

**2022**

**ARLINGTON  
COMMUNITY  
MEDIA**

**INC. ANNUAL  
REPORT**



**Hometown Media Award Winner**  
ACMi News for the October 15, 2021 Newscast  
- News - Access Center Professional



**ACM-NE Nor'Easter Awards Finalist**  
Studio Knights production led by intern Miranda Feinberg  
featuring Kayla Avitabile  
- Music and Performance



**Hometown Media Award Winner**  
ACMi Member Gordon S. Bernstein for "O' Brave Nose World"  
- Mixed and Transmedia - Independent Producer

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***Congratulations to this year's Award Winners!***



**covers designed by Jay Sundar Rajan**



# [FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR]

We all recognize that the world has changed since the start of the pandemic three years ago, impacting both our personal and work lives in dramatic fashion. Thankfully, towards the end of 2021 we all began to see the light at the end of the tunnel, with Covid infections decreasing. Last year's Annual Report documented the ever-accelerating pace of ACMi's involvement with the Arlington community as the country came alive again. It is a great pleasure to say that ACMi is fully up and running this year, and has been more than fulfilling its mission to the Town of Arlington. Just a glance through the pages of this report reveals how much rapid growth and change has taken place at ACMi over the past year. Here are the highlights:

ACMi News came in first place in the national Hometown Media Awards Contest in the category of Community News Access. We are one of the two major sources of local Arlington news, along with our Media Partner, the digital news source Your Arlington, with whom we cooperate to share local news stories. This relationship will surely continue to benefit everyone in the town of Arlington.

We have signed a lease agreement with Food Link here in Arlington, and we now have a fully operational Studio B in the basement of their building on Summer St., just steps from Arlington High School. It has been fully designed with the installation of professional video and audio equipment. Excitement about having a facility available for their use has led to an explosion of new students wanting to learn video production and participate in covering school and local community events.

Speaking of explosions, ACMi's coverage of Arlington high school sports is another excellent example. Girls' teams have been covered more than ever before, and with highly sophisticated production value. We even regularly field requests from grandparents in other states, wondering when we will be airing a given contest in which their grandchild was playing!

Lastly, we have redesigned our website with a whole new look and more streamlined navigation. Your feedback on it is always welcome. Also welcome would be your donations to assist ACMi's ongoing operations. Because more people are cutting the cord and not paying cable fees - the exclusive source of our funding - revenues have been reduced, requiring us to look for additional sources of funding. Consequently, we are reaching out to you and the Town to help fill the income gap so that we can continue to provide the comprehensive services to the Town and its residents that we have since 2006.

Here's looking forward to a healthy and happy New Year for all!

Norm McLeod  
Executive Director

# [STAFF & BOARD]



**Norm McLeod**  
*Executive Director*



**Jeff Munro**  
*Operations Manager*



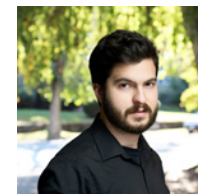
**James Milan**  
*Communications Manager*



**Jeff Barnd**  
*News Director*



**Katie Chang**  
*Prod. & Media Manager*



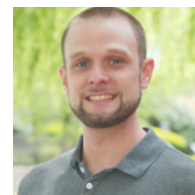
**Jasper Hamilton**  
*Youth Coordinator*



**Sean Keane**  
*Gov. / Programming Coord.*



**Anim Osmani**  
*Field Prod. Coordinator*



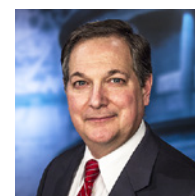
**Jason Audette**  
*Engineer & Prod. Coordinator*



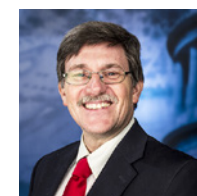
**Cheryl Brusgulis**  
*Admin. / Programming Assistant*



**Jared Sweet**  
*Video Editor*



**John D. Leone, ESQ.**  
*President*



**Michael Ruderman**  
*Treasurer*



**Phillip J. Privitera, Esq.**  
*Member*



**Rhianna Ash**  
*Member*



**Nancy Flynn-Barvick**  
*Member*

# [FROM THE PRESIDENT]

The Board of Directors and I, present to you the Sixteenth Annual Report of Arlington Community Media Inc (ACMi). June 30, 2022 marked the completion of our sixteenth 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. During the course of the year, we closed down our old Mass. Avenue Studio B, and opened a small media production facility in the new High School, as well as a new Studio B in the basement of Food Link in Arlington.

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. That said, our budgets are getting tight as more people choose to “cut the cord” on cable, which we rely on for our funding.

The Board is pleased with the efforts of ACMi Members and Staff that have resulted in a remarkable 308 hours of quality first-run local government programming, and we were able to continue to provide ACMi News for our community of viewers. Our redesigned website recorded an increase in views over previous years, resulting in greater use of our YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Tiktok and Instagram social media channels. We strive to continue to increase our programming, 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*

# [MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS]

## **Businesses** **Envision Estate Planning** **13 Forest Gallery**

### **Group Memberships**

Kevin Cardoso  
Rachael Stark

### **Individuals**

George Akerley  
Michael Armanious  
Daniel Benoit  
Gordon Bernstein  
Julia Bloom  
Michael Brown  
Cheryl Brusgulis  
Martin Colwell  
Kathleen Connors  
Richard Damas  
Margie DiMonte  
Carla Dorato  
Peggy Fenner  
Paul Green  
Alberto Guzman  
Charles Hartshorne  
Deborah Henson-Conant  
Debye Kerbey  
Dick Koolish  
A. David Lewis  
Daniel Mayer  
Steph Miserlis  
Elena Neva  
Chris O’Leary  
Charlotte Pierce  
Thomas Shenefield  
Wu So Fai  
Eric Stange  
Andy Takats  
Paul Wehrlin  
William Wisdom

### **Interns**

Savannah Andersen  
Leah Atkins  
Toby Barrett  
Lillie Bukzin  
Annie Chen  
Simon Cheung  
Ashley Chung  
Julia De La Fontaine  
Devon Distefano

