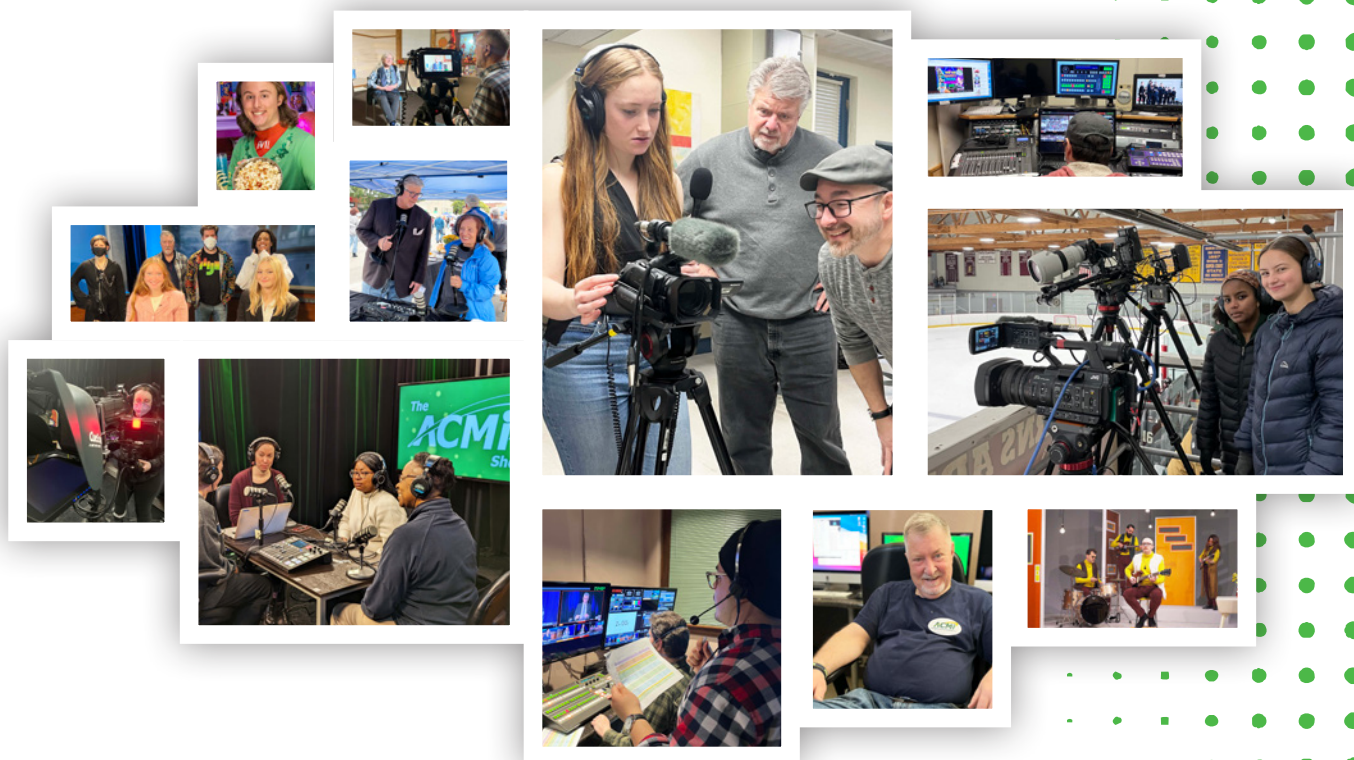
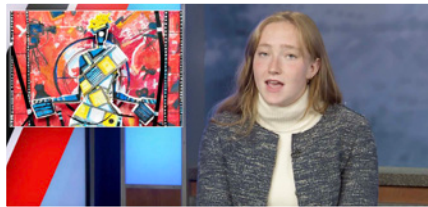


# 2023 ACMi ANNUAL REPORT



A selection of screenshots from 2023 programming



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01 From the Executive Director
- 03 From the President
- 05 Awards & Mentions
- 07 Membership
- 08 Community Bulletin Board
- 09 Facilities & Equipment
- 11 Communications
- 13 Website & Social Media
- 15 Public Channel
- 17 Education Channel
- 19 Public / Education Programs
- 21 Government Channel
- 23 ACMi News
- 27 Financial Statements



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

This past year has certainly seen lots of ups and downs, with almost all of the ups chronicled in the pages of this Annual Report. For example, ACMi News is once again a national award winner, placing first in the Hometown Media Awards for the second year in a row. All of our social media outreach has resulted in our number of followers on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube all going up from last year. We have been complimented on our sports coverage, with parents and grandparents commenting about the depth and quality of our coverage, as well as being amazed at all of the professional equipment we use to cover events. We have had tens of thousands of views on YouTube, including news segments covering Ukraine that have garnered over 8,000 views. The Arlington High School Battle of the Bands had several thousand viewers as well. So our viewership is up, but...unfortunately, our funding is down.

In my letter in last year's Annual Report, I commented that many people are "cutting the cord," and they still are. Since we obtain our operating funding from cable fees, we have been experiencing a major decrease in our income. The result is that our bottom line is being impacted, and if it doesn't go up in the future, ACMi may have to cut back on coverage of town events. Like all other community stations, ACMi is looking for other funding sources and so, for the first time in seventeen years of operation, we had to make direct appeals to the town and our membership for donations to help fill the income gap. On a more hopeful note, there is a possibility that the Massachusetts State Legislature will pass a bill that will provide additional income for all Massachusetts community stations, but that process is very slow, and there's no way to know how much we and the town might receive, or when.

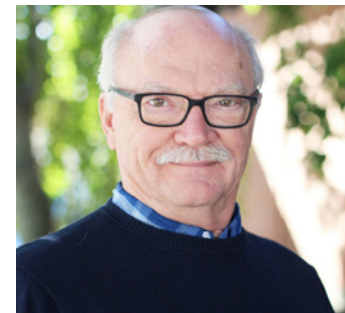
In the fall, we were fortunate to welcome five new ACMi Board members, all of whom have extensive experience in promotion, marketing and fundraising, and all of whom live in Arlington. We also had a brainstorming session here at ACMi with Harvard Business School's Community Action Partners Program, and many new ideas were intro-

duced about how to increase our funding, as well as our presence in Arlington generally. We have had productive conversations with Arlington's new Town Manager, and although he could not guarantee any direct funding from the Town of Arlington, he agreed to help us in other ways, such as including an ACMi appeal insert with town bills. We also are looking at the possibility of creating firewalls on some of our programming, because it's simply not fair that many viewers are not paying cable fees yet are receiving the programs we create or cover for free. Soliciting underwriting of our programming, including town meetings, is also in the works, and hopefully the business community will respond.

