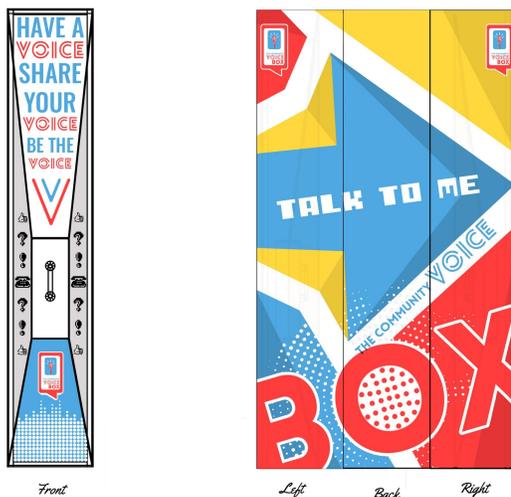


Twin Lakes Library System's TVWS Implementation and SecondNets Project

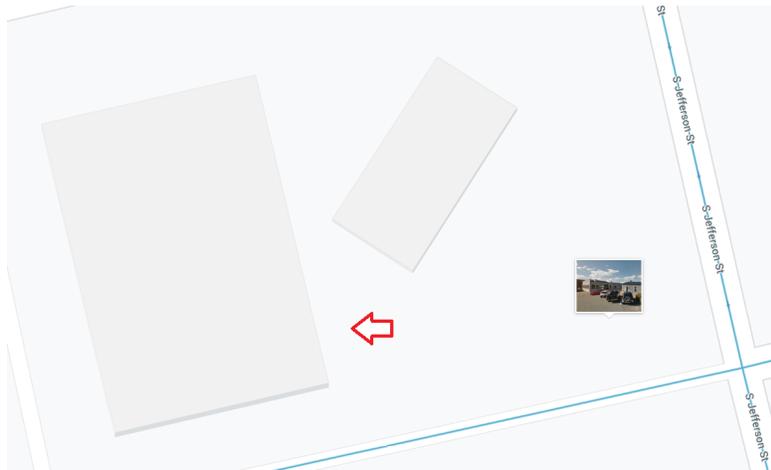
In 2017, the Twin Lakes Library system applied for and was selected as one of 12 public libraries in the country to receive grants to begin testing TV White Space (TVWS) broadband technology in a public library setting. We have a base TVWS radio at our main branch (which has fiber internet, like many public libraries in Georgia) that communicates with three client radios, placed in local public parks in the City of Milledgeville, which has a population of approximately 18,000. Local residents can log-in to our Wi-fi network for free using any device and access the internet. After going live in mid- 2019, we have averaged over 2500 logins per month during peak usage in our three locations.

Our program has been cited by the State Librarian of Georgia several times in regards to services that libraries have offered during the pandemic, and has inspired a grant program open to Georgia public libraries for TVWS technology. Our implementation of it was also cited when I was awarded the 2019 Georgia Public Librarian of the Year.

Our plans for a mobile TVWS, to be put into operation in 2020, were derailed by COVID-19 and recommendations from the CDC to avoid interaction with public devices. Our original plan calls for a modified phone booth, which would leverage funding from another grant aimed at public participation, but would also provide a functional example of a mobile TVWS hotspot for our community. Here is a mockup of the final design:



The unit itself has been crafted, but the vinyl skin and interactive features have not been completed. At first, it will be located next to our Hancock Branch (127 E. Hancock St.) in downtown Milledgeville. After a successful residency here, we will begin moving it around the community to various parks and public spaces.



Our timeline for installation now pre-supposes safe use in June of 2021, with testing to commence over the next several months. It will be hard-wired at first, but is designed to charge and operate through solar power. If successful, we plan to install these around our service area (Baldwin County) as neighborhood library access stations, to increase our reach and ability to serve our rural and underserved communities. We look forward to going live with this project this year, and are pleased to offer it as a new service in our community!