



Annual Report

Arlington Community Media Inc.









"ACMi is more than just a local TV access station, you know it offers so much more. It's not just technical, it's also the emotional support you get here, and it's always consistent, even if people are busy. You see people coming back, and wanting to come back here all the time. And that's different...And I've always felt that, no matter what sort of job I had, or what thing I'm doing, I would always want to come back here, even if it weren't for me, I'd want to do it on a volunteer basis to help other people. ACMi just offers that kind of community environment that's very difficult to find in our society now."

Margie DiMonte, former intern/current member





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Studio A
 85 Park Ave
 Arlington, MA 02476

Studio B
 892 Mass Ave
 Arlington, MA 02476

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Board President Letter



John D. Leone President

John was born and raised in Arlington and holds a J.D. degree from the New England School of Law. He advises clients who are starting new businesses or operating existing ones. A Town Meeting member since 1994, John is currently the Town Meeting Moderator.

The Board of Directors and I present to you the Thirteenth Annual Report of Arlington Community Media Inc (ACMi). June 30, 2019 marked the completion of our thirteenth full fiscal year of operation as Arlington's P.E.G. (Public, Education, and Government) cable access station, providing universal public access to uncensored local community programming.

ACMi, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, continues to be in full compliance with IRS and Massachusetts regulations. The annual independent audit of our financial books and records, as summarized herein, demonstrates our excellent financial controls and oversight and, as always, that we continue to be in sound financial health.

Over the past year, we have continued upgrading both Studio A and Studio B with the latest in high-definition equipment.

The Board is pleased with the efforts of ACMi members and staff that have resulted in a remarkable 523 hours of quality first-run local P.E.G. programming and ACMi News

for our community of viewers. Our programs have logged nearly 13,400 hours of viewing time on our YouTube and social media channels. We strive to continue to increase our programming, ACMi News community involvement, and equipment usage. Our members, interns and staff have been recognized in both regional and national video contests and continue to produce award-winning programming that is available worldwide through our website and social media channels.

We are very proud of our accomplishments over the past year and we are gratified by the steady increase in scope, depth, and power of ACMi's contribution to Arlington's social and cultural community life. The Board and I thank you for your trust in us. We encourage you to view our community-produced programming, to look for our equipment and crews around town, and to become a member, a volunteer, or a producer at ACMi - Arlington's community television station.

John D. Leone, President
Arlington Community Media Inc.

Arlington Community Media is dedicated to providing an electronic forum for the free exchange of information and ideas which reflect the talents, skills, interests, concerns, and diversity of the Arlington community

Board of Directors



Michael Ruderman

Treasurer

A. Michael Ruderman is a government and communications professional with over 30 years of experience in real estate, nonprofits, and community affairs. He and his wife and daughter (along with a menagerie of cats and dogs) have lived in Arlington for more than 25 years.



Kathleen Colwell

Board Member

In her 35 years as an Arlington resident, Kathy has been a very active citizen, serving in various capacities for Arlington Cable Access Inc. (ACA), the Arlington Educational Enrichment Fund (AEEF), and as a founding member and a long-time Board Member of ACMI.



Nancy Flynn-Barvick

Board Member

A resident of Arlington for over 20 years, Nancy practices law with a focus on high tech licensing agreements and other corporate contracts. She has been closely involved with Arlington schools over the past 15 years, including six years on the Ottoson and AHS School Councils.



Phillip J. Privitera, Esq.

Board Member

Phil grew up in Arlington, and lives here with his wife and 2 children. He is an attorney, entrepreneur, investor, and developer, and he serves on several community boards. Phil holds many positions in various legal associations and has been the Presiding Master of Free Masons in Arlington since 2013.

Executive Director Letter



Norm McLeod
Executive Director

There is a term in the Community Television world that refers to stations that don't proactively reach out to their community. They are called "sleeper" stations, and more often than not they just wait for people in the community to approach the station with a request to cover a town event. Arlington Community Media Inc. is decidedly not such a station! We are very proactive, and we are blessed with a huge amount of positive energy from both staff and members in the coverage of events and the creation of programming for the Town of Arlington.

Our large staff of extremely creative individuals is always looking for ways to make the station grow, and to inform the community about our activities. I have always believed in giving creative people their head, but I must admit that there are times when I feel like I need to pull the string on the helium balloon of creativity to bring them down to earth! It's a challenge I happily welcome!

As you might expect, with such a creative staff and membership, ACMi naturally continues to grow in many different areas. In fact, we have expanded our use of social media to promote station activities and have received considerably more "likes." We have more hits on the ACMi website, and our YouTube views have also increased. More government meetings and sports events are being covered than ever before. The technical quality of our newly purchased equipment is better than most access stations in the region. And finally, ACMi News is now a once-a-week newscast that reflects all aspects of Arlington life.

Although we are an integral part of the Arlington community - growing, proactive, and the go-to source for hyper-local news - like all community media centers, we are still facing an existential threat from the Federal Communications Commission, as I discussed in last year's Annual Report. Cable providers like Comcast, RCN, and Verizon have received the green light from the FCC to determine the "fair market value" of any non-monetary "in-kind contributions," and charge that value back to towns and their community stations. Such "contributions" could include cable drops to schools or community stations, or even the cost of the channel bandwidth used to send programming to the town, which could put many of the smaller stations in the country out of existence.

But the fight is not over. Although the FCC rebuffed the Alliance for Community Media's request for a "stay" of the order on November 6, this policy change will be challenged and will go up the judicial chain and hopefully back to Congress, since this FCC order is considered a change to the Cable Communications Act of 1984 that only Congress can alter.

Whatever the future may bring, we at ACMi are committed to increasing the diversity and number of programs offered to Arlington. Our commitment and creativity is a reflection of the Town itself, vibrant and inspiring. A sleeper station we most certainly are not, and we fully expect next year will be our best year ever, as we continue to grow and give back to the town.

Norm McLeod
Executive Director

Staff



Jeff Munro
Operations Manager



James Milan
Communications
Manager



Jonathan Barbato
Production Manager



Sean Keane
Gov't & Programming
Coordinator



Kevin Wetmore
Youth Coordinator



Jeff Barnd
News Director



Katie Chang
Production & Media
Coordinator



Cheryl Brusgulis
Administrative /
Programming Assistant



Sara Alfaro-Franco
Public Affairs Producer



Brenda Mahoney
Assistant News
Director



Jared Sweet
Video Editor



Alex Van Thong
Sports Producer

Studio & Facilities

Master Control

Master Control upgrades extend from the center to the far ends of our I Net, the town-wide network that is designed to give ACMi the links and access to go live from satellite locations such as Studio B, Town Hall and Arlington High School. Updated data switches improve overall performance. The increased bandwidth will allow a higher quality (and quantity) of live streams, faster speeds, and larger files.

The heart of network operations resides at Studio A, in the Master Control room. We now have a professional-grade power back-up system for our server room. The SNS Edit Server has provided increased speed and storage, as well as membership management tools. Castus, ACMi's multi-channel playback system, manages our programming files and the playlists that make up our daily schedule. Recent upgrades include a new operating system, channel branding, and advanced features that improve our HD playback, streaming, and On-Demand services.



Production

Panasonic GH5S DSLR cameras, lenses and accessories have been added to ACMi's equipment resources. A GoPro, a 360° camera, VR goggles, and additional drone accessories further expand our new media offerings.

Software upgrades and new developments improve the overall status of ACMi's control room switchers. The control rooms in Studio A, Studio B, and Town Hall all include New Blue GFX, BPNet file-share and cloud access, allowing for easier management and organization of our files. Studio B's control room upgrade includes a new 8-input, multi-output Broadcast Pix Switcher, a new SD-card recorder, and a 40x40 SDI router to accommodate the new workflow.

Teleprompter operator stations have been upgraded at both Studio A & B with professional controllers for studio productions such as news and talk shows. The new computers provide access to the Inception server to build, edit, and trigger rundowns and scripts.



