



ARLINGTON COMMUNITY MEDIA, INC.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

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2020



# HOMETOWN VIDEO AWARDS

The Hometown Video Awards from the Alliance for Community Media are established to recognize and honor high-quality community media programming across the country. This year, ACMi member-producer Alessio Miraglia won an award for Best Local Performance by an Independent Producer for his series, AM Garden Show. And ACMi legend Steve Katsos took the prize for the Best Entertainment and Arts Series for The Steve Katsos Show.

*We are so proud to work with such powerful creative forces as Alessio Miraglia and Steve Katsos!*



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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 Fourteenth Annual Report of Arlington Community Media Inc (ACMi). June 30, 2020 marked the completion of our fourteenth 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.

The Board is pleased with the efforts of ACMi members and staff that have resulted in 404 hours of quality first-run local P.E.G. programming and ACMi News for our community of viewers, a particularly impressive achievement in the face of the pandemic descending in March. Our programs have logged nearly 23,000 hours of viewing time on our YouTube and social media channels.

We continuously strive to increase our programming, ACMi News community involvement, and equipment usage. Our members 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 how we adapted to the constraints and challenges of operating under COVID-19, and of the value we were able to bring to residents, agencies, and officials in town as we all worked to respond to the unique circumstances.

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 (once that is again possible), and to become a member, a volunteer, or a producer at ACMi - Arlington's community television station.

JOHN D. LEONE,  
President

*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*

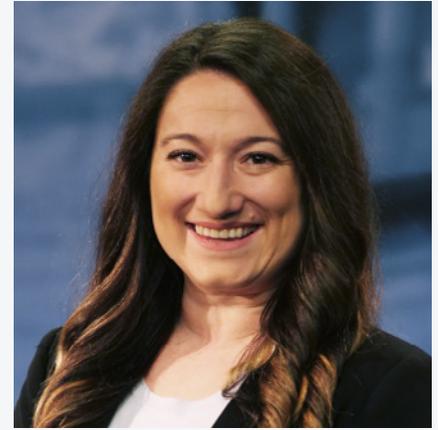
A. Michael Ruderman is a government and communications professional with over 30 years of experience in real estate, nonprofits, and community affairs. He and his wife and daughter (along with a menagerie of cats and dogs) have lived in Arlington for more than 25 years.



**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.



**RHIANA ASH**

*Board Member*

Rhiana has more than a decade of regulatory experience in the Massachusetts telecommunications and cable industries, and currently serves as a Senior Regulatory Specialist for the Massachusetts Dept. of Telecommunications and Cable. Rhiana and her family have lived in Arlington since 2016.



**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.

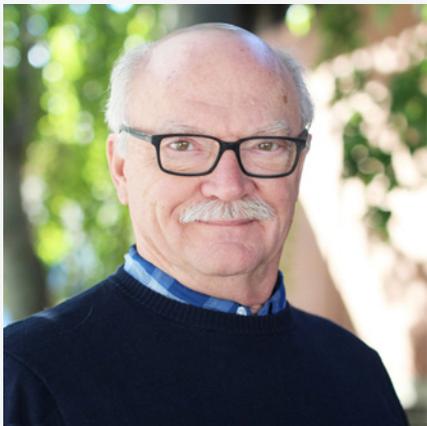


**PHILLIP J. PRIVITERA, ESQ.**

*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.

# From the Executive Director



To quote A Tale of Two Cities: "It was the best of times and it was the worst of times." Dickens went on to say, "it was an age of wisdom and an age of foolishness; an epoch of belief and an epoch of incredulity; it was the spring of hope and the winter of despair." Though penned in the eighteenth century, those words resonate today, in terms of national politics as well as Covid. These are indeed extraordinary times, and I'm proud that ACMi has stepped up to fulfill its mission to the Town of Arlington even in the middle of a pandemic.

Until March, all was well and it seemed to be the best of times. ACMi was covering more meetings, sports events, concerts and town events than ever before. The staff was busy teaching and assisting a growing membership in producing programs of interest to the community. Our News team was very active, as was our Public Affairs division. In fact, some rather dramatic and controversial events in town made ACMi an important source of information for residents.

Then the pandemic struck, the world stopped, and the station had to be closed to the public. It was seemingly going to be the worst of times in a virtual world. To fulfill our mission, ACMi needed to be creative and flexible. As the town moved to make all meetings virtual, ACMi staff spent many hours training officials in the use of virtual technology and then monitored meetings to ensure that the town could communicate without technical problems. Town Meeting, usually held indoors, migrated outdoors this year to allow for social distancing, and was streamed using ACMi equipment. School graduations were covered, and intensive editing by ACMi staff allowed each graduating student to be acknowledged individually on camera for all to see. A number of programs normally produced in the studio carried on virtually, with ACMi providing essential training in remote editing.

As members adjusted to the world we now live in, more requests were made to check equipment out. A number of Covid policies were implemented: equipment must be reserved in advance and physically transferred by a staff member; all equipment is sterilized before and after use; and anyone entering the station, for any reason, is required to sign in for tracing purposes and wear a mask.

Covid has certainly impacted ACMi in ways we did not expect. As the infection rate ramped up, more people lost their jobs, and many had to cut costs at home. For some, that included their monthly cable subscription. Because our funding is tied to the number of cable subscribers, we have seen a decrease in that funding. Unfortunately, we had to let two of our part-time staff go as a result. Most community television stations across the country have been similarly impacted.

Meanwhile, in the middle of this pandemic ACMi received notification of the termination of our lease at Studio B, so ACMi staff had to spend many long hours deconstructing Studio B. Fortunately, after months of negotiation, Arlington High School agreed to give ACMi space in the current school building for two years until the new school is built. We are working with the architects to allot space for an ACMi studio in the new building.

So this year has not been the best but fortunately not the worst of times. It has afforded us all at ACMi an opportunity to be creative and to learn new skills and to continue to find ways that we can be of service to the Town of Arlington. Stay well everyone, and wear a mask.

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

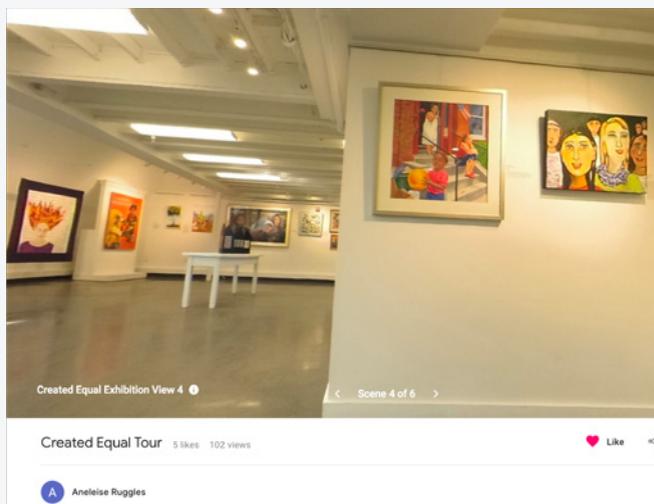
# Studio & Facilities

The pandemic has been such a monumental game changer that it is easy to forget what an exciting year had been unfolding in terms of ACMi's rollout of new media tools and resources. Visitors to our booth at Town Day 2019 richly enjoyed the chance to experience unique ACMi VR content through our new Oculus Go VR headsets. We were introducing the new technology as a way to show off various projects created while experimenting with ACMi's 360 VR camera and editing techniques. More recently, the Arlington Center for the Arts borrowed our Yi 360 camera to offer a virtual tour of their Gallery on their website.

