

MHCRC COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM STATISTICS

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Total Grants Awarded: 15

Community Technology Grants Program: 14

Off-Cycle Grants Program: 1

Total Applicants: 22

Total Grant Dollars Invested into Our Communities: \$869,211.10

Median Grant Award Amount: \$49,000

Average Grant Award Amount: \$55,888

Public Benefit Areas Addressed:

- Reducing Disparities → 57%
- Improving Service Delivery → 14%
- Improving Community Involvement → 29%
- Cost Reduction → 0%

Monitoring MHCRC Equity Indicators:

First-Time Grantees*: 10

Funded Projects Prioritizing Racial Equity: 9

Funded Projects Supporting Underserved Communities: 13

Nonprofit Organizations: 14

Educational Institutions: 2

COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY GRANTS PROJECT SUMMARIES:

[C.E.T.I.*](#)

Grant Award: \$76,867

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

CETI's "XRchive: Creating Social Documentary Experiences" project aims to pilot a storytelling project using emerging technologies. Participants will gain experiential training by working collaboratively with seasoned experts to create an augmented reality tour (in the form of a Pokemon-like app) that tells the cultural history of N/NE/E Portland, emphasizing social justice and themes of migration and displacement. A minimum of 40 participants will be recruited from identified communities (including under-represented groups in STEAM, communities of color and/or women, immigrants, and LGBTQ+) through project partners such as DIN, Open Signal, STEAM groups, and CETI's own network. At least 10

mentors (technical experts) will be recruited from target communities by working with organizational partners such as Women Who Code and Women in Technology. Participants will be connected with experts to create videos, sound clips and sketches that will be displayed within the app. Training will occur through virtual workshops, tutorials and regular project work within an assigned team. Participants will gain relevant skills in grant-funded technology such as XR (extended reality), video production, and video editing. In addition, the video stories collected along with the process of content creation will be edited into at least three videos which will be shared with both Open Signal and MetroEast Community Media. Portland State University's School of Art and Design will act as a project partner who will provide a training space, equipment storage, and production support.

[David Douglas School District \(DDSD\)*](#)

Grant Award: \$16,176.83

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

The "Engaging Families through Digital Equity" project seeks to cultivate historically underserved families' and students' joint technology engagement. DDSD will engage about 15 families through three in-person, hands-on training sessions designed to increase comfort and confidence with technology, and further engage hundreds of families through three supplemental recorded 30-minute tutorials posted on the DDSD website. Families will be recruited by DDSD's bilingual Family and Community Partnership Coordinator who will work with principals, teachers, and key staff to identify the families most in need. In addition, DDSD will create a documentary of the whole project highlighting candid interviews with participants and how increased comfort/expertise with technology will benefit their future plans to use technology alongside their children. Both the tutorials and the documentary piece will be shared out on both Open Signal and MetroEast.

[East Metro Arts, Community & Culture \(EMACC\)*](#)

Grant Award: \$52,246

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

EMACC supports the Rockwood Playhouse which strives to be a 'theater of community where strangers become friends, families create memories and experiences build pathways to joyful inspiration and belonging.' The "Rockwood Playhouse for the Arts Educational Video Library" project aims to contribute to that mission through the production of two full-length stage performances and three or more community musical/dance performances at the Rockwood Preparatory Academy. The theater will be outfitted with stage lighting and sound equipment, and cameras and sound boards will be installed to support turning the performances into videos. The performances will be appropriate for public school curriculums, turned into videos shared with MetroEast Community Media for public consumption, and available for check-out by Rockwood community educators. In addition, the project aims to provide a media education component to 20 volunteers who will be trained in the use and maintenance of the equipment and software used to produce the video content for inclusion in the video library. The volunteers come from the Rockwood Community and the project aims to serve at least 50% who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and/or low-income.

[Flying Focus Video Collective](#)

Grant Award: \$1,334

Public Benefit Area: Improving Service Delivery

Flying Focus Video Collective’s “2021 Archiving Grant” project seeks grant funds to purchase hard drives and tapes in order to back up new programs as they are produced to ensure that programs are available to rebroadcast on Open Signal. The hard drives and tapes are projected to allow Flying Focus Video Collective to produce and archive content for approximately three years. The programming showcases local groups and illustrates various issues of concern, how various civic groups are working on the issues, and how viewers can get involved to help make substantive change.

[Growing Gardens*](#)

Grant Award: \$29,656

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

Growing Gardens “Virtual Education for Food Justice” project seeks to address food insecurity and malnutrition in low-income households by teaching people how to grow their own food. The project will use video production technology to create and disseminate educational video content related to backyard food production, nutrition, and cooking with fresh produce. The staff will also create hands-on environmental science lessons for kids (grades K – 5) to be shared out with educators in their 12 partner schools located in the Portland Public School District and David Douglas School District. Last, videos will be produced which highlight local chefs of color who participate in the organization’s ‘Chef in Your Garden’ dinner series and who are actively working to create a better food system in their communities. The Chefs will share the history of their food and their personal stories. The video content will be in both English and Spanish (Growing Gardens has a bilingual staff) and will be shared out through Open Signal and MetroEast Community Media.

