

Fall 2022

IMPACT REPORT

Awards and Accolades

National Edward R. Murrow Award

- News Documentary: WNYC Studios, *The New Yorker Radio Hour*, *The Essential Workers of the Climate Crisis*

INvolve Top 100 Executives EMpower Role Model List

- **Timothy Wilkins**, New York Public Radio Board Chair

47th Annual Gracie Awards

- Radio National Honorees: **Melissa Harris-Perry**, *The Takeaway*

New York Press Club Awards

- Science, Medicine & Technology (NY Metro): *On the Media*, **Brooke Gladstone, Katya Rogers, Rebecca Clark-Callender, Eloise Blondiau, Micah Loewinger, Jennifer Munson**, *Breaking News Consumers Handbook: Vaccine Edition*
- Continuing Coverage of the NY Metro Area: WNYC, **Nsikan Akpan, Caroline Lewis, Jaclyn Jeffrey-Wilensky, Michael Hill, Kerry Nolan, Christopher Werth, Stephanie Clary, Sean Bowditch, Audrey Cooper**, *Up In The Air: An Investigative Series About How The NYC School System Invested In Ventilation To Combat COVID-19*
- Feature Coverage: WNYC, **Elizabeth Kim**, *Why One Queens Block Has Flooded For Decades*

New York Festivals (NYF) Radio Awards

- Gold Award: **Aaron Cohen**, *Embrace Everything*

The Webby Awards

- Best Series: *Blindspot: Tulsa Burning*
- Best Writing: *Blindspot: Tulsa Burning*

The Women's Media Center

- Exceptional Journalism Awards, **Alana Casanova-Burgess**, *La Brega: Stories of the Puerto Rican Experience*

The Sidney Hillman Foundation

- The October Sidney Award: **Matt Katz**, *Never-before-seen images show Rikers inmates locked in caged showers, left in soiled pants, more poor conditions*



Gothamist



New Featured Programming Across NYPR

- **Gothamist**—In October, NYPR launched a **substantial redesign of the Gothamist website**. The changes, which include more stories accessible on the homepage and streamlined navigation, represent an important milestone in our work to combine the immense talents of WNYC and Gothamist into one powerful local news operation that can meet the needs of more New Yorkers in more ways. Following the launch, Gothamist continues to incorporate reader feedback and roll out more improvements—including improved curation and mobile functionality, more data-driven stories and graphics, more original photography, an embedded WNYC audio stream, and a new commenting and conversation platform.
- **Radiolab Presents: *Terrestrials***—In September, *Radiolab* premiered a **new kids and family podcast** hosted by **Lulu Miller**, immersing listeners in lush, sound-rich stories about our fellow creatures here on Earth. *Terrestrials* is *Radiolab*'s first project created specifically for young audiences, and features interviews with entomologists, physicists, surfers, hip-hop artists, and other experts in kid-friendly wonderment. The show's first episode, "[The Mastermind](#)," uses the story of a certain color-changing creature who outsmarts his human captors to call into question our ideas of intelligence in the animal kingdom.
- ***On The Media: The Divided Dial***—In November, *On the Media* launched a five-part series examining the **history of conservative talk radio and its power over American politics**, with a focus on the growth of Salem Media Group, an influential Christian network. Reported and hosted by award-winning multimedia journalist **Katie Thornton**, the mini-series also features media observers, religious experts, and a rare on-the-record interview with Salem Senior Vice President **Phil Boyce**.
- ***Helga***—WNYC Studios partnered with the Brown Arts Institute at Brown University for the fifth season of *HELGA*, a podcast hosted by critically-acclaimed performing artist **Helga Davis**. Guests this season include an array of artists, writers, and scholars working across disciplines, including **Michael R. Jackson** (*A Strange Loop*), **Claudia Rankine**, **Glenn Ligon**, **Carrie Mae Weems**, **Tricia Rose**, and **Arthur Jafa**.
- ***The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space*** (TGS) launched ***Wanderlust Wednesdays***, a new series on the second Wednesday of every month, inviting audiences into conversation with thought leaders from the worlds of arts and culture, media, science, and civic action. An early *Wanderlust Wednesday* in September featured **Toni Thai Sterrett**, filmmaker and founder of Bad Grrls Creative Club, with **Jordan Muthra**, special guest **Ben Dietz**, and WNYC's **Kousha Navidar** for [UNRIDDLING NFTs](#), a conversation about what NFTs are, what creators are doing with them, and why they're important to know about.
- In September, local call-in show and podcast ***The United States of Anxiety*** relaunched as one of public radio's only national call-in shows called ***Notes from America with Kai Wright***, with carriage on 67 public radio stations. The show convenes dynamic conversations between host **Kai Wright**, listeners from across the country, and a diverse roster of experts and cultural leaders. Listeners nationwide join Kai as he continues to explore the unfinished business of our history.
- ***Seven Picks a Week***—WNYC Culture & Arts Editor **Steve Smith** rebooted this compact guide to what's worth catching in the week ahead, compiled by contributors from the WNYC newsroom, WQXR, and *All of It*.

