



Santa Monica CityTV Embraces New Studio, Delivers 13 TV Series

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Behind a discreet orange door on 19th Street in the Mid City neighborhood is the City of Santa Monica's new CityTV studio, which produces more than 80 half-hour shows each 10-week season on Channel 16.

This season, which ran March through June, included 13 series covering a wide range of interests.

Show topics include women's issues, local theatre, non-profit organizations, yoga, legal help, cooking, senior issues, sustainability, and youth.

City Cable TV manager Robin Gee said the facility, which opened about a year ago, is a dream come true. "I've been with the City for over 18 years and we started out in a trailer in the back parking lot behind City Hall," Gee said. "To be in a real production facility after all this time is really fantastic."

Gee said CityTV was previously housed at 1717 4th Street and before that, at 525 Broadway. "Your dream is to have a professional television operation with a studio, lights, special sound proofing, and all that kind of stuff that you really need for a full blown, professional operation," she said. "We spent a lot of the past year to acquire and install our equipment. We did our first season here using equipment from Santa Monica College. They had what they call 'studio in a box.' We did 80 to 90 shows back in the spring a year ago. We launched this spring with our own equipment."

Gee said the funding for the new facility came from one-time Cable Television settlement funds. "We were able to fund the construction and remodeling of this facility with this one fund, which was about \$2 million," she said. "To buy this building, we were able to use what's called the one percent PEG fee. PEG means Public Educational Government access. It's a fee that is on cable television bills and it's dedicated to capital costs only to support local community channels like ours. Pretty much the entire building was built and constructed using non General Fund monies, using funds that were intended for this type of focus." The facility includes two edit bays, video production equipment, and a full operational studio with four cameras. Beyond that, the CityTV division also has a mobile production truck that can be seen at the upcoming Twilight Concert Series and at SMMUSD School Board meetings.

CityTV also has a master control room at City Hall that airs the City Council, Planning Commission, and Rent Control Board meetings live from Council Chambers.

SBS Remodeled existing concrete block building to house the new CityTV offices and studio space. The remodel includes a studio and control room, lighting, sound proofing, acoustics, equipment, edit bays, new rooftop HVAC units, painting and carpeting.