Another innovative technology we have expanded our use of are the ACMi Aerial Video/Photography Drones, which have been in flight capturing eye-catching images of commercial enterprises for the Chamber of Commerce, beauty shots of the town's parks and Spy Pond, and archival footage to chart the ongoing High School rebuild. Drone-savvy member Adam Bolonsky has continued to supply valuable assistance to Town projects and expert guidance to staff and members as they take to this new tool.

ACMi's committed effort to build on resources for the very popular DSLR Filmmaking Program has really paid off as well, with feature projects continuing to be produced by a host of members even under the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. And when we can return to the studio once again, staff and members alike will benefit from a number of expansions and upgrades to Master Control, including adding IP stream input and output compatibilities to the playback server, an intelligent battery backup system, and a network-enabled KVM system to access and troubleshoot problems remotely.

Over the last seven years, our satellite production center known as Studio B has established itself as the nexus for a highly successful youth division at ACMi. A lot of the credit for this goes to Studio B Manager Kevin Wetmore, who has done an exemplary job of inspiring and cultivating young talent, harnessing the exuberance of these students into creative productions that consistently entertain and delight. Given that the studio's convenient location across the street from the high school has been a real bonus, we're particularly excited about the fact that we'll soon be crossing Mass Ave to set up shop within the school building itself! Just one more reason why we think that, as far as Studio B is concerned, the best is yet to come.



A 360 image allowing viewers to visit an exhibit at the Arlington Center for the Arts.



Volunteer Adam Bolonsky captures the setup for a Covid-safe Town Meeting.



A Studio B production in progress!

# Membership

Azlan Ahmad  
George Akerley  
Maggie Anderson  
Swan Anderson  
Nick Antonakas  
Michael Armanious  
James Aronson  
Ben Austen  
John Axon  
Genevieve Baldwin  
Maria Balmelli  
Veronica Barton  
Maire Beck  
William Bergholz  
Chandler Betts  
Jacquie Billings  
Adam Bolonsky  
Stephen Boudreau  
Nathan Brennan  
Sydney Britt  
Michael Brown  
Barton Bruce  
Cheryl Brusgulis  
Robin Buck  
Eliza Burden  
Kaitlyn Burke  
Laura Burns  
Alex Cambria  
Alexander Cambria  
Winona Campbell  
Nancy Carlson  
Michael Cerullo  
Zoe Cheimets  
Matthew Chen  
Ruairi Costello  
Mary Grace Cronin  
Cyn  
Laura Davies  
Karen Dawson  
Debye Delorean  
Maxwell DePriest  
Rodrigo DeSouza  
Samuel Dierenger  
Margie DiMonte  
Alevia Doyle  
Ted Duffin  
Leila Duncan

Christopher Ellinger  
Amber Espar  
Wu So Fai  
Aidan Fecteau  
Ross Fodera  
Andrew Frappiea  
Mark Friendlich  
John Gagan  
Yoftahe Gebru  
Victoria Gonzalez  
Daniel Gorbunov  
Griffin Gould  
Alberto Guzman  
Henry Hamilton  
Michael Haroutunian  
Catherine Harris  
Andrew Harrison  
Brenda Herman  
Randy Herman  
Ian Jackson  
Luke Jarvis  
Alan Jones  
Steve Katsos  
Ed Keith  
Harvey Kelley  
Aodan Kinneen  
Alexandra Kinney  
Danny Kirchner  
Dick Koolish  
Jane Kuper  
Maren Larkin  
Noble Larson  
Isabel Litterst  
Walter Locke  
Annika Lof  
Elena Longo  
Benjamin Loosian  
Liv Luisi  
Maryn McConkey  
Rowan McConkey  
Amy McElroy  
Shaela McHugh  
Charlotte Milan  
Mia Milstein  
Alessio Miraglia  
Derek Mola  
Nathan Montgomery

Toni Mueller  
Bach Ngo  
Aeleyah Obleton  
Anand Olstad  
Hope Orfanos  
Anim Osmani  
Anoushua Oue  
Sumeet Pareek  
Charlotte Pierce  
Tonia Pinheiro  
Rob Pooley  
Dhruva Ram  
Gloria Revanche  
Nancy Rogier  
Theodora Rosen  
Sagar Rostogi  
Luca Rugerio  
Mary Rose Saad  
Mark Sandman  
Sophia Sayigh  
Ilya Sharonov  
Beth Soltzberg  
Eric Stange  
Zachary Swasta  
Noah Sweder  
Chelsea Swift  
Andy Takats  
Judy Tesnow  
Ray Thomas  
Tyler Vaillancourt  
Melina Vanderpile  
Leo Voet  
Maria Vu  
Beini Wang  
Drew Weisberg  
Gareth Williams  
Andrew Winslow  
Tommy Wisdom  
William Wisdom  
Lynn Wolfsfeld

# Communications

We always strive to keep our members, friends, and partners aware of what's happening at ACMi through all kinds of communications - 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. In normal times, orientation tours are easy to schedule at our Studio A at 85 Park Ave. These provide interested residents with an overview of our fourteen years in operation and an introduction to our ever-expanding inventory of equipment and menu of training opportunities.

Although our weekly TV schedule appeared in the Arlington Advocate for many years, that is much less consistently the case now. We therefore direct our audience to our website at [acmi.tv](http://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](http://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. And our work in conjunction with the Town's media team continues to deepen and broaden, ensuring that many residents access our content through the Town's website as well.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ACMi continues to mine a rich vein of collaborative power with traditional partners like the Arlington International Film Festival, Food Link, Council on Aging, First Parish Church, and the Regent Theatre, and we keep building connections with others like the Arlington Philharmonic, St John's Church, and the Arlington Human Rights Commission.

Through our Public Affairs division, we continue our regular schedule of visits with Arlington's state legislators, with the aim of keeping 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.



True Story Theater stops in to record some voice-over.



Leland Stein, owner of the Regent Theatre.



James Milan speaks with Rayna Walters, the winner of this years AIFF poster contest, via Zoom.

## SCHOOLS

Our important connections to Arlington schools, discussed in greater detail in another section of this report, continue to expand in exciting ways. Our coverage of high school sports has continued to be a real point of pride for us. Until the pandemic brought an abrupt end to sports in the spring, Sports Producer Alex Van Thong and his crew of college interns, high school students, and adult commentators did a wonderful job of recording more games than ever, and getting them onto our channels and website faster than ever! And ACMi coverage of other important school events like concerts, presentations, and performances also continues apace, with youth crews in both middle and high schools covering more such productions every year.

## WHAT LIES AHEAD

While we are genuinely proud of what we have provided over the years for the Arlington community, the months since COVID-19 hit have made us more aware than ever of the unique contributions we can make. With so many in town – from local government to businesses to social-welfare agencies and nonprofits – having to adapt to unprecedented conditions, ACMi has found new ways to be useful in disseminating information and making residents aware of programs and services they can use. It looks like we will all be operating in these remarkable circumstances for a while still, and we will continue to strive to make our distinctive contributions to the tapestry of life in Arlington.



Ted manning a camera for an AHS sports game.