I have always had the philosophy that, to succeed, any organization must operate with PFTM in mind. That stands for People, Facilities, Time and Money. Here at ACMi we have always had the right People. We definitely have the right high-quality equipment and Facilities, and over many years we have had the Time to develop a truly viable community-oriented organization that has benefitted both the citizens and the town. Now it's time for ACMi to increase the Money part in order to maintain the high values that both we and the town want us to reflect. Please spread the word that ACMi needs your support and your donation and things will be looking up! Stay well!

Norm McLeod  
Executive Director

# STAFF



**Norm McLeod**

Executive Director



**James Milan**

Communications Manager



**Jeff Barnd**

News Director



**Jeff Munro**

Operations Manager



**Sean Keane**

Government & Programming Coordinator



**Jasper Hamilton**

Youth Coordinator



**JoAnn Clinton**

Administrator Assistant



**Cheryl Brusgulis**

Administrative & Programming Assistant



**Katie Chang**

Production & Media Manager



**Jared Sweet**

Video Editor



# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors and I present to you the Seventeenth Annual Report of Arlington Community Media Inc (ACMi). June 30, 2023 marked the completion of our seventeenth 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 fully opened the new Studio B on Summer St. and completed major upgrades to our satellite studio in Town Hall.

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. This is despite the fact that our budgets are getting tight as a result of the diminishing number of cable subscribers, who have traditionally provided all of our funding through the monthly fees they're charged.

The Board is pleased with the efforts of ACMi members and staff that have resulted in a remarkable 283 hours of quality first-run local government PEG programming, and we were also able to continue to provide a weekly newscast, ACMi News, for our community of viewers. Our website and social media channels recorded an increase in views over previous years, resulting in greater use of our YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram social media channels. We strive to continue to increase our programming, the involvement of ACMi News in the community, and the usage of our equipment. Our members, interns and staff continue to garner both regional and national awards for the programming they produce, which is available worldwide through our website and social media platforms.

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-pro-

duced programming, to look for our equipment and crews around Town, and to become a member, a volunteer, or a producer at ACMi - Arlington's community television station and media center.

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.*



**John D. Leone, Esq.**  
President



**Michael Ruderman**  
Treasurer



**Nancy Flynn-Barvick**  
Member



**Philip J. Privitera, Esq.**  
Member



**Rhianna Ash**  
Member



**Foundation of the Alliance for Community Media - Hometown Media Awards**

**First Place - News Access Center Professional**



**Alliance for Community Media - Northeast Region Nor'Easter Video Festival**

**First Place - Historical Documentary**

**"My Travels with Mrs. Kennedy"**



**Second Place - News & Magazine Format**

**Newscast 11/11/22**



**Third Place - Historical Documentary**

**"Moving the Chains"**



Aside from our Operations Manager, Jeff Munro, who is now well into his third decade at ACMi (and its predecessors), you'd be hard-pressed to find anyone who has been more deeply involved with community media in Arlington than Cheryl Brusgulis. She began volunteering in the 1980s, when community television in Arlington was run by Comcast.

When ACMi was incorporated in 2006, Cheryl was among the first employees hired, and she has been an absolute bedrock for all the years since. Through a variety of vital administrative and production roles, Cheryl has consistently made life better for everyone at ACMi by thinking of the things the rest of us don't, and by performing all the invisible, essential tasks we all depend on.

This year, when she decided to finally heed the beckoning call of retirement, Cheryl, with characteristic thoughtfulness, gave us several months' notice. Yet even with plenty of time to get used to the idea, there was a whiff of panic mixed in with the sadness as it came time to bid her farewell. Cheryl had worked herself so thoroughly into the heart of what ACMi is all about that it was nearly impossible to imagine continuing to move forward without the colleague often referred to simply as "the MVP."

Such farewells are often accompanied by promises to keep in touch and not be a stranger, etc., and all too often nothing comes of that. No such worries in this case though, because Cheryl is an ACMi lifer! She volunteered on numerous productions for many years before she was hired, and she assures us that she fully intends to continue doing so for years to come.

So this piece is not simply a tribute to a prized colleague, it's a celebration of all Cheryl has done and seen over her many years in service to community media in Arlington. She has, for instance, moved from lugging heavy on-the-shoulder Panasonic VCR cameras, through filming with Sony mini-DVD camcorders, to simply whipping out her iPhone to record impressive video. That little pocket device is all she has needed to produce over 80 episodes (!) of Scenes of the Seasons - short videos that capture lovely, iconic images from all over town that highlight the changing colors and tones of the New England calendar.

We are also very grateful to Cheryl for the fact that she curated the programs that appear on our Public channel for many years. Since she continues to be among the most devoted, enthusiastic, and discerning members of our audience, we hope that Cheryl will continue to offer her suggestions and feedback as we evaluate programs from other sources.

Cheryl, we miss you every day. See you next week?



**THANK YOU  
CHERYL!**

# MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS

## Business Members

Ricardhy Grandoit  
Marc Gurton  
Barbara Maffeo  
Jeff Nielson

## Group Members

Betsy Block  
Amber Espar (True Story Theater)  
Douglas Flateau  
Laury Gutierrez  
Deborah Henson-Conant  
Joseph Hughes  
Matt Jatkola  
Jennifer Koh  
Rob Marchant  
Carrie Mosher  
Darius Naigamwalla  
Darius Nelson  
Tonia Pinheiro  
Rachael Stark

## Individual Members

George Akerley  
Neil Anderson  
Jonathan Applefield  
Michael Armanious  
Susi Barbarossa  
Daniel Benoit  
Janice Brodman  
Cheryl Brusgulis  
Martin Colwell  
Karen Dawson  
Margie DiMonte  
Peggy Fenner  
Andrew Fischer  
Robert Fisher  
Marco Franzoni  
John Gagan  
Yoftahe Gebru  
Paul Green  
Alberto Guzman  
Susan Harrington  
Charles Hartshorne  
Daisy Hernandez  
Michael Jacoby Brown  
Alan Jones  
Karen Louise Puopolo  
Elisa MacDonald  
Brenda Mahoney  
Marissa Martin Sobczynski  
Daniel Mayer  
Elena Neva  
Justin Nguyen  
Alec Nicholson

Theodore Peluso  
Zack Phillips  
Maya Pockrose  
Luca Rugiero  
Karen Samuelson  
Betsy Schramm  
Tommy Shenefield  
Joseph Snodgrass  
Andy Takats  
Alfonso Velasquez  
Jordan Weinstein

## Interns

Lilith Adams  
Savannah Anderson  
Leah Atkins  
Toby Barrett  
David Boulet-Gercourt  
Thomas Brosnan  
Jihaad Curry  
Ahaan Gore  
Henry Gould  
Sol Kokkinogenis  
Cecilia Meyer-Turkson  
Samyukta Panth  
Emily Rice  
Thomas Sodeyama-Cardoso  
Ava Solow  
Abigail Sommers  
Junru Tao  
Kerin Tsui  
Eliseo Vigil

