Statement to Our Community from CCTV

As a community organization committed to social justice and inclusion for all, Cambridge Community Television joins the call to end systemic and institutional racism and police brutality. We recognize the pain, sadness, and anger that is being felt so acutely by the Black and Brown people whose lives have been defined and profoundly affected by these issues.

During this very challenging time at the nexus of a global pandemic, great social and political upheaval, and grave economic insecurity, CCTV will continue to do what it does: foster community dialogue and connection. We invite you to share your thoughts, feelings, and ideas, and we urge you to listen to those of others. We will amplify the voices of our community through all means available to us: social media, cable tv, and streaming media services.

Finally, as a community organization, we commit to the ongoing examination of our own policies and procedures to ensure that we are encouraging diversity and equity, and not perpetuating discrimination or exclusion.

CCTV reaffirms its mission to nurture a strong, equitable and diverse community by providing tools and training to foster free speech, civic engagement, and creative expression while connecting people to collaboratively produce media that is responsive, relevant, and effective in a fast-changing technological environment.

Please share with us by email: info@cctvcambridge.org, submit media through cctvcambridge.org/submit, or leave a message at 617-401-4004.
EVENT COVERAGE & CCTV-INITIATED PRODUCTION

CCTVcambridge.org/coverage
CCTVcambridge.org/production

Cambridge events and issues are typically not covered by the Boston-area media. For this reason, CCTV provides event coverage to many local non-profit organizations and City agencies, and initiates other programming of interest to the Cambridge community.

Hi all, checking in with a report on what I have been up to during quarantine: Cablecasting! Remember the Live Studio in the front of CCTV? It's now in my bedroom! I have two laptops set up side by side. On one, I set up a Google Hangout with whoever the live producer is – they are producing from their homes. The other laptop pulls in that feed to a program called Livestream Studio 6 which sends the video, along with some graphics, to our decoders back at CCTV, putting it live on Channel 9. It's far more complicated than those two sentences make it sound, but thanks to Sean's technical expertise, it is all running smoothly. We are cablecasting live from peoples' living rooms, every Tuesday and Thursday, from 4-7pm. All shows are 27 minutes -- just like in the live studio.

Another project I have been working on, along with CCTV members Bill Baird and Josie Patterson, is a show called Pandemic Profiles. A guest, usually a Cambridge resident, is interviewed by Bill, discussing their coping strategies as well as expressing a range of emotions – frustration, joy, love and much, more, in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. All interviews are conducted via Zoom. To date, we have produced 9 episodes and have more in the pipeline.

We are interested in interviewing any and all Cambridge residents, from all walks of life, to share their stories with us, so feel free to reach out if you, or anyone you know, would be interested in participating.

Seth Myer

contact: Seth Myer: 617.401.4006 or seth@cctvcambridge.org

Staff have built streaming video systems in their homes using repurposed studio equipment and low cost software. This is how we've been able to broadcast important live community discussions since March. It's loads of fun to crew, too, as long as your kids don't trip on all the wires.

Sean Effel
In such an unprecedented and unsettling time, I feel so lucky to be a part of the CCTV community. I’m constantly inspired by our members, volunteers, the Board, and my co-workers. Over the past few months, I have focused much of my time on creating at-home media production tutorials to support our training program. I’ve also been producing short-form content to help keep our community informed about what is going on. You can find these videos and more at cctvcambridge.org/learn and vimeo.com/cctvcambridge

Beyond that, Maritza, Seth and I have been holding bi-weekly Virtual Work In Progress Screenings over video chat, and they have been awesome! People join and bring links to projects that they are working on, then we watch and the attendees give constructive feedback. I always leave these screenings feeling a wonderful sense of community. (AND you can even join if you have nothing to screen, just want to participate in the discussion!) To attend, email maritza@cctvcambridge.org and let her know you are interested!

