

2019 Annual Report

246 Market Street, Lowell, MA

www.LTC.org



Lowell's Media and Education Center

www.LTC.org



Board of Directors

City Manager Appointees

Allison Lamey
John McDonough
Kerran Vigroux

City Council Appointees

Roberto Dei
Wael Kamal

School Committee Appointees

Anthony Nganga
Karen Sennott

Member Representatives

Visal Chin
Brendan Flynn, Treasurer
Maritza Grooms, Clerk
Lynne Lupien, Vice President
Fru Nkimbeng
Michael Reid, President
Tola Sok

LTC Staff

Soumita Acharya

Community Producer

Wendy Blom

Executive Director

Pamela DeBarros

Municipal Meeting Producer

Caroline Gallagher

News Director & Programming Coordinator

Steve Manock

Facility Manager

Kris Macneil

News Director & Programming Coordinator

Matthew Nelson

Director of Municipal Programming

Joanne McGilvery

Reception

Jose Negron

Municipal Meeting Producer

Gloria Polites

Outreach Coordinator

Nary Tith

Administrator



At the LTC Open House in January 2019



Field Production Basics class

Comments from the Executive Director - Wendy Blom



It was an exciting year for LTC, starting with a Board retreat in October 2018 that led to an increased emphasis on community partnerships with revenue opportunities, on-line distribution, and rebranding. After 26 years with the name Lowell Telecommunications Corp., we switched our everyday business name to Lowell TeleMedia Center for a more community-oriented and inclusive image. The name change came with new signage inside and out.

LTC was an active conduit for election information. We covered multiple candidate forums and election night results for the race for U.S. Congress, which was won by Lowell native Lori Trahan. As the City dealt with a lawsuit over its at-large election system, LTC assisted the City by broadcasting listening sessions in City neighborhoods and information sessions about options for change.

Maintaining government transparen-

cy is a key mission for LTC. Municipal Director Matt Nelson works closely with the City Manager, City Council and the School Committee to cover as many meetings as possible. This year we purchased production equipment that allows LTC to broadcast live from the Mayor's Reception Room at City Hall so that two meetings can be broadcast simultaneously. Meeting coverage is widely watched on Channel 99 and the live broadcasts top the list for on-line viewing as well.

Community engagement also stepped up due to the dedication of Community Producer Soumita Acharya. LTC covered many community events, lectures, forums, protests, ribbon-cuttings, and the numerous festivals held throughout the year. Non-profits began new shows and members continued to reach their constituents through their series programs in English, Khmer, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic.

What an honor it is to work at Lowell TeleMedia Center, winner of a 2019 Award for Overall Excellence by the Alliance for Community Media Northeast Region!



Dignitaries from Southern Cameroon with Lowell City Councilors and LTC members and staff



Comments from the Board President - Michael Reid



LTC continues to serve as Lowell's communication hub for information on City government, elections, community events, and much more. The bi-weekly news program, LTC News, keeps residents informed on topics that affect their day-to-day lives in the City.

The Board of Directors is thrilled that LTC was recognized this year by the Alliance for Community Media Northeast

for Overall Excellence and for specific programs. The awards reflect the broad involvement of Lowell's diverse residents at LTC, and the high production quality they can achieve on their shows with our equipment and facilities.

The Board continues to work with LTC's team to create a more vibrant and sustainable future for the organization, while maintaining our focus on new technology and services for our producers.

Looking forward, I see great things ahead for Lowell's community media and education center.

Comments from the Treasurer - Brendan Flynn



I am pleased to report that LTC ended the fiscal year in a strong financial position. Although we experienced a reduction of our franchise fee revenue, some of this was offset by additional income through fundraising efforts, investments, and our municipal contract with the City. Outstanding management of LTC's expenses during the fiscal year also decreased the impact of the franchise fee reduction.

Looking ahead to next year, LTC's share of franchise fee revenue could continue to decline, so we plan to continue

our efforts to find more diverse funding sources, as a way to meet this challenge. We will also continue to investigate new technologies, and new partnership opportunities within the community.

