

Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission 2012 Workplan

1. Access Television and Community Media

Promote the use and public support of access television and community media. Investigate ways to sustain and improve access television. Identify and develop sustainable funding mechanisms for Public Access Television.

- Assist the Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs (TARA) office in the performance evaluation of channelAustin, the public access television management contractor.
 - Receive periodic reports from channelAustin management.
 - Receive feedback from public access producer community
- Support "Channel 6" City of Austin government access television.
 - Receive periodic reports from Channel 6 management.
 - Support outreach efforts, especially with respect to new technology and services.
- Support PEG (public, educational, governmental) access television.
 - Monitor availability and quality of PEG services on local video provider networks.
 - Support local PEG access programming and coordination between regional PEG providers.
 - Work with the City on monitoring the status of PEG operations and services.
 - Support outreach efforts to increase public awareness of and public support for access programming and community media.
 - Work on bolstering community groups use of public access television.
 - Monitor and make recommendations on allocating PEG capital funds.

2. Grant for Technology Opportunities

Provide support and oversight to the Grant for Technology Opportunities (GTOPs) program to assure continued success.

- Manage the process to review grant applications and make award recommendations.
- Review and make recommendations for the annual funding of GTOPs.
- Continue to monitor and conduct annual review of GTOPs goals, process, and procedures.
- Communicate to Council and the community GTOPs' status and accomplishments.
- Request periodic tours of and presentations from past GTOPs recipients.
- Support staff in the success of GTOPs.

3. Digital Inclusion and Community Technology

Continue to support the City of Austin opportunities, initiatives and budgeted plans for expanding equitable public access to telecommunications and information services for all of Austin. Continue to support the City of

Austin Community Technology Initiative. Continue to support community networks and community technology centers. Continue to work with programs, events and organizations that assist local interactive, music, film, digital entertainment companies, community media and community technology groups.

- Continue to support Austin Free-Net.
 - Receive periodic updates from Austin Free-Net.
- Continue to support the Austin Connects Initiative.
 - Receive periodic updates from staff.
- Continue to support the Residential Technology Survey project.
 - Review/analyze survey results and make recommendations based on results.
 - Recommend solutions to increase digital access in underserved areas.
 - Make recommendation to City Council for periodic updates of the Tech Ascertainment survey.
 - Generate greater awareness of the survey results as a resource to the public.
- Monitor City of Austin comprehensive plan process with respect to public technology issues.
 - Broadband services, technology skills and availability.
 - City web site and open government initiatives.
 - Identify opportunities and make recommendations for improved broadband service and availability.
 - Investigate community benefit and opportunities from new and available technologies.
- Offer invitations to community groups to address the Commission.

4. Open Government

Support open government technology initiatives that improve citizen access to public information and increase citizen engagement in civic activities.

- Monitor status of Austin Government Online (AustinGO) initiative, and receive periodic updates on the city website, data portal, and other online facilities.
- Work with city staff to develop recommendations for an Open Government Framework that includes rules and standards for open data, guidelines for open source platforms and strategic priorities for mobile applications.
- Provide opportunities for community input on open government initiative.
- Highlight and support citizen efforts that utilize open government data and services.

5. Legislative, Regulatory and Consumer Issues

Continue to monitor legislative and regulatory issues relating to regulated communication industries and media, at both the federal and state levels. Offer policy recommendations to staff and Council.

- Receive periodic updates from TARA.
- Monitor impact of State and Federal regulation on the availability, quality, and affordability of broadband services, including network neutrality issues.
- Monitor status of technology grant opportunities.
- Monitor transition of franchised video services to State franchising.

6. Program and Funding Recommendations

Provide program and funding recommendations for FY 2013 based on workplan items as appropriate.

7. Coordination and Communication

Develop and maintain working relationships with other boards and commissions, other city departments, event organizers, and community groups.