## Nonprofit Members

Robin Cohen  
Arlington Center for the Arts  
(Tom Formicola)  
Arlington Jazz (Daniel Fox)  
Ian Jackson  
First Baptist Church of Arlington (Alan Jones)  
Linda Shoemaker  
Park Ave Congregational Church (Leah Lyman Waldron)

## Other

Nick Antonakas  
John Harrison  
Sam Kafrissen  
Shawn Neal  
Don Phelan  
Phil Ryan  
Rajeev Soneja  
Jonathan Spiller  
Arlington Friends of the

Robbins Library  
Arlington International Film Festival  
Cyrus Dallin Museum  
Regent Theatre

## Student Members

Mazen Abukhalaf  
Anne Fleur Andrie  
Veronica Barton  
Derek Brandon  
Ada Bickmeier  
Drew Carman  
Lettie Carswell  
Geneva Carter  
Matthew Casciani  
Ana Cristina Cervera  
Luke Chang  
Simon Cheung  
Elias Church  
Jasper Clare Zellmer  
Meredith  
Maxwell DePriest  
Myles Donato  
Linnea Edry  
Nicholas Ferrara  
Liam Gallagher  
Jackson Gonzalez-Hart  
Lucia A. Grunko  
Kai Hare  
Greg J-S  
David Jagendorf  
Caleb Ji Young Choi  
Guixuan Jin  
Alexander Lee  
Sarah Liu  
Brendan Locke  
Jack Magoun  
Ava McBurney  
Holden Mckinnon  
Dillon Melin  
Tobias Michelsen  
Sarah Morgan-Zawilski  
Toni Mueller  
Ruby  
Donny Noah Felcsuti  
Ezinne Onyemah  
Aiden Paramore  
Dustin Peabody  
Francis Redford  
Nate Rosado  
Henrietta Rota  
Jiwan Ryu  
Ed S  
Cece Scull  
Abi Shapiro  
Ruhaan Sharma-Soneja

Ilya Sharonov  
Lily Sheehan  
Jolin Shi  
Lex Skowronek  
Sam Staiti  
Percy  
Arson Stokes  
Mia Vakoc  
Grace von Zubern  
Miles  
Ghulam Woolman  
Sol Yudowski  
Alice Z  
Maiya Zhou

## Town Agency / Schools

Arlington Chamber of Commerce  
Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture  
Arlington Education Foundation (Laura Fuller)  
Arlington Fire Department  
Arlington High School  
Arlington High School Building Committee  
Arlington Historical Society  
Arlington Housing Authority  
Arlington Police Department  
Arlington Public Library  
Council on Aging  
Finance Committee  
Gibbs School  
MLK Jr Birthday Observance Committee of Arlington  
Ottoson Middle School  
Redevelopment Board  
Select Board  
Town Of Arlington  
Zoning Board of Appeals

# COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARDS

Alliance for Community Media  
Arlington Art Lounge  
Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee  
Arlington Board of Health  
Arlington Boys' & Girls' Club  
Arlington Center for the Arts  
Arlington Chamber of Commerce  
Arlington Children's Theatre  
Arlington Consumer Surveys  
Arlington Council on Aging  
Arlington Department of Planning and Community Development  
Arlington Education Foundation  
Arlington Fire Department  
Arlington Food Pantry  
Arlington Friends of the Drama  
Arlington Garden Club  
Arlington Historic District Commission  
Arlington Historical Society  
Arlington Human Rights Commission  
Arlington Jazz Festival  
Arlington Meetup  
Arlington Public Art  
Arlington Reads Together  
Arlington School Committee  
Arlington Select Board  
Arlington Sons of Italy  
Arlington Tree Committee  
Arlington Youth Health & Safety Coalition  
Autism House Pathways  
Black History Month  
Chillhop Records  
Covid-19 Relief Fund  
Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum  
Department of Public Health  
Department of Public Works  
Double Take Arlington  
Fast and Furriest  
Fidelity House  
First Parish Unitarian Universalist  
Free Meditation Boston  
Friends of Spy Pond  
Friends of the Robbins Library  
Homeschooling Together  
Housing Corporation of Arlington  
James Houlares Early Learning Center  
Jason Russell House  
Knights of Columbus



Little Fox Shop  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council  
Minuteman Bikeway  
Mystic Chorale  
Mystic River Watershed Association  
Old Schwamb Mill  
Park Avenue Congregational Church  
Philharmonic Society of Arlington  
Prayer Festival for World Peace  
Regent Theatre  
Retired Men's Club  
Robbins Library  
Saint Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church  
Saint Vartanantz Church  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
St. Agnes Church  
St. Camillus Parish Community  
Stone Zoo  
True Story Theater



# FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

## Studio A

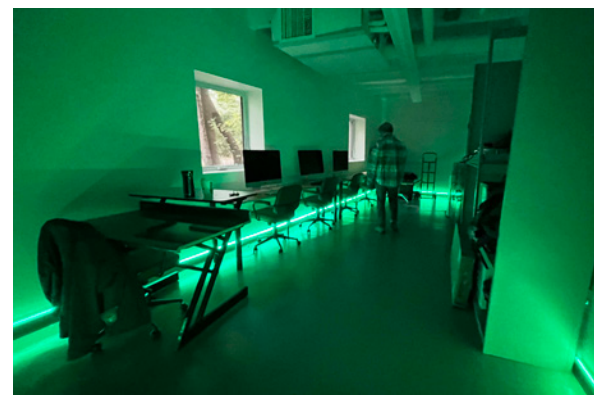
We've always thought of Studio A as "cool," but now, thanks to the introduction of air-sourced heat pumps, it's both cool (in the summer) and energy efficient as well! We have experienced some growing pains, of course, as we get used to the new system, but we are currently "weathering" those changes quite well, and our flagship studio space has gotten noticeably more comfortable, making it even easier for staff, members, and volunteers to come together and make TV!

Or make podcasts, as it turns out... After testing our new podcasting equipment at the Farmers' Market in summer 2022 and getting a great response, we set up a space in our main studio that's tailored to podcasting, and the excitement and energy is palpable as we explore this new medium. The regular podcasting workshop we hold every other Wednesday has drawn a consistent group of devotees, and we've seen those numbers expanding over recent months. We can't wait to see where this is all heading!

We've also introduced a brand-new set of edit suites in both Studio A and Studio B. These Mac Studios with M2 chips reflect the newest advances in Apple Studio hardware, and bring us up to speed going forward. Their processing and performance capabilities are impressive, and they promise to be a tremendous resource for all, from those learning editing for the first time to seasoned veterans of the Adobe Suite.

## Portable Production/Equipment Resource Center

In response to the ever-increasing demand for live concert coverage around town, we doubled our stock of Sony lavalier clip-on mics (from four to eight), and also added a new pair of AKG overhead microphones, along with a heavy weighted stand. We quickly made use of these additions in covering the Menotomy Concert Series at Town Hall, as well as several outdoor concerts in Arlington.



