

CULVER CITY SPEAKER SERIES 9.11.19

JOANNE HOVIS ON BROADBAND

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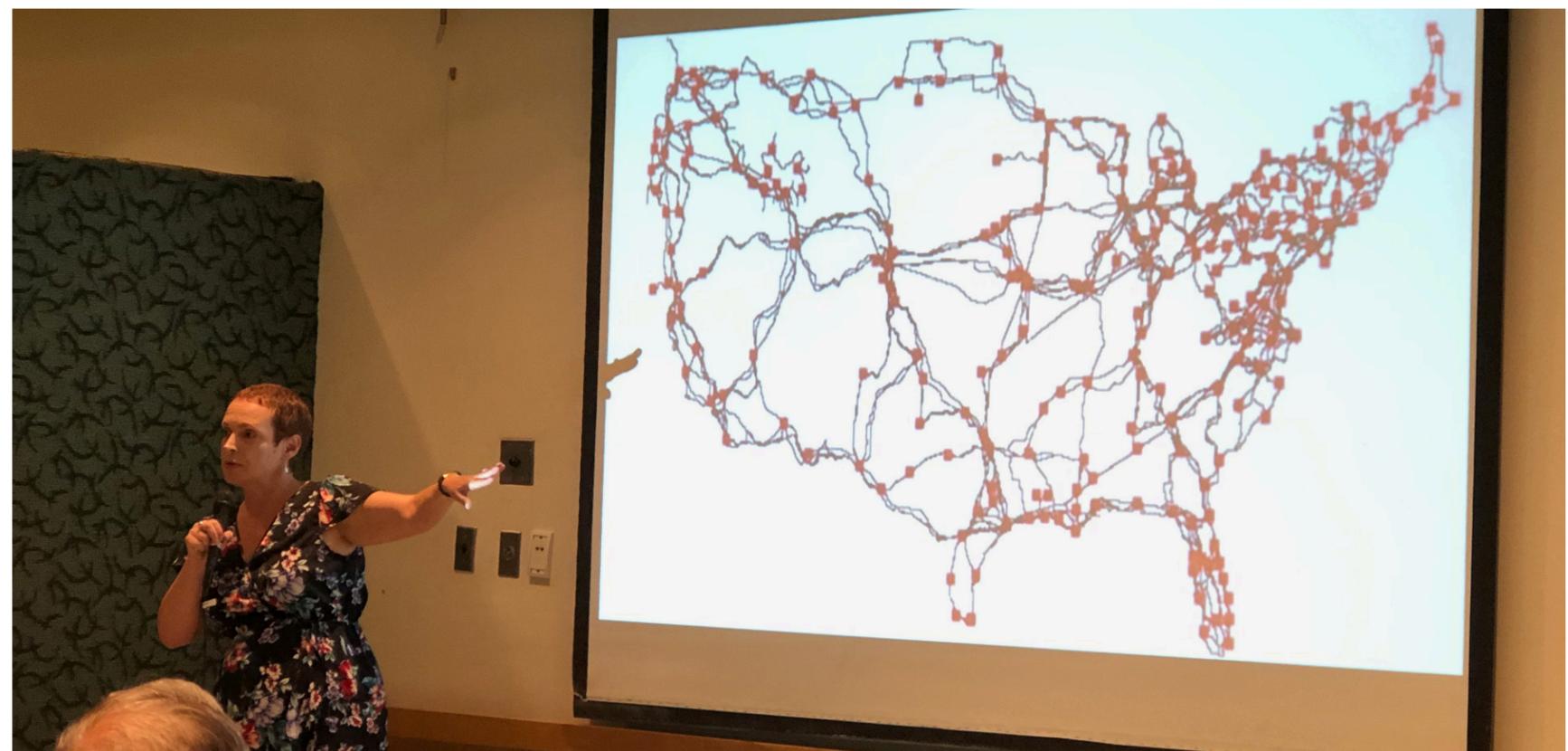
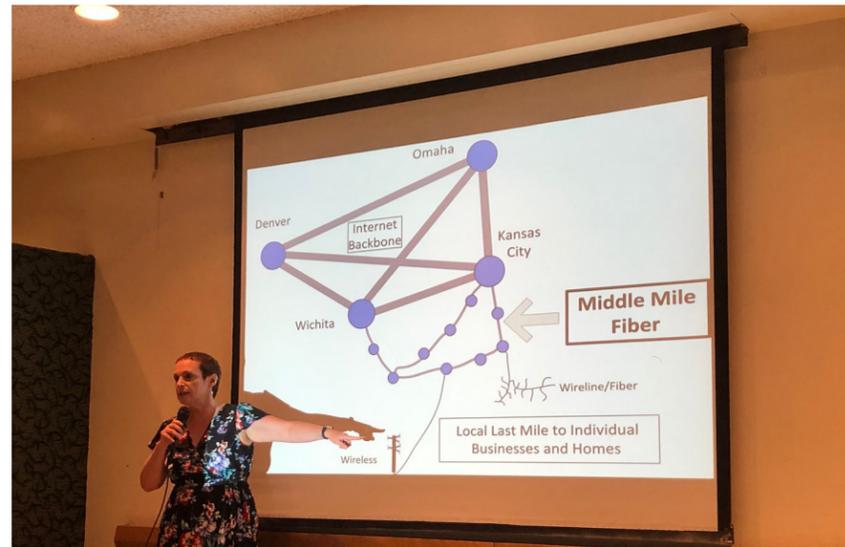
The City of Culver City is hosting an exciting Speaker Series on critical issues affecting the City, the region, and beyond. Culver City's [General Plan Update](#) will set a vision, goals, and policies around topics such as mobility, urban design, social equity, housing affordability, emergency preparedness, parking pricing, healthy communities, and much more. The entire community is invited to join in the discussion! [Access written summaries and videos for past events on the Speaker Series page.](#)

