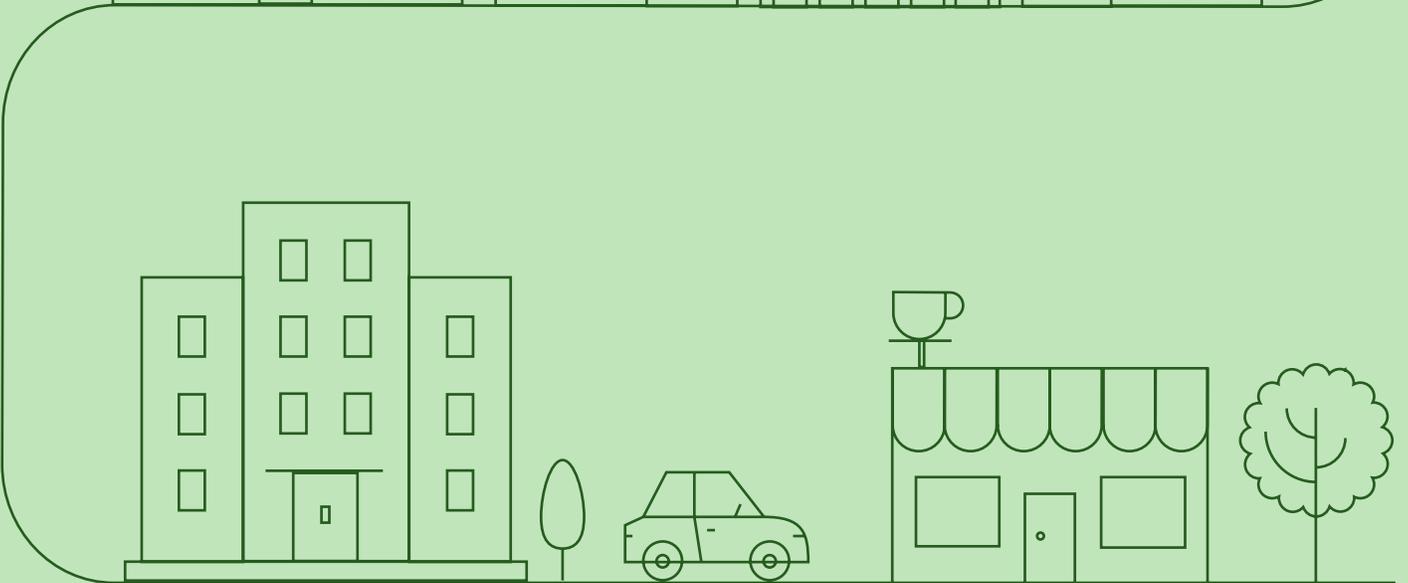
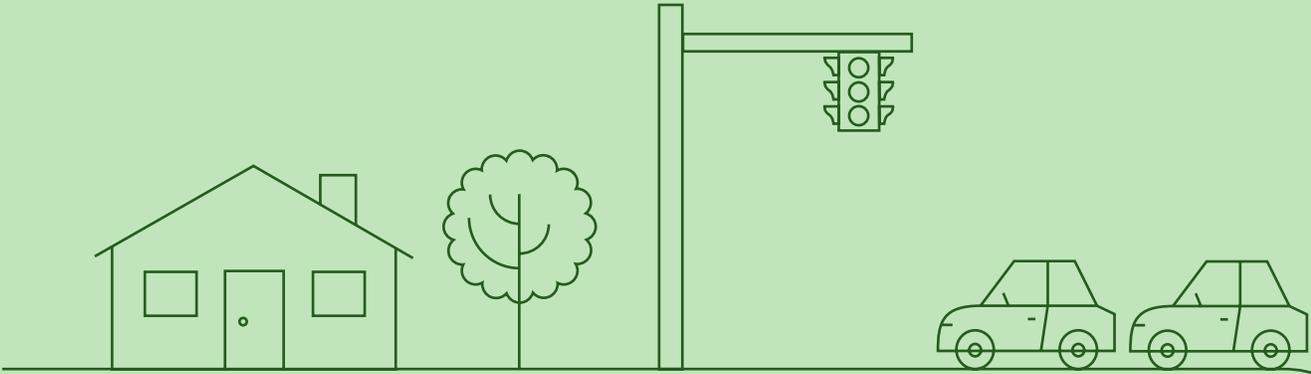
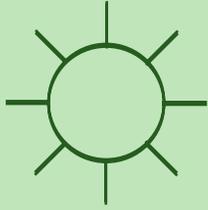




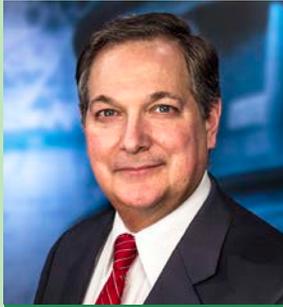
# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>2</b>	ACMI BOARD OF DIRECTORS
<b>3</b>	FROM THE PRESIDENT
<b>4</b>	STAFF
<b>5</b>	FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
<b>6</b>	COMMUNITY OUTREACH
<b>8</b>	WEBSITE, GRAPHICS, & SOCIAL MEDIA
<b>9</b>	WORKSHOPS & TRAINING
<b>10</b>	MEMBERSHIP
<b>11</b>	PROGRAMMING
	Public Channel
	Producer Spotlight
	Education Channel
	Government Channel
	Arlington Public News
	Where Are They Now?
<b>26</b>	STUDIO & FACILITIES
<b>27</b>	COMMUNITY USE OF RESOURCES
<b>28</b>	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



John D. Leone



Kathleen Colwell

## 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.

## Kathleen Colwell Treasurer

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 the current treasurer of ACMi.



Michael T. Healy



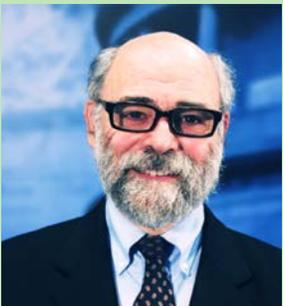
Linda K. Olsen

## Michael T. Healy Clerk

A lifelong resident of Arlington, Mike is a retired teacher who spent many years teaching in the Cambridge Public School system. A previous member of the Arlington School Committee, Mike is currently a Town Meeting member, and serves on a number of other town boards and committees.

## Linda K. Olsen Director

Linda has lived in Arlington since 1974, and her community activities include 15 years as a Town Meeting member, and serving as a Director of the Cyrus Dallin Art Museum. She is currently the Associate Director of Intellectual Property at the Harvard Business School.



Martin Thrope



Nancy Flynn-Barwick

## Martin Thrope Board Member

Marty has been an active community member for many years, including tenures on the Arlington School Committee and Town Meeting. He has also served on the board and as president of The Children's Room, an Arlington institution that provides a haven for grieving children and teenagers.

## Nancy Flynn-Barwick 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.



Michael Ruderman

## 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.

## Michael Ruderman Board Member

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.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors and I present to you the Eleventh Annual Report of Arlington Community Media Inc (ACMi). June 30th 2017 marked the completion of our eleventh full fiscal year of operation as Arlington's PEG (Public, Education, and Government) cable access station, providing universal public access to uncensored local community programming. The Board accepted the resignation of long-time Board Member Linda Olsen in May of this year. Linda has contributed greatly to the Board, and she will be missed.

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 fiscal health.

Over the past year we have continued with our upgrades. Both Studio A and Studio B are up to date with the latest in high definition equipment. We also completed our upgrade of the Town Hall control room for improved audio/visual capacity.

The Board is pleased with the efforts of ACMi members and staff that have resulted in a whopping 447 hours of quality first-run local P.E.G. programming for our community. 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.

The total estimated market value of ACMi resources returned to the Town of Arlington through the use of equipment and facilities by ACMi members in FY2016-17 was \$1,030,540, and the market value of the free workshops provided to our members was \$269,300. We continue to strive to increase our programming and equipment usage.

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/media station.

### **JOHN D. LEONE**

President

Arlington Community Media, Inc.

# STAFF



**Norm McLeod**  
Executive Director



**Jeff Munro**  
Studio Manager



**Jonathan Barbato**  
Production Manager



**Sean Keane**  
Gov't and Programming  
Coordinator



**Meagan O'Brien**  
Digital Media  
Coordinator



**Kevin Wetmore**  
Youth Coordinator



**Heather Aveson**  
News Director



**James Milan**  
Outreach Coordinator

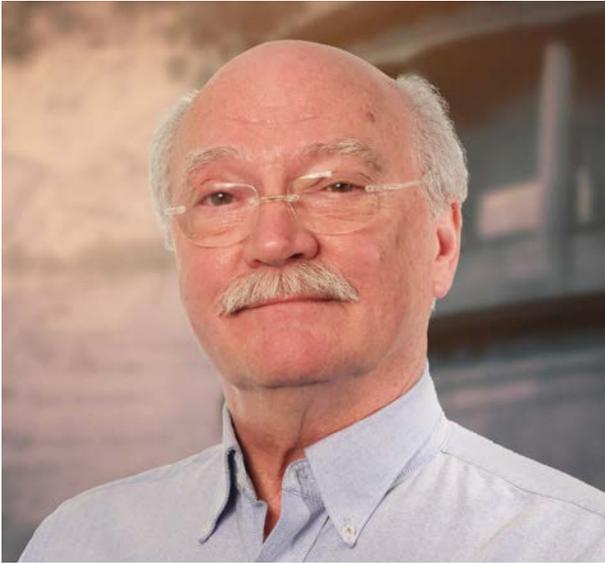


**Cheryl Brusgulis**  
Administrative/  
Programming Assistant



**Sara Alfaro-Franco**  
Public Affairs Producer

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As the phrase goes, “there’s good news and not-so-good news.” On one hand, ACMi has had many positive developments on the local level, but on the other hand, there have been and will be major media upheavals at the national level. It has become clear that the new administration is committed to changing the national communications landscape to reflect a conservative pro-business approach.

