

WMHT Community Advisory Board
Civics/Public Affairs Committee Meeting
November 29, 2018

In attendance:

Staff – Robert Altman, Eric Hoppel, Matt Ryan, Mary Gribulis

CAB Members – Miriam Tremontozzi

CAB Members on Phone – Sohaib Chekima, Annie Brody, Jennifer Boyer

Robert presented an overview of the Community Advisory Board and its structure and purpose for members attending their first meeting. Matt Ryan, New York NOW Managing Editor, reviewed the history of WMHT's public affairs coverage and how we are uniquely positioned in proximity to state government to cover its impact on our state. Matt discussed WMHT's involvement with hosting debates and detailed his upcoming documentary on Gov. Andrew Cuomo's first two terms in office.

Content/Engagement Producer, Eric Hoppel, gave a presentation on his current project focused on civics and civic education: Citizen Active. Eric's approach is to reach out to local experts to reveal how government is supposed to work and establish a dialogue around civics in the community. The goal is to look for new ideas and solutions to problems, for example, the opioid crisis, and solicit feedback to create civic engagement across WMHT's multiple content platforms with a focus on digital first.

Discussion included the current Citizen Active content pipeline, how to get young people involved in the project on their terms, tools to engage the community around civics, screening opportunities and discussions, who's eyes are we seeing the civic discussion through, potential community partners, how to build civic infrastructure, how the community rallies around issues, community revitalization and urban renewal projects, and how the arts play a role in civics affairs.

WMHT shared plans for a civics-focused survey in development with the Center for Human Services Research at UAlbany that would be distributed to WMHT's audiences and the community. The research is made possible through a planning grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and will help form WMHT's civic engagement plans moving forward.