On September 11, 2019, the City of Culver City welcomed Joanne Hovis to speak on 'Broadband & Economic Vitality: The Role of Culver City's Fiber Network.' In her presentation, Hovis, President of [CTC Technology & Energy](#) and CEO of the [Coalition for Local Internet Choice \(CLIC\)](#), provided a brief history of the development of Internet technology, an overview of the different types of fiber that make up the broadband network that enables the technology we rely on, and an explanation of how [Culver Connect](#) - Culver City's recently completed municipal fiber network project - fits into the broader picture of Internet infrastructure and how it is poised to meet the current and future needs of our community.

In an overview of Internet infrastructure, Hovis described a network of fiber optic cables of various sizes. This network includes: the underseas fiber network that provides connections on a global scale; the 'long-haul' fiber network that connects major metropolitan areas across the United States; the 'middle mile' fiber network that connects cities and towns within a region or major areas within a city to one another; and the 'last mile' fiber network, which connects the 'middle mile' network to individual homes, schools, and businesses. She described the role of Culver Connect as providing the 'middle mile' network for Culver City, connecting economic development centers within the community to one another. According to Hovis, this 'middle mile' network is an essential piece. Without it, there is a fundamental disconnect. She described Culver Connect as "best in class" infrastructure that will pay dividends to the community for many years to come and support the long-term vitality of the economy while serving as a platform for private entities to deploy 'last mile' service to homes and businesses.

In her presentation, Hovis made the analogy between broadband and electricity, noting that the electrical grid was built in response to an immediate need for light. The advancements in technology that were enabled by electrification had previously been inconceivable. In the same way, she argued, we cannot imagine what the broadband networks that we build today will mean to us ten years from now and beyond. It is an infrastructure that opens doors that we are not yet aware of. Culver Connect, Culver City's municipal fiber network project facilitating high speed connectivity to Culver City businesses, positions our community to participate in a 21st century economy.

We would like to extend our appreciation to [Veterans Memorial Building](#) for hosting and [Sprouts](#) for feeding everyone. Next month, join us for a Speaker Series event at the [Culver City Arts District Art Walk & Roll Festival!](#) Mobility design expert, [Dan Sturges](#), will share his ideas on 'New Mobility.' His presentation will be followed by a screening of the Dutch film, *Why We Cycle*. [Learn more about it and RSVP here.](#)



Stay informed at
culvercity.org/speakerseries