Miranda Feinberg  
Helen Frazer  
Nicole Garay  
Hugh Kirsch  
Renee Anne Lucas  
Leyla Mandel  
Summer Maxwell  
Patrick McGill  
Mikayla Pinto  
Bridget Seche  
Lucas Sickner  
Michael Sullivan  
Drew Weisberg  
Theo Wotton

### **Nonprofits**

Arlington EATS  
Arlington Historical Society  
Arlington International Film Festival  
Covenant Church  
**La Donna Musicale**  
True Story Theater

### **Town Agency / Schools**

Arlington Center for the Arts  
Arlington Chamber of Commerce  
Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture  
Arlington Education Foundation  
Arlington Fire Department  
Arlington High School Building Committee  
Arlington Housing Authority  
Arlington Police Department  
Arlington Public Library  
Council on Aging  
Finance Committee  
MLK Jr Birthday Observance  
Committee of Arlington  
Redevelopment Board  
Select Board  
Town Of Arlington  
Zoning Board of Appeals

### **Students**

Mazen Abukhalaf  
Veronica Barton  
Timothy Bitteker  
Geneva Carter  
Luke Chang  
Simon Cheung

Meredith Clark  
Ana Cristina Cervera  
Maxwell DePriest  
Natalie Fitch  
Lucia Grunko  
David Jagendorf  
Guixuan Jin  
Sarah Liu  
Ava McBurney  
Sarah Morgan-Zawilski  
Toni Mueller  
Aiden Paramore  
Ian Rempe  
Henrietta Rota  
Yasaman Salon  
Nick Scofield  
Dylan Scopetski  
Ruhaan Sharma-Soneja  
Ilya Sharonov  
Lily Sheehan  
Petru Sofio  
Arson Stokes  
Ariel Tamir-Pinsky  
Mia Vakoc  
Melanie Weiner  
Sebastian Worden  
Sol Yudowski  
Jasper Zellmer  
Alice Zimmer

### **Other**

Arlington First Parish Church  
Arlington Friends of the Drama  
Arlington Friends of the Robbins Library  
Arlington Jazz  
Cyrus Dallin Museum  
First Baptist Church Arlington  
Park Ave Congregational Church  
Regent Theatre  
Roasted Granola Cafe  
Nick Antonakas  
John Harrison  
Sam Kafrissen  
Shawn Neal  
Don Phelan  
Phil Ryan  
Rajeev Soneja



# [FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT]

## Studio B

Even by ACMi standards, it was a very busy year with regard to equipment and facilities. When we were forced out of the space that had housed our Studio B for almost ten years (the landlord sold out to a developer), we moved into a temporary space in Arlington High School. This was not a long-term solution, however, especially given that the school was being entirely rebuilt. While we were very appreciative of the support given us by the high school, we immediately set out to find an appropriate space for Studio B to achieve its full potential.

Happily, we found what we were looking for on the bottom floor of the brand-new Food Link building at 108 Summer St, and as of December 2022, Studio B is up and running, and boy is it ever humming! It's just across the bike path from the high school, and students have been flocking to the studio to make TV on a near-daily basis. The successful move has also allowed us to clear the overflow of equipment that had flooded Studio A for a time. The first months in the new space have been very promising, and we expect Studio B to be a beacon for youth productions for many years to come!

The opening of Studio B did not foreclose our presence in the high school. On the balcony overlooking the Red gym, ACMi has constructed a Sportscenter-like studio to host a variety of sports-centric programming. It will function as both a control room for sports coverage (beginning with basketball and hockey in the 2022-23 winter term) and as a set on which interviews, commentaries, and special programming can be filmed.

## Studio A

In addition to dealing with the influx of extra equipment from Studio B, Studio A underwent some notable changes of its own. ACMi Video Engineer Jason Audette furnished the control room with two remote participation stations (or Remis). These feature dual monitors and dedicated Audio De-Embedders and fit into our SDI workflow to the router. The return of the ¾, SVHS, and miniDV decks condensed into a single tower offering an analog-to-digital dub station to continue transferring our decades of content to our servers. Stay tuned for future archive series and throwback content.

Jason didn't stop there. He spent a lot of the summer under the hood of our iMac Edit suites, upgrading the internal hard drives to faster solid state drives (SSD). With ACMi Video Editor Jared Sweet ensuring that the suites were fully up to date in terms of software and operating systems, our edit systems held up very well to the rigorous demands we always make of them.

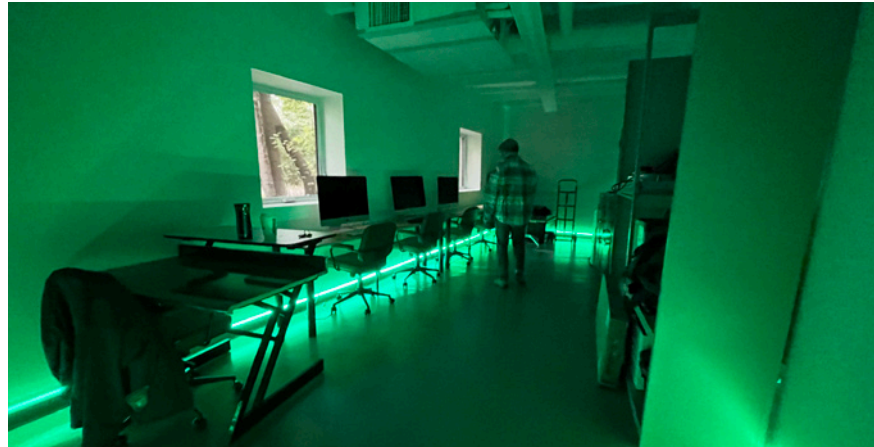
## ACMi's Equipment Distribution Center, EDC

Everything now has a home with the recently upgraded shelving system in our equipment room. The equipment management software (Isaac) will now be able to track and record member, production, project, and usage information to better coordinate the needs of our membership.

## ACMi Town Hall Production Center

The entire control room at Town Hall has been redesigned with a larger console and some much-needed upgrades to accommodate the "hybrid meeting" format. These kinds of meetings have become the "new normal," allowing Board members and the general public the choice to attend in person or participate remotely.