First, the good news. It has been a very productive year at ACMi, with more members participating and utilizing the available resources to create excellent programming. In fact, one show produced at ACMi is currently being seen in more than 40 countries around the world!

Two new positions have been created in order to expand our coverage of Arlington events. With the addition of a Public Affairs Producer, we have more in-depth exploration of issues affecting Arlington, and with the hiring of a Sports Producer, more games than ever have been covered. Interns from area colleges continue to be extremely enthusiastic as they work with Arlington Public News as aspiring journalists.

More good news for ACMi comes from the results of the negotiations by the Town of Arlington’s Cable Advisory Committee in renewing the Town’s contracts with its three cable providers - Comcast, RCN and Verizon.

All three contracts were successfully concluded, and ACMi’s capital equipment funding has been increased. Additionally, Verizon agreed to provide at least one channel for ACMi that would be High Definition, and RCN upped the ante by promising three HD channels. Comcast would not agree to HD at this time. None of the providers agreed to make an Electronic Channel Guide available, but there are two bills pending in the State House that would require cable providers to offer HD channels as well as a channel guide. More on that in the future.

And now the not-so-good news. The FCC has already invaded your privacy by allowing companies to access your buying habits. They want to eviscerate long-standing limits on how much local media any one company can own in a single market.

The FCC has voted to eliminate the requirement that national broadcasters must maintain local television studios in order to retain their license. This action will pave the way for further media consolidation. For instance, Sinclair Broadcasting, a politically conservative company, will be capable of providing media to 70% of U.S. households. For many communities across the country, public access media stations like ACMi may be the only independent voice available.

You might ask, “What does this have to do with me?” Well, it is said that all politics is local. Now, let’s suppose that 70% of communities are getting their news from a single source broadcasting from several states away. Let’s also suppose the FCC eliminates net neutrality. Because of the conglomeration of media providers and the shrinking arena of opinions, eventually you and your local community could be directly affected by voting decisions made far away. It is in your interest to stay abreast of FCC rulemaking and support legislation to stop media consolidation and any attempts to drop net neutrality. Call your representatives in Congress to express your opposition to these FCC actions. We at ACMi are working hard to give Arlingtonians the opportunity and the resources to speak their minds. Let’s ensure that other stations, whether local cable or broadcast, are able to offer the same to their communities. Get involved!

### **NORMAN J. MCLEOD**

Executive Director  
Arlington Community Media, Inc.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH



### COMMUNICATIONS

We continue to enjoy a fruitful relationship with *The Arlington Advocate*, where you will always find our full-page weekly TV schedule. We spotlight specific programming of note each week in a panel adjacent to the TV schedule. We also enjoy a strong partnership with *YourArlington.com*, working together to effectively support our shared commitment to providing timely, useful information to the Arlington public. And ACMi continues to work with other access stations in our area and around the state to find innovative ways to meet our communities' need to be informed.

We constantly stay in touch with our members, friends, and partners through our 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 ten years in operation and an introduction to our ever-expanding inventory of equipment and menu of training opportunities.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ACMi continues to mine a rich vein of collaborative power with traditional partners like the Arlington International Film Festival, True Story Theater, Food Link, and the Arlington Center for the Arts, and we have forged new and promising links with others

like Give Back Time, Mothers Out Front, and the Arlington Human Rights Commission.

We are also excited about new programming we've taken on with longtime partners. In "The Library Show," Library Director Andrea Nicolay hosts a monthly glimpse into the inner workings of one of Arlington's most cherished institutions. Additionally, through the auspices of our new Public Affairs division, we have set up a regular schedule of visits with our state legislators to keep Arlingtonians up to date on developments at the State House that could impact their lives.

### 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 grown to such an extent that we have added a part-time Sports Coordinator to our staff, along with interns who are focused on covering games and producing updates on a weekly basis. We are recording more high school games 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.

This year saw the piloting of a new partnership with Arlington Catholic High School. The weekly workshops ACMi offered 15 AC pupils as part of a scheduled arts block were a resounding success, with the students acquiring the skills they need to produce a news-magazine style show focusing on activities and events at the school. Next year the aim is to produce multiple episodes of that show, and empower AC students to take part in other ACMi youth productions throughout the year.

### MORE TO DO

While we are profoundly excited about these new developments, we have no intention of resting on our laurels. 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.

## 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, from the news and public affairs, to promotional pieces for local nonprofits, to original creative fare.

### 2016-2017 ACMI INTERNS

#### BOSTON COLLEGE

Olivia Bono

#### BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Mitchell McLeod

#### BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

Tannie Xin Tang

#### EMERSON COLLEGE

Rachel Campana

Deborah Cardoso

Matthew Case

Kelli DiTomasso

Stephanie Gordon

Christina Guessferd

Vishakha Mathur

Michelle Osorio

Corallys Plasencia

Chenchen Wang

Sami Warkow

Lares Xu

#### CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE

Jacob Ballin

#### HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

Miguel Nascimento

#### MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Harrison Cramer

#### MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Danny Bianchi

#### SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY

Sean Reed

#### TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Zach Merchant

Ray Bernoff

Erica Gelfand

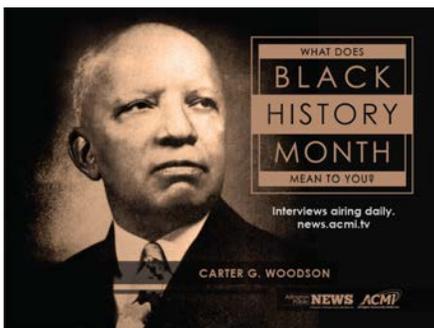
Katlyn Kreie

#### OTHER

Kayla Chiara

## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

A cornerstone of ACMi's outreach efforts is our relationship with service agencies and nonprofits in town. The Community Bulletin Board service continues to be a simple, effective option for promotion of local events and activities by these and other community groups. The series of evergreen slides produced by ACMi for a number of local nonprofits continue to attract attention to the important work they do, and we intend to keep expanding the number of town groups and agencies we can serve in this manner.



Alliance for Community Media  
 Arlington Boys & Girls Club  
 Arlington Center for the Arts  
 Arlington Chamber of Commerce  
 Arlington Council on Aging  
 Arlington Education Foundation  
 Arlington Fire Department  
 Arlington Food Pantry  
 Arlington Friends of the Drama  
 Arlington Garden Club  
 Arlington Historical Society  
 Arlington Meetup  
 Arlington Town Government  
 Arlington Youth Health & Safety Coalition

Black History Month  
 Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum  
 Department of Public Works  
 Fidelity House  
 Homeschooling Together  
 Housing Corporation of Arlington  
 Jason Russell House  
 Little Fox Shop  
 Out of Many, One  
 Philharmonic Society of Arlington  
 Retired Mens Club  
 Robbins Library  
 Saint Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church  
 True Story Theater

## WEBSITE, GRAPHICS & SOCIAL MEDIA

### WEBSITE

ACMi successfully launched a brand new website in March of 2017. Since then, pageviews have tripled in number and new blog and video content is added daily. This new website includes features like show pages for every series with at least four episodes, a members profile page that links producers to the content they make, and a revamped layout for the Watch on Demand that really lets consumers browse through ACMi's work. A new webform allows members to submit their videos to the website. We're excited to continue expanding to provide more features to our members!



### GRAPHICS/BRANDING

Graphic packages and animations were created for new departments such as Public Affairs (that include Talk of the Town and Million Dollar Gift), as well as updated graphics for Sports and the Ottoson Media Group. New Community Bulletin Board slides continue to be created and expand our connection to local non-profits. Large, movie-scale size posters are also in the works to highlight a few of our top-notch shows, including Wide Angle and In the Tradition.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

We have seen an increase in all our platforms - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Constant Contact and YouTube. Our consistent activity using social media has kept us connected with community partners like the Arlington Human Rights Commission and True Story Theater. We've seen great results when we share videos directly to Facebook and purchase advertising there, leading to more viewer interactions, comments and shares. We're looking forward to continuing to reach out to connect with our community and share away!



## WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Learning is a continuous process at ACMi. Our knowledgeable staff is always available to advise our members about all forms of media, and we encourage them to learn with us as we improve our programs and studio facilities. ACMi is well equipped to continually upgrade its high-quality digital TV production equipment and facilities. Providing access

to and training on these resources continues to be a primary focus. Workshops at ACMi are project-specific. Producers receive seamless personalized instruction in all production fields. Below are the workshops that have been taken ad hoc or are included as part of our Producer Training at ACMi during FY 2016-17:

ACMi Production Resource Use	Sessions	Commercial Value	Average # of people	Total Value
Intro to ACMi	25	\$100.00	2	\$5,000.00
Studio Knights	20	\$200.00	5	\$20,000.00
Field Production 1 & 2	76	\$200.00	2	\$30,400.00
Studio Production	8	\$250.00	5	\$10,000.00
Portable Studio Production	5	\$250.00	11	\$13,750.00
Editing 1 & 2	213	\$200.00	1	\$42,600.00
Lighting Techniques	6	\$250.00	5	\$7,500.00
Green Screen Production	7	\$250.00	3	\$5,250.00
Pre-Production 1 & 2	44	\$200.00	2	\$17,600.00
iPhone Video Production	12	\$250.00	3	\$9,000.00
Short Film	8	\$250.00	6	\$12,000.00
PSA Production	12	\$250.00	3	\$9,000.00
Live Music Session	6	\$200.00	4	\$4,800.00
APN Training	30	\$200.00	4	\$24,000.00
Stop Motion Animation	6	\$200.00	4	\$4,800.00
Focus Media	16	\$200.00	5	\$16,000.00
Summer Fun	5	\$200.00	12	\$12,000.00
Sports Production	12	\$200.00	6	\$14,400.00
After Effects	7	\$200.00	2	\$2,800.00
Live Event Coverage	7	\$200.00	6	\$8,400.00
<b>Total Estimated Market Value of ACMi Workshops in FY 2016-2017</b>				<b>\$269,300.00</b>

## MEMBERSHIP

Arlington Community Media Inc. (ACMi) is a member-based, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in April 2003 and contracted by the Town of Arlington in September 2006. ACMi's active members numbered 167 as of June 30, 2017.

Membership at ACMi is open to all who live in our town. A nominal annual membership fee, due at the beginning of each ACMi fiscal year (July 1), provides access to all the features, benefits, and resources ACMi has to offer. These include: training in how to operate high-quality digital video production equipment, and the ability to borrow and use that equipment outside of the studio; the use of our studio, equipment, and editing facilities; and air-time on our Public, Education and/or Government channels carried by Comcast, RCN, and Verizon.

### 2016 - 2017 ACMI MEMBERS

Clark Addis	Orlando Cela	James Goebel	Michael Mahin	Joan Roman
George Akerley	Richard Chadwick	Jennifer Goebel	Vishakha Mathur	Maddy Rossetti
Homer Allen	Katie Chang	Ted Goodman	Margaret McCarthy	Susan Ruderman
Philip Arcaro	Chris Chen	Stephanie Gordon	Calvin McLean	Shahrazad Sajadi
Michael Armanious	Matthew Chen	Sharon Green	Mitchell McLeod	Noelani Schober
Mahathi Athreya	Shannon Chapman	Laury Gutierrez	Zach Merchant	Linda Shoemaker
Danuta Ayad	Kayla Chiara	Alberto Guzman	Jason Milan	Carly Silva
Emily Baker	Benjamin Colety	Hugh Hanley	Charlotte Milan	Sam Slebodnick
Jacob Ballin	Aoife Collins	Shady Hartshorne	Stanislaw Modrzynski	Sean Snyder
Tommy Barvick	Carol Costello	Lara Heermance	Hanul Morgan	Reed Snyder
James Barvick	Harrison Cramer	Sarah Jane Henman	Miguel Nascimento	Wu So Fai
Kathleen Barvick	Jacob Deck	Laura Homer	Arthur Nasson	Susan Soares
Ray Bernoff	Adam Deck	Alan Jones	Carol Ober	Heather Starhill
Ken Bergeron	Lenard Diggins	Steve Katsos	Linda Olsen	Bruce Sullivan
Peter Bermudes	Margie DiMonte	Alan Kaufman	Michelle Osorio	Gayatri Sundar Rajan
Danny Bianchi	Kelli DiTomasso	Samuel Kim	Sam Overbeck	Claudine Swartz
Jaya Deepak Bidwai	Rudi Dunlap	Jamie Kirsch	Sumeet Pareek	Frank Tadley
Deepak Prakash Bidwai	DeAnne Dupont	Victoria Kleber	Herb Pearce	Tannie Tang
Jared Blake	Adam Dusenberry	Clinton Koo	Heather Pearson	Diane Taraz
Olivia Bono	Christopher Ellinger	Richard Koolish	Julian Petrillo	Ray Thomas
Melony Breese Forcier	Amber Espar	Mike Koutrobis	Jeffry Pike	Martin Thrope
Michael Brennan	Aaron Fairbanks	Katlyn Kreie	Alexis Pimenthal	Lisa Urben
Russell Brough	Deborah Fairbanks	Bob Kuhn	Tonia Pinheiro	Lee Urton
Justin Brown	Cameron Fetter	Julie Land	Corallys Plasencia	Jack Walsh
Barton Bruce	Nancy Flynn-Barvick	David Larsen	Brad Powell	Chenchen Wang
Cheryl Brusgulis	Benjamin Franchi	Heather Leavell	Jonathan Pressman	Paul Wehrin
John Bulens	Albert Franchi	Begabati Lennihan	April Ranck	Gareth Williams
Jennifer Burns	Larry Gable	Eleonora Leto	John Reddick	Samantha Warkow
Jeffrey Buxbaum	Patrick Gallagher	Walter Locke	Sean Reed	Lares Xu
Tom Calderwood	Zachary Garrigus	Wendy Lonadier	Agustin Reyes	Shana Yansen
Rachel Campana	Erica Gelfand	Michael Mahin	James Ritscher	Bobby Yitayeu
Deborah Cardoso	Elena Ghanatakis	Karen Mahoney	Michael Robichaud	Steven Yosnakis
Bruce Carter	Colin Gilbert	Robert Marchant	Rose Roche	
Matthew Case	Arthur Gillis	Cyn	Darlene Rogers	

## PROGRAMMING

P.E.G. (Public, Education, Government) programming is unique to local access television, as no other broadcast or cable television network is organized around the ideal of universal public access to uncensored local community programming designed specifically for these PEG areas of public interest.

### Public Channel

Comcast 8 | RCN 3 | Verizon 31

Airing member-produced programs created with ACMi equipment, shows distributed via satellite, and content from other public access channels and independent producers, including *Democracy Now!* and *What's New? Massachusetts*.

