**May 11, 2021 Meeting - Seattle Community Technology Advisory Board**

Topics covered included: Technology Matching Fund Feature: Path With Art; Technology Matching Fund Feature: The Vera Project; Broadband 101; and CTAB Member Spotlight Lassana Magassa.

**This meeting was held:** May 11, 2021; 6:00-8:00 p.m., via Webex

**Attending:  (All via Webex)**

**Board Members:** Rene Peters, Camille Malonzo, Nicole Espy, Leah Shin, Lassana Magassa, John Krull, Ty Grandison, Femi Adebayo, Brandon Lindsey

**Public:** Emily Shallman,Ricky Graboski,Laura Rattner,J.J. Stein, Ghaddra Gonzalez, Dorene Cornwell, Eryk Waligora, Harte Daniels, Tyler Woebkenberg, Joydeep Hazra, Coleman Entringer, Rosalind Brazel, Grant Yang, Leila Mullow, Joydeep Hazra

**Staff:** Trayce Cantrell, Alice Lawson, Vicky Yuki, Vinh Tang, Cass Magnuski

**29 In Attendance**

**Rene Peters:**  Welcome to the May edition of CTAB. We always start off with a quick acknowledgment. We wanted to acknowledge the traditional land of the First People of Seattle, the Duwamish People, and honor their legacy, past and present, and give brief gratitude for the land, itself, and the Duwamish Tribe for those of us who are here in Seattle. I hope everyone is having a great month. It's hard to believe that we're almost halfway through the calendar year, and that this is our fifth meeting of that calendar year. It's really flying by. I wanted to, just briefly, mention a couple of cool reads and resources that I've encountered over the last month that you guys may be interested in. First, I don't know if you've seen the CNN series, The United Shades of America, with W. Kamau Bell, who is initially a comedian, but also puts together some really thoughtful commentary on just the state of America from a lot of different lenses. From the last episode that aired just on Sunday was called Black to the Future, and it was really to watch that as a number of really good reminders of various intersections between race and technology, and technology and civil rights, and even a little bit about Afro Futurism. So, whether it is biased technology and biased infrastructure to a little bit of profiling and interviews with some of the leaders in the forefront educational sphere and public sphere in changing some of these things, and even imagining the future, as I mentioned. There's a brief dip into this concept of Afro Futurism and what it means to create a technologically harmonious future with regards to some racial aspects. A really, really fascinating watch. I'll drop a couple of links into the chat, but if you have access to the CNN application or video services, you can watch the full episode, but there are also accompanying articles with some good resources and links that I'll drop in here. That was a really good visual resource. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/09/us/techno-racism-explainer-trnd/index.html>   <https://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2021/05/07/united-shades-black-to-the-future-101.cnn>

And then another really cool article that I came across was about the rise in automation domestically and internationally. These can be things as innocuous as delivery services that are now purchasing a lot more infrastructure in the form of small autonomous vehicles that are now delivering food at a higher clip than they ever have. This story, which is part of a Seattle Times feature, which I have just dropped into the chat, also talks about the domestic and international ramifications of what the domestic and international ramifications of what this means for workforces, what this means ethically, and how we think about technology and how this year putting emphasis and stress on this specific area can change the future. So, t here are mentions of automation within the United States and also in places like Japan, China, and even here. So, really interesting and a couple of reads and resources. .I try to get folks a couple of really fascinating resources. If folks have anything they would like to share, please let me know and I'll be happy to pass that along.  <https://www.seattletimes.com/business/in-wake-of-covid-employers-step-up-automation-and-use-of-robots/>

With that, welcome. Twenty-nine people again. Let's go ahead and start our quick introductions. I'll go ahead quickly down the list and if you could give me your name and your affiliation, that would be excellent.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

**Rene Peters:**   Thank you. Now that we're done with our introductions, I want to hop quickly into a little bit of board business before we get onto the actual rest of the agenda. I want to approve the minutes first from our last meeting in April which is when we had a really great presentation on digital equity from David Keyes, and also a fascinating and enriching presentation about the economics of rural broadband. Can I have a motion on the floor for that?

**Ty Grandison:**I so move.

**Rene Peters:**   Can we have a second for Ty?

**Leah Shin:**   Second.

**Rene Peters:**   Excellent. All in favor, please say, 'aye.' Any 'nays' or abstentions? That motion will pass. Next item of business is to pass the agenda for this May meeting. Can I get a motion on the floor for that?

**Camille Malonzo:**   I so move.

**Rene Peters:**   Do I have a second for Camille?

**Ty Grandison:**   Second.

**Rene Peters:**   Thank you, Ty. All in favor, please give your 'ayes.' Any 'nays' or abstentions? Excellent. We passed our April minutes and our May agenda. Expanding on our introductions, as I said, you will hear a little bit more about Lassana Magassa. And I want to keep giving folks on the board and members of the public a chance to get to know one another a little bit more thoroughly. Lassana has volunteered this month to give us a couple of minutes of background on him, and highlight some of the experience that he brings to the board, and some of his core focus areas as a leader in the tech space. So, Lassana, I will let you take it from here.

**BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

**Lassana Magassa:**  Here I am. My name is Lassana Magassa. I have ten minutes, so I'm going to talk a little about what motivated me to join the board, what my future goals are, my hobbies. I heard about CTAB probably about three or four years ago and attended some in-person meetings. I was impressed and motivated by the fact that CTAB was really active in the Seattle area. I was working at that time in digital inclusion. And through my involvement there, I met David Keyes and some folks at the University of Washington Information School, and began to get a little more involved. That was the initial reason that I joined. I must say that the time that I joined was right before Covid. And I have four kids. My oldest is seven and my youngest is one. So, I spend a lot of time with them, and haven't been as active as I would love to be with CTAB. It's starting to change, I think. I've been able to attend some meetings and I am really looking forward to contributing more. But one of the other reasons that I joined is that I noticed that there are some communities that weren't prominently represented. One that particularly interested me because of the research that I do is formerly and currently incarcerated community members. So, people who are in prison or jail or were in prison or jail and who are back in the community. Some of the research I do is in that area, so I know that there are several hurdles that that community faces, and I thought that CTAB would be a great place to deal with those. I also see what sort of things I could do as part of CTAB and the resources that CTAB has that could help address those issues, particularly around access while incarcerated, looking at frameworks or models to provide access. To those of you who are not as familiar with that incarcerated setting, nationally, over 90 percent of people who are incarcerated will be released back into the community. At the time of incarceration, most people did not have a high school diploma and were unemployed. So, as you all know, nowadays, everything is digital. So, I'm continually interested to see what we can do to support incarcerated people. Research shows us that resources provided to that community the likelihood of returning back to prison drops significantly. So, those are some of the things that I am interested in and want to work on with CTAB. I guess my future goals are right now two primary things. One is to do some additional work in the technology policy space, particularly as it pertains to resources constraint, environments and communities, and under-represented communities. For this work in post-doc in the tech policy lab, I think in 2015 we designed a method called the diverse voices method where we have been able to magnify the voices of under-represented communities, using some novel approaches. One of my future goals is to do some work in the technology policy space. In terms of hobbies, one hobby I have is crocheting. I haven't had as much time to do that lately as I would like, but I have made all sorts of things, including fingered gloves, hats, blankets. My favorite stitch is the chevron stitch which is a wavy type of stitch. And I like it because, for me, it has character. I have never used an Apple device. I have never owned an Apple device. I am an avid Android user. I wanted to do something a little bit different from the previous spotlights, which was to see if anyone has any questions.

**Nicole Espy:**   I have a question about your interest in under-presented groups vary per technology. Do I understand that correctly, and could you talk a little bit more about your observations?

