

Federal Communications Commission
Washington DC

December 5, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Visual Studies Workshop (VSW) in Rochester, NY, in support of the Somerville Media (SMC) in Somerville, MA. SMC provides training and education in media production and broadcasting in one of the most economically, socially and racially diverse communities in the United States. The programming at SMC includes video and sound production, communications, radio broadcasting, podcasting, documentary production, media arts, studio lighting, acting, directing, animation, graphic design - all for an affordable cost to the working-class community. The members of the SMC community include refugees, minority religious populations, the elderly and handicapped groups, as well as college-educated professionals and practicing artists. The classes and services offered through SMC allow for members to not only enrich their own technical and creative skills, but to work together as a community to create programming that enhances communication and enriches the quality of life for the entire Boston region. Membership at SMC is affordable, and governance is transparent. Members regularly dialogue with the staff and board of SMC, who actively work to meet the interests and needs of the membership.

A fundamental and essential component of democracy the freedom to communicate. This freedom is being infringed upon and eaten away by partisan politicians and financial institutions that serve the needs of the wealthy at the expense of the poor. The role the FCC plays in preserving the freedom to communicate is crucial, and at this moment - urgent. I implore the FCC to preserve - and increase - support of public media by continuing support of SMC.

Sincerely

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