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REASONS TO FUND A VIABLE COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER OPTION FOR THE LONG BEACH COMMUNITY – THE BEST WAY TO SPEND OUR FUNDS

Thank you for the opportunity to bring the discussion of use of these funds, **generated by those of us in the Community who pay for this funding, when we pay our cable TV bill.** In the light of the fact that **this money is from the people, for use by the people and in the best interest of the people of Long Beach, Public Access funding should be a top priority for use of PEG (Public Access, Education and Government) funds.**

In the 25 year history of Community TV in Long Beach, the spirit of community television has been alive and well. The threat of the loss of Community TV was an issue presented to the then-operating Cable Commission, as early as June 2006. They took no appropriate action and the **NON-action of the City Communications office, in attendance at those meetings,** failed to adequately alert the Council, years in advance of the loss of the broadcast option, leading to this loss of our Community station. See **Attachments A and B,** letters to the Cable Commission asking for recommendations for action on this matter, dated June 6, 2006 and December 6, 2006, respectively.

The intent and spirit of Community TV, the Producers' relationship to the community and intent of the Producer organization to continue and expand active outreach and inclusion, for media messages for our community, is not available with government or education channels. **Limitations on access to their studios and equipment, limitations on airtime and other considerations make it impossible to use the existing facilities of other PEG services.**

Past and current laws and regulations mandate that funding go to all PEG options, not just government and education. The need for adequate funding for a viable community TV option, **should mandate that ALL who want PEG funds submit an RFP to be accountable for what they want and what they do with the funds they get.** This should be done before the Communications Office or the Council decide on division of the funds, and should be based on need and benefit to the Community. In light of the poor response to this issue and an obviously unworkable recommendation, forwarded by the Communications Office, oversight from City Council should include review of all RFP submissions to support programs that best meet the needs of all citizens.

Funding History: In the past, these funds went primarily to Community TV, with only a small amount going to Government and Education for equipment. The review of the recent budget of SF Community TV, (see attachment C) shows that a viable TV station costs about 800,000 a year to operate. As shown, there must be a workable plan for staff costing and operations, that does not involve rental of space. Division of PEG funding should be decided on the basis of a business plan that is viable and of most benefit to our community needs.

The Plan for Public Access as formulated over years of discussions and months of planning with former Cable network staff, The LB TV Producers Association, community members and financial backers. They have developed a business and (over)

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and production plan that is workable, within the limitations of the funding sources, will provide options for community outreach and multimedia productions, and will generate savings for the City and provide jobs for our citizens, as well as multimedia options for our businesses and community organizations.

This plan was not even considered before divisions of the funding were decided by City Communications office. **This is not a responsible action or recommendation. It would be irresponsible for the City to approve that division of funds**, without seeing the Public Access Plan and comparing the needs and benefits to the city, to needs and benefits identified by other proposed fund recipients. **This current proposal by the City Communications office is less than the minimum our City can do to support Community Television. It will essentially kill the option for community television by inaction, delay and too little funding for a viable Community television option.**

Needs of Other PEG entities - It is unclear why Long Beach State should receive any funding from PEG monies, as they are not part of Long Beach City or School District or the LB Junior College System. The Long Beach Community College, has recently acquired state-of-the-art equipment and have received new equipment from donors. They have no immediate need for new equipment. It is unclear if the City Channel on 3rd Street is producing ANY programs out of its 3rd Street location. They cannot use these funds for staffing. The City currently has two fully-equipped studios for production, one at City Hall and one on 3rd Street. The City produces little programming beyond Council meetings.

The so-called "meeting" with those with PEG interests went as follows: The City Communications Officer asked how the funds should be distributed and Government and Education representatives said they understood that Community TV has nothing and they have working and staffed studios, but they still wanted a third of the funds. Not only that, but they did not want to even write a list of their needs for the funding or how they would use it. On the other hand, the Public Access fund recipients will need to go through an RFP process that will take over a year to complete (per Communications Office - funds to be disbursed in June 2010). There was no answer from the City as to why there would be such a delay.

