



FY 2016 Annual Report

246 Market Street, Lowell, MA
www.LTC.org



LTC Staff 2016

Soumita Acharya
Municipal Producer / Community Producer

Wendy Blom / Steve Brogan
Executive Director

Alexander Baker
IT Specialist & Facility Manager

Caroline Gallagher
Programming Coordinator

Brian Dorrington
Director of Municipal Programming

Geoff Klane
Director of Municipal Prog. /Municipal Producer

Steve Manock
Production Support Coordinator

Joanne McGilvery
Reception

Gloria Polites
Outreach Coordinator

Nary Tith
Administrator

Dan Toomey
Director of Community Prog./Special Projects

Board of Directors

City Manager Appointees

Mike Demaras
Erin Findlen
Susan Halter, Clerk
Sean Thibodeau

City Council Appointees

Wael Kamal
Jim Leary, City Council Liaison
Jay Linnehan, President
John McDonough
Danielle McFadden

School Committee Appointees

Jack Pinard, Vice President
Anne Sheehy

Member Representatives

Britt Boughner
Brian Kovalski Hernandez
John Lawlor
Sidney Liang
Lynn Lupien
Bob McCarthy
Fru Nkimheng
Michael Reid, Treasurer

The mission of LTC is to foster open access to information and communications technologies for the distribution of free ideas, community development, and personal empowerment.



Comments from the Executive Director - Wendy Blom



I was thrilled to come back to LTC in January as the Executive Director after fifteen years away serving other access stations in Boston and Somerville. Coming back, I was very impressed with the high-tech facilities, comfortable offices, and how well LTC uses its resources to serve the community. In fact, LTC must be one of the most well used access stations in the country. The studios are booked for two or three live shows each night, Monday through Thursday. That is very unusual for an access station and I am so proud to tell other access folks about our programming. There is a sturdy foundation here on which to build new programs that can expand LTC's reach even more.

In other areas we are a bit behind. The video created with our standard definition equipment in Studio A looks very old fashioned. We are changing that by upgrading all LTC's production facilities to high definition, including for multi-camera field productions. Although we can't broadcast in HD yet, with a new broadcast server to be installed in 2016, we will be streaming all three channels in HD to all computer devices, including iPhones. We will be ready to cablecast in HD whenever Comcast gives us HD channels. Lowell's State Senator, Eileen Donohue has been advocating in the State House to require cable companies to provide high definition access channels. We all hope that will come about soon.

Other initiatives that have begun are the weekly news program "LTC News," youth media workshops, new classes, and more resources going to help non-profits produce shows on LTC. The Board has been very supportive of the new projects and is committed to seeing LTC thrive. I will be sorry to say goodbye to Jay Linnehan as Board President. He has been a great help by guiding the Board and orienting me to the culture of Lowell with his years of experience as a Lowell resident and non-profit leader.

I want to thank all the members, staff, and Board for their warm welcome and dedication to making LTC a shining example of what an access center can be for its community.

Comments from the Board President - Jay Linnehan



LTC has seen some major accomplishments this year. We hired Wendy Blom as our Executive Director in January. She came to us with many years of public access management and production experience and has been able to accomplish a great deal in her first year. Soon after Wendy began at LTC, the Board held a planning session with a consultant which led to the development of ambitious goals for the year. We also established beneficial partnerships with both Middlesex Community College and UMass Lowell. The partnerships help LTC's bottom line, assist in the training of new media professionals, and created a digital archive of old Lowell news programs. We secured a three year contract with the City of

Lowell to provide municipal programming on Channel 99.

After serving on the LTC Board of Directors for eight years, it is time for me to step off. I have enjoyed my tenure and am pleased that the work we all did together to expand the facility, stabilize the finances, and hire new leadership has kept the organization prospering. I see great things ahead for Lowell's community media center.

Membership

Individual Members: 313

Member Organizations: 35

African Cultural Association
Angkor Dance Troupe
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Lowell
Brush Art Gallery
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
Center For Hope
Christ Jubilee International Ministries
Circle Home Inc.
Clemente Park
Coalition for a Better Acre
COOL
D'Youville Senior Care
Fifth Baptist Church
Girl Scouts of Eastern MA
Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell
Glory Buddhist Temple
Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce
Greater Lowell Community Foundation

Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union
Jesus Miracle Center
Khmer Buddhist Monks
Khmer Cultural Council
King of Kings Church
Lowell Community Charter Public School
Lowell All Nations SDA Church
Lowell Celebrates Kerouac
Lowell Community Health Center
Market Condominium Trust
Merrimack Valley Convention & Visitors
Bureau
Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership
Middlesex Community College
Pollard Memorial Library
Project Learn
Renaissance Club
United Teen Equality Center
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Whistler House Museum of Art

Interns

Dillon Carreiro	Andrew Loughlin
Glen Cote	Valerie Louissaint
Kadeem Davis	Monica La Mao
Aaron King	Carina Marquez
Joshua Landis	Sean O'Donnell
Henry Lopez	



Intern Sean O'Donnell

Gallery Exhibitions



July 2015	Making Art with Artists
August 2015	Broad Strokes-Pushing Quilts to Art
September 2015	LTC Members & Friends
November 2015	UML Printmaking Exhibit- Part of Boston Printmakers Biennial
January 2016	Donna Howard
March 2016	Visual Voices
May 2016	MCC Juried Show
June 2016	Making Art with Artists

Programming and Usage Statistics



From July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, LTC broadcast 1,932 hours of original programming on Channel 8, 2,895 hours of original programming on Channel 95, and 443 hours of original programming on Channel 99. LTC broadcast a total of 14,440 hours of local programming, original and repeats on its channels.