## Studio B

The buildout of our latest facility (the new Studio B) on the lower level of the Food Link building at 108 Summer St has been a major focus for us this year, and the results reflect it! ACMi Youth Coordinator Jasper Hamilton's youth production team continues to redefine the after-school program through exploring program formats, set design, and filmmaking, among other pursuits. Making good use of training and working groups, young producers have been trying their hand at talk shows, game shows, podcasting, documentaries, and independent films. They are learning as they go, and enjoying themselves immensely in the process!

The "Super Suite" post-production room at Studio B is a hive of activity, with students testing motion graphics for sports, editing scenes for their latest project, and even exploring how to use ACMi gear and the facility itself in new ways. One great example of this is that the students recently did a shoot with a local dance team, then underwent a color grading training, and finished by editing the whole into a marvelous presentation. The twist is that they used all the video equipment at hand to do this with still photography instead.

## Portable Production at Studio B

An increasing number of ACMi youth members have a solid grounding in basic camera operation (using our new Sony FX30s, built into Vmount powered rigs), and even directing (on the new ATEM ISO switcher). They have now reached a point where we're seeing next-level work from them as engineers, programmers, and graphic designers, as they pursue special projects and introduce innovative ideas.

These students are integrally involved in the build-out, not only in the studio itself, but also with a series of customized field kits that have enabled them to reach a level of quality and performance that makes the whole team proud. One notable example - the addition of four wireless units to the Sony FX30 cams, allowing Jasper and his crew to move freely to get the best shot, and considerably reducing the time it takes to both set up and break down the equipment for a game or performance.

The team also depends on the small but mighty Eartec intercom system. These require fewer cords - throw in a few more batteries and chargers, and they are off to the races!

## Town Hall Production Center

The big news here is that the audio mixer backstage of the auditorium has been updated. The Behringer X32 Rack system that has been installed is the same system as we have at both Studio A and B, which ensures a helpful consistency across ACMi facilities. The new system can customize audio signals from multiple sources, adding or subtracting audio feeds as required. This setup is much better suited to the complex requirements of covering Town Meeting for instance, with both audience and participants located in multiple locations, including the Annex conference room, the balcony, the stage, and the auditorium itself. It's the latest example of ACMi's continuing commitment to keep pace with the increasing complexity involved in covering important town events and deliberations for Arlington residents.



# COMMUNICATIONS

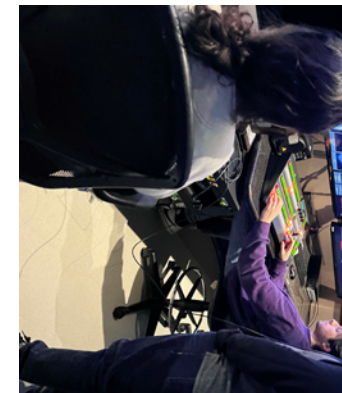
We always strive to keep our members, friends, and partners aware of what's happening at ACMi through all kinds of communications - newsletters, email blasts, blog posts, and social media. We extend an open invitation to those in the community who want to learn the craft of digital media production right in their own town. Orientation tours of our Studio A at 85 Park Ave can be scheduled throughout the week, Monday-Friday, 10-6. These tours provide interested residents with an overview of our 17 years in operation and an introduction to our ever-expanding inventory of equipment and our numerous training opportunities. Although the Arlington Advocate, in which our weekly TV schedule appeared for many years, no longer exists in that form, you can find our current TV schedule on our website at [acmi.tv](http://acmi.tv). 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), YourArlington 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, from the sharing of excellent content to important efforts to push forward vital state legislation to support community media. 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, the Council on Aging, and the Regent Theatre, while we also build connections with others like the Menotomy Concert Series, First Parish Church, and the Arlington Human Rights Commission. We are particularly excited to be closely involved in the early preparations for Arlington's celebration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution that is coming up in 2025.

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, so you can count on them continuing to be a staple for our audience.



## Schools

Our important connections to Arlington schools, discussed in greater detail in another section of this report, continue to expand in exciting ways. During the years in which the pandemic made live attendance at sporting events and arts performances a dicier proposition, ACMi provided an invaluable service to family, friends, and interested viewers. Now that the public health crisis has subsided to some degree, it turns out that ACMi's willingness and ability to provide comprehensive virtual coverage of games and performances continues to be a big hit with the community!

## 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 number of 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.

The biggest challenge to doing so - and in fact the biggest challenge ACMi has ever faced - is the fact that our operating revenue has been dramatically reduced over the last several years, as more people choose to let go of their cable subscriptions. A fee that cable subscribers pay as part of their service has been our sole and exclusive source of revenue for all the years ACMi has existed. We are in new territory now, and will be relying on those in our community who understand and appreciate the pivotal role that ACMi plays in Arlington's civic life. If that includes you, please consider making a donation to ACMi to whatever extent you can. We'll ALL be better off for it!

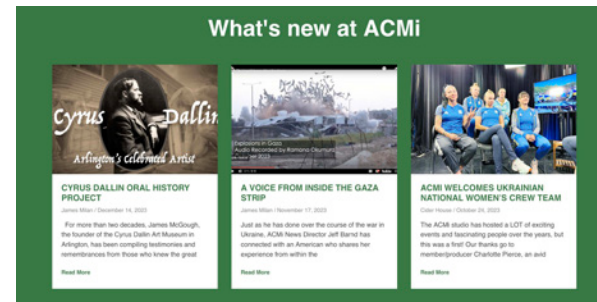




# WEBSITE / SOCIALS

The website attracted about 14,000 users last year, with 2,400 of those being returning users. Many used the website to navigate to our channels, sports coverage, or news pages. The Government Channel page had the highest number of views at 5,600, the Public Channel had 3,000, Sports was at 2,000, and News at 1,600. The new website makes uploading videos more efficient, thanks to its ability to interface with YouTube, allowing us to add more content almost every day.

Facebook and Instagram have consistently proved to be the platforms Arlington residents turn to for engagement, and to seek information. The number of followers on all accounts has seen a steady increase over the past year. Content that includes many members or collaborators has a particularly high engagement rate, with prominent examples including our Town Day post and our Public Channel Highlight reel. In addition, followers of ACMi News seem to appreciate the video posting on the Facebook page, with hundreds of views on many videos.



