

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



ACMI

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The Board of Directors and I present to you the Nineteenth Annual Report of Arlington Community Media Inc (ACMi). June 30, 2025 marked the completion of our nineteenth full fiscal year of operation as Arlington's PEG (Public, Education, and Government) cable access station, providing universal public access to uncensored local community programming and local news coverage.



Usually, in my annual report I report all of the excellent programming and services that ACMi and our staff have provided for the Town of Arlington, its students and residents over the past year. However, this year's letter is different. For the past several years, due to a vast decrease in our revenue from "cable cutters" who do not contribute to Public Media, ACMi does not have adequate funding to provide the same level of services that the Town of Arlington and its residents have come to expect from us over the last nineteen years. Through the diligent efforts of the Board and staff, we have been able to secure limited funding directly from the Town of Arlington as a town budget line item to assist with our finances, and some direct donations from sponsors and residents, but this is not a panacea for our funding dilemma.

ACMi, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, continues to be in full compliance with IRS and Massachusetts regulations. The annual independent audit of our financial books and records demonstrated our excellent financial controls and oversight and, as always, that we continue to manage our finances to the highest standards.

Even though our budget is extremely tight, the Board is pleased with the efforts of ACMi members and staff that have resulted in our high-quality, first-run local P.E.G. programming. We also want to note that we continue to provide coverage of local subjects of interest through ACMi News for our community of viewers, albeit at a reduced level.

We are very proud of our accomplishments over the past year, and we are gratified by the steady increase in scope, depth, and power of ACMi's contribution to Arlington's social and cultural community life. The Board and I thank you for your trust in us. We do hope that you will consider donating to ACMi, and encourage you to visit our website and make a continuing monthly contribution. We also ask that you contact the School Committee, the Select Board, Town Meeting Members and the Finance Committee to request that they support ACMi through the Town Budget process.

**John D. Leone, President**

# MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**John D. Leone, Esq.**  
President



**Michael Ruderman**  
Treasurer



**Philip J. Privitera**  
Member



**Michael Jacoby Brown**  
Member



**Kevin Cafferty**  
Member



**Frank Auer**  
Member

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As young master Oliver Twist once said, “please, sir, can I have some more?” That was the focus this past year - obtaining more funding for ACMi because more residents are “cutting the cord.” The cord in this case are the cable providers here in Arlington: Comcast (Xfinity), Verizon, and RCN (Astound Broadband). As technology changed, more folks began subscribing to streaming services, from which we receive no funding, instead of cable services. As a result, our operational funding has steadily been decreasing over the last several years. Other community television stations throughout the country are in a similar bind, and like many of them who approached their local governments, we had to ask the Town of Arlington for financial assistance.



After meeting with the Finance Committee and presenting at the full Town Meeting in May, we were granted \$100,000 to be used as bridge money for both personnel and programming on the Educational and Government channels. ACMi is certainly indebted to the Town for making that decision. The Town also generously assisted us by reducing the cost for us to stay in the building at 85 Park Ave.

During this difficult period we had two staff members leave to further their careers elsewhere. The biggest burden of making up for their loss fell on Jeff Munro, our Operations Manager, who turned himself into a pretzel juggling all of his own production responsibilities in addition to those of the two former staffers. Stuart Roelke was hired as our new Production and Media Manager, and Iasmina Birleanu was hired as our new Youth Coordinator. Thanks to you, Jeff, for stepping up, and thank you also to the rest of the ACMi staff who had to double up on many of their job responsibilities.

Lastly, the funding model we as a non-profit have used over the years must change if we are to continue to provide the many services we do to the Town of Arlington. To assist us in accomplishing that change, we welcome Lesley Norman as our Development Director. Lesley has a profound understanding of television, media and fundraising, after working at PBS for many years. She has been getting us all on the same fundraising page in order to convey a clear and consistent message about ACMi and the need to financially support us.

We certainly have come through a very difficult financial period, but all in all I believe we have a bright future ahead. And perhaps Oliver Twist won't have to ask, “please, sir, can I have some more?”

**Norm McLeod, Executive Director**

# MEET THE TEAM



**Norm McLeod**  
Executive Director



**Jeff Munro**  
Operations Manager



**James Milan**  
Communications Manager



**Lesley Norman**  
Director of Development



**Stuart Roelke**  
Production &  
Media Manager



**Iasmina Birleanu**  
Youth Coordinator



**Josh Guicherit**  
Administrative &  
Production Assistant



**Jared Sweet**  
Editor



**Sean Keane**  
Government &  
Programming Coordinator

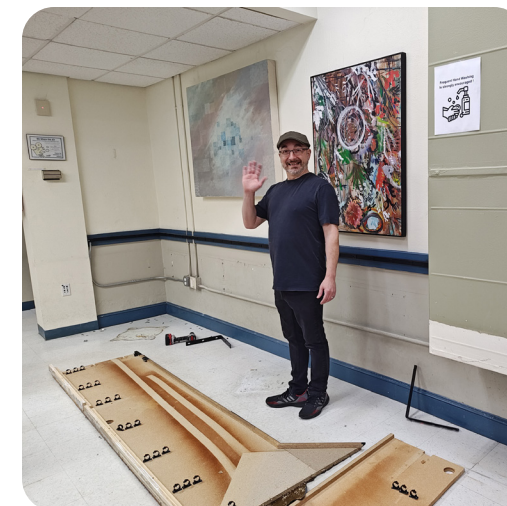
# FROM THE OPERATIONS MANAGER

2025 marks a special 25-year milestone for me here in Arlington. It was in 2000 that I was hired by Media One, which was soon to be gobbled up by AT&T Broadband, and then Comcast. For the first six years of the 21st century, ACMi was known as Arlington Cable Access. The Arlington Studio was a single channel operation with only two staff members. In 2006, with a leadership team led by Glen Koenig, Kathy Colwell and a newly formed Board of Directors, Executive Director Norm McLeod was hired. Soon after, I was asked to stay on.



