writing (Nonfiction), University of North Carolina at Wilmington, 2011

B.A. in English and Journalism, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2008

Columbia Publishing Course, Columbia University, 2009

Key Skills

- Developmental and structural editing
- Long-form narrative shaping

- Acquisitions and list building
- Editorial calendar planning
- Fact-checking oversight
- Contract and rights negotiation
- Podcast and audio story development
- Freelance budget management
- Standards and legal review workflows
- Staff hiring, mentorship, and retention
- Cross-functional work with sales, marketing, and design
- AP and Chicago style