Arlington Community Media, Inc.



In order to accomplish this, ACMi production equipment has to both send and receive audio and video signals from Zoom, without creating the feedback loop and echo effects we've all come to despise. It was quite a challenge to work out all the kinks in the system, but well worth it, and the results speak for themselves. From this control room, we have been able to cover numerous Menotomy Concerts, government meetings, and special events like the ACA Open Studios and Town Day.

## ACMi Mobile Production Systems

Jason Audette's contributions to enhancing ACMi's infrastructure also extended to engineering a portable system to add even more versatility to our field productions. What does the system contain, I wondered, so I asked Jason. Can we do single cam or multicam? Yes. Intercoms? Yup. Is it scalable? Uh huh. Can we go live? You bet. With or without announcers? Sure.

Turns out the right question to ask would have been, what doesn't this system contain? THAT might have stumped him! This ACMi Sports HD ATEM kit was specifically constructed to support all types of field productions. Anim Osmani, ACMi Field Producer extraordinaire, was able to cover AHS sporting events all over town and beyond, including ACMi's first-ever multicam swim meet, as well as baseball, softball, and ultimate frisbee.

As the fall arrived and Jason moved on to another job in the industry, Jasper Hamilton came on board as ACMi's Youth Program Coordinator. He decided to create a mobile system of his own to accommodate the closing and moving of Studio B, and the fact that the sports unit was constantly being deployed elsewhere. The ATEM 4K kit Jasper designed features the ATEM Panel switcher, 3 Black Magic studio cameras with electronically controlled lenses, camera control units, built-in intercoms, record decks, and "go live" encoders to transmit the signals to ACMi Master Control on Park Ave. This high-quality, professional, yet portable production center will greatly enhance ACMi's coverage of concerts, plays, presentations, and other youth-produced events, wherever they are taking place.

We look forward to new ideas, new programs, and of course the new obstacles that allow ACMi to creatively innovate and expand our resources and services.



# [PRODUCTIONS]

There has been a steady increase in productions out of Studio A, as the remnants of the pandemic slowly dissipate. Now that most people are comfortable with indoor activities, we have seen the return of long-time ACMi members and an influx of new ones. Many shows that had been virtual, or even began as virtual, have moved to being in-person. Continuing shows include: Arlington 60+ Connection (now filmed at the new Community Center), A Watershed Moment, We Hold These Truths, and Conversations with Creative Minds. We have also provided coverage and support for the Menotomy Concerts, Rumbarroco Concerts, and live video for Porchfest (organized by the Arlington Center for the Arts).

Our partnerships with the Robbins Library and Arlington International Film Festival have kept us busy, and have also given us a chance to train volunteers on-site for a variety of live events, from lectures to musical performances. In a number of cases, new members brought new shows, and a few of these are highlighted below. In addition, we had a busy summer of interns, with 14 college and high school students who were all highly productive. The programs they created include the Board Gamer Show, the Puppet Show, and a short series of Embrace Zero Waste videos. And we really know we're back in business when a troupe of ACMi staff, volunteers, and interns are out in full force for Arlington Town Day, capturing almost 7 hours of the festivities!

2022 saw the completion of the third iteration of **Studio B**, a second location near Arlington Center constructed to facilitate youth and educational programming. Students in the high school groups supported by ACMi meet on different days of the week to plan, produce and edit the many projects they are involved with. Studio B offers a large studio space, a meeting area, a dedicated post-production room, and an area for workshops. In the few months that it has been in operation, Studio B has hosted dozens of live productions, workshops covering all facets of video production and filmmaking, and many constructive meetings.



## ACMi Sports

We are taking the unusual step of breaking out this description of our sports programming from its usual place within the Youth and Education section because, frankly, it was a breakout year for ACMi Sports, with both the quantity and the quality of our coverage attaining unprecedented heights. In the fall of 2021, Anim Osmani took on the role of Field Producer with an emphasis on sports, and right from the start, he was fully committed to taking ACMi's sports programming to a place it had never been. Mission accomplished!

In many ways, the numbers speak for themselves. While there are no official tallies, we are confident that ACMi Sports covered more individual contests than ever before, and that coverage extended to sports that we hadn't broadcast much or at all in the past, including volleyball, softball, baseball, and ultimate frisbee. And the vast majority of those games were multi-camera shoots, involving crews of 2 to 10 volunteers, and making excellent use of the sophisticated technology ACMi provides to enhance the viewing experience.

It was a year full of "first-ers" - too many in fact to include all of them here. A few highlights:

- Multicam coverage of a hockey game from within TD Garden;
- Multicam broadcast of a multiple-school swim meet;
- Multicam coverage of almost every AHS home soccer and hockey game, both boys and girls.

To make all this happen, Anim did not just rely on his own considerable ambition and energy. He also tapped into a wellspring of interest and talent among the students at AHS, and he organized, transported, and often fed the young volunteers - it was a true labor of love. And with each new broadcast, progress was made toward increasing video and sound quality, greater work efficiency, and how to make the best use of the equipment and technology provided by ACMi.

While students and parents were the bedrock on which ACMi Sports most depended, Anim also managed to persuade a number of staffers to take a turn behind the mike, with Jeff Barnd, Kevin Wetmore, and James Milan all making cameo commentator appearances throughout the year! As befits the context, the success of ACMi Sports this year was the consummate team effort, with volunteers from 16 to 65 meshing beautifully under Anim's steady, unflappable leadership.



# [COMMUNICATIONS]

We always strive to keep our members, friends, and partners aware of what's happening at ACMi through all kinds of communications - newsletters, email blasts, blog posts, and social media. We extend an open invitation to those in the community who want to learn the craft of digital media production right in their own town. Orientation tours of our Studio A at 85 Park Ave can be scheduled for anytime Monday-Friday, 10-6. These tours provide interested residents with an overview of our sixteen years in operation and an introduction to our ever-expanding inventory of equipment and menu of training opportunities.