And just like that...next year ACMi will be 20 years old! I look forward to spending this next year celebrating all we have become, and all the great people, programs, and projects that were brought to life here at ACMi. I am so proud and grateful that so many have generously given their time and talent over these decades. I am eager to build on the great successes of the past by ensuring that they continue through the year ahead, and beyond!

This past year has frankly been a challenging one for the ACMi family, as we had to make a lot of changes to our standard operations. Our nationally-recognized News Director retired, our longtime Production Manager accepted a well-deserved offer from Harvard University, our Youth Coordinator left to pursue a blossoming filmmaking career, and our Administrative Assistant had to leave after relocating away from Arlington. It was a lot! Although we all feel these losses, I am delighted to report that this rebuilding year for ACMi has been extremely productive, and we have assembled a remarkable team that is wholly signed on to our mission!



I often wear many hats as Operations Manager, and this last year I revisited many of the roles I've enjoyed doing over the years. One of my favorites was getting to work one-on-one with new member producers as they began their journey into the production world. It is great to be so directly involved again with one of the most exciting opportunities we offer.

Our youth program continued to thrive, with parents stepping up to take on some producing roles when it came to covering sports. I love introducing new students to the exciting world of live coverage of sports, concerts, performances, and other multi-cam events.

It was all hands on deck for the highly complex live coverage of the Reenactment of the Battle of Menotomy as part of the Arlington 250 celebration. I had the privilege of building an all-star team of staff, members, and alums to crew and engineer this unique project that we are all proud of.

We've seen an increase in the number of nonprofit organizations partnering with ACMi to explore more co-produced content. The livestreaming of an event commemorating the Women's Suffrage Movement combined the efforts of the League of Women Voters, Arlington's Friends of the Drama, and the Cantilena Chorus. ACMi produced promotional materials for press releases and links to create an online option for the sold-out program.

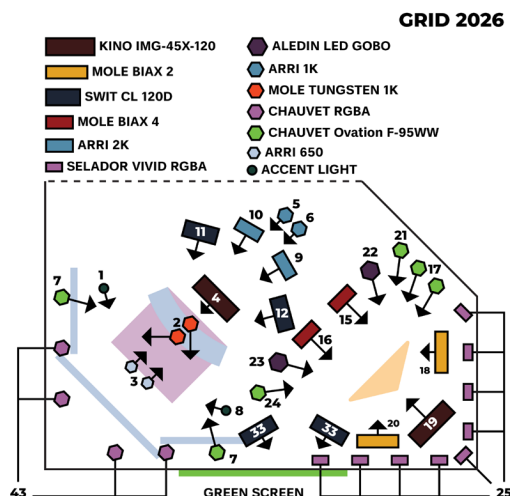
Other projects aligned with ACMi's priority to build new revenue options while using our services to foster strong community bonds. These included live streaming and coverage of book launches, lectures and concerts with the Armenian Cultural Foundation, and producing a Celebration of Life event that included a family keepsake video. We also did special projects with MIT, the Cotting School, and a number of schools throughout Arlington. These productions exemplify our dedication to supporting (and providing) educational programming, and there's more to come as we explore opportunities for creative collaboration.

We continue to invest in portable multi-cam production as we reimagine the possibilities of equipment resources. This year we repurposed studio equipment for use in the Ottoson Middle School, and we built kits to accommodate live productions in the gym, auditorium, and production studio in the brand-new Arlington High School.

We also found a number of occasions this year to take the ACMi Podcasting system on the road, as well as our new Roadcaster Video system, which enables high-quality audio mixing, video switching and livestreaming.



Lastly, this year the lighting grid saw a number of much needed tweaks and improvements. Old and excessive wiring was reduced and replaced. Light fixtures that had gradually shifted with time were centered to allow for beautifully lit full-scale productions on both sides of our studio as well as our green screen wall. Some older fluorescent lights were swapped out for more efficient LEDs with temperature controls. Two donated light fixtures with gobo capability allowing for shapes to be cast onto objects in the studio were installed in the grid. Going forward, productions like ACMi News will have much more control over the amount and direction of lights in the studio.



# FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

## Communications

We always strive to keep our members, friends, and partners aware of what's happening at ACMi through all kinds of communications - newsletters, email blasts, blog posts, and social media. We extend an open invitation to those in the community who want to learn the craft of digital media production right in their own town. Orientation visits to our Studio A at 85 Park Ave can be scheduled throughout the week, Monday-Friday, 10-6. These tours provide interested residents with an overview of our 19 years in operation and an introduction to our ever-expanding inventory of equipment and our numerous training opportunities.



Although the Arlington Advocate, in which our weekly TV schedule appeared for many years, no longer exists in that form, you can find our current TV schedule on our website at acmi.tv. When our other media partner, YourArlington, focuses on the same issues we are exploring in our news and public affairs programming, they will often link to our own content to enhance the audience's understanding of the topic at hand.

We continue to make fruitful use of the connections we have with other access stations in the area and around the state to find innovative ways to meet our communities' need to be informed, from the sharing of excellent content to important efforts to push forward vital state legislation to support community media. Finally, our work in collaboration with the Town of Arlington's media team continues to ensure that residents can access our content - as well as regular Updates with various town leaders - through the Town's website as well as our own.