**Lassana Magassa:**  Yes. Depending on the technology we are focusing on, who is under-represented shifts. What I have noticed is there are groups that are under-represented, regardless of the technology that we're shifting to. One good example of this would be when I was doing some work on augmented reality, we noticed that people of color, and specifically in this case, Black people and incarcerated people were not represented in these conversations. Another group that we found were under-represented were people with disabilities. So, we did some work in that space where we convened separate expert panels, one with people who identify as being disabled or supporting people who are disable in some sort of way, or there was a family member or case worker or legal expert who provide support, and a formerly incarcerated expert panel. Two fascinating take-aways there was, one, through that work we were able to get the definition of augmented reality to be amended to include the idea that augmented reality devices can replace senses, like sight or hearing.

**Nicole Espy:**   Second question: What is your position on knitting versus crocheting?

**Lassana Magassa:**  That's a tough one. I haven't concluded yet, but this is what I've heard. Knitting uses less yarn, but it's two needles. So, I feel like it should be a little more confusing. So, I haven't even been courageous enough to actually try it. I've held some needles, but I have no idea how to start. So, right now, crocheting is still winning. There is one passion project that I'm working on that I'd love to share. That one is -- five years ago I was in France, practicing my French. And there was a phrase that kind of spoke to me, *je t'aime plus que,* which means 'I love you more than.' And I started thinking about the idea of what it means to love, whether it be among humans, or among humans and their furry friends. But how it is expressed across the universe. If you ask the rain what does it love to do, will it say, 'I love to fall?' 'I love to nourish.' The same thing with the sun. Would it say 'I love to shine?' So, I started a project that's called I Love You More Than, where I explore the manifestations of love as they occur across the universe. Along with that, starting a book club for children and adults interested in exploring representations of love, both as they conceptualize it themselves, and as they experience it. I'm really excited about that project, actually.

**Rene Peters:**   Wow, Lassana. I've got to say that I was definitely not expecting just the diversity. It's really incredible the diversity of interests that you have, form the educational to managing the family, but also just you're a really profound kind of thinker. And I think that came through in what you shared, as well. So, I really appreciate you're opening up to the board, and once again, exemplifying how great it is to be about to work with such diverse and experienced thinkers such as yourself. So, I'm definitely curious to hear more about the work that you're doing with the incarcerated and other communities as you go forward. And I think that focus that you have on working with diverse communities that are uniquely disadvantaged, and how to improve that with technology is a fantastic segue into our next agenda items regarding the Technology Matching Fund. I think everyone really, really enjoyed that, Lassana, so thank you so much for volunteering this month.

I want to jump into the next agenda items, and as I said, the next agenda items are both TMF features. As I said, Lassana is working, really aiding diverse communities and uniquely advantaged communities really is a great lead in here. So, during our March meeting, we actually recommended our final funding for 14 or 15 TMF grantees. So, for the next two agenda items, this meeting will have a chance to hear directly from two of those groups, which are Path With Art and The Vera Project. I'm really excited that these two fantastic groups made time to speak with us today to let us know about not just the last year of Covid, but also their plans for the future and some of the work that they're currently getting their hands dirty with. First, I'd like to welcome Emily Shallman, who is program director for Path With Art. It's a group that addresses trauma through various types of arts engagement and community building. And with that, Emily, I will hand the virtual microphone to you. I'm really looking forward to this session. Thank you very much for making the time to stop by today.

**TMF FEATURE: PATH WITH ART**

**Emily Shallman:**   Thank you so much for the invitation. We're so excited to be here. My colleagues will be joining me in our presentation. We thought we would start just by giving you a really great overview. We have a video that kind of speaks to our programming almost better than we can. And then we'll go through some more specifics. So, I will pass it off to Ghaddra Gonzalez.

**Ghaddra Gonzalez:**   Thank you very much, Emily. And thank you very much for having us today. As Emily mentioned, we are starting with a video that shows what happened to us and our participants during Covid. (VIDEO) We have our next slide, that is our mission. Our mission:  Path With Art fosters the restoration of individuals, groups, and society from the effects of trauma through arts engagement and community building.  We are recognized as a transformative connection of individuals with self, self with communities, and communities with society. In this world, this engagement is available for all.

**Emily Shallman:**   We are, primarily, an arts organization, but we recognize that we really do lie in this in-between of artwork and also social impact.

**Laura Rattner:**The way that we work is we have a programmatic model that is based on collaborative cross-sector partnerships. This is a list of about 52 social service partners. If you look at the list, you will se that we have low-income housing, mental health facilities, emergency services providers, overnight shelters, and organizations that work with specific communities, LatinX communities, veteran communities. And we find that those social service partners refer those clients that benefit from arts engagement. Then we also work with 34 arts partners who in regular times, open their doors to new, diverse audiences. They also furnish space for our classes and workshops and provide material assistance. And our last group -- we have a roster of about 40 to 60 professional teaching artists who provide healing centered, hands-on instruction. in this way, we really serve as a critical bridge between communities that don't naturally intersect.

**J.J. Stein:**   I'm going to talk briefly about our program. We offer eight-week classes in a huge variety of disciplines, from pod casts to choirs. We have a special veterans program. We also serve regular civilians. We also do site-based workshops that are specifically tailored to our social service partners. They have, sometimes, different needs. They might work with incarcerated folks, or people whose first language is Spanish. We try to tailor our program to them. We have an access art program that is basically tickets to local museums, shows. Virtually, we have done things like master class. We have some master class access. We do mail art kits. These are created by teaching artists, and they are kits that we mail to our participants, or drop off with our participants. And they're cool. They're the opposite of digital in a way, because we just stare at screens all day. So, it's really nice to get something in the mail and be able to do something that's not staring at a screen. We have an art gallery downtown. We also do showcases of our performing arts work. We have open studio. We have regular tech support, which I will talk about more in a minute, and we have a community connections program that tries to connect our participant artists with the greater community.

**Ghaddra Gonzalez:**   As J.J. mentioned before, we also have cohorts. We have worked with veterans and LatinX communities to expand our reach into under-served communities, and we have launched Cohort 2019 when we started the program for veterans, and in 2020, we were able to reach 105. Between Q1 and Q2, we have 82 veterans that were serving this very difficult community to engage. Same thing with the LatinX cohort. We launched in 2019, and we serve 85 veterans in 2019, and last year, 111.

**Emily Shallman:**   We do surveys, so we are really interested in hearing how the program is going for our participants. And we know that, from these metrics, the participants report that they are developing new skills; they feel more connected to community; they have increased confidence, self-esteem and self-expression. And then, also, these classes and programming helps someone's path to recovery. So, 95 percent of our respondents indicated that they had positively impacted their mental or behavioral health by participating in our programs. And 35 percent reported a positive impact on their physical health, as well.

**J.J. Stein:**   Covid required us to change a lot, specifically digitally. Before this, our classes were in person. The museums that they visit were in person. Everything changed with Covid. And we did this quickly, and we learned while we were doing it. We purchased 120 tablets, really inexpensive Amazon Fire tablets. We programmed them to make them as simple as possible for our participant artists, who may trend older and have varying tech skills. We recruited some tech mentors, some volunteers, to help with this transition. Some of our folks hadn't even texted before, so trying to get them virtually, remotely, to set up a WiFi box and connect that to a tablet has been a challenge for us. But we were a very patient crew. So, that took a lot of time. And we're still doing that today. We also had to learn what remote teaching was for our teaching artists. So, I'm training them. Some of them were tech-savvy already; others required a lot of support. the support included -- we have in class tech volunteers that can help participants that might need it while in class, although they've improved over time. We've needed that lesson over the last couple of quarters. We have a weekly tech drop-in. We do one on one. We do in-person when possible, especially now when we're getting more vaccinated. you can do a lot more with five minutes in person than on the phone for hours. We've also begun to purchase hotspots. Before Covid, we served a lot of people who are actively homeless. This was a lot more challenging with Covid, because people couldn't go to a class. They needed digital access. So, we started purchasing tablets with hotspots and provided them to some of our unhoused population, so we've been able to increase the amount of folks we've been able to serve. It's pretty great. We have stories where folks didn't just use it for our programming; they also connected with their son, or learned what pod casts are. They got to experience this whole new world. There is a lot of isolation with Covid, so this has really opened up for some folks a huge world of information and community.