LTC remains a valuable resource within our community. Now more than ever, your support makes a difference and will continue to provide the diverse programming that we count on. If you're interested in learning more about LTC, or becoming a member, please visit LTC.org and click on "Membership". You can also support LTC through a tax deductible donation.

FY 19 Programming and Usage Statistics

Channel 8	2,309 hours of original programming
Channel 95	3,081 hours of original programming
Channel 99	763 hours of original programming
Total Hours	12,297 hours of local programming, both original and repeats
Equipment Usage	Members and staff checked out cameras 241 times
Studio Usage	The studios were used 777 times
Visitors to LTC	11,793 visitors during the year
LTC \$ Value	\$1,163,193 in equipment and facility usage

History in Lowell by Maritza Grooms



Prof. Robert Forrant and Maritza Grooms on History in Lowell

Since 2017, *History in Lowell* has become a beloved monthly program where the hosts have followed the timeline of Lowell, primarily from the mid-19th century when the Irish Immigrants were digging out the canals, all the way up to the present, celebrating the International Institute's 100 years of resettling immigrants and refugees in Lowell.

History in Lowell began as a one-off "Black History" special in February 2017. Distinguished UML History Professor, Robert Forrant, and LTC Board Member and budding historian, Maritza Grooms, came back for another episode of "Women's History in Lowell" that March. The rest is, well, history!

The hosts make learning accessible and fun, while also analyzing what has changed overtime and why. The program highlights the various immigrant and refugee groups that have become a vital thread in the vibrant tapestry of the Lowell community, often featuring local community members who get to tell their unique stories.

Highlights of the Year: July 2018 - June 2019

- * Live coverage of the Lowell Folk Festival
- * Live coverage of the Southeast Asian Water Festival
- * Live coverage of the African Festival
- * Coverage of the Lowell Kinetic Sculpture Race
- * Cablecast the MCC graduation live from the Memorial Auditorium.
- * Lowell Public Schools Civics Day tour
- * Coverage of Lowell Winter Fest
- * Hosted community meetings
- * Covered candidate debates for State and Federal offices.
- * Won an award for best music video in the "A Town Youth Video Contest"
- * Coverage of "Dance for Peace"
- * Interpretation of summaries of Lowell City Council meetings in Spanish and Khmer
- * Coverage of community listening sessions on options for a new election system.
- * Produced a video for the CTI gala based on the *Tonight Show*.
- * Held LTC's first fundraiser, "Dinner in the Park" in September 2018. Repeated in September 2019.
- * Covered the CTI Youth Homelessness Summit.
- * Covered the recitation of the July 4 Frederick Douglas Speech at St. Mary's church.
- * Election night live coverage of results at the Warp & Weft.
- * Participant in Downtown Lowell's First Thursday Gallery night.
- * Equipment purchased to cover meetings in the Mayor's Reception room.
- * Taped UMass Lowell's Lunchtime Lecture Series with Gina McCarthy.
- * Covered the Indian Festival.
- * Covered the Mill City Grows Harvest Festival.
- * Covered the dedicaton of the UMass Lowell Decatur Way mural.
- * Taped the Salvation Army event honoring Eileen Donoghue.
- * Covered the Eastern Bank Community Service Awards honoring Niki Tsongas
- * Hosted a panel discussion on Climate Change with UMass Lowell and the Lowell Sustainability Council.
- * Hosted a Lowell City of Learning program on 1968 and the Beatles, co-sponsored by UML Music, History, and Political Science Departments
- * Covered the launch of the Southeast Asian Digital Archive at UMass Lowell
- * LTC held an Open House with 60 attendees.
- * LTC won a Mass Creator award for best PSA.
- * Covered the launch of the Lowell Quarter at the Memorial Auditorium.
- * Partnered with the Lowell Health Department on PSA's shot about sharps and medicine disposal days.
- * Held two youth media workshops with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell.
- * Installed a captioning computer to provide AI captions for all City meetings.
- * Installed a new LTC street sign and a window sign.
- * Covered the Women's Week Breakfast
- * Covered the Art and Technology 401 Festival at UMass Lowell.
- * Covered the Lowell St. Patrick's Day dinner.
- * Trained five UML students to produce five interview programs with labor leaders.
- * Hosted a Public Matters session for the Lowell Plan
- * Explored grant opportunies with Next Step Nonprofit.