Lastly, I am starting to schedule virtual video editing/production help - so if you would like some support on projects, or need someone to talk you through some editing and/or production concepts, or just want someone to bounce ideas off of, email me at peter@cctvcambridge.org and we can schedule a 20-minute video chat session.

Anyways, that is my piece. You all are the best -- thank you for being part of our community!

Peter Levine

contact: Peter Levine 617.401.4007 or peter@cctvcambridge.org

CCTV Interns

Archive: Jason Ong

Cablecast: Ameera Abu-Alsaud, Ruoyan Chen, Alex Gamota, Lisan Mo, Adriana Monsalve, Wayne Robinson

Cambridge News Reporters: Josh Artman, Joe Creason, Yewellyn Sanchez, Kristina Kehrer, Beverly Mire, Richard Sheingold, Maurice Wilkey

Production: Angela DiDemenica, Averill Angle, Najifa Tanjeem

Computer CENTRAL: Xhep Xhepa

Carpe Kalendarium: Sean O’Leary, Erin Tackney

MEMBER & STAFF PRODUCTIONS

CCTV Interns

Archive: Jason Ong

Cablecast: Ameera Abu-Alsaud, Ruoyan Chen, Alex Gamota, Lisan Mo, Adriana Monsalve, Wayne Robinson

Cambridge News Reporters: Josh Artman, Joe Creason, Yewellyn Sanchez, Kristina Kehrer, Beverly Mire, Richard Sheingold, Maurice Wilkey

Production: Angela DiDemenica, Averill Angle, Najifa Tanjeem

Computer CENTRAL: Xhep Xhepa

Carpe Kalendarium: Sean O’Leary, Erin Tackney

contact: Peter Levine 617.401.4007 or peter@cctvcambridge.org

East Cambridge Planning Team

July/Aug 2020  CCTV Open Studio 3
There are 6 Ways to Watch CCTV's Programs!

- On the Cambridge cable system, Channels 8, 9 & 96
- Streaming online at: cctvcambridge.org/channel08 cctvcambridge.org/channel09 cctvcambridge.org/channel96
- On the CCTV Apple TV, Amazon Fire, and Roku apps
- Select work is archived at cctvcambridge.org, cctvcambridge.org/youtube, and vimeo.com/cctvcambridge
- Facebook Live
- Zoom

Visit cctvcambridge.org/highlights for a weekly roundup of new material on our channels and links to view on demand.

Watch For These New Programs

24 Hour Re-Edit Challenge
Produced by CCTV

Participants in the 24 Hr Re-Edit Challenge used a clip from Roach Motel - a punk music/talk show produced by Erika Jones on CCTV in 2005. They re-edited the clip into a silent movie, a psychedelic trip, a family drama, a meditation video, and a classical music music video.

Re-edits by:
Alex Ezorsky
Hailey Hinson
Suveer Panditrao
Beth Redmond Walsh
George Skaliotis
Watch at cctvcambridge.org/channel/experimental

Quarantine Cafe
Produced by Josh Artman

Quarantine Cafe is a daily concert series featuring musicians who have some free time on their hands right now. Follow us on Facebook to get notified as soon as we release new videos, every weekday at 9 AM. on Channel 9
Watch at cctvcambridge.org/channel/quarantine_cafe

Conversations with Virologist Dr. Paul Offit: Covid-19
Produced by Dedham TV

A conversation with Virologist Dr. Paul Offit on Covid-19 on Channel 9
7 PM on Thurs 7/9
5 PM on Fri 7/10

Work From Home
Produced by Alfonso Mateo

An interview series featuring different people around the world speaking about how the pandemic has affected their careers, goals, and lifestyle
cctvcambridge.org/channel/work_home_wfh
Enjoy fun, interactive experiments for scientists of all ages! (Especially great for grades K-5). Check out what Hannah, Mr. Music, Dr. Marbles-- and special guest scientists-- have been learning about in previous episodes: cctvcambridge.org/channel/science_club_girls

As the Programming Coordinator, it’s my responsibility to maintain the freshness and relevance of the content we broadcast on our Cambridge channels. Since mid-March, I’ve been acquiring programs centered around COVID-19 from different public access stations, on top of CCTV produced series like the town halls, Pandemic Profiles, and Black Cambridge & COVID-19.