## WEBSITE

Our website drew in approximately 33,300 new, unique users last year, with a notable increase in April thru June, during the first months of quarantine. Of all the visits to the website, 15% were returning visitors and the average time spent on a page was two minutes. The number of total visits was about 52,700, which is more than the previous year. Viewers were drawn to the website from similar sources as 2019. Of note was that the top direct page visited was the Ponder Remote webpage, created to connect Arlington High School staff, teachers, and administration. Also, Facebook continued to draw in a high number of visitors (92% of all our social media traffic) and the majority of our referrals came from YourArlington.com.



Principal Matthew Janger recites the pledge of allegiance in the Daily Ponder Remote.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

ACMi social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) have all increased in followers. Facebook remains the highest in terms of engagement. The Town of Arlington and organizations, such as the Robbins Library and the Arlington Center for the Arts, actively include ACMi within their related posts. Facebook also allows ACMi to connect with Arlington residents via a number of Facebook groups (i.e., the Arlington List, Arlington MA Current Residents, and Arlington Parents Group). The Facebook posts with the most reach include: the AHS choir performing Tommy, the first Virtual Town Forum, Arlington's Got Talent, and many other youth-related videos.



**Followers**  
**573.....** INSTAGRAM  
**537.....** TWITTER  
**819.....** FACEBOOK

## YOUTUBE

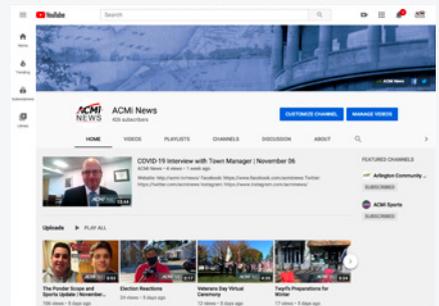
The **ACMi** YouTube channel has reached 995 subscribers, up from 558, and we are at 19,300 total watch hours. The most popular videos are, as always, youth productions or youth-related videos. New additions this year to the top of the list include the Arlington High School Virtual Choir performing Tommy, and the AHS Graduation. The most viewed playlists are government-themed, including this year's Town Meeting Matters and our 2020 Election Coverage. The upshot - Arlington residents on YouTube really care about two things in particular: their kids and local politics!

**995 subscribers**  
**19,300 total watch hours**



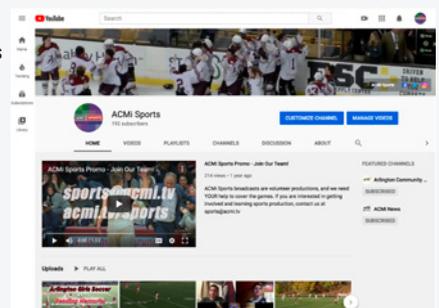
The **ACMi News** channel (previously Arlington Public News) has been around since 2014, and subscribers have been increasing steadily over the years. A significant number (44%) are being directed to the YouTube channel from ACMi.tv/news, which illustrates the importance of continuing to keep the News web pages active and up-to-date.

**412 subscribers**  
**1,200 total watch hours**



The **ACMi Sports** YouTube page grew quickly in subscribers and views from its introduction in September 2019. Housing all the sports matches ACMi has covered, as well as Sports Updates, etc, this channel aims to be the place for Arlington sports coverage. With the creation of new series like The Nosebleeds podcast, and the current reliance on virtual viewing due to the coronavirus, we are excited to provide a hub for Arlington sports fans.

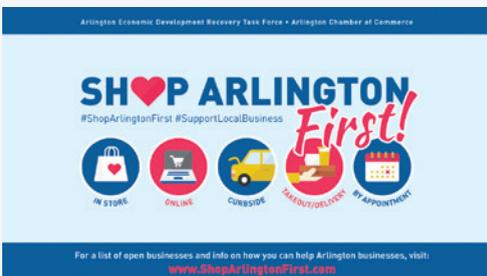
**151 subscribers**  
**2,700 total watch hours**



# 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 Consumer Surveys  
 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 Sons of Italy  
 Arlington Tree Committee  
 Arlington Youth Health & Safety Coalition  
 Autism House Pathways  
 Black History Month  
 Chillhop Records  
 Covid-19 Relief Fund  
 Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum

Department of Public Health  
 Department of Public Works  
 Double Take Arlington  
 Fast and Furriest  
 Fidelity House  
 First Parish Unitarian Universalist  
 Free Meditation Boston  
 Friends of Spy Pond  
 Friends of the Robbins Library  
 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 the Great Greek Orthodox Church  
 Saint Vartanantz Church  
 Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
 St. Agnes Church  
 St. Camillus Parish Community  
 Stone Zoo  
 True Story Theater



# Covid Adaptations

ACMi has probably never faced a more challenging year, and the way that staff, members, and interns have adapted to the abrupt, dramatic changes in how we do things has been truly inspiring. Facing new obstacles has meant finding new solutions, like making more extensive use of cloud services and server-based technologies to effectively migrate our work from the studio to our homes. We are extraordinarily proud of how we have navigated that transition while adhering to our core values and further extending our network of connections and collaborations in town.

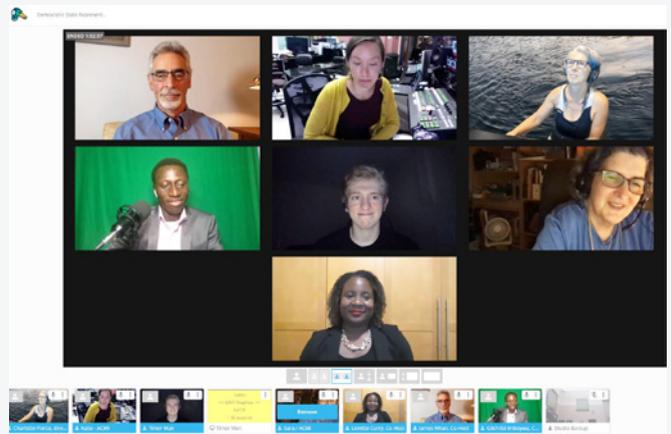
State-wide closures began practically on the day ACMi had scheduled to host local debates. Pivoting as many others did during this time, ACMi worked with candidates to move the debates virtually. In addition, ACMi worked closely with the Town to assist with a vital series called Community Conversations on race and equity, as well as the Town's Virtual Forums on covid.

The crisis conditions brought on by the onset of the pandemic triggered ACMi's unique capacity to disseminate and amplify important information from Town leaders, the Health Department, and others. In the months since, Arlington residents have looked to us for the latest data and best practices for keeping families safe, as well as engaged. The technical and logistical challenges involved were considerable, but were no match for the commitment and ingenuity of our staff.

## PRODUCTIONS

When we had to officially close the studio to the public in March 2020, the question of how to safely continue productions and support members loomed large and seemed daunting. ACMi staff and members were committed to holding their community together, so new resources were provided to members and community partners, including free editing software and other applications that could stand in for access to studio software. Platforms like Zoom quickly became the familiar go-to for many at ACMi, in Arlington, and beyond. ACMi provided extensive training on this new application to those engaged in a host of activities, from Virtual Town Forums, to Public Affairs, to Studio Knights. These sessions covered many of the ins and outs of the software, starting with the basics of how to properly frame and light yourself.

Studio Knights made use of Zoom to continue to meet remotely every Wednesday evening, albeit in a very different setting than before. Taking on the challenge of a new



ACMi staff, volunteers, and interns, practice in Streamyard for the Democratic State Representative Debate - 24th Middlesex District.