From July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, LTC members and staff checked out cameras 280 times and used the studios 771 times for a total value to the community of \$1,485,806.

LTC welcomed 9,604 visitors during the year.

LTC 2016 Award Winners

Lifetime Achievement - Jim Peters

Intern of the Year - Sean O'Donnell

Volunteer of the Year - Derek Johnson

LTC Spirit - Steve Bickford

Producer of the Year - Jendha Sos for "Temple News"

New Show of the Year - "Recovery Matters" - Bill Garr

Organizational Partner of the Year - Enterprise Bank

Channel 8 Show of the Year - "City Life" - John McDonough

Channel 95 Show of the Year - "Khmer Sentimental" - Bunrith Sath

Channel 99 Show of the Year - "Our Neighborhood" - Ann Marie Page



John McDonough, "City Life"

Congratulations to all the award winners!



Scene from "Temple News"



Jim Peters and Mayor Edward Kennedy on "Peters Principles"



James Wilde, guest on "Our Neighborhood"

Highlights of FY 2016

- * Live coverage of the Lowell Folk Festival
- * Lowell Celebrates Kerouac performance in the LTC Gallery
- * LTC 20th Anniversary Annual Meeting & Awards
- * Concert in the Courtyard
- * Served as a polling site
- * Hosted community meetings: Lowell Celebrates Kerouac, Downtown Neighborhood Assoc., Canal Place 3 Condominium Association
- * LTC Yard Sale
- * Live coverage of the Southeast Asian Water Festival
- * Converted an upstairs storage room into an audio production room.
- * Partnered with Middlesex Community College Media Department, providing classroom space and studio facilities for their media production classes
- * Cablecast the MCC graduation live from the Memorial Auditorium.
- * Screening of International Women in Film and Video's Festival Winners
- * Screening of Youth Matters Media Festival winners
- * Downtown Lowell First Thursdays participant
- * Partnered with the University of Massachusetts Lowell to digitize and archive old Lowell news shows for world-wide access.
- * Provided election programming.
- * Covered rallies for Black Lives Matter and Transgender Rights.
- * Recorded a tour and collection video of the American Textile History Museum's collection right before it closed.
- * Began offering TV production classes in Spanish.
- * Signed a new three-year contract with the City of Lowell for Municipal programming and equipment funding.
- * Hired new staff: Wendy Blom, Executive Director, Caroline Gallagher, Access Programming Coordinator, Brian Dorrington, Municipal Programming Director
- * Lowell Public Schools Civics Day tour
- * Readthrough rehearsals of local plays
- * Girl Scout PSA workshop
- * Chamber of Commerce sponsored workshops
- * Covered the Khmer Post Asian Festival
- * Merrimack Valley Time Exchange Skill Sharing workshop
- * Wicked Staffing luncheon workshop
- * Girls Inc. Mill Girls of Lowell Photovoice project showing
- * Covered Winter Fest



Member Series Programs



Sidney Liang, Jivit Thmei

Angkor New
At Home With You
Beyond
Cambodia News Program
Cambodia Town
Cambodian Amer. Christian TV
Cambodian Baptist
Chamber Chat
Chanting
City Life
CMAA TV
Colores Latinos
Comm. of Khmer Buddhist Monks
Camb. Women's Learning Project
Camb. Women's Organization TV
Dharmma Talk
Discourse
Dollars & Sense
Fellowship Hour
Fifth Street Baptist Church
Glory Buddhist Temple
Good News
Ha Tora Yeshiva
Iraqi Refugee
Jivit Thmei
Khmer Angkor
Khmer Buddhist
Khmer Cultural Council

Khmer Refugee
Khmer Sentimental Show
Khmer Talk
Khmer Tradition
Life and Art
Living in Cambodia
Lowell Cambodian American TV
MAPS
New Buddhist Temple
Our Neighborhood
Peter's Principles
Pilgrimage to India
Random Access Theater
Recovery Matters
Resurrection Revival
Temple News
Temple Outreach
The Bob Show
This Town's Characters
This Week at Lowell
Community Charter School
Tiempo de Paz
Tierra de la Paz
Understanding Buddhism
Visiting Asia
Voice of Democracy
Voice of Khmer-Americans
Voice of Khmer Unity
Voz Do Atlantico
Voz Do
Young At Heart
Youth to Christ



Kathy Hirbour, American Textile History Museum

Training

LTC taught 103 students 32 classes in:

Photoshop	Studio B Production
Basic Editing Final Cut Pro X	Intro to Mac
Basic Editing Adobe Premiere	Field Production
Video Production in Spanish	DSLR Camera Video
Wordpress	Studio A Production



Total Tuition: \$2,530

Board Goals for FY2016

In June 2016, the Board of Directors approved goals and an action plan for the next year:

Engage the Community

1. Hire a community producer to work with NPO's artists, businesses to cover events, produce series programs and specials.
2. Establish a podcast channel
3. Launch a news program
4. Cover youth sports
5. Establish a year-round youth media program

Financial Stability

1. Negotiate a good three-year contract for municipal funding and capital and establish good relationships with elected officials at all levels.
2. Establish collaborations with UMass and MCC that bring in funding
3. Bring in funds through business memberships, sponsorships, and production services.
4. Work with MassAccess to advocate for PEG in the Statehouse

Operational Effectiveness and Efficiency

1. Offer competitive salaries, benefits, and development opportunities to staff
2. Upgrade all facilities to high definition
3. Keep production equipment up to date and in good repair
4. Keep office technology running smoothly

Interesting, diverse programming on varied distribution channels

1. Run interesting, professional promotions for LTC on all three channels.
2. Purchase a new broadcast server with a better Internet interface
3. Keep the electronic bulletin boards updated and full
4. Explore getting LTC programming on Smart TV services
5. Routinize live productions via the Internet

Create a Three-Year Strategic Plan

1. Convene a Planning Committee
2. Look forward three years
3. Include Mission, Vision, and Goals

Photo Gallery



Looking Ahead



In the Fall of 2016 LTC moved ahead with its transition to an all high-definition facility with the purchase of a new HD-ready broadcast server that will stream LTC channels in high definition to all computers and mobile devices, including to a Roku channel.



Studio A will be upgraded to HD as well, with three new HD Sony cameras, a wireless intercom system, teleprompter, and a Tricaster switcher with graphics and virtual set capability.



In September 2016 staff launched the weekly program LTC News, with volunteer host Al Gentile. The show is a collaboration with The Lowell Sun which provides an interview segment. Other segments include a tourism tip from the Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau, a City Council synopsis, and stories about issues and events in Lowell.



LTC is collaborating with Middlesex Community College to offer podcasting to LTC members. It will provide a new way for Lowell residents to communicate with their neighbors . . . and the world!

Statements of Financial Position as of June 30, 2015 & 2016

	2016	2015
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 501,678	\$ 446,459
Accounts Receivable	326,492	300,000
Prepaid Expenses	8,549	102
Total current assets	836,719	746,561
Fixed assets		
Leasehold improvements	1,182,436	1,170,332
Studio equipment	337,014	291,743
Computer equipment	84,412	76,832
Office Equipment and furniture	7,846	7,846
Total fixed assets	1,611,708	1,546,753
Less: accumulated depreciation	(1,036,612)	(874,500)
Fixed assets - net	575,096	672,253
Total assets	\$1,411,815	\$1,418,814
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 28,123	\$ 31,526
Accrued payroll and vacation	8,010	26,853
Fiscal agent liability	18,499	21,207
Deferred revenue	-	5,996
Total current liabilities	\$ 54,632	\$ 85,582
Net assets		
Unrestricted	1,356,683	1,333,232
Temporarily restricted	500	-
Total net assets	1,357,183	1,333,232
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,411,815	\$1,418,814

Comments from the LTC Treasurer - Michael Reid



I am pleased to report that LTC is in a strong financial position, thanks to stable funding from Comcast cable franchise revenue, continued support from the City of Lowell, and more efficient use of funds. LTC's new three-year contract with the City for municipal programming includes funding to provide closed captioning of the City Council meetings for the hearing impaired. It also provides for new equipment purchases, which are central to our operations.

Looking ahead, we will consider the probability that our franchise fee income could decrease as viewers get more of their television programming over the Internet. We will be looking at ways to diversify our funding sources to continue our commitment to new technology and providing a high level of service to the community.

LTC is a valuable resource that deserves support. If you are not already a member, I encourage you to join LTC. For more information on membership, visit LTC.org and click on the "Membership" link. To support LTC through a tax deductible donation, simply click "donate" on any page of the website.

Statements of Activities

	2016	2015
Support and revenues		
Franchise Fees	\$ 662,389	\$ 607,455
Franchise fees- captial funding	40,000	30,000
Production Services	125,000	125,000
Grants	39,806	10,932
Other income	23,539	9,210
Memberships and contributions	10,110	6,520
Interest income	1,050	1,011
Underwriting income	30	-
Net assets released from restrictions	670	3,023
Total support and revenue	\$862,594	\$ 793,151
Expenses		
Public Access	\$ 497,343	\$ 421,546
Municipal Programming	177,254	186,615
General and administrative	164,546	175,500
Total operating expenses	\$ 839,143	\$ 783,661
Increase in unrestricted net assets	\$ 23,451	\$ 9,490

