

**Lowell
TeleMedia
Center**

Annual Report / 2021



“We amplify the many diverse voices of Lowell to the world.”

Contents

04. Mission & Vision

06. Board of Directors

08. Staff

12. Statistics & Finance

14. Program Highlights

18. A Look Through 2020-2021

22. Membership

Designed by Sheila Vo

About Lowell TeleMedia Center

Lowell TeleMedia Center (LTC) is here to transform average media consumers into message creators; getting off the couch and behind the camera – calling the shots, telling their stories, and truly communicating with other members of our community.

LTC cablecasts government and public programming across Lowell on LTC’s cable channels: 8 - Local, 95 - Global, and 99 - Government. We also share video content online through our website, on Youtube, and across other social platforms. Our state of the art television studios include high end professional equipment such as

a green screen, digital HD cameras, video switchers, multi-track audio mixers, and professional studio lighting.

LTC offers classes in studio operation, camera, creative software programs, and web design. These classes provide community members with the necessary tools and valuable skills that will help reach their broadcasting goals.



Mission

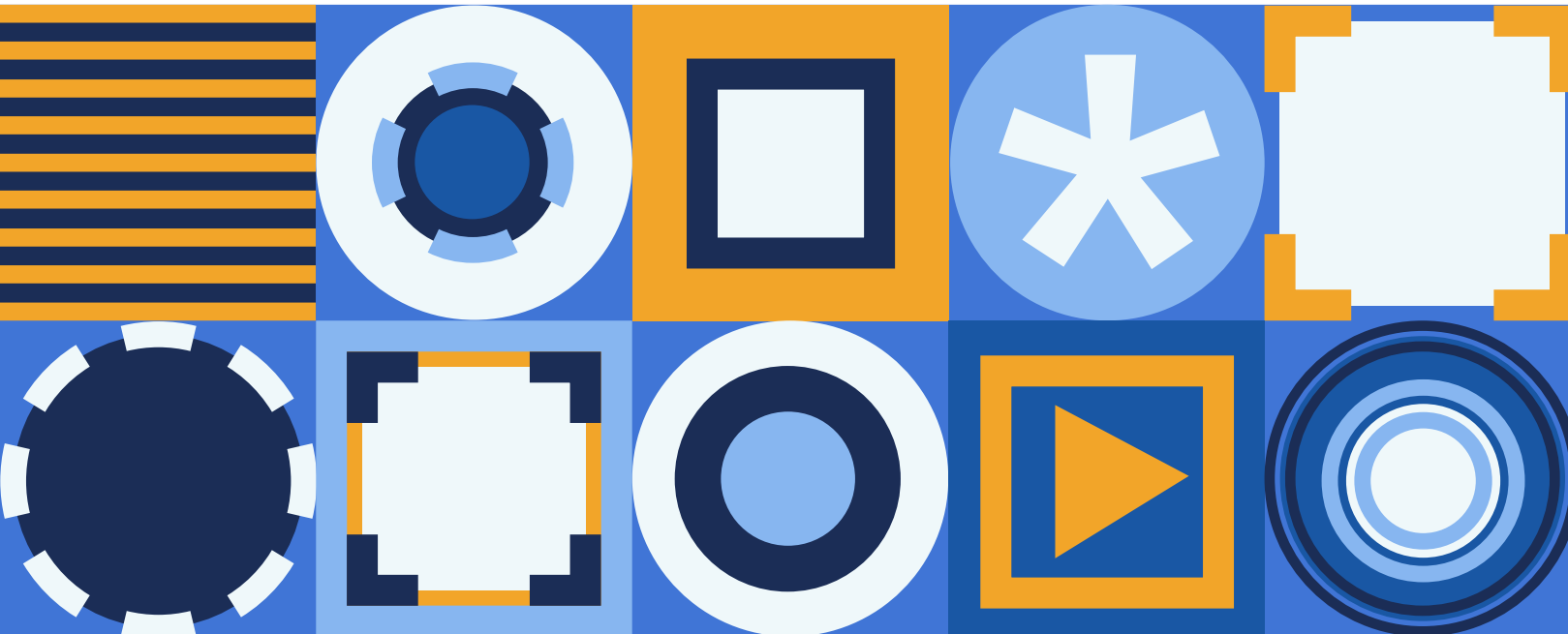
Strengthen the City of Lowell as a community media and education center that empowers, connects, and informs businesses, all residents and organizations in the city.