So, this has had a significant impact. We have been able to connect folks to all sorts of new skills with these new digital learnings. We've also been able to connect our partner organizations to get their folks connected to technology. There's a harm reduction program that we brought in with some tablets, and they purchased more tablets because it wasn't just our programming; it was also the access that was really valuable to them. We have also been able to enhance our own curriculum with more screens. We have had photography. We've had pod cast classes that are really popular. And just ability in general. Now we can have closed captioning and translation services like any class, which was more challenging in person. So, we've been able to open up who we've been able to serve.

**Ghaddra Gonzalez:**   Now that J.J. is talking about technology, when you were looking at the video (unintelligible).... Laura was talking about 52. So, during Covid, because we wanted to provide all of these tablets and all of this technology, we increased our social service (unintelligible). In addition to that, in 2019, we served 850 students. Even though we had to transform and change all of our programming from in-person to online, we served 700 people. Participation increased. So, I just wanted to add that. So, thanks to technology, we were able to help so many people.

**Laura Rattner:**   Our programs are individually based but community built. This is all about learning through art that you can connect with another person and recognize someone's humanity and come to know them. Through our showcases and exhibitions, we have opportunities for unhoused folks to come together and really to learn from each other. One of the ways that we really think about our program is thinking about how we can build a more empathetic and understanding world, and really bring disparate groups together.

**J.J. Stein:**   This is a quote from Michelle, who is actually in the video that you saw earlier. I'll just read this aloud very quickly. "I was isolated and alone with severe health issues even before Covid. I didn't have community or family or friends. It was challenging to even leave my apartment. Path With Art feels like a supportive community for veterans. I hope they continue virtual programming after Covid. It opened up my world." This isn't an isolated idea. Many folks have told us that because of mental health or physical issues, they weren't even able to purchase programming before. They were stuck at home. And with Covid came a lot more isolation. So, we're hopefully going to be able to go back and do physical programming very soon. We actually just started doing something I think last week for the first time. But we're also going to continue virtual programming, because for some folks, it has been really valuable.

**Emily Shallman:**   Thank you so much for all of your support. We're absolutely, incredibly grateful for the Technology Matching Fund grant that we received. And if you're interested, we would love to have you volunteer with us for some of our coming events.

**Rene Peters:**   Amazing presentation. Are there any questions for Path With Art from either the board or any of our attendees?

**Dorene Cornwell:**   Can you put contact information into the chat? Thank you.

**Emily Shallman:**   Sure!  <https://www.pathwithart.org/arttransformsus-2021>   [emily@pathwithart.org](mailto:emily@pathwithart.org)

**Rene Peters:**   Well, okay, if no one else has any other questions, I just want to thank the Path With Art team for a really amazing presentation. From the get-go, you showed the video and it blew me away. It was amazing to not just hear about you and the work that you're doing now, and how you pivoted Covid really gracefully. but just to see the faces of your participants themselves, and get to really feel how this program has made an impact on them was just fantastic.  So, applause through the roof for your all of your efforts and the continuing effort. There are really some impressive outcomes here. So, thanks for sharing with us. Awesome. Definitely energizing. We want to keep the good momentum going, so our next Technology Matching Fund feature, I'd like to welcome Ricky Graboski, who is the executive director for The Vera Project. This is a group that fosters community transformation through a lot of collaborative engagement in music and art. So, Ricky, thanks for coming. I'm sure you can explain things a lot better than me, and thank you so much for coming in to speak to us.

**THE VERA PROJECT**

**Ricky Graboski:**   Of course. That was a great start. Love this presentation from Path With Art. Thank you for that presentation, too. There were some really cool things that kind of connect with ours, as well. But, I'll start a little more broadly. If you don't know us, The Vera Project is a music venue, art space, and learning center over at Seattle Center. We have all-volunteer and youth-driven shows. We do about 200 popular music concerts per year. We've got about 100 classes. We have a youth-driven membership structure that kind of guides every single thing that we do. Our membership is made up of folks of all ages, but it's primarily young people that lead, our committee leadership, and they come up with all of the ideas for programs for the most part; collaborate with us on everything; pitch whatever their dreams look like in a creative space, and what they can do, what they can build, how they can work with bands, musicians, artists, graphic designers, and how they can learn to do that themselves, and how to make money doing all of those things, so that they can continue toward leading the creative economy in Seattle and beyond. We've got a screen-print shop where we print all of our merch, and a lot of fans' merch, and a lot of other things down there. We've got a recording studio in the back. Similarly with Path With Art, we're really just trying to help young folks within our community in any way that we possibly can. Especially during the pandemic, our mission has sprawled quite a bit. But I think that's a great thing. Basically, I think we're a little more sensitive to the pandemic than a lot of folks. Everyone has been hit incredibly hard. And it's been a really rough fifteen months or so out here. But since we're a music venue also, we haven't been able to open our venue space to the public, or have any of the shows or any in-person classes. And that grassroots connection is really what we do. That's what we're about. So, finding new avenues to connect with young people, and to build community, and to create art, has been the biggest roadblock. Luckily, we were able to keep going and keep fully staffed. So, we just kind of threw everything we could think of at the wall to adapt and to pivot, and to remain, at least somewhat, accessible. So, as soon as we closed our doors last March, we launched a giant benefit show, raised a bunch of money for Black-led community spaces, and underground spaces, and the DIY community. We built out an entirely new platform for all online classes. It's hard to even remember all of the things that we tried. I'll stick to the successful ones, because we failed quite a bit, too.

We collaborated with tons of new organizations, built new coalitions, so we could do a little bit more mutual aid and advocacy work. We ran sound safely at some of the different protests, and some of the different events related to building community, especially on the hill and the south side of Seattle. And then, we just tried to host as many youth-led community gatherings as possible. Just to really get that input and then create the programming and provide the services that the folks who were coming to us brought up. So, we really tried to create that responsive community still, even though we couldn't have those folks in the space doing it on a daily basis. And I think that's been the biggest roadblock for us, the key of what we're trying to get at, post-pandemic, as well. All of our programming is valuable because young people are there on a daily basis to steer it. And when they're not there for that, we had to come up with completely new avenues for their input and their collaboration. One of the big things that we realized right away was digital equity was going to prevent all of that from being possible. So, we collaborated with Music Commission and the Office of Arts and Culture to put together a letter to try to ask some of the bigger tech companies and other folks around town to donate a lot of equipment. And I know Seattle IT and some other folks did similar things. And it actually worked. They brought a lot of equipment to a lot of people that needed it, but it wasn't nearly enough. Most of the young people we work with are from lower income communities, and they didn't get any of those computers or tablets, and they weren't able to find what they needed to. And even beyond that, they weren't able to get the creative equipment to build out what they wanted to. They couldn't be in our space to get their hands on mixing boards, and learn to record in the studio, or do any of those things to create their own music, or to learn to live-stream or pod cast, or write about music or photography, or video production. Any of the different avenues that we wanted to start taking on. So, we started our connected Technology Matching Fund program, called Equip the Kids, as just a Gear Drive. A lot of folks in the music scene in particular have a lot of old equipment lying around, myself included. Let's get that to some of the young people tomorrow. Let's connect our teaching artists. Let's get them together to teach classes in those specific areas and make sure that young people can still build something, create something, and then work collaboratively to get it out there.

