

Please do not make any funding cuts to local access cable television.

While it may appear to be the insignificant offspring of legal wrangles over America's cable industry, it is in fact an invaluable cultural resource, for not since the advent of radio has there been a medium that enables a city, town or village to develop such an informative, uniquely particularized, and enriching sense of community. And there is nothing to replace it. It is an unparalleled showcase for otherwise unheard voices of the world's numerous nobodies (and I doubt that the impersonal, cosmically infinite spaces of media like YouTube will ever replace it). I do not know what I would do if I did not if I did not have Cambridge Community TV (in Massachusetts) with its professed ethic of free speech (welcome words to art makers in a democracy), as an outlet for my creative urges. My use of it changes me from a lone artist struggling to get just a few people to look at my work, to someone with, if nothing else, the potential of being viewed by a sizeable audience. Local access cable might not be slick and sexy - it might at times bore people and appear all but useless to some--- but it deserves to live and thrive. In its finest moments, when it permits one to view, variously, a community event totally ignored by commercial media, an artist presenting his/her work, or just some lone soul attempting to share his interests with his/her community there is nothing like it in the realm of contemporary human communication.