Contact

Lowell TeleMedia Center
 Lowell's Media &
 Education Center

246 Market Street
 Lowell, MA 01852
 978-458-5400
www.LTC.org





A Message from Board President, Jess Donaldson

Throughout 2021, the Lowell community was affected by COVID-19. During this year, LTC worked closely with the local government and health organizations to spread public health information to provide clarity around COVID-19. From assisting with the election and providing telepresence meetings assistance and cablecast for city meetings, to posting timely local vaccine information on the channel and on social media; it is clear that this media organization was integral to the local effort to control the spread and morbidity of COVID-19. LTC helped us keep our distance but stay connected when it mattered most.

LTC leads the way in having uncomfortable conversations in our community. Over this year our channels and social media were host to several shows and discussions around social inequity and discrimination in Lowell and the greater US. By partnering with various local organizations, LTC facilitated a number of discussions around who we are, how we talk to each other, why identity matters, and how historical context can frame our current conversations about who we are as individuals and as a community and what we're doing next in this process of discovery and collaboration.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are grateful to LTC's Executive Director, Bora Chiemruom. In her first year directing LTC, Bora has positively transformed the organization's culture by emphasizing a direct, outward facing, and empathetic approach, both in her collaboration with stakeholders, and also in the types of programs that have been produced under her direction.



Board of Directors

Executive Committee

- Jess Donaldson
President
- Eric Sack
Vice President
- Jeff Hillam
Treasurer
- Karen Sennott
Secretary

Board Development

- Fru Nkimheng
Chair
- Sue Kim
- Stacey Thompson
- Luz Vasudevan
- Fabiola Rivera White

Finance Committee

- Jeff Hillam
Chair
- Jennifer Aradhya
- Jeff Pickette
- Pavel Romaniko

Fundraising Committee

- Connie Martin
Chair
- Susie Chhoun
- Jennifer Meyers
- Elizabeth Noel
- Vesna Nuon
- Karen Sennott

A Message from Executive Director, Bora Chiemruom

Joining Lowell Telemedia Center (LTC) as the first Cambodian American Executive Director has been a rewarding experience but at times was challenging. As I reflect upon this report, I see the many accomplishments of LTC and I am left feeling profoundly proud to have been selected as the new Executive Director. I would like to thank our outstanding Board of Directors for their commitment, dedication, inspiring hard work, and leadership to LTC.

During this global health crisis, LTC has continued to provide essential services to our community. This report will highlight how LTC has uplifted and addressed many pressing issues facing Lowell residents, including the recent surge in violence against the Asian community. We continue to broadcast live five or more municipal government meetings each week and broadcast COVID-19 updates from the City Manager's office, the Statehouse, and the Governor's office.

LTC remains resilient, resolved, and committed to bringing awareness and lifting up the voices of those who are constantly unheard. LTC supported and advocated for social equity, hosted a listening session and a panel discussion to hear directly from community members. We hosted Senator Ed Markey in speaking out against Anti-Asian Hate. In addition, we covered candlelight vigil after the Atlanta shooting, which killed eight people, six of whom were Asian women.

We've opened our doors to community organizations such as the Angkor Dance Troupe and the Free Soil Arts Collective to utilize our gallery space. We have also organized programming that is designed to help support families in our community cope with stress, anxiety, and depression during the pandemic.

Thank you to the staff for their dedication and hard work in implementing various programs and events. Special thanks to the City of Lowell for their generous support and continued collaboration. Thanks to a strong foundation set in place under the previous leadership of Wendy Blom. LTC will continue building relationships and expanding programming for the community and surrounding towns. I am excited for the rest of 2021 and beyond. I look forward to engaging partners, stakeholders, and funders in achieving our goals in the coming year.