At about the same time, we also started a weekly TV show. It's called Vera TV. It's a classic MTV ripoff. And we just put up young artists and tried to bring in a bigger headliner, just to get some eyes on the music and art from these young folks. They also do all of the graphic design, all of the back end video production. And we've been able to pay folks for pretty much every stream. There was a pilot couple of months where we weren't able to at first, but we've actually been able to get quite a bit of money out the door to young artists to make sure that they can stay connected to the actual music scene, so they can perform and do what they need to do once we do approach reopening. And also they have some form of pay coming to them in the interim. And for the folks who never want to perform in person, they have a new avenue that they can take on permanently. We launched this Gear Drive and realized that we had made a key mistake early on. The demand was wild. We had hundreds of folks reach out, and everyone needed different kinds of equipment. There was no way we were going to bring in donations in time. Kind of similar to our friends over at Links and the Seattle Relief Fund were like, okay, now we need to build an entirely new thing overnight to try to fit the needs that we were made aware of, overnight. And I think this is the line that people bring up during Covid, but it really did just shine a spotlight on the inequities that already existed. Just realizing that all of a sudden, with our virtual programming, we had a massive new community of young people who wanted to be a part of what we were doing, who wanted to be on a stage, who wanted to learn the skills that we're teaching.

So, we worked with Arts and Culture, and the Northwest Arts Streaming Hub to put together the new version of Equip the Kids that a lot more than just a Gear Drive. We piloted out a cohort starting in February of this year where we have a really intensive series of classes and young people. We have a cohort of young people that we brought in from a pretty intensive community engagement effort throughout the City of Seattle with, I think, 100 different community partners to get applications in. We had about 250 young people apply to the program. And, of those applicants, I think something like 75 percent were youth of color who were sort of high needs in terms of income, as well. So, we really got out to the right community to start, with the application process, with a full board of folks who decided to be a part of this first pilot. They connected with teaching artists in places like KEXP, Sub Pop, a bunch of different audio tech companies, some more high profile musicians, folks who are really experts, in a tone of different areas. So, we taught classes in photography and music journalism and video production, live streaming. And kind of similar to a mini college series, folks all took to basics. So, everyone in the program knows how to live stream now, everyone in the program can do a little bit of graphic design. They all know how to use all of the different streaming platforms, and different social media networks. Basically, all of the baselines that you need in order to take on gig work from all of the other nonprofits that need help streaming. And putting on their programs through a virtual platform and doing video production.

After they moved through this series of different courses from these awesome teaching artists, simultaneously, they got micro grants for equipment. It was about $500 for a young person, and then we consulted with them about what exactly they wanted to get. We used our nonprofit discounts to buy in bulk, and got them all of the baseline personal equipment that they could keep. And then, through the Technology Matching Fund, we are now building out a full lending library for not just the cohort folks, but for the next cohort that will be coming in this summer, but also for the young people who have utilized The Vera Project as a space for community and for creating what they want to create. So, I think we will have basically free rentals on studio headphone, on mics, on ring lights, on GoPros, tons of different kinds of cameras. We've got new nice cameras on site, so if folks want to come in and use our stage space to film whatever product they want to during the pandemic, they can, and they can do it safely. And then we turn that around and pay them to produce segments for our Vera TV program, as well as Nash At Night, another series with the Northwest Arts streaming hub, where they curate other artists' work, and then live stream it and produce it for them. And then we get them connected to a variety of different employers outside of our infrastructure. So, they start off learning everything they need to learn, get the equipment that they need to use those skills that they just learned. They work with us to learn how to navigate the creative economy, get paid to create products, and figure out how that works and feels, and if they want to continue, and then connects them to employers who are going to continue paying them. I think the big takeaways from where we're at now, and how we got started, I think 16 of our first group of cohort youth have already been offered some form of at least gig work. I think part of that is just pandemic-specific in that every single organization in town wants to create some live streamed event, showcase their programming, especially on the tail ends, before we can reopen here. And they all need help. And there are not enough contractors or IT folks left in the City with that level of demand. so, we were able to immediately meet that need, and get these young folks paid, and paid pretty well, too, in that process.

The other key takeaway is that we now have a much bigger, better membership, and have learned a whole lot about accessibility and about what young people actually need to participate in the creative economy. So, we're keeping it going forever. This is now just a part of our programming. We're keeping this digital production lab and equip the kids program going. We're bringing in more equipment and getting that to young people. This is basically our new format for internships going forward. We're also keeping our TV show going. We're expanding it. We also launched, with our friends at Ground Zero, which used to be a program with the Boys and Girls Club that spun off. And we enveloped them a couple months ago. A youth radio station, where all of these cohort youth can come through and then have a direct platform to create whatever they want. Now they have shows about a wide range of subjects, things that Vera is great at, like the local music scene, things that we know nothing about, like the local sport scene. And similar to Path With Art, classes in podcasting and video production. And all of these things that we never even thought to do before, but is just as vital in the music scene right now, and the music industry, having shows and being able to teach those kinds of skills.

So, we're just really excited to be a part of this, and to move forward and keep building on top of this, and to keep on the advocacy side pushing for these types of programs to be included in other organizations, and other mediums and platforms, and to keep getting the word out about the need for digital equity and for those investments to be made immediately. There's really not going to be any other way, post-pandemic or during, to get the young folks who actually need the services that nonprofits like ours provide them with everything that they need. That covers this program. I figured I would talk a little bit about what we do, and what this program is, and then just leave a lot of time for questions. Seems like we have a few minutes here, but it's okay to cut short, too. I can yield my time.

**Rene Peters:**   Thank you so much for that presentation. Really, just the thought of helping these young folks to expand their creativity. It was great to hear you talk about the different creative ways where you aided and facilitated some of those voices on a number of different platforms, whether it was on the street or in the studio. It really seems that you are creating a wealth of durable resources that will be there for them in the future to create content and really a full service space. I'll open up. Are there any questions from board members or any from members of the public?

**Dorene Cornwell:**   I know people use the word, 'accessibility' in many different ways. Do you have participants who identify with any specific disabilities?

**Ricky Graboski:**   Yes. We use the word, 'accessibility' in the broadest possible terms. That's our goal always. So, when we talk about accessibility, there are obviously a lot of different things involved. There's the physical accessibility of our space. A big project of ours right before the pandemic was folks with disabilities can't often get access to learn any of these music production, audio production, in particular; or be a part of live shows. One, they're scary. They're scary for me a lot of the time, still. Showing up to a place like The Vera Project and there's a bunch of punks in a mosh pit and you don't know where to fit in. So, luckily, we have some systems for that built in. We've got a catwalk. We also have now all of our sound equipment. So, if you want to learn how to run sound at a show, if you want to learn how to run lights, that's all actually physically accessible and adjustable. And we have folks there that are trained in making sure that we can teach that effectively. in terms of our virtual format, what we see more of than physical disabilities in that platform is neuro-divergent youth. And that's a big part of our programming lately. We ran a program called Neuro Diversity Nights. And we were just barely able to pilot that before the pandemic. But, we are excited to continue that. It's been hard to keep that going in a meaningful way on a digital platform. But, luckily, we have a lot of folks who identify as neuro divergent. Whether they're on the spectrum, or any sort of realm where they can connect and talk through whatever they're going through, and we can provide the additional support that they request. In response to that, in its virtual format, we learned how to update all of our language to make it really clear, to make sure that this space feels hospitable. We did a lot of the work to make sure it does in practice, but didn't necessarily go back and update our marketing materials and skew the direct outreach to prove that concept that we were ready for that kind of intentional work.

**Vicky Yuki:**   I see a question in the chat about ways the community can get involved and volunteer. I'm just wondering if you could share some ways, or ways to contact you and figure out where they can fit in. I think there's a lot of opportunity participate, so what might that look like?