Member Series Programs

5th Street Baptist Church Presents
African Hour
Angkor News
Beyond Productions
The Bob Show
Cambodia Community News
Cambodia News Program
Cambodia: The New Era
Cambodia Town
Cambodia American Christian TV
Cambodian Baptist
Cambodian Women Learning Project
Cambodian Women's Organization
Chanting
The Chico and the B-Man Show
City Life
CMAA TV
Colores Latinos
Community of Khmer Buddhist Monks
Dhamma Talk
Discourse
Fellowship Hour
Fresh Outpouring Broadcast
Glory Buddhist Temple
Good News
History in Lowell
Iraqi Refugee
Jivit Thmei
Khmer Angkor
Khmer Buddhist
Khmer Lowell

Khmer Meditation
Khmer Refugee
Khmer Sentimental
Khmer Talk
Khmer Tradition
Kindred Conversations
Living in Cambodia
Lowell Cambodian American TV
Lowell Remembers
Lowell Train
New Buddhist Temple
newEARS
Peters' Principles
Pilgrimage to India
Plenitud
Recovery Matters
Recycle Right
Resurrection Revival
Talking Sports with Ronny and Johnny
Temple News
Temple Outreach
Tiempo de Paz
Tierra de Paz
Trip to Cambodia
Understanding Buddhism
Visiting Asia
Voice of Democracy
Voice of Khmer Americans
Voz Do Atlantico
Youth to Christ

Staff Produced Series

Artists of Lowell	Innovation Economy
Beacon Hill Buzz	Issue at Hand
Chamber Chat	Labor Studies
Dollars and \$ense	Life and Art
Green Connection	LTC News
Hello Neighbor	Thinking Out Loud
History in Lowell	



Intern Tegan Cantrell at the African Festival

Awards!



At the ACM-NE Award Ceremony in Portland, ME

LTC won four awards from the Alliance for Community Media Northeast Region (ACM-NE) for programming in 2019. Competing against entries from public access stations in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont, LTC won the highly coveted award for Overall Excellence in its budget category as well as three program awards.

LTC's Community Producer Soumita Acharya won first place in the Event Coverage-Multiple Cameras category for her coverage of the 2018 Lowell Kinetic Sculpture Race. Covering this "Triathlon of the Art World" had cameras following human-powered, all-terrain sculptures riding over cobblestones, through a mud pit, and navigating the Merrimack River.

In the PSA/Short Program Category, former staff member Caroline Gallagher's fast-paced PSA won second place. It included a wide variety of eye-catching scenes to promote LTC's Production Services. In the Spring this PSA also won the Mass Access Mass Creator award for best PSA.

LTC member Nancy Peña, producer and host of the bilingual monthly show "Colores Latinos" won third place in the Community Impact category for her Safe Injections Facilities episode featuring Dr. Steven Defoseez explaining the benefits of these facilities in reducing death, HIV and Hepatitis C infections.

LTC's Fall 2018 youth media program produced an original music video "Fresh Isaac" that won the award for Best Music Video in the 2019 ATown Teen Video Contest. The youth were teens from the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell. They worked with LTC staffer Jose Negrón over seven weeks to compose, write, shoot, and edit the video. The video's star was also the music composer, Isaac Tumusiime. The crew and other actors were Thomas Williams, John Long, Tammy Huynh and Ariel Alicea. The editor was Xavier Holman.

UMass Lowell TURI (Toxic Use Reduction Institute) Lab Public Health students (Ross Goding, Nicole Kebler, and Adorah Le Khan) won the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable - Most Valuable Pollution Prevention Students for 2019. They produced a video with LTC's Soumita Acharya on reusable grocery bags.



Fresh Isaac Music Video



Caroline Gallagher

Training

LTC taught 67 students in 30 classes.

