



Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission

Serving Multnomah County and the Cities of Fairview, Gresham, Portland,
Troutdale & Wood Village

MHCRC COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM STATISTICS

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Total Community Technology Grants Awarded: 16

Total Applicants: 31

Grant Amendments That Increased Grant Dollars: 0

Total Grant Dollars Invested into Our Communities: \$994,416

Median Grant Award Amount: \$62,619.50

Average Grant Award Amount: \$110,490.66

Public Benefit Areas Impacted:

- Reducing Disparities → 75%
- Improving Service Delivery → 6%
- Improving Community Involvement → 19%
- Cost Reduction → 0%

Monitoring MHCRC Equity Indicators:

First-Time Grantees: 10

Grassroots Organizations: 9

Projects Prioritizing Racial Equity: 13

Projects Supporting Underserved Communities: 15

Nonprofit Organizations: 13

Educational Institutions: 3

Government Institutions: 0

COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY GRANTS PROJECT SUMMARIES:

**Denotes first-time grantees*

[African Youth and Community Organization \(AYCO\)*](#)

Grant Award: \$101,238

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

The “Telling Stories & Achieving Dreams” project seeks to empower youth by teaching video production, editing, and communication skills to create video content that expresses their personal stories and cultural identities. As a part of AYCO’s Digital Literacy and Media Training program, youth ages 14 to 20 will participate in 10-week cohorts consisting of approximately 40



hours of training. There, they will build media production skills through the hands-on creation of video projects for broadcast on the cable system via Open Signal. Grant funds will be used to purchase a library of video production equipment, which youth will use to create documentary-style shorts, interview-based profiles, and short-form narrative pieces. Participants will explore themes such as identity, mental health, cultural heritage, and lived immigrant experiences. AYCO also seeks to increase community engagement through the distribution of at minimum 10 original videos.

[CETI: A Creative and Emergent Technology Institute](#)

Grant Award: \$75,630

Public Benefit Area: Improving Community Involvement

The “Emerging Media Storytelling for Communities” project seeks to continue CETI’s work to help local creators develop fluency in emerging media. CETI will serve at minimum 40 students, educators, creators, and professionals in training institutes and project support focused on augmented storytelling tools including AI video creation, XR interactive and immersive creation tools. The equipment purchased will be used to (1) support the creation of XR story-telling tours of Portland, focused on the Old Town/Chinatown and Albina neighborhoods made in partnership with communities; and (2) create video data visualization as a part of a climate resilience tour around Portland, in partnership with environmental groups and Tribes. Video content will be used in the app-based tours and shared with Open Signal for cable distribution. CETI has established numerous community partners who will be involved in this project. They intentionally focus on working with creators from communities previously marginalized or under-represented in tech and emerging media – including women, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, low-income, and disability communities.

[Desert Island Studios \(DI Studios\)](#)

Fiscally sponsored by the Portland Art Museum

Grant Award: \$91,000

Public Benefit Area: Improving Community Involvement

The “Post-Production Facility & Expanded Member Equipment Pool” project at DI Studios seeks to establish a professional post-production suite and expand their member equipment pool to expand their work in the mediamaking community and ultimately serve more people and projects. The newly-created editing suite will assist members in finalizing projects for distribution as well as allow for additional training opportunities in post-production workflows through professional mentorship. The additional production equipment and associated studio upgrades (including electrical systems and soundproofing) will expand the gear pools available for use, allow for increasingly professional productions, and create more access for DI Studios members. Content created through DI Studios is primarily produced by BIPOC, LGBTQ2S+, and/or women creatives and technicians, although it remains a welcoming creative hub for people of all identities. As a result of the new equipment, and updated/expanded spaces, DI Studios will serve an additional 200 people, see a 40% increase in project outputs by members,

and see a 50% increase in video content delivered to the community media centers for cable distribution.

[Ethos Music Center*](#)

Grant Award: \$57,800

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

The “Community Voices on Air: Building a Broadcast Media Hub for Cultural Expression” project seeks to expand community access to broadcast-quality video production by upgrading a performance venue into a media-education and content-creation hub. Grant funds will be used to upgrade outdated AV systems and install a full suite of professional-grade broadcast and media production equipment, including: 1) broadcast-grade cameras and field production tools; 2) digital mixers and flexible lighting systems; 3) high-definition encoding with closed captioning; 4) soundproofing enhancements; 5) cloud-based streaming platforms; and 6) wireless microphones and guitar systems. These tools will support students, instructors, and partners in producing a minimum of 18 broadcast-ready videos for both live and recorded use. Content will be distributed through Open Signal public access channels and Ethos’ online platforms—broadening community visibility and media representation. Ethos staff and key volunteers (10 total) will receive training from Open Signal’s Train-the-Trainer program, covering studio and field production, cinematography, editing, and teaching practice. This will enhance internal capacity while enabling Ethos to offer youth-led media programming, internship opportunities, and community collaborations centered on inclusive content creation.