LTC Staff



Bora Chiemruom
Executive Director



Daniel Bazarian
Municipal Meeting Producer



Kris Macneil
Director of Municipal Programming



Steve Manock
Facility Manager



Nicholles Klevisha
Access Coordinator



Nary Tith
Administrative Manager



Courtney Coviello
Production Assistant

A special thank you to this year's LTC interns:

Michael Dellorfano
William Sorm
Jake Nikolakakis

A Message from Treasurer, Jeff Hillam

The full effort of each individual contributor to the financial health of LTC during FY21 was put forward to ensure the COVID-19 impact was minimized. Fresh off a PPP injection, we started the new financial year without knowing the lockdowns, remote working, and in-person operations were still months away. These elements were added to preexisting, structural revenue threats in the industry and rising inflation.

The organization stayed to budget within a de minimis margin of error. We protected revenues with new partnerships. And most importantly, we initiated the conversion with respect to investing. There is a large cash on hand line on the balance sheet which we anticipate will be wisely invested in the coming financial year. This investment strategy will promote the perpetual financial health of LTC for the coming decades.

Without reservation, I am confident in reporting LTC's financial house is in order. And as such we will be able to continue to play our important community role without financial worries. We are hopeful that future engagement will drive our mission, community, and impact.



A Message from Director of Municipal Programming, Kris Macneil

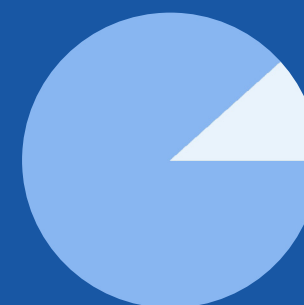
With COVID-19 still an all encompassing aspect of our lives, this year may have started similarly to the last but it's certainly not ending that way. To begin with, new equipment! Yes! Rejoice! Now that we're back in the office I've been startled by seeing the Chambers so crisply on our monitor TVs.

While we're still working out kinks with the equipment, this is miles ahead of where we were this time last year. Our hybrid setup, which we anticipate will be utilized for at least the next year, has also been greatly improved.

We've also added coverage for four new boards: the Community Preservation Committee, the Elections Commission, the Citizens Advisory Committee, and most recently the Sustainability Council, as well as many new subcommittees. Improvements were made to the schedule and website and we also welcomed the promotion of Dan Bazarian to Municipal Producer. With COVID-19 restrictions starting to make their way to the rear view, we both look forward to bringing you the best Channel 99 yet!



Programming & Usage Statistics



Statements of Financial Position (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,076,638
Short-term investments	-
Accounts receivable	\$285,872
Prepaid expenses	\$14,804
Total current assets	\$1,377,314
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Accounts payable	\$2,815
Accrued payroll and vacation	\$21,126
Deferred rent liability	-
Note payable - SBA/PPP	-
Total current liabilities	\$23,941
Net Assets	
(without donor restrictions)	
Undesignated	\$1,154,138
Board designated	\$300,000
Total without donor restrictions	\$1,454,138
With donor restrictions	\$772
Total net assets	\$1,454,910
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,478,852

Statement of Activities (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

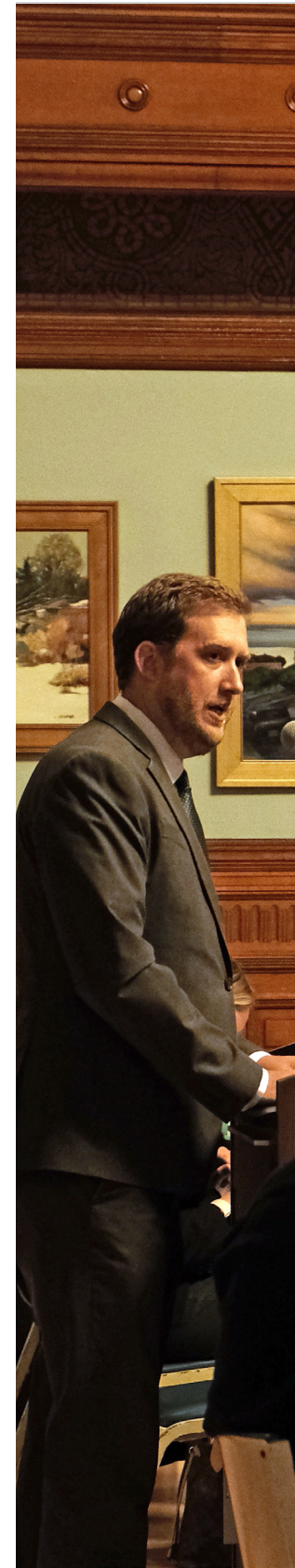
Support & Revenues	
Franchise fees	\$540,255
Production services	\$163,431
Support for capital expenditures	\$27,000
Grants	\$25,939
Memberships & contributions	\$6,958
Underwriting income	\$500
Other income	\$16,959
Interest income	\$3,143
Gain on the forgiveness of debt	\$94,700
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(69)
Total support & revenues	\$878,816
Expenses	
Public access	\$320,657
Municipal programming	\$252,494
General & administrative	\$160,659
Fundraising	\$5,741
Total operating expenses	\$739,551
Change in net assets	\$139,265
Net assets (beginning)	\$1,315,645
Net assets (ending)	\$1,454,910

