PUBLIC BROADCAST COMMONS: *Every Community Deserves It's Own Radio Station*

miniFM transmitter and
computer with wireless card
for webcast

wireless and FM broadcast cart
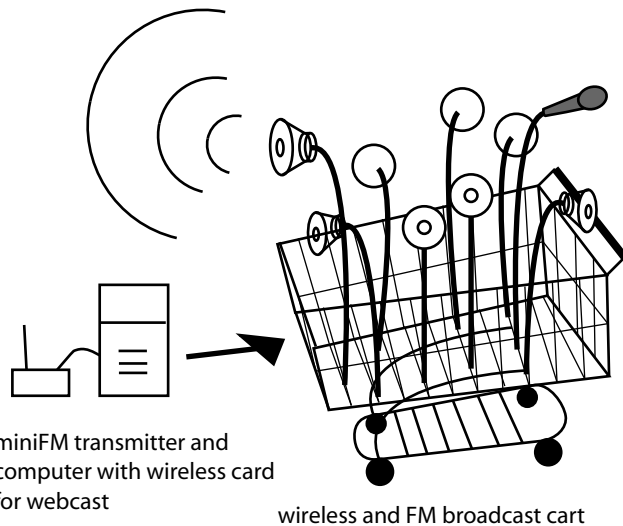
"THE THING in collaboration with r a d i o q u a l i a, and Jan Gerber started on May 5 2002 to build a radio network in NYC using internet audio (via wireless and wired connections) and miniFM. Initially the network will consist of 2-5 transmitters based around New York. Each of these transmitters will be less than 1W output and will source their audio live from the internet using the Frequency Clock scheduling system. This partly adopts the ethic of microradio as founded by Tetsuo Kogawa where many low powered FM transmitters are coupled to create an effective broadcasting entity that 'falls beneath the radar' of the communication authorities. fm.thing.net combines this ethic with that of net.radio which is a relatively new phenomenon focusing on the use of the internet as a carrier signal and is best illustrated by the practices of the Xchange network. By combining the net.radio and microradio we hope to build an efficient radio network in New York that uses the internet as a primary carrier of the audio for re-broadcasting on legal or almost legal microFM broadcasts."
from http://fm.thing.net/

PUBLIC BROADCAST CART

A shopping cart will be outfitted with a microphone, a personal computer and a miniFM transmitter and speakers. The microphone is plugged into the "audio in" of the computer that has a wireless ethernet card and a sound card. Via the computer and online radio software the audio captured by the microphone is converted into an MP3 audio stream. Using free wireless nodes (802.11b) available at Bryant Square Park in NYC, the stream is fed to a server hosting a net radio station. The stream is then available to anyone online and logged onto the net radio station.
The "audio-out" of the computer feeds into the "audio-in" of the miniFM transmitter in the cart. In this way the broadcast may be heard either on the net or via microFM frequency. I have been in contact with THE THING and anticipate receiving technical help from people at THE THNG and I hope to use THE THING FM and r a d i o q u a l i a's established radio network to facilitate this project and activate the sculpture.

A visitor to the park on designated dates may turn the microphone on to broadcast a conversation, monologue or merely the ambient sounds of the park. The pedestrian becomes active producer of an audiocast, reversing the usual role of most people as audience of broadcast or online content. Public street performers and speakers from irrational, radical politics soapbox speakers to religious zealots to street musicians will be invited to speak/perform at the broadcast cart. Hence the sculpture will become a public commons for webcast and microFM broadcast.

PUBLIC LISTENING POSTS

At other benches in the park FM receiver headsets are made available to listen to the audiocasts, during the event. Signs announcing the webcast will point laptop users to the appropriate URL where the webcast is available.

Ricardo Miranda Zuñiga, ricardo@volume71.com

Park visitor with laptop and wireless card listens to webcast, and AM headphone listening post are made available.