### Education Channel

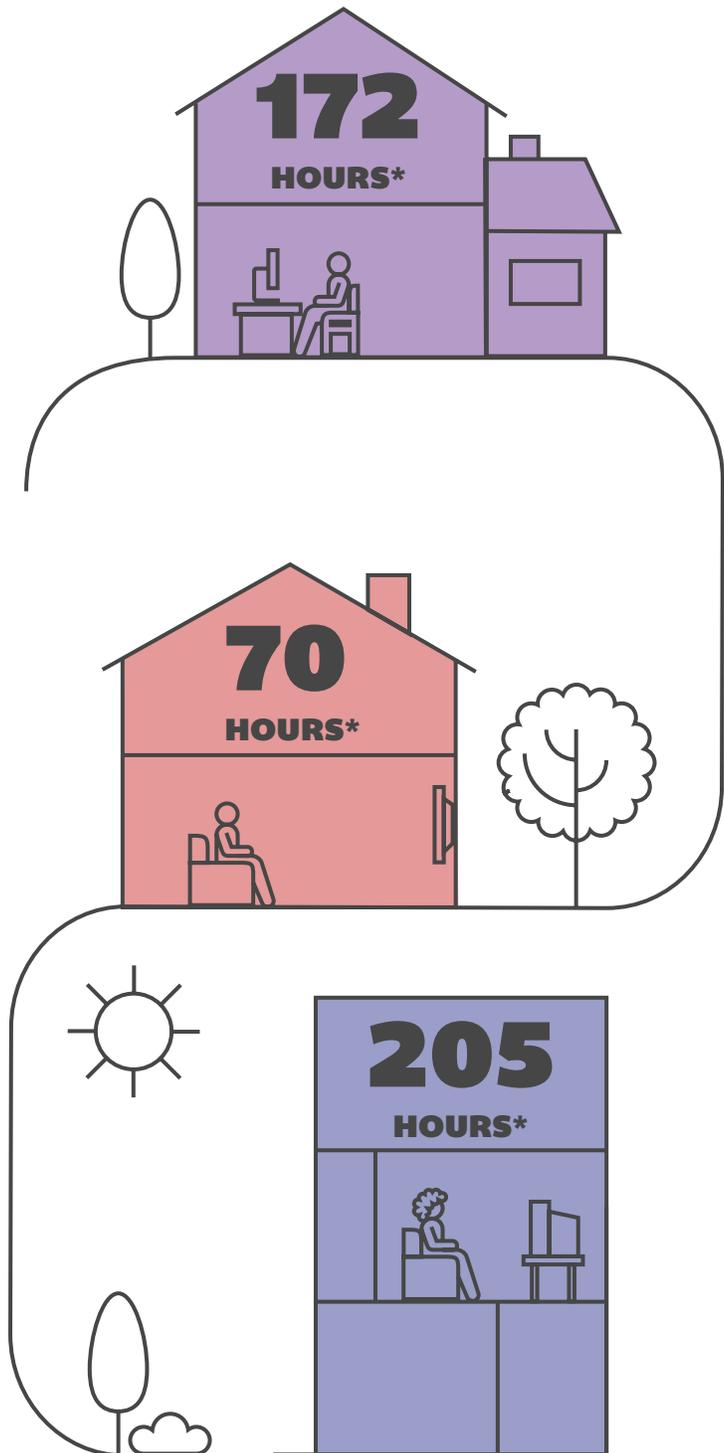
Comcast 9 | RCN 13 | Verizon 24

Featuring educational programs, shows produced by local students, and programs made about educational topics by community producers. This past year saw great progress on all fronts for ACMi student members. We also air programs distributed via satellite and from other public access channels and independent producers, including *Ted Talks*, *The Library of Alexandria Documentary Series*, and *Culinary Kid*.

### Government Channel

Comcast 22 | RCN 15 | Verizon 26

Programming by and about town governmental bodies, agencies, and committees, including the Board of Selectmen, the School Committee, the Redevelopment Board, the Finance Committee, and Town Meeting. We continue to increase both the volume and the variety of town government-related programming every year.



\*First-run local original content

## PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

COMCAST

**8**

RCN

**3**

VERIZON

**31**

Arlington residents, members, and producers continue to share their knowledge, dreams, and creative expression on ACMI's Public Channel. Our members have created a season of original content full of new ideas while also visibly improving the production value of their work throughout the year. Their hard work, dedication, collaborative energy, and vision have led to a host of productions to be proud of, including two that garnered national award-winning recognition!

During this last year, many new member-producers have created original programming. Our own dedication to the growth and goal achievement of these individuals remains steadfast. We continue to develop training methods that advance knowledge, accelerate skill acquisition, and enhance technical ability so that they can realize their ambition to become accomplished television producers.



### STUDIO KNIGHTS

Studio Knights is ACMI's weekly production group that meets on Wednesday nights from 7 to 9 pm, and is open to all. Members pilot TV shows while meeting new creative partners. Up and running for more than three years now, Studio Knights is better than ever. We've produced documentaries, musical concerts, talk shows, green-screen adventures, and so much more. As always, Studio Knights places great emphasis on bringing different forces together: crew members with producers, youth with seniors, creative ideas with action.



## SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

Among the impressive achievements of our member-producers:

### **Songs of Hope and Tolerance, Alan Kaufman: New!**

In a show that was conceived in the aftermath of the 2016 election, host Alan Kaufman responds to our troubling times by inviting guests to create music that expresses resilience and hope, with the aim of encouraging others to do so as well.

### **Sustainable Living, Margie DiMonte: New!**

Sustainable Living is a five-part series that will focus on topics such as Food, Water, Housing and Economics. Part 5 will present a panel conversation reviewing these topics to discuss how we can find better approaches to live a healthier, safer, cleaner and more sustainable lifestyle.

### **Food Link in Our Community, Jeff Buxbaum: New!**

This short documentary looks at the national (and global) phenomenon of wasted food and focuses on how the efforts of Arlington-based Food Link are making a difference in our region. Using photos, video clips, graphics, and voiceover, this program will make you think about how food waste impacts Arlington, and what you can do about it.

### **Steve Katsos Show, Steve Katsos: Season 8!**

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...



## AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS

We are thrilled to announce that two of our original productions have been chosen as Hometown Video Award Winners for 2017! The Alliance for Community Media (ACM) is the national organization that sponsors the Hometown Video Awards, which this year received more than a thousand nominations from all over the country.



**Program: A. Book's Review**

**Producer: Cyn**

**Category: Mixed and Transmedia – Independent Producer**

"A Book's Review" is a wholly original blend of animation, puppetry, and live action, in which "Alastair Book" (yes, that's right, he IS a book) reviews all kinds of literary works and interviews their authors. Suffused with dry humor and sharp insights, this series is a true crowd-pleaser.



**Program: Recycle Right**

**Producer: Charlotte Milan**

**Category: Government Activities – Independent Producer**

"Recycle Right" was produced by Charlotte Milan, Arlington's Recycling Coordinator, along with members of the town's Recycling Committee. It is a primer on what can and can't be recycled that conveys essential information in a highly entertaining way. A number of presenters of different ages make full use of a very creative set they constructed in ACMI's main studio, balancing the useful content with a real sense of fun.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMING

In a classic example of taking lemons and making lemonade, last year we absorbed the blow of losing our then News Director, Sara Alfaró-Franco, for an extended period due to injury. Other staff, most prominently Assistant News Director Brenda Mahoney, stepped into the breach to keep newscasts and news coverage going. By the time Sara returned, our new News Director, Heather Aveson, had been hired, freeing Sara to take the reins of a new division – ACMi Public Affairs programming.



**Adam Chapdelaine**  
Arlington Town Manager

Nobody who is familiar with Sara will be surprised to learn that she hit the ground running, and has not let up since! The slate of new series she has produced is as varied as it is topical.

**Talk of the Town** introduces our audience to the people, organizations, and groups that cultivate our quality of life in Arlington.

**The Million Dollar Gift** seeks to recognize, honor, and even quantify the contributions made by countless volunteers, from Town Meeting through committee and board members, to those who donate their time and energy to monitor and nurture the natural world around us.

In **Driving Forces**, we profile those who choose social activism as their profession or vocation, spotlighting their work and probing their own life experience to draw both lessons and inspiration.

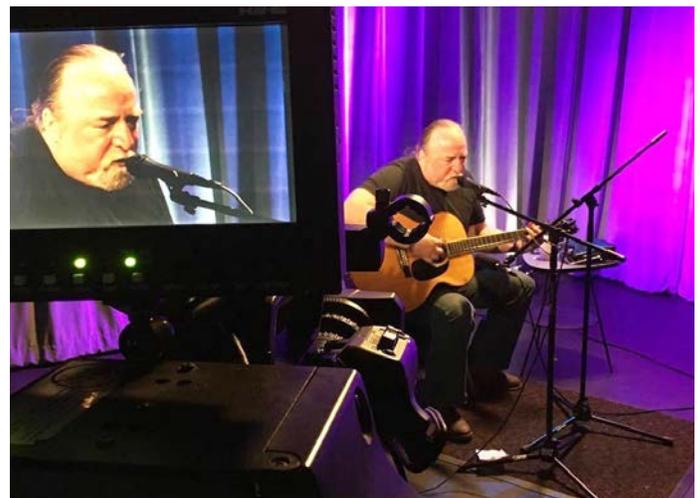
Other topics we tackle in our Public Affairs programming include Criminal Justice Reform, the Arlington budget cycle, and the successful career arcs of professionals who come from communities of color. One thing you can be sure of - with Sara at the helm, the people and subjects to be explored will only continue to grow!

## MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS

ACMi continues to revel in our role as a media educator, content provider, and community facilitator through our partnerships with local organizations and area colleges. This year, ACMi partnered with Food Link, the Department of Public Works, the Arlington Center for the Arts, True Story Theater, the Old Schwamb Mill, the Young Adult Vocational Program, and many others to create mini-series, tape special events, and produce documentaries. Other highlights include:

### COUNCIL ON AGING

The Council on Aging has produced the program *Living Out Loud* for many years. Their informative talk-show style format has been a source of information for health, wellness, security and much more. This year, thanks to assistance from volunteer Marina Milan, the show has received a refreshed look and updated format. Using green-screen backgrounds, expressive music, and eye-catching graphics, the program is more engaging than ever as it dives deep into a given topic of import each week.





## FIDO FEST

ACMi and A-DOG partnered to throw an outdoor dog-film festival called Fido Fest. It was conceived to highlight local dog rescues and service dog organizations while creating an event where every dog can be a star on the big screen. A group of volunteers had a dream to celebrate our local, hard working, quirky dogs by sharing homemade videos, munching on popcorn, and enjoying a summer night under the stars...and Arlington's Fido Fest was born! Hundreds of people and K9s gathered on Spy Pond Field to watch dog videos created with smartphones and camcorders.