Studio Knights continue weekly, but remotely, via Zoom.

platform, the Knights continued to connect, share ideas and create. Among the productions was a Black Lives Matter video series and Fox and Owl puppet videos to contribute to the virtual Fox Festival sponsored by the Arlington libraries.

Individual member productions also continued (constrained, of course) via Zoom. Even without access to our professional facilities and studio, our fundamental commitment to learning and support prevailed. In addition to Zoom productions, individual members used remote desktop options to receive distanced help from staff. Over time, we also added another platform to the mix. Streamyard, which is similar to Zoom, has introduced an enhanced level of virtual production to members and community partners alike. Even with the success of these adaptations, however, the staff was very excited to be able to once again make equipment available to our members in mid-July, albeit in a limited way.

## YOUTH

With schools shutting down in March, many of the usual spring events that ACMi produces were thrown into uncertainty. A major concern for the community was what to do to honor the Class of 2020. ACMi stepped up to work with Arlington High School to produce a virtual graduation video that was broadcast at the same time the in-person graduation would have taken place. The production involved the traditional speeches, which were filmed at Town Hall; video packages paying tribute to sports and the arts; student musical performances; and a diploma ceremony. In addition to producing the graduation video, ACMi broadcast and live-streamed the AHS Caravan from a perch atop Studio B as the Class of 2020 rolled past the high school.

ACMi supported Arlington Public Schools during the pandemic in various other ways. A page on ACMi's website, "The Ponder Remote," was dedicated to posting remote content for Arlington High School. This included the "Daily Announcements," which featured a message from Principal Matthew Janger each morning, messages from various teachers, staff, and students, and a reading of the Poem of the Day.

Additional Ponder Remote content included the weekly Ponder Scope and Sports Update, an appreciation of the Class of 2020 from the teachers, and a number of musical performances. When Arlington High School's spring musical, a production of "The Who's Tommy," was cancelled, ACMi worked with the school to painstakingly stitch together a virtual choir composed of the entire cast singing together. The result was one of the most popular videos ACMi has ever produced, with almost 5,000 views and counting!

ACMi was forced to adapt our own events as well. Although we could not hold our traditional screening at the Regent Theatre, this year's A-Town Teen Film Festival still carried on. The event was broadcast on the Education Channel and streamed on the Regent Theatre's Facebook page. There were more submissions than ever before, making things very difficult for the judges. In the end, sixteen films were shown, with submissions coming from Arlington, Lowell, Cambridge and Boston. This year's best overall film was "Mad Woman," by Sarah White. Congrats, Sarah!



The cast of AHS's "The Who's Tommy" performs the finale, "See Me, Feel Me (Reprise)/ Listening to You (Reprise)".

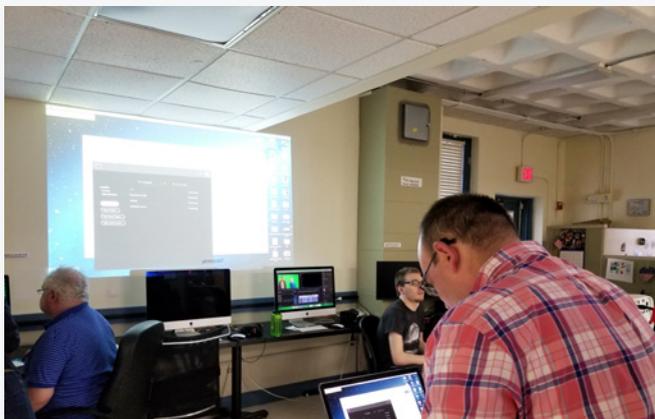


Ken Kohlberg and Nick Antonakas safely, socially distance while calling a sports game.



Footage from the Arlington High School car caravan celebrating the 2020 graduates.

# Learning Opportunities



Jonathan Barbato prepares to teach a lesson on Adobe Premiere.



Operations Manager Jeff Munrov holds a captive audience in the studio.



Shaela conducts an interview for her show, Community Update

## PRODUCTIONS

Preceding the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, individual and group workshops this year took place on a wide range of topics and were provided in a variety of formats. Trainings included: JVC Camcorder, GH5 DSLR camera, Adobe Premiere, After Effects, Indesign, Pre-production, Studio Production, Lighting, and many others, based on individuals' interests. A suite of workshops were also run by staff in the fall of 2019 on topics such as: Phone Filmmaking, Your YouTube Channel, Fun with Shutter Speed, and Journalism 101.

Members and staff worked together on another Crowdsourced Boston project this year, coming together to recreate a scene from Beetlejuice, with a full crew taking on filming, special effects, and clay miniatures. Within the studio, the use of live-to-tape graphics in BroadcastPix was added to a number of studio productions, requiring less editing and allowing for faster posting. And, as always, ACMi's coverage of Arlington Town Day was a marquee moment for the staff, members, and youth who captured the day's full slate of events and activities.

## INTERN PROGRAM

Over a number of 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.

The challenges for both interns and their supervisors ratcheted up dramatically with the onset of the pandemic midway through the spring term this year, and we couldn't be prouder of the way both students and staff stepped up to continue producing fine content without access to studio facilities or equipment. It's a real testament to the resilience of the interns and the resourcefulness of their supervisors, and we will be taking all we learned during the spring and summer about producing quality remote programming into a new school year that seems sure to offer many of the same challenges.

## YOUTH

### FOCUS MEDIA

Every Wednesday throughout the school year at Studio B, ACMi hosted "Focus Media," an afterschool high school club where youth can learn and develop a variety of skills. Among the projects the group worked on this year were hand-drawn animations, studio productions, and filmmaking.

### OTTOSON MEDIA GROUP

Led as always by the extraordinary Edith Moisand, Ottoson's Library Media Teacher, and with the support of ACMi Youth Coordinator Kevin Wetmore, the Ottoson Media Group once again went above and beyond to produce excellent content this year. Even with the shortened year, they still were able to produce multi-camera shoots of town winter concerts, the fourth season of the French Cooking show "Teens Cook," and a documentary film about Dungeons and Dragons titled "Adventurers Wanted."

## MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

One of ACMi's most successful school partnerships is with John DiTomaso's Music Technology Program. Students enrolled in Music Technology courses at AHS use computer workstations and studio recording technology to produce music of all genres. They work together throughout the year to plan and put on multiple collaborative concerts. ACMi supports these events by providing students with the equipment and training to produce their own concert films, which are aired on our Education channel. This year's Music Tech concerts included Sonic Voyages XI, the Music Technology and Honors Orchestra Concert, and the Music Technology and Choral Concert.

## THIS YEAR'S INTERNS

Boston University - Aaleyah Obleton  
Emerson College - Maggie Anderson, Sydney Britt, Ross Fodera, Andrew Frappeia, Victoria González, Brenda Herman, Harvey Kelley, Isabel Litterst, Derek Mola, Mary Rose Saad, Zachary Swasta, Maria Vu, Beini Wang  
Framingham State University - Shaela McHugh  
Tufts University - Gloria Revanche, Drew Weisberg  
Suffolk University - Maxime Isaac, Anim Osmani



Sam directs the main stage at Town Day 2019!



A shot captured by an ACMi youth camera operator during a Music Technology and AHS Chorus collaborative concert.



There's a story and News Intern Mary Rose is on the scene!

