

Voice of Vashon Educational Program Statement

Voice of Vashon (VoV) is a community media nonprofit founded in 1999 to inform and educate the community about all things happening on Vashon Island and to provide an outlet for community members to share their creative material with one another. VoV is a registered nonprofit and has 501(c)(3) status. (See attached documentation.)

VoV has for many years operated several media-related programs: a website at voiceofvashon.org that includes a web radio station; programming for the Island's public access cable television station; and a multimedia community emergency information service distributed via email, the Web, Facebook and the Vashon Park District's Traveler Information Service radio station. (VoV has no attributable interest in the cable television station or Park District radio station.)

VoV focuses its work in four main areas:

- Teaching and assisting community members to make their own media presentations, including video and audio production, directly and through partnerships with the Vashon Park District and Vashon School District.
- Providing programming for existing media outlets (web radio station and other media) with content created by community members, including interview and talk shows, announcements of community events, musical presentations, and other material created by and for community members.
- Operating Vashon's community emergency information service as described above, with a volunteer staff on duty 24/7/365. VoV volunteers are the Public Information staff for the Island's Emergency Operations Center.
- Partnering with community institutions as shown in the attached material to inform the community about the many civic and cultural events in our community, including, for example, recording community council meetings and local election debates.

All of this work is consistent with Article I of the VoV Bylaws, which states in part:

The mission of the Voice of Vashon is to help our Island neighbors create, produce and distribute locally oriented audio and video programming; and, to provide a communications lifeline in case of an Island emergency.

VoV programming is meant to showcase Island artists, writers, musicians and performers, as well as to inform the community about the activities of civic, service, governmental and cultural organizations on the Island.

If granted an LPFM license, VoV would expand its community educational services into FM radio programming (including a significant amount of live programming) consistent with all of these purposes. LPFM programming would include live and recorded programming such as:

- Creative and civic-related material produced by community members, some of whom we train to produce their material.
- Public service information regarding emergencies, ferry travel anomalies, community and civic events, public forums, local news, etc.
- Training of community members including high school students in producing and being on the air in live radio and running a radio station.
- Broadcasting local events and shows (with proper permissions) including musical events, Vashon Opera, local theater productions, Arts and Humanities lectures (an ongoing annual series produced by one of our partners, Vashon Allied Arts), and community events and debates.

VoV's LPFM programming will be broad and eclectic, reflecting the many creative and civic-related aspects of our unique island culture.

Voice of Vashon has a strong track record in all its existing educational efforts over the last 14 years. It also has deep and broad community support for this license application as shown in the attached documents.

- Endorsements from federal, state and county legislators representing Vashon Island, documenting the public policy benefits of an LPFM license for Voice of Vashon.
- A letter from twelve community leaders and community service organizations, documenting Voice of Vashon's track record in community service and education.
- The text of a petition of support signed by more than 1,500 people on Vashon in one 16-hour period taking place in a single weekend.