## PUBLIC CHANNEL PROGRAMMING

A. Book's Review by Cyn	Duet With Friends	Planewalkers
ACMi General Meeting - 2016	EcoFest	Recycle in Your Neighborhood PSA
ACMi Holiday Lights 2016	Fear of Laughter	Recycle Quiz
ACMi Public Affairs	Fit as a Fiddle Today	Recycle Right
ACMi Shorts	Food Link 5th Birthday Celebration	Robbins and Fox Libraries PSA
ACMi Studio Tour	Food Link Special	Saint Athanasius Church Services
AIFF Best of Festival	Forum on Criminal Justice Reform	Simply Cyntillating
AIFF Presents...	Global to Local - Policing in Our Community	SMP Portuguese PSA
Arlington Arts Alive 2017	Helpful Hints	Songs from the Circle
Arlington Book Festival 2016	In the Tradition	Songs of Hope & Tolerance for a Troubled Nation
Arlington Historical Society Lectures	Intern Diaries	State Senate Candidate Forum 2017
Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra: Music Gazing	It's All About Business	Studio Angel - Silent Movie
Arlington Public News Newscasts	Last Hope K9 Foster Program PSA	Studio Knights
Arlington Reads Together - Becoming Nicole	Lineage	Talk of the Town
"Arlington Resists" Launch	Literacy Champions 2016	The Cold Leash
Art in Arlington	Living Brochure Promo PSAs	The Community Preservation Act
Behind the Score - Ellen Gilson Voth	Living Out Loud	The Library Show
Blues Apocalypse Preview Show 2017	Local Focus	The Only Wood Turner
Boston Women's March	M is for Monarch	The Steve Katsos Show
Bros of the Realm	Main Stage - Town Day	Town Day 2016
Chamber of Commerce Series	Mastering Your Future	Town Day Main Stage
Comedy by Me, Emily B.	Meet Chloe	Town Day 2016 PSAs
Criminal Justice Reform Series	Memorial Day 2017	Veterans' Day 2016
Cyrus E. Dallin Museum - Summer Soiree	Nicole's Review	Wide Angle with Peter Bermudes
Dig Review	Old & New	Wu So Fai Presents
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance 2017	Patriots' Day Parade 2017	Yodeling Just Might Make Me Smile
Driving Forces - Profiles in Social Activism	Penguin Lost and Found	Your Arlington Dollar
	Pinky & Pablo	



# PRODUCER SPOTLIGHT

Interviews with 3 of ACMi's Most Prolific Producers

## PRODUCER SPOTLIGHT: GAYATRI SUNDAR-RAJAN

### When and how did you get started at ACMi?

I started coming to ACMi at the beginning of sixth grade as part of the Arlington Education Collaborative (AEC) program. We did some fun green screen magic and created a Jenga-based game show. About half way through that year, I decided to create a documentary for National History Day, since I was already learning how to produce videos at ACMi. This project really taught me how to properly shoot videos (using the technology and composing the shots), edit, and how to create and execute a production from start to finish. The next year I joined APN right when it was getting off the ground, and from there I just tried to be a part of as many productions as possible!

### Speaking of which, just for fun, try to list all of the kinds of programming you have taken part in over your years at ACMi:

I have either produced or help make segments

and series for the news, youth game shows, high school sports and debates, history documentaries and micro-documentaries, quick info blasts, animations, and live interview events.

### How has your experience at ACMi fit into your life through middle and high school?

In more ways than one, ACMi has given me the tools to navigate through middle and high school with ease. In the most basic sense, it gave me the concrete skills of composing clear emails, asking the right questions, listening to those around me, and honing how I speak. But at the deeper level, ACMi gave me a confidence in my own abilities, the resources to really explore the Arlington community, and a platform to communicate my thoughts and ideas.

At APN, I would look through the newspaper, find an event of interest, contact the organizer, and be on my way to creating another piece. Working on these productions gave me an idea of how to execute my ideas instead of simply continuing to develop them, a skill that not many people have the luxury of obtaining at any point in their lives.

Each piece also gave me an opportunity to delve deeper into an issue. All interviewers will tell you that there is a heart of an interview, that when reached, the interview itself takes on a corporeal quality. Finding that chord is the most important and most difficult part of an interviewer's preparation. Being exposed to this process and having to dig deeper into a topic before each interview, I was given the opportunity to really succeed in classes where the purpose is to dig deeper into texts or equations.

In addition, simply the act of executing a production is a skill that I use in all of my classes. As a television producer, I have learned to see the end product as well as all the smaller components that will compose that result. Learning to break down problems and thoroughly execute each step is a skill that I believe will be integral to my life for years to come.

Even though my workload will change as years go on, these skills that I have learned at ACMi will never be far from me. They are ingrained in how I understand and interact with the world around me.



### **Of all the people and projects you've been involved with at ACMi, which has had a particularly strong impact on you?**

I don't know if I can truly describe the enormity of Sara Alfaro-Franco's impact on me. Under Sara's thoughtful, constant, and careful scrutiny, I really developed and sharpened my television production skills.

To give you an idea, I spent two full months editing for three hours twice a week before my first APN piece - an interview with a local doctor about the Norovirus - obtained Sara's approval and was posted on the website. Each time I presented an idea or a rough cut to her, I could expect a full page of feedback detailing minute changes from choices of transitions to the volume of the music,

which I would then use to refine my piece. Soon enough, her high standard for my work became my standard, and I would work on my piece until I knew it would meet her expectations.

Really, I am indebted to Sara for the amount of faith she had in me when I started out as a 7th grader on her news team. Her belief in what I could produce really helped me refine my skills in all aspects of production. Without her mentorship, I don't think my projects would be nearly as impressive or tightly produced. And even though we don't work together on as many productions as we once did, I still feel like she is as much a part of each of my productions as I am.

### **Finally, is there anything you haven't yet accomplished at ACMi that you'd like to before you head off to college?**

Ah! I have wanted to put together a 60 Minutes-type production for a long time. Each episode would be a monthly mix of four 15-minute segments highlighting ideas, people, and events in the Greater Boston Area. My aim with this production would be to bring together ACMi's many volunteers to work on one piece that showcases the breadth of the Greater Boston Area's offerings as well as the depth to which we, as producers, are able to cover each story.

## **PRODUCER SPOTLIGHTS: PETER BERMUDES & ALAN KAUFMAN**

### **When and how did you get started at ACMi?**

**Peter:** I responded to Arlington Public News' initial call for 'citizen journalists' some years ago when the project was just launching. After getting my feet wet on a neighborhood human rights story, I found what for me was a new means of engaging with and sharing issues of importance with others in the community. And I was hooked.

**Alan:** The first thing I did when I joined ACMi three years ago was to participate in a project - making a short film from scratch in just six weeks. I was impressed with the sense of community, something that I had very much enjoyed and experienced in the traditional music world that I lived my creative life within. I enjoyed the other folks in the Studio Knights group and was impressed by the deep knowledge of the staff who led us through the process. I was hooked.

## PRODUCER SPOTLIGHTS: PETER BERMUDES & ALAN KAUFMAN (CONT'D)



### What makes the particular medium of community TV a great choice for you to realize your specific creative vision?

**Peter:** As far as I know, a community resource like ACMI is the only place that would allow a neophyte like me to even imagine producing a show, let alone one that addresses the subjects I'm able to explore with Wide Angle guests. And from a technical standpoint, I'm aware of no other place in which the staff has the expertise - and the will - to support people who have just begun their learning curve, and help them sufficiently with the nuts and bolts of production so they can also concentrate on the end product.

**Alan:** It still amazes me that a mere \$40 annual membership with ACMI has enabled me to take creative ideas floating through my head, and create entertaining and popular TV shows that are watched by folks across the US and in more than 40 countries worldwide! Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that I, a 60-something senior who hasn't owned a TV in over 20 years, could become a successful TV producer/host of multiple series with a global reach! With the support and encouragement of ACMI, I have found that my creative output is limited only by the time necessary to realize my dreams.

### Of everything it takes to produce your show, what is the most fun for you personally, month in and month out?

**Peter:** Fortunately, most aspects of producing Wide Angle are fun, if not exactly easy. But I guess my favorite moment is when all the research and preparation has been done, the guest and I are in the studio and the first question is behind us. The shoulders relax a bit, the heartbeat slows and we simply explore a subject of common interest and concern with the hope of informing and creating change. I believe we humans are here for such reasons.

**Alan:** I love solving puzzles. Putting together a show is like solving a puzzle with hundreds of moving parts. After I decide on whom I would like as a guest, I close my eyes and try to envision the entire show from beginning to end. At first the program might seem intimidating in its complexity and the possibility that, while it plays nicely in my head, it might be a disaster in front of the cameras. But I stay with it and break my vision down to components and start to work on them individually. It gets less scary. It becomes fun – my kind of fun.

### WHY do you do what you do?

**Peter:** Wide Angle is a means for me to explore issues of concern, fulfill my intellectual curiosity and illuminate subjects of import for viewers so they might likewise expand their understanding, concern and range of action.

**Alan:** I do what I do because I have fun doing it. I have talents. It gives me joy to play music...and to hang with my friends who play music. And to meet others who share my musical vision. It's helpful that I have no fear of technology – that way I can use it to communicate my joy of music to others.