**Ricky Graboski:**   We have a pretty unique volunteer infrastructure in that we do have some volunteers who aren't members, but it's not super common. We take in additional volunteers for bigger events and festivals and that kind of thing, but we really like the folks who are doing work, whether it's volunteer or paid long-term onsite, to be a part of our leadership structure. if you're contributing to The Vera Project, you should get a say in what The Vera Project is doing. Everyone is welcome. It is all ages. Our slogan is 'Always, all ages,' and we really mean that. We focus a lot on intergenerational learning, as well, even though young people do often take the majority of the leadership positions, which is great. Just reach out. You can go to our web site: <https://theveraproject.org/> and check out the membership and volunteering page. We have a volunteer orientation and a membership application. It's all free. You commit 20 hours a year to get, basically, a vote in The Vera Project infrastructure. And then we have quarterly membership meetings where you get to vote on everything that we're doing, and our budget, and all of the fun and less interesting things. There is power in that membership. But, if you're just looking to volunteer, you can always just hit up our mailing list and see what we have coming up. Right now, we're always looking for teaching artists and mentors. We're always looking for folks that just have ideas. i know most nonprofits don't want to get a bunch of solicited ideas all the time, but right now, we're kind of open to everything, as we're really working to completely reshape what our nonprofit community and maybe, more importantly, the music industry can look like as we're reopening. Please do reach out to my email, [ricky@theveraproject.org](mailto:ricky@theveraproject.org) , and the web site, and we'd love for you to join our membership.

**Lassana Magassa:**  So, I have two questions. You mentioned that you have secured gigs. I was wondering if currently, or in the future, you have supported building portfolios or pages or the equivalent of pages for people in that space. And then, my second question was what is one of the failures that you experienced?

**Ricky Graboski:**   I love talking about that. To the first question, as part of our Equip the Kids program, we do portfolio building, resume building, web site development to a certain extent. We're not the best at that part, but we try to at least do baseline so they can get a Wordpress out that at least has the baseline portfolio and links to the different media platforms they're using. Other than that, we do a lot of different kinds of programming that I classify as informal. We've got a stack of about ten right now, as well as about six committee chairs that are sort of the youth leaders within the space, as well as a pre-active board that's around quite a bit. When we're in the space, if someone comes up to anyone on staff and says, "I need help. I'm not finding any work. What do I do? How do I get my portfolio out there?' We'll help them onsite and just connect them to a few of our friends in the industry or community. That's kind of what Vera has always done. It's really focused on that peer learning aspect of all of it. But luckily, this did give us the opportunity to be a little bit more formal in that brand of learning. Where to get that clear, connected learning focus put into practice. In terms of failures, I think we started something like twenty programs last year with the expectation that most would not be permanent programs. They would be temporary. Unfortunately, with our staff capacity, I think sixteen of them did work to a certain degree. So, we're trying to catch up to those obligations. But, in terms of a key failure that we were able to learn from really quickly is in the realm of fundraising, and how this connects directly to fundraising. We like to make the cash that we bring in as mission-aligned as possible, both form letting members be involved in the corporate selection process all the way to building standard partnerships with organizations, rather than just trying to take in single donations for events. The brick wall that we hit right away with programming was, when we were fundraising for other organizations, we didn't do a lot of due diligence in the first couple of months in terms of that same digital accessibility. The easiest example is our big stream that we did last April. It was able to raise, I think, $40,000 in two hours for a bunch of community-driven arts spaces, which was incredible. That was successful, but it also didn't have closed captioning. It also didn't do a lot of direct community engagement with a lot of the folks that we were trying to raise money for. And we weren't able to pay most of the artists within it. That was the lesson that we learned right away. We did this really cool thing for the community, but it was immediately dragged down by just the small oversights, and the folks that we had left out with that accessibility focus. So, after that, we figured out quickly how to do captioning. We figured out how to do a little bit better community engagement and outreach to get the folks who might need us most or need the work most connected to what we were doing. We also got young folks involved in every single stage of the process, instead of just the ideation phase. So, giving young folks from the communities we were working with a chance to get directly involved not only made the whole program worthwhile--because even if you lose money on it, at least you're providing a really interesting, positive learning opportunity. But fortunately, we also learned that it makes a lot more money that way, too.

**Rene Peters:**   Awesome. Thank you so much for taking some questions. And once again, thanks for an excellent conversation and presentation. A lot of great work. We're looking forward to seeing the latest and greatest updates as those resources continue to grow. So, thank you again so much for presenting to us.

**Ricky Graboski:**   Appreciate it. Thanks for having me. Happy to come back. Reach out and get involved with Vera. We'd love it.

**Rene Peters:**   Yes! Yes! Thank you for putting your contact information in the chat. Please, everyone, feel free to reach out, volunteer, and learn a little bit more. All right. So, we're onto our next agenda item on Broadband 101. And I wanted to hand off to our vice chair Camille Malonzo to introduce our next guest speaker.

**BROADBAND 101**

**Camille Malonzo:**  Hi, everyone. First of all, thank you so much to The Vera Project and Path With Art for their presentations tonight. It's been incredible and eye-opening to hear about the impacts of the TMF and all of the great work that we do here. Our next incredible speaker, Alice Lawson. We asked our IT peers to offer us presentations to give us the history, the terms, the policies, legislative landscape, and the community context of the key focus areas of CTAB. Last month, we had an awesome presentation by David Keyes on digital equity, which is one of the key parts of a connected City, and we are so excited to welcome Alice Lawson to give us a primer on Broadband 101. With that, Alice, take it away.

**Alice Lawson:**   Thank you, Camille. I want to tell you that as I approached the Broadband 101 conversation, I always like to level set with really basic broadband 101. And I know that a lot of you on CTAB are very technologically savvy, so this may seem pretty routine, but we'll just move through it quickly, as we don't have a lot of time. I appreciate you all letting me join you today. Just for background, my name is Alice Lawson, and I'm with Seattle IT. I'm a colleague of David Keyes. I'm the broadband and cable program manager. My role with the City has been to be the cable franchise manager, work on consumer protection with our cable franchises, which has to do with cable television and that history, but also to work with providers on getting these kinds of services out to the community. So, that side of the fence. Whereas David Keyes has been more of the community-based organization side of the fence in terms of digital equity. My staff also does work directly with residents. We help people when they have problems with their cable provider to resolve things. But, when we talk about Broadband 101, I like to start off and really go through the basics. The term, broadband, gets used interchangeably a lot with the term, internet. But it's not the same thing. And so, that's a fundamental principle for us all to keep in mind. Broadband is actually a medium. It's an access to the internet. And there are many types of broadband mediums. When remembering that, it helps us understand, as we think about challenges or problems around internet access or broadband. We have to think of the conditions for any specific site or location or customer. What medium are they trying to use, or what is available to them? The different mediums that are available, in terms of providing broadband all have different bandwidth capacities. Bandwidth is a really common term. I'm sure you're all familiar with it. But just in case there are those who aren't, it's about the data transmission rate that that medium can provide. It's often referred to in megabits per second, mbps. And then when you start getting really fast, and where our future is, it's gigabits per second. Super, super fast. The higher the number that you have, the faster your data transmission. And we consider that more bandwidth, more data transmission is better service delivery, in terms of that internet connectivity over that broadband. When we talk about the term, broadband, we wish there was one universal definition for it. And the only place we could really find that comes from the Federal Communications Commission. They are the body that actually sets, in terms of US policy, what is broadband. And they do it from a perspective, generally, trying to set our own national goals of having everyone having access to broadband in the United States. How do we measure that? How do we know people are doing? So, they set a standard. And it's amazing to see how that's changed over the years. As the slide shows, in 2010, all the way up to 2015, that standard was four megabits per second down, and then three megabits up, which is just incredibly slow. 2015 is what we still have as our current standard at the FCC level, 25/3 is considered broadband. When we talk about broadband, it's usually at least giving that service level. But a lot of us are advocates, being the City of Seattle and people in digital equity, for even faster. That terms should be defined again. We knew actually -- my predecessor at the City, Tony Perez, was really a leader in this area, and a visionary around broadband, even before they went to 25/3. He, and other groups nationally, said it should be 100 mbps. They saw the future, and it's here.

