

# FISCAL YEAR 2022 IMPACT REPORT

On behalf of the board and staff of New York Public Radio (NYPR), thank you for your support. In so many ways, this has been an exceptional year. But through it all, our mission has stayed the same—to keep our audiences informed, engaged, connected, and inspired. We are pleased to share with you some highlights from the past fiscal year (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022), all of which were made possible by your generosity. Thank you for standing with us, and with our shared community.



When the WNYC signal first hit the airwaves in 1924, we called ourselves “the voice of New York.” Nearly 100 years later, our voice is clearer than ever, reaching more New Yorkers in more ways. Today, **we’re an essential civic asset for our city—a leading producer of public service journalism, expert context, and illuminating conversation—free and accessible to all.** As a mission-driven public media organization, our mandate is to inform and empower our citizens, bring our communities together, and fortify our democracy when we’ve never needed it more.



**Our podcasts continue to inform, surprise, and delight millions of listeners worldwide.** The talented storytellers on the WNYC Studios roster have produced work as varied and intimate as the human voice itself—from in-depth investigations and inspiring conversations to unexpected new takes on topics we think we already understand.



For 85 years, WQXR has played an essential role in making art accessible to all—providing free, uninterrupted access and a sense of connection and community. **WQXR remains the most democratic platform for audiences to discover classical music and continues to serve as a dedicated partner to New York culture as our city’s only classical radio station.** As public media, WQXR is proud to stand with the cultural community—helping to sustain and support them while using our unique platform to amplify and share their work



The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space (The Greene Space) was thrilled to bring back live performances for the first time in almost two years, operating at full seating capacity for fully vaccinated, masked, and jubilant audiences. **Bringing together programming from WQXR, WNYC, and WNYC Studios, The Greene Space continued its mission to create forward-looking live music, art, theater, and journalism that sparks change.**

# Awards and Recognition

## Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards

- [Blindspot: Tulsa Burning](#)

## Ambie Awards

- Best Interview Podcast, [Death, Sex & Money](#)

## 2022 iHeartRadio Podcast Awards

- Nominee: Best Overall Host, **Anna Sale**, [Death, Sex & Money](#)

## National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Awards

- Finalist: Creative Excellence, [Mostly Mozart Across the Boroughs: All Five Live](#)

## INvolve - The Inclusion People's 2022 Top 100 Executives Empower Role Model List

- **Monique D. Jefferson**, Chief Human Resources Officer
- **Timothy Wilkins**, New York Public Radio Board Chair

## Bard College: The 2021 John Dewey Award for Distinguished Public Service

- **Nsikan Akpan**, Editor, Health and Science Unit

## Manhattan School of Music: 2021-2022 Roster of Artist Scholars

- **Ed Yim**, Senior Vice President and Chief Content Officer, WQXR

## 2021 Regional Edward R. Murrow Award

- Excellence in Innovation: WNYC Radio and YR Media, [18-to-29 Now: Young America Speaks Up](#)

## 47th Annual Gracie Awards

- Radio National Honorees: **Melissa Harris-Perry**, [The Takeaway](#)

## 2021 Mirror Awards

- **John M. Higgins Award for In-Depth/Enterprise Reporting**: *On the Media*, **Micah Loewinger**, **Hampton Stall**, **Brooke Gladstone**, and **Katya Rogers**, [How Zello Became A Recruitment & Organizing Tool for the Far Right](#)

## New York Press Club Awards

- Science, Medicine & Technology (NY Metro): *On the Media*, **Brooke Gladstone**, **Katya Rogers**, **Rebecca ClarkCallender**, **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](#)

## NAACP Image Award

- Outstanding Podcast (News & Information): [Blindspot: Tulsa Burning](#)

## The Peabody Awards:

- Podcast/Radio: [Blindspot: Tulsa Burning](#)

## 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](#)

# Newsroom Reporting



## Breaking Local News: New York

- Following the deadly [Tremont Apartment fire](#), Gothamist kept New Yorkers updated by [compiling a list of resources](#) to support the victims, interviewing experts about how to [maintain a fire-safe environment](#), and reporting on the [red tape displaced residents are facing in the fight for basic services](#).
- The economic and social upheaval wrought by the pandemic as well as the racial reckoning around policing in Black and brown communities have made the challenge of battling crime more complex. Gothamist explored **Mayor Eric Adams'** plans for [“the war on crime”](#) and looked at what is needed to keep New York safe.
- Gothamist reported on **Mayor Eric Adams'** cabinet appointees, [including his decision to appoint his brother, Bernard Adams](#) as head of his security detail. Following the calls to probe for potential conflict of interest, Gothamist reported on [The New York City Conflicts of Interest Board](#) itself: a city agency charged with holding the conduct of city elected officials and employees to certain ethical standards.
- **On April 12, 2022, WNYC quickly followed two developing stories as they broke simultaneously:**
  - When a [gunman opened fire inside a Brooklyn subway car](#), WNYC kept our community alerted and up-to-date. WNYC Engineer, **Julianna Fonda**, who was in the subway car next to the shooting, [called into the station as the scene was taking place](#). [Reporter Jake Offenhartz was also on the scene with Zack Dahnan](#), the 21-year-old security camera installer who first spotted and helped capture the suspected subway shooter.
  - [New York Lt. Gov. Brian Benjamin resigned from office hours after he was arrested in connection with a bribery scheme](#), in which federal prosecutors found he directed a \$50,000 state grant to a Harlem nonprofit in exchange for numerous donations to his political campaigns.