**Producing a show is a big task, so it's good that you each have active collaborators. How did you team up and how are duties shared?**

**Peter:** It was just plain good luck that Lee joined ACMi, and happened to be looking for a show to team up with, as *Wide Angle* began. He has since been part of every shoot across all three seasons, a reliable constant—directing the show, framing shots, piecing together the set, suggesting show topics, editing footage, troubleshooting web problems, adding his characteristic dry humor and just about everything else that makes *Wide Angle* tick from the other side of the camera. To say that I can't imagine the show without him is an understatement.

**Alan:** I have a wonderful rapport with my director, John Reddick. John and I are music buddies. He is a fine and respected musician in my community. His long years of professional experience as a project manager equipped John very well for the demands of the control room, which in turn allows me to focus on my own duties as host/producer and artistic director of the program. John is great about taking my artistic vision and transforming that into technical reality, which enables us to together produce high level entertaining TV.

**Looking back, of all the lessons you've learned about producing an ongoing series, what do you think would be most helpful for someone with such an ambition to know?**

**Peter:** Maybe two things: first, however long you think a project will take, double it (my wife would say to triple it). Beyond that, I think it's a bit like raising children: if you knew what was involved, you might just forego the experience. But once you're engaged in the process, you change and grow. If you can imagine it, if you feel it serves a need, I'd recommend jumping in. And know that the folks at ACMi will be there to help out.

**Alan:** As I stated above, early on I close my eyes and play the video that might become my show in my head. That movie will change. Sometimes drastically. Sometimes at the last minute before cameras roll in the studio. Sometimes while the show is in progress and the cameras are rolling. I have to be ready and willing to go wherever my inspiration takes me.

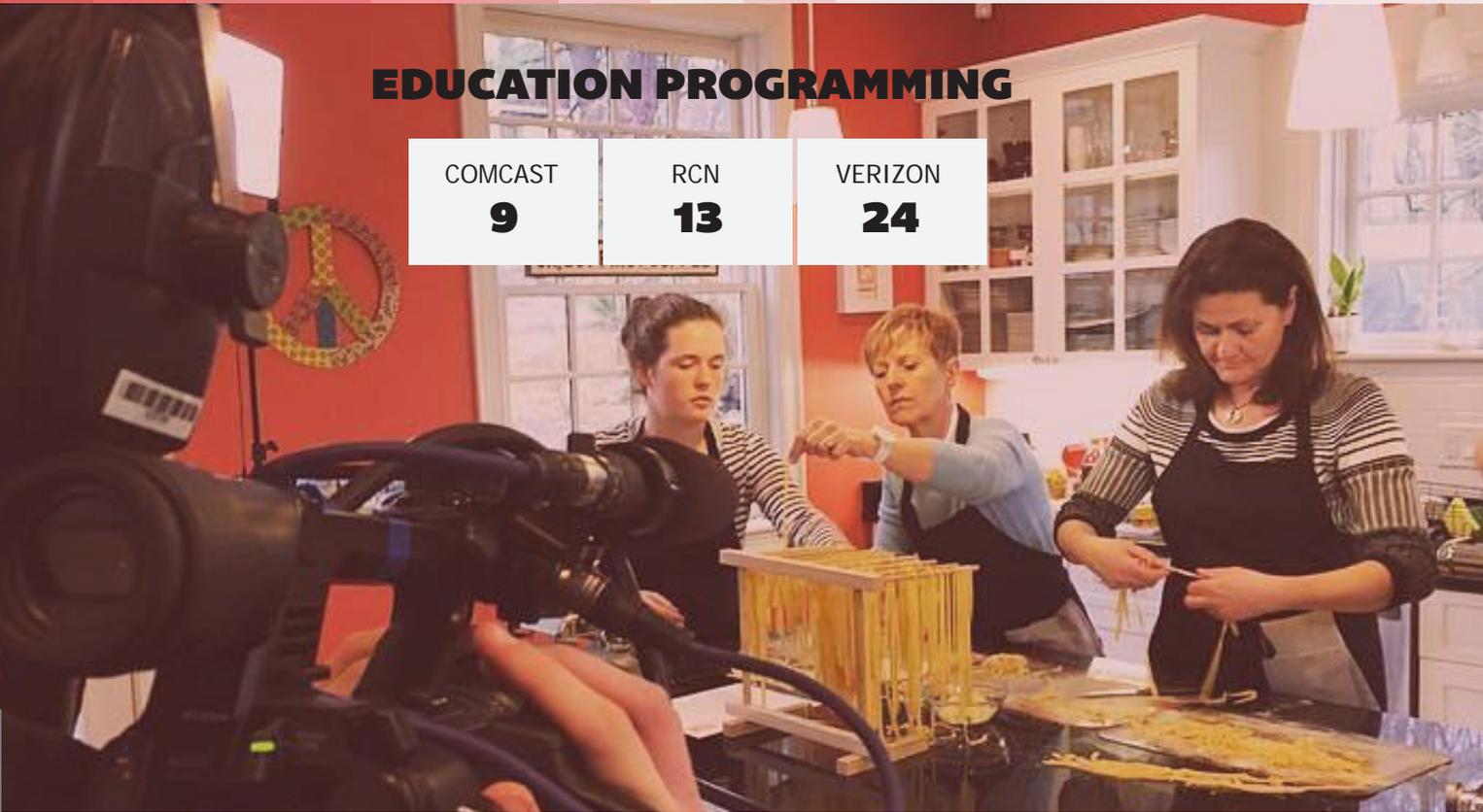
My creative energy is a living thing. I have to always be mindful of that.

# EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

COMCAST  
**9**

RCN  
**13**

VERIZON  
**24**



## WHAT'S ON THE CHANNEL

ACMi's Education Channel offers a wide variety of both educational and youth-produced programming. For interests ranging from cooking to music to catching the latest Arlington high school sports broadcast, the Education Channel is an excellent source for compelling content. We present a mix of both locally produced and nationally (and sometimes internationally) acclaimed programming.

Focus Media has also been the backbone of ACMi's constantly improving high school sports programming, providing multi-camera coverage of football, soccer, basketball, hockey, and volleyball.

## STUDIO B

ACMi's Studio B was the venue for a range of youth studio productions, including narrative short films, a student council debate, and discussions of social and political issues. A particular highlight took place in November 2016 when, just before the election, Studio B played host to the Arlington High School Presidential Debate in front of a live studio audience that included Massachusetts State Representative Sean Garballey. And this past summer saw the debut of **Studio B Sessions**, a new music series capturing live performances from a host of local ensembles.



## FOCUS MEDIA

ACMi's high school youth production group was once again extraordinarily active throughout the year. The crew provided exceptional coverage for big events such as the Battle of the Bands at the Regent Theater, the main stage of Arlington's Town Day, and Arlington High School's graduation.





## ARLINGTON CATHOLIC

Last year ACMi piloted a new partnership with Arlington Catholic High School. Once a week, Youth Coordinator Kevin Wetmore visits the school and teaches a video production course as part of Arlington Catholic's "Arts Block." Over the course of the year, students learn all the basics of video production. As part of this program, six Arlington Catholic students also gave time outside of class as ACMi interns. As this partnership moves into its second year, ACMi is taking on a higher profile at the school. We will be working with the school's sports journalism class to film a regular podcast, and with the drama department to produce video material as part of the school play in November.

## OTTOSON MEDIA GROUP

Our group of superstar students at the Ottoson Middle School rebranded themselves this year as "Ottoson Media Group," and they were more active than ever before. As always, they provided coverage of school events such as a variety of All Town concerts, the Memorial Day assembly, the Ottoson's performance of Beauty and the Beast, and the unveiling of the public art project Inside OUT Ottoson: This Is Who We Are. In addition, Ottoson Media Group completed a short film that was played at A-Town, and produced the first season of Teens Cook, a cooking show in which two professional French chefs teach two youngsters how to cook a delicious French dish each episode. The quality of both the content and the productions have reached an entirely new level this year, and we are very excited to see what OMG comes up with next!



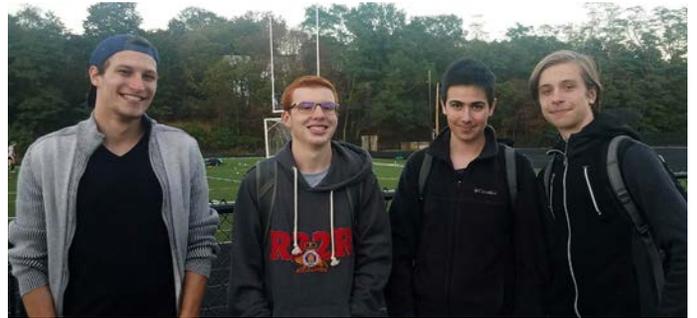
## A-TOWN TEEN VIDEO CONTEST

In March 2017, ACMi took the lead in hosting the third annual A-Town Teen Video Contest. The event returned to the Regent Theatre to showcase the works of talented young filmmakers from the area. For the first time, submissions were opened up to neighboring communities. Fifteen excellent films were presented, created by youth from Arlington, Cambridge, Lexington, and Lowell. The films included animations, documentaries, experimental horror, comedy, and even a Christmas spoof. The Audience Selection award and the judges' Top Prize both went to Arlington High School student and Focus Media member Samuel Kim, for his captivating animated film AVT: Part 1.