When we talk about the slash mark, 25 megabits over three megabits, the top number is the download speed. It's how fast you can receive data from the internet. And the lower number is the upload speed, so how fast you can upload to the internet. When we think of some of those key terms, this is just a quick screen shot with Seattle focused in the middle here, the Washington State Broadband Office has a speed test tool that is populating broadband connectivity, the actual service levels of individuals around the State, as a way the State can measure where we really have good connectivity to meet the State's goal of having everybody be at at least the 25/3 level by 2024. So, in Seattle, you can see a lot of green dots in there. Green dots mean over 500 mbps. That's because Seattle, compared to a lot of other cities, has a lot of fiber providers and a lot of gigabit services. So, we see a lot of that around here. But we do see some red dots. Knowing what is going on in those areas is challenging because we know we don't have whole neighborhoods that are necessarily unconnected or don't have modern connectivity, but we might have older buildings, multi-family buildings, and there can be some constraints there. But this gives us an idea, at least in terms of speed testing, probably the most specific information about how broadband is available to internet connectivity around the City of Seattle. Because, otherwise, our mapping information, our large spatial maps is what we get from the service providers. They are broad. They don't get specific enough for us.

When we think about broadband, these different mediums, as I mentioned, this gives us a little bit of the relativity with different mediums. The very top one, fiber to the premises, means that you get a fiber link all the way to the building where you're trying to get that service. That's going to give you your fastest speed levels. And the next one is cable. We call it cable modem. That's the old cable provider, so that's Comcast and Wave Broadband, and even cable TV. Over the years, they have been able to upgrade those systems and use new electronics on those systems so that they can deliver faster speeds. And then under that is DSL, and that's over the old telephone lines. That was one of the original ways we all did get internet service through our modems. These upper three categories, and then dial-up are the one that we call wired lines. To get this kind of broadband, you're getting a wire to your location. Then, below the line, we're looking at the wireless. So, we look at 3G, 4G, and the future of 5G coming. We look at satellite. And we look at an emerging one, it's still kind of experimental, TV white space. These are all ways that we would use radio frequencies to get that last connectivity back to the internet, versus an actual wire.

Here's just a quick example of the some of the different mediums that are used to deliver our broadband connectivity. We have the cable modem, which is coaxial cable, and again, that started in the days of delivering cable television and has now morphed to deliver the high speed broadband. They can get gigabit speeds over coaxial cable. We get the DSL, which is copper twisted pairs. That one has real limitations around how much speed it can provide, and unless there's certain equipment and you must be very close to certain service cabinets. And, the best one, and the future we are all looking to, is fiber optics. It's glass in the middle, and at least right now, they think there are endless possibilities for how service can be provisioned over fiber optics in terms of capacity. We always think of broadband and the broadband future as trying to get more and more fiber densely in our communities as the transmission medium.

Here are some images to show how, once you get it into your house, and I'm using houses as examples here, but it could be a business, it could be an apartment building. The same use cases are in there. You're going to get your wireless connections, and you're going to get your television and your phone. With the Internet of Things, a lot more devices. But, ultimately, that modem or whatever has to connect back to something. So, with cable internet, it's connecting back to that old cable system. And with DSL, it's connecting back to that old telephone line, and the telephone provider. When we get to fiber, again, it's connecting back to a fiber optic connection that's being provided. And, with satellite, you get a satellite hop from your rooftop up to the satellite down, but ultimately, that source satellite is connecting to fiber someplace back to the internet. And then, fixed wireless would be the same thing. These are some terms you hear a lot: fixed wireless satellite, fiber, cable. That's why I'm showing examples. This is where we get a receiver and antenna on top of your house, so you get that last connection to the internet going over radio frequency to another antenna point. And then that transmitter tower is again connected back to fiber, some kind of a back haul.

And in Seattle, this is a great example. This is actually a downtown waterfront scene. What those little yellow circles are showing you are two fixed point wireless devices. It's so dense in downtown Seattle that we've had some broadband providers that use this. They get fiber to at least one building, and then they go up on the rooftop, and they do a radio antenna, and they do a point-to-point service to hop that connectivity to the next building to the next building, which allows them to deploy a lot faster without having to do a lot of that expensive and time-consuming construction of trying to get fiber to the buildings in a downtown or a dense core.

And then we get into wireless. A lot of us, more and more, are relying on our cellular. We consider this mobile, because this could go with you wherever you've got your wireless device, whether that's your phone or a laptop with a hotspot dongle or something. That connectivity is hopping over the cellular system, which is hopping tower to tower. Again, all of those cellular towers at some point, are back hauling. But, at least that last connectivity to you is mobile, and you can move around with it. One of the things we definitely know when we talk about broadband is the use cases are ever-increasing, and that means there's higher bandwidth needs. We, as a community, actually foresaw this coming, and so we've always been trying to get as much capacity in fiber built out as we could in our community, and influence that so we are ready for when the time comes and the need is there, so we're not playing catch-up.

One of things I think is interesting to share is in the history of Seattle. Way back in 2005, we brought together a task force to look at a future with telecommunications. What does that mean to look at? If you look at this box here, about how broadband will make Seattle a better City and what we can envision--and you read this today, a second grade student during a long recuperation at home can participate in classroom activities daily in a two-way, full motion video hook-up--well, we've got every student at home doing that right now. I mean, the pandemic has made all of these use cases that were envisioned back in 2005 real time in what we've been doing. And even though we definitely have some places where it's been challenging to maybe get the connectivity to meet all of the intense needs that are in a home, Seattle has actually done a lot better than most cities because of the amount of work that went in to try and encourage the private sector to build out and do the work to make sure we have the infrastructure in place. I put a link at the bottom of this slide, in case you are interested in seeing this report, but also other studies and history about what Seattle has done around broadband in the past. <http://www.seattle.gov/tech/initiatives/broadband/studies-and-history>

So, where we are today, we have a lot of options for our residents. We have wire line providers, Comcast, Wave, Wave G, and Lumen (You're more familiar with Century Link, but they've rebranded themselves as Lumen.) In the case of wire line, Lumen has almost two-thirds of the City with fiber optics all over. So, in 2015, when they decided to invest and upgrade in certain cities around the nation, take their old telephone lines that were copper, and upgrade them, Seattle was one of the cities they decided to make that investment in. So, we have them as a competitor in a lot of neighborhoods. We've got that symmetrical internet speed available over those lines. Comcast and Wave are traditional cable operators, but they've got those coaxial systems with good equipment. They also can both offer gigabit speeds over there. Very, very high powered speeds. Wave G is a subsidiary of Wave, and they are exclusively fiber, and they are exclusively in multi-family, so apartments and condos, and those kinds of buildings. Then we get into the fixed wireless, the ones that hop from the tops of buildings, like I mentioned, we've got Atlas Networks that uses that methodology, and Google Webpass Fiber.  They are both, exclusively again, in multi-family or commercial buildings. They don't do single family residences out in the neighborhoods at this point. And an interesting piece of history is Atlas Networks is Seattle's only remaining local internet service provider. Every other provider here is some kind of corporation from someplace else. But Atlas is the only one that's local. We used to have a handful of local ones that did fixed wireless in the multi-family space, but when Wave G came into the picture, Wave bought them all up and made Wave G. And Atlas was the only one that said, "Nope, we want to stay solo." They operate out of Belltown, and they're a great little organization doing good work and growing out. And then, we've got a lot of mobile providers. That's AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon. They all have a lot of subsidiary companies you hear about. I'm not going to go into the names. But they sell their spectrum. They're all operating over spectrum that they own, radio spectrum wireless that gives you mobile connectivity. And that has been a great supplement during this time of Covid, where a lot of families, for one reason or another, the connectivity at home is not enough. It's been what the schools and the libraries have used to give mobile hotspots, to use these kinds of companies and the broadband they can offer to supplement in those homes, to get that connectivity there. And then we have a couple of nonprofits in our community, Connectall and PCs for People. PCs for People is not actually in Seattle, but both of them buy spectrum from mobile operators and then they resell it at very low cost. They give mobile hotspots to low income people at low cost. And on this slide, one of the reasons that I chose the background of a lot of squares with different colors because I think once again a way of grounding what we talk about when we talk about service providers in the broadband market.