Program Highlights

Reopening

LTC first reopened on March 8, 2021 to members with limited capacity by appointment only. LTC opened to full capacity on June 21, 2021. Masks in the building are required for both staff and community members. We encourage all members to connect with the LTC staff to schedule an appointment before returning to LTC. Our team will work with you and will share our updated COVID-19 policy.

While many things have changed, one thing has remained the same: our strong commitment to the community and the safety of all our members and team.



COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

LTC has been working in collaboration with the City of Lowell, Greater Lowell Health Alliance, Lowell Community Health Center, and Middlesex Community College (MCC) to spread the word about vaccine clinics. These collaborations will continue in the future for ongoing clinics available to Lowell residents. LTC has also produced a handful of Public Service Announcements (PSA's) in diverse languages to increase the accessibility of the vaccine

Public Listening Session on the Aftermath of Capitol Hill

LTC held a virtual Public Listening Session on the Aftermath of Capitol Hill on Thursday, January 28, 2021. David Ball, Massachusetts State Coordinator of Braver Angels, co-moderated a discussion and action-oriented listening session with Richard P. Howe, Jr., Register of Deeds and founder of Lowell Walk.

Social Justice and Civic Engagement

After a year with many unprecedented events, people are looking to nonprofit organizations such as ours for support and guidance. Our commitment to the community has not waived and new content is still being produced to promote diversity and acceptance of all people, orientations, and beliefs.

As an organization, we are addressing social issues affecting our communities by broadcasting the municipal meetings, holding panel discussions and community forums, and advocating for those that are being attacked and even killed. We are speaking against Asian Hate, condemning all forms of hate speech: anti-semitic, homophobic, misogynistic, and racist views and opinions. We've even testified at the MA Advisory Committee for the US Commission for Civil Rights.



Production Services

LTC continues to offer production services. As an organization, we had to pivot and be creative with our services. LTC was contracted to produce professional videos for local nonprofits to help them with virtual and hybrid fundraising events and PSAs. Clients included the Coalition for a Better Acre, the New England Quilt Museum, Brush Arts Gallery, Greater Lowell Health Alliance, Lowell Community Health Center, Northeast Independent Living Program, Greater Lowell Community Foundation, and the Humane Society.



LTC Media Maker Program

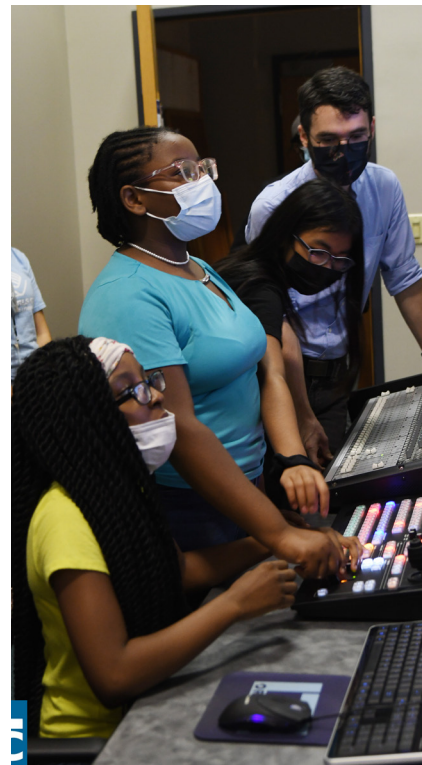
LTC holds Mediamaker's Workshops, a series of free media-related class sessions held virtually over Zoom. Participants can learn about skill-building topics such as Adobe Spark, Podcasting, Adobe Premiere, Field Production, Cell Phone Production, and content creation for Social Media.