Membership

Kerry Abukhalaf
George Akerley
Eve Alton
Swan Anderson
Nicholas Antonakas
Michael Armanious
Kayla Avitabile
Gregory Bartlett
Veronica Barton
Gordon Bernstein
Serena Bernstein
Chandler Betts
Julia Bloom
Michael Brennan
Mike Breslin
Justin Brown
Michael Brown
Barton Bruce
Cheryl Brusgulis
Kaitlyn Burke
John Bulens
Jeffrey Buxbaum
Eleni Caminis
Paul Carosi Primes
Orlando Cela
Michael Cerullo
May Chau
Amy Chelariv
Simon Cheung
Austin Clementi
Kai Collins
Andrew Conway
Elle Crowley
Jason Darrow
Laura Davies
Lucas Delbanco
John Delvecchio
Lenard Diggins
Margie DiMonte
Nick DiSpagna
Caelan Doherty
Carla Dorato
Carly Downs
Isabella Dray
Rudi Dunlap
Isaiah Durham

Adam Dusenberry
Emma Ehring
Fiona Ehring
Christopher Ellinger
Mia Engels
Amber Espar
Kevin Ferguson
Liam Farrell
Maja Fiket
Brian Fiore
Stephen Fisher
Amanda Freedman
Mark Friendlich
Nancy Frumer Styron
Anthony Geannaris
Murielle Gerard
Tom Giannini
Daniel Gorbunov
Lucas Gradwohl
Michael Graham-Green
Nancy Gray
Sharon Green
Laury Gutierrez
Alberto Guzman
Ngalah Gwet
Zain Hague-Piccione
Jasper Hamilton
Jennifer Han
Hugh Hanley
Ella Grace Harrington
Charles Hartshorne
Randy Herman
Liz Huegel
Elena Huegel Muñoz
Joel Huegel Muñoz
Eric Jackman
Mike Jackman
Luke Jarvis
Alan Jones
Jaime Joseph
Mark Kaepplein
Elias Katsos
Steve Katsos
Sherry Keenan Burke
Ed Keith
Alexander Klein

Richard Koolish
Lakis Koulouris
Mike Koutrobis
Steve Kropper
Samantha Krupnick
Joe Kwan
Cameron Lee
Robert Leger
Thomas Lemere
Begabati Lennihan
Liza Li
Walter Locke
Owen Loeb
Victor Lopes
David Lopes
Ashby Loshin
Connor Lourenco
Cyn M
Karen Mahoney
D'Arcy Marsh
Daniel Mayer
Jamie Mazareas
Will McMillan
Isabella McSweeney
Rebecca Merzius
Shadson Merzius
Charlotte Milan
Stanislaw Modrzynski
Noah Monks
Samuel Monks
Dorothy Nash-Webber
Bach Ngo
Molly O'Toole
Hope Orfanos
Ryan Oosting
Tonia Pinheiro
Robert Pooley
Lance Popovic
Nicholas Resnick
Elizabeth Rocco
Mark Rosenthal
Max Rubin
Luca Rugiero
David Sammarco
Nicole Sammarco
Leah Schneyer Vanzile

Betsy Schramm
Miles Shapiro
Rumaan Sharma-Soneja
Robert Shephard
Jean-Marc Sigot
Dylan Sivori
Eli Slotnick
Moses Small
Reed Snyder
Racer Soares
Wu So Fai
Nancy Soyring
Sophie Spink
Rico St. Paul
Reese Stephen
Chelsea Swift
Andy Takats
Judy Tesnow
Eileen Tucci
Mia Umali
Lee Urton
Julia Vail
Tyler Vaillancourt
Selene Victor
Steven Vosnakis
Jack Walsh
Paul Wehrlin
Jordan Weinstein
Ronnie White
James Whiteway
Gareth Williams
Eric Wing
Stephanie Wittenbach
Lynn Wolfsfeld
Lawrence Xu
Harrison Yan
Scott Zwick

Intern Program

Over several years, ACMi has built a thriving internship program that serves students from a number of area colleges and universities, and by all accounts they are very pleased with their experience. Two aspects in particular are constantly cited – how quickly and consistently they get the hands-on training they come for; and how warm and supportive the environment at ACMi is. Interns help produce programming across the board, including News and Public Affairs, projects with ACMi member-producers, promotional pieces for local nonprofits, and original creative fare.

This Year's Interns

Burlington College – Paul Carosi Primes

Emerson College – Michael Cerullo, Liza Li, Jennifer Litchfield, Moses Small, Chelsea Swift, Stephanie Wittenbach

Tufts University – Kayla Avitabile, Austin Clementi, Bach Ngo, William Porter, Gabriela Romero, Dylan Sivori, Lawrence Xu

Other – Ngalah Gwet, Alexander Klein, Ashby Loshin, Max Rubin



Kayla Avitabile performs on episode 1 of Studio B Sessions.



Ngalah Gwet and Chelsea Swift, learning from News Director Jeff Barnd.



Volunteer Carla Dorato and Stephanie Wittenbach anchor a holiday newscast.



The dam story needs covering, and Mike Cerullo and Lawrence Xu are on it!

Workshops & Training

ACMi is committed to building a culture of creative empowerment for its members. Our informed staff builds learning opportunities into every production, encouraging members to learn alongside us as we incorporate the latest industry techniques into our shows and studio facilities. Our primary focus is providing training and access to production gear and television production knowledge. Workshops at ACMi are diverse, ranging from group sessions for beginners, to one-on-one mentoring for advanced producers. Below are the workshops that our community has enrolled in at ACMi during FY 2018-19:

ACMi Production Resource Use	Sessions	Commercial Value	# of people AVG.	Total Value
Documentary Filmmaking	1	\$100.00	20	\$2,000.00
Studio Knights	23	\$50.00	5	\$5,750.00
Field Production 1 & 2	75	\$200.00	2	\$30,000.00
Studio Production	9	\$250.00	4	\$9,000.00
Portable Studio Production	7	\$250.00	3	\$5,250.00
Editing 1 & 2	212	\$200.00	1	\$42,400.00
Lighting Techniques	8	\$150.00	3	\$3,600.00
Green Screen Production	5	\$150.00	3	\$2,250.00
Pre-Production 1 & 2	34	\$100.00	2	\$6,800.00
iPhone Video Production	9	\$100.00	26	\$23,400.00
Short Film	14	\$200.00	10	\$28,000.00
PSA Production	6	\$250.00	2	\$3,000.00
Live Music Session	12	\$200.00	4	\$9,600.00
ACMi News Training	42	\$200.00	3	\$25,200.00
Animation	9	\$200.00	5	\$9,000.00
Focus Media	16	\$200.00	5	\$16,000.00
Summer Fun	5	\$200.00	12	\$12,000.00
Sports Production	10	\$200.00	8	\$16,000.00
After Effects	5	\$200.00	1	\$1,000.00
Live Event Coverage	12	\$200.00	4	\$9,600.00
360 Video Production	5	\$100.00	3	\$1,500.00
Podcasting	6	\$100.00	15	\$9,000.00

Total Estimated Market Value of ACMi Workshops in FY 2018-2019 \$270,350.00

Community Bulletin Board



- Alliance for Community Media
- Arlington Art Lounge
- Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Arlington Board of Health
- Arlington Boys' & Girls' Club
- Arlington Center for the Arts
- Arlington Chamber of Commerce
- Arlington Children's Theatre
- Arlington Council on Aging
- Arlington Department of Planning
- Arlington Education Foundation
- Arlington Fire Department
- Arlington Food Pantry
- Arlington Friends of the Drama
- Arlington Garden Club
- Arlington Historic District Commission
- Arlington Historical Society
- Arlington Human Rights Commission
- Arlington Jazz Festival
- Arlington Meetup
- Arlington Public Art
- Arlington Reads Together
- Arlington School Committee
- Arlington Select Board
- Arlington Short Animation Contest
- Arlington Sons of Italy
- Arlington Tree Committee
- Arlington Youth Health & Safety Coalition
- Autism House Pathways
- Black History Month
- Boston Children's Theatre
- Chillhop Records
- Cycle for Shelter
- Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Public Works
- Double Take Arlington
- Fast and Furriest
- Fidelity House
- Fido Fest
- First Parish Unitarian Universalist
- Free Meditation Boston
- Friends of Spy Pond
- Friends of the Robbins Library
- Harry Haroutunian Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Homeschooling Together
- Housing Corporation of Arlington
- James Houlares Early Learning Center
- Jason Russell House
- Knights of Columbus
- Little Fox Shop
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council
- Minuteman Bikeway
- Mystic Chorale
- Mystic River Watershed Association
- Old Schwamb Mill
- Park Avenue Congregational Church
- Philharmonic Society of Arlington
- Prayer Festival for World Peace
- Regent Theatre
- Retired Men's Club
- Robbins Library
- Saint Athanasius Greek Orthodox Church
- Saint Vartanantz Church
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- St. Agnes Church
- St. Camillus Parish Community
- Stone Zoo
- True Story Theater
- Young Filmmakers Panel Discussion

Communications

We constantly stay in touch with our members, friends, and partners through newsletters, email blasts, blog posts, and social media. We extend an open invitation to those in the community who want to learn the craft of digital media production right in their own town. Orientation tours are easy to schedule at our Studio A at 85 Park Ave. These provide interested residents with an overview of our twelve years in operation and an introduction to our ever-expanding inventory of equipment and menu of training opportunities.