Basic Editing with Final Cut Pro X
Intermediate Editing with Final Cut Pro X
Youth Media with the Boys & Girls Club
Podcasting
Video Field Production
DSLR Video Production
Studio A & B production
Teleprompter



Nancy Peña led a class at LTC for children.

Total Tuition: \$855

Additional funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a State Agency for an LTC youth media program in collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell.



The Youth Media Class led by Jose Negron



Field Production Basics with instructor Soumita Acharya

Interns



*French intern
Gautier Kunstler*

Michael Bermudez
Blake Bevis
Samantha Campbell
Tegan Cantrell

Natisha Carter
Amanda Cooper
Kameryn Hall
Brooke Hardy
Alex Hong
James Joutras
Gautier Kuntsler
Zhiyang Luo
Amelia Maguire
Irfan Margoob
Jeremiah Pena
Matthieu Ruelle
Christopher Van Camp



The Summer interns

Membership

Individual Members: 240

Member Organizations: 36

350 MA of Greater Lowell
Able to Serve
Angkor Dance Troupe
ASALEX
Boys & Girls Club
Brush Art Gallery
Burlington Community Financial Center
Canal Place 3 Condominiums
Center for Hope & Healing
Christ Jubilee International Ministries
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Assoc.
Coalition for a Better Acre
Community of Khmer Buddhist Monks, Inc.
Community Teamwork Inc.
D'Youville Senior Care
EforALL
Enterprise Bank
Fifth Street Baptist Church

Free Verse
Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell
Glory Buddhist Temple
Greater Lowell Community Foundation
Greater Lowell Veterans Council
Lowell Community Health Center
Lowell Celebrates Kerouac
Lowell Housing Authority
Lowell Housing Inc
Market Gallery Condominium Trust
Merrimack Housing Partnership
Merrimack Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau
Merrimack Valley Playwrights
NE Quilt Museum
New England Marathi Mandal
Pollard Memorial Library
VOKA
Whistler House Museum of Art

Comments from the Municipal Director - Matt Nelson



Municipal Department staff Pamela DeBarros, Matt Nelson, Jose Negron

The Municipal Department offers diverse, high quality programming that promotes civic engagement and public activism. This year we added closed captioning to all City meetings, started streaming City Council meetings to Facebook, and added a number of regular productions.

LTC's Municipal Channel is a lot more than just government meetings. In addition to longstanding shows such as *Chamber Chat TV* with the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce and *Dollars and Sense* with Enterprise Bank, we now produce *Beacon Hill Buzz* with State Senator Edward Kennedy, *Healthy Living in Lowell* with the Lowell Health Department, and *Keeping Up With The Cops* with the Lowell Police Department.

We have also started airing sessions from the Massachusetts State House, including House of Representatives Formal Sessions and Joint Committee Hearings so that our viewers can see what happens on Beacon Hill. Stay tuned to Channel 99 to learn what is going on in our community.

Comments from the LTC News Director - Kris Macneil



LTC News began in 2016, and continued for 90 episodes before some changes were made in April 2019. Former News Director Caroline Gallagher left LTC for the snow-crested mountains of Colorado. Host Alanna Flood also headed west, albeit not as far, accepting a job hosting *Mass Appeal* on WWLP in Springfield. This is where I came in, hired as News Director to develop a game plan for the future.

We took a month-long hiatus to regroup, relying on the talents of Chris Scott who graciously agreed to extend his interview section of the show, Sun Spot. Finding a replacement for Alanna who is so comfortable speaking on-camera was no easy task. We took auditions from a large pool before selecting Christa Brown to be the new volunteer host. And what a host she is! She is also a natural for the position.

For the look of the show, I made only subtle changes because I was a fan of how it looked already, all praise to Caroline there. We changed the virtual sets for the host segments and the Sun Spot, modified the graphics to something more sleek and modern, and updated the show open to feature more current clips.



Christa Brown on the LTC News set.

I also wanted to shift the focus in the news stories to cover all the diverse communities in the City and more unique, unusual stories. My first segment for the show was a good example of this, a profile on noise music in Lowell, something that I doubt even Dick Howe knew about!

I look forward to experiencing my first full year as News Director. Thank you for taking this ride with us!