## Community Partners

ACMi continues to mine a rich vein of collaborative energy with traditional partners like the Arlington Center for the Arts, the Council on Aging, Arlington EATS, and the Regent Theatre, while we also work whenever we can with others like the Menotomy Concert Series, the Arlington Housing Authority, and Arlington Friends of the Drama.



One of the most significant of our partnerships this year took place in the spring, when we lent our expertise and assistance to Arlington 250, the organizers of Arlington’s celebration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. ACMi was front and center for the Reenactment of the Battle of Menotomy that took place on the streets of Arlington in front of a crowd of thousands on April 20. The production was multifaceted and complex, as ACMi followed the sometimes chaotic action as it progressed along four full blocks in Arlington Center, and provided running commentary meant to enhance

viewers’ understanding of the context of what they were seeing. It was by all accounts a sterling success, and we at ACMi were very proud to play an essential role.

Finally, through our Public Affairs division, we schedule recurring visits with Arlington’s state legislators to keep residents informed about developments at the State House that could impact their lives. We have heard from both audience members and the officials themselves that these regular updates are both helpful and informative, so they will continue to be something our audience can count on.

**Schools**

Our important connections to Arlington schools, discussed in greater detail in other sections of this report, continue to evolve. We know that ACMi’s willingness and ability to provide comprehensive coverage of sports and performances continues to be a big hit with the community, and for the most part, in 2025 we were able to capture such events in the volume, and with the quality, that viewers have really appreciated over the years. This was no small feat, given the reductions in staff and funding that affected so many of our operations over this tumultuous year. We look forward to once again running on all cylinders in the coming year, now that we’ve returned to more normal staffing levels.

**ACMi News**

Those of you who are familiar with our Annual Report will note that, for the first time in many years, we are not including an entire section about the work of our News division over the course of this past year. The reason is very simple - because of the shortage of funding referenced above, we were not in a position to replace our News Director, Jeff Barnd, when he retired in Fall 2024. We were able to produce a trimmed-down newscast for a number



of months after Jeff’s departure, but the extra burden that placed on staff who took that on in addition to their full-time work was simply not sustainable.

We didn’t give ACMi News up entirely over the balance of 2025, but we were limited to releasing individual news pieces as we could. Operating with these constraints, we focused on profiling local businesses like the Capitol Theatre and Maida Pharmacy that were celebrating major anniversaries, and covering significant community events like the free dinners offered by Operation NEAT throughout the year, and the Arlington Heights Holiday Stroll & Tree Lighting.

Happily, the prospects are good for the return of ACMi News, and the newscast, in 2026. One of the first orders of business in the new year will be hiring a News Producer who will oversee the News division, allowing us to once again tap into the energies of members, interns, and citizen journalists to provide the robust coverage of local events that both we and our audience have come to expect.

**What Lies Ahead**

From its very inception, ACMi has been staunchly committed to serving the Arlington community, and we are genuinely proud of the education, access, information, and entertainment we have provided over the years. But the experience of the last number of years has made us even more aware of the unique contributions we can make to civic life in Arlington.

As so many in town – from local government to businesses to social-welfare agencies and nonprofits – continue to adapt to challenging conditions, ACMi keeps finding new ways to be useful in disseminating information and making residents aware of programs and services they can use. And we’ll keep striving to play our distinctive role in the tapestry of life in Arlington.

The biggest challenge to doing so continues to be that our operating revenue has been dramatically reduced over the last several years, as more people choose to let go of their cable subscriptions. A fee that cable subscribers pay as part of their service has been our sole and exclusive source of revenue for all the years ACMi has existed. We are in new territory now, and to help us navigate these uncharted waters, ACMi hired its first-ever Development Director in the fall of 2025.

Lesley Norman brings a remarkable breadth of experience to this role from her four decades as an experienced public television executive. She has been a Senior Producer, an Executive in Charge, a Vice President, a Chief Operating Officer, and an Executive Producer for a wide variety of programs, series, and production companies. We feel very fortunate to catch her at a time in her career when she is interested in a more local focus. Raising the funds to support the projects she has been involved with over the decades has been a constant for Lesley, and she brings both that wealth of experience and a real belief in the value of community media to the position of Director of Development at ACMi. We are thrilled to have her on board, and we imagine that Lesley’s imprint will be quite visible in next year’s Annual Report!



# MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS

## MEMBERS & MORE

Arlington Community Media Inc. (ACMi) is a member-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Membership at ACMi is open to all who live or work in Arlington. A nominal annual membership fee gives access to all the features, benefits, and resources ACMi has to offer. These include training in how to operate high-quality digital video production equipment and the ability to borrow and use the equipment outside of the studio; the use of our studio, equipment, and editing facilities; and air time on our Public, Educational, and Government channels carried by Comcast (Xfinity), RNC (Astound Broadband), and Verizon.

In 2025, ACMi was supported by 294 active members—including youth members—whose time, talent, and dedication made a meaningful impact throughout the year. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our members and volunteers for their invaluable contributions to events such as AHS Sports coverage, the Battle of Menotomy 250th Reenactment, Arlington Town Day, the Chamber of Commerce's Holiday Stroll, Battle of the Bands, the Arlington International Film Festival, the A-Town Film Festival, and many more.

## INTERNS

ACMi has continued to grow a thriving internship program serving students from a wide range of local colleges and universities, and occasionally from beyond the area as well. Interns play a direct role in producing programming across all departments, including News, Public Affairs, Sports, collaborations with ACMi member-producers, promotional content for local nonprofits, and original creative work.