LTC Shopping Network

LTC is in partnership with the City of Lowell's Economic Development Office, the Entrepreneurship Center at CTI, Lowell Plan, the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce, EforAll, and launched the Lowell Shopping Network!

The weekend of November 21, 2020, LTC aired two-minute videos created by Lowell businesses on Channels 8 and 95 and on Facebook. Everyone is welcome to join the network's Facebook Group, which is still active for future events. Any business in the Greater Lowell area is welcome to post in this group.





A Look Through of 2020-2021

01. *Get Out the Vote Phonebank* hosted by Lowell Votes, Coalition for A Better Acre, Merrimack Valley Project, CMAA, Lowell Alliance & Latinx Community Center

06. *Hosted LTC Community Panel on Discrimination & Racism*

02. *Produced the Lowell Shopping Network videos* with the City of Lowell and Partners

07. *Executive Director spoke to Hate Crimes Against AAPI in MA for the MA Advisory Committee to the US on Civil Rights*

03. *Ghost Signs Alive Reflection Session* hosted by DIY Lowell

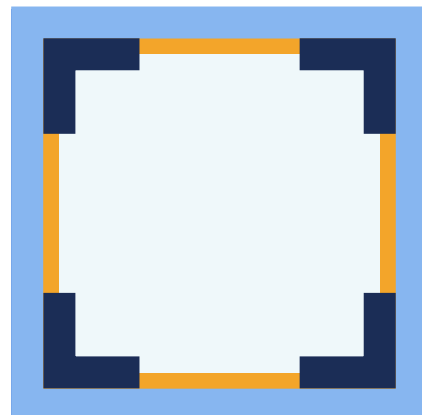
08. *Screening of the documentary film: Contradictory Place*, a film describing the anti-slavery efforts when cotton mills were at their peak

04. *LTC covered the Candlelight Vigil to honor the lives that were lost in Atlanta*

09. *LTC covered a community vigil at City Hall* to honor the 319 lives lost in Lowell due to COVID-19

05. *Hosted Senator Ed Markey press conference to speak Against Asian Hate and Hate Crimes*

10. *LTC joined many community partners to sign a letter* to give the city options to avoid reducing polling locations



- **“Preventing Pandemic Evictions in Lowell: A Community Forum”** along with LLAMA
- **Lowell Virtual Khmer Event** with CMAA
- **Online Khmer Class** hosted by CMAA
- **2020 Consensus Conversation: Why the Khmer Community Counts** by SEARAC, Coalition for A Better Acre, Lowell Counts: Census 2020, The Working Cities Lowell Initiative, MIRA, MA 2020 Census, and Lowell Votes
- **The 17th Middlesex Primary Forum** along with Coalition for A Better Acre, Lowell Alliance & Lowell Votes
- **Lowell Lines Mapping Info Session** by

- CMAA, Massachusetts Voter Table, Lowell Alliance, & LCCE
- **Downtown Live!** by Greater Merrimack Valley & Like Lowell
- **Democracy School 2020: Merrimack Valley** hosted by MIRA, Coalition for A Better Acre, CMAA, & Lowell Alliance
- **Virtual MassAccess Fall Meet and Greet #1 - Marshfield** hosted by MassAccess and Marshfield Community Television
- **Lowell Lines District Mapping Info Session** hosted by CMAA, Lowell Lines, Lowell Alliance, & LCCE
- **Cool Science: Art Competition & Workshop**