[Oregon Museum of Science and Industry \(OMSI\)*](#)

Grant Award: \$143,446

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

The “Reducing Disparities in STEM through Video Production” project will engage teen cohorts (ages 14 to 18) in the creation of videos featuring teen-designed science demonstrations. Each of the two cohorts of 20 teens will receive approximately 50 hours of programming over twelve-weeks which will include technical video production workshops alongside skills building activities in science communication, collaboration, and public speaking. The STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Art) video content created by the teens and by OMSI educators aims to increase participation by those traditionally underserved by STEAM educational experiences at OMSI and help to create a positive STEAM identity in youth. OMSI works with Portland YouthBuilders and Oregon MESA to recruit teens to participate in the ‘Teen Science Alliance’ cohorts. The 25 videos produced will be shared with both Open Signal and MetroEast Community Media.

[One World Chorus](#)

Grant Award: \$119,446.93

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

The “Big Up Show” Project provides an opportunity for Portland area students to collaborate and learn from leading professionals who work in live performance and broadcast media. One World Chorus seeks to train upwards of 200 students (ages 10 to 18) throughout ten-week residencies on how to operate camera, sound, lighting and editing equipment while producing episodes of “The Big Up Show,” a children’s variety program which will be shared out on Open Signal. This creative outlet aims to reach youth who attend schools where 80% of the population is eligible for free or reduced lunch, and who often face poverty, gang violence, gentrification and discrimination as everyday challenges. Students will be recruited through partnerships with Portland Parks and Recreation, and The Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland. Grant funds will be used to purchase mobile production kits for student use in remote learning sessions and will allow the staff to reach more kids at additional locations. Each residency culminates with an event in which students share their segments with an audience (live or virtual).

[National Alliance for Filipino Concerns*](#)

Grant Award: \$55,969

Public Benefit Area: Improving Community Involvement

The “CARE Project” aims to raise awareness about, and community involvement in, the Filipino domestic worker community, who suffer from social isolation and limited labor protections. The National Alliance for Filipino Concerns plans to directly engage upwards of 100 caregivers (domestic workers) and 15 cultural workers (i.e. community organizers) in a storytelling platform. Local Asian Pacific Islander (API) nonprofit partners include the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), Migrante Portland, and the Filipino Bayanihan Center. Caregivers will be recruited through project partners using the Participatory Action Research (PAR) method, often used to contact and build access with “hard-to-reach” immigrant populations. Cultural workers will start with one-on-one interviews to build trust and understanding. Those interviewees will then be invited to attend a series of 18 educational discussions that will allow them to connect with peers and receive training on relevant social issues. The discussions will be filmed and incorporated into the storyboard for a documentary feature entitled “Labor of Care” which will highlight the caregivers’ lives in the Philippines, their migration to the United States, and their experiences as domestic workers. The final produced piece will be shared out through MetroEast Community Media, various websites, and at in-person community screenings.

[NE STEAM Coalition*](#)

Grant Award: \$49,000

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

The “BIPOC Community Technology Lab” project aims to address the barriers that Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) youth face when accessing technology necessary for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) opportunities. To do so, they plan to create a hub similar to a maker-space at the Abundant Life Church in North Portland, which already serves a multi-racial community and as a center for services and events important to BIPOC residents. The hub will work to

(1) increase involvement of BIPOC youth by creating educational how-to videos on maker-space-type STEAM technology and (2) to increase BIPOC representation in STEAM with videos about developing STEAM-related technical skills made by BIPOC interns and community members while using the hub. Training curriculum on video production developed by MetroEast Community Media will be offered to interns (ages 16 to 24) and interested community members. Crafting and repair equipment from sewing machines to laser cutters will serve as tools in the creation of the how-to videos, which are designed to elevate stories by and about the BIPOC community and ultimately increase BIPOC participation in STEAM. NE STEAM Coalition has secured dozens of community partners to support the recruitment of youth, STEAM education personnel, and in-kind donations. They plan to produce and distribute a minimum of 15 educational videos to the Community Media Centers.

[Northwest Alliance for Alternative Media and Education \(NAAME\)](#)

Grant Award: \$76,000

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

The “Voices of Wisdom and Modern Mythology” Project intends to serve up to 60 youth (aged 14-21) in Multnomah County with an emphasis on under-served indigenous, Black and Latinx youth, as well as youth who have experience homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction, mental health disability, learning differences, trauma, foster care/shelters and juvenile detention. NAAME seeks to build a newfound sense of empowerment through self-expression and digital creativity while building technical and life skills. Throughout a series of four-week-long workshops hosted by established project partners and utilizing trauma-informed curriculum, youth will: learn professional video & audio production skills, be introduced to hip-hop artists and modern musicians, be introduced to teachings of indigenous elders from Africa and Turtle-Island, and be given guidance as they create their own raps, lyrics and poetic verse which will be turned into a music videos and/or documentaries (at minimum, 10 videos) which will be shared out with Open Signal and MetroEast Community Media. Youth will have an opportunity to present their final projects at community screenings. Project partners include Latino Network; Young Audiences of Oregon; Keys, Beats, Bars; ReWild Portland; Ascending Flow; and, Tryon Life Community Farm.