# Member Feature

Charlotte Pierce has been involved with ACMi since, well, before it was ACMi! Over the last sixteen years, Charlotte has created a half dozen series, been a member of the ACMi Board of Directors, and contributed to countless productions. She has made full use of the studio's resources to expand her video production skills, and she's been a reliable and highly effective ambassador for ACMi in the community. Throw in the fact that Charlotte took a break for some years and then returned to the studio to produce not one, not two, but *three* new series, and you can see why we wanted to know more about her singular trajectory at ACMi!

In 2004, an impulse to support the new Spanish program at her daughter's elementary school, combined with her appreciation for the power of television as a medium, led Charlotte to investigate Arlington's cable access station - at that time a two-person operation known as the Arlington Studio. It was then that she first met (current Operations Manager) Jeff Munro, who Charlotte describes in terms we all recognize today, "He's always been so good at mentoring people and their ideas, he really makes you feel like things are possible." Together they created *Hola Arlington*, the first of Charlotte's slate of ACMi productions.

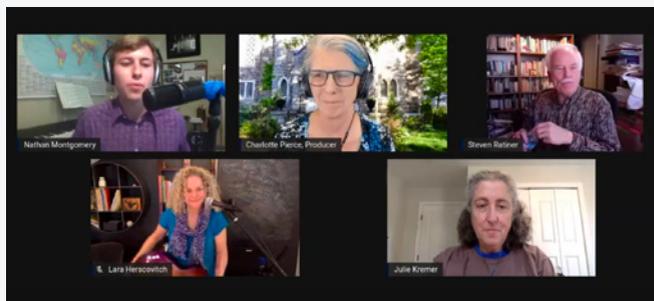
It was certainly a different world then, a world of VHS and S-VHS tapes going into Firewire hard-drives. "Seven times out of ten the process would work, then the other times you'd head to Computer Café to get it extracted!" Charlotte says with a laugh. But the values that define the ACMi experience - creative enthusiasm, technical mastery, warm support that encourages taking chances - were all there already, she recalls. Charlotte began a number of years of productive engagement, completing projects large and small, which convinced her that "this is a powerful medium and it takes a lot of resources to get your message out...when you raise those production values, your message has more impact."

Charlotte became a Board member in this period as well, helping usher ACMi itself into existence in 2006, and bringing an important new perspective to the Board - that of an active member-producer. She describes those years at ACMi with great fondness, but says that over time the rest of her life became much busier and she got pulled away from the studio. This is not unusual for our members, who after all must fit ACMi into their free time. What makes Charlotte different is that, when the space opened back up in her life, she returned to ACMi with a vengeance.

At the time, Charlotte was heavily involved in producing a series of Coffeehouse Concerts at St. John's Church in Arlington. She was struck by how much work went into each live musical performance, only to have it disappear as the



Scottish Fish perform at St Johns CoffeeHouse.



The team on Streamyard, led by Charlotte, run Gimme Shelter during Covid to benefit Food Link and local musicians.

final notes sounded. Wanting to capture those ephemeral experiences and share them with a larger audience, she immediately thought of ACMi, and voilà, she was suddenly back in the fold.

In addition to the Coffeehouse Concerts (a popular addition to the ACMi schedule!), Charlotte has also revived Face the Book. This series, focused on book publishing in all its aspects, was one of her staple productions during her first tenure at ACMi. And she has introduced a podcast with the intriguing name of Peeragogy (a play on the word pedagogy), which presents tools and techniques for peer learning and peer production. Turns out Charlotte sees ACMi as embodying a number of Peeragogical core principles in the way we work!

Given the range, variety, and duration of her experience at the studio, when Charlotte Pierce talks about ACMi, it's worth listening. Asked about what makes the place so special for her, Charlotte has no hesitation, describing it as full of "people with amazing expertise that are willing to share it at the drop of a hat," citing the "incredible generosity of knowledge" that reflects. And when it comes to member productions, she cherishes the fact that "no topic is too small...or too large" to keep ACMi staff from enthusiastically, and expertly, supporting it. And she has the portfolio to prove it!



Charlotte tries to not be distracted from her editing by Jonathan.



Charlotte directs a newscast, surrounded by other ACMi volunteers.

# Public Channel

## PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

### DAT LANH CHIM DAU (GOOD LAND FOR A BIRD TO PERCH)

Rodrigo Souza devoted a tremendous amount of time and effort to create this audiovisual delight. Filmed through his own lens over a six-week visit to Vietnam, Rodrigo paints a moving, poetic portrait of that beautiful land and its people.



### SAND SCULPTURES: "THEY'RE EPHEMERAL, THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT"

ACMi member Margie DiMonte chronicles the 19th Annual Sand Sculpting Classic at Hampton Beach in New Hampshire. Filming and editing entirely on her own, Margie created a documentary that colorfully captures the wondrous process and jaw-dropping creations of master sand sculptors at work.



### COMMUNITY UPDATE

ACMi Production Intern Shaela McHugh is the creative force behind the Community Update. Highlighting non-profit organizations in Arlington, this series focuses on who they are, what they are currently up to, and what their future plans are.

### CONVERSATIONS WITH GREAT AUTHORS

ACMi member-producer Michael Armanious brings together writers, thinkers, and poets for this interview series hosted by John Harrison. Listen, get to know, and be inspired by these great authors!



### FANDOM 101

Producer Julia Bloom explores what fandom is in all its aspects, and the issues that need to be addressed in modern fandom and the cosplay community. The first episode was filmed in-studio and edited during quarantine, and a second episode was successfully executed on Zoom.

### WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS

In January 2020, ACMi member Michael Brown debuted the first four episodes of this series based on the powerful words, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." Familiar as that phrase is, disparities continue to define the experiences of white people and people of color. Michael holds frank conversations with guests of all ages and backgrounds, probing the question - what is our responsibility now to deal with our history?

### ST JOHN'S COFFEE HOUSE SERIES

Long-time ACMi producer Charlotte Pierce led the charge, organizing coffeehouse-style folk and classical concerts at St John's Church. The concerts benefit both the hardworking, gifted musicians who perform, and the community outreach missions of St. John's. Here's to Charlotte's dedication and all of the members who assisted in filming and editing these multi-cam shows!