Local News Highlights



Gothamist

Holding Power to Account

- In an exclusive story, reporter **Matt Katz** published a harrowing look inside the Rikers Island prison, including exclusive photos and videos depicting “the squalid and deadly conditions.” **Katz has remained a leading voice in coverage of the crisis at Rikers**, with stories on record-breaking deaths at the prison; a new federal lawsuit that alleges NYPD officers have been transporting people to Rikers illegally and without trial; and state-published data on prison officials who continue to hold inmates in solitary confinement for long stretches of time, despite a new state law banning the practice.
- WNYC’s **Jon Campbell** and **Christopher Werth** investigated and broke news of a search warrant executed at the home of **Senior U.S. District Judge Thomas McAvoy** in connection with a criminal investigation involving his son. More than 10 outlets, including *The New York Post*, *The Daily Beast*, and *The Albany Times Union*, based their coverage on the story.
- WNYC covered the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Ida, emphasizing the continued fallout from the storm including health problems resulting from mold. Although the city has repeatedly promised to better prevent hurricane damage, some in Brooklyn and Queens continue to experience flood destruction.
- Following a report released by the NYC Law Department on records of police misconduct, reporter **Samantha Max** analyzed NYPD lawsuit payments and laid out this year’s highest payouts, including the officers who are cited the most.
- WNYC followed ongoing developments as an influx of asylum seekers arrived in New York City, beginning in the spring and continuing into the fall. Gothamist reporters **Josefa Velásquez**, **Catalina Gonella**, and **Gwynne Hogan** reported on the decision by **Mayor Eric Adams’** administration to temporarily house asylum seekers in large tents, contextualizing the policy within existing right-to-shelter rules that may be in violation. Editor-in-Chief **Audrey Cooper** called out the Adams administration’s lack of transparency and accountability in only offering details about this plan in the background. After the flooding of the planned tent site in October and the decision to abruptly relocate the site to Randall’s Island, WNYC reported on and suggested donation sites for our audiences.