We have been fortunate to maintain a strong team of interns year after year, and 2025 was certainly no exception! With the challenge of accomplishing as much—or more—with fewer full-time staff this year, we relied on our interns to embrace a self-sufficient approach even more fully than usual, and they rose to the occasion. Our sincere thanks go out to this year's interns from the following colleges and universities:

### **Boston University**

Ben McEwen  
Toby Pannone

### **Champlain College**

Mohsin Syed

### **Emerson College**

Michael Chow  
Ahaan Gore  
Michael Greene  
Aryssa Guerrero  
Hongyi Ji

### **Hofstra**

Juliana Luong

### **Providence College**

Maria Mantini

### **Tufts University**

Sofia Daffin  
Lia Faynberg  
Tori Kazan  
Sai Man Zhao

## Individual Members

Kerry Abukhalaf  
George Akerley  
Melanie Almiron  
Van Amov  
Kristin Anderson  
Phil Arcaro  
Michael Armanious  
Jason Audette  
Jeff Barnd  
Greg Bartlett  
Maggie Belanger  
Peter Bermudes  
Marcus Better  
Julia Bloom  
Paul T. Boghosian  
Michael Bosik  
Janice Brodman  
Michael Jacoby Brown  
Kevin Cafferty  
Christine Carney  
Julia Carpi  
Claire Carswell  
Katie Chang  
Yongjian Chen  
Matt Clarke-Lauer  
JoAnn Clinton  
Jenny Cutraro  
(Vera) Yemao Dai  
DeadRat  
Amber Espar  
Wynelle Evans  
Lia Faynberg  
Eddie Fitzgerald  
Cheryl Freeman  
Sarah Friedman  
John Gagan  
Judith Garber  
Lillian Gilmartin  
Gary Goldsmith  
Laury Gutierrez  
Jason Haas  
Jasper Hamilton  
Darrel Harmer  
Charles (Shady) Hartshorne  
Crystal Haynes  
Christopher Heigham  
Isabella  
Alan Jones  
Thouis Jones

Josiane  
Victoria Kazan  
Kim  
Christian Klein  
Richard Koolish  
Rajeev Kotyan  
Ava Kowalski  
Krufanwi  
Lauren  
John Leone  
Jennifer Litowski  
Ren Liu  
Isaac Livianu  
Brenda Mahoney  
Grady Mangrum  
Jason Martin  
Charlotte Milan  
Margaret Moody  
Toni Mueller  
Scott Mullen  
Jen Myronuk  
Sally Naish  
Alec Nicholson  
Francis O'Donovan  
Anim Osmani  
Maxwell Palmer  
Samyukta Panth  
Calen Pennington  
Fiona Perry  
Rebecca Persson  
Charlotte Pierce  
Tonia Pinheiro  
Robert Pushkar  
Chao Q  
Luca Rugiero  
Susan Ryan-Vollmar  
Paul Schlichtman  
Betsy Schramm  
Tommy Shenefield  
Larry Silverman  
singletrack  
Joseph Snodgrass  
Reed Snyder  
Racer Soares  
Wu So Fai  
Jonathan Spiller  
Eric Stange  
Karen Steiner  
Shawn Szturma  
Andy Takats

Vivien Tang  
Tyler Vaillancourt  
Alfonso Velasquez  
Debo Velona  
David White  
Joseph Whitter  
Franek Williamson

## Youth Members

Mazen Abukhalaf  
Claire Apigian  
Daniel Berczuk  
Ada Bickmeier  
Derek Brandon  
Nathan Brooks  
Aaron Burke  
Lettie Carswell  
Ana Cristina Cervera  
Meredith Clark  
Michael Collins  
Charlotte Estrada  
Daniel Noah Felcsuti  
Calvin Ferolito  
Fronic  
Grady  
Lucía A. Grunko  
Konstantina Hantzis  
Kai Guangshun Hare  
Isaac  
David Jagendorf  
Irene Jing  
Kadin Jones  
Greg J-S  
Roshan Kishlily  
Lily  
Sam Logan  
Jack Magoun  
Gerry Malloy  
Tobias Michelsen  
Ezinne Onyemah

Ronen Oren-Ikeda  
 Eddie Paget  
 Dustin Peabody  
 Nicolas Pogozelski  
 Noah Redford  
 Elizabeth Ribkin  
 Cooper Roberts  
 Ruby  
 Jiwan Ryu  
 Natalye S  
 Asher Saff  
 Ed Severe  
 Abi Shapiro  
 Ruhaan Sharma-Soneja  
 Jolin Shi  
 Vincent Shi  
 Harkeerat Singh  
 Dante Sobczynski  
 Ken Stanlake  
 Percy Stockton  
 Arson Stokes  
 Jeremy Thurber  
 Emma Titus  
 Toby  
 Mia Park Vakoc  
 Aomji Viboonnithikorn  
 Miles Weiner  
 Ghulam Woollman  
 Sol Yudowski  
 Alice Z  
 Nicholas Zaragoza  
 Kiyon Zayed  
 Maiya Zhou

**Nonprofits**  
 Schwamb Mill Preservation  
 STEM on Stage



**Groups**

Arlington After School Program  
 Debo Ray  
 Harmer Family  
 True Story Theater

**Businesses**

Leader Bank  
 Forced Exposure Music Distribution  
 Haynes Business Group  
 School of Rock Medford