Although our weekly TV schedule appeared in the Arlington Advocate for many years, that is no longer the case. We therefore direct our audience to our newly redesigned website at [acmi.tv](https://acmi.tv), where a current TV schedule can always be found, along with specific programs that are highlighted each week. And whenever our other media partner, [YourArlington.com](https://YourArlington.com), focuses on the same issues we are exploring in our news and public affairs programming (which is often), website manager Bob Sprague always links to our own content to enhance the audience's understanding of the topic at hand.

We also continue to make fruitful use of the connections we have with other access stations in the area and around the state to find innovative ways to meet our communities' need to be informed, as we did in combining with our sister stations in Belmont and Cambridge to present a State Representative debate for a district that encompasses all three municipalities. 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 - as well as regular Updates with various town leaders - through the Town's website as well.



## Community Partners

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 (ACA), 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. One fine example of such collaboration is the technical, logistical, and practical support we provided the ACA that allowed them to offer a teen filmmaking class in the spring and summer of 2022.

Through our Public Affairs division, we schedule recurring visits with Arlington's state legislators to keep residents informed about developments at the State House that could impact their lives. We have heard from both audience members and the officials themselves that these regular updates are both helpful and informative.

ACMi also engaged in a promising new partnership with a beloved Arlington institution, as we manned a booth of our own at the ever-popular Farmers' Market that runs from spring through October in Arlington Center. Our regular presence there over a number of weeks allowed us to further spread the word about all we offer for residents, businesses, and nonprofits in town, and it was just plain fun to engage with folks who happened upon us during their weekly visit to the market. We even persuaded some of them to grab a microphone and take part in The ACMi Show, a podcast we produced in our booth!

## Schools

Our important connections to Arlington schools, discussed in greater detail in another section of this report, continue to expand in exciting ways. As the pandemic's shadow continued to impact live attendance at sporting events and arts performances, ACMi's willingness and ability to provide comprehensive virtual coverage of those occasions ensured broader access throughout the community.

This year also saw the return of a significant number of in-person events and performances, many of which were expertly covered by the talented and reliable group of AHS students assembled by ACMi staffers Kevin Wetmore and Jasper Hamilton. While many spectators flocked to see these events live, for others who by choice or necessity preferred to watch remotely, ACMi was the answer.

## What Lies Ahead

From its very inception, ACMi has been staunchly committed to serving the Arlington community, and we are genuinely proud of the education, access, information, and entertainment we have provided over the years. But the experience of the last three years has made us even more aware of the unique contributions we can make to civic life in Arlington.

As so many in town - from local government to businesses to social-welfare agencies and nonprofits - continue to adapt to challenging conditions, ACMi keeps finding new ways to be useful in disseminating information and making residents aware of programs and services they can use. We refuse to rest on our laurels, and we'll keep striving to play our distinctive role in the tapestry of life in Arlington.



## DEI UPDATE DEC 2022

A DISCUSSION WITH  
**JILLIAN HARVEY**  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director  
Town of Arlington, MA

[WATCH NOW](#)

More information at [arlingtonma.gov/dei](https://arlingtonma.gov/dei)





Website

This year, ACMi worked with local company Cider House Media to design a completely new website. The previous site had begun to show its age, after being masterfully created in 2016 by then Media Coordinator Meagan O’Brien. The bedrock aspects of the website remain the same, such as the TV schedules, blog posts, and membership information. However, much was updated or improved upon, such as the Video-On-Demand (VOD) feature, input forms, and back-end functionality. The analytics show that the new site has already seen an uptick in engagement and traffic.

Social Media

The various social media accounts of ACMi, ACMi News, and ACMi Sports all experienced an increase in the number of followers this year. Engagement rates are good (1-5%) for Facebook and Twitter, with Instagram engagement at a great 13-14%. This may be because we utilize Instagram the most. The subjects in the top posts are youth and government, which follows the trend we typically see. Top posts to highlight: the summer “Meet the Interns” video posted on ACMi’s Facebook page, an AHS graduation post on Instagram, and an ACMi Sports tweet from November! High school intern Michael Sullivan did a lot of behind-the-scenes filming of production activity and created vertical videos which were posted on social media. Also, thanks to Tufts intern Lillie Buzkin, ACMi is now on TikTok!



ACMi

17.6k watch hours  
1,896 subscribers (22% inc)

ACMi News

74.6k watch hours  
919 subscribers (31% inc)

ACMi Sports

7.2k watch hours  
933 subscribers (28% inc)

Key videos that stood out for audience retention for ACMi:

- Ottoson Graduation
- Select Board Meetings
- School Concerts
- “Taste of Arlington” episodes



@acmitv  
969 followers  
4.5% engagement rate

@acminews  
770 followers  
3% engagement rate



@arlingtoncommunitymedia  
839 followers  
14% engagement rate

@acminews  
513 followers  
13% engagement rate

@acmisports  
206 followers



@acmitv  
603 followers  
4% engagement rate

@acminews  
1,399 followers  
3.5% engagement rate




@acmitv  
17 followers

[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 Food Pantry  
Arlington Friends of the Drama  
Arlington Garden Club  
Arlington Historic District Commission  
Arlington Historical Society  
Arlington Human Rights Commission  
Arlington Jazz Festival  
Arlington Meetup  
Arlington Public Art  
Arlington Reads Together  
Arlington School Committee  
Arlington Select Board  
Arlington 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 Church  
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



THE ARLINGTON  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL

Spring Events  
aiffest.org/events



ARLINGTON  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL

Thursday, April 21 | 7:30pm  
**RASA String Quartet**  
The Roasted Granola Café  
1346 Mass Ave., Arlington Heights

Friday, May 6 | 7:00pm  
**2022 AIFF Poster Contest Reception**  
Arlington Center for the Arts  
20 Academy St., Arlington

Saturday, May 21 | 7:30pm  
**Eduardo Betancourt**  
Town Tavern  
201 Mass Ave., East Arlington





# [PUBLIC CHANNEL]

## HIGHLIGHTS

Margaret Credle Thomas, the DEI Director for Arlington Public Schools, introduced her talk show, **“DEI Matters,”** just over a year ago. She invites other local leaders to discuss topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The show is serious, yet intimate, as illustrated by the fact that Margaret always asks her guests for an inspirational quote or song to share with the audience.