Local News Highlights



Gothamist

2022 Election Coverage

- After WNYC's **Brigid Bergin** [found a loophole in registration rules](#) for the August primary elections that would have allowed voters to change their party registration through Primary Day, the **State Supreme Court** [issued a decision](#) moving up the deadline to August 12.
- WNYC co-hosted a **debate between the six top candidates vying for the Democratic nomination** in New York's newly redrawn 10th congressional district, available as both [audio](#) and [video](#).
- **The Takeaway** launched two **election-focused special series** this fall: [SHE-lection!](#)—which focused on races in which both candidates are women—and [DOWNBALLOT](#), which featured conversations with current and former elected officials about why these kinds of positions matter and how to access information about candidates.
- Ahead of this year's midterm elections, WNYC launched [The People's Guide to Power](#), a 10-week pop-up live radio show aimed at helping New Yorkers navigate their right to vote. Hosted by WNYC Senior Political Reporter **Brigid Bergin**, [The People's Guide](#) debuted Sunday, September 11, with [Senator Kirsten Gillibrand](#), [NY1's Errol Louis](#), [WNYC's Brian Lehrer](#), [City Council Member Shahana Hanif](#), and [community activist Mariama James](#) in conversation about how the terror attacks of September 11, 2001 have changed the political landscape of New York. The show continued through the midterms, and had an enthusiastic response from our listeners.
- September marked the return of [The Brian Lehrer Show's](#) signature election season series, ["30 Issues in 30 Days."](#) The series dove into the role of abortion rights in the New York State governor's race; the culture wars surrounding education; climate change; and the ongoing threat to American democracy.
- One week before the November elections, WNYC hit the road to explore how unique political dynamics are playing out locally, beyond the largely blue bubble of New York City. Senior Reporter **Nancy Solomon** and [Morning Edition's Michael Hill](#) [broadcast live from the Westfield Diner in New Jersey](#) to speak with experts and voters about the role of issues like inflation and abortion driving voters to the polls. The next day, the [All Things Considered](#) team [reported from Suffolk County Community College](#), in the Long Island town of Brentwood.
- Gothamist and WNYC provided New Yorkers the information they needed about the [primary](#) and [general](#) elections with concise, digestible guides covering incumbent reelection, absentee vote status, rematches, and more.

Local News Highlights



Gothamist

Community Engagement

- To mark the 10-year anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, WNYC's community partnerships team launched a new series capturing first-person stories told by local residents, including this mixed audio-text story featuring [10 New Yorkers' stories about how they weathered Hurricane Sandy and the lessons they learned](#). The audio features also ran on WNYC throughout the month of October, demonstrating the versatility and impact of NYPR's integrated, multiplatform newsroom.
- After Hurricane Fiona left more than 1 million people in Puerto Rico without power, and roughly the same number of residents in the Dominican Republic without running water, [Gothamist compiled a list of organizations aiding relief efforts](#). **Alana Casanova-Burgess**, host of WNYC's *La Brega* podcast, interviewed **Astrid Cruz-Negrón**, a high-school Spanish teacher and activist, on her experience living through the hurricane for a story that was published *The New Yorker*.
- WNYC expanded its community engagement efforts with a first-of-its-kind [partnership with Street Lab](#), a NYC nonprofit working on new ways to cultivate public space, called "[Our City, Our Stories](#)." The project combines the distinct skillsets of both organizations to help New Yorkers tell their own stories in their own words, with inaugural sessions in Jackson Heights, East Harlem, and Bed-Stuy. Exciting projects like this are bringing us closer to our audiences, and helping WNYC sound more like the communities we are here to serve.

Public Health Coverage

- Alongside an [in-depth report](#) on the efficacy of air purifiers sold to the Department of Education, Gothamist released a [COVID-19 need-to-know guide](#) for parents of children returning to school in New York this fall. The guide spotlighted updates on the policy and protocol for positive tests, plus a timely alert when The COVID-19 Report Card [was taken offline in September](#), meaning NY schools were no longer required to report positive cases.
- WNYC was an essential source of information on the mpox (monkeypox) outbreak in our region. Our team covered [the first confirmed juvenile case in the city](#), and the [NYC health department's call for community groups](#) to help close vaccine gaps for Black and brown residents. **Kai Wright** also [led an important conversation with microbiologist, professor, and activist Joseph Osmundson](#) to field listener questions about the state of the outbreak and stigma within LGBTQ+ communities.
- Following the Supreme Court's landmark overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, WNYC helped New Yorkers navigate shifts in their health care coverage. Reporter **Caroline Lewis** reported that abortion may not be covered under certain health care plans despite being protected under New York state law. She also covered the efforts of [New York Attorney General Letitia James](#) to ensure that local pharmacies could not legally deny customers reproductive health products based on their personal religious beliefs, after reports of these practices around the country.