## Facebook

ACMi - reach 10,600 (up 9% from previous year)  
1,024 followers (up)

ACMi News - reach 14,800 (up 393% from previous year)  
829 followers (up)

## Instagram

ACMi 967 followers (increase from previous year)

News 563 followers (increase from previous year)

Sports 211 followers (increase from previous year)

## YouTube

ACMi - 15,400 watch hours

2,755 subscribers and 45% increase from 1,896

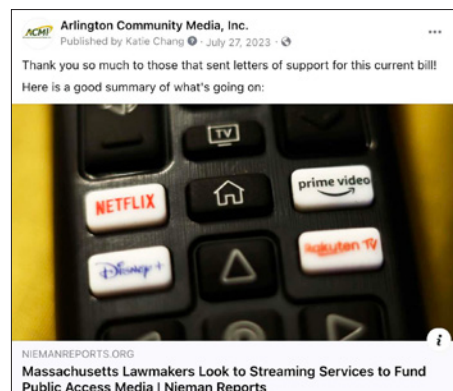
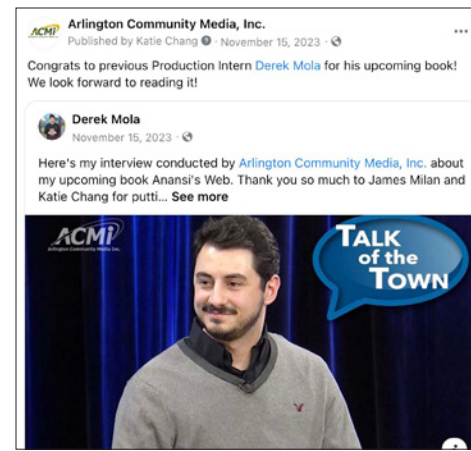
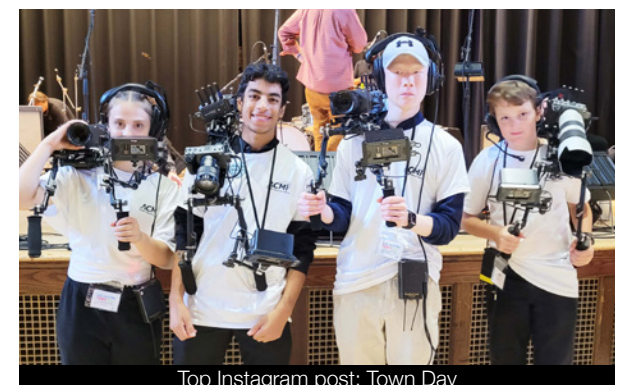
Government meetings and Town Day had the highest audience retention

News - 5,900 watch hours

1,148 subscribers, increase 25% from 919

Sports - 6,600 watch hours

1,238 subscribers, increase 33% from 933





# PUBLIC CHANNEL

Arlington residents and organizations continue to utilize their creativity and passion to produce original, local content for the Public Channel. Every ACMi member producer works hard to make their own unique programming, from bringing in specific guests to incorporating live performances, and more. Every ACMi member volunteer makes these productions possible with their camera expertise, teleprompting prowess, and editing skills. There's no question that ACMi is proud to provide creators and crew with the education, resources, and support they need to create. Running the gamut from in-depth interviews with a longtime Arlington resident (and scout for the New York Mets over several decades!) to live podcasting at the Head of the Charles Regatta, what will ACMi members think to film next?!

## Production Highlights

ACMi member **Peggy Fenner** and her co-host, "Little Bear," brought us their show, "Stories and Art for Kids." With help from a crew composed of members and interns, Peggy shared her own children's books and art installations from Studio A to Spy Pond! And she's not done - Peggy is currently planning a new show called "Crafts and Gifts for the Holidays." Perhaps "Little Bear" will produce his own show!

**Joe Snodgrass** became a member in February this year and hit the ground running by filming and editing the Menotomy Concerts Series with producer Betsy Shramm. He also took on filming concerts for member Laury Gutierrez and her many music groups. Joe has gotten quite adept at running cameras and editing, and we can't wait to see where his curiosity and dedication take him next!

**JATK** is a Boston-based power-pop band, and their Arlington-based songwriter and lead singer, Matt Jatkola, along with his collaborator and filmmaker, JP Disciscio, reached out to us with a music video idea. We opened the doors to the ACMi archive museum and they took home an analog studio Ikegami camera. A year later, "Don't Come Knockin'" was nominated as "Video of the Year" for the Boston Music Awards. As this report is prepared, we don't know the outcome of the awards, but of course we hope it wins! Congratulations on the nomination, JATK! And of course, the vintage camera was returned...good to know it still works!

Since 2020, ACMi has helped film and edit the **Robbins Library Author Salon** which showcases authors and poets. During the pandemic, this was captured via Zoom, but in October of 2022, the event returned to being in-person at the Kickstand Cafe. Five



episodes later, ACMi volunteer **Andrew Fischer** is still raising his hand to help both the library and ACMi to film the event. Thanks, Andrew!

In February 2023, ACMi collaborated with Arlington's DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) department to live-stream a **Lunar New Year** program at Town Hall. Staff and interns captured almost two hours of music, dancing, and presentations that celebrated various Asian cultures. We are proud to have supported this event and are looking forward to doing it again next year.

This year, ACMi sought to capture the spirit of **Valentine's Day** in our little town, reminiscent of our "Small Town, Big Heart" series from 2015. With the help of our Production Interns Eliseo Vigil, Karen Puopolo, David Boulet-Gercourt, and Koloris Wu, as well as our supporters at the Council on Aging and the Robbins Library, we went around town asking folks to tell us what they love about Arlington. One participant evoked Goldilocks in responding, "I love the fact that it's not too big, and it's not too small, it's just right!"

Longtime ACMi staff member **Cheryl Brusgulis** is no stranger to producing! In the 20+ years she has been involved at ACMi, Cheryl has created a variety of special programming, from artistic seasonal shorts to arts and crafts segments in the studio. This year, Cheryl produced a painting competition show, complete with judges, drama, and intrigue! It was a fun project for both crew and cast, and we look forward to more creative programs from Cheryl!

## Looking Ahead...

Knowing where to devote our energy and limited resources is a constant challenge. Of course, we are always excited to help a member produce a show, work with one of our community partners or town agencies, or roll up our sleeves for some coil cabling. This year, we did find time to engage in some different activities. For example, in October, ACMi held a Members Meet & Greet, inviting both old and new ACMi members to Studio A for some snacks and networking. It was a successful event, and we are looking forward to hosting more events like it in the future.

We are planning a series of Spring Workshops in 2024 to invigorate our membership. By offering specialized courses in advanced camera techniques, studio production, and other subjects, we hope to provide members and non-members with more in-depth knowledge than we cover during normal production time and in one-on-one instruction.

ACMi has been incrementally adding podcasting into the mix of what we offer. Last summer, staff member Anim Osmani produced a series of podcasts from the Arlington Farmers' Market. This year, ACMi began hosting a Podcasting Meetup every two weeks. In this space, members interested in podcasting socialize and learn techniques specific to the medium. After recording and publishing two podcasts, we can say that podcasting at ACMi is here to stay! Special thanks to our experienced podcaster, Charlotte Pierce, who brings and shares her years of experience with us, and hasn't missed a single meetup!