Community outreach ; The City Communications Office spoke of a plan to hold another community meeting for outreach and to advise community members of the RFP process. As yet they have not set a date for this meeting. Our Long Beach Community TV Producers, have done this and met with over one hundred members of the arts community and advised them of this situation and asked them to be in touch with the City Communications office, if they were interested in the PEG funding process. This was done at the recent Envisioning Long Beach meeting, March 28, 2009 with names and numbers of City Communications staff given out in a flier. The community has been notified. Let the RFP be issued in a timely manner, **with Council oversight**, on assessing submissions for all PEG funds and distribute the funding, within a 3 month time frame. Let's save Community TV for our Community members, businesses, organizations and events, as a viable option for our future. Thank you for your support.

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Community Television Producers Association of Long Beach
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June 9, 2006

Open Letter to the Long Beach Cable Commission

I enclose a copy of the legislation AB 2987 as it has emerged from Committee at the State level, to be voted on in the near future, if it has not already been passed. I refer you to pages 26-31 of the legislation, as they apply directly to PEG channels.

The areas of concern have been highlighted and I have added additional comments on areas of particular concern to the Cable Commission and the Long Beach City Council. It appears the City has an opportunity to request funding for the production and capital expenses for PEG programming and the opportunity for more channels, if those we have now are not sufficient. These are both, wonderful opportunities to sustain and expand the current use of PEG programming.

What is needed now is a report to the City Council from the cable Commission and the City Department of Cable Communications on the following:

- Identify current funding needs.
- Identify how current funding allocations are used to determine what resources are needed to produce programming on all PEG Channels at their current levels and what will be needed for program production in the future.
- Ask that negotiations take place with Charter Communications for assessment of their current stock of programs produced for or about Long Beach or our area, at any of their current studios or by them, in the community, to allow for the retrieval of any Historic or Archival materials, as part of Long Beach history.
- Request that this topic be made an agenda item at a Long Beach City Council Meeting for reports on the legislation and the above issues, to be part of the public record and to be open to public comment.

Thank you for your help with these matters of concern to us all. We hope the Commission can take a leadership role in this matter.

Sincerely,

Karen Ashikeh LaMantia

Karen Ashikeh LaMantia
Acting Corresponding Secretary CTPA

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December 6, 2006

Cable Commissioners
City Of Long Beach

Long Beach, CA 90802

Open Letter to the Commissioners:

The Community Television Producers Association met on November 11, 2006 and have the following requests for your consideration:

We would like to express our concerns about the plans for the LB Awards and hope that this event will be one that will be well attended by Producers and community members. To this end we have the following suggestions for your consideration:

Wait to have the event at a venue where it can be a social opportunity, similar to events held in the past.

Hold a town-hall forum in the City Council Chambers where a televised presentation on the state and future of community TV can be made and can be open for public comment. At this time, excerpts from shows can be shared and awards presented. The Cable Commissioners should moderate this event.

In preparation for the above presentation, it is suggested that a workshop be held with all community TV and PEG channel operators and production staff to identify exactly what service and capacity is being used at this time and to hear from each channel what they would like to see in the future. Options for cooperation and program expansion and development can be discussed.

This will give thee Cable Commission a baseline to outline their direction and programs over the next two years.

We would like to see these vital opportunities for free speech preserved and enhanced, here in Long Beach and appreciate any assistance you give.
Sincerely,

Karen Ashikeh LaMantia
Recording Secretary, CTPA

**Community Television Producers Association
Of Long Beach**



accesssf
SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNITY MEDIA

Strengthening the Fabric of Community Life

MEDIA PRODUCTION WHAT'S ON AIR ABOUT US SUPPORT ACCESS SF **GET OUR NEWSLETTER** **SEARCH OUR SITE**

HOME | ABOUT US | WHO WE ARE | ORGANIZATION DOCUMENTS

- > San Francisco Community Television Corp
- > Cable Channel 29
- > Board of Directors
- > Organization Documents
- > Press Room
- > Policies

ABOUT US

ORGANIZATION DOCUMENTS

This area of our web site is designed to facilitate the reasonable public inspection of key documents that pertain to the ongoing management of the San Francisco Community Television Corporation (SFCTC), a 501.c3, public benefit corporation doing business in the State of California.

