Austin Community Technology and
Telecommunications Commission 2013 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.

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* Ensure robustness of Public Access
    - Maintain current City contract funding level ($450K)
    - Assist in developing a sustainability plan for year-to-year operational funding (salaries, etc.)
    - Receive quarterly reports from public access management including status of operation and services

        o Identify revenue generating ideas and other funding
        o Monitor contractor performance to existing metrics

    - Advocate for community relevance through City Hall and to the public
        o Arrange tour for City (Budget Officer, Chief of Staff) to witness the value

    - Make sure public access is serving the community need in Austin
o Work to better understand public access needs, utilization, and satisfaction
        o Engage the public to identify ways public access can better serve emerging community media needs
        o Engage in outreach to increase number of producers/clients

* Propose policy and strategic plan for PEG capital expenditures

* Dialogue with Channel Austin Board and management to communicate Commission imperatives and receive feedback
    - Request invitation to Channel Austin Board meeting and attend
    - Request invitation to participate in Channel Austin producer forums

* Support other PEG entities
    - Receive periodic updates from Channel 6 management
    - Receive periodic updates from PEG Manager's group and PEG representatives from AISD, ACC, and Travis County

* Meet with other community media outlets to explore collaborative opportunities and ensure all resources are best serving the community

* Advocate for new community media outlets (such as low-power FM)

2. Grant for Technology Opportunities
Provide support and oversight to the Grant for Technology Opportunities (GTOPs) program to assure continued success.
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* 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' value, benefits, and accomplishments.

* Request periodic tours of and presentations from past GTOPs recipients.

* Support staff in the success of GTOPs.

* Continue to encourage partnerships between organizations so they can leverage resources.

* Find additional ways to make GTOPS more accessible to smaller grass-roots organizations.

* Advocate for program expansion to anticipate future needs.

3. Digital Inclusion and Community Technology
Continue to support the City of Austin opportunities, initiatives and budgeted plans for expanding equitable public access 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.
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* Continue to support Austin Free-Net.
    - Receive periodic updates from Austin Free-Net.
    - Support staff in developing the scope of services and amount of funding for new computer technology and training services contract

* Continue to support the Austin Connects Initiative.
    - Receive periodic updates from staff.

* Continue to support the Austin Residential Technology Survey project.
    - Identify other organizations doing community surveys and advocate for the addition of technology availability, accessibility, and use questions
    - Begin planning and advocate for funding to conduct another ARTS survey starting in 2014
    - Recommend a policy to City Council to periodically perform and fund a residential

technology survey

* Initiate a strategic process for determining need and opportunity to improve broadband services and availability in Austin.

* 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 engagement in civic activities.
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* Monitor status of Austin Government Online (AustinGO) initiative, and receive periodic updates on the city website, data portal, and other online facilities.
    - Help identify and advocate for City inclusion of additional data sets and new applications
    - Identify metrics for City online initiatives and receive periodic updates from staff
      o Measure website services and utilization (Google Analytics, etc.)
      o Measure open data provisioning and utilization

* Explore ways to leverage the City's open data infrastructure to support other civic entities (hyperlinks, etc.)

* Support creation of City Innovation Office by receiving staff updates and providing Commission priorities and feedback
    - Clarify expected outcomes for Innovation Office
    - Advocate for necessary funding to enable completion of Innovation Office mission

* 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.
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* 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 impact of State and Federal regulation on the availability, quality, and affordability of PEG services, including network neutrality issues.

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.