RCN  
HD  
629 3

Verizon  
HD  
31

Comcast  
8



## PUBLIC CHANNEL PROGRAMMING

- 1-on-1 Candidate Interviews
- A Conversation with New York Times Correspondent, David Sanger
- A Day in the Life of an Egyptian Archaeologist
- A Healer In Every Home
- A-Town Teen Videos
- ABCs of LGBTQ+ (Series)
- ACMi Annual Meeting 2019
- ACMi News (Series)
- ACMi Tree Lighting 2019
- "Activated" Trailer
- AHS Graduation 2020
- AIFF Students Program 2019
- Alessio Miraglia ACMi Special
- An Egyptian in Japan
- Animation Festival 2019
- Arlington Belmont Chorale & Chamber Chorus Concerts
- Arlington Historical Society Lectures (Series)
- Arlington Philharmonic - Music Gazing (Series)
- Arlington Town Day 2019
- Arlington Veterans Day Parade & Ceremony 2019
- Arlington's Got Talent
- Art in Arlington (Series)
- Arts Arlington (Series)
- Boston Climate Strike Promo
- Candidate Profiles 2020
- Chamber of Commerce Networking Lectures (Series)
- Climate Change Legislative Forum - Jan. 14, 2020
- Climate Assessment of APD 6-15-20
- Community Conversations: Diversity/Equity/Inclusion
- Community Conversations: Racism & Reforms - June 23, 2020
- Community Update (Series)
- Conversations with Great Authors (Series)
- Coronavirus Special Report by Brenda Mahoney
- Dat Lanh Chim Dau
- Democracy After Dark: History of the Census
- Driving Forces (Series)
- Electric Love (Short)
- ExVids (Series)
- Fandom 101 (Series)
- Feeding the Homeless & the Hungry
- Fox and Owl (Shorts)
- Friends of the Fells - Spring Ephemeral (Shorts)
- Friends of the Robbins Library (short video)
- Get Out the Vote
- Helpful Hints (Series)
- Holiday Music - On Marimba
- Housing Authority Debate
- In My Arms 2020 (Music video)
- Janica Janakieva Plays Beethoven Sonata 17, First Movement
- Jenga 2020 (Short)
- Justice in the Balance (Series)
- Live Arts Arlington - Summer Block Party
- Living Out Loud (Series)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Event 2020
- Meet the Interns (Shorts)
- Memorial Day 2020
- Middlesex Concert Band - Pumpkin Festival
- Million Dollar Gift (Series)
- Music of Paradise (Series)
- Nature Shorts by Sara
- Plann Art (Series)
- Porchfest
- PPE Donations Updates by Jeff Chunglo
- Regent TV (Series)
- Sand Sculptures: "They're Ephemeral, That's The Point"
- Say Their Names (Shorts)
- Scenes of the Seasons (Series of Shorts)
- School Committee Debate
- Select Board Debate
- St. John's Coffeehouse Concerts (Series)
- Stay Calm, Stay Strong with Natural Healing
- Stories for Little Ones (Series)
- Studio B Sessions (Series)
- Studio Knights 2019 Holiday Special
- Take the Fox and Owl Challenge
- Talk of the Town (Series)
- The Steve Katsos Show (Series)
- Town Clerk Debate 2020
- Tres Gatos Presents
- True Moments of Fortitude (short)
- True Story Theater - How are You? How is your Business?
- Urgent Care Tour
- Veterans Day 2019 Commemorative
- Virtual Library Show (Series)
- Virtual Town Forum - Financial Assistance
- Virtual True Story Theatre & Chamber of Commerce
- Voices Of New England
- We Hold These Truths (Series)

# Education Channel

## PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

### ARLINGTON'S GOT TALENT

Arlington's Got Talent is a town-wide talent show fundraiser produced by Sagar Rastogi and the AHS Scoops club. Arlingtonians of all ages are invited to connect and celebrate creativity, diversity, and community, while raising money for the Jimmy Fund. This year, it was hosted live by Sam Dieringer, who Skyped into ACMi's studio from a makeshift studio in his bedroom. A lot of great talent was showcased and a lot of money was raised.



### YOU VIEW

You View is a new variety show created by and for Arlington youth. Each episode covers different topics that are on the minds of Arlington youth, including news, activism, arts, pop culture, and more. Creator and host Sam Dieringer, a senior at AHS, produces the show along with a growing team of youth talent. We hope that his creation will continue on for many years!



### ACMi SPORTS

ACMi continues to provide the community with high-quality, multi-camera coverage of Arlington sports. With the help of our innovative volunteer youth crews, we continue to add new features to our broadcasts. In addition to filming games, Studio B hosts regular studio productions that celebrate the accomplishments of Arlington student-athletes. These include interviews with team captains, coaches, and standout performers, as well as a weekly "Sports Update" feature that highlights the previous week in Arlington sports. This year, we created an ACMi Sports YouTube channel and an Instagram page, further establishing us as a hub for Arlington sports.



### BATTLE OF THE BANDS 2020

Year in and year out, the Battle of the Bands is one of the most popular and fun youth productions. Hosted by the Regent Theatre, this event features performances from wildly talented student bands as well as the Educated Guests, Arlington's hardest-rocking teacher band.



HD RCN  
**613** 13

Verizon  
**24**

Comcast  
**9**

 **119**  
HOURS

## EDUCATION CHANNEL PROGRAMMING

A Tribute to Arlington High School  
A-Town Teen Film Festival 2020  
aCATpella: A Festival to Belt Out Cancer 2020  
ACMi Sports Studio Interviews  
ACMi Sports Update  
Adventurers Wanted  
AHS Battle of the Bands - January 2020  
AHS Boys Varsity Basketball  
AHS Boys Varsity Hockey  
AHS Boys Varsity Lacrosse  
AHS Boys Varsity Soccer  
AHS Class of 2020 Caravan  
AHS Girls Varsity Basketball  
AHS Girls Varsity Hockey  
AHS Girls Varsity Soccer  
AHS Graduation 2020  
AHS Honors Orchestra featuring Sylvie Zakarian perform  
DZON - March 4, 2020  
AHS Music Tech and Choral Concert - November 7, 2019  
AHS Music Tech Concerts  
AHS Pops Concert 2019  
AHS Resource Officer Profile  
AHS Senior Appreciation Video 2020  
AHS Varsity Football  
AHS Varsity Wrestling  
AHS Virtual Choir - The Who's Tommy (The Musical)  
AHS Winter Concert - December 13, 2019  
Arlington Catholic Boys Varsity Basketball  
Arlington Catholic Softball  
Arlington's Got Talent | Fundraiser for the Jimmy Fund  
Be Our Hero - Climate Lobby Workshop  
Boston Climate Strike Promo - Join on December 6, 2019  
Buried  
Coronacation Compilation  
Corporations, Corruption, and Climate Change

Dr. Janger - Statement About Racism  
Final Hour  
Fish Prints Thompson  
Focus Media Animated Loops Part 1  
Gibbs Green Team Cafeteria Waste PSA  
Gibbs School Winter Concert - January 29, 2020  
Grill II  
Guns N Hoses 2019  
Helping Homeless People  
Join the Youth-Led International Climate Strikes Sept 20-27  
Legend of the Bookfaces  
Mad Woman  
Messages From Future Earth - Episode 3  
Monthly Arlington Youth-Led Climate Rallies - October 2019  
Ottoson 8th Grade Moving On - 2020  
Ottoson 8th-Grade Recognition Ceremony  
Ottoson Middle School Concert Series  
Our 2020 Vision: Health Care  
Our Climate Strike Song - Performed by Ella Faye with  
students from the Thompson Green Team  
Pumpkin Recycling - How to dispose of your Jack-O-Lantern  
Self Portrait  
Sonic Voyages XI - January 16, 2020  
Studio B Sessions - Season 3 (Series)  
Summer Fun 2019 Short Films  
Teens Cook - Season 4 (Series)  
The Black Student Alum Activates Arlington - June 20, 2020  
The Daily Announcements  
The Fear  
The Grill - Teen Summer Filmmaking Project - 2019  
The Multiverse  
The Nosebleeds Podcast (Series)  
The Ponder Scope (Series)  
The Studio B Nature Show - Episode 1 - Giant Pandas  
To the Seas



# Government Channel

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. For this reason, ACMi provides a particularly valuable service by broadcasting meetings such as the Select Board, School Committee, the Annual Town Meeting, and various other boards and committees, live on our channel and streaming on our website. Interested viewers who miss the live versions 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 more than 176 hours of content created this year alone, we strive to make it as convenient as possible to keep up with local politics, policies and proceedings in the Town of Arlington.