Local News Highlights



Gothamist

Local News: New York

- The newsroom covered New York City's public school budget crisis, reporting on budget and staff cuts, **Mayor Adams'** responses to parent concerns, and the efforts of teachers and administrators at a South Bronx school to welcome asylum-seeking students, despite budget strains and language barriers.
- Gothamist informed New Yorkers with student loans what they should know in the aftermath of President Biden's debt relief plan, and clarified that the state will not tax forgiven student loan debt.
- Following the Supreme Court's overturning of the public firearm bans in June, Gothamist reported on shifting gun laws in New York City, including The NYC Council's plan to ban concealed-carry firearms in Times Square. The newsroom also published guides on new gun laws as they took effect in early September and continued to shift into November, when a federal judge blocked multiple sections of proposed bans and permit requirements.
- WNYC kept New Yorkers up-to-date on critical labor laws by publishing a guide to navigating new salary transparency requirements in job postings. We also broke down a September report which found that women who work in New York City's municipal jobs are earning less than men, and that median salaries for Black, Latino, and Asian workers are lower than those of the city's white employees.

Local News: New Jersey

- Gothamist raised concerns about human rights violations in New Jersey prisons, notably the lack of air-conditioned units and access to ice, and the 14 officers at New Jersey's Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women who were accused of forcibly extracting inmates from their cells and assaulting them, and then trying to cover up their actions.
- In August, reporter **Karen Yi** spotlighted the eviction protection measures signed by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, as well as the efforts of many landlords to resist the protections of the laws.
- WNYC's **Karen Lewis** investigated a slew of delayed CityMD bills that charged residents of New Jersey and New York for COVID-19 testing, a service many believed to be free.
- NJPR broke the news that the Murphy Administration would wind down its COVID relief fund for undocumented workers and reallocate the majority of the remaining \$34 million to the state budget. Following NJPR's reporting and the response by advocates and other media outlets, the Governor announced that he would restore the money his office diverted from the fund. When the application deadline was extended, NJPR made sure New Jerseyans knew that they had another month to prove their eligibility for the one-time \$2,000 payments.

Arts and Culture

WQXR:|



Supporting Artists and Cultural Organizations

- WQXR continues to boost the visibility of emerging artists in the city. This fall, the WQXR newsletter introduced listeners to excellent performers and concert series, including **The Harlem Chamber Players** and **Peoples' Symphony Concerts**. The [WQXR](#) and [New Sounds](#) YouTube channels streamed free and accessible performances, including concerts by [the Aizuri Quartet](#) and [William Tyler](#) at the [New York Guitar Festival](#), live in The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space.
- WQXR's **Project Airlift** concluded its first year of providing gratis on-air promotion to thirty BIPOC-led cultural organizations with budgets of under \$2 million. The program leverages WQXR's platforms to **support the classical community as it continues to recover from the financial impacts of the pandemic**. This work has yielded tangible results for our partner organizations. A survey conducted after the first year of the program found that 58.8% of responding groups saw an increase in general brand awareness; 35.3% noticed increased ticket sales; and 23.5% logged increased visits to their websites and social media accounts.
- WQXR continued its live **Artist Propulsion Lab** series with a new concert season in The Greene Space, featuring the following exceptional performances from September through November:
 - Cellist **Andrew Yee's** [Halpie](#), a program of solo cello works exploring Yee's relationship to being bi-racial and going through transition as a trans woman.
 - The world premiere of saxophonist **Steven Banks'** new composition [Begin Again](#), a piece that combines meditative exploration with musical composition.
 - **Layale Chaker's** [Radio Afloat](#), a musical reflection on the intertwined destinies of people and the natural world.
 - [The Aizuri Quartet's Song Emerging](#), an evening of live music and conversation featuring Canadian Inuk vocalist, multi-disciplinary artist, and activist **Tanya Tagaq**.
- September 29 marked the start of the twelfth season of **Carnegie Hall Live**. **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**, **Daniil Trifonov**, and the **Philadelphia Orchestra** brought listeners a program of **Ravel**, **Liszt**, **Gabriela Lena Frank**, and **Dvořák**, which is now [available for streaming on WQXR](#).

