



MEDIA JUSTICE updates

People's Tech workshop series launches



On Saturday, March 19, leaders and organizers participated in the first-ever People's Tech - a free monthly workshop focused on building capacity for media analysis and production with nonprofit community organizations.

"Media literacy for media justice" was last week's topic. Here's the upcoming schedule:

- April 16: Digital storytelling
- May 21: Video production
- June 18: Social networking
- July 16: Podcasting

[More details](#) and [photos](#) are available on our website.

Video training with native youth



Earlier in March, we facilitated a two-day urban youth film workshop for Native C.H.A.T. (Curbing HIV/AIDS Transmission). The Native American youth participants are working to create their own films for the first-ever [Native C.H.A.T. Youth Film Festival](#) this coming May.

Phone Justice Policy Day set for Wed., April 27

We're partnering with the Center for Rural Strategies, Center for Media Justice and Consumers Union to bring together local grassroots leaders, organizers, policymakers and elected officials to explore the effects of the wireless Internet, and mobile phone and phone policy in our lives.

Rural Broadband Policy Group files FCC comments

As part of this national coalition, we recommended updates to the FCC's 2009 Rural Broadband Report, including an emphasis on (1) local solutions, (2) local job creation and social capital

formation benchmarks, (3) accurate data collection, and (4) strong net neutrality rules. Read the [full comments here](#).

Media justice gatherings

- In February, the [Media Justice Leadership Institute](#) in Washington D.C. brought together progressive leaders from all Media Action Grassroots Network (MAG-Net) anchor organizations for an intensive four-day training - including Main Street Project's Steven Renderos and Danielle Mkali. [Listen to the podcast](#) Steven created with participants: "What kind of internet does your community need?"
- Main Street Project will be well represented at next month's [National Conference on Media Reform](#) in Boston. Steven Renderos is one of the presenters, along with three of our board members: Edyael Casaperalta, Amalia Deloney and Parul Desai.

RURAL ENTERPRISE CENTER updates

Katie Blanchard joins staff of Rural Enterprise Center



We're pleased to officially welcome former volunteer Katie Blanchard as our new outreach coordinator. In her new role, Katie is building connections with Latin@ residents in southeastern Minnesota communities. Read [Katie's bio here](#).

W.K. Kellogg Foundation funds agripreneur training

The first formal training class of new Latin@ farmers, or agripreneurs will be partially funded by a \$150,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan. Northwest Area Foundation and Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) are also significant foundation supporters of the effort to create a sustainable path out of poverty for aspiring farmers.

'Convocatoria' gatherings provide practical resources



Partnering with Three Rivers Community Action Partnership and Edina Realty, we're helping southeastern Minnesota Latin@ families learn about budgeting, and opportunities for home and land ownership. Participants are also introduced to the agripreneur training program. On

March 19, one group [got a first-hand look](#) at a year-round poultry facility.

New community guide available

Kate Taylor, the Emerson National Hunger Fellow who recently completed a six-month assignment with us, created a community guide for the program. When combined with face-to-face discussions, this guide will be a powerful tool for other communities interested in launching the program. Download the guide from ruralec.com (PDF).

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www.mainstreetproject.org
info@mainstreetproject.org

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Main Street Project | P.O. Box 80066 | Minneapolis | MN | 55408