

IMAGINE WITH US...

Imagine with us a voluntary network of independent, noncommercial radio stations across the Northwest, strengthening our own broadcasts and raising the profile of community radio in our region. A network could link and support participating stations in a number of ways:

Content-sharing of programs, PSAs and regional music

Mentoring of new LPFM stations

Development of a powerful constituency for **media democracy** and social justice issues

Collaborative news production, training, promotions, and mutual aid

Reclaim the Media, KBCS and leading community stations across the region are getting ready to launch a network to support these and other projects. Join us as we enter the future of great radio in the Northwest!

COMMUNITY RADIO SUMMIT EVENTS:

The NW Community Radio Summit is being planned to benefit regional community radio producers and those who want to get involved in grassroots radio. Conference events and workshops include:

NETWORK-BUILDING SESSIONS: Sessions on the nitty-gritty of creating a new network: sharing programs via the Internet, mentoring new stations, public-affairs collaborations, media democracy issue education for volunteers, staff and listeners

GRASSROOTS SKILL-BUILDING: Introductions and brush-ups on interviewing, computer audio production, Internet streaming and other topics germane to our ethereal, faceless art.

AMY GOODMAN: SAT, SEPT. 16 TOWN HALL SEATTLE

The host of *Democracy Now!* is a hero to community radio listeners across the country, and one of the most intrepid and principled journalists in American broadcasting today. We're proud to welcome her back to Seattle to help launch our regional community radio network.

Registration/ticket info inside!

NW COMMUNITY RADIO SUMMIT SEPT 15-17 SEATTLE



This map identifies college and community radio stations in the Pacific Northwest, including southern Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Idaho and Oregon. For a detailed list and links, visit www.nwcommunityradio.org.



Community Radio Networking: A Regional Approach in the Northwest

The challenges facing community radio in today's media landscape are substantial and numerous. Community radio stations, including the many noncommercial stations operated by college and high school students, lack both the resources of commercial stations and the network support of NPR-affiliated public stations. Yet in many cases, these stations are providing their communities with unique and high-quality services. Community radio is one of the **last true wilderness areas** of broadcasting, where young people, local artists and citizen journalists can experiment as they redefine and reinvent good radio. Community radio embraces, rather than marginalizes, public affairs and cultural programs focused on social justice issues, or the particular concerns of youth, immigrants, working people, women and people of color. Community radio is also home to some of the most inquisitive and courageous journalism being produced today.

Unfortunately, much of the best programming produced by local community radio stations is broadcast once, to a single community audience, then shelved forever. Such programs as KSVR's *NAMAPAHH First People's Radio*, KBOO's *Circle A Radio*, KDNA's *Entre Amigas* and CFRO's *Redeye* have the potential to serve a much larger regional audience than their stations' limited broadcast signals currently allow.

Deep-rooted local accountability is community radio's unique asset among broadcast media. But local community radio's ineluctable smallness and mutual isolation often keeps neighboring stations from inspiring one another, entering into collaborations, or even recognizing one another as neighbors.

The cultural diversity exemplified by community stations in our region is far greater than that of commercial stations or most National Public Radio affiliates. Yet, lacking resources or a structure for coordination, community stations rarely share their voices and their strengths with one another. The resulting fragmentation contributes to the overall marginalization of independent radio voices.

The **Northwest Community Radio Network** will allow community radio folks in our region to help each other improve these conditions - amplifying our collective voices through solidarity and collaboration.

This network project was formally launched in May 2005 when Reclaim the Media convened an initial planning roundtable of community radio producers and managers in Bellingham, Washington. Participants discussed simple questions: are our stations interested in helping form a network with other community broadcasters? How would such a network benefit each station? At that meeting, representatives from over two dozen stations in BC, Washington, Idaho and Oregon agreed that, despite the resource problems which plague all of our small, volunteer-dependent stations, the benefits of developing a network would be worth the effort. Some potential benefits:

Program sharing and collaborative production: Using existing and new web distribution systems, our network will help facilitate ongoing voluntary program-sharing among regional stations and independent producers. In addition, the network will provide structure for new multi-station collaborations.

Mentoring: A network will also allow new stations to benefit from the experience and expertise of established stations in their area. The NWCRN will develop and support mentoring relationships pairing up new and established stations. Stations participating in the network by sharing their own unique resources or borrowing from others, will benefit from the richly varied landscape of community radio in the region.

Media Democracy: Community radio staff, volunteers and especially listeners form a natural constituency, holding in common the values which have led them to seek out media alternatives in their communities. A further goal of our networking project is to help regional college and community radio stations to understand themselves not just as community media outlets, but as constituency leaders who deserve to have their voice heard in matters of federal communications policy. By working together, and by collaborating with media democracy advocates, a network of community radio stations will have the power to develop and mobilize a diverse and powerful constituency to embody and champion the ideals of public media accountability and participatory democracy.



Register for the Summit now!

- WHAT:** Northwest Community Radio Summit: Network planning sessions, grassroots radio trainings and workshops; celebrations of community radio in our region; big welcomes to new LPFM station KPFN (Woodburn, OR) and a keynote address from Amy Goodman
- WHEN:** September 15-17 2006
- WHERE:** Capitol Hill Arts Center, Seattle
- WHO:** Movers, shakers and decisionmakers from college and community stations* in the northwest, and aspiring grassroots radio producers at any level of expertise
- WHY:** Forming a regional community radio network; planning grassroots collaborations

register online:

www.nwcommunityradio.org

* Noncommercial, nonreligious radio stations and webcasters in Alaska, BC, Washington, Idaho and Oregon

Amy Goodman: Sept 16, 7pm

a Celebration of Community Radio



On **Sat. Sept 16**, join *Democracy Now!* cohost Amy Goodman at **Town Hall Seattle** for a celebration of community radio. Amy will be signing copies of her new book, ***Static: Government Liars, Media Cheerleaders, and the People Who Fight Back***.

\$15 event admission benefits the NWCRN project (admission free for registered conference participants)

buy tickets online:

www.reclaimthemediamedia.org