The pandemic brought a host of challenges to our coverage of government meetings, beginning with the fact that they went fully remote starting in March 2020, via the Zoom platform. Making the necessary adjustments, both technically and logistically, was the first challenge. It was particularly important to resolve any difficulties quickly because many town boards and committees met more frequently and for longer than they usually would, given the urgency of the various public health and economic issues confronting them. The public followed these proceedings with great interest, with many sessions attracting audiences in the hundreds.

Arlington also had one of its most expansive and contested election cycles in many years, also complicated by COVID-19. In response to the singular circumstances, ACMi hosted our first-ever "virtual" debates in races for School Committee, Select Board, the Board of Assessors, Housing Authority, and Town Clerk. We enabled candidates to film their own profiles, and we also held one-on-one conversations with the vast majority of them. These comprehensive efforts, along with the election being delayed due to the pandemic, meant that ACMi broadcast more election-based content this year than ever before.

One more unprecedented circumstance deserves mention. In response to balancing the need to take care of the town's business with public safety concerns, Arlington held its first-ever outdoor Town Meeting on the turf at Peirce Field at AHS. With thorough planning and preparation, it went off without a hitch, including the live broadcast ACMi provided! ACMi's coverage of School Committee meetings was also particularly important in the summer of 2020, given the public's intense interest in deliberations about how to conduct school reopening in the fall. Arlington is sure to face unprecedented challenges throughout the fall and beyond, and ACMi's Government channel will be there to present the deliberations and the decisions in real time to our community.



The Select Board debate, held virtually via Zoom.



An Arlington Redevelopment Board meeting from November 2019.

**GOVERNMENT CHANNEL PROGRAMMING**

**Hours**

|                  |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>62</b> .....  | 24 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS    |
| <b>53</b> .....  | 26 SELECT BOARD MEETINGS        |
| <b>21</b> .....  | 21 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS   |
| <b>37</b> .....  | 20 REDEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETINGS |
| <b>1.5</b> ..... | 1 TOWN MEETING                  |
| <b>1.5</b> ..... | ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS         |
| <b>23</b> .....  | OTHER                           |

**Public Forums and Public Hearings:**

- AHS Building Committee Community Forum
- Arlington Elementary Parent/Guardian Forum
- CDBG Subcommittee
- Community Conversations: Arlington Public Schools Listens to Suppressed Voices
- Community Conversations: Racism & Reforms (multiple sessions)
- Meeting of the Election Modernization Committee
- Public Information Session on Fossil Fuel Warrant Article
- Virtual Town Forum: Annual Town Election Planning
- Virtual Town Forum: Connect Arlington
- Virtual Town Forum: COVID-19 Financial Assistance
- Virtual Town Forum: COVID-19 Public Health Response, Recovery, and Re-Opening
- Virtual Town Forum: Town's Public Health Response

**Other Public Events:**

- Arlington Veterans' Day Parade
- "Coyotes in Arlington" Presentation
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance 2020
- Landscaping Guide to Massachusetts Nutrient Regulation

**Election Events:**

- Arlington Assessors Debate 2020
- Arlington Housing Authority Debate 2020
- Arlington School Committee Debate 2020
- Arlington Select Board Debate 2020
- Arlington Town Clerk Debate 2020
- Candidate Profiles for Town Elections
- Democratic State Representative Primary Debate - 24th Middlesex District
- One-on-One Conversations for Town Elections
- State Representative Candidate Conversations - Jennifer Fries, Dave Rogers

# ACMi News

Two years ago, when News Director Jeff Barnd came on board and Arlington Public News transformed into ACMI News, the main objective for the operation was to air a hyper-local content-driven newscast once a week, every week. This goal fit in with our longstanding commitment to providing a reliable and consistent source of news for Arlington residents. The achievement of that objective could not have come at a better time. As with everywhere else, the year 2020 hit Arlington like a freight train, making ACMI News a more vital resource for the community than ever. While we always take pride in doing our best to deliver timely, accurate news and information to our audience, the seismic effects of the pandemic ratcheted up both the difficulties and the importance of doing that work. In the face of these challenges, ACMI News delivered.

Even as ACMI followed state guidelines and closed its studios in March, ACMI News did not skip a beat. ACMI staff, volunteers, interns and members soldiered on, figuring out on the fly how to move essential tasks and processes online. One sterling example of this resilience is the youth team that produced the Sports Update, a staple of every newscast. Even after schools were shuttered, led by Youth Coordinator Kevin Wetmore, these students continued to provide fresh content, deftly expanding their local focus to encompass sports news and events from around the Boston region. For Arlington students, who were facing arguably their toughest school year ever, the continued supply of timely sports news was a welcome dose of normality in extraordinary times.

And the spring of 2020 was indeed extraordinary. First, of course, was the anxiety and uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. As schools closed, businesses shuttered, and residents retreated to the confinement of their homes, the hunger for reliable information increased dramatically. How would Arlington's leadership respond? What would remote learning look like? What would be the effects on our vulnerable populations? While definitive answers to these and other questions remained elusive, ACMI News did its best to probe the possibilities and clarify the situation in real time.

While we were still reeling from the immediate effects of the pandemic, George Floyd was killed at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer. This avoidable tragedy provoked a national and global reaction that none could have foreseen, shining a glaring spotlight on systemic racism and police practices. The widespread reckoning faced by communities throughout the country found its reflection here in Arlington as well. Hundreds of residents gathered on Mass Ave every evening for weeks, voicing their support for Black Lives Matter and their desire for real change. ACMI News was a consistent presence as well, amplifying those voices by keeping the community abreast of developments.

A very local reckoning has also been unfolding in Arlington for much of the last two years, starting in the fall of 2018, when APD Lieutenant Rick Pedrini published several articles in a state police journal that contained racist and inflammatory language. From the time those comments came to light, through the decision to enroll Lt. Pedrini in a restorative justice



News Director Jeff Barnd anchors the newscast safely at home.



Another newscast in the books!



Volunteers Eleni and Tyler anchor the news.

program rather than firing him, to the outrage voiced for a number of Arlington residents, ACMi News chronicled both the sequence of events and the heated public conversation that resulted. It is a controversy that remains raw and ongoing, and we will continue to present the most up-to-date information to Arlingtonians as matters unfold.

One step taken by ACMi News in response to events of such consequence was to schedule weekly updates with Arlington's Town Manager. These conversations provided the latest information on the COVID-19 pandemic and how the town was confronting this invisible enemy. But they also addressed other critical issues (including Lt Pedrini's case) in real time, spurring important, difficult conversations on the ACMi News Facebook page. Through this, many Arlington residents came to recognize how essential is the role ACMi News plays in their community, and our social media outlets gained many more followers as a result. Arlington residents are truly catching on to who we are and what we do.

In addition to our vigilant coverage of local events, the ACMi News staff also took advantage of the widespread lockdown to make contact with newsmakers who would be hard to reach under normal circumstances. The results of these efforts include:

The production of a one-hour ACMi News special with Clint Hill, who served as Jackie Kennedy's bodyguard and was the only Secret Service Agent to react in Dallas, Texas on that horrific November day in 1963. We received a first-hand account of the crucial eight seconds that changed our country forever, and also a frank depiction of how Clint's own life was nearly ruined by that shattering experience. The public response to our airing this special on our channels and social media platforms was uniformly positive and appreciative.