[NW Documentary](#)

Grant Award: \$71,940

Public Benefit Area: Improving Community Involvement

NW Documentary’s “Community Storytelling in Parkrose” Project aims to pilot a new, more mobile organizational structure in order to advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion goals and support intentional community building. NW Documentary will bring resources, workshops and services into Metro area spaces for up to three years, starting with Parkrose. NW Documentary will work in partnership with Parkrose United Methodist Church and youth-based non-profit organizations, such as Elevate Oregon, to produce short documentary films about the Parkrose neighborhood which will be screened in the community and shared out on the Community Media Center channels. Upwards of 30 filmmakers will participate in the organization’s ten-week-long DIY Documentary workshops which helps participants identify stories that might be interesting and feasible, learn how to do video editing, sound

design, color correction, and more. They will also upgrade editing workstations and transition to laptop-based stations, which will offer more flexibility in meeting the needs of all members of the community.

[Portland State University \(PSU\)](#)

Grant Award: \$80,702

Public Benefit Area: Improving Community Involvement

PSU's "Center for Documentary Filmmaking and Production" project seeks to establish a computer lab, checkout equipment, and a shooting studio to form a center to support a cohort of 50 students and grow their community-based filmmaking curriculum. The center will support two pilot courses which will result in a dozen student-led short documentary films that will be screened publicly and shared out on Open Signal. One Course, "Video, Design, Community," will partner with Outside the Frame. In groups, students will create a video series around the themes of "place" and "home" documenting stories of houseless or previously houseless youth connected to Outside the Frame. In the course, "The COMMA Workshop," students will examine the challenges of under-represented groups in the creative industries while learning skills to expand their professional networks. In collaboration with high school students, students will create videos that center and document Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) voices in the arts. The grant-funded equipment will further support the entirety of the video art curriculum at PSU and be available for check-out to support student-led video projects throughout the College of Art and Design.

[The Circus Project*](#)

Grant Award: \$15,315.34

Public Benefit Area: Improving Community Involvement

The Circus Project seeks to build out a media production suite, including lights, a professional camera and computers at their home studio, where unique infrastructure including rigging, mats and specific safety measures support students in practicing their particular artform. The "Media Suite" project will enable The Circus Project to create original digital content that they wouldn't otherwise be able to produce on site, as well as expand access to contemporary circus arts to underserved audiences/students. Throughout the grant period, The Circus Project will produce 10 hours of video content highlighting quality live performances as well as unique student-produced content which will be shared out through both Open Signal and MetroEast. In addition, at least 25 students and working circus arts will receive training on the upgrading equipment. Previously limited by their lack of access to technology, the media suite will allow students to participate in the new digital realm of contemporary circus arts.

[The Old Church*](#)

Grant Award: \$45,512

Public Benefit Area: Improving Service Delivery

The Old Church requests grant funds to support their "Expanding The Old Church's Programming Production Capabilities" project in order to better reach their community members during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. The Old Church plans on recording over 150 shows produced annually and

broadcasting their programming through MetroEast Community Media (at minimum four shows/month will be shared out). The annual community programming includes 50 lunch-time concerts and 8 to 10 *We Can Listen* shows which are hybrid documentary/performance/panel discussions. In addition, The Old Church plans to use this expanded community outreach to grow their annual audience and highlight at least 60% performers and speakers who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQ+, women, and/or artists with disabilities. Grant funds will support upgrades to equipment which includes installation of four movable camera stations and technology required to support recording, editing, and broadcasting content, all built for long-term expansion and durability.

OFF-CYCLE GRANTS (“Special Funding Requests”) PROJECT SUMMARIES:

[Feed the Mass*](#)

Grant Award: \$35,600

Feed the Mass (FTM) seeks to address food insecurity at all levels by using accessible, diverse, and sustainable efforts which bring people together. The “Cultured Cooking” project will use grant funds to purchase upgraded video and editing equipment in order to produce a series of ten 30-minute-long broadcast-ready episodes which will highlight Portland-based chefs of color who are making a difference in their community. The chefs will prepare their favorite dishes and share their stories. The video series will also explore themes of social justice around food insecurity, access to support, and cultural changes in these communities. In addition, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) youth will be trained in video and television production through paid internships in partnership with the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO). FTM has been offering monthly, live virtual cooking classes since February 2021, and want to expand their programs to include interactive food education programs for youth and families. Summer 2021 is the critical time for FTM to produce this video series as an essential component to this expanded work. Videos will be shared out through Open Signal.

As part of the normal grantmaking process, Comcast is given the opportunity to review all final grant applications and contracts prior to staff moving the contracts forward for Commission consideration.