[Friends of Saturday Academy*](#)

Grant Amendment Award: \$4,510

Public Benefit Area: Improving Service Delivery

The “Empowering Progress: Bridging the Digital Divide for Saturday Academy’s Mission” seeks to elevate it’s visual storytelling capabilities through a strategic upgrade of its videography equipment. Newly-purchased equipment will be used to provide a minimum of 50 Multnomah County students with the technology necessary to power their creative exploration through skills-building in filmmaking, video production, and photojournalism. A minimum of three student-produced videos that showcase the impact of Saturday Academy’s digital media classes will be shared on the cable system via Open Signal.

[Gresham Barlow School District*](#)

Grant Award: \$118,762

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

The “GBSD Video Technology Grant” project aims to ultimately produce approximately 150 videos, which will be submitted to MetroEast Community Media for cable distribution. And, to serve approximately 150 students in the Gresham-Barlow School District via media classes at Dexter McCarty Middle School, Gordon Russell Middle School, and West Orient Middle School. Grant funds will be used to purchase professional quality media equipment and other

accessible technologies for use in dedicated video production classes, held throughout the year, in which students create school news programming while learning general video production techniques. A variety of video types ranging from journalistic to DIY/Process Films to documentary and narrative films will be explored. MetroEast will be providing initial training on the media equipment with Gresham Barlow School District staff, which will cover video production techniques including: camera operation, lighting, sound, editing, and other integral film concepts.

[JUNTOSpdx*](#)

Fiscally sponsored by Roots & Beats Project

Grant Award: \$56,100

Public Benefit Area: Improving Community Involvement

The “Visiones JUNTOS” project seeks to support the ongoing work of JUNTOSpdx, a community-based arts and culture collective that is dedicated to celebrating and uplifting the diverse experiences of Portland’s Latino/Hispanic community, particularly immigrant and indigenous community members. Through the purchase of industry standard video production equipment and comprehensive skills training for the media team - consisting of recruited community members and staff – JUNTOSpdx seeks to be responsive to community feedback that indicated a desire for greater cultural representation in the areas of art, storytelling, food, and wellness. The media team will collaborate to produce video content that: showcases the signature JUNTOSpdx events; highlights intimate, narrative driven profiles of community members who have overcome systemic barriers; and follows the journeys of runners through regional and national marathons to help reframe public health through a cultural lens. A minimum of 16 videos will be submitted to Open Signal for cable broadcast.

[North Star Civic Foundation*](#)

Grant Award: \$32,093

Public Benefit Area: Improving Community Involvement

The “Using Technology to Deepen Civic Engagement and Bridge Community Differences” project seeks to leverage North Star’s existing civic programming to reach a far wider audience. After participating in Open Signal’s training program, and through the purchase of equipment, North Star will record and share civic information in video and audio formats for both members and the communities they serve. Produced video content includes civic education events featuring speakers and panel discussions, “explainer” videos that dig into data analysis of local issues, and community meetings between civic leaders. Videos will be shared out with Open Signal for cable distribution and screened at hosted community events for Multnomah County and the City of Portland.

[Peer Tribe Foundation*](#)

Grant Award: \$99,842

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

The “Technology Investment for Ascending Flow Youth Program in East Portland” project empowers BIPOC and low-income youth in East Multnomah County by providing opportunities to explore creative outlets, learn leadership skills and engage in youth-led activities. Grant funds will be utilized to purchase a library of video production gear and build out a mobile recording studio/video production bus. The latter will include a sound system and a portable stage, allowing East County youth participants receive training and to perform at festivals and schools. Approximately 40 youth participants (ages 13 to 18) will receive training in partnership with Outside the Frame and use their new skills to film the process of renovating the bus and painting a community mural on the exterior. In addition, youth will work together to produce videos highlighting the process of creating music as well as telling stories of their experiences growing up in East Portland. Transportation for program participants is often a barrier, and the bus also serves to transport the youth and gear to capture video content throughout East County. Upwards of 12 student films will be completed and shared with MetroEast Community Media for cable distribution, and at the annual Ascending Flow showcase.

[Portland Art Museum](#)

Grant Award: \$80,100

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

The “PAM CUT Animation Computer Lab” project aims to expand existing programming by partnering with community members and animation instructors in an animation program for marginalized youth. PAM CUT will teach a pilot series of three, eight-week long workshops on weekends and after school for youth ages 11-23, with a recruitment priority on BIPOC youth and unhoused youth. Professional animators will teach participants how to use industry-standard hardware and software, purchased with grant funds, to create animated short films through the lens of Afrofuturism and Latinx-futurism animation. Through participation, youth will meet select career technical education (CTE) standards for animation and AV technology as well as develop soft skills such as communication, project management, and teamwork. The videos will be broadcast via Open Signal’s cable channels and shown as individual shorts before film screenings at PAM CUT’s Tomorrow Theater.