We have a lot going on in Seattle. There's a lot of infrastructure and a lot of connectivity possibilities. So, we have to think about every situation, and which one of these solutions, and which one of these providers might be a good one to proceed with. I'm getting close to the end here.

In terms of regulation, broadband internet regulation is really at the federal level. We don't have local control. The states don't have control over it. It lies with the Federal Communications Commission, and they have the authority over the wired and well as the radio. That's the wire line as well as all those mobile and wireless providers. And the FCC is doing a lot of work over these next years, past years and current time, trying to repackage radio spectrum to create more to be available for mobile internet and broadband uses. And that's what's happening with the whole market of 5G. So, we've got a lot going on there, with Seattle being a very robust environment with wireless providers with a lot of spectrum, trying to deploy a lot more equipment. We foresee coming 5G networks as being another really good option for residents and businesses for connectivity.

I'm just going to quickly touch on this, because a lot o you may be interested. Remember the term, 'net neutrality' and concerns around that? That's where the scope of the FCC is so important, because how they define what internet service is depends on what the legal structure is overlaid onto it. They changed that. Different administrations have changed that. In the past, it was considered a communications system, so net neutrality saying you can't do certain things with your network was in effect at the federal level. But then, back in 2017, the FCC changed the authority and decided that that was not going to help promote proliferation of the internet, so they changed it back to be defined as an information service, which has basically no regulation. We have an unregulated environment when it comes to internet service. At the same time that the FCC was doing that, there was concern around that, so Washington State became one of the first states to throw up a net neutrality rule, basically to try to find another way to say that at least in Washington State, you can't give special treatment over your system for certain reasons and certain services. We haven't really had any court cases or anything around this at this point, but it was a badge of honor for Washington State to be the first one out to do that. We don't get a lot of recognition for doing it. And the, in Seattle, we for a long time have had it in our Seattle Municipal Code. We've had cable customer privacy rules. The cable television system. As part of consumer protection, we told these cable operators that they can't be tracking what people are watching, selling formation about their watching, and those kinds of things. We were able to use the cable customer service regulations to extend it to internet. As you're becoming an internet service provider, you can't track the web sites we're going to; we can't sell that information. We used our local code for that. And the, when the FCC made that change, shutting the door for the federal level, we tried to, at Seattle IT, enhance and reassert our belief that internet privacy standards are very important. We set up a director's rule that reiterated what is under the code and also requires our cable operators to report to us at Seattle IT once a year that they are abiding by federal privacy standards and not misusing data and tracking those kinds of things.

Hopefully, that's it. This is a very diverse area, when we talk about broadband. But, you can see that it's important to keep you semantics tight in terms of talking about broadband and talking about internet access, and what kind of medium. And the most important part is what are our goals and what do we want. And in Seattle, over the years, because we've positioned ourselves well, and done well, and got a lot of private sector investment and a lot of infrastructure in place to offer services, our real work as a City is the digital equity arm. How do we make sure it's affordable, and how do we make sure people have access to it and know how to use it? That is something that we will continue to work on. Now, I'm going to be quiet and field any questions you have.

**Rene Peters:**   Really, really interesting perspective in and throughout that presentation. There were a lot of things that I, an apparently tech-savvy 29-year-old, did not know at all. One quick question that had: I think it was maybe last year that we had a presentation from the University of Washington research group that's working on community generated and community funded 5

g hotspots where they're just outsourced. From a broadband perspective, how does the City keep account of those kinds of things, or support them, or work with them? What is that interaction like?

**Alice Lawson:**   That's great. Actually, I have been working hand-in-hand with that group since last fall. And the Seattle IT is looking to get them funding for two pilot sites. We're working really closely with the Seattle Public Schools, who are also super interested in that concept. What we're looking for is the idea of proof of concept. What Rene is referring to, if anyone doesn't know, is the UW group is looking at using spectrum that's available for public general purposes. Once you propagate out in the community, if somebody has a device to pick it up, they wouldn't have to pay to use it. It's unlicensed for the public. It's kind of like WiFi in a concept, but it travels a lot farther because it's mobile LTE service. But that spectrum is shared spectrum. It's a tiered service and a top service, and who owned it for years and years was the military. And with the FCC trying to create more spectrum availability, to create more connectivity options, they broke it up and said, in a lot of places in the country, you're never using it. And it's mostly the Navy, but it was for their radar purposes. Let's open it up and make it a shared spectrum, if the Navy is not using it. Then the second layer is going to auction off licenses for it, and that's called a priority access. And some of the telecoms bought some of those licenses. But, a part of it is also general access. Nobody is going to buy it. It's always there. The concept is, like the UW is saying, with this antenna we've got, we're going to send a signal out. The Navy is not using it. These license providers are not using it. Then, it's all open for the public use. Our question, in terms of proof of concept in Seattle, is how does it really work, and what kind of service level can it provide? The reason is that we're so close to naval activity, and we are so dense and have so many wireless providers in the area. So, we're really hopeful. It's going to be great, and we're definitely tracking it nationally to see if it has any good use cases for school districts and things like that during the pandemic. But, I have yet to find one where it's a City with the unique geography, close to neighborhood activity that we have. I will definitely report back on that. We're hoping that it's going to work well. They've got their first one deployed. By the end of this month, at the Filipino Community Center in the Central District. And we're hoping that the second and third one will be, if all goes well, on top of Garfield High School and on top of Franklin High School.

**Rene Peters:**   Awesome. Thank you so much. Any other questions?

**Camille Malonzo:**  I have two questions. First of all, that's awesome. I'm so excited to hear about the progress around the community cellular network. At the top of your presentation, you mentioned the map of the red dots and the green dots. And you mentioned that some of the red dots represent older buildings. Does that mean that residents within those older buildings may not be getting sufficient broadband that meets FCC standards? And then also, can you speak to what are the challenges in upgrading those buildings. That's one set of questions. Can you also talk through some of the regional partnerships that are in service of providing broadband to a broader set of folks?

**Alice Lawson:**   Sure. What I said about the buildings, I'm presuming. It's hard to know what the red dot would mean. It could mean that somebody hasn't bought the service or something. But what I find in places where someone gets really poor connectivity, it's because all they really have is the old dial-up or DSL service. They don't even have the cable TV infrastructure, for one reason or another. Again, if you've got the TV infrastructure in your building, then you're going to be able to get that faster service, if you can afford it. We do also have some pockets around the City -- I was just dealing with one up in the Northgate area recently -- where on a little piece of land, they never hooked up the cable TV. They probably use satellite or something like that. And now they want broadband. And it's going to cost tens of thousands of dollars, because of various utilities and all kinds of things, to get it there. Those are the challenges. It usually is just smaller pockets where the infrastructure is not in place. And, to get the infrastructure there, it's going to be expensive. Once you get to a building, that's one thing. And then getting within the building, the quality of the wiring over which that signal is going to use to travel inside a home or inside an apartment building, will affect the quality of the service. That's what I mean by older buildings. Some of our older ones, if they don't have good wiring, they're going to have degraded service. The challenge is upgrading wiring in walls. It's really expensive. It's a major construction case. And we've looked at the possibility of what it would be like to try to help fund construction loans or something to do that. But I'm wondering if the world of wireless is going to solve that much less expensively, and a much less time consuming outcome. So, that's where fixed G wireless or something like that is probably a better use case.

the other part if -- and this is the unfortunate reality -- when we think of digital equity, any time a building would invest a lot of money to upgrade their infrastructure, they're going to have to recover that, usually, somehow, and it means they're going to increase rents. That's a problem we have, too. If we have residential places that may offer a lower rent because they don't have a lot of the amenities built in, maybe they're older, that resident could get a really powerful mobile hotspot for their internet connectivity, and that might be a good outcome, depending upon the needs of those people in those buildings. I can tell you that a lot of our low income housing providers and builders are doing a terrific job of building with modern infrastructure in mind when they're doing new construction. Building with more than one option offered to residents, and those with the older are always thinking about how we can do something a better infrastructure for those residents. That's high on the priority list for affordable housing owners and builders.