Lowell Sun Enterprise Editor Chris Scott on the set of the Sun Spot segment of LTC News..

A Programming Sampler



Chamber Chat



Cambodian Women Learning Project



Healthy Living in Lowell



Jivet Thmei



Khmer Buddhist



NewEARS Prog Show



African Hour



Sunday Chanting



Talking Sports with Ronny & Johnny

The LTC Gallery

Art Exhibits from July 2018 through June 2019

Greg Searle, Stacy Topjian Searle, Gene Paquin - "All in the Family"

Diana Caron - Photorealistic Oil Paintings

Kerouac Poster Exhibit - Judith Bessette, Curator

Eric J. Nickola - "Evolution of a Beginning Artist"

Henry Marte - "We Are the Night: Urban Night Photography Series"

Henry Marte - Lowell Snow Scenes (New Exhibit)

Jenny Day - Quilts

Middlesex Community College Juried Student Exhibit

Lowell High School Senior Artwork

Donna Jay and Larry Cahill - Fine Art Photography



Gallery Curator Gloria Polites

Community Events in the Gallery

Members held many community events in the LTC Gallery. Events were held by the Iraqi community, the Cambodian Community brought Sam Rainsy, opposition leader of Cambodia, Lowell City of Learning events, neighborhood group meetings, and much more.



Prof. John Wooding leads a discussion on 1968 and the Beatles' White Album.



Dr. Taher Al-Bakaa, former Iraqi Minister of Higher Education



Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy meets with Lowell residents at LTC.

Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2018 and 2019

	2019	2018
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 733,803	\$ 738,930
Short-term investments	49,387	
Accounts Receivable	<u>304,800</u>	<u>322,560</u>
Prepaid Expenses	<u>10,850</u>	<u>11,809</u>
Total current assets	\$1,098,840	\$1,073,299
Fixed assets		
Leasehold improvements	1,199,190	1,194,640
Studio equipment	515,615	434,552
Computer equipment	<u>96,594</u>	<u>96,594</u>
Office equipment and furniture	<u>7,846</u>	<u>7,846</u>
Total fixed assets	1,819,245	1,733,632
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,214,104)</u>	<u>(1,384,617)</u>
Fixed assets - net	<u>245,736</u>	<u>349,015</u>
Total assets	<u>\$1,344,576</u>	<u>\$1,422,314</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 5,309	\$ 4,345
Accrued payroll and vacation	15,232	17,520
Deferred rent liability	<u>4,795</u>	<u>15,068</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>25,336</u>	<u>36,933</u>
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions		
Undesignated	1,018,503	1,384,786
Board designated	<u>300,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total without donor restrictions	1,318,503	1,384,786
With donor restrictions	<u>737</u>	<u>595</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,319,240</u>	<u>1,385,381</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>1,344,576</u>	<u>1,422,314</u>

Statement of Activities

	2019	2018
Support and revenues		
Franchise fees	\$ 578,012	\$ 676,261
Franchise fees- capital funding	50,000	50,000
Production Services	158,631	149,350
Grants	3,800	16,150
Other income	22,914	24,372
Memberships and contributions	9,614	11,515
Interest income	3,980	1,664
Underwriting income	2,058	375
Net assets released from restrictions	190	210
Special Events	11,585	-
Sale of fixed assets	-	1,025
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total support and revenue	\$ 840,784	\$ 930,712
Expenses		
Public Access	\$ 538,297	\$ 511,901
Municipal Programming	149,226	161,552
General and Administrative	209,555	209,037
Fundraising	9,989	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total operating expenses	<u>\$ 907,067</u>	<u>\$ 882,490</u>
(Decrease) Increase in net assets	(\$ 66,283)	\$ 48,222
Net assets - beginning	<u>1,384,786</u>	<u>1,337,159</u>
Net assets- ending	<u><u>\$ 1,318,503</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,385,381</u></u>

Dinner in the Park with LTC - September 12, 2019



Lowell TeleMedia Center

**LOWELL'S COMMUNITY MEDIA
AND EDUCATION CENTER**

246 Market Street

Lowell, MA 01852

978-458-5400 LTC.org