# EDUCATION CHANNEL

## Studio B

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. The large studio space has been used to teach production workshops, hold film screenings, and shoot a couple of short films. The studio cameras and control room are now fully functional and ready for live broadcast (including in 4K, which is a first for ACMi).

“You View” continues to garner much praise from the student body, but also from the school’s administration as well. The show’s producers choose to create short pieces that focus on school administrative issues, on which they work closely with the superintendent, as well as making featurettes about performing arts events, such as school plays and musicals.

“Focus Media” remains the place to be for young filmmakers. Students meet regularly to learn techniques and skills that they then apply to their own short films. This year, most of the students are involved with a film, completely student-produced, titled “Mayor!,” which features ACMi’s Youth Coordinator, Jasper Hamilton, playing the mayor of a town that can’t make a decision. The short film has already been a little over a year in the making, and the filmmakers are aiming at January 2024 to premiere the final cut.



## Live Event Coverage

This year saw the advent of new technologies and with it a lot of “firsts” for ACMi. A cornerstone of how we teach is through real-world experience, and our live concert and event coverage is as intensive as it is educational. Four new handheld wireless camera systems were introduced, as well as a new portable switcher to allow for more dynamic event coverage. Evolving alongside the equipment itself are the students, who have taken real ownership of their productions this year, and as a consequence have produced better and more engaging content.

## Live Sports Coverage

Like concert and event coverage, sports productions have also evolved over this past year. With almost every game going live to air, ACMi Sports continues to provide the community with excellent coverage of sporting events. A new graphics system allows for real-time clock and scoreboard info to be incorporated into productions, and animated bumpers and transitions add a professional sheen to the broadcasts. More cameras than ever before allow for better replays, and stand-ups and picture-in-picture keep the shows engaging and dynamic. ACMi Sports has also been working closely with college interns, most notably Nick Antonakas, an Emerson College student who has been an important part of ACMi since his own time at Arlington High School. These college interns bring with them a degree of professionalism and enthusiasm that both teach and inspire the high school volunteers, but also elevate the productions exponentially.





# PUBLIC CHANNEL PROGRAMS

# EDUCATION CHANNEL PROGRAMS

ACMi News Promos (series)  
ACMi Newscasts (series)  
ACMi Promos (series)  
AIFF 2022: In Conversation with Jerald Walker  
AIFF: Honoring the Strength of Women  
AIFF Poster Winner Interview  
AIFF: Youth Shorts 2022  
Ancient Egypt in America (series)  
Annual General Meeting 2022  
APD Chief Flaherty Interview - July 2022  
Arlington 60+ Connection (series)  
Arlington Author Salon (series)  
Arlington Reads Together: Celebrating Judy Heumann  
Boardgamers (series)  
Broadway Corridor Design Competition  
Celina: From Cuba to America  
Check it Out! (series)  
Cold Warriors: A Conversation with Duncan White  
Conversations with Creative Minds (series)  
Dallin Museum - Patriots Day 2022  
DEI Matters (series)  
DEI Updates (series)  
DPCD Updates (series)  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance 2023  
Fandom During Covid  
Friends of Robbins Library presents (series)  
Harvesting Ginger with Wu (short)  
Hot Sauce  
JATK: "Don't Come Knockin" Music Video  
Lunar New Year Event  
Meet the Interns  
Meeting Interesting People (series)  
Menotomy Concert (series)  
Million Dollar Gift (series)  
Mt. Auburn Cemetery - The First Public Garden Cemetery with Egyptian Revival  
Ottoson's 100th Birthday  
Puppets at Play (series)  
Ready, Row USA (series)  
Robbins Library Author (series)  
Robbins Library Event: Combat Zone  
Scenes of the Seasons (series)  
Stories & Art for Kids (series)  
Studio A Sessions (series)  
Suntime by Tommy Shenefield

Talk of the Town (series)  
Taste of Arlington (series)  
The ACMi Podcast Show (series)  
The Library Show (series)  
Town Day 2022: Garden Performances  
We Hold These Truths (series)  
What's Sex Got to Do With It? (series)



Sports Broadcasts average 120 minutes per game, which means over the past year our youth program has produced 74 hours on average of new content. Including our live-to-tape broadcasts (in total there were 18), that brings the number to 110 hours of sports content.

Concert and Event coverage is the same, at about 120 minutes per show. This past year, our youth program produced a total of 22 hours of musical event coverage.

In total, the youth program in 2023 produced 132 hours of new content!

## ACMi Sports (LIVE)

AHS Boys & Girls Soccer AHS  
AHS Boys Varsity Basketball (9 games)  
AHS Boys Varsity Hockey (7 games)  
AHS Boys Varsity Lacrosse  
AHS Boys Varsity Soccer (3 games)  
AHS Girls Varsity Basketball (4 games)  
AHS Girls Varsity Hockey (4 games)  
AHS Girls Varsity Soccer (2 games)  
AHS Gymnastics  
AHS Varsity Football (5 games)

## ACMi Sports (not LIVE)

AHS "Hard Knocks" Documentary  
AHS Boys Varsity Basketball  
AHS Boys Varsity Soccer (4 games)  
AHS Girls Varsity Basketball  
AHS Girls Varsity Hockey  
AHS Girls Varsity Soccer (7 games)  
AHS Wrestling (3 games)

## Concerts and Events

AHS Battle of the Bands 2023  
AHS Music Technology March Collaborative Concert  
Arlington All-Town Choral Concert 2023  
Arlington All-Town Orchestra Concert 2023  
Arlington High School Graduation 2023  
Arlington Pops Concert 2023  
BeJazzled Concert 2023  
Concerto Homecoming - Orchestra and Music Tech Concert  
Jazz Composers Alliance Concert (ft. AHS Jazz Band)  
Ottoson and Gibbs Spring Choral Concert 2023  
Sonic Voyages XIV  
YouView





# 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 283 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.

With two contested races this past election season, ACMi organized debates for both the Arlington Select Board and the School Committee. As we do every year, ACMi worked with candidates to create video profiles outlining their positions and the reasons to vote for them. We also covered the annual Candidates' Night sponsored by the League of Women Voters, and we broadcast the live ballot return count on the night of the election.

Continuing a trend from recent years, many town committees continue to meet in a hybrid in-person/remote format, with ACMi assisting the town with its A/V tech needs more than ever. The ability to meet in this format, with ACMi's technical support, allows the town to have more flexibility in meeting quorum requirements, as well as enabling those with disabilities and health concerns to fully participate in town politics.



For the first time since the 2020 Town Meeting took place outside on the turf at Peirce Field during the height of the pandemic, Town Meeting members met in person at Town Hall this year. With many concerned about Covid 19 exposure, ACMi made use of its A/V technology and staff expertise to create an overflow space in the Town Hall Annex, away from the main body of the meeting. Connecting the Annex with audio and video to the main space in the auditorium allowed those with health concerns to still participate in the meeting, and a secondary overflow space was also created on the balcony of the Town Hall Auditorium. With seven sessions and 69 warrant articles in total, Town Meeting conducted its business quite efficiently, with ACMi's technical support.

