



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Arlington Community Media Inc.



The **Hometown Media Awards** from the Alliance for Community Media recognize and honor high-quality community media programming from across the country. This year, ACMi youth won awards for Best Mixed and Transmedia for “Students Reflect” by **Dan Gorbunov** and Best Access Program Promo by the “You View” crew, led by **Sam Dieringer**.

CONGRATS TO OUR AWARD WINNERS!

The **Nor’Easter Awards** are organized by the regional Alliance for Community Media. This year, ACMi member-producer **Michael Brown** came in third for General Talk Show category for his series, “We Hold These Truths.” And the Studio Knights production group - **Margie DiMonte, Cyn, John Gagan, Gareth, and Laurie Holman** - took third place in Arts and Theater for a series of Fox and Owl puppet videos. Special thanks to Cecily Miller and ACAC for their inspiration!



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It seems that we are all living in a “brave new world” these days as we negotiate the fine line between active healthy living and the alternative brought on by this pandemic. The “world turned upside down” is another way to put it, but nevertheless we at ACMi have been working hard within the restrictions that we all face to fulfill our mission to the town. The descriptions of our activities over the last year within this report bear evidence to this. Even a quick scan of the report makes it clear that, despite the challenges posed by Covid-19, ACMi stepped up this past year and provided Arlington with increased coverage of all the events and activities that make this town such a vibrant place to live. From meetings to sports to news events, the staff, membership, volunteers, and interns have been very proactive, and productive, in the virtual world in which they found themselves.

The ACMi staff has been at the forefront of the virtual technology necessary for us to communicate with each other these days. They have taught numerous organizations and individuals how to use the new tools now required for our town to function, and of course have covered town events themselves. ACMi has become the go-to organization for questions about virtual platforms and practices. Ironically, because of the pandemic, more people in town are aware of ACMi’s value to the community as they take part in more meetings, programs, and activities due to the ease of access virtual platforms provide. No doubt we will be using virtual technologies along with live participation for years to come.

Speaking of years to come, the FCC has gone through a change that should benefit all community television and media stations, and the public as well. With the change in administration after the 2020 election, the chairperson of the FCC is now a Democrat, and there is a strong possibility that net neutrality will be back on the agenda for everyone in the country. And of course, we hope that the cable providers’ attempt to charge back community stations for expenses like bandwidth over the last two years will be withdrawn. This chargeback was a threat to the ability of stations to continue operations. To be sure, though, if ACMi were ever forced to cut back operations because of financial constraints, we would certainly still strive to fulfill our mission responsibilities to the best of our ability.

At the state level, a bill has been introduced in the Massachusetts legislature which, if passed, will provide additional income to all community stations. Content providers like Netflix and Hulu would be charged for their use of the town-owned poles that allow them to distribute their programs to subscribers. A percentage of the funds would go to the state, the town, and the community station, respectively. There are other states that have enacted such legislation, and it is hoped that this bill will pass this year in Massachusetts.

So, let’s hope that this “brave new world” will disappear sooner rather than later, and that everyone will be able to experience the world “right side up” again. We at ACMi are looking forward to a bright new year and, most importantly, a healthy one.

Norm McLeod
Executive Director

STAFF



NORM MCLEOD
Executive Director



JEFF MUNRO
Operations Manager



JAMES MILAN
Communications Manager



JASON AUDETTE
Engineering & Prod. Coord.



KATIE CHANG
Production & Media Manager



KEVIN WETMORE
Youth Production Manager



CHERYL BRUSGULIS
Administrative / Programming Asst.



ANIM OSMANI
Senior News Producer



SEAN KEANE
Gov't & Programming Coordinator



JARED SWEET
Video Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors and I present to you the Fifteenth Annual Report of Arlington Community Media Inc (ACMi). June 30, 2021 marked the completion of our fifteenth 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. Needless to say, it was a different year for ACMi, as it was for the rest of the world.

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, demonstrated our excellent financial controls and oversight and, as always, that we continue to be in sound financial health.

Over the past year we have continued with our upgrades to the Dallin Library/Studio-A, although at a much slower rate, since it was closed for a good part of the year due to COVID-19 restrictions. We also closed our Mass. Ave Studio-B location and moved to a new location in the new High School, where we can more easily work with students.

The Board is pleased with the efforts of ACMi members and staff that have resulted in a remarkable 354 hours of quality first-run local government P.E.G. programming and we were able to continue to provide ACMi News for our community of viewers. Our website recorded 2,359,040 views, resulting in great use of our YouTube and social media channels. We strive to continue to increase our programming, ACMi News community involvement and equipment usage. Our members, interns and staff have been recognized in both regional and national video contests, and continue to produce award-winning programming that is available worldwide through our website and social media channels.

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

John D. Leone, President
Arlington Community Media Inc.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS





FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

For obvious reasons, anticipated upgrades and expansion plans for equipment and facilities have been set aside as we focused on supporting ACMi staff and members who have been working and producing content from home. This has been a year of many returns - staff returning to the studio; member-produced programming returning to the channel; and staff, members and interns returning for in-person equipment exchange, pre-production meetings and newscasts. We followed, and continue to follow, Covid protocols around masking and social distancing. Though they may not be visible, I know that behind the coverings, our faces consistently sport broad smiles.

