

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)

Grant Recipient: Rainbird Community Broadcasting Corporation

Project Title:

Rainbird Community Broadcasting Corporation - Funding for Planning and Design for Replacement Facility

House District: 1

Funding Amount: \$ 30,000

Brief Summary:

Funding for Planning and Design of Replacement Facility

Funding Plan:

Type of Need: Ongoing Need

Prior Funding to Date:

None

Other Funding Requests:

None

Project Description:

KRBD-FM, public radio needs \$30,000 for planning and design for a new broadcast facility in Ketchikan. The building housing KRBD is more than 75 years old and was never intended to be a professional office space; it is essentially a warehouse with enclosed offices and studios built inside. It is inefficient for users and lacks internal environmental air quality control capability making it inadequate for people and equipment.

Current building equity and other traditional sources of public broadcasting capital funds; USDA and Denali Commission, are available for construction but planning and design funding is needed to access other resources.

Major areas of concern:

- Major Maintenance on an old building that is a constant distraction from the mission of broadcasting
- Inadequate air handling : KRBD is in the process of installing a heating/cooling system for some areas of the facility, but core areas will remain without heating or cooling, and there is no ventilation to exhaust potential dangerous gases that rise each fall from the salmon stream that runs under the building.
- Safety: Other than the main entrance, KRBD has very little accessibility. More than 70 years of changes and renovations have created a confused and inadequate electrical system.
- Inadequate parking: No employee or guest parking. Very limited public parking.

KRBD-FM, a non-profit radio station provides vital services to more than 20,000 residents in Ketchikan, Saxman, Myers Chuck, Klawock, Hollis, Thorne Bay and Hydaburg, as well as other rural areas of Southern Southeast Alaska. In 1991, operations were moved in to the current location, a building originally constructed in 1932 by church volunteers. Due to

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an expiring lease a station move happened at an accelerated pace, and all efforts or money was available for basic necessities such a proper air handling, heat, accessible restrooms, lighting and many other amenities you would expect to find in any professional work environment. KRBD expected to offset maintenance and upgrade costs through rental income derived form three apartments, two retail units and a restaurant located within the building. However, the cost involved to maintain and operate a 75 year-old building requires all of that revenue and more. Most importantly, it affects daily what we should be doing; providing quality broadcasting service to our listing area.

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Jeff Seifert, General Manager
Phone Number: 907-225-9655
Address: 123 Stedman Street
Ketchikan, Alaska
99901

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