**Town Agencies / Schools**

Arlington Chamber of Commerce  
 Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture  
 Arlington Education Foundation  
 Arlington Fire Department  
 Arlington High School  
 Arlington High School Building Committee  
 Arlington Historical Society (Alan Jones)  
 Arlington Housing Authority  
 Arlington Police Department  
 Arlington Public Library  
 Armenian Cultural Foundation, Inc.  
 Brackett Elementary School PTO  
 Council on Aging  
 Finance Committee  
 Friends of the Robbins Library  
 Gibbs School  
 MLK Jr Birthday Observance Committee  
 Ottoson Middle School  
 Redevelopment Board  
 Select Board  
 Town of Arlington  
 Zoning Board of Appeals

# COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Alliance for Community Media  
 Arlington Art Lounge  
 Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee  
 Arlington Board of Health  
 Arlington Boys' & Girls' Club  
 Arlington Center for the Arts  
 Arlington Chamber of Commerce  
 Arlington Children's Theatre  
 Arlington Consumer Surveys  
 Arlington Council on Aging  
 Arlington Department of Planning and Community Development  
 Arlington Education Foundation  
 Arlington Fire Department  
 Arlington Food Pantry  
 Arlington Friends of the Drama  
 Arlington Garden Club  
 Arlington Historic District Commission  
 Arlington Historical Society  
 Arlington Human Rights Commission  
 Arlington Jazz Festival  
 Arlington Meetup  
 Arlington Public Art  
 Arlington Reads Together  
 Arlington School Committee  
 Arlington Select Board  
 Arlington Sons of Italy  
 Arlington Tree Committee  
 Arlington Youth Health & Safety Coalition  
 Autism House Pathways  
 Black History Month  
 Chillhop Records  
 Covid-19 Relief Fund  
 Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum

Department of Public Health  
 Department of Public Works  
 Double Take Arlington  
 Fast and Furriest  
 Fidelity House  
 First Parish Unitarian Universalist  
 Free Meditation Boston  
 Friends of Spy Pond  
 Friends of the Robbins Library  
 Homeschooling Together  
 Housing Corporation of Arlington  
 James Houlares Early Learning Center  
 Jason Russell House  
 Knights of Columbus  
 Little Fox Shop  
 Metropolitan Area Planning Council  
 Minuteman Bikeway  
 Mystic Chorale  
 Mystic River Watershed Association  
 Old Schwamb Mill  
 Park Avenue Congregational Church  
 Philharmonic Society of Arlington  
 Prayer Festival for World Peace  
 Regent Theatre  
 Retired Men's Club  
 Robbins Library  
 St. Agnes Church  
 Saint Athanasius the Great  
 St. Camillus Parish Community  
 Saint Vartanantz Church  
 Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
 Stone Zoo  
 True Story Theater

**Immigrants and Migrants:**  
**Safety in Arlington**  
 Scan the QR Code for immigration law and other service resources, which can also be found by visiting <https://www.arlingtonhumanrights.org/resources/immigration>

**The Town of Arlington Reaffirms Its Commitment to the Safety of All**  
 The Town of Arlington is dedicated to keeping all who live, work, visit, and travel within the Town safe and treated fairly. The Town does not have the authority to enforce federal immigration laws. This means that the Town does not ask people about their immigration status if the only reason is to determine whether they are in the country legally. The Town also does not ask people about their immigration status to help ICE detain or deport someone based on their status.

*Arlington values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected.*

# WEBSITE & SOCIALS

## Homepage - 14k Active Users



- 4.8k** Arlington Public Channel
- 4.1k** Arlington Education Channel
- 3.7k** ACMi Sports
- 3.2k** Arlington Government Channel

43k Active users during 2025 (up 172% from 2024)

Event Count: 269k



### INSTAGRAM

Over 19k views

Content interactions up 100%



### FACEBOOK

Over 11.8k views

Profile visits up 4.9%

### YOUTUBE



103.3k views  
8.3k hours watched  
+528 subscribers  
4k subscribers total



78.1k views  
9.9k hours watched  
+345 subscribers  
1.8k subscribers total



52.9k views  
2.9k hours watched  
+179 subscribers  
1.6k subscribers total

# MEMBER FEATURE RAJEEV KOTYAN

When thinking about ACMi's coverage of high school sports recently, Youth Coordinator Iasmina Birleanu noted that "When volunteers take the reins is when ACMi is at its best!" Rajeev (Raj) Kotyan is a shining example of how true that is. He has his own story, of course, and it's one that aptly reflects the invaluable contributions of those in the ACMi community who willingly donate their time and energy to benefit others and, in the process, very often themselves as well!



When he first arrived in Arlington in the mid-1990s, Raj wasn't sure how long he'd stick around. After all, an American suburb might not work for someone who'd been raised in the megalopolis of Mumbai, India, and who was coming from his most recent posting in an even bigger city - Tokyo, Japan.

But something spoke to Raj about this particular town, and it was reinforced by his participation in a communal initiative called Vision 2020, in which town officials and residents came together to chart out Arlington's future across a host of important areas. The deep compassion and thoughtfulness with which the volunteers on different committees showed their concern for the welfare of others in the community struck a chord.

Inspired, Raj took on an ambitious project to benefit another community on the other side of the world. He remained very fond of the Jesuit boys' school he had attended throughout his youth in Mumbai, and together he and some other friends from that era hit on a novel idea - creating a fund to pay for the health insurance of all retired teachers and staff at the school...for the rest of their lives! These many years later, Raj is thrilled to share that not only has that goal been achieved, but this tremendously impactful gift has been extended to include all current teachers and staff as well.