Local entrepreneur Barbara Thornton reached out to ACMi for help with presenting the finale of the **“Broadway Corridor Design Competition,”** organized by Envision Arlington’s Civic Engagement Group. This competition asked local designers, architects, and artists to imagine what the area along Broadway St might look like 20 years or more into the future. Three teams (including one composed entirely of Arlington High School students!) presented their visions to a team of judges - and an ACMi crew - to cap off the competition.



Summer has traditionally been when ACMi hosted bands for one of our most crowd-pleasing series, Studio B Sessions. This year, interns Annie Chen and Theo Wotton brought it back as **“Studio Sessions,”** with four in-studio performances accompanied by interviews with the band members. Everyone was happy to host a live music series again, this time at Studio A.



Long-time member Len Diggins has brought us many artful and creative shows over the years. He continues this run with a 17-episode series called **“What’s Sex Got To Do With It,”** in which Len interviews author Heather Remoff, whom he warmly describes at the beginning of each episode as “his favorite grandmother.” Each episode tackles a chapter from her book of the same name, where she challenges Darwin’s theory of sexual selection, with females at the center of the theory.



Intern Ashley Chung produced her own series, **“Taste of Arlington,”** with a focus on food and local Arlington eateries. Her team of fellow interns filmed three short and sweet episodes at D’Agostino’s Deli, the Roasted Granola Cafe, and Cookie Time Bakery. A fourth episode, highlighting Blisspoint Meadery, has been added since her departure, and more episodes are in the works, so stay tuned!



New member Elena Neva produced a full season of 12 episodes of her show **“Meeting Interesting People,”** which she had previously filmed at Medford’s cable access center. The show highlights individuals Elena has met, from musicians to artists to authors, and even an acupuncturist. Elena speaks with her guests, and episodes will often include a performance or demonstration as well. The premise is simple and effective. We look forward to Season 2 with Elena next year!



# [EDUCATION CHANNEL]

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Focus Media** has been a mainstay of our youth production for many years, and this year it has become a mecca for students who are serious about making movies. Currently, the group is producing a short film using industry standard pre-production techniques and professional film equipment, all the while developing a sturdy foundation in writing, directing, and all things filmmaking.



**“You View,”** originally a monthly magazine show, is now a bi-weekly broadcast centered around stories pertaining to Arlington youth. Over the past year, the show has featured interviews with the Principal of AHS, as well as the Superintendent of Schools, and continues to showcase different clubs and organizations around the high school. You View continues to garner much praise from not only the student body, but the school’s administration as well.



The **Ottoson Media Group** is an after-school program ACMI offers once a week to middle schoolers who are interested in all things video production. Over the past year, students pitched and produced their own productions to work on during their meetings. These productions range from game shows to short films. Through these projects, the middle schoolers learn the skills they need to bring all sorts of productions to fruition.

In addition to the weekly meetings, the students also film a variety of live events at the middle school, including concerts, performances, and special events, as well as the Ottoson graduation ceremony. The students operate the cameras and live edit these events themselves. All this hands-on experience means that the middle schoolers who take part in OMG begin high school with a firm grounding in video production.



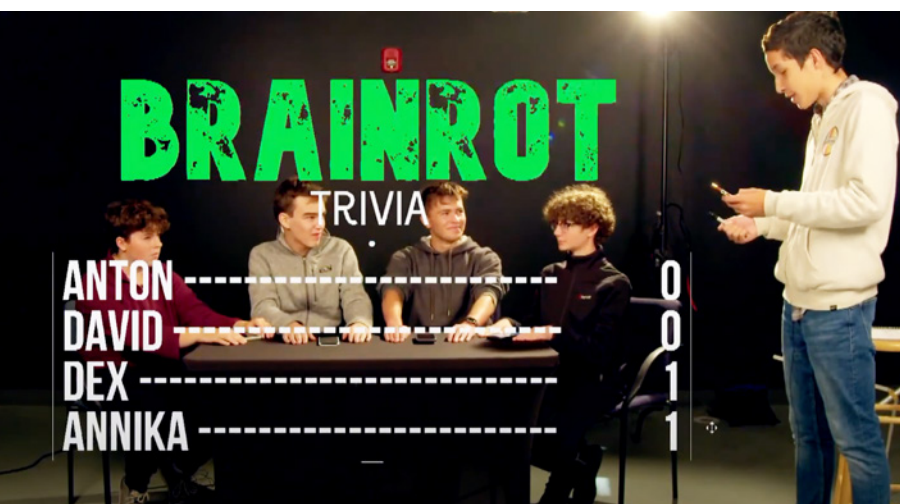
**“Ponder Scope”** has evolved from a pre-taped news update to a weekly live broadcast complete with graphics, interviews, and the occasional field report. In years past, most stories were taken from the high school’s weekly newsletter. Students are now expected to find their own stories, including who to interview to support those stories, with an eye to providing true value to a general audience. Overall, the students involved learn how to manage many moving parts to present a show that is consistent, informative and engaging.



The town of Arlington is deeply devoted to the arts, and musical performances are a prime example. Whether it be a concert series at Town Hall or a performance at Arlington High School, there’s no shortage of live music to cover. The high school youth group operates cameras, video switches, and directs these shows themselves. Over this past year especially, the students have taken real ownership of their productions, oftentimes planning, setting up, and breaking down the equipment very much on their own (well...maybe breaking down needs a bit of incentive, but we’re working on it!). Some notable productions include Town Day 2022, where the students covered all the mainstage performances, and January’s Battle of the Bands, which is always a fun shoot.



**“Brain Rot”** is a new series that aims to diversify our youth content. Instead of the strictly informational programming typically produced by the youth television group, this show is focused on humor and entertainment, often making use of a game show format. While different every week, the show is consistent in its fun-filled, energetic tone. Like our news broadcast, Brain Rot is live on air each week from Studio B.