## Breaking Local News: New Jersey

- WNYC kept our audiences up to date as the coronavirus swept through New Jersey's prison system in 2021, killing inmates at the highest rate in the nation for months. This led state leaders to an unprecedented step: [they slashed the prison population by 40%](#), which according to **Amol Sinha**, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, makes “it the nation's leading de-carcerator.” In January 2022, **New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy** re-declared a public health emergency due to COVID-19, [reactivating a law that let inmates get out early](#).
- Reporter **Karen Yi** [broke the story](#) that New Jersey's \$40 million fund to help immigrants and other residents excluded from COVID-related aid during the pandemic was re-allocated to other state expenses such as payroll. Following the article, [immigrant groups rallied for reform](#), causing Governor Murphy's office to reconsider [the fund allocations](#).



# Newsroom Reporting

## *Election Coverage*

- WNYC focused on creating tools to help our region understand the stakes and issues of 2021's monumental municipal elections. The newsroom relaunched WNYC's [Politics Brief](#) newsletter and produced a series of accessible explainers—including [a breakdown](#) of the top issues facing voters, as well as job descriptions of the [Mayor](#), [Comptroller](#), [Borough President](#), [Public Advocate](#), and [City Council Members](#).
- On *The United States of Anxiety*, host [Kai Wright sat down with veteran journalist Errol Louis](#) to discuss the life and career of **then Mayor-Elect Eric Adams**, New York City's second Black mayor, within the context of Black politics in the city.
- *WNYC Morning Edition* host [Michael Hill co-moderated the second New Jersey gubernatorial debate](#), which WNYC hosted in collaboration with **NJ PBS** and **Rowan University**.
- Reporter [Matt Katz published the story of record on a homophobic and misleading statement by New Jersey Republican gubernatorial candidate Jack Ciattarelli](#), who vowed to roll back school curriculum that centers on LGBTQ+ inclusivity. The story featured in the influential Politico Playbook and continues NYPR's excellent coverage of the nation's current culture war around school curriculum.
- **Across our platforms, WNYC journalists covered the fallout of Governor Cuomo's resignation.** We explored the implications of [Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie's decision to drop the impeachment probe](#), [incoming Governor Kathy Hochul's introductory meetings with NYC officials](#), and speculated on the ways in which Cuomo's departure [might improve the state's COVID response](#).
- [WNYC marked the transition of power from Andrew Cuomo to Kathy Hochul](#) with a special live broadcast of **Governor Hochul's** first speech, with live analysis and context. Our teams explored the [disappointment of some prison reform advocates](#), the clemencies Cuomo granted as he left office, and [Hochul's selection of State Senator Brian Benjamin as lieutenant governor](#). WNYC also produced an explainer on the roles of the [Governor](#) and [Lieutenant Governor](#) to help audiences make sense of the transition.
- *The United States of Anxiety* also discussed the cautionary tale of the **Andrew Cuomo scandal**, asking, "[why do we equate macho bullying with competent leadership?](#)"
- After New York State finalized the results of the statewide redistricting, Gothamist created a series of explainers going through [what the new congressional and state Senate maps mean for New Yorkers](#), [how the new districts were created](#), as well as [how your new district affects where you go to vote](#).



# Newsroom Reporting

## *Reckoning with Race, Justice, and Inequality in NYC and Nationwide*

- In December 2021, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York [announced their investigation into the Mount Vernon Police Department for civil rights violations](#)—launched in response to a years-long series on police corruption and brutality in the county by WNYC. WNYC reporting was featured in [The New York Times](#) and [The Washington Post](#).
- **Kai Wright**, host of *The United States of Anxiety*, and guest **Jelani Cobb**, staff writer for *The New Yorker*, [unpacked Critical Race Theory](#). Together, they provided historical context and explored the question posed by the founder of Critical Race Theory, **Derrick Bell**: is racism a permanent fixture of society?
- The *United States of Anxiety* team [explored America's response to Haitian refugees seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border](#), asking listeners to consider a number of big questions: When refugees arrive in America, how do we respond? How are we all implicated in that choice? And why don't we want to hear the stories of people who come seeking refuge?
- *The Takeaway* used one of their regular "Deep Dive" segments to [focus on the death penalty](#), with guests including the first woman exonerated from federal death row and longtime anti-death penalty activist **Sister Helen Prejean**.
- [Matt Katz, George Joseph, and Micah Loewinger continued their investigation into public employees with ties to the anti-