Here in Arlington, Raj and his wife were kept very busy raising three active children in the Arlington schools. Sports have been a constant over the last two decades, with two soccer player sons and a gymnast daughter keeping them running from one game or meet to another in a dizzying circuit that is familiar to many Arlington parents. A chance encounter with none other than ACMi's Jeff Munro at a Covid-era soccer game opened a new door for Raj.

Seeing Jeff struggling with a big load of equipment at a time when outdoor school sports were happening, but school itself was a hybrid or remote experience, Raj asked Jeff if he'd



like some help. As they chatted, he was struck by the invaluable service Jeff, and ACMi, were providing to the community by making it possible for people who couldn't leave their house to still see their children, their neighbors, their friends, playing sports and doing other things that could reconnect us to the "normal" things we had lost, for the moment at least.

And that, to quote a phrase, was the start of a beautiful relationship. As Raj got more and more involved in ACMi Sports production, not just the soccer games his sons were

playing, he began branching out to other sports as well. In fact, Raj facilitated ACMi's first-ever coverage of a gymnastics meet that his daughter was competing in. He ended up directing the student crew, who certainly knew their technical stuff, but had no idea how to follow the overlapping action at an event of that sort. The production was a success. It revealed to Raj that he really enjoys supervising a student crew, providing the kind of essential "adult" guidance that doesn't involve focusing a camera or capturing great sound. As he puts it, he does his best to "stay out of the kids' way" once a production starts rolling, but he will offer life experience that is useful for the students.

At this point, Raj's youngest child is an AHS senior, so his direct family connection to the ACMi Sports program will soon end. Happily, his own involvement will not be ending anytime soon - Raj asserts that covering games with student crews works as a tonic to counterbalance the pressures and demands of his work as an investment advisor. Since he owns his own company, he foresees that he will continue to make time to play an active role in a variety of ACMi Sports productions, both now and into the future.

Needless to say, we are enormously grateful to Raj for his particular volunteerism - an unstinting, cheerful, rock-solid dedication to helping ACMi provide one of its most cherished contributions to the community, allowing those in Arlington, and way beyond, to celebrate the athletic achievements of their loved ones. Iasmina indeed had it right...when Raj takes the reins, we are at our best!

## PUBLIC CHANNEL



### Concert Coverage

Staff, members, and volunteers captured a wealth of live music throughout Arlington this year: multiple concerts of music composed by Arlington's own Alan Hovhaness; the Mystic Brass Ensemble; the Menotomy Concert Series; performances sponsored by the Friends of Robbins Library; and even an opera! (See the Education section for more on that.)



### Arlington 250 Reenactment

This year's Reenactment of the Battle of Menotomy was a huge event for the town, since it inaugurated a year of celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the first stirrings of the Revolutionary War. The Reenactment was covered live by ACMi in what was arguably our most ambitious production of the year. Held on Sunday, April 20th, the Reenactment brought together the Menotomy Minutemen and participants from numerous historical reenactment groups to recreate the longest and bloodiest engagement of April 19th, 1775. Beginning at Mass Ave and Grove Street, the "running" battle stretched nearly a mile, with spectators observing significant engagements along the northern side of Mass Ave. This production required extensive planning, and included more than twenty crew members, three separate production studios, twelve cameras (four wireless), and a variety of strategically placed audio equipment. ACMi's James Milan and Michael Ruderman provided the "play-by-play," highlighting how 3,800 colonial militiamen engaged British troops as they retreated from Concord and Lexington. In broadcasting this historic event, ACMi demonstrated the power of community media to preserve and share local history, making the heroism, strategy, and human stories of the Battle of Menotomy accessible to viewers far beyond Arlington.

### Healing Together

ACMi member Vivien Tang put remarkable effort into producing her first-ever show, *Healing Together*, with support from ACMi staff, interns, and fellow members. The project grew directly from her experience following a Stage-4 cancer diagnosis. Drawing on what helped her through her own recovery, Vivien shaped *Healing Together* as a compassionate and highly practical resource for people navigating cancer treatment. Episodes focus on breathwork, yoga, meditation, and related practices designed to complement medical care and support patients as they move through the various stages of survivorship. The series reflects both Vivien's own determination to get well and her commitment to helping others do the same.





### Studio Sessions

2025 saw a number of additions to one of ACMI's most popular series, in which we invite area musicians into the studio to record a set of songs, sometimes adding a short interview as well. While there were a number of memorable Sessions throughout the year, one particularly notable addition was a live stream of Grammy-nominated and award-winning vocalist Debo Ray. These productions were certainly popular with the musicians involved, but they also offered hands-on learning opportunities for ACMI members and interns. Staff guided them through signal flow, advanced audio-recording techniques, the proper mic'ing of instruments, and livestream preparation before each performance. Our crew members then put these skills into practice, shaping sound on an X32 mixer and gaining real-world experience and confidence in a professional studio.

### What Goes Into That Pint Glass?

Way back in January of 2025, ACMI member and documentarian Andy Takats was casting about for his next project. He had just finished a powerful, wrenching documentary about the long shadow cast by human trafficking, and was hoping to center his next piece on a sunnier, less taxing subject. A brainstorming session with ACMI staff yielded a fruitful idea - what about following the saga of the effort to create Arlington's first-ever brewery and tap room? The result is *What Goes Into That Pint Glass?*, a documentary that presents the behind-the-scenes story of the Arlington Brewing Company. The series of mini-episodes premiered on November 15th, and the plan is to roll out new installments every few weeks over the balance of 2026.