# [PUBLIC CHANNEL PROGRAMMING]

A Conversation on the Intersection of Guns & Hate - AHRC  
A Watershed Moment (Series)  
A-Town Archetype (Series)  
ACMi Annual General Meeting 2021  
ACMi News (Series)  
ACMi News Promos  
ACMi Podcasts from Farmers Market (Series)  
ACMi Promos and PSAs  
ACMi Studio A Sessions (Series)  
AIFF Musical Performances (Series)  
AIFF Poster Contest Winner Announcement 2022 & George Summers Interview  
AIFF Poster Contest Winner Interview 2022  
APD Chief Flaherty Interview with Summer Maxwell - July 2022  
APD Updates (Series)  
Arlington Author Salon (Series)  
Arlington Jazz Festival 2021  
Bees Deluxe Blues Band  
Broadway Corridor Design Competition  
Check it Out (Library Series)  
COA 60+ Connection (Series)  
Community Conversations (Series)  
Conversations with Creative Minds (Series)  
CrowdSourced Boston - Star Wars  
Dallin Museum - Patriots Day 2022  
DEI Matters (Series)  
DEI Updates  
DPCD Updates  
Embrace Zero Waste (Series of Shorts)  
Friends of Robbins Library Presents: Exercise in Medicine  
Guns & Hoses Hockey Game 2022  
Halloween Event Promo  
Inside the DPW  
Laury Gutiérrez: Afro-Baroque Music  
Living with Coyotes Special Event  
Medicare Lecture - Fall 2022  
Menotomy Concerts (Series)  
Meet the Interns | Spring 2022  
Meet the Interns | Summer 2022  
Meeting Interesting People (Series)  
Memorial Day Ceremony 2022  
MLK Jr. Birthday Observance 2022  
New England Film Orchestra - Feb 26, 2022 (A Black History Month Celebration)  
Patriots Day Parade & Ceremony 2022  
Porchfest 2021 (Series)  
Puppet Show

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Ready Row USA  
Recirclable  
Robbins Library Lecture - War in Ukraine  
Scenes of the Seasons (Series of Shorts)  
Talk of the Town (Series)  
Taste of Arlington (Series of Shorts)  
Town Hall Update  
Veteran Interviews (Series)  
Veterans' Day Parade 2022  
We Hold These Truths (Series)  
What's Sex Got to do With It? (Series)  
Zero Waste Arlington (Series)



# [EDUCATION CHANNEL PROGRAMMING]

## High School Concerts

A Winter Celebration Concert: December 22, 2022  
AHS Winter Concert  
The Italian Soul Festival 2022  
AHS Chorale & Music Tech Collaborative Concert  
Sonic Voyages | Music Tech Concert 2022  
Music Tech Spring Showcase - May 2022  
AHS Honors Orchestra and Music Technology Collaborative Concert

## Middle School Concerts

Ottoson Middle School Winter Concert 2022  
Ottoson Orchestra and Band Concert 2022  
Ottoson All Town Chorus - Spring 2022  
All Town Concert - Ottoson Middle School  
Ottoson Middle School - Winter Chorus Concert

## High School Events

D'Agostino's Builds a 200 ft Sub at AHS  
AHS Senior Parent Night 2022  
AHS Graduation 2022

## Studio Productions

Puppets At Play - Crafts!  
Ponder Scope 11/7/2022  
Ponder Scope 11/14/2022  
Ponder Scope Thanksgiving Special! 11/21/22  
Ponder Scope 11/28/22  
Ponder Scope 12/12/22  
Brain Rot Ep. 1  
Brain Rot Ep. 2  
Brain Rot Ep. 3  
You View S2E4 - Creativity Highlight: Music Tech  
You View S2E5 - Heterogeneous Grouping Initiative  
You View S2E6 - Student Stories: The Who's Tommy  
You View S2E7 - Video Yearbook: Slipping Through My Fingers  
You View S3E1 - AHS Affinity Groups  
You View S3E2 - Student Stories: A Midsummer Night's Dream  
You View S3E3 - Dr. Homan Part II: A Higher Perspective

## Other Events

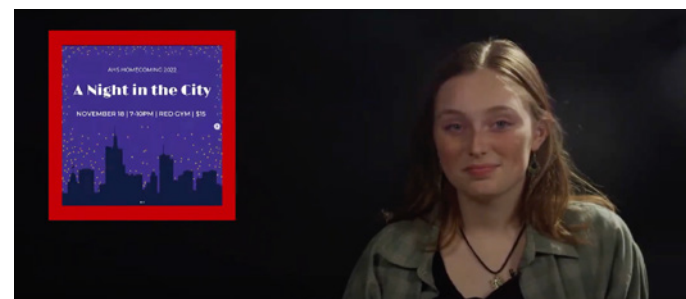
2022 AHS Battle of the Bands  
Arlington Town Day 2022 (Main Stage Performance)  
Ottoson Middle School Production of "Annie"  
Juneteenth Concert at Robbins Park  
Ottoson Graduation 2022

## Elementary School

Dallin Graduation 2022  
Dallin Spring Concert 2022  
Gibbs Winter Concert  
Gibbs Production of "Julius Caesar"

## Sports

Boys Varsity Soccer 2022  
Girls Varsity Soccer 2022  
Boys Varsity Football 2022  
Boys Varsity Basketball 2022  
Girls Varsity Basketball 2022  
Middlesex League Championship Swim Meet 2022  
Arlington High School Wrestling vs Wakefield 12-14-2022  
AHS Football: 2006 through 2014  
Football Thanksgiving 2014 highlights  
Interview with Coach John Jenke  
ACMi Sports Update: An End of the Year Review with the AHS Athletic Director  
AHS Class of 2026 and New Incoming Student Athletes Parent Night  
ACMi Sports Update | June 2022, Season Finale





# [GOVERNMENT CHANNEL]

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

In fact, all of the Government Channel's content, which also includes coverage of local elections, debates, and public forums, is continuously available on VOD. With more than 308 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.

As always, ACMi provided comprehensive coverage of town elections in the spring of 2022, including the Candidates' Night sponsored by the League of Women Voters, video Profiles of the candidates in various races, the only televised debate in the hotly contested race for Town Moderator, and of course live coverage of the voting results.

Continuing the expanded meeting coverage that we started during the pandemic, ACMi's library of content has consistently grown as meetings have increased in both volume and frequency. With most committees meeting in a hybrid format, the ability to record both in-person and online has given ACMi more flexibility to continue covering meetings that were added to our roster during the height of the pandemic.