Arts and Culture



Welcoming Back Live Events

In the New York City region:

- In September, NYPR fans and supporters gathered at **Brooklyn Bowl** to celebrate 40 years of **John Schaefer** and his radio show *New Sounds*, with exuberant performances by **Red Baraat** and **Combo Chimbata** along with a DJ set by **Yo La Tengo's Ira Kaplan** and **Georgia Hubley**.
- **Get Lit! with *All of It*** returned this fall with a series of insightful conversations taking place on the rooftop of the [Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library](#) in midtown. The season kicked off with author **A.M. Homes** and a performance by musical guest **Laurie Anderson**.
- Writer and comedian **Samantha Bee** hosted [The New York Public Radio Gala](#) on November 9th at The Plaza Hotel. Honoring **Brooke Gladstone**, Host and Managing Editor of *On the Media*, the event raised over \$1 million dollars in critical funds for NYPR, and featured fantastic performances by the **Kronos Quartet** and singer **Charity Angél Dawson**.
- On Sunday, October 23, WQXR held a [Classical Kids Fair](#) at the Queens Theatre, our first Kids Fair in Queens. Approximately **500 families enjoyed live performances**, an “instrument petting zoo,” musical arts and crafts, and dance and songwriting workshops. Our friends from the Copland School of Music at Queens College, Louis Armstrong House Museum, and Musiquita joined the event.

At the Jerome L. Greene Performance Space:

- After nearly three years of limited in-person gatherings, [The Greene Space announced a full and exciting fall season](#), including premieres, residencies, conversations, and performances. One of the first events of the season welcomed Radiolab host **Lulu Miller** to celebrate the launch of kids' podcast [Terrestrials](#).
- The Greene Space hosted its second annual [First Peoples Week](#) in October, for an exciting celebration of North American Indigenous life and history. The event featured award-winning Smoke Dancers; a chef teaching about indigenous cooking practices; and a number of vibrant conversations about land treaties, food, dance, Indigenous representation, storytelling and more. **Kaili Y. Turner**, a multidisciplinary performer, held a staged reading of her new play *Indian Country*.
- In October, The Greene Space [partnered with Color Of Change to present *The Black History Now* live series](#), an ongoing series for their “Black History is US History” campaign. The first episode, held live in The Greene Space and streamed live during Banned Books Week, featured a conversation between Color Of Change President **Rashad Robinson** and professor **Kimberlé Crenshaw** on the importance of preserving accurate Black History in the U.S. education system.

Arts and Culture



WQXR Special Programming

- WQXR celebrated the first day of **Hispanic Heritage Month** on September 15 with featured music composed or performed by American classical artists of Hispanic descent. Highlights included *The Three-Cornered Hat: Suite No. 2*, a ballet composed by **Manuel de Falla**; and *Mi Amor Es*, a piece for baritone and piano by composer **Tania León**.
- WQXR Music Coordinator **Quentin Neroes** launched *Have You Heard?*, a monthly feature on WQXR.org about exciting new classical recordings.
- During a one-hour special for the Jewish High Holidays, violinist **Itzhak Perlman** shared a wide variety of recordings that have special meaning for him, including several of his own performances.
- In the weeks leading up to **Orpheus Chamber Orchestra**'s 50th Anniversary Concert, WQXR played music from their new Deutsche Grammophon box set, and celebrated the 50th anniversary season with a special recording every day from October 3-8.
- On Tuesday, October 11, WQXR featured a special recording of **R. Nathaniel Dett's** *The Ordering of Moses*, which tells the biblical story of the enslaved Israelites being led out of bondage, and was praised as "rare and heartfelt" by the *New York Times*. Recorded live by WQXR at the historic Riverside Church in Harlem in June of 2022, this concert featured the **Harlem Chamber Players, Chorale le Chateau**, vocal soloists, and conductor **Damien Sneed**.
- For a full week in October (October 17-23), WQXR celebrated **the New York Philharmonic's** return to David Geffen Hall with special interviews from the Philharmonic's musicians, an architectural scavenger hunt of the new hall, and iconic recordings from the New York Philharmonic archives.