### CrowdSourced Boston

For the seventh consecutive year, ACMI took part in CrowdSourced Boston—a community-driven effort organized by Brookline Interactive Group that brings local filmmakers together for scene-by-scene recreations of beloved Hollywood films. This year, a seven-member group from ACMI came together to reproduce a four-minute segment from Danny Devito's 1996 directorial debut, *Matilda*. It was an inspired take on the scene, and a whole lot



of fun, too! The full compilation of the Crowdsourced Boston project premiered on December 17th at the Coolidge Corner Theatre.

### Community Media Day

This year, ACMI participated in National Community Media Day—an annual event celebrating free speech and accessible media—by inviting members of the Arlington community to help with a taping of *Pop! Astronomy*. Created and

directed by ACMI member Jen Myronuk, this show uncovers the surprising ways astronomy shows up in everyday life like how the Milky Way candy bars are named after our home galaxy. *Pop! Astronomy*'s goal is to reveal the science behind the brands we encounter every day.

### Rough Cut Film Screening

ACMI rolled out our first-ever Rough Cut film screening on August 1st this year, and it drew a crowd of more than twenty local filmmakers to get critiques and discuss projects in progress. This free event provides a space for anyone in the community to present “work in progress” videos, receive feedback, and engage in thoughtful discussion. Plans are already underway to continue the series in the coming year.

### Podcasting

For over two years now, a Podcasting Meetup Group has been honing their interviewing skills and working on the *ACMI Podcast Show*. Topics this year included driving pet peeves, and everyday challenges and joys of living in Arlington.



# EDUCATION CHANNEL



Last year's recap of ACMi's youth program chronicled a time of dramatic change. We started the year with our typically robust program running on all cylinders. But a series of midyear disruptions caused by staff departures and fiscal constraints left us depending largely on our Operations Manager, Jeff Munro, to work with a talented group of youth volunteers to cover sports, concerts, and prominent other events.

This year saw us starting where we left off, with Jeff supervising, and a number of the seniors on the crew taking the helm for outstanding productions throughout the spring semester. Among the notable achievements in this period were:



**Battle of the Bands** - one of the highest-profile events on the school calendar year after year, which once again challenged the ACMi crew to be at its best.

**AHS Graduation** - a production that is watched by thousands every year and was largely steered by a group of underclassmen.

**Reenactment of the Battle of Menotomy** - as part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the start of the American Revolution, a youth crew did simply brilliant work on the portion of the activities that took place in front of the high school.

On top of all that, Mazen Abukhalaf, who was profiled in these pages last year because of his remarkable tenure in the ACMi youth program, led a small group of peers on an extremely ambitious project - filming Arlington's first-ever opera, *Alcina*, presented by MassOpera at Lowe Auditorium. The two-and-a-half-hour performance - featuring a

fantastical story of love triangles, enchantments, and hidden identities - was spellbinding, and the work of Mazen and his crew managed to preserve every magical moment.



The middle of the year once again saw dramatic changes to our youth program, but happily this time they were all good! Securing additional funding enabled us to bring a new Youth Coordinator on board over the summer, and we are delighted to welcome Iasmina Birleanu to ACMi! Iasmina's experience in a similar role at the cable facility in North Andover allowed her to hit the ground running. Under her supervision, the youth program is reshaping itself once again.

Focus Media, the production group that meets weekly at Arlington High School, started with students creating videos about student events that don't require a full multi-cam broadcast. Since late October, the students have created a promo for the AHS Fall Play, and are currently working on a talk show where AHS alumni are interviewed about their chosen career fields as a resource for students during their college application process.

Iasmina and ACMi are also supporting the Ottoson Middle School group that started an After-School TV Club in late September. The students came to ACMi to learn how to use all of the equipment in the control room and studio. ACMi is now re-building the Ottoson studio and assisting the supervising teacher, Audra Kaplan, as the club takes full shape. They hope to air the first episode of their news show in January 2026!

And of course, Iasmina has had a full plate in providing comprehensive coverage of sports, concerts, and performances that are the flagship signature of our youth program. Over the course of 2025, ACMi helped record 14 Basketball games (Boys' and Girls'), 12 Hockey games (Boys' and Girls'), 2 Wrestling matches in the Winter/Spring semester, 25 Soccer matches (Boys' and Girls') and all 5 home Football games in the Fall semester. Football drew great interest from the students, including a full dozen showing up to crew one of the games; and the tremendous amount of coverage for Soccer was due in no small part to the pivotal role played by volunteer parents including Rajeev Kotyan, who you can read about in our member feature for his outstanding contributions.

For all the sports coverage detailed above, the concert calendar was not neglected, with more than 15 full concerts recorded for an audience in Arlington and beyond. From elementary school ensembles to the All-Town concerts, many unique forms of music across APS were celebrated, often captured with a level of sound and video quality that allowed the performances to shine.

As you can tell, ACMi's youth program is thriving, and there is a lot of excitement both within ACMi and in Arlington schools about what the future holds. Stay tuned!

**ACMi Education Stats:**  
87hrs total game coverage  
7.5hrs total concert coverage



# GOVERNMENT CHANNEL



## Government Channel Programming:

ACMi's Government Channel (Xfinity 22, Astound 15, Astound HD 614, Fios 26) features content covering the Town of Arlington's many government bodies, agencies, boards, and committees. Arlington is a community with a strong interest in government transparency. For this reason, ACMi provides a particularly valuable service by broadcasting meetings such as the Select Board, School Committee, the Annual Town Meeting, and various other boards and committees, live on our channel and streaming on our website. Interested viewers who miss the live versions can easily access these sessions either when they air on the channel throughout the week or via ACMi's online Video-On-Demand (VOD) service.