With one of the longest Arlington Town Meeting sessions in over a decade, ACMi presented all 13 fully remote meetings as 77 Warrant Articles were covered under the new Town Moderator Greg Christiana. 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 approach allowed members to absorb information at their own pace before the meeting itself, which made voting a quicker and more informed process.

Utilizing our hybrid in-person/remote production spaces at Town Hall and Arlington High School meant committee members had increased flexibility in how they participated in meetings over the last year. As Arlington's Remote Participation Study Committee discusses options for shifting all town-wide meetings to a hybrid format, ACMi's coverage of meetings is an essential component.

Even as we move past the most acute phases of the pandemic, we continue to feel its effects and the unique challenges it presents to local government. ACMi strives to refine its broadcast coverage using new technologies to promote increased civic engagement.

***Government meetings are recorded by ACMi Staff and volunteers!***

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**TOTAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMING:**  
= 308 hours of content

Town Meetings & Events:  
Select Board - 32 Meetings  
= 76 hours of content

School Committee - 21 Meetings  
= 41 hours of content

Redevelopment Board - 24 Meetings  
= 48 hours of content

Finance Committee - 15 Meetings  
= 35 hours of content

Town Meeting - 13 Meetings  
= 37 hours of content

Zoning Board of Appeals - 27 Meetings  
= 61 hours of content

Arlington Housing Authority - 13 Meetings  
= 10 hours of content

**EVERYTHING ELSE:**  
18 = hours of content

## **Public Forums and Public Hearings:**

Community Conversations Series

A Conversation on the Intersection of Guns & Hate  
Strengthening the Democratic Party – and Democracy – for the 2022 Midterms

Strengthening the Democratic Party – and Democracy – Local Actions, More Voices

Arlington Minuteman Bikeway Planning Project

AHS Building Project Forum 1: Opening New Wings & What's Next

AHS Building Project Forum 2: Opening New Wings & What's Next

AHS Building Project Abutters Forum

Broadway Corridor Design Competition

Housing Policy is Climate Policy

Park Ave & Wachusett Ave Proposed Bus Stop Changes Public Meeting

Mystic River to Minuteman Bikeway Feasibility Study Public Meeting

Stratton Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Project Public Meeting

Arlington Housing Plan: Making Choices for Housing Equity

Creating Affordable Housing Forum: Ask the Experts

Zoning Demystified

Arlington Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Community Forum

## **Other Public Events:**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance 2022

State of the Town Address - Town Meeting 2022

Memorial Day 2022

Meet & Greet with School Superintendent

Arlington Veterans' Day

Arlington Patriots Day 2022

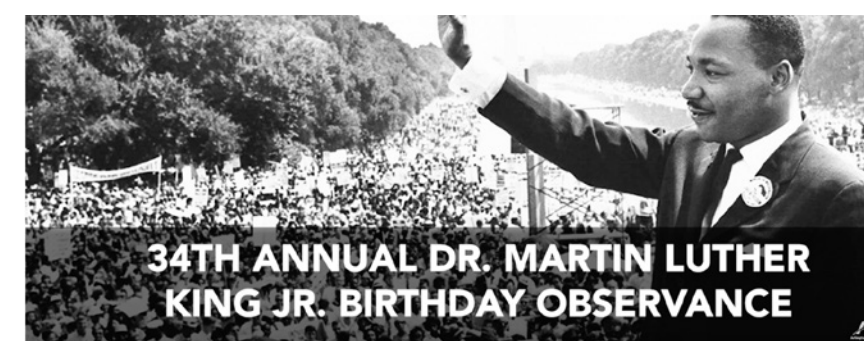
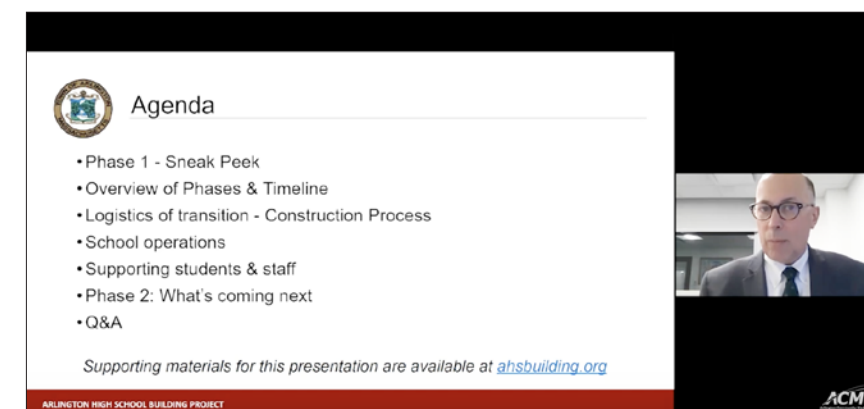
## **Election Events:**

Arlington Town Moderator Debate 2022

Candidate Profiles for Town Elections

Virtual Candidates' Night 2022

Live Ballot Returns 2022





# [ACMI NEWS]

ACMi News continued to break new ground during 2022 despite twelve more months of the Covid pandemic. The primary focus remained the same - how best to inform the Arlington community about notable events and people, important local stories, and current affairs, while taking the news operation to new and exciting heights.

ACMi's previous News Director, Jeff Barnd, returned to the helm after a brief but memorable broadcast excursion in Mississippi. His first priority was once again getting up to speed with the technical aspect of story-telling. James Milan, ACMi's Communications Manager, and Anim Osmani (ACMi's Field Production Coordinator & former News intern) together guided ACMi News very nicely through a year of Covid, as the news team slowly emerged from their homes and dorm rooms and back to "Studio A" to resume the dual-anchor weekly newscast. James and Anim were also a big help in getting Jeff back up to speed technically, laying the groundwork for a seamless transition!

Pandemic or not, there was no shortage of major news events to report on in Arlington throughout 2022. Stories covered by ACMi News include: coyote awareness in a residential town, the arrival of a new School Superintendent, Senator Ed Markey's pending legislation on the future of Community Access Television, the U.S. Supreme Court decision on abortion and the reaction in Arlington, local Black History Month events, LGBTQ+ updates, a marathon Town Meeting session - and the rapid succession of departures and arrivals of key personnel in leadership positions in town government.