[Portland Community College \(PCC\)](#)

Grant Award: \$81,252

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

The “Expanding Media Content Creation through Music and Sonic Arts at Portland Community College” project seeks to modernize technology and spaces essential for learner success for a minimum of 480 students enrolled in multimedia courses in the Moriarty Arts and Humanities Building at the Cascade Campus. Upgraded equipment will provide learners with reliable, professional-grade tools that allow them to compose original music, produce soundtracks, design immersive audio environments and create compelling multimedia narratives in positive and productive environments. In addition to addressing the problem of outdated and broken equipment, this project will integrate diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility measures to create spaces where learners of all abilities can engage fully in personal expression. A variety of

produced video content will be broadcast via the cable system on PCCTV and Open Signal – including 30 original video shorts/music videos, 2 longer form videos showcasing learners in the Creative Coding Student Capstone, and a video highlighting the music and sonic arts program at PCC.

[Portland State University: Sub-Basement Studios*](#)

Grant Award: \$63,730

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

The “Sub-Basement Studios: Supporting Women in Cinematography” project seeks to support increased female participation in Sub-Basement Studios (SBS), Portland State University’s student-run film and video production club comprised of five student directors who produce films and run an annual community film festival. SBS will use grant funds to purchase a much-needed upgraded gear library. Female students will be recruited to learn how to use the professional-grade equipment and, together with the current student directors, will be trained on multiple skill sets for camera usage including “Live Friday” broadcasts (highlighting local musicians), the production of short films, and a documentary capturing the project implementation throughout the grant term. Themes for short films are selected at weekly writers’ workshops. Upgraded gear will also be available for any member students to use, if they have a crew comprised of at least 50% women and have completed training on how to properly handle the equipment. Produced video content will be shared with Open Signal for cable distribution.

[Project Ledo*](#)

Grant Award: \$11,324

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

The “STEM Stories: Amplifying BIPOC Youth in Science and Innovation” project seeks to produce a series of ten video podcast episodes that center the voices, experiences, and creativity of 20 BIPOC and immigrant youth, ages 12-17, engaged in LEGO Robotics and STEAM programming. The youth will participate in a one-month intensive media workshop held after school and on weekends, where they will gain hands-on experience in interviewing, scripting, hosting, videography, and storytelling. Youth will shape the content and direction of each episode, which will highlight themes such as personal journeys in STEAM, behind-the-scenes footage from robotics competitions, career exploration, leadership development, and the impact of community membership. Videos will be produced bilingually (English/Spanish) and shared out on the cable system via Open Signal.

[Self Enhancement, Inc. \(SEI\)](#)

Grant Award: \$61,509

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

The “Self Enhancement, Inc. 2025 Community Technology Project” aims to expand learning opportunities that build media literacy along with other essential skills required in school,

careers, daily life, and informed civic engagement. Students in grades 6 through 12 enrolled in after-school programming (ASP) classes at the Tony Hopson, Sr. Center for Self Enhancement will work to produce engaging public-benefit videos focused on cooking for health, affordable and delicious meal planning, culturally affirming foodways, and how to access SEI's five food pantries/markets and other local resources. ASP terms are 6 to 10 weeks in duration and offer a variety of classes – cooking and video production are some of the most popular; this project combines both content areas for upwards of 100 middle school and high school students enrolled in ASP. Over the course of the project period, at least four videos will be produced each year (30 minutes in length) and shared out for cable distribution through MetroEast Community Media.

[Slavic Community Center of NW](#)

Grant Award: \$47,800

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

The “Youth Video Hub for Refugees” project aims to establish a Youth Video Hub at an existing community center in East Portland, where youth participants can access equipment to film and edit videos on topics that matter the most to them. Up to 60 youth participants, ages 12 to 19, will engage in a year-long cohort centered around 12 bi-monthly workshops after school and on weekends. Youth leaders will receive initial training on video production and then will assist in facilitating sessions to support their peers. Once participants have completed the core training workshops, they will gain access to a structured equipment check-out system and upgraded gear library. With support, they will produce 20 to 25-minute interview-style videos, highlighting personal stories, cultural identity, local issues, and youth perspectives. A minimum of 12 videos will be broadcast on the cable system via Open Signal.

[Stomping Grounds Arthouse*](#)

Grant Award: \$11,926

Public Benefit Area: Reducing Disparities

The “Scare City – SGA” project seeks to create a public access TV series (a minimum of eight 30-minute episodes) aimed at low-income children, ages 8 to 12, from marginalized communities. The series will educate and engage kids around themes of race, class, and gender through established social-emotional learning (SEL) standards (self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making). The staff artists at Stomping Grounds Arthouse will produce the video content using newly purchased editing stations, cameras, and software. Each episode will focus on teaching a specific SEL skill as well as featuring local Portland artists and businesses. Video content will be shared out via Open Signal and in-school free workshops provided at a minimum to five K-5 schools throughout the Portland Public School District.