In fact, all of the Government Channel's content, which also includes coverage of local elections, debates, and public forums, is continuously available on VOD. With more than 289 hours of content created this year alone, we strive to make it as convenient as possible to keep up with local politics, policies and proceedings in the Town of Arlington.

With contested races for positions on the School Committee and Housing Authority, ACMi worked with candidates to create video profiles outlining their positions and the reasons to vote for them. On top of that, ACMi organized a debate for the School Committee race, and covered the annual Candidates' Night sponsored by the League of Women Voters. Even in uncontested races, the candidates outlined their positions and their plans for their upcoming terms.

This year marked the start of Arlington's Semiquincentennial (250th) celebration of the start of the American Revolution. The town organized a number of events and information sessions highlighting Arlington's important place in that history. The planning, execution, and promotion of the 250th involved virtually every board and committee in town, a good illustration of the scale and significance of the commemoration.

With an override vote coming up in 2026, and multiple candidates stepping up to vie for open seats on the Select Board and School Committee, a lively, consequential election season is on the horizon. At ACMi, we remain committed to keeping residents informed about their local government, helping prepare them for the major decisions in front of them.



**TOTAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMING:**  
289 hours of content

**GOVERNMENT MEETINGS  
RECORDED BY ACMi STAFF/VOLUNTEERS**

### Town Meetings & Events:

Select Board Meetings - 25 Meetings  
= 45 hours of content

School Committee Meetings - 22 Meetings  
= 42 hours of content

Redevelopment Board Meetings - 21 Meetings  
= 46 hours of content

Finance Committee Meetings - 14 Meetings  
= 32 hours of content

Town Meeting - 9 Meetings  
= 24 hours of content

Zoning Board of Appeals - 23 Meetings  
= 45 hours of content

Conservation Commission - 22 Meetings  
= 48 hours of content

EVERYTHING ELSE:  
= 7 hours of content

### Other Public Events:

Arlington Memorial Day Ceremony 2025  
Arlington Veterans' Day Parade 2025  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance 2025

### Election Events:

League of Women Voters Candidates' Night 2025  
Candidate Profiles for Town Elections 2025  
School Committee Debate 2025



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION June 30, 2025

ASSETS	
<b>Current Assets:</b>	
Cash and Equivalents	\$211,087
Restricted Cash	109,067
Contracts Receivable	151,615
Investments	750,920
Prepaid Expenses and Other Current Assets	110
Total Current Assets	1,222,799
<b>Property and Equipment:</b>	
Property and equipment, net	156,623
<b>Other Assets:</b>	
Right-of-Use Asset	33,619
Total Other Assets	33,619
Total Assets	\$1,413,041

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$6,075
Accrued Expenses	17,589
Lease Liability - Current Portion	33,619
Total Current Liabilities	57,283
<b>Net Assets:</b>	
Without Donor Restrictions	
Undesignated	476,208
Designated	555,000
With Donor Restrictions	324,550
Total Net Assets	1,355,758
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,413,041

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES For the year ended June 30, 2025

<b>Operating Support and Revenue:</b>	
Program Service	\$587,351
Other Income	114,842
Capital Contributions	81,351
Membership Dues	1,890
Total Operating Support and Revenue	785,434
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Program Services	489,043

Statement of Activities (CONTINUED):	
Management and General	\$254,273
Fundraising	4,870
Total Program and Supporting Services	748,186
Change in Net Assets from Operations	37,248
<b>Nonoperating Activities:</b>	
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investments	53,873
Interest and Dividends	20,539
Change in Net Assets from Nonoperating Activities	74,412
Change in Net Assets	111,660
Net Assets, Beginning	971,872
Net Assets, Ending	\$1,031,208

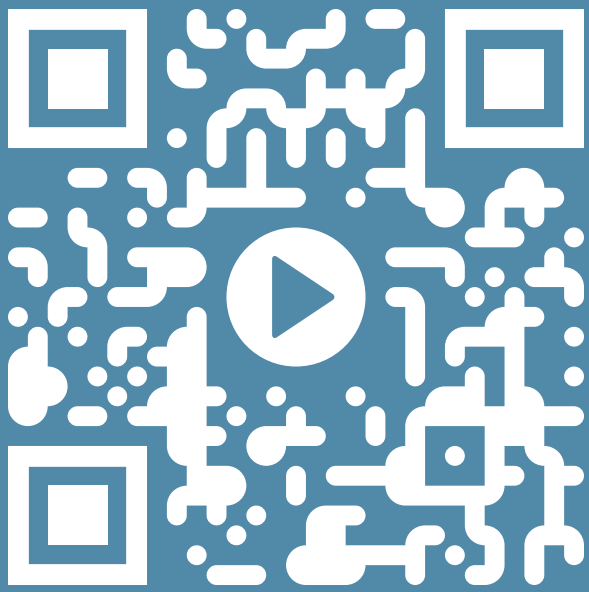
## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the year ended June 30, 2025

<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</b>	
Change in Net Assets	\$111,660
<b>Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:</b>	
Depreciation Expense	76,902
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain from Investments	(53,873)
<b>(Increase) Decrease In:</b>	
Contracts Receivable	33,477
<b>Increase (Decrease) In:</b>	
Accounts Payable	(1,254)
Accrued Expenses	(4,221)
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	162,691
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</b>	
Purchase of Property and Equipment	(29,027)
Sales of Investments, Net of Purchases	20,723
Interest and Dividends Reinvested	(20,539)
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	(28,843)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Equivalents and Restricted Cash	133,848
Cash and Equivalents and Restricted Cash, Beginning	\$186,306
Cash and Equivalents and Restricted Cash, Ending	\$320,154



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