I’ve also created an interview series called Work from Home, where I feature different people around the world and how the pandemic affected their careers, goals, and lifestyle. In the midst of this pandemic, protests in support of the Black Lives Matter movement erupted and the COVID-19 programming slowed down. Now, I’ve been seeking and grabbing programs related to social justice and anything pertaining to the movement.

The bulk of my work consists of acquiring programs to air, scheduling live events and pre-recorded shows, managing program submissions, and uploading content on our Vimeo channel. I usually have two laptops open at the same time to monitor the channels in one and do the actual work on the other. I also do some editing here and there when needed.

I easily adapted to working remotely since most of my workload can be done through any computer as long as I can access my office desktop through TeamViewer. The only downside of working from home is not being able to manage the live studio and interact with live producers in person, and, of course, also missing months of working with a beautiful staff but we make it work through virtual staff meetings and socials.

As the Programming Coordinator, it’s my responsibility to maintain the freshness and relevance of the content we broadcast on our Cambridge channels. Since mid-March, I’ve been acquiring programs centered around COVID-19 from different public access stations, on top of CCTV produced series like the town halls, Pandemic Profiles, and Black Cambridge & COVID-19.

I’ve also created an interview series called Work from Home, where I feature different people around the world and how the pandemic affected their careers, goals, and lifestyle. In the midst of this pandemic, protests in support of the Black Lives Matter movement erupted and the COVID-19 programming slowed down. Now, I’ve been seeking and grabbing programs related to social justice and anything pertaining to the movement.

The bulk of my work consists of acquiring programs to air, scheduling live events and pre-recorded shows, managing program submissions, and uploading content on our Vimeo channel. I usually have two laptops open at the same time to monitor the channels in one and do the actual work on the other. I also do some editing here and there when needed.

I easily adapted to working remotely since most of my workload can be done through any computer as long as I can access my office desktop through TeamViewer. The only downside of working from home is not being able to manage the live studio and interact with live producers in person, and, of course, also missing months of working with a beautiful staff but we make it work through virtual staff meetings and socials.

Alfonso Mateo
What a wild time it has been, huh?! By this time, if things had been “normal,” the Youth Media Program would have already had its Spring screening. New classes in Virtual Reality and 360 Filmmaking would have been added to CCTV’s class list. This year both programs had many exciting things planned that were forced to a halt when the reality of this pandemic sank in for our community.

As unfortunate as it is that COVID-19 resulted in so much loss in our everyday lives, at CCTV, it has forced us to innovate and outreach in ways we hadn’t before. It has also brought to the forefront of our consciousness the pain faced by our Black community of Cambridge and beyond, bringing us closer together as a city, even as we socially distance.

We’re also very excited to announce the Youth Media Program’s Summer Media Institute will be running this year virtually, and will be hosting 20 young people through the Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program. Our teens will guide the content as we provide them a space to process and express what is going in on their lives, which right now is a huge weight. Our focus will be on ensuring that our students learn essential computing skills as the basis for strong production skills.

This year has been challenging for everyone. We are moved by the way our youth and our members have risen to the occasion and have sought out a platform to continue sharing their stories and perspectives. Although this year doesn’t look or feel the way we had imagined, it’s made way for something better than what we could’ve asked for. The Youth Media Program is excited to pioneer virtual learning with our teens and can’t wait to update our community in upcoming months with our students’ accomplishments.