One of our local media partners, The Arlington Advocate, has been undergoing some changes, and as a consequence our weekly TV schedule appears in its pages less frequently than in the past. For this reason, we have been directing our audience to our website at acmi.tv, where a current TV schedule can always be found, along with specific programs that are highlighted each week. And whenever our other media partner, YourArlington.com, focuses on the same issues we are exploring in our news and public affairs programming (which is often), website manager Bob Sprague always links to our own content to enhance the audience's understanding of the topic at hand. We also continue to make fruitful use of the connections we have with our sister access stations in the area and around the state to find innovative ways to meet our communities' need to be informed.

Community Partners

ACMi continues to mine a rich vein of collaborative power with traditional partners like the Arlington International Film Festival, Food Link, the Regent Theatre, and the Council on Aging, and we have forged new and promising links with others like the Arlington Philharmonic, First Parish Church, and the Arlington Human Rights Commission.

Through our Public Affairs division, we have set up a regular schedule of visits with our state legislators with the aim of keeping Arlington residents informed about developments at the State House that could impact their lives. We have heard from both audience members and the officials themselves that these regular updates are of real benefit to all.

We are also happy to share a number of new collaborations with a long-time community partner and cherished local resource - the Robbins Library. ACMi always stands ready to record events of interest that take place there, and several times a year we sponsor and/or co-produce performances, discussions, and presentations at the library. One notably successful collaboration occurred in January 2019. As part of a long-running series called Democracy After Dark, the library invited a veteran professor of journalism from Emerson and an investigative reporter from the Boston Globe's Spotlight team to explore the state of journalism, past and present - what it is, how it works, and why it matters to our democracy. Moderated by ACMi's own James Milan, the panel discussion was entertaining and illuminating in equal measure, and the evening was one to remember. ACMi expanded the audience for this event considerably by airing it regularly on our Public channel for weeks thereafter.



Leland Stein, owner of the Regent Theatre.



Susan Carp from Council on Aging, host and producer of the show "Living Out Loud," with Jonathan Barbato.

Schools

Our important connections to Arlington schools, discussed in greater detail in another section of this report, continue to expand in both breadth and depth. Our coverage of high school sports has, quite simply, never been better. Our Sports Producer, Alex Van Thong, and his crew of college interns, high school students, and adult commentators are doing a terrific job of recording more sporting contests than ever, and getting them onto our channels and website faster than ever! Our coverage of other important school events like concerts, presentations, and fairs also continues to increase, as youth crews in both middle and high schools take on more such productions every year. And our visit with the Green Team at the Thompson Elementary School, in which we spoke with everyone from teachers and parents to the young student activists whose dedicated efforts have formed the backbone of their award-winning accomplishments, was a real highlight this year.

More to Do

While we are genuinely excited about both our existing arrangements and these new developments, we intend to keep marching forward. We constantly challenge ourselves to come up with new ways to make residents more aware of what we offer; to create wider and deeper connections across all sectors of the community; and to inform, inspire, and engage our viewing audience with the aim of weaving them more deeply into the tapestry of life in Arlington.



Staff, interns, and members working at Studio A's edit suites.

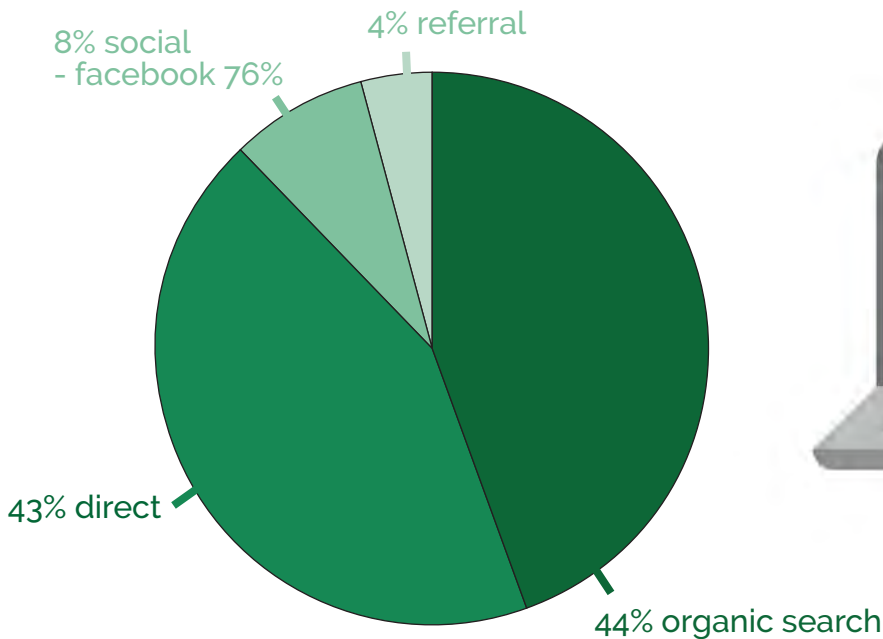
Website

ACMi.tv continues to provide visitors with videos on-demand and ACMi updates. From a documentary chronicling an international sand sculpture competition, to a Gibbs School choral concert, to a Select Board meeting, videos are posted almost daily. Blog posts inform visitors of upcoming ACMi workshops, film festivals, and channel highlights. In addition, users can sign up for newsletters, or fill out online forms to become members, submit videos, and send equipment reservations. There were also updates this past year to the sports, youth, and intern webpages, along with SEO and speed improvements, thanks to ACMi's in-house web consultant, Staz Modrzynski.

The number of users increased 32% and the number of sessions (or unique visits to our website) increased 24% compared to the previous year. Top pages accessed include ACMi's homepage, News, Video-on-Demand, Staff, Contact, Schedule, Gov live and Pub live. Topics of great interest to the Arlington community - like Fido Fest, a post commemorating Kevin Greeley after his passing, and election debates - were also very popular.

In the aggregate, visitors are accessing ACMi.tv in a variety of ways (see pie graph below), with only 8% from social media and 4% from referrals over the past year. In response to this, we will work to develop pages that improve a visitor's experience, and we'll also continue to diversify our traffic sources by actively posting to social media and collaborating with other organizations to encourage referrals.

Traffic Sources



Social Media

In addition to our channels and Video-on-Demand feature on the website, viewers can find all ACMi content on our YouTube channel. Views, watch minutes, and the number of subscribers are all up about 33% compared to the previous year. Top videos include the Ottoson Middle School's production of "Beauty and the Beast," "An Evening with Bradley Whitford," and AHS sports games.

YouTube typically draws a younger audience and our analytics show just that, with 55% of our channel's viewers being 18-24 years old, and the next largest cohort ages 25-34 (25%). The majority of viewers come from YouTube (70%), with 25% finding their way from ACMi.tv, Google, or social media. The ACMi News YouTube channel has seen a slight decline in the past year, with views and watch time down about 8%.