New Sounds

- *New Sounds* renewed its partnership with the Ojai Music Festival by presenting **Ojai On the Air**, a week-long series (October 3-7) of exclusive performances, live recordings, and interviews from last summer's festival, with a look towards the 2023 Festival with Music Director **Rhiannon Giddens**.
- *Soundcheck*, *New Sounds'* genre-agnostic podcast, continued to feature excellent live performances and conversations with artists, from Grammy-winner **Andrew Bird** to live duets with jazz pianist **Omar Sosa** and sax player **Peter Apfelbaum**.



WNYC Studios

Death, Sex & Money

- Host **Anna Sale** continued to have compassionate and sometimes tough conversations with her diverse guests, inspiring audiences to write in to the *Death, Sex & Money* newsletter every week with open, honest stories of their own. Highlights include episodes with **India Walton**, who won and then lost the 2021 Democratic mayoral primary in Buffalo; **Hrishikesh Hirway**, musician and “Song Exploder” host; and **Rachel Matlow**, about the grief of losing a parent.

On the Media

- This past October, *On the Media* presented “So Sue Me,” diving into the legal gray areas of online news circulation. The episode dropped just days before two cases headed to the Supreme Court that could change the internet as we know it—one regarding Youtube’s algorithm allegedly spreading pro-ISIS messaging, and the other on social media platforms’ liability (or lack thereof) for content posted by users.

The New Yorker Radio Hour

- *The New Yorker Radio Hour* continued its streak of conversation-setting content, including an episode with contributor **Stephania Taladrid**, who broke the news of a network of women secretly distributing abortion pills across the United States since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. The extremely well-received episode was featured on NPR One, and was also embedded in a companion piece in *The New Yorker*.
- The “Keeping Score” podcast series, which launched in June as a co-production between WNYC Studios and *The Bell*, was revived as a one-hour special on *The New Yorker Radio Hour*. Listeners heard about the story of public school segregation in Brooklyn nearly seventy years after the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, and the podcast was featured in the CBC Podcast Playlist.

The Takeaway

- After Ukraine’s counteroffensive in September, host **Melissa Harry-Perry** spoke with **Nikolas Gvosdev**, professor of national security affairs at the Naval War College and editor of *Orbis*, about the financial and military aid given to Ukraine by the United States.
- **Alana Casanova-Burgess**, host of WNYC Studios’ podcast *La Brega*, joined in the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona to discuss Puerto Rican Statehood and what she’s heard from Puerto Ricans after the storm.
- After a horrifying spate of school shootings and a return to classrooms in September, *The Takeaway* launched the “School Principles” series, which kicked off with former US Education Secretary **John King** and covered teacher shortages, school lunches, start times, and more.

New York Public Radio Archives

- WNYC’s collection of 9/11 coverage has been incorporated into the [Library of Congress’ National Recording Preservation Board Registry](#), alongside [an essay](#) by **Andy Lanset**, founding director of the Archives at NYPR. In the essay, Lanset discussed the direct effects of the attacks on WNYC, at a time when our transmitters were located on top of the World Trade Center Towers.
- This fall, NYPR began a phased rollout of a new **Digital Asset Management (DAM) system**, a major development made possible thanks to the generous support of the Leon Levy Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and others. The project includes the **digitization of more than 40,000 assets from the Archive’s collection**, in addition to more recent broadcast assets. This resource will be a remarkable repository of digital assets of every format, making content across NYPR more discoverable, accessible, and usable for our production teams. Additionally, NYPR is looking into the potential of the new DAM system to serve as a public portal for scholarly research and access to our collections.
- In anticipation of WNYC’s upcoming centennial anniversary in September 2024, the NYPR Archives newsletter [History Notes](#) launched a brand-new feature called **97 Years Young** in January 2022. This segment, now called **98+ Years Young**, links to various historical WNYC champions, broadcasts and milestones, including (but not limited to!) [Woody Guthrie's New York City Debut on WNYC](#) and [a recording of Rebecca B. Rankin](#), the former Director of the Municipal Reference Library for the City of New York.