Xia Rondeau

In the past few months, the Youth Media Program has been on pause as CCTV and its partners figure out what virtual student enrichment programming looks like. One idea we came up with was to create a weekly film challenge, Project CREATE, where youth could respond to a prompt for a chance to win pizza. It was awesome.
As the climate in the country began to escalate and tensions rose, CCTV without hesitation made it a priority to release a statement in support of Black lives and condemning systemic racism in all its forms. As a Black woman in America, my life has been fairly privileged in a lot of ways, but working in a truly inclusive and equitable environment has not been one of those. I am proud to have such an incredible team with phenomenal leadership where diversity is not just a buzzword and inclusivity is embedded in the mission. CCTV continues to demonstrate its commitment to amplifying Black and melanated voices in the Cambridge community with programs such as Black Cambridge & Covid-19 (cctvcambridge.org/channel/black_cambridge), a series that engages a cross-sector of Black leaders in Cambridge and how the Black community survives the pandemic, as well as a community conversation on Criminal Justice and Race: Cambridge and Beyond produced by the Cambridge Chapter of the NAACP (cctvcambridge.org/naacp).

And the best part is, I get to be part of all of it! I’ve taught a Social Media Strategies class, and will be teaching a class on Using Social Media for Activism. I get to “hang” with Peter and Seth during our Virtual Work-in-Progress Screenings & Discussions, where members create some really fantastic work. I get to be behind the scenes with Sean and Susan as we host zooms for leaders like State Representative Marjorie Decker, City Councilor and Former Mayor Denise Simmons and Cambridge School Committee Vice Chair Manikka Bowman.

I only got a taste of what it was like to walk through Central Square down to 438 Mass Ave., and I certainly miss being in that space, but the spirit of CCTV lives on…virtually (for now)!

Maritza Grooms
GENERAL TRAINING PROGRAM

When thinking about the training program at CCTV, some of my favorite things are the community that’s formed in classes and the accessible, hands-on learning that takes place. Although for the time being we are unable to meet in person, we’ve found a good substitute through online classes. It’s been remarkable and encouraging to see that you can still create community through online platforms and substantive and meaningful learning can still take place.

Since the end of March, CCTV has offered online classes to the CCTV community and beyond. From DIY Podcasting, to Digital Storytelling, to Family Documentary Pre-production, to Social Media Strategy, CCTV has offered a variety of online classes to help community members stay connected and continue to learn multimedia skills. The month of July is no different, CCTV will continue to provide accessible online classes. If live classes don’t fit into your schedule, CCTV also has a growing library of prerecorded classes that are available to peruse and watch at your own leisure. For a list of our upcoming live and prerecorded workshops check out cctvcambridge.org/learn. And to register for upcoming live classes, email ellen@cctvcambridge.org.

Ellen Daoust

Using Social Media for Activism, Free
Thursday, July 9th, 12-1pm
In this workshop, you will explore several case studies of effective social media campaigns employed by activists and will discuss the future trends in social media activism. Basic knowledge of or involvement with social media platforms is strongly recommended. Please note that this class will be recorded.

Instructor: Maritza Grooms

CCTV Online Workshop
Deep Dive Into Zoom

Deep Dive into Zoom, Free
Tuesday, July 14th, 6-7pm
In this class we will explore the ins and outs of the Zoom video conferencing platform. Join us as we explore breakout rooms, screen share functions, annotation tools, and the polling feature. Please note that this class will be recorded.

Instructor: Casey Cann

Getting Started With Your Screenplay - Beginning Screenwriters Meetup, Free for Members, $30 for others
2 sessions - Tuesdays, July 14th & July 21st, 12-1pm
Looking to get started on your screenplay idea? Join us for this two session class. In week one, we will go over the basic tenets of screenplay writing. In week two, each student will come to class with a short screenplay that they have written for homework. We'll read them and break it down together. Please note that space is limited.