ACMi used some of the studio downtime to rearrange the lighting grid to accommodate two setups for back-to-back productions. Zoom laptops that we use for live broadcasts like the Virtual Town Forums and the Community Conversations Series have become a permanent installation in the control room. This allows for an easier workflow both in and out of the video switcher, with cropping tools, graphic overlays, and an audio mixer enabling us to continually improve the overall quality of these productions.

Change is inevitable, the biggest example of which this year is the migration of ACMi's Studio B from its Mass Ave facility into Arlington High School. The Youth Studio at AHS plays host to a number of student productions, from the weekly Ponder Scope and ACMi Sports Update to the periodic news magazine show, You View. Although the current studio space is temporary, it still feels like home to student producers, since it sports a control room, editing resources and equipment storage for the portable kits they use to cover sports, performing arts, and special events.

As we encountered a variety of challenges this year, we figured out how to troubleshoot, and shared what we learned with our various community partners, thereby making improvements with each new production. These virtual spaces have been productive, resourceful, and a real lifeline for some to connect to their community. They've been increasingly more interesting to watch as we learn to tie in more screen sharing, graphic overlays, and b-roll into live programs.

We often use this space to "show and tell" new toys acquired in the past year, but once again the pandemic has curtailed much of that kind of activity. We did get a couple of very cool Sports Production Cameras with internal graphics options, and made major upgrades to our master control resources. Also added to the ACMi inventory were new streaming hardware and cameras, laptop accessories, and a variety of products that will make electronic news gathering (ENG) much easier. We have also designed more portable multicam production kits. By making use of smaller camcorders, lightweight light kits, and wireless microphones, our goal is to make it easier to provide outdoor-friendly, socially-distanced event coverage.



PRODUCTIONS



Operating in a pandemic has meant that much of our production activity over this last year remained largely virtual. We continued to respond to a number of organizations and groups in town that relied on ACMi for assistance in producing and live-streaming events. The Robbins Library, Friends of the Robbins Library, Arlington Friends of the Drama, and the Old Schwamb Mill, among many others, called upon ACMi for video help.

As a result, multiple library events were live-streamed via Zoom (with added graphics) to ACMi's channels and to Facebook. Arlington Friends of the Drama and Arlington Community Education both learned and utilized Streamyard as a platform for both its live video and streaming capabilities. ACMi also worked with multiple town departments, including Veteran Services, and Public Works, which reached out for help in promoting and organizing a video contest for EcoWeek.

Our weekly members' production group, Studio Knights, continued to meet via Zoom and/or Streamyard. The Knights produced a Fox and Owl puppet Halloween series (inspired by the Fox Festival hosted by Arts Arlington), comedy skits, workshops, and more. Lastly, ACMi initiated a bi-weekly virtual Producers' Meetup, which created yet another opportunity for members to connect and support one another on their projects.



Youth

ACMi continued its strong relationships within Arlington Public Schools to help supplement both the curriculum and extracurricular activities for students in Arlington. The pandemic seriously limited live attendance at sporting events and arts performances, and ACMi stepped up to provide comprehensive virtual coverage of those occasions. In July of 2020, we said farewell to Studio B, our longtime home for youth programming on Mass Ave, and moved into a newly constructed studio in Arlington High School.

A studio location inside the high school allowed for easier collaboration with classes during the school day. While the majority of the school year was experienced remotely, we did make use of the space throughout the year. Jayce McG's Weather and Climate class came in and recorded weather forecasts as part of their curriculum, and these were also used as part of ACMi's Newscast.

Collaborations with the athletic department, the theater department, and various school administrations ensured that everything from the high school musical to all-town band performances to graduation ceremonies were accessible to all. We worked with AHS Choral Director Mara Walker and our own wonderful student crew to film a music video on the football field, giving students their first chance to record a performance together as an entire chorus since the start of the pandemic. We also collaborated with Ms. Walker, Instrumental Music Director Tino D'Agostino, and Music Technology teacher John DiTomaso on numerous virtual concerts, which



resulted in some of our most-watched content. It is no exaggeration to say that in these trying times, ACMi has provided a lifeline for our youth athletes and performers, and for their friends and family.

For the second year in a row our annual A-Town Teen Film Festival was forced into the virtual space. Despite the constraints imposed by the pandemic, local youth filmmakers still managed to be creative and productive, and we showcased an impressive collection of short films. The top prize went to 8th Grader Sol Yudowski for her film “Ink.” We hope to return in person to our traditional venue at the Regent Theatre for the event in 2022.



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 354 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.

This year we added even more meeting coverage to our already extensive library of content, including the Arlington Housing Authority, the Police Civilian Advisory Board Study Committee, and expanded Zoning Board of Appeals recordings as they considered numerous projects of consequence in town.

Preparing for the end of the pandemic (someday), ACMi has made the Select Board chambers at Town Hall and the School Committee room at Arlington High School ready for hybrid meetings. Going forward, elected officials and community members can choose to participate either online or in person - the facilities are ready, as is our ability to broadcast those meetings. Since many boards and committees are interested in retaining the benefits Zoom offers in terms of ease of participation and health safety, the hybridization of in-person/remote participation for the School Committee and Select Board will serve as a model for other groups in town.

