

Home Range Story Kitchen

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About the Home Range Story Kitchen

The Home Range Story Kitchen is an offshoot of the Commons Studio (originally the Multicultural Cinema Club) at The Working Centre. The main activity has been carrying on with a set of exploratory intergenerational and interdisciplinary “learning by doing” programs originally developed at the Commons Studio to serve Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and area. All other Commons Studio programs and services, including rentals, are now part of Kitchener Public Library. Current Story Kitchen activities include producing Promenade, an experimental “community radio magazine” that airs on Midtown Radio Mondays at 7 and on CKMS 102.7 Mondays at 6.

Challenge Statement

How do communities fill the gap left by the steady diminution of local/regional media in all forms over the last 20-30 years, especially the daily newspaper? Our preference is for a platform-syncretic approach that builds on what exists, does not set out to further disrupt what's remains of an established order, and engages both professional and non-market, community-based talents and energies.

Impact on the Organization

Home Range has been working with representatives of a range of student and community media organizations to organize a congress of people in the field tentatively scheduled for May 2025. The founder is also working on a talk he hopes to deliver as part of a series planned by the Registry Theatre. For its part, Home Range is working on imagining, planning and growing the equivalent of a community-based orchestra, choir, theatre group, band or club to operate in the local/regional media content/digital storytelling field, dedicated towards serving as a resource, a connector and an incubator for the local/regional civic deliberation and creativity ecosystem.

Potential Connections

Last November, Midtown Radio organized a workshop on the subject at the SDG Idea Factory that was well attended, including strong representation from professionals who have left the field, including leaders of the Ink Stained Wretches, a nation-wide campaign led by a scrum of former Record newsroom staffers “dedicated to building a culture of appreciation for quality journalism in aid of democracy.” Home Range has also been working with the Peace for All Canada conflict transformation initiative on relevant content creation and a digital media equipment library and learning centre.