One notable article from the 2023 warrant was a direct reflection of ACMi's long-established value to the town. Article 9 of the 2023 Town Warrant removed the requirement to generate a stenographic record of the proceedings of Town Meeting, and cited ACMi's video recordings and historical archiving as filling the need that once required a hired stenographer. Sandy Pooler, the Town Manager, cited that this would eliminate an unnecessary expense of between \$4,000 and \$13,000 per year, all thanks to ACMi.

One thing is for sure, as the technology needs for town governance and civic engagement expand in scope in our ever-changing world, ACMi remains on the front lines, taking on the numerous challenges involved in supporting local government needs and meeting coverage. We would like to give particular thanks to Eliseo and Sol, both of whom went above and beyond their internship duties to provide vital assistance in covering important meetings throughout the year. Thanks to you both!

## TOTAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMING:

= 283 hours of content

Government Meetings recorded by ACMi Staff / volunteers

## Town Meetings & Events:

Select Board Meetings - 33 Meetings  
= 65 hours of content

School Committee Meetings - 18 Meetings  
= 39 hours of content

Redevelopment Board Meetings - 21 Meetings  
= 41 hours of content

Finance Committee Meetings - 23 Meetings  
= 36 hours of content

Town Meeting - 7 Meetings,  
= 19 hours of content

Zoning Board of Appeals - 32 Meetings,  
= 65 hours of content

## EVERYTHING ELSE:

= 18 hours of content

## Public Forums and Public Hearings:

MBTA Communities: Public Meeting and Presentation of Draft Map  
MBTA Communities Working Group  
Town Forum On Artificial Turf  
Specialized Stretch Energy Code Public Forum

## Other Public Events:

Arlington Memorial Day Ceremony 2023  
Arlington Veterans' Day Parade 2023  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance 2023

## Election Events:

Arlington School Committee Debate 2023  
Arlington Select Board Debate 2023  
League of Women Voters Candidates' Night 2023  
Candidate Profiles for Town Elections





# ACMI NEWS

ACMi News had another banner year in Arlington, as all of us continue to gradually emerge from the strictures of Covid. Our weekly half-hour newscast remained hyper-focused on covering notable events and newsmakers, as well as presenting important local stories, current affairs, and human-interest pieces, all while breaking new ground in compelling storytelling.

News highlights began early in the year. 2023 chose the month of January instead of March to come in like a lion. The wet, wintry weather in late 2022 and early 2023 took its toll on the 110-year-old Town Hall building in the first days of the new year – seriously damaging the iconic clock tower and closing the historic Lyons Hearing Room indefinitely. Then Deputy Town Manager Jim Fee-ney gave ACMi News an exclusive interview about the extent of the damage and how long it would take to repair, and he let our audience know that millions of dollars would have to be raised to renovate this proud symbol of our town government.

Other hard-hitting stories would unfold in rapid succession, including:

- a major demonstration following the fatal police-involved shooting of 20-year-old Sayed Faisal;
- live wall-to-wall coverage of our Town Election on April 1st;
- misleading TV campaigns regarding the ongoing Camp Le-Jeune water contamination controversy;
- the fatal poisoning of Arlington’s beloved bald eagle “MK” (and the public outcry that ensued);
- the passionate discussion around using artificial turf for the foreseeable future; and
- the hotly-debated efforts of the MBTA Communities Working Group to redefine zoning in Arlington, which in one instance resulted in a Town Hall hearing that was so spirited it drew Arlington Police to the scene.

ACMi’s newscast also covered numerous human interest events, all of which had a notable impact on our viewing audience. Arlington celebrated the ‘Year of the Rabbit’ at its first Lunar New Year Event at Town Hall in early February – an event that was so well-received that it seems destined to become a fixture on the town’s annual calendar.

In March, we aired several features on Arlington artist Chris Costello, who presented his renowned illustrations at the Schwamb Mill in celebration of Women’s History Month. Costello’s works now grace the back of U.S. quarters, as part of the U.S. Mint’s ongoing “American Women Quarters Program.”



photo by John Harrison

And actor Tom Hanks stunned the owner of the Cambridge Typewriter Company on Massachusetts Avenue when the Hollywood heavyweight donated a hand-signed typewriter from his vast typewriter collection (who knew?) to the East Arlington store. The store owner told ACMi News that the one-of-a-kind typewriter will be auctioned for charity.

Throughout the year, our newscast also covered the rapid succession of departures and arrivals of key personnel in leadership positions in town government. It was a particularly frenetic period of coming and going, and ACMi News kept our audience up to date throughout.

ACMi News once again ventured far beyond the confines of Arlington to cover stories with a notable impact on our residents. For instance, we interviewed several civilians in Ukraine on the grim one-year anniversary of the Russia/Ukraine war. And we stayed in touch with a couple we’ve spoken with regularly throughout the war as they moved from their home in Kiev to a village in southwest Ukraine, following several Russian missile strikes on the capital city.

ACMi News also interviewed a former guest instructor of ours who has embarked on a project that is bringing some much-needed joy to residents in that war-torn nation. Filmmaker Marco Franzoni co-founded the “Mobile Circus for Peace” - a traveling circus featuring Ukrainian and international artists, risking their lives every day to entertain thousands of war-weary residents in western Ukraine.

In the spring of 2023, we aired an in-depth interview with former NAACP President Kweisi Mfume regarding the state of race in the U.S. - specifically addressing police/community relations, immigration, and the prodigious amount of work that must still be done to attain true diversity, equity and inclusion in the current world.

These are just a few examples that highlight ACMi’s ability to tell compelling stories (and follow up on essential leads) that simply did not air anywhere else in the Boston metro area.

The news was not all grim and weighty, of course. We also had a lot of fun covering entertainment- and history-related news in Arlington and beyond, including:

- Arlington’s 2023 JazzFest;
- Dame Delicious (an all-women-owned and operated business event);
- Tap-Dance Inn;
- the cast of the celebrated musical film “Jesus Christ Superstar” in person;
- Ray Greene – lead singer for the rock band Santana; and
- popular 60s band The Cowsills - who inspired the TV show “The Partridge Family.”

We also had the opportunity to interview descendants of U.S. Presidents Grant, McKinley, Eisenhower and Taft, all of whom are advocating for a national “First Ladies Day” to honor all those women who stood by their husbands throughout the peaks and the valleys of their presidential administrations.