As we all continue to struggle with the prolonged pandemic and the unique challenges facing local government, ACMi strives to increase and improve its coverage using new technologies to promote increased civic engagement.

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Government



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 Consumer Surveys
 Arlington Council on Aging
 Arlington Department of Planning and Community Development
 Arlington Education Foundation
 Arlington EATS
 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 Tree Committee
 Arlington Youth Health & Safety Coalition
 Black History Month
 Chillhop Records
 Community Conversations
 Covid-19 Relief Fund
 Covid-19 Updates
 Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum
 Department of Public Health
 Department of Public Works
 Fidelity House
 First Parish Unitarian Universalist
 Friends of Spy Pond
 Friends of the Robbins Library
 Homeschooling Together
 Housing Corporation of Arlington
 Jason Russell House
 Little Fox Shop
 Minuteman Bikeway
 Mystic Chorale
 Mystic River Watershed Association
 Old Schwamb Mill
 Park Avenue Congregational Church
 Philharmonic Society of Arlington

Regent Theatre
 Retired Men's Club
 Robbins Library
 St. Agnes Church
 True Story Theater



COMMUNICATIONS



We always strive to keep our members, friends, and partners aware of what’s happening at ACMi through all kinds of communications - email blasts, blog posts, and social media messaging. Our weekly TV schedule is available on our website at acmi.tv, along with specific programs that are highlighted each week. And whenever our other media partner, YourArlington.com, focuses on the same issues we are exploring in our news and public affairs programming (which is often), website manager Bob Sprague always links to our own content to enhance the audience's understanding of the topic at hand.

ACMi continues to mine a rich vein of collaborative energy with traditional partners like the Arlington International Film Festival, the Arlington Center for the Arts, the Council on Aging, and the Regent Theatre, while we also build connections with others like the Menotomy Concert Series, St John's Church, and the Arlington Human Rights Commission. Finally, our work in conjunction with the Town of Arlington's media team continues to deepen and broaden, ensuring that residents can access our content through the Town's website as well.

Through our Public Affairs division, we schedule recurring visits with Arlington's state legislators to keep residents informed about developments at the State House. We have heard from both audience members and the officials themselves that these regular updates are of real benefit to all. In addition, ACMi News regularly profiles businesses around town, highlighting the innovative means through which many businesses have survived, while sometimes reporting with regret on those that couldn't make it. They are stories of resilience and resignation, and ACMi has been there to chronicle them in all their variety.

While we are proud of what we have provided over the years for the Arlington community, operating under the shadow of Covid-19 has made us even more aware, and prouder, of the unique contributions we can make to our community. With so many in town 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. There is little reason to think that circumstances will be changing anytime soon, so we will keep striving to play our distinctive role in the tapestry of life in Arlington.

Analytics for our website were consistent with those of 2020. We drew slightly fewer visitors at 32,200 (compared to 33,300 the previous year), and returning visitors held steady at 16%. Total visits decreased from 52,700 to 49,000. Also as with previous years, about 50% of visitors already know the acmi.tv URL they are looking for. The other half come to us from organic searches, social media (mainly Facebook), and referrals from other websites. The most popular sections of our website are our videos (25%), the homepage (20%), and our three live stream pages (5%).

Website

The most popular videos on ACMi's YouTube Channel continue to be youth related (such as musicals, graduation, and Battle of the Bands). The top playlists are government related (eg, Select Board, School Committee, etc.) Average view duration went up by 6 percent. The AHS Performing Arts Department Winter Concert (January 29, 2021) and the AHS Graduation 2021 are the two videos with the most viewership retention. ACMi garnered 149,729 views last year across all videos. The page collected 2,359,040 total impressions* (down 4%). Of the 2.3 million impressions (how many times video thumbnails were shown to viewers), 3.2% of those users who came across our thumbnails on their YouTube feed clicked on our videos (up 2 percent).

Viewers on YouTube find ACMi News through 35% external search (such as a Google search, acmi.tv, or Facebook), 28% search within YouTube, and 19% are suggested videos via YouTube. The average view duration went up as well, by 156 percent. ACMi News garnered 64,091 views last year across all videos. We also collected 586,780 total impressions* (up 5 percent). Out of the 587,000 impressions, 3.9% of those users who came across our thumbnails on their YouTube feed clicked on our videos (up 41%).

ACMi Sports garnered 70,450 views last year across all videos. The average view duration also went up, by 40%. Hockey and basketball seem to be the most popular sports for viewers. Within the same time period, the YouTube page collected 786,594 total impressions* (up 151%). Out of the 780,000+ impressions, 4.7% of those users who came across our thumbnails on their YouTube feed clicked on our videos (down 12%).

The various social media accounts of ACMi and ACMi News all experienced an increase in the number of followers this year. The subjects addressed by the top posts included youth, government, and even humor. Our “happy holidays” post was a winner, thanks in part to our collaborative efforts to feature our community partners in it!

Facebook



ACMi
908

ACMi New
762

Instagram



ACMi
719

ACMi News
472

Twitter



ACMi
571

ACMi News
1449

YouTube

18% subscribers
1,428 subscribers
18,800 total watch hours
 5%

280% subscribers
577 subscribers
7,500 total watch hours
 528%

223% subscribers
623 subscribers
10.4k total watch hours
 290%

social media



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING



The collaborative film project **Crowdsourced Boston** returned this year with Jurassic Park. Studio Knights spent two nights filming their scene in person, complete with a dinosaur attack. An ACMI youth group also participated, making use of live action, hand-drawn animation, and a variety of special effects to produce their own scene.