ACMi's social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) have all increased in followers. On both Facebook and Twitter, posts on topics of interest to Arlington residents (such as local politics and youth) score high. In addition, posts including behind-the-scenes photos and videos had high engagement. Instagram continues to provide an easy way to share photos of productions in progress, and our followers continue to enjoy and share them. Finally, our Constant Contact emails continue to elicit high open rates. This past year, such emails included monthly newsletters, information about ACMi events, and updates on the maneuverings and decisions of the FCC with regard to community media.



Youtube

558 subscribers (up from 315)
804,000+ minutes watch time



Facebook

639 followers



Instagram

400 followers



Twitter

465 followers



Constant Contact

Open rate 37%

Events



Pooches line up for their photo pup-op in front of the Fido sculpture.

3rd Annual Fido Fest

ACMi, Blue Sky Dogs, Judy Weinberg, "Leading Edge," and A-Dog partnered for a third consecutive year to put on the Community Event of the Summer – Fido Fest! It's Arlington's very own outdoor dog party and film festival. Almost 300 residents descended on Spy Pond Field with their pets to enjoy live dog-themed music by Stanley and the Undercovers, bubble art from Bubbles McGee, a Dog Pageant hosted by elementary school students, popcorn provided by the Capitol Theater, lawn games, and locally submitted canine videos. Fido Fest's notoriety is continuing to spread, as evidenced by the fact that it was featured in AAA Magazine, the Boston Globe, and Arlington Icons.

Games enjoyed by all!



ACMi Producers Picnic

We deeply appreciate the creativity, ingenuity, and perseverance that our member-producers bring to the process of turning their visions into TV. Every other year, we take the opportunity to express that appreciation in a very palpable way – a summer Picnic catered by local favorite Beaujolais, with lawn games of all sorts, and a varied selection of live musical performances. The June weather was picture-perfect for the 2019 Picnic, and members of the ACMi community ages 2 to 82 were on hand to celebrate each other's achievements and enjoy each other's company!



A bug free night at this year's Animation Festival!

Animation Festival

After a hiatus, ACMI's Animation Festival made a triumphant return this year. The event took place under the stars on the first night of summer, June 21st, at Florence Field next to the Dallin School. Submissions came in from a host of local animators, including a handful from ACMI members and staff. Eighty people turned out to enjoy popcorn, cotton candy, a beautiful night, and about 90 minutes' worth of fantastic animated films.

A-Town

In March 2019, ACMI once again partnered with Data Collaborative to host the third annual A-Town Teen Video Contest. The event took place at the Regent Theatre and showcased the work of our talented local youth. Nineteen excellent films were screened by teenage filmmakers from Arlington, Cambridge, Lexington, Lowell, and Somerville. A variety of genres were featured, including animation, documentary, action, comedy, and music videos. For the third year in a row, the top prize went to the brilliant Samuel Kim of Arlington, for the latest installment in his animated series "RVT".

"Fresh Isacc," winner of the Best Music Video Award.



Award winners at the ATown Teen Video Contest celebrate with "James Brown."



Media Groups



Studio Knights working on a narrative film.

Studio Knights

Studio Knights is ACMi's weekly production group that meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 pm, and is open to all. Members pilot TV shows while connecting with new creative partners. The program is in its fifth year and continues to develop new content at a rapid pace. We've produced documentaries, musical concerts, talk shows, health and wellness programs, short films, and so much more. As always, Studio Knights places a high value on bringing different perspectives to the creative table: crew members with producers, youth with seniors, novices with experts, imagination with action.



Izzy Heltai performs for an episode of Studio B Sessions.

Studio B Sessions

It started three years ago as an intriguing idea for how to increase activity at our Studio B during the summer months - let's invite musicians from the area to come in and perform a set of songs while being recorded in a multi-camera, multi-track shoot. It was a hit from the start, with the performers delighted by both the experience itself and the exposure it offered, and volunteer crewmembers excited about learning how to shoot a live performance in a visually dynamic way. Studio B Sessions recently completed its third acclaimed season, attaining new heights both musically and in terms of production.



The crew poses for a photo after filming another successful newscast!

ACMi News

ACMi News is one of ACMi's flagship programs, a community-focused and community-generated effort to keep Arlington residents informed about newsworthy events, from hyper-local to regional and beyond. Our news team is comprised of ACMi members, interns, and volunteers, who together follow the news, report the stories, and produce our weekly newscast. Anyone who lives or works in Arlington can get involved with ACMi News, and learn how to operate a camera, run a teleprompter, or even anchor a newscast, all while providing our community with an important, rewarding service!

Focus Media

ACMi's Youth Program finds itself in a time of transition, as many of our long-serving teenage titans graduated from high school in 2019. Together they logged thousands of hours of community service and created hundreds of hours of content over the years that they volunteered with us. Many of them started as 6th-grade students at the Ottoson and continued to work on productions all the way through high school. Some of them are going on to study production in college with the goal of pursuing careers in the field. Congratulations and a huge THANK YOU to Staz Modrzynski, Felix Ansell, Felix Moisand, Andrew Wilson, Patrick Gallagher, Zach Garrigus, Julian Petrillo, Colin Gilbert, Adam Deck, Carlos Abreu, Reese Stephen, and Claire Kitzmiller!

Ottoson Media Group

As always, our group of superstar students at the Ottoson Middle School provided coverage of a variety of school events, including ALL-Town concerts, the Memorial Day assembly, the Ottoson's performance of "Mary Poppins," and the 8th Grade Recognition Ceremony. Ottoson Media Group also created an anti-bullying PSA called "Endure & Persevere," which was one of five finalists in the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc.'s PSA contest. In addition to all this, Ottoson youth completed production on the third season of Teens Cook, a French cooking show in which two professional chefs teach two youth how to cook a delicious French recipe in each episode.

Sports

ACMi is continuing to provide the community with high-quality, multi-camera coverage of Arlington sports. With the help of our innovative volunteer youth crews, we are continuing to add new features to our broadcasts. More games than ever are being broadcast live. ACMi is also providing coverage of more sports than ever before, including soccer, hockey, football, lacrosse, and wrestling. In addition to filming games, Studio B hosts regular studio productions that celebrate the accomplishments of Arlington student-athletes, featuring interviews with team captains, coaches, and standout performers, as well as a weekly "Sports Update" feature that highlights the previous week in Arlington sports. Look for these productions to continue to grow in the coming year.



A film in the making with Focus Media!



Veronica, ready to direct for an episode of Teens Cook!



Ken Kohlberg and Zach Garrigus call a sports game.

Member Features



When he was poised to enter Arlington High School, Nick Antonakas felt like he already had plenty of stuff on his plate, so he resisted his mother's efforts to get him to check out the local community media center. Sure, he had heard of ACMi, and had even seen some of his fellow students in their ACMi shirts setting up lights, cameras, and cables to film the musicals he acted in at Ottoson Middle School. And yeah, he was interested in TV production, always had been. But he just felt like it wasn't going to fit into his schedule at that time.

Nick Antonakas

Happily, Nick had a change of heart going into his sophomore year, and that change has worked out very well for him, and for ACMi as well! As he puts it, he "finally got the guts" to overcome his fear of embarrassing himself and got involved with the crack sports production team from the high school that was regularly producing multi-camera shoots of various AHS contests. Always an avid sports fan, Nick quickly turned into one of the most reliable younger members of a crew dominated by an unusually experienced contingent of seniors. Working behind the scenes was a lot of fun, but things really caught fire for Nick once he stepped into the broadcast booth and behind the microphone.

Under the tutelage of veteran ACMi play-by-play man Ken Kohlberg, Nick has taken on an increasingly varied number of broadcast assignments, covering soccer, football, and hockey. Like Ken, he has a real passion for this work and takes his job seriously, talking to players and coaches when he can and doing other research to prepare in advance of the games. And Nick and Ken have developed the kind of rapport that often makes the games as much fun to listen to as to watch!

Something that distinguishes Nick from many is that he combines his infectious on-air enthusiasm with a mature respect for the efforts of all those behind the scenes, out of eyesight (and earshot). In fact, that's one thing that inspires him to put forth his own best effort. When he began commentating, he admits that he consoled himself for the mistakes he made by thinking, "Oh, there aren't that many people watching anyway." After a little while, however, he decided, "I really want to get good at what I do. I want ACMi to be something that people really want to watch, to say hey that's really good, that's something I want to do."