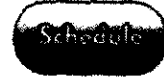
The current list of documents reflects guidelines for minimum, mandatory disclosure on the part of nonprofit organizations as set forth by Alliance for Nonprofit Management, a nationally recognized agency at work in the field of nonprofit best practices, advocacy and policy. Other guidelines taken into consideration include those set forth by the Federal Communications Commission and the Grantmanship Center.

With this section, Access SF seeks to demonstrate its willingness to conduct business openly and in an environment that is welcoming of community input. If a member of the public has a specific inquiry with regard to the offline review of our organization documents, please contact Aaron Vinck, Assistant Director, Ph: (415) 575-4944.

We also recommend interested members of the public visit www.GuideStar.org, the nonprofit community's leading web site for independent tracking of financial documentation on all registered 501.c3 and 501.c4 organizations in the United States.

- * Annual Report Fiscal Year 06-07
- * IRS Form 990 (2007)
- * Operations Budget 08-09

Also, check out the station's FORMS KIOSK for producer members where you can download helpful forms and documents that are frequently used by producers at the station. You can also review our most recent policy documents for public access producers.



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Statement of Operational Revenues and Expenses

OPERATIONAL REVENUES

Grants for Operations	\$774,000
Production Services	\$19,929
Memberships	\$12,324
Workshop Fees	\$7,170
Interest	\$4,445
Donations	\$1,318
Fundraising Events	\$887
Total Revenues:	\$820,074

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

Personnel	\$497,895
Rent	\$186,115
Maintenance	\$39,077
Utilities	\$38,537
Equipment & Supplies	\$34,462
Insurance	\$23,813
Fees & Other	\$3,462
Total Expense:	\$823,361

OPERATIONS BALANCE: -\$3,287

Note: This statement has been abstracted from the organization's unaudited Financial Statements, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007. Because this statement does not include all of the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practices, it is not intended to present the financial position of the organization.

- iii. Statement of organization's philosophy and mission
- iv. Attach any other pertinent documents regarding your organization's experience or experience of its officers, directors, or employees.

4. References

- a. **Financial References** (Banks, customers, creditors, supplies, business contacts). Include names, addresses, contact information.
- b. **Insurance References.** Include names, addresses, and contact information for liability insurance carriers.
- c. **Business References.** Furnish the names, addresses and telephone numbers of a minimum of three (3) firms or government organizations for which the vendor has provided similar projects.

B. Selection Criteria

The proposals will be evaluated by a selection committee comprised of parties with expertise in public access cable television management. The City intends to evaluate the proposals generally in accordance with the criteria itemized below.

The panel will review how closely an applicant's proposal is to meeting all the requirements set forth in the RFP.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Maximum Points allowed</u>
1. Experience in public access operations and financial management.	20
2. Demonstrated Financial Resources or Plan to Generate Resources in year one.	20
3. Management Plan for Efficiency	20
4. Plan for Retention and Development of Producers and Volunteers	10
5. Plan for Channel Administration, Oversight and Governance	10
6. Plan to develop Partnerships with Community Groups, Nonprofit Groups and Government.	10
7. Outreach and Marketing Plan for Public Access Services and Programming	10
Total Possible Points	100

VIII. PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE AND CONTRACT AWARD

A. Pre-Proposal Conference

A pre-proposal conference will be held on **February 4, 2009** starting promptly at **10:30 A.M.**, to be held at the Department of Technology, One South Van Ness Avenue, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA. The proposal terms and conditions will be reviewed and discussed at this time. Questions raised at the bidder's conference may be answered orally or may require research, in which case the answers will be posted as part of the minutes. The conference minutes will be posted on the City's bid website.

If you have further questions regarding the RFP, please contact the individual designated in Section IX.B.

B. Contract Award

DT will select a proposer with whom DT staff shall commence contract negotiations. The selection of any proposal shall not imply acceptance by the City of all terms of the proposal, which may be subject to further negotiations and approvals before the City may be legally bound thereby. If a satisfactory contract cannot be