With access to the studio severely curtailed, our interns got creative! Production interns Sydney Britt and Ryan Farrell both stepped up as producer, host, and editor for their respective creations, “**Sydney’s Media Moment**” and “**The Storybook Show**.”

Long-time ACMI member-producer Charlotte Pierce collaborated with ACMI and local watershed associations to initiate “**A Watershed Moment**.” In this quarterly program, the Mystic, Charles, and Neponset River Watershed Associations are invited to share recent news, important events, fun facts, and more.

We were particularly happy to welcome the return of programming produced in conjunction with Arlington’s Council on Aging. The long-running “Living Out Loud,” which went on hiatus a couple of years back, was reborn in a new form as the “**Arlington 60+ Connection**” show. Hosted by CoA’s Director, Kristine Shah, the series filmed monthly segments on Streamyard, with different guests invited and regular features like the “Newsletter Corner.”

ACE: Gas Stoves: Health Effects, Pollution & Healthier Alternatives
 ACE: The Dispensary Next Door
 ACMI Annual General Meeting 2020
 ACMI Covid Info
 ACMI Election Debates - April 2021
 ACMI News Special - Anim Osmani - Ramadan
 ACMI News Special - Clint Hill
 ACMI News Special - Steve Katsos
 ACMI Newscast (Series)
 ACMI Re-opening Announcement
 AIFF - MFA Graphic Designer Joanna Mahoney
 AIFF Poster Winner Interview 2021 - Elena Mathis
 Alessio Miraglia - Live in Boston
 And Another Thing (Series)
 APD Update with Chief Flaherty
 Arlington Author Salon - Robbins Library (Series)
 Arlington Center for the Arts Open House 2020 - Poetry
 Arlington Center for the Arts Open Studios 2020
 Arlington COA 60+ Connection (Series)
 Arlington in 1970: Looking Back 50 Years with Richard Duffy - Old Schwamb Mill
 Arlington Jazz - Eco Sound System
 Arlington Live Ballot Returns - April 2021
 Arlington MA Virtual Town Forum - Covid19 Public Health Response, Recovery and Reopening
 Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra: Music Gazing - Family Concert
 Arlington Philharmonic Short - Nimrod
 Arlington Reads Together promo
 Arlington’s Got Talent 2021
 ATown Promo 2021
 Baby Owl & Wise Old Owl (short)
 Candidate Profiles - April 2021
 Candidates’ Debates - March 2021
 Common Prompt Project
 Community Conversations (Series)
 Conversations with Creative Minds (Series)
 Conversations with Great Minds - George Ellenbogen
 Cyrus Dallin Museum Presents: Virtual Unveiling of Village Road, Auvers sur Oise
 Cyrus Dallin, Sculpture in Service of Social Justice
 DEI Update (Series)
 Democratic State Rep Debate - 24th Middlesex District
 DPCD Update (Series)
 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance 2021
 Driving Forces (Series)
 Eco Week promo
 Eco Week Videos 2021
 Face The Book TV (Series)
 Fandom 101
 Friends of Robbins Library Concerts (Series)
 Fun Facts (Series of shorts)
 Girl Scout Sunday - Composting
 Gracey of the Alewife
 History of ACMI in 60 seconds (PSA)
 Holiday Greetings to Arlington - 2020

Hope Medical Group Interview
 Hugh’s Herd (Series)
 Info on ACMI’s Temporary Closing (PSA)
 Internship Promo
 Justice in the Balance (Series)
 Legislative Update (Series)
 LOWV Virtual Candidates’ Night March 2021
 Meet the Interns
 Memorial Day Ceremony 2021
 Michelle Lougee Exhibit Tour
 Michelle Lougee Promo
 Million Dollar Gift (Series)
 One-on-One with Election Candidates
 Peeragogy in Action (Series)
 Plarn Art to Save the Planet - A Conversation with Michelle Lougee
 Police Civilian Advisory Board Study Committee - June 22, 2021
 Robbins Library - Arlington Reads Together: A Conversation on Race & Racism - Dr. Beverly Tatum
 Robbins Library Presents - Pushing The Envelope - History of the Post Office
 Robbins Library Presents - The State of Voting
 Robbins Library Presents: LGBTQ+ Identity in YA Fiction - Author Panel
 Scenes of the Season (Series of shorts)
 Shine 2020 Medicare Presentation for Seniors
 Sonic John - David Hoffman Guitar
 Special Town Meeting promo
 St John’s Coffeehouse - DishUP Concert for Arlington EATS
 St. John’s Coffeehouse Opener
 Storybook Show (Series)
 Studio Knights - Painting Rocks
 Studio Knights - Public Art
 Studio Knights Shorts (Series)
 Sydney’s Media Moment (Series)
 Talk of the Town (Series)
 The History of Robbins Library - Richard Duffy
 Town Community Development Forum, April 8, 2021 - Food Security, Equity & Federal Grants at the local level
 Town Hall Virtual Town Forum (Series)
 Tres Gatos (Series)
 Veteran’s Day Virtual Ceremony 2020
 Virtual Library - Children’s Stories from Robbins Library (Series)
 Virtual Library - Plugged in (Series)
 Vote in Arlington 2021 (PSA)
 Watershed Moment (Series)
 We Hold These Truths (Series)
 Winter Cheer by Margie DiMonte
 Writing on the Wall
 You View (Series)
 Young People Doing Cool Things - Nathalie Vieux-Gresham
 Your Arlington Dollar - Budget Review with Sandy Pooler

EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

AHS - Wonderful Life - A Live Radio Play - December 2020
 AHS Music Tech and Honors Orchestra March 2020
 AHS Performing Arts Department Winter Concert – January 29, 2021
 AHS Performing Arts Spring Collaborative Concert March 19, 2021
 AHS Sports Boys Basketball
 AHS Sports Boys Varsity Soccer
 AHS Sports Field Hockey
 AHS Sports Football
 AHS Sports Girls Basketball
 AHS Sports Girls Soccer
 AHS Sports Hockey
 AHS Sports Lacrosse
 AHS Sports Volleyball
 All Town String Virtual Concert 2021
 Annual APS Pumpkin Recycling Event – Nov. 4, 2020
 Arlington Community Electricity By Hardy School Green Team March 20, 2021
 AHS - Welcome Back!
 AHS Amour
 AHS Graduation 2021
 AHS Jazz Band Performs Chameleon Oct. 20, 2020
 AHS Virtual Choir - Tommy, by the Who (The Musical)
 AHS Winter Concert Band & Orchestra Highlights 2021
 Arlington Public Schools Virtual All Town Band Concert June 18, 2021
 Arlington Schools Art - Common Prompt Project
 Arlington's Got Talent 2021
 ATown Teen Film Festival 2021
 AWG Newsletters (Series of shorts)
 Black Student Alums Activate Arlington
 Community Conversations: APS Talks About Discipline - July 15, 2020
 Gibbs Drama Club Spring Plays
 Gibbs Drama presents Beowulf
 Gibbs School Spring Virtual Concert June 21, 2021
 Gibbs School Winter Concert - Jan. 29, 2020
 Girl Scout Composting By The Green Team Apr 23, 2021
 Music for Healing - Arlington High School Performing Arts Dept. - Nov. 20, 2020
 Nosebleeds NBA
 Nosebleeds NFL
 Ottoson Middle School High School Musical Jr.
 Ottoson Middle School Virtual Chorus Concert - April 30, 2021
 Sounds Of Spring - Arlington Performing Arts Department Virtual Concert - April 29, 2021
 Sports Update 10.9.20.mp43
 Stratton Celebrates Earth Month! April 22, 2021
 The Ponder Scope (Series)
 Weather Reports | June 18, 2021
 You View (Series)



"You View" is a new magazine program on ACMi made by Arlington youth, for Arlington youth. It is the brainchild of Sam Dieringer, who graduated with the class of 2021. Sam started the show in the summer of 2020 with the goal of giving an outlet to students in Arlington looking to be heard. Since that time, the crew has grown to include multiple student producers, hosts, editors, and videographers. The show has an aptitude for tackling complex and multifaceted topics, including the use of the Menotomy Hunter as an emblem at AHS, racial justice and equality in Arlington, and the Sunrise Movement, among other things, over its ten episodes. You View can be light-hearted as well, showcasing a debate about the best pizza slice in Arlington, as well as highlighting the work of various student-artists.

With an in-person performance of the Arlington High School spring musical not possible for a second consecutive year, Theatre Director Michael Byrne wanted to do something special for the cast and crew. ACMi stepped in to help produce and edit a full performance of the play **"Amour."** The goal was to really make it feel like a film, and not just a virtual performance, and with the help of supremely talented student editors, the production was a major success. It even garnered praise from Jeremy Sams, who wrote the English lyrics for the Broadway play. For the cast and crew, ACMi showed the film on our projector in the AHS courtyard, so that they had the opportunity to experience an in-person 'premiere' together.

For the second year in a row, Sam Dieringer hosted a live virtual talent show fundraiser, **Arlington's Got Talent**, this time from our studio at ACMi. Produced by AHS Senior Sagar Rastogi and the AHS Scoops Club, the event raised over \$2,000 for the Jimmy Fund. A variety of talent from all over Arlington was showcased, including musical performances, trick shots, and more.

With live attendance either banned or severely limited for many of the high school sports seasons, at ACMi we did our best to broadcast as many games live so that fans could watch from home. This included live coverage of the AHS **Girls Hockey** team as they went to the league championship game, losing a nail biter vs Woburn. AHS Senior Nick Antonakas was the voice of AHS Girls Hockey, with support from committed volunteers Mark Russo and Chris Corsetti.