His experience at ACMi, Nick says, "has changed my life dramatically." He looks forward to continuing to hone his abilities over his remaining time in high school, and his plan is to major in TV and Radio Broadcasting and pursue a career in the field. In this, he joins a distinguished line of alums of ACMi's youth program. Best of luck to you, Nick – we believe in you!



ACMi members come in all shapes and sizes, but Adam Bolonsky stands out for several reasons. How does a guy who admits that he “isn’t all that interested in television production,” end up being involved at ACMi for 12 years and counting?

Well, it turns out that it is the breadth of opportunities that ACMi provides that keeps Adam so engaged. He reports that it was the “pretty slick looking” ACMi sign in front of Studio A that first drew his attention, shortly after he’d moved to Arlington late in the first decade of the 2000s. One day, Adam walked through ACMi’s front door, curious to know whether he could get an up-close glimpse of how a television show gets made. In short order, this led him to the “Steve Katsos Show,” the late-night variety show that remains the jewel in ACMi’s crown after a ten-year run and more than 250 episodes.



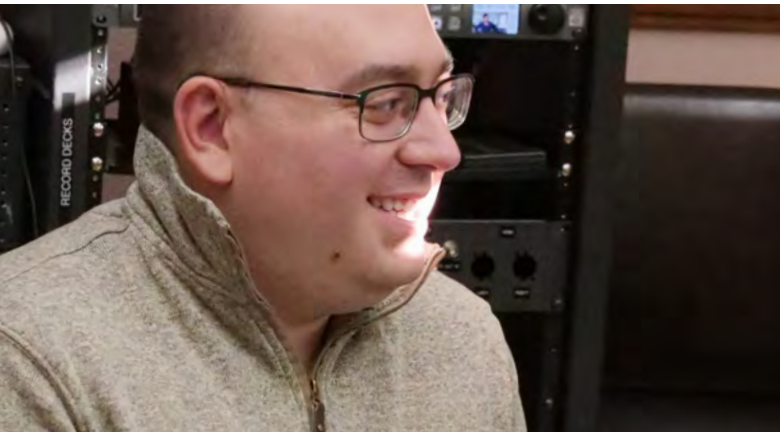
Adam Bolonsky

It was a real learning experience for Adam, who claims that at that time he was, “always the oldest person in the studio by at least two decades.” The quality of the musical guests, the professionalism of the crew, and Steve’s warmth and good humor were a powerful draw. Adam proceeded to spend a number of years volunteering on the “Katsos Show,” mostly taking on roles – like logging tape – that allowed him to observe more from the shadows than be directly involved in all the organized mayhem.

When things changed for Adam at work, it became harder for him to get to ACMi, as so often happens with our members. Where his story diverges from many, however, is that he kept his hand in at ACMi as he could over the following years, and when some space opened once again in his life, he returned to the studio. One of the first things Adam did, he says, was “convince Operations Manager Jeff Munro that ACMi needed drones for video.” Given Jeff’s long record of ensuring that ACMi remains in the vanguard when it comes to technical innovation, it’s no surprise that he was persuaded, and Jeff then proceeded to find a professional-grade drone with superb video attributes.

Thus began Adam’s latest adventure at ACMi, one that is weaving together several strands of his life – his interest in drones, his desire to help, his involvement in his community, and his commitment to conservation – in a fruitful mix. He is happy to train staff, members, and interns in how to use the drone, and he has provided ACMi with wonderful footage of Town Day, and of the town itself. He also recently orchestrated a meeting with Arlington officials to explore how he and ACMi could put both their drones and their expertise to good use in service to the town.

Many residents make use of ACMi’s resources to help them achieve technical mastery or creative expression, and we love to help with that. It is also a thrill, however, when a member like Adam helps us become the most valuable community resource we can be.



When being near her aging parents brought Margie DiMonte back to Boston from Florida, where she had been living for many years, she found herself at an impasse. Having reached an age where the job-search process can be tough, and with the additional constraints of caregiving, Margie faced a rather daunting situation. She had connected with Operation A.B.L.E., an organization that helps older workers in career transition to receive training through paid internships, but was not fully satisfied with her first placement in a Career Services office.

A suggestion from an Operation A.B.L.E. counselor changed Margie's course and brought her to ACMi, where she proceeded to spend two very fruitful years as our most senior and longest-tenured intern. She had some things going for her, like the fact that she had been a medical photographer for a time in her early working life, and she had retained both her interest in the field and a certain degree of comfort with camera operation. But it's never easy to learn new skills as one moves into middle age, and that's where Margie's placement at ACMi really paid off!

Margie DiMonte

We take our mission to educate very seriously at ACMi, and we are committed to providing training in the most effective way we know – by doing the actual work of TV production right away. Margie quickly found that she could count on both guidance and support from the staff, and that mistakes were just fine as long as she did her best to not repeat them. While there were plenty of bumps to navigate – editing remains a challenge to this day – Margie learned enough in her first year at ACMi to begin producing TV series of her own, with the goal of helping people live healthier lives.

Margie says she is driven by a simple, important question, “why can't we improve the way we care for people and the environment?” Both of her series – “Fit as a Fiddle Today,” and “Sustainable Living” – offer clear and eloquent answers to that question. Ask Margie how she was able to pull off the notable accomplishment of producing not one but two multi-episode series, and she says it's all about the comfort and confidence she feels at ACMi. Whenever things got tough, she says, “I knew I had people who would back me up. So even if I was feeling, God I can't do this, I knew that they'd be there, and they'd keep me in a very positive frame of mind.”

Perhaps that is what keeps Margie coming back to ACMi, long after the end of her paid internship. With the support she knows she can count on, but just as importantly with the skills she has worked hard to master, Margie is now producing her own documentaries from start to finish, including a wonderful recent piece that chronicles a sand sculpture competition in Portland that draws artists and audiences from around the globe. She may have gotten a later start than some of our members, but Margie is on a mission!

We have his wife Ilaria to thank for the gift that is Alessio Miraglia. But for her career, he might never have made it first to Los Angeles, and then to Boston. And we never would have been able to introduce “AM Garden,” one of our most memorable music series, to Arlington and the world!

At the time they arrived in Los Angeles, Alessio spoke virtually no English. That didn't stop him from taking a job at an ice-cream parlor, nor from continuing to develop his music, which he had been playing and composing since he was a teenager. He connected with a fellow musician and recorded two albums, and then had a fateful meeting with Tim Starnes. Starnes, still one of Alessio's closest friends, is a top professional sound engineer who is credited on dozens of movies, including *King Kong* and several *Lord of the Rings* films. Tim took Alessio under his wing and hired him as his assistant, and thus began Alessio's career as a sound engineer.

Things were going very well, with Alessio adding a job teaching guitar and ukulele, and Alessio and Ilaria adding a third member to their family (benvenuto, Liam!), when it all came to a screeching halt. Ilaria's project at the Getty Museum was not renewed, and the Miraglias were forced to pack up and return to Rome. Just one month later, Ilaria was offered another job, this time in Boston. Great news, for sure, but it came with a catch for Alessio - as Ilaria's spouse, he did not qualify for a work visa under the new arrangement.

So in addition to Ilaria, we also have to thank U.S. Customs and Immigration (how often can you say *that* these days?), since their decision turned Alessio into the ideal ACMi member-producer - a gifted artist with a creative vision and time on his hands! Final thanks go to Alan Kaufman, an ACMi member-producer with a long-running music series called “In the Tradition.” Spotting Alessio's ukulele prowess one day at Spy Pond, Alan invited him to be part of the show, and Alessio was brought into the ACMi fold.

While volunteering as Alan's sound engineer, Alessio realized that he had an intriguing opportunity to produce his own show. So he googled “How to make a pilot,” and “AM Garden” was born! Alessio stuck to his initials so nobody would have to try to pronounce “Miraglia,” and chose Garden because of its importance in Italian culture as a gathering place for friends. Fittingly, the show brings supremely talented musicians into the congenial confines of Studio A, where their music is captured brilliantly by Alessio at the sound board.

