



NEWS

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MTA SPONSORS NOVEL TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP IN INNER CITY

Marking the beginning of the public participation process on a unique project, the MTA is inviting community leaders to join in an all-day workshop Friday, February 17, at the Compton Transit Center to plan the Blue Line TeleVillage Demonstration Project.

Scheduled to open in June, the Blue Line TeleVillage will be a community-based computing, information and service center located at a Metro Rail station. A first-of-its kind project, the TeleVillage will provide inner city residents and organizations access to computer technology and the MTA's fiber optic communications system.

Possible usages of the Blue Line TeleVillage include attending a class in Compton and interacting with a teacher and classmates who are in a classroom at Cal State Dominguez Hills; taking the commute out of employees' jobs by using telework center resources; using on-line information systems to identify markets for a product; and teaching children how to read, write and type on computers.

"This project will show the power of linking bus and rail transit centers, so that the rail station becomes a destination in and of itself," said Supervisor and MTA Director Yvonne Burke, one of the workshop's attendees. "Why not have these MTA services in people's own neighborhoods -- for instance, making them available at the local rail or bus transit center they already use to access transportation?"

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"We believe this project provides an ideal opportunity to use computing and telecommunications to improve the daily lives of our citizens," said Franklin E. White, MTA chief executive officer. "MTA can play a key role in the delivery of information services to consumers at our transit stations."

The introductory workshop will feature computer access experts, including Peter Miller, executive director of the Playing to Win Network, which began as a community computing center in Harlem and has burgeoned to over 37 inner-city neighborhood technology centers. Workshop participants will have an opportunity to observe and participate in a two-way interactive classroom, log on to an "electronic city" network, experiment with multi-media arts programs, and cruise the Internet.

Location for the workshop is the Compton Transit Center Community Room at 307 North Tamarind Avenue, directly across from the Compton Blue Line station.

Registration is \$10, includes lunch and is open to all. For more information, call Audrey Thompson at the Drew Economic Development Corporation at (310) 632-3290.

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