And our news operation also contacted and interviewed Representative Joe Kennedy III and Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts several times, as they battled for a critical Senate seat in Washington. They shared their views on a number of critical issues facing us as we quickly approach one of the most consequential general elections in modern times. Once again, Arlington residents voiced their appreciation for the window ACMi News provided on the workings of the wider world.

Finally, in the midst of all the current madness, ACMi News even garnered a regional Emmy nomination for special news coverage on the past plights and adventures of Upton Bell, the former general manager of the New England Patriots - a man with extensive historical connections, and a cornucopia of great stories to share about them.

ACMi News is now two years old. We proudly stand by all that we've accomplished in that time, even as we commit to building on that progress going forward.



Assistant News Director Brenda Mahoney is on the scene!



The crew poses after a successful newscast!



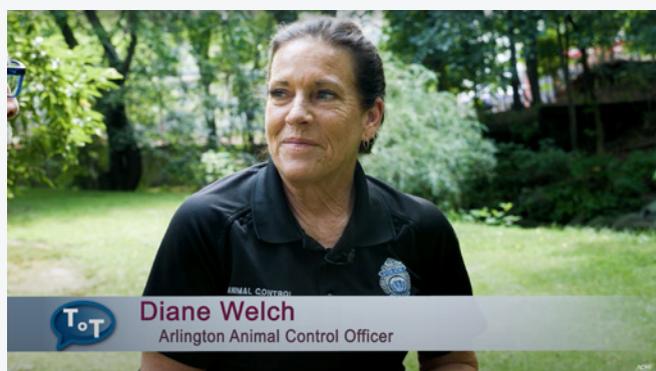
A weekly update from Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine.

# Public Affairs

This was a productive and varied year for Public Affairs. While continuing to add to our existing slate of regular series, we also added The ABCs of LGBTQ+, a collaboration with LexPride and the Arlington Rainbow Commission. This series highlights different aspects of life and identity for LGBTQ+ populations and their allies, and is a great recent example of our commitment in Public Affairs to shining a light on people and organizations that are often hidden in plain sight.

## 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. We spoke with regular guests like Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine and Animal Control Officer Diane Welch, but we also focused, as we always do, on introducing the community to new faces like Kristine Shah at the Council on Aging, and Artist in Residence Michelle Lougee.



## MILLION DOLLAR GIFT

With this series, we celebrate the invaluable benefit our community derives from volunteer energy and commitment. The pressing issue of food insecurity compelled us to highlight the efforts of Food Link, Arlington EATS and Project Bread in addressing needs made even more urgent by the pandemic.



## Episodes

- 22..... TALK OF THE TOWN
- 4..... MILLION DOLLAR GIFT
- 8..... JUSTICE IN THE BALANCE
- 5..... DRIVING FORCES

### JUSTICE IN THE BALANCE

In this series, which is one of our most impactful, we talk to movers and shakers throughout the criminal justice system, from law enforcement leaders to advocates to former prisoners. After the pandemic hit, we homed in on the concerns of activists about the effects of COVID in prisons and jails, and talked to decision-makers like Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan and Sheriff Peter Koutoujian about how inmates, staff, and families were faring in newly perilous circumstances.



### DRIVING FORCES

In Driving Forces, we aim to recognize and salute those who choose to spend much of their time and energy in the field of social activism. We focus on the efforts and accomplishments of these activists, but also on the passions that underlie their choices. A couple of highlights this year include our conversation with a quite extraordinary young transgendered person of color with a challenging disability; and one of the more exciting reactions we've seen to the hardships brought on by COVID-19 - an inspired and original idea to connect chefs who had lost their jobs with folks looking for customized cooking classes.



# Financial Statements (Audited)

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2020

### ASSETS

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Current assets:  |             |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                  | \$333,411   |
| Accounts receivable  | 184,392     |
| Prepaid expenses   | 10,839      |
| Total current assets                                       | 528,642     |
| Property and equipment:                                    |             |
| Computers and equipment                                    | 1,235,092   |
| Leasehold improvements                                     | 113,845     |
| Furniture and fixtures                                     | 37,472      |
|  | 1,386,409   |
| Less accumulated depreciation and amortization             | (1,164,312) |
| Property and equipment, net                                | 222,097     |
| Other assets:  |             |
| Security deposits  | 2,400       |
| Investments in securities, at fair value                   | 604,863     |
| Assets restricted for investment in property and equipment | 156,409     |
| Total assets   | \$1,514,411 |

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Current liabilities:                      |             |
| Accounts payable                          | \$8,876     |
| Accrued expenses                          | 24,518      |
| Total current liabilities                 | 33,394      |
| Net assets:                               |             |
| Without donor restrictions:               |             |
| Board-designated for long-term operations | 555,000     |
| Undesignated                              | 759,099     |
| Total without donor restrictions          | 1,314,099   |
| With donor restrictions                   | 166,918     |
| Total net assets                          | 1,481,017   |
| Total liabilities and net assets          | \$1,514,411 |

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the year ended June 30, 2020

### CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

|                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Revenues:                            |           |
| Municipal contracts                  | \$753,669 |
| Membership dues and other revenues   | 5,455     |
| Investment income, net of fees       | 8,934     |
| Net realized and unrealized gains    | 14,144    |
| Net assets released from restriction | 24,464    |
| Total support and revenue            | 806,666   |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Expenses:   |           |
| Program - production and broadcasting             | \$704,731 |
| General and administrative                        | 322,167   |
| Total expenses                                    | 1,026,898 |
| Decrease in net assets without donor restrictions | (220,232) |

### CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Revenues:                                      |             |
| Capital grants                                 | 120,205     |
| Investment income                              | 155         |
| Net assets released from restriction           | (23,464)    |
| Increase in net assets with donor restrictions | 95,896      |
| Decrease in net assets                         | (124,336)   |
| Net assets, beginning of year                  | 1,605,353   |
| Net assets, end of year                        | \$1,481,017 |

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended June 30, 2020

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities:   |             |
| Decrease in net assets  | (\$124,336) |
| Adjustments to reconcile decrease in net assets to net cash used in operating activities: |             |
| Contributions restricted for investment in property and equipment                         | (120,205)   |
| Net realized and unrealized gains on securities   | (14,144)    |
| Depreciation and amortization   | 110,383     |
| Decrease in accounts receivable   | 21,914      |
| Increase in prepaid expenses  | (10,330)    |
| Increase in accounts payable  | 5,080       |
| Increase in accrued expenses  | 2,250       |
| Net cash used in operating activities   | (129,388)   |
| Cash flows from investing activities:   |             |
| Proceeds from sale of securities  | 293,044     |
| Purchases of securities   | (301,795)   |
| Increase in assets restricted for investment in property and equipment                    | (95,896)    |
| Purchases of property and equipment   | (24,464)    |
| Net cash used in investing activities   | (129,111)   |
| Cash flows from financing activities:   |             |
| Contributions restricted for investment in property and equipment                         | 120,205     |
| Net cash provided by financing activities   | 120,205     |
| Decrease in cash and cash equivalents   | (138,294)   |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year  | 471,705     |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year  | \$333,411   |



*As our youth studio moves in to the new high school, we bid our Studio B a fond farewell!*





**PUB**

<sup>HD</sup>  
**629** 3

<sup>HD</sup>  
**31**

**8**

**EDU**

<sup>HD</sup>  
**613** 13

**24**

**9**

**GOV**

<sup>HD</sup>  
**614** 15

**26**

**22**