The show is a genuine treat, and it turns out we're not the only ones who think so! Word spread about “AM Garden” all the way to Italy, where the main television network took an interest in the work of one of their prized expats. So much interest, in fact, that they concluded an episode of one of their most popular shows, “L'Italia con Voi” (Italy with You), with an extended interview with Alessio about his TV show - it was seen by millions!



Alessio Miraglia

Public Channel



RCN
HD 629 3
Verizon
HD 31
Comcast
8

Arlingtonians from all backgrounds continue to share their passions, talents, and knowledge on ACMI's Public Channel. Volunteers and producers make creative connections and friends as they transform their original ideas into reality on television. Viewers all around Arlington benefit by having new local content to enjoy. We are proud that our Public channel provides a space for creators to share videos, and a place for residents to engage with their community through media.

Programming Highlights

AM Garden: Season 2!

Explore the magic of an eclectic audio-scape in the AM Garden. This is a creative program conceived, designed, and produced by award-winning composer and sound engineer Alessio Miraglia. Alessio draws on his extensive connections in Boston and beyond to invite top-notch musicians from a variety of genres into the ACMI studio, and the results are always a sonic treat!

Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture (ACAC) Series: New!

The Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture and Arlington Public Art have produced a new ArtsArlington program. The program begins with colorfully illustrated depictions of public art and then transitions into an in-studio interview with the artists themselves. Inspired by the designation of Arlington's new cultural district, this show aims to share the stories behind the art that's all around you.

Faith Speaks: New!

Faith Speaks, produced and hosted by Rebecca Merzius, seeks to equip people from all backgrounds with the knowledge to live a joyful, faith-filled life. With the aim of helping viewers activate their faith, Rebecca covers topics like discovering purpose, the power of prayer, knowing the Holy Spirit, and more. Tune in to be inspired, uplifted and comforted.

Steve Katsos: Season 10!

A decade in the making, The Steve Katsos Show serves as New England's only international late-night talk show. The program helps creative people get their art out to the world from ACMI's Studio A. Each show features a monologue, interviews, live comedy, and a musical performance. The Steve Katsos Show is produced almost entirely by volunteers and has an operating budget of \$0. If we can do this, you can do anything you want to do. Follow your dreams...



Berklee student Jessica Nathania performs in an episode of AM Garden Show.



Rebecca Merzius, host of Faith Speaks.



The Steve Katsos crew celebrates the end of season 10!

PUBLIC CHANNEL PROGRAMMING

A Bridge to Nowhere - Official Music Video
A Dark Dark Path (Movie by Studio Knights)
ACMi Annual General Meeting 2018
ACMi Awards 2018
ACMi Equipment Sign Up (PSA)
ACMi Film Class (Shorts)
ACMi News (Series)
ACMi Show (Series)
Acoustic Performance at Sunrise Senior Living
AFD Director Interview: J. Deschene
AHS Building Community Forum 9-24-18
AIFF 2019 Poster Winner - Biana Bova
AM Garden Show (Series)
APN Newscast (Series)
Arlington Belmont Chamber Ensemble (Series)
Arlington Belmont Chorale (Series)
Arlington Historical Society Lectures (Series)
Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra: Music Gazing (Series)
Art in Arlington (Series)
Arts Arlington - Public Art (Series)
Beyond a Thousand Words (Series)
Blues Apocalypse 2019 (Promo)
Carla Marciano Quartet
Chamber of Commerce Networking (Series)
Community Media Day (Promo)
Conversations with Great Authors - Skylar's Great Adventure
Conversations with Great Authors - Upton Bell
Criminal Justice Reform (Series)
Democracy After Dark (Forum at Robbins Library)
Dog Adventures by Katie
Double Take Storytelling Event - 2019
Eat, Sleep, Dance, Repeat (Series)
ExVids (Series)
Faith Speaks (Series)
Fido Fest 2018
Fit as a Fiddle Today (Series)
Flippin for the Blues
Flocking With Swan
For the Love of Seagrass
For the Lovers - Music Video
Ghostly Strike
Gossip Reel by Jaime
Healer in Every Home (Series)
Health and Wellness Channel - Meditation 2
Healthy Snacks (Series)
Helpful Hints (Series)
Holiday Organ Concert - Dec. 10, 2018
Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events - PSA
Importance of Community Media & Hyperlocal News
In the Tradition (Series)
Instructional Videos - Various (by Interns)
Introducing ACMi News Director Jeff Barnd
Investing in the Future - Virtual Reality in Education
Justice in the Balance - Inside the Middlesex County Jail
Lawnmower Acts as a Shredder for Leaf Mulch (PSA)
Lightswitch - Lazy Crockett (Music Video)
Living Out Loud (Series)
Mass Ave Bus Priority Pilot - May 16, 2018
Memorial Day Ceremony 2019
Menotomy Concert Series - Piano Concert - Liana Paniyeva
Middlesex Concert Band - 2019 Spring Concert
Middlesex County DA & Governor's Council Candidates' Debate
Million Dollar Gift (Series)
MLK Jr. Birthday Observance 2019
Music of Paradise (Series)
Patriots' Day Parade 2019
Person of the Year - John Leone (Chamber of Commerce)
Peter Mayer in Concert - Full Performance & Interview
Poppies by Wu (Timelapse)
Porchfest 2019
Reality - Lazy Crockett (Music Video)
Recycling Plastic Bags in Arlington - PSA
Recycling Rock Stars
Regent Theatre Preview - March 15, 2019 - Violinist
Rodent Control (Series)
Scenes of the Seasons (Shorts)
Select Board Candidates' Debate 2019
Selling a Cell Tower
Songs from the Circle (Series)
Special Election 2019 - Ballot Questions 1 & 2
State Representative Debate
State Representative Profiles
Studio B Sessions (Series)
Studio Knights Holiday Special - December 2018
SummerFun 2019 Shorts
Sustainable Living - Co-Housing, pt 1
Talk of the Town (Series)
Teens Cook (Series)
The Steve Katsos Show (Series)
Tony Wilson (Promo)
Town Day 2018 - ATC Band on Stage
Town Day 2018 - Garden Performances
Town Day 2018 - Part 1
Town Day 2018 - Part 2 - AHS Jazz Band
Tripod Tutorial
Unraveling India
Veterans' Day Parade 2018
Visiting Greenworks in Peabody - Arlington Recycles
Wide Angle (Series)
Windbourne at UU Church Performance
Young Filmmakers Panel Discussion
Young James Brown
Your Arlington Dollar (Series)
Zombie Stew

HD	RCN	Verizon	Comcast
613	13	24	9

Schools

ACMi has built strong relationships with various teachers and programs within Arlington Public Schools to help supplement both the curriculum and extracurricular activities for students in Arlington. In 2019, some of these partnerships led to award-winning results!



C-Span StudentCam competition winners.



Youth Coordinator Kevin Wetmore works with 8th grader Sam to direct AHS graduation.

ACMi once again worked with Glen Fant's AP US History class on the production of documentary films. Students broke into groups and produced films that addressed the question, "what does it mean to be American?" which were to be submitted to C-Span's annual StudentCam competition. ACMi provided technical training, equipment, and guidance throughout these productions. This year C-Span received 2,923 StudentCam documentaries. Two of the 150 winners across the nation came from Mr. Fant's class. Serena Bernstein and Mia Umali were recognized for their film, "The Evolution of Modern News," and Michael Graham-Green, Samuel Monks, and Hikaru Koga for "Locally Sourced Government." The students were presented their awards by a C-Span official and US Congresswoman Katherine Clark at a screening in the High School.

ACMi also built new connections at the elementary school level in 2019. Students from the Thompson School's Green Team and Lauren D'Intino's 5th-grade class worked on video and podcast projects with ACMi that focused on environmental awareness and sustainability. With support from ACMi, Ms. D'Intino's 5th-graders transformed their classroom into a podcasting studio to support their clean water curriculum. Their podcast series, "Which Way to Water," was recognized for the 25th Annual Secretary's Awards for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education. The whole class traveled to the State House to receive the award.