ACMi News took on a unique and somewhat daunting challenge this



year, joining forces with the Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum to shoot, produce and edit an 18-part “Oral Histories” program. This major project focuses on one of Arlington’s favorite sons - the world-renowned sculptor, Cyrus Dallin. For the series, area residents read first-hand accounts of people who came in contact with this master artist and have a fascinating story to tell. In one case, a news viewer saw an episode from the series and added her own story to the project!

We also were able to gain unprecedented access to the private Arlington Heights home where Cyrus Dallin resided in the early 20th century. The Cyrus E. Dallin Oral Histories Series is now permanently posted to the Dallin Art Museum website for posterity. ACMi News was honored to take on a task that is sure to leave a long-lasting mark on the town of Arlington. Few museums in the world are located in the town where the artist actually lived and worked. Arlington is among that select few!

Our news internship program was once again a major success, tapping into the talents of an enthusiastic group of college and high school students – who will most certainly become our storytellers of tomorrow! The news interns quickly rose to the challenge of capturing weekly news events out in the field and polishing their stories in-house on the Adobe Premiere platform. This exuberant group of students often went outside their so-called “comfort zone” - testing themselves professionally and personally. Their efforts paid big dividends, as they fine-tuned their craft on a weekly basis and drew praise from town leaders and residents alike!

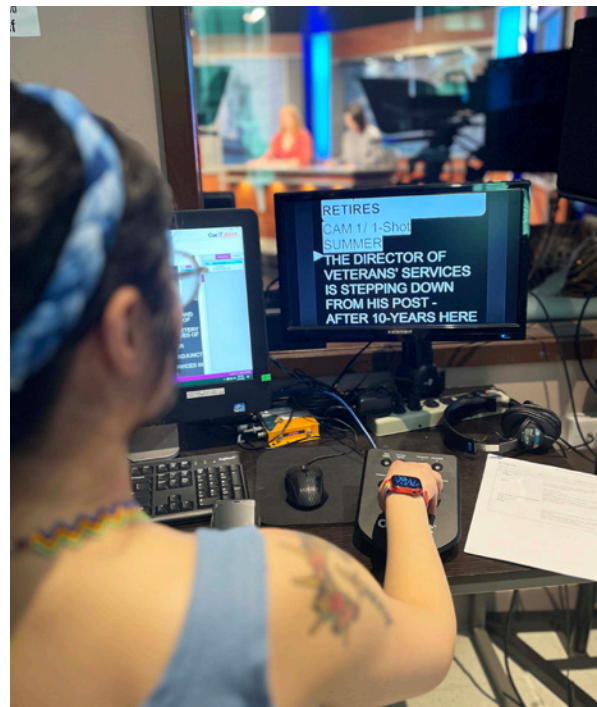
One phenomenon we never get tired of at ACMi News is when interns come in on a particular career trajectory, only to have their experience at ACMi catapult them in a brand-new direction. For example, one Emerson College summer intern wanted to help produce newscasts and reports, and made it clear she wanted nothing to do with on-camera work. Soon enough, with consistent encouragement from us, she was producing, reporting and writing her own news stories. And toward the end of her semester with us, she actually volunteered to anchor one of our newscasts and did a wonderful job!

She seamlessly went from helping to produce the stories – to owning them.

#### More Awards

All this impressive work did not go unnoticed – again.

ACMi News won the **Hometown Media Nationwide Award** in the category of “News Access” for the *second consecutive year!* We submitted a newscast from November 11, 2022, anchored by ACMi’s James Milan and news intern Summer Maxwell, and edited by Jared Sweet.



This newscast covered the aftermath of the midterm elections, an update on Arlington’s Old Burying Ground, and two reports by ACMi News Director Jeff Barnd - one about the ongoing sewage overflows at the Alewife Brook, and the other about a 200-foot sub sandwich from D’Agostino’s Deli that raised money for Food Link. It was a trademark ACMi newscast, in that it delivered the timely events of the week while offering an eager news reporter a coveted chance to sit at the anchor desk – an experience that’s impossible to offer at any commercial television news outlet. It’s the ultimate reflection of what ACMi News has always been about!

As we enter a new year that is sure to be action-packed with local and national political implications, the ACMi News team will continue to deliver a productive, professional, and compelling broadcast that promises to inform, educate and enlighten our loyal viewing audience.





# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION June 30, 2023	
ASSETS	
Current assets:	
Cash and equivalents:	206,194
Cash and cash equivalents, restricted	47,446
Accounts receivable	195,618
Investments in securities, at fair value	673,995
Prepaid expenses	630
Total current assets	1,123,883
Property and equipment:	
Computers and equipment	1,212,070
Leasehold improvements	86,378
Furniture and fixtures	37,772
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	1,175,315
Property and equipment, net	160,905
Other assets	
Right-of-use asset	220,106
Total assets:	\$1,504,894

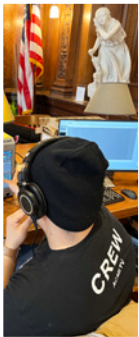
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	2,630
Accrued expenses	26,823
Total current liabilities	29,453
Lease liability	220,106
Net assets:	
Without donor restrictions	
Board-designated for long term operations	555,000
Undesignated	408,038
Total without donor restrictions	963,038
With donor restrictions	292,297
Total net assets	1,255,335
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,504,894

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS For the year ended June 30, 2023	
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	
Revenues:	
Municipal contracts	648,011
Membership dues and other revenues	3,690

Interest and dividends	15,264
Net realized and unrealized gains	41,999
Net assets released from restriction	62,757
Total support and revenue	771,721
Expenses	
Program - production and broadcasting	578,269
General and administrative	267,567
Total expenses	845,836
Decrease in net assets without donor restrictions	(74,115)

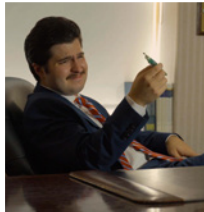
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	
Revenues:	
Capital grants	84,490
Investment income	
Net assets released from restriction	(62,757)
Increase in net assets with donor restrictions	21,733
Change in net assets	21,733
Net assets, beginning of year	1,307,717
Net assets, end of year	\$1,255,335

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the year ended June 30, 2023	
Cash flows from operating activities:	
Decrease in net assets	(52,382)
Adjustments to reconcile decrease in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:	
Net realized and unrealized gains on securities	(41,999)
Depreciation and amortization	63,664
Decrease in accounts receivable	8,660
Decrease in prepaid expenses	8,455
Decrease in accounts payable	(6,648)
Increase in accrued expenses	742
Net cash used in operating activities	(19,508)
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Proceeds from sale of securities	381,649
Purchases of securities	(351,514)
Interest and dividends reinvested	(15,264)
Purchases of property and equipment	(62,494)
Net cash used in investing activities	(47,623)
Cash flows from financing activities:	
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(67,131)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	320,771
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$253,640





# ARLINGTON COMMUNITY MEDIA, INC.



781-777-1115

info@acmi.tv

www.ACMi.tv

85 Park Ave

108 Summer St