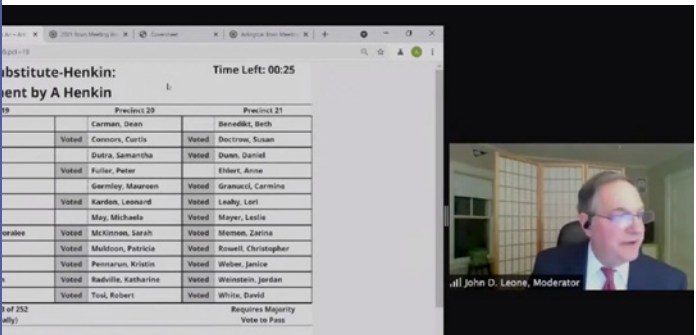




GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMING



With a packed warrant of 91 articles, **Arlington Town Meeting** was fully remote this year, utilizing Zoom and a customized portal for online voting. ACMi assisted Town Meeting members in creating and promoting Warrant Article videos to inform voters of the proposed legislation in advance of Town Meeting. This method allowed members to absorb the information at their own pace before the meeting itself, which made for a quicker and more informed process for voting. With a total of ten meetings this year, Town Meeting was able to go through its large agenda at a reasonable pace and from the safety of members' homes.



The Memorial Day ceremony is typically presented and filmed live at Arlington Town Hall with an audience, followed by a laying of wreaths at the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. This year, Director of Veterans' Services Jeff Chunglo reached out to collaborate with ACMi to produce a unique pre-taped ceremony that included speakers on-site at the cemetery and interviews with local veterans about the importance of Memorial Day.

Veterans Day in Arlington usually includes a march along Mass. Ave to the Central Fire Station, and is filmed to be broadcast later. This year, similar to Memorial Day, ACMi worked with Jeff Chunglo to pre-tape the speakers, the laying of wreaths, and the playing of taps, for a virtual ceremony.

The Town's series of "**Community Conversations**," sponsored by the Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, were all aired live, with graphics and other enhancements added from the control room at Studio A. Additionally, we helped produce a successful virtual **Candidates' Night** with the League of Women Voters (normally held live in Town Hall).

Total hours of content = 354

Meetings recorded by staff or volunteers

Town Meetings & Events:

Select Board - 33 Meetings
= 74 hours of content

School Committee - 25 Meetings
= 71 hours of content

Redevelopment Board - 26 Meetings
= 64 hours of content

Finance Committee - 6 Meetings
= 13 hours of content

Town Meeting - 11 Meetings
= 32 hours of content

Zoning Board of Appeals - 29 Meetings
= 67 hours of content

Arlington Housing Authority - 4 Meetings
= 8 hours of content

Remaining content:
= 25 hours of content

Public Forums and Public Hearings:

Town Community Development Forum
Community Conversations: Fair Housing Panel
Community Conversations: Listening to Differing Perspectives - The Power of Symbolism
A Conversation on the Intersection of Guns & Hate - AHRC
Creating Affordable Housing Forum: Ask the Experts

Other Public Events:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance 2021
Minuteman Regional FY22 Budget - Town Meeting 2021
State of the Town Address - Town Meeting 2021
Memorial Day 2021
Arlington Veterans' Day Interviews

Election Events:

Arlington Assessors Debate 2021
Arlington Select Board Debate 2021
Candidate Profiles for Town Elections
One-on-One Conversations for Town Elections
Virtual Candidates' Night 2021



ACMi NEWS

The 2020-2021 year for ACMi News began with uncertainty and no small amount of trepidation. Our primary focus remained how to best inform and serve the community as the pandemic continued to cast its long shadow, but more immediate concerns pressed as well.

The main one was the departure of News Director Jeff Barnd in August 2020. Jeff, or JB as he is known at ACMi, had adroitly adapted to the severe constraints imposed by Covid by essentially becoming a one-man-band of news production throughout the spring of 2020. Anchoring newscasts from his home, producing stories on the fly, and being present at rallies and other major events in town, JB not only kept the newscast afloat, he kept it relevant.

It's not at all easy to find a News Director during a pandemic, so ACMi tapped into its trademark flexibility and versatility, and Communications Manager James Milan (a veteran of ACMi News as well) agreed to take the helm until a successful search could be completed. And here's where the story gets fun, because the ensuing year exceeded all expectations, thanks to a very special group of young people.

ACMi has been operating a very healthy intern program for more than eight years now, drawing on the bounty of talented college students in the Boston area. And we've had a number of very impressive interns over that time. None, however, were asked to do as much, and learn as quickly, as the ACMi News interns of 2020-2021. And boy, did they ever step up to that challenge!

Somehow, for a full year, an ACMi News team composed of one non-journalist in "charge," and a group of twenty-something reporters, produced weekly newscasts that were praised by viewers for their substance, their variety, and their professionalism. While every single member of that team took ACMi's "learn by doing" approach and ran with it as never before, the largest share of the credit goes to a remarkable young man, Anim Osmani.

Anim first came to ACMi as a News intern in the spring of 2020, in his last semester at Suffolk University. His internship ended as abruptly and completely as everything else in March of that year, and we thought with real regret that that might be the last we'd see of him. Thank goodness it didn't work out that way!

As James prepared to step into the role of Acting News Director, he reached out to Anim (now a college graduate) for help with producing the newscast, based on the ability to work with others, the curiosity, and the initiative Anim had demonstrated in his short tenure at ACMi. Despite the hour-long commute from his home in New Hampshire, Anim agreed to a part-time position reporting and supervising the newer members of the news team. He has done a superb job, keeping his peers focused, motivat-



ed, and supported, while himself producing up to three packages (!) for the newscast in any given week.