ACMi News also covered events that occurred far beyond the confines of Arlington, but which nonetheless have a notable impact on our residents. We interviewed several civilians in Ukraine after Russia's brutal attack on that nation in February 2022. In one case, we interviewed a Ukrainian woman who managed to escape her homeland for the safe haven of Lisbon, Portugal - only to hear her mother and sister had been captured, tortured and were presumed missing in Ukraine for weeks. The report, "I Know Where My Sister Is - A Ukrainian Horror Story," aired in the spring of 2022 and was posted globally on every available social media platform by a Kiev-based grassroots organization called the Ukraine PR Army. The woman's loved ones were eventually found in late spring. It's just one example of ACMi's ability to tell a compelling story (and follow up on the necessary leads) that may not air anywhere else in the Boston Metro area.

ACMi's internship program was once again a major success, tapping into the talents of a cadre of accomplished and enthusiastic college

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students. The News interns of 2022 quickly rose to the challenge of learning how to capture news events on video and edit that coverage on the versatile Adobe Premiere platform. During their time here, they sharpened their skills in news ethics, formulated stories that generated compelling news content, and polished their command of the written word so as to gel flawlessly with their video.

This sparkling group of young Reporters/Anchors often went far beyond their so-called "comfort zone," and managed to produce content that drew frequent praise from Arlington town leaders and residents alike! Their special talent for learning quickly and taking a proactive role in this team effort paid huge dividends for the News operation in early 2022.

Our impressive work did not go unnoticed, as ACMi News was honored by the Alliance for Community Media with a nationally-recognized Hometown Media Award for "News Access" in April 2022. The winning newscast aired on October 15, 2021, and featured veteran news anchor Paul Wehrin with co-anchor and Tufts University intern Nicole Garay. It was a trademark ACMi newscast, in that it delivered the timely events of the week while giving an eager reporter the chance to sit behind the anchor desk - an experience that simply isn't offered at any commercial television station. It's the ultimate representation of what ACMi News has always been about!

The national recognition clearly derives from a robust and diverse team working together every week to achieve pinpoint accuracy and relevancy in their storytelling - and having a lot of fun doing it. Much of the credit for this goes to James Milan, Anim Osmani and the incredible news editing talents of Jared Sweet, who together have built a strong news presence, delivering weekly stories in the face of many unforeseen challenges.

Throughout 2022, ACMi News contacted former news interns who are already in the competitive and adrenaline-infused arena of broadcast journalism - and asked them how ACMi played a role in their career pursuits. We interviewed Isabel Litterest, now a TV Reporter in Savannah, GA; Moses Small, a Reporter/Anchor in San Diego, CA; Stephanie Wittenbach, a TV Reporter in Bangor ME, and Alexandria Acacia, a TV News Line-Producer in Providence, RI. All attested to the patience and expertise of the ACMi Staff - and the rare opportunity for "hands-on" experience that you just can't get in a classroom or a fast-paced newsroom. Several interns stated categorically that their "ACMi News experience" substantially accelerated their learning experience!

Amidst all that's been described, ACMi News also initiated several new regular segments. These include "Arlington Making History," which focuses on this town's rich past and uncovers little-known stories that are truly worth telling; and "Going Mobile," which points viewers towards inexpensive day-trips to destinations outside of Arlington that reveal intriguing facets of our own unique history here in New England.

As we bid farewell to another productive year, the ACMi News team will continue to forge ahead in our efforts to inform, educate and enlighten our cherished audience!



# [FINANCIAL STATEMENTS]

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	
June 30, 2022	
ASSETS	
Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$60,716
Accounts receivable	204,278
Prepaid expenses	9,085
Total current assets	274,079
Property and equipment:	
Computers and equipment	1,331,731
Leasehold improvements	59,312
Furniture and fixtures	37,472
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(1,266,440)
Property and equipment, net	162,075
Other assets:	
Security deposits	-
Investments in securities, at fair value	646,867
Assets restricted for investment in property and equipment	260,055
Total assets	\$1,343,076

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, 2022	
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	
Revenues:	
Municipal contracts	\$685,606
Membership dues and other revenues	4,570
Investment income, net of fees	9,007
Net realized and unrealized gains	(91,854)
Net assets released from restriction	68,587
Total support and revenue	675,916

Expenses:	
Program - production and broadcasting	\$644,974
General and administrative	317,143
Total expenses	962,117
Decrease in net assets without donor restrictions	(286,201)

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	
Revenues:	
Capital grants	112,190
Investment income	-
Net assets released from restriction	(68,587)
Increase in net assets with donor restrictions	43,603
Decrease in net assets	(242,598)
Net assets, beginning of year	1,550,315
Net assets, end of year	\$1,307,717

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	
For the year ended June 30, 2022	
Cash flows from operating activities:	
Decrease in net assets	(242,598)
Adjustments to reconcile decrease in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:	
Contributions restricted for investment in property and equipment	(112,190)
Net realized and unrealized gains on securities	88,467
Depreciation and amortization	83,762
Increase in accounts receivable	2,452
Increase in prepaid expenses	(9,085)
Decrease in accounts payable	6,010
Increase in accrued expenses	(7,090)
Net cash used in operating activities	(190,272)
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Proceeds from sale of securities	86,952
Purchases of securities	(52,392)
Decrease in assets restricted for investment in property and equipment	-
Decrease in cash designated for long-term operations	(20,000)
Purchases of property and equipment	(68,587)
Net cash used in investing activities	(54,027)
Cash flows from financing activities:	
Contributions restricted for investment in property and equipment	112,190
Net cash provided by financing activities	112,190
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(132,109)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	452,880
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$320,771

In memory of...



Kathleen Colwell (1947 to 2022)  
Instrumental in the founding of Arlington Community Media in 2003. Treasurer for ACMi for over fifteen years and a passionate supporter of community television.



Scott Zwick (1970-2023)  
long-time sports broadcaster and friend of ACMi.  
"Bing, bang, boom!"





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