**Rene Peters:**   Excellent. I hate to crack down, but we only have twelve or so minutes left. This was a really, really excellent talk, but I do want to have some time for committee updates and public comments. So, Alice, thank you so much. I will definitely take you up on your offer to follow up on some of these threads and updates. I'm really curious to hear the latest and greatest with our community 5G, as well. so, thank you again.

**Alice Lawson:**  Yes, and if I could just offer one more thing? This is a subject that you could easily have an hour on. I'm happy to take subsets of the subject. If you have interest, I could come back and talk just to those. Keep that in mind, too. You could gather questions about regional partnerships, and we could do more just on that subject.

**Rene Peters:**   Well, thanks for that and we'll make space for that in future agendas. Perfect. You've read our minds. Thank you so much, Alice. I wanted to move right on to some quick committee updates. We'll just run down the list here. If we could just quickly have digital Equity and Inclusion give their update?

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**DIGITAL EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

**Harte Daniels:**   Okay, so in the past two full board meetings, you've seen the complexity. If you mesh with what David Keyes' presentation was about, with the work that Alice Lawson is doing, you're seeing what we're trying to deal with and that kind of complexity. Coleman Entringer has been working in between our meetings on trying to find what committee members want to work on and can. Right now, most committee members can only give about two hours per week, so we're working on and looking at expanding and inviting more people to the board because of that complexity. Second, working in between meetings, I did respond to people from the north peninsula, so that information, through Rene, to give to them, and heard nothing back. We did make connections with Wimmer at Providence and heard nothing back. We have requests to talk to Seattle Housing Authority and Aging and

Disability Services, and have not heard anything back. So, I went out to talk to others for small collaboration and what kind of collaboration group work is being done in those areas. (Unintelligible) has been following the legislature for telemedicine and he did a long presentation, and he was our speaker for our last meeting and dealt with some of the legal roadblocks, legislative roadblocks and others, as well as some of the kudos, such that this legislative session, Washington House Bill 1196 passed, allowing for audio only telemedicine providers. Vicky Yuki was not able, and everybody else went over the regulations that make it difficult for two of the pieces for the schools, digital equity, which was devices and literacy, and how the regulations prevent providers from being able to work with that. The committee will have to try to work around those legislative limitations. Vicky mentioned the Digital Equity Learning Network is 5/20. She has said that there was an earlier -- but I don't know if it has taken place -- on the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program and asked for input to that full network. they mentioned that the City Council did not have time to review the IFA because they're busy with others. The City is continuing to seek federal funding for the future, but nothing is set, and there's a lot of work to be done in those areas. Telehealth legislation language is set to tighten the loopholes on the telemedicine parity law from March of 2020. So, our action items are, as I said, were trying to expand the committee, trying to locate what we'll focus on, finishing more of the work around telehealth equity as well as keeping tabs on, hand on the pulse with the work that Alice and Vicky and David Keyes are doing. And I'm probably leaving something out. There has been quite a bit of contribution and discussion during that meeting. Unless you want to hear from Coleman and Dorene, that's all I can remember.

**Coleman Entringer:**  Well, I'll just add on really quickly on our recruitment for DEI. If you're interested in getting involved with the committee, we meet at the fourth Tuesday of every month, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., and if you'd like to get on our mailing list, I'll go ahead and just create a little Google form for your emails, but you can go ahead and give us that and we'll get you in the loop.

**Rene Peters:**   Awesome. Thanks for that update. And, I'll circle back on some of the cold emails. I know it's been a while since you email Steve from Harborview and others. I have no problem bothering folks. So, let's go to the next committee. Tyler is still on the call? I don't think he actually is on the call. In that case, we can go to Privacy and Cybersecurity.

**PRIVACY AND CYBERSECURITY**

**Nicole Espy:**   No specific updates, but there are some projects in the works. Hoping to be more aware of the upcoming group for the Surveillance Ordinance, and be prepared for public comment. I would encourage anybody to go the Seattle IT privacy page to see what technologies are under review, investigate, and be prepared for comments. All feedback is highly encouraged. An update that is not Seattle-specific but is Washington-specific: The Washington Privacy Act did not pass this year, so I think we will in our next subcommittee meeting, we will discuss what that bill is about and what some of the obstacles are to that. I'll try to add our signup list to chat, as well. <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/ctab-privacy-newsletter>  We encourage people to join. Thank you.

**Rene Peters:**   Thank you so much, Nicole. Yes, the SIRs are really interesting reading, from everything like binoculars to high tech helicopters for police use with infra-red vision, and all kinds of stuff. So, it really spans the gamut. I guess we'll log Smart Cities as 'no update.'  And we will move on in the agenda to Public Comment in the last few minutes. This is just the time we reserve for board members or members of the public. Just chime in with any questions. comments, or anything they think that we should know. So, I'll open the floor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Camille Malonzo:**   Having Alice on today, we didn't plan this, but tomorrow, the FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit will go live for the application for individuals and families to apply for that benefit tomorrow. I'm going to add that link to the chat for you, or your committee, or your family members to apply for $50 a month for broadband service and equipment rentals. And there is also a one-time discount for devices that you may be able to use. I think that's a really great benefit. There are other programs that maybe Alice can talk to us about, but this is a great one, and the application is going live tomorrow.  <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>

**Rene Peters:**   Awesome. So, now we have three links in the chat. We have Coleman's link for DEI involvement, Nicole's link for the Privacy and Cybersecurity Committee, and this broadband benefit. Alice, were you about to say something about it?

**Alice Lawson:**   I was going to say one unique thing about the broadband benefit, which I think is good for everyone to know:  It goes beyond what we consider to be our low income residents, and it has residents who have had a precipitous drop in income due to the pandemic. So, if somebody is unemployed. And it doesn't have a low income threshold for that. So, it's worth it for everyone to look at it and see what you can get. It's going to last as long as they have money. And we want it to be well-used because that gives a really strong message to the federal government that we need more funding and regular funding for these kinds of programs.

**Camille Malonzo:**    (Unintelligible)...to federal Pell grant recipients. I've never seen that before, which is going to impact availability for students.

**Rene Peters:**   Awesome. Thank you for calling that out. Any other announcements or questions at the last minute at the buzzer, here?

**Alice Lawson:**   I can share one more with the minutes. We've just had rules come out from the FCC for another emergency connectivity program that's going to go right to schools and libraries. And that's $7.1 billion. That's going to help them pay for devices and services to be able to have students and library patrons who need to get connectivity away from the library. In Seattle, that's going to be our Seattle hotspot program, and then, Seattle Public Schools is going to help them with all of the connectivity we've been supporting where schools are doing remote learning.

**Harte Daniels:**  Does anybody know how, with the funding for digital navigators, whether that passed?

**Rene Peters:**   It did not.

**Alice Lawson:**   No, unfortunately, they stayed really tight. Schools, libraries-- they didn't do anything progressive with that program, unfortunately. We'll have to keep fighting for that through different funding sources.

**Harte Daniels:**  Yes. What I liked about it was the original definition from the NDIA, which looked at the social determinants of health, more than just those three things that we always look at for 'equity,' which is more equality, just giving them equal access. That dovetails into telehealth and what the CMS and HHS is doing. It's really sad that that did not come through, because there are more difficulties in signing up and just informing them of where they can get it and how they can get it. Actually, when I was talking with the collaborative group -- I don't know if Seattle is doing this, working with these groups or not -- but they did mention that the federal government did add the seven social determinants, health and digital access and equity. So, you may not know that you are now included in the list, along with a safe place to live, etc. Just thought I'd throw that out at you. Thanks for all of your work in keeping tabs on it, Alice.

**Rene Peters:**   There are really some great resources here, and thank you for calling that out. Everybody, thank you so much for your time tonight. Really some great discussions. Thanks for all of the questions and engagement. Good to see you guys. And I look forward to seeing you next time. Enjoy the rest of your evening.