The rest of the team proved more than up to the task as well, as they quickly learned to produce stories almost completely remotely from their bedrooms and dorm rooms, making creative use of zoom and other sources to provide the necessary visual elements to their packages. And when conditions allowed for a safe return to the studio, the news team quickly made it their headquarters as they filmed segments all over town and brought a revitalized double-anchor newscast back to ACMi.

All in all, it was a tremendous display of resilience, versatility, and resourcefulness on the part of these young women and men, several of whom moved directly from ACMi News into positions as professional television reporters! Alexandria Acacia, Toby Barrett, Krystin Beaulieu, Helen Frazer, Maxime Isaac, Inyeong Kim, Isabel Litterst, and Sophia Titus - you all have our profound gratitude and admiration.

So the 2020-2021 year at ACMi News turned out quite well after all, and got even more exciting when our prodigal News Director, the aforementioned Jeff Barnd, returned to the fold and reassumed stewardship of our News division. He is absolutely thrilled to be back, and we are very excited to see where he and the news team take our flagship program from here!



MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS, SUPPORTERS

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---|
| Adam Bolonsky | Ilya Sharonov | Petru Sofio | Arlington Fire Department |
| Adam Kor | Jack Brown | Rachel Oliveri | Arlington Police Department |
| Aiden Paramore | Jane Moccia | Reed Snyder | Arlington Center for The Arts |
| Amber Espar | Jasper Zellmer | Rob Leger | Arlington Chamber of Commerce |
| Andrew Gardinier | Jeff Bauxbaum | Robert Pooley | Arlington Commission Arts and Culture |
| Andy Takats | Jim Foster | Rowan McConkey | Arlington EATS |
| Betsy Schramm | John Axon | Sagar Rastoni | Arlington Education Foundation |
| Blanca Allen | John Ditamaso | Sam Dieringer | Arlington Friends of the Drama |
| Carla Dorato | John Gagan | Sam Staiti | Arlington High School Building Committee |
| Cathie Desjardins | Julia Bloom | Sara Alfaro-Franco | Arlington Historical Society |
| Charlotte Pierce | Julie Moscatel | Sean Dunning | Arlington International Film Festival |
| Cheryl Brusgulis | Karen Dawson | Sipho Mangcu | Arlington Jazz |
| Cyn | Ken Kohlberg | Sol Yudowski | Arlington Public Library |
| Dan Lee | Kevin Cardoso | Steven Ratiner | Arlington Rotary Club |
| Daniel Gorbunov | Laurie Holman | Timothy Bitteker | Arlington Unitarian Universalist Church |
| Daniel Mayer | Len Diggins | Todd Brunel | Covenant Church |
| Danny Kirchner | Luca Rugiero | Toni Mueller | Cyrus Dallin Museum |
| Dick Koolish | Luke Jarvis | Tonia Pinheiro | First Baptist Church Arlington |
| Diem Dangers | Marco Franzoni | Tyler Vaillancourt | Roasted Granola Cafe |
| Don Phelan | Margie DiMonte | Veronica Barton | La Donna Musicale |
| Dylan Scopetski | Mazen Abukhalef | Wu So Fai | MLK Jr Birthday Observance Committee of Arlington |
| Edith Moisand | Michael Armanious | Yasaman Salon | Regent Theater |
| Eric Stange | Michael Brown | Youssef Saleh | Rephairations |
| Erica Wood | Michael Buckley | | Town Of Arlington |
| Gabe Rothenberg | Natalie Fitch | | True Story Theater |
| George Akerley | Nathan Montgomery | | |
| Gordon Bernstein | Nick Antonakis | | |
| Heidi Bailey | Nick Scofield | | |
| Ian Rempe | Paul Wehrlin | | |

Interns

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 supportive the environment at ACMi is. Interns help produce programming across the board, including News, Public Affairs, Sports, projects with ACMi member-producers, promotional pieces for local nonprofits, and original creative fare.

All of the students who worked with us over the last twelve months deserve particular kudos for their resilience and self-sufficiency. We pride ourselves on our “learn by doing” approach to training, but what we asked of the interns who joined us this year went well beyond the usual demands.

Boston University - Inyeong Kim, Hugh Kirsch, Sirun Li, Cedric Shan
Boston College - Isabel Litterst
Brandeis University – Jessica Umanoff
Emerson College – Toby Barrett, Krystin Beaulieu, Sydney Britt, Ryan Farrell, Helen Fraser, Stephen Petrone, Ella Ward
Ithaca College – Sophia Titus
Tufts University – Isaias Cevallos, Miranda Feinberg, Gloria Revanche
Suffolk University – Alexandria Acacia, Maxime Isaac

Since the start of the pandemic, ACMi has been a great resource for me, and very supportive in providing information to our residents...we've collaborated on both Veterans' and Memorial Day programs that I think have expanded our ability to provide some resources and education to the residents not seen in our typical ceremonies in person.
- Jeff Chunglo, Director of Verteran Services



ACMi has been a fantastic partner in getting the stories behind the public art out to the community, which are often very interesting and sometimes kind of complicated...ACMi cares about Arlington, and they uplift our projects. They treat our projects as serious and significant and important in the town and devote attention and care to them. All the attention and care that we could hope for, and that is deeply meaningful.
- Cecily Miller, Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture



It's like a hub of the community really...I just like hanging out with people like that. You know, they're very authentic. They're driven, they want to produce shows and programs about topics they care about and they want to help other people do the same with their own programs and projects...during the pandemic I didn't do a lot of production, but I saw the studio just carrying on bringing the government meetings, the educational content, helping the schools and the community in general, just stay together, hang together, make it through and be informed.
- Charlotte Pierce, ACMi member producer



We've always had a great relationship with ACMi, but that relationship has been even better since Covid, when ACMi has proved to be really our best friend...we have this big, really big challenge right out of the gate, which is how do we take a 21-year-old Open Studio festival and turn it into an online event? And our friends at ACMi were right there with us, helping us envision what that event would look like. And it was a great big success. It couldn't have happened without them...I couldn't be more grateful to ACMi for all they do, and I look forward to a very long, fruitful relationship with them.
- Tom Formicola, Arlington Center for the Arts



ACMi has been an invaluable resource to the community as a whole...ACMi seems to be everywhere that it needs to be, providing an outlet for youth and adults to be able to build their skills in film production, and providing entertainment and programs for the community. And providing tremendous transparency for the operations of government via not only their coverage of local government meetings, but their interviews and programming that they've put together to give people a deeper look at how Arlington is run...ACMi really entered this pandemic with a strong base of supporting and opening up town government and really over the course of the pandemic, I feel like the cooperation between ACMi and the town has blossomed to new levels.
- Adam Chapdelaine, Arlington Town Manager



This community resource, Arlington Community Media, is a terrific outfit...because of ACMi and the help of people like Katie and all the rest of the staff here, even an old person like me can learn...I have to get my refresher courses often, but they've been incredibly patient with me, teaching me over and over again, which buttons to press, which buttons not to press. So I've been able to help not only people here in Arlington, but bring video to people throughout the Boston region. And I just can't say enough about the value that ACMi brings not only to Arlington, but to the entire state, to the region.
- Michael Brown, ACMi member producer



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (AUDITED)

| STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION June 30, 2021 | |
|--|-------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current assets: | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$307,141 |
| Accounts receivable | 206,730 |
| Prepaid expenses | - |
| Total current assets | 513,871 |
| Property and equipment: | |
| Computers and equipment | 1,284,722 |
| Leasehold improvements | 37,734 |
| Furniture and fixtures | 37,472 |
| | 1,359,928 |
| Less accumulated depreciation and amortization | (1,182,678) |
| Property and equipment, net | 177,250 |
| Other assets: | |
| Security deposits | - |
| Investments in securities, at fair value | 749,894 |
| Assets restricted for investment in property and equipment | 145,739 |
| Total assets | \$1,586,754 |

| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | |
|---|-------------|
| Current liabilities: | |
| Accounts payable | \$3,268 |
| Accrued expenses | 33,171 |
| Total current liabilities | 36,439 |
| Net assets: | |
| Without donor restrictions: | |
| Board-designated for long-term operations | 555,000 |
| Undesignated | 839,067 |
| Total without donor restrictions | 1,394,067 |
| With donor restrictions | 156,248 |
| Total net assets | 1,550,315 |
| Total liabilities and net assets | \$1,586,754 |

| STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS For the year ended June 30, 2021 | |
|--|-----------|
| CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS | |
| Revenues: | |
| Municipal contracts | \$705,348 |
| Membership dues and other revenues | 5,095 |
| Investment income, net of fees | 8,923 |
| Net realized and unrealized gains | 136,108 |
| Net assets released from restriction | 54,955 |
| Total support and revenue | 910,429 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Expenses: | |
| Program - production and broadcasting | \$595,980 |
| General and administrative | 305,327 |
| Total expenses | 901,307 |
| Decrease in net assets without donor restrictions | 9,122 |

| CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS | |
|--|-------------|
| Revenues: | |
| Capital grants | 114,998 |
| Investment income | 133 |
| Net assets released from restriction | (54,955) |
| Increase in net assets with donor restrictions | 60,176 |
| Decrease in net assets | 69,298 |
| Net assets, beginning of year | 1,481,017 |
| Net assets, end of year | \$1,550,315 |

| STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the year ended June 30, 2021 | |
|---|-----------|
| Cash flows from operating activities: | |
| Increase in net assets | 69,298 |
| Adjustments to reconcile decrease in net assets to net cash used in operating activities: | |
| Contributions restricted for investment in property and equipment | (114,998) |
| Net realized and unrealized gains on securities | (136,108) |
| Depreciation and amortization | 99,803 |
| Decrease in accounts receivable | (22,338) |
| Decrease in prepaid expenses | 13,239 |
| Increase in accounts payable | (5,608) |
| Increase in accrued expenses | 8,652 |
| Net cash used in operating activities | (88,060) |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | |
| Proceeds from sale of securities | 297,360 |
| Purchases of securities | (306,283) |
| Decrease in assets restricted for investment in property and equipment | 10,670 |
| Purchases of property and equipment | (54,955) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (53,208) |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | |
| Contributions restricted for investment in property and equipment | 114,998 |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 114,998 |
| Decrease in cash and cash equivalents | (26,270) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | 333,411 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year | \$307,141 |

Good Bye Kevin and Ms. Moisand!



Thank you to our Garden Volunteers!