Instructor: Kevin Wetmore
Recording Your Podcast, Free for Members, $15 for others
Wednesday, July 15th
Learn best practices on how to record your podcast from home! Please note that this class will be recorded.
Instructor: Heather McCormack

Digital Storytelling Series, Free for members, $140 for others
4 sessions - Thursdays, July 16th, 23rd, 30th & August 6th, 6-7:30pm
In this class, students will create a short story from their own life experiences or present an idea using narration, photographs, sound, text, video and found objects. This class will focus on storytelling strategies (traditional and non-traditional), as well as diverse ways of thinking about digital media creatively. Students will learn pre-production, production, and post-production techniques to create their own digital story. Space is limited.
Instructor: Brad Glanden

Hosting Your Podcast, Free for members, $15 for others
Wednesday, July 22nd, 6-7pm
This class is an opportunity for those who already have a solid podcast plan or who have already begun to record to take the next step in putting their podcast out there—hosting, distributing, marketing and even monetizing. Learn the secrets to building a strong and engaged audience, figure out which hosting site is right for you. Please note that this class will be recorded. Instructor: Heather McCormack

Sketch Comedy Writing Crash Course, Free
Wednesday, July 29th, 6-7pm
Learn to think like a comedian in this one hour sketch comedy crash course, covering everything from characters to plot to how to write your own script! Please note that this session will be recorded.
Instructor: Caitlin Arcand

Summer Monday Mini-Lessons
Each Monday at 2pm, the Computers for 50+ lab staff offer a short (15 - 20 minute) mini-lesson. Lessons cover dozens of topics, from social media to internet search engines to external hard drives. Contact Ellen at ellen@cctvcambridge.org for log in information.

Online Senior Classes for July, Free
Monday, July 13th, 1-2pm: 1:1 Technology Help Session.
Each participant gets a 30 minute slot. Registration is required. To register email ellen@cctvcambridge.org.

Monday, July 20th, 1-2pm: Understanding Browser Settings for Your Computer: Privacy & Security

Each participant gets a 30 minute slot. Registration is required.

To register email ellen@cctvcambridge.org.

Although for the time being, the senior program cannot meet in person, Brad and Beth from CCTV’s drop-in lab hours have been conducting interesting and thorough online lessons on a whole variety of technology topics for people over 50. These online technology lessons take place on Mondays at 1pm via Zoom.

It has been great to see both familiar and new faces attend these lessons, to both learn something new and catch up with each other! Since the month of May, Beth and Brad have covered a lot of different topics, including smartphone storage, how to install apps, understanding email attachments and much more! All of these lessons are recorded and can be found on CCTV’s growing library of prerecorded videos. During the month of June, we were able to try out CCTV’s first 1:1 online technology help session. This was a great experience and we hope to offer more in the coming months!

Ellen Daoust
Hello Friends,
Summer has arrived!

Long days, bike rides on shared streets, walks along the Charles. Magazine Beach, Danehy Park, Fresh Pond. Memorial Drive closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

Despite the chaos the world is facing, Cambridge is still a refuge. And so, we hope, is CCTV.

On behalf of the board of directors I want to salute executive director Susan Fleischmann and our staff for their extraordinary work.

Ellen Daoust  Seth Myer
Sean Effel  Yanka Petri
Maritza Grooms  Xia Rondeau
Peter Levine  Rob Welsh
Alfonso Mateo

Because of them, CCTV remains a vital, more-than-ever needed source for local news and events, and classes.

I can’t pretend that it hasn’t been hard. The worst is the lack of face-to-face contact, not being able to go in to our studios. However, despite sheltering in place, working from home, Susan and the staff have been working to keep CCTV on an even keel, offering town halls, online classes, Age Engage, and the Summer Media Institute (SMI).

A few months ago we were wondering how we could pull off our partnership with the Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program. There was no possible way CCTV could safely host a group of teens on site. After much thought (and creative genius I might add), we came up with an ideal solution. As I write this, virtual classes are starting. New students are being given backpacks that will include iPads for video production, and up to five returning students will be loaned laptops. I hope you’re as excited as we are about seeing their final projects.

We can’t thank you, our members, enough for continuing to work and finding ways to contribute despite not having access to our studios and equipment. We also thank you enormously for tuning in and participating in our Town Halls. Representative Marjorie Decker has just wrapped up a series addressing the state’s response to Coronavirus. Additionally, City Councilor Denise Simmons and School Committee Vice Chair Mannika Bowman are hosting timely and important Town Halls, Black Cambridge & COVID 19.