ACMi continues to maintain strong relationships with the Arlington High School Sports department, the Ottoson Middle School (Ottoson Media Group, see Media Groups section), and Arlington High School's Music Tech program. The Music Tech program this year, guided by teacher John DiTomaso, provided their own video crew for each of their concerts, and also for other musical performances at Arlington High School. ACMi supported their concerts with lighting and video equipment and instruction on multicam production and video editing.

Programming Highlights

Ponder Scope

For four years, the Ponder Scope was a weekly program produced by Gayatri Sundar Rajan, and kept Arlington High School students and parents informed about important events, deadlines, and updates of interest to the school community. When Gayatri graduated in 2018, she left a massive void at ACMi, but she also left a legacy with the Ponder Scope. A rotating cast of students stepped up and continued to produce Ponder Scope each week. With Arlington High School Principal Matthew Janger sharing the video each week, the audience for the Ponder Scope is regularly in the three-figure range, and the program also airs every week as part of the ACMi News broadcast.



Reese Stephen hosts an episode of Ponder Scope.

Battle of the Bands 2019

Year in and year out, the Battle of the Bands is one of the most popular and fun youth productions. This year, with a crew of ten high school students, the production had five cameras recording the stage, as well as a backstage interview set and student host. The event is put on by the STAND Club, and features performances from wildly talented student bands as well as the Educated Guests, Arlington's hardest-rocking teacher band. All proceeds from the 2019 show went to Save the Children.



A hand-held, youth-operated camera captures a moment on stage.

EDUCATION CHANNEL PROGRAMMING

AHS Boys Varsity Lacross
AHS Varsity Football
AHS Boys Varsity Basketball
AHS Girls Varsity Basketball
AHS Boys Varsity Soccer
AHS Girls Varsity Soccer
Arlington Catholic Softball
Arlington Catholic Boys Varsity Basketball
AHS Boys Varsity Hockey
AHS Girls Varsity Hockey
AHS Varsity Wrestling
ACMi Sports Update
ACMi Sports Studio Interviews
Summer Fun Shorts 2019
AHS Pops Concert 2019
aCATpella 2019
AHS Graduation 2019
Guns N Hoses 2019
Ottoson Middle School Concert Series
Teens Cook - Season 3
Mary Poppins Jr.
The Ponder Scope
AHS Music Tech Concerts
Studio B Sessions - Season 3
Ottoson 8th-Grade Recognition Ceremony

Battle of the Bands 2019
Small But Mighty: Kids Change the World (Series)
Which Way to Water (Podcast Series)
Carla Marciano Quartet - Live at Arlington High School
Salon by the Sea
Ottoson Middle School Memorial Day Assembly 2019
Gibbs School Band, Chorus and Orchestra Winter Concert
Elysium
ALEX
Black Women
Fashion Foundation Ep. 1
Fresh Isaac
RVT Chapter 2: Part 1
Auditioning
Contemplation of an Occasion
Varese
Keel
La Cena
Larp is Forever
Let The Teens Talk
Me and My Religion
Mind as Company
Paper Clip Challenge
Smol
iRony

Government Channel



RCN
HD 614 15
Verizon 26
Comcast 22

ACMi's Government Channel (Comcast 22, RCN 15, RCN HD 614, Verizon 26) features content covering the Town of Arlington's many government bodies, agencies, boards, and committees. Arlington is a community with a strong interest in government transparency. With this in mind, ACMi provides a particularly valuable service by broadcasting meetings such as the Select Board, School Committee, the Annual Town Meeting, and others, live on our channel and streaming on our website. Interested viewers who are unable to tune in live can easily access these sessions either when they air on the channel throughout the week or via ACMi's online Video-On-Demand (VOD) service.

In fact, all of the Government Channel's content, which also includes coverage of local elections, debates, and public forums, is continuously available on VOD. With almost 200 hours of content created this year alone, it's never been easier to keep up with local politics, policies and proceedings in the Town of Arlington.

This year, which included a special election to decide on a debt exclusion and override, the Arlington political scene ratcheted up as building projects sparked spirited debate. With Town Meeting tackling an astounding 79 warrants, and six more during Special Town Meeting, multiple long-term decisions were made that will shape Arlington's future for generations to come.



Town Meeting convenes in Arlington Town Hall.



Select Board Meeting in the Selectmen's Chambers in Arlington Town Hall.



Arlington Redevelopment Board Meeting, filmed in the Town Hall, 2nd Floor Annex.



Volunteers learn to direct at the Town Hall Control Room while filming a special presentation on coyotes.

GOVERNMENT CHANNEL PROGRAMMING

Hours

- 48..... 21 School Committee Meetings
- 44..... 25 Select Board Meetings
- 26..... 12 Finance Committee Meetings
- 33..... 23 Redevelopment Board Meetings
- 23..... 9 Town Meetings
- 15..... Other

Public Forums and Public Hearings:

- AHS Building Committee Community Forum
- AHS Building Project Community Forum
- AHS Building Design Progress Forum
- Intro to Town Meeting
- Forum on Multifamily Housing
- Meeting for Town Meeting Members and the Public Regarding Article #16
- Budget & Revenue Task Force
- Bus Priority Pilot Forum
- Massachusetts House & Senate Ways & Means Committee

Other Public Events:

- ABC Stormwater Flooding Group
- Arlington Veterans' Day Parade
- Arlington Memorial Day Ceremony
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance 2019

Other Events:

- Live Election Night Return Coverage
- League of Women Voters Candidates' Night 2019
- Select Board Candidates' Debate 2019
- Candidate Video Profiles for Local Elections
- Candidate Video Profiles for Special Elections

ACMi News

It's been a year of transformation at ACMi News. First, you may have noticed, is an important name change, one which connects the news division more closely with the longstanding ACMi brand, and reminds viewers of our commitment to provide the Arlington community with compelling, hyper-local storytelling each week. And there you have the second dramatic development – after years of aiming for it, we now produce a weekly newscast, under the steady and cheerful guidance of News Director Jeff Barnd.



Ngalah Gwet operates the video switcher for a newscast.

ACMi News made the shift to weekly episodes just in time, because it has been a very busy news-making year in Arlington, from the pivotal votes on a Proposition 2-½ override and a debt exclusion for a new high school, to the retirement of our longtime Police Chief and a swirling controversy generated by the comments of an APD lieutenant. Providing coverage of these monumental stories on a week-by-week basis was of great value to the community, according to a number of residents who voiced their appreciation for it.

At ACMi, we see our news division as essential to building a sense of community and citizen involvement in public, educational and government affairs. Every week, a crew comprised largely of members and volunteers gathers at Studio A to produce our newscast - manning the cameras, audio board, video switcher, and teleprompter in an inspiring display of community participation and empowerment. Citizen journalists also head out into the streets of Arlington to talk to residents and capture events of interest as they happen.

ACMi News substantially updated its overall look and feel with new teases, news openings, updates, voice-overs, music and outreach. This was all in support of our unflagging efforts to engage Arlingtonians with strong and accurate reporting on stories that directly affect them.

Stories of Note

Some of the many stories the news team reported on throughout the year include the following: We aired special coverage of Arlington's Bus Rapid Transit Pilot from its introduction in October 2018 to the end of the pilot program in December. What town leaders gleaned from the information that was extracted led to full adoption of the program, and will have implications for Arlington's mass-transit riders for years to come.

ACMi's news department broadcast live from Town Hall for two elections of consequence, the first of which saw first-time candidate Stephen DeCoursey beat Robert Tosi Jr. to take the seat on the town's Select Board that had been held for decades by Kevin Greeley, who died in office. And just two months later, ACMi News returned to provide almost two hours of live coverage of the override and debt exclusion votes, with four members of the Select Board there to provide updates on the voting and helpful context from their perspective as the town's executive body.

In addition to these events, ACMi News also covered a broad range of hyper-local happenings, including Food Link's major move to a new location on Summer Street; human sex-trafficking charges brought against the owner of an Arlington business; the approval of medical and recreational marijuana facilities in town; two young children stuck by used hypodermic needles left on the ground at Gibbs Middle School; and two arsons targeting Arlington's Jewish community, along with the massive response of solidarity those attacks drew.



Volunteers and interns set up for the weekly newscast.

