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vehicles. That's where we get incredibly excited to start exploring VR, AR (augmented reality), immersive media, and storytelling, kinetic sculpture, to leverage technology to tell stories and to create social impact. That's where we deviate from the traditional plan, where we have an all-encompassing idea of what media is. We don't see ourselves as being limited by any one form of media over another.

That said, our funding is contingent upon our continuing to run our cable access channels. So given the fact that we reach 400,000 homes, we are going to do as much as we possibly can to leverage those for impact as well.

We are (also) sensitive to the stigma of public access, and we work to transcend it. This was created for marginalized populations to have a voice, and of course, as the case with all things for folks that don't have resources, it was stigmatized over time, and co-opted by folks that it wasn't initially intended for.

K.J.: After the 2016 presidential election,

did your approach or outlook for the organization change?

J.H.: Definitely. We're really fortunate in this city, to an extent, that we have politicians who had the vision to ensure that community media was funded. In most other cities, this doesn't exist. We're one

of the largest community media centers in the country. We definitely feel the weight of that responsibility on our shoulders – to demonstrate the potential and the positive impact an organization like this, when firing on all cylinders, can

have. We are not at all territorial; we're excited to share everything that we've learned as much as possible. 'Cause we've gotta get community media centers in swing states, stat!

K.J.: *What would you tell someone who doesn't have any digital media knowledge but wants to get involved somehow?*

J.H.: I would invite them to come to one of our events, meet up with our staff, and talk about their interests. One of the strengths of the center is that it's really up to the specific artist or maker. Everyone is

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JUSTEN HARN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OPEN SIGNAL

coming to us with a very different sort of project that they want to create. They'll come through our classes, and everyone will have radically different ideas for the outcomes that they want.

I think where the technology is now, it's not beyond anyone. The equipment that we use is intentionally very straightforward, and though there is a degree of sophistication to some of the gear, for the most part, we're really reinforcing the importance of the principles of storytelling. Of course technical knowledge is wonderful, but really we're a community of storytellers, and we are attempting to facilitate authentic engagement. And if you have a story to tell, please come find us.

Knight's Quest

by Avendor

I'm gunning for love
If I can capture that flag
Scrubbing the palace
With bucket and rag.
Looking with conviction
A silhouette in the dusk
Keeping my mind noble
Like a bronze bust.
Entering your heart's chapel
I kneel in the pews
Pricked by the thorns
Bleeding for you.
For if this here troubled story
Can find a new home
In your loveliest of souls
Treasured tomes
Then all else will be
Redemption and grace
And we can tackle the world
In sword and in lace.

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