- Grades K-12** hosted by Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust
- **Introduction to the Learning Festival** hosted by Lowell City of Learning
- **Mill Girls: Life and Work in an Industrial City** hosted by Lowell City of Learning, Lowell National Historical Park, and the Tsongas Industrial History Center
- **Observational Drawing for Kids** by Lowell City of Learning, Lowell National Historical Park, & Tsongas Industrial History Center
- **Building a Business in Lowell & Surviving in a Pandemic** hosted by Lowell City of Learning
- **“Climate Change, Epidemics and Human Capital Outcomes: Who Bears the Cost of Climate Change?”** hosted by Greeley Peace Scholar & UMass Lowell Climate Change Initiative
- **Twilight Meteor Shower & Sunrise Walk** by Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust
- **“Voter Suppression Then and Now: How Did We Get Here and What Can be Done?”** w/ Fredrick Cornelius Harris, Ph.D. hosted by Greeley Peace Scholar
- **Revitalizing Lower Locks** hosted by City of Lowell Economic Development Office & Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust
- **GLILA’s Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Gathering** hosted by GLILA
- **Virtual City Hall Lighting Ceremony** along with Like Lowell, the Mayor of Lowell, and Lowell City of Lights
- **YOUR LOWELL YOUR VOTE: Election Districting Community Information Session** hosted by City of Lowell, MA

- **Nature Art for Kids** hosted by Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust
- **CMAA Civic Engagement 2021** by CMAA
- **Family Friendly Read-A-Loud w/ Author Q&A** by Merrimack River Watershed Council & Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust
- **Asian American & Pacific Islander Equal Pay Conversation | EqualPayMA Roundtable Series** hosted by Office of Economic Empowerment, Massachusetts State Treasury, Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, & Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition
- **South and Southeast Asian New Year Celebration**
- **Khmer New Year Virtual Celebration** by CMAA, Lower Highlands Neighborhood Group, Clemente Park Committee, and Lowell Alliance
- **Virtual Concert for the Visual Arts to benefit The Brush Art Gallery & Studios**
- **First Annual Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 19th, at the Arts League of Lowell** and processed to various downtown locations.
- **Concluding Ceremony for Public Matters** with The Lowell Plan and the Lowell National Historical Park
- **Voice over recordings for the Access to Health Care in Greater Lowell project** by the Greater Lowell Health Alliance and Lowell Community Health Center

Membership

Individual Members: 78

Member Organizations: 40

- 350 MA of Greater Lowell
- Alternative House
- Alzheimer's Association - MA/NH Chapter
- Angkor Dance Troupe
- ASALEC
- Boys & Girls Club
- Burlington Community Financial Center
- Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
- Canal Place 3 Condominiums
- Christ Jubilee International Ministries
- Coalition for a Better Acre
- Community Teamwork Inc.
- Dwelling House of Hope
- Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley Inc.
- Element Care
- Enterprise Bank
- Fifth Street Baptist Church
- Free Soil Arts Collective
- FreeVerse!
- Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell
- Greater Lowell Community Foundation
- Jilebee Arts
- Khmer Post
- Kiwanis Club of Greater Lowell
- Latin Community Center for Empowerment
- Lowell Celebrates Kerouac
- Lowell Community Health Center
- Lowell Conservation and Trust
- Lowell Housing Authority

- Mahoney Family Event Fund
- Market Gallery Condominium Trust
- Merrimack Housing Partnership
- Middlesex Community College
- Moller's Lofts Condominium Trust
- New England Quilt Museum
- Northeast Independent Living Program
- The Lowell Kiwanis Foundation Inc
- University of Massachusetts Lowell
- Vat Khmer Lowell
- Whistler House Museum of Art

Member Series Programs

- 5th Street Baptist
- African Hour
- Angkor News
- Beacon Hill Buzz
- Board of Parks
- Cambodia Town
- Chamber Chat
- Chanting
- City Life
- CKBM
- CMAA News
- Colores Latino
- Conservation Through Learning
- Cambodian Women Learning Project
- Cambodian Women Organization

- Dad Cookin
- Discourse
- Fellowship Hour
- Fresh Outpouring TV
- Good News
- History in Lowell
- Khmer Refugee
- LTC News
- Ok in the Backyard
- On the Go
- On the Move
- Resurrection Revival
- Science Club
- Senior Center Presents
- Talking Sports with Ronny and Donny
- The Bob Show
- Thom Hartmann
- Voice of Khmer Lowell
- VOKA ENG
- Voz do

Staff Produced or Assisted Series

- Beacon Hill Buzz
- Chamber Chat
- History in Lowell
- LTC News
- On The Move



Thank you very much for your continuous support of LTC!

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