Education

The debt exclusion that town residents approved on June 11th clears the way for a complete rebuild of Arlington High School, which is by far the largest and most expensive project ever undertaken in Arlington. Throughout the entire 2018-2019 school year, ACMi News covered every hearing held by the AHS Building Committee and reported on all new developments leading up to the hotly debated town-wide vote, including a thorough analysis of just how facilities themselves impact teaching and learning, as well as morale.

Right through the planned completion date of 2024, ACMi News will continue to offer extensive coverage of all phases of the Arlington High School rebuild. But that will be far from our only focus - our news team is always dedicated to reporting on any new and significant developments from any of Arlington's schools, and the town's educational community more broadly. It is what parents and students have come to expect from a community television station that is committed to keeping the public informed on all pertinent issues.

One of the most exciting developments over the last year is the increasing integration of the work of our youth members at Studio B on Mass Ave (across from the high school) into ACMi News. Every newscast now includes two segments produced entirely by AHS students - Ponder Scope and Sports Update. Adding these two reports - which provide students and parents with timely information about school events, activities, and deadlines, as well as highlights from the week's athletic contests - has generated more interest and garnered more feedback from all those impacted by this essential piece of the fabric of life in Arlington.

Finally, we want to salute our college interns, with whom ACMi News enjoys a deeply satisfying symbiotic relationship. Their energy and curiosity always galvanizes our own efforts, and they truly thrive when thrust into important roles as news producers, reporters, and even anchors. And they, in turn, make the most of their opportunities. To illustrate, two Emerson journalism majors who took on such roles this past year have already moved forward in their nascent broadcasting careers. One secured an internship in the newsroom of KTLA in Los Angeles, while the other is appearing on-air at a country radio station here in Boston. They are just the latest examples of talented young people whose futures we take great pride in helping to launch.

Outreach

We are currently in the process of taking our weekly news program and segments to multiple social media platforms. The results are already showing, as we have more than doubled our following on Facebook and Instagram this past year. Since we point our audience toward our social media platforms multiple times in every newscast, we expect that following to grow substantially in the coming year. Including segments shot at Studio B in every newscast has also increased audience awareness of the importance of that space to what we do, further expanding our outreach into the community.

And in early May, ACMi News hosted an Open House at Studio A, where Arlington residents were invited to learn about the vital importance of hyper-local journalism and also get an answer to the intriguing question, "How did a broadcast news anchor with more than 30 years' experience at stations in Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, and with 13 Emmys to his name, end up HERE as ACMi's News Director?" Several of the attendees that night ended up joining the small legion who crew our weekly newscasts, trying their hand at studio lighting, audio, camera, general assignment reporting, and even anchoring. Their enthusiasm is absolutely infectious.

As ACMi News enters our second year, we look forward to increasing the number of volunteers, members and interns taking part in their community TV station. That is the very definition of what ACMi is all about!



The crew poses after a successful newscast!

Public Affairs

It was a highly productive year for ACMi's Public Affairs division, full of interviews that stretched from the informative to the unforgettable, captured in a wide range of venues, from the cozy confines of Studio A to the not-so-cozy confined units of the Middlesex County Jail! Each of the series below added noteworthy new episodes through the year.

Talk of the Town

This series takes us all over Arlington, talking to the people who make things happen by providing services, staffing departments, leading initiatives and organizations, and so much more. Almost 20 episodes were filmed this year, including a farewell interview with long-time Arlington Police Chief Fred Ryan on the eve of his retirement. Other highlights included a conversation with Dr. Oneeka Williams, a force of nature who is both a respected surgeon AND a successful writer of inspiring children's books; an interview with Liza Talusan, Ph.D., who provided us with tremendous insight into how parents can talk to their children about difficult and intense subjects, specifically race; and a visit with various members of the Thompson School Green Team - from adult mentors to devoted 2nd-graders - who shared the accomplishments that garnered them a state-wide environmental award.



Arlington author Anjali Mitter Duva talks about her latest book at the Robbins Library.



Thompson Green Team receives a state award for their environmental activism.

Your Arlington Dollar

Now in its fifth year, Your Arlington Dollar (YAD) shines a light on all aspects of our town's fiscal condition, examining where the money comes from and where it goes. This was a transformative year for the town financially, with both an operating override and a debt exclusion being approved, potentially increasing annual property taxes by \$1200 or more. YAD featured multiple conversations with town officials and decision-makers to analyze the proposals from multiple perspectives. Assessments of property values also increased significantly this past year, and YAD sat down with the town's Director of Assessments to flesh out both the process and the ramifications for Arlington homeowners.

Criminal Justice Reform

In this series, which is one of our most impactful, we talk to movers and shakers across the spectrum of criminal justice reform, from law enforcement leaders to former prisoners who are piloting programs to give their fellow inmates the best chance for survival and success after prison. Two particularly notable additions to this series: 1) a candid conversation with Chief Ryan in the immediate aftermath of highly charged comments made by an APD Lieutenant in a Massachusetts police journal, in which the Chief explained the department's response in addition to providing his own strong condemnation of the controversial remarks; and 2) a rare glimpse inside the walls and beyond the barbed wire fences of the Middlesex County House of Correction, where we visited two specially designed units, one exclusively for military veterans, and the other housing only youth offenders.

ACMi's Public Affairs division also covered a number of special events over the last year. We provided candidate profiles and moderated conversations that illuminated various local and state elections of significance, from the override and debt exclusion ballot questions to races for District Attorney, Governor's Council, and State Representative. And a special presentation by noted author Frances Moore Lappé - "Finding Hope Through Democratic Action" - that drew a packed house to the First Parish Church auditorium, was captured in its entirety, allowing an even larger audience to hear Ms. Lappé's stirring words.



Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine discusses the fiscal options and choices facing voters.



James Milan speaks with Police Chief Fred Ryan.

Financial Statements (Audited)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2019

ASSETS

Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$471,705
Accounts receivable	206,306
Prepaid expenses	509
Total current assets	678,520
Property and equipment:	
Computers and equipment	1,210,627
Leasehold improvements	113,846
Furniture and fixtures	37,472
	1,361,945
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(1,053,929)
Property and equipment, net	308,016
Other assets:	
Security deposits	2,400
Investments in securities, at fair value	581,968
Assets restricted for investment in property and equipment	60,513
Total assets	\$1,631,417

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$3,796
Accrued expenses	22,268
Total current liabilities	26,064
Net assets:	
Without donor restrictions:	
Board-designated for long-term operations	555,000
Undesignated	979,331
Total without donor restrictions	1,534,331
With donor restrictions	71,022
Total net assets	1,605,353
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,631,417

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the year ended June 30, 2019

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Revenues:	
Municipal contracts	\$792,292
Membership dues and other revenues	6,160
Investment income, net of fees	8,019
Net realized and unrealized gains	15,325
Net assets released from restriction	103,346
Total support and revenue	925,142

Expenses:	
Program - production and broadcasting	\$734,228
General and administrative	338,979
Total expenses	1,073,207
Decrease in net assets without donor restrictions	(148,065)

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Revenues:	
Capital grants	124,656
Investment income	150
Net assets released from restriction	(103,346)
Increase in net assets with donor restrictions	21,460
Decrease in net assets	(126,605)
Net assets, beginning of year	1,731,958
Net assets, end of year	\$1,605,353

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended June 30, 2019

Cash flows from operating activities:	
Decrease in net assets	(\$126,605)
Adjustments to reconcile decrease in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:	
Contributions restricted for investment in property and equipment	(124,656)
Net realized and unrealized gains on securities	(15,325)
Depreciation and amortization	102,129
Decrease in accounts receivable	2,270
Decrease in prepaid expenses	1,442
Decrease in accounts payable	(4,722)
Increase in accrued expenses	1,089
Net cash used in operating activities	(164,378)
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Proceeds from sale of securities	242,657
Purchases of securities	(250,407)
Increase in assets restricted for investment in property or equipment	(21,460)
Decrease in cash designated for long-term operations	37,006
Purchases of property and equipment	(103,346)
Net cash used in investing activities	(95,550)
Cash flows from financing activities:	
Contributions restricted for investment in property and equipment	124,656
Net cash provided by financing activities	124,656
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(135,272)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	606,977
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$471,705





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