## SPORTS

This past year, ACMi brought the breadth and quality of its sports production to exciting new levels. With the help of our brilliant volunteer youth crews, we are continuing to add new features to our broadcasts, such as replay and sideline reporting. New volunteer commentators have joined our already impressive lineup of on-air sports talent to help us call and cover more games and more sports, including boys' and girls' soccer and hockey.

ACMi has also welcomed Alex Van Thong into the newly created position of Sports Producer. Alex will be working closely with youth, volunteers, and interns to continue to improve our sports coverage and broaden the scope of it even beyond where it is now. Look for regular sports updates, in-studio sports shows, and more games to be covered than ever before!



## SUMMER FUN

It's become one of the hallmarks of summer, and a cherished one at that. Throughout the week of July 24-28, 11 middle-school students who were excited to learn film and television production took over ACMi's Studio A. They proved to be avid young media professionals as they eagerly learned everything from field reporting, to film production,

to studio production, to editing, to Chroma Key. The students used their humor and creativity to create three silent films, a news broadcast, stop-motion animation videos, and two short films - all in the course of one week! As importantly, working in such close collaboration also enabled them to forge new friendships by the end of the course.

## EDUCATION CHANNEL PROGRAMMING

2017 AHS Election Profiles	Arlington All-town Choral Concert	Beauty & the Beast Jr.
8th Annual Rockin' Soul Holiday Concert	Arlington All-town String Concert	Ottoson Winter Chorus Concert - December 20, 2016
A CATpella: A Festival To Belt Out Cancer	Arlington Catholic NHS Induction Ceremony - February 16, 2017	Press Start
ACA Summer Camp	Arlington Catholic Sports Update	Relay For Life
After the March	Big People Talking	Summer Fun Shorts
AHS Battle of the Bands	Breaking the Stigma	Teens Cook
AHS Boys Varsity Basketball	Fashion in the 1900s	Thanksgiving Football Game 2016: Arlington High School vs. Arlington Catholic
AHS Boys Varsity Football	Fly Past Stereotypes	The Broom Interview
AHS Boys Varsity Hockey	Giza 3D: Harvard's Journey to Ancient Egypt	The Ponder Scope
AHS Boys Varsity Soccer	Guns vs Hoses 2017	The Santa Identity Crisis
AHS Boys Varsity Soccer 2016 Highlight Reel	Live at Studio B	Thompson Elementary School Rebuild
AHS Candidate Profiles	ONN Special Report	Unfocused Media
AHS Girls Varsity Hockey	Ottoson Middle School Annual Memorial Day Ceremony	
AHS Girls Varsity Soccer	Ottoson Middle School Concert Series	
AHS High School Graduation 2017	Ottoson Middle School Presents	
Annual Festival of Concert Bands		

# GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMING

COMCAST  
**22**

RCN  
**15**

VERIZON  
**26**

ACMi's Government Channel 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 Board of Selectmen, 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 as 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 150 hours of content created this year alone, it's never been easier to stay apprised of local politics, policies and proceedings in the Town of Arlington.

**51** 21 School  
HOURS Committee  
Meetings

**37** 23 Board of  
HOURS Selectmen  
Meetings

**20** 11 Finance  
HOURS Committee  
Meetings

**33** 21 Arlington  
HOURS Redevelopment  
Board Meetings

**17** 6 Town  
HOURS Meetings

**3** 3 School  
HOURS Enrollment Task  
Force Meetings

## 161 TOTAL HOURS OF ORIGINAL RUN PROGRAMMING

### GOVERNMENT MEETINGS RECORDED BY ACMi STAFF/VOLUNTEERS

#### Public Forums & Public Hearings

Community Preservation Committee  
Public Information Meeting  
Lake Street-Bikeway Public Meeting  
Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting on  
Mugar Site  
FY18 CPA Funding Requests CPAC  
Meetings  
Residential Study Group Public Forum  
Arts & Culture Action Planning Session

Arlington CCA Info Session

Gibbs School Planning Discussion

#### Other Events

Live Election Night Return Coverage  
Candidate Video Profiles for Local  
Elections  
Candidate Video Profiles for Special  
State Elections  
Democratic Committee Debate 4th  
District 2017

#### Public Events

League of Women Voters  
Candidates' Night 2017  
ABC Stormwater Flooding Board:  
The Old City and the Sea  
Arlington Veterans Day Parade  
Arlington Memorial Day Event  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday  
Observance 2017

## ARLINGTON PUBLIC NEWS



SEGMENTS

103

NEWSCASTS

24

SPECIALS

4

### WHAT'S NEW

Arlington Public News saw both consistency and some substantial changes this year. Chief among the latter was saying goodbye to APN's inaugural News Director Sara Alfaro-Franco, who now produces ACMi's Public Affairs programming. Heather Aveson was hired as News Director early in 2017. She brings decades of broadcast and print journalism experience - including years in the world of community media - to the position.

Heather fully shares APN's deep commitment to putting news in context, from illuminating how Arlington happenings fit into the tapestry of issues in the region and the country, to filtering broader events through the lens of the Arlington community.

### OUR MISSION

APN's goal is to bring residents timely news from the Board of Selectmen, town administrators and the School Department. In addition, the news strives to help Arlingtonians understand changes taking place around town by offering sensible, transparent explanations that aim to answer questions residents are asking. Our coverage of the introduction of Community Choice Aggregation for electricity purchasing is a good illustration.

### APN IN THE COMMUNITY

Community Outreach has been a focus for Arlington Public News this year. We brought our portable news set to numerous events around town, including the first Civics Day held at Town Hall in the early spring. We conducted on-site interviews with

movers and shakers that we incorporated into future news segments. And this summer APN took the newscast on the road! In doing so, we engaged the community and reminded residents that you will find APN's coverage - and presence - all over town. The Arlington Reservoir and the Jefferson Cutter House served as interactive backgrounds for two different newscasts, and a third was all set to go at Thorndike Dog Park before the thunder (and lightning) gods interceded, forcing us to move it back into the studio.

This commitment to getting our show into the community continues. APN will expand its on-location studio set-ups at events around town, and took a big step in that direction with anchors Paul Werhlin and Brenda Mahoney operating from a portable set and control room right on the street at Town Day 2017!

### EXPANDING OUR AUDIENCE

Making segments even more available to various town and school groups has increased viewership of APN programming. Our "Building an Eclipse Viewer" segment received more than a thousand views on YouTube after being shared directly with the schools. Segments on home security and emergency preparedness have been shared with the Police and Fire Departments for further distribution.

Cross-promotion of other ACMi programming is a growing theme at APN. Short segments taken from Public Affairs programming and highlights of producer/musician Alan Kaufman's Farmers Market performances are just two examples, and you can expect to see more in the future.

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Catching up with Zach Merchant, former ACMi and Arlington Public News Intern



"How did a Boston kid wind up in Macon?"

I get that question almost every time people find out where I'm from. The answer I give is that I want to go wherever I can learn the most in the shortest amount of time.

I want to hone my skills and do it in a hurry. If I have to go somewhere that sometimes feels like the middle of nowhere, so be it. WMAZ has delivered on both counts.

My first day on the job I walked right into a storm - literally. We were gearing up for Hurricane Irma, inching towards the wall-to-wall coverage that would come a few days later. Your first week is typically a sleepy one, I later learned. Mine was a bit different.

Six hours into my fifth day I stood soaking wet in 60-mph winds, running live shots during the hurricane. I was shooting for one of our veteran reporters for the day - I hadn't yet been field-tested enough for the station to send me out to face the camera. I'm glad they made that call - I wasn't ready.

But I **absolutely** would have said I was had I been called on. That's probably been the defining theme of my time here - say yes to everything, figure it out, find a way.

A few weeks later I was asked if I felt up to doing my first live hit on camera.

Answer: Hell no! I felt like I was running a gauntlet every day just turning in my package and VO/SOT (Voice Over Sound on Tape) for the evening shows. Going live would mean I'd need to finish editing much earlier than usual so I could get out to the location. Then I'd have to navigate fronting a live VO/SOT for the 5 pm newscast and a news package for the 6 o'clock News. Just from a nuts-and-bolts perspective, I had no idea how it would work.

My actual answer: Sure, no problem.

Small daily miracles line up (as I'm learning are often required to get my job done properly), and I get to the location in time and set up.

Standby. Thirty seconds out. Go. I'm on. Live television in a market with hundreds of thousands of potential viewers. Things are going great! And then the wheels come off. During the live VO/SOT I nail my lead and read the VO well, and then I forget to break for the SOT. This causes a big headache for the producer, which I hear about almost in real time...it throws me off my rhythm and I lose my train of thought...things are teetering on the brink...

Happily, it all worked out (except for some conspicuous sweat on my brow!), and by the time it was done I had added a new tool to my kit - I knew I could go live now.

Thank goodness, because I badly needed it about ten days later. Midway through a mundane Tuesday I get a call from our managing editor saying we're getting sketchy reports of two kids trapped in the water near a waterfall in a well-known state park. "Grab a TVU and your laptop and get out there ASAP."

I was the first TV reporter on a scene that would end up being a full-on media circus. All of the Atlanta stations, two news choppers and a slew of our local TV and print competitors were all there as well.

The two boys turned out to be brothers. One drowned while his older brother, trapped in the water close by, could only watch. It was a terrible scene... and my station had me leading our coverage. In over my head would be an understatement...

BIG daily miracle this time. Everything got done. I was live for two-and-a-half minutes with no script at the scene of a tragedy unlike anything I'd ever dealt with.

***Absolutely none of this would have been possible if it wasn't for my time at ACMi.***

Literally none of it. I stumbled into working in television because I was told by Jeff Munro that if I wanted to, I could start at ACMi on a Monday and be in front of the camera a day or two later.

I didn't believe him for a second. I should have. You gave me a camera, sent me out the door, and said 'figure it out.' ACMi was there to show me the way and hold me up when I doubted myself, but it also pushed me well past the edge of what I thought I could do.

I wouldn't have the job I have now if it wasn't for ACMi. I never would have been able to create a reel substantial enough to be plucked out of the obscurity of YouTube by a television executive.

But even if I had, I couldn't **do** the job I have now if it wasn't for ACMi. Thank you for all of it.

## STUDIO & FACILITIES

### STUDIO A

ACMi celebrated its 10th birthday in style by unwrapping a gift to remember for Studio A in the spring of 2016. It was indeed a happy day as more than twenty large boxes filled the control room, packed with **Hitachi Z-HD6000 Studio Cameras** with full-size prompters, intelligent on-camera monitors, and multifunction SMPTE Fiber camera adapters. It was a dream come true for Operations Manager Jeff Munro, who was heard to say, "Yes, we do put our cameras upon a pedestal. E-Image heavy-duty camera supports to be exact!"

This system comes with lens controls, and intuitive-designed CCU (Camera Controlled Unit) remote controls to complete the package. This professional studio system offers increased functionality with its single cable solution.

Our **Ross Inception** rundown creator and **CueScript Prompting** has been upgraded to a server-based system, housed in our Master Control room at Studio A. Users can work on scripts and program outlines from anywhere in the building by logging into the system.

Two large **50" monitors** on mobile stands extend the options to producers who choose to incorporate them into their set design. And if it seems as if our edit suites have grown in size this past year, you're right! (We feed them well.) The screens have increased in size from 21" to 27", enhancing the effects you can achieve with our state-of-the-art software from Adobe Creative Cloud.

We have also continued to upgrade and expand



our field equipment, adding **new camcorders** with longer lens range for sports, and **DSLRs** with multiple lens options for filmmaking. Small dual **LED light kits** with a battery option and a backpack design help round out a professional, compact documentary field kit.

The ACMi microphone arsenal now offers two large **diaphragm studio condenser mics**, as well as long shotgun and lavalier microphones, and field recorders.



## STUDIO B

A happy consequence of the Studio A camera upgrade is that Studio B has inherited three HD studio cameras, lens controls, intercoms, and teleprompters. One clear benefit is the ability to calibrate signals with the camera control units and the internal intercoms at each camera. Another is that the camcorders previously used in Studio B have been reallocated as field cameras, enabling ACMi to produce even higher quality multi-camera events and field interviews.

And the curtain call has been answered at Studio B! The new neutral gray backdrop hangs on an expanded track and means that productions can be shot from various directions. Large set pieces and monitors create even more flexibility in look and design for Studio B producers. It's no wonder this satellite facility has been buzzing all year long, with the prospect of even more activity to come!



## TOWN HALL CONTROL ROOM

Our Town Hall control room is equipped with a networked digital robotic controller which, when combined with the upgraded cameras in meeting rooms, now allows the quality of each image to be adjusted by a single operator via a computer or the controller. We are thus fully equipped to deliver coverage of Town Meeting and other important town government sessions in glorious High Definition.

## COMMUNITY USE OF RESOURCES: STUDIO A & B

ACMi Production Resource Use	HD Camcorder Use (days of use)	Studio/ Control Room Reservations (4 hour use)	Edit Station Reservations (4 hour block)	Wireless Microphones (days of use)	Light Kits (days of use)
July 2016 - June 2017	739	518	1497	314	117
Rental Value*	\$275/day	\$225/hour	\$50/hour	\$110/day	\$275/day
Total Use	739 days	2072 hours	5988 hours	314 days	117 days
Value of Use	\$203,225	\$466,200	\$299,400	\$34,540	\$32,175

**Total Estimated Market Value of ACMi Resources in FY 2016-2017 returned to the Town of Arlington:**

**\$1,035,540.00**

\*Rental value based on local rental rates

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Audited)

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2017

### ASSETS

Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$440,587
Accounts receivable	445,668
Prepaid expenses	9,984
Total current assets	896,239
Property and equipment:	
Computers and equipment	987,813
Leasehold improvements	111,346
Furniture and fixtures	37,262
	1,136,421
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(860,122)
Property and equipment, net	276,299
Other assets:	
Security deposits	2,400
Investments in securities, at fair value	515,174
Temporary cash investments designated for long-term operations	39,826
Total assets	\$1,729,938

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$3,165
Accrued expenses	31,451
Total current liabilities	34,616
Net assets:	
Unrestricted:	
Board-designated for long-term operations	555,000
Undesignated	1,129,813
Total unrestricted	1,684,813
Temporarily restricted	10,509
Total net assets	1,695,322
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,729,938

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the year ended June 30, 2017

### CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Revenues:	
Municipal contracts	\$882,191
Membership dues and workshop fees	5,279
Investment income	3,295
Net realized and unrealized gains	14,110
Net assets released from restriction	127,936
Total support and revenue	1,032,811

Expenses:	
Program - production and broadcasting	\$636,848
General and administrative	311,508
Total expenses	948,356
Increase in unrestricted net assets	84,455

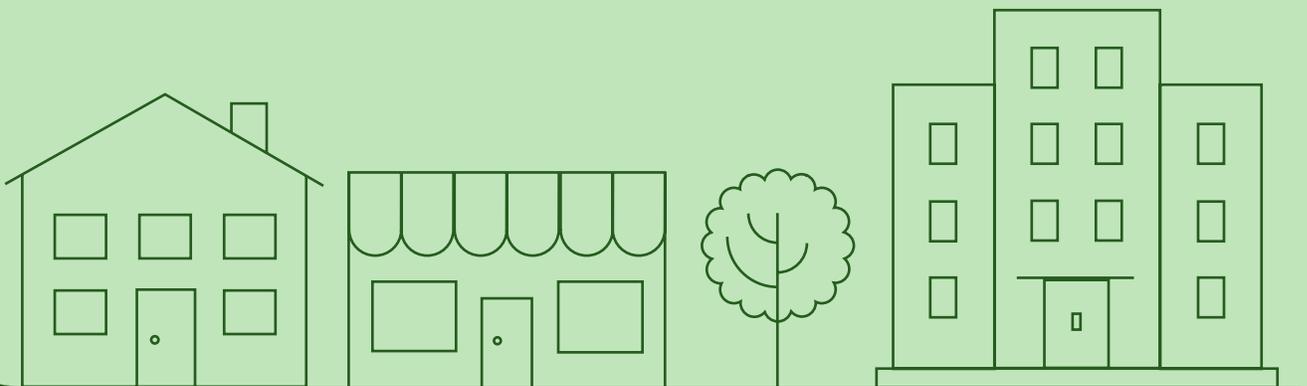
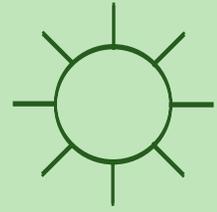
### CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Revenues:	
Capital grants	50,000
Investment income	1,108
Net assets released from restriction	(127,936)
Decrease in temporarily restricted net assets	(76,828)
Increase in net assets	7,627
Net assets, beginning of year	1,687,695
Net assets, end of year	\$1,695,322

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended June 30, 2017

Cash flows from operating activities:	
Increase in net assets	\$7,627
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:	
Contributions restricted for investment in property and equipment	(50,000)
Net realized and unrealized gains on securities	(14,110)
Depreciation and amortization	95,362
Increase in accounts receivable	(222,141)
Increase in prepaid expenses	(1,676)
Decrease in accounts payable	(3,899)
Increase in accrued expenses	4,333
Net cash used in operating activities	(184,504)
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Proceeds from sale of securities	7,487
Purchases of securities	(508,551)
Decrease in assets restricted for investment in property or equipment	76,828
Decrease in temporary cash investments designated for long-term operations	515,174
Purchases of property and equipment	(160,363)
Net cash used in investing activities	(69,425)
Cash flows from financing activities:	
Contributions restricted for investment in property and equipment	50,000
Net cash provided by financing activities	50,000
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(203,929)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	\$644,516
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$440,587





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