



March 24, 2010

Mayor Ruth Asmundson  
City of Davis  
23 Russell Blvd.  
Davis, CA 95616

Dear Mayor Asmundson:

I am writing to voice Davis Media Access's (DMA) strong support for the City's campaign to become a Google "Fiber for Communities" test site.

In our region, Davis is known as a nexus for media, boasting a community media center, several daily political and news blogs, two non-commercial radio stations, three local television channels, a world-famous Wiki, a long-standing community network, a daily newspaper and a campus newspaper. For a community our size, this is truly remarkable and aptly demonstrates our community's commitment to information exchange and its embrace of technology.

DMA was founded 21 years ago as a public access television center and has since evolved into a media center supporting local content creation, archiving and distribution via television, radio and the internet. Our partnerships with the City, Davis Joint Unified School District, UC Davis and scores of community-based organizations and individuals help to create and expand our notions of community using media tools. Our collaborations with funders, other centers and media advocates nationwide help position us on the cutting edge of shifting media technologies and policy.

DMA is one of eight beta sites for the Open Media Project, funded by the Knight Foundation. The Open Media Project is a two-year effort to develop a comprehensive set of open-source tools designed for Public Access TV stations, Community Technology Centers, and other noncommercial community media organizations. The project emphasizes helping under-represented communities use media to increase the presence of low-income perspectives in the media landscape, and to encourage greater community engagement among disengaged sectors of the population.

The tool set will enable noncommercial community media organizations to operate as a cooperative user-driven media network, sharing top-rated content through Drupal websites. Participating organizations will retain their local geographic focus while enabling their constituents to reach wider audiences with their media, and giving their





local viewers access to content from across the globe. DMA is in the final countdown to launch its site, and is close contact with fellow developers and participants nationwide.

In addition, DMA stewards a unique archive of community content comprising more than 4,000 titles dating back to the early 1980s. Our community clamors for this content to be online, and we've begun the process of digitally archiving much of it. For all of these reasons, additional bandwidth and speed would be a welcome addition.

The ways Davis might take advantage of such an opportunity are endless; in particular we could produce more live videocasts, or connect satellite studio and editing facilities around town, facilitating the coverage of hyper-local news. The fact that we already do so much as a community using media speaks volumes about our enthusiasm and suitability for his project.

Please number Davis Media Access among supporters of the selection of the City of Davis as a "Fiber for Communities" test site. Our vibrant, innovative community is an excellent candidate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Autumn Labbé-Renault".

Autumn Labbé-Renault  
Executive Director

