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Contact: Eloise Lee
Cell Phone: 347/ 249-0402

OAKLAND DIGITAL INCLUSION SUMMIT (ODIS) TO JUMPSTART TECHNOLOGY ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS OF THE BAY'S SECOND CITY

Oakland-Media Alliance is proud to sponsor the first Oakland Digital Inclusion Summit (ODIS) on February 15th from 10am to 6pm at the Laney College Theater. Made possible through funding support from the California Consumer Protection Foundation and Community Technology Foundation, ODIS is the first free, day-long community summit on digital inclusion and how to bust the digital divide.

A counter-balance to the top-down approach of for-profit marketplace initiatives, ODIS will bring together issues of broadband, equipment access, training and tech support to develop and propose community Internet and computer access projects in the city of Oakland that are affordable, practical, accessible and targeted to the areas of greatest need. To sparkplug this dialog, representatives from community based organizations, media and technology groups, city government, local businesses and other Oakland stakeholders will be on-hand to provide information, resources, networking, and meaningful problem-solving sessions on grassroots solutions to digital divide issues in Oakland.

An extension of the work initiated by the Mayor Dellums Citizen Task Force on Universal Access to Technology and the Internet, ODIS will also feature the public launching of Digital Inclusion Oakland - a network of service providers and resource centers with a broad range of technical and educational offerings. Registered organizations include technology literacy and training hubs such as the Eastmont Computing Center (ECC) - located in what was infamously known as the "6-9 Village" area of East Oakland featured in the movie New Jack City - and summit co-sponsor OTX West - a computer refurbish house and distribution center providing technology and content development support in West Oakland.

Confirmed speakers include Hip Hop historian, deejay, and Oakland community activist Davey D; Esme Vos, founder of Muniwireless.com; David Glover, Executive Director of the Oakland Citizens Committee for Urban Renewal (OCCUR); Sascha Meinrath from the Champaign-Urbana Community Wireless Network (CUWiN) in Illinois; Laura Valdez, Executive Director of Caminos Pathways Learning Center in San Francisco; Greg EplerWood from Burlington, Vermont's fiber public ownership project; Josh Breitbart, Policy Director of the People's Production House; and Xavier Leonard, Director of Heads on Fire in San Diego. Performances and presentations from the Center for Digital Storytelling, Women of Color Resource Center, and Cov Records, a project based out of the Covenant House of Oakland, will also be highlighted.

Media Alliance, alongside co-sponsors Oakland Technology Exchange-West, First Voice Apprenticeship Program at KPFA, Media Action Marin, the Community Technology Network, the California Consumer Protection Foundation, and the California Technology Foundation encourage fellow Oakland workers, NGO's and residents to join them in making ODIS a clarion call for real inclusion in the digital universe for everyone. For more information and to register visit www.media-alliance.org, or call 510-832-9000. You can also visit www.digii.wordpress.com to learn more about the speakers and participating organizations.

If you would like more information about the Oakland Digital Inclusion Summit, or to schedule an interview, please call Eloise-Rose S. Lee at 347/249-0402 or e-mail eloise@media-alliance.org

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