

ABLE

ABLE (The Arts and Business Learning Experiences, Incorporated) is a non-profit, tax exempt California Corporation formed to train and employ central city youths—particularly those who are members of disadvantaged minorities—in Still Photography, Motion Picture Photography, and Television.

ABLE's principal source of financial support is foundation grants, supplemented by substantial gifts and contracts for production. ABLE's trainees are selected through vocational counselling centers and department of employment on the basis of ability, interest, and financial need.

ABLE's approach is to provide paid on-the-job training opportunity for its students by contracting with business, government, and education to provide students with the much needed audio-visual materials which they require. ABLE's students, or associates, work side by side with the professional staff members in completing these production assignments. ABLE's staff and resident creative writers, directors and producers include some of the most experienced people.

The ultimate objective of ABLE is to provide poor, disadvantaged, and minority youths an access route into meaningful employment in the production end of the media arts, an employment market from which they have been systematically barred. The first and most obvious benefit of this approach is to provide a new source of income for capable youths from poor and minority ghettos, and thus to expand available economic opportunities as part of the continuing national effort to enable minorities to come fully into the mainstream of American life. The second value of the ABLE approach is to provide a vehicle for the self-expression of the Black and Brown communities, and hence reduce the sense of ethnic alienation which continues to plague the country. Expanded economic opportunities for the disadvantaged, but a valuable source of constructive inter-cultural communication and hence a chance to make important contributions in the reduction of national strife.

ABLE is, at its management level, basically a Black enterprise. Its Board of Directors is interracial. The Board seeks to marshal support from all quarters in the wider San Francisco community, but explicitly recognizes that the organization's central objective requires that its staff, driving force and overall program direction derive from the minority community.



Where do correct ideas come from? Do they drop from the skies? No. Are they innate in the mind? No. They come from social practice, and from it alone; they come from three kinds of social practice: the struggle for production, the class struggle, and the scientific experiment.

— Chairman Mao Tse-Tung

Video Chinatown

Video Chinatown is a coalition of progressive filmmakers, video artists, community people in the Asian communities within San Francisco. Since the middle of July, 1972, we have been doing a closed-circuit half-inch community television show and giving a video workshop in our basement in the heart of Chinatown. Our shows are in Chinese, free of charge, and are always prepared with guidance from local people living in the community. To date we have scrounged together a network of multiple monitors performing in a place with a viewing capacity of approximately 200 people. We have been packing them in every showing; it warms the heart: and that's what Video Chinatown is: something from the heart. The variety of programs we offer to Chinatown has been and will be:

Educational – Chinese and English Lesson Series, China Cultural and Historical Studies, video coverage of community related meetings and events, Chinatown community news and international information.

Social, Legal, and Health – Community Forum and Discussion, Living in Chinatown Series, information on legal aids and housing issues, review of medical processes and availability, documentation on various organizations and social services.