I’m sure you’ll agree that in these times it’s important to give back to our neighbors. In that spirit, CCTV’s studios will be utilized rent-free this summer by Loop Lab. Some of you may know that Loop Lab was the 2019 recipient of the Joseph Sakey Award for their work with Cambridge residents 18+. Loop Lab’s mission is “to empower womxn and people of color in the media arts to develop careers in audio/video through job training and job placement.” This makes Loop Lab, with its executive director Chris Hope, a natural partner for CCTV and we are more than gratified that we can offer them the use of our space.

The words I closed with in March of this year still hold true, so I’ll repeat them:

Let us be an outlet for you, a place where you can video or write what you’re doing to get through this crazy time. We remain a community space where all are welcome. The form of our space has changed for reasons we can’t control, so we ask you to use our online platform to stay connected to our community.

You are safe here. Always.

Beverly Mire
President

CCTV Board of Directors
Nina Berg, Clerk
William Boone, Member Representative
Steve Campbell
Shaun Clarke
Fran Cronin
Damnath De Tissera
Ceasar McDowell
George Metzger
Beverly Mire, Chair
Stephen Sillari, Treasurer
Steve Smith, Vice Chair
Maurice Wilkey
Isaac Yablo
CCTV SPONSORS

WEB WEavers ($750+)
Bill Boone
Cambridge Mystery Vintage Theatre
Kathy Cannon & Scott Berk
Comcast Cable
Cram Rom Family Fund & Bainbridge Community Foundation
Bob Doyle
Frances Addelson Shakespeare Players
Florence Grant & Philip Robinson (in honor of our dear and close friend the late Maurice Lee Anderson)
George & Jane Metzger
Priscilla McMillan Revocable Trust
Susana Segat
Ellen Semonoff

VISION SPONSORS ($500-$749)
Sam & Carly Berk
Boston Foundation Anonymous Fund
Estelle Disch
Susan Fleischmann
Lee Swislow and Denise McWilliams Charitable Fund, a Donor Advised Fund of The U.S. Charitable Gift Trust
Mary Leno
Middle East Restaurant
Joan Shafran and Rob Haines Foundation
Mercedes Soto
Renata von Tscharner

SOFTWARE, EQUIPMENT, FURNITURE, GOODS & SERVICES
Wayne Robinson

PROGRAM FUNDERS
Tod Beaty
Cambridge Community Foundation
Cambridge Housing Authority
Cambridge Savings Bank
City of Cambridge:
  Office of Workforce Development
  Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program
  Summer Work & Learning Program
Enroot
Ruth Hill
Massachusetts Cultural Council Cultural Investment Portfolio Program
Massachusetts Cultural Council YouthReach
Tides Foundation (on the recommendation of the Google Community Grants Fund)
Tufts University “Voices 4 Youth” Philanthropy Class

BEST FRIENDS ($250+)
David Bass & Susan Hall, Steve Campbell, Richard Chasin, Caitlin Corbett, Fran Cronin, Donna Davis, Connie Holmes (in honor of David Holmes), Kristina Kehrer, Michael Koran, Lauren Kroiz, Sarah Ruiz, Nancy Woods

SUSTAINING FRIENDS: ($150+)
Marissa Acosta, Anonymous, Anne Cushman, Alfred Fantini, Garth & Lindsay Greimann, Daniel Jacobs, Lloyd Sheldon Johnson, Andrew & Emily Musgrave, Judy Norris, Judy Perlman, Peter Septoff, Beth Walsh-Bolstad, Carolyn Wilkins

FRIENDS

CCTV
438 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, Ma 02139
ph 617.661.6900
fx 617.661.6927
www.cctvcambridge.org
Channels • 8 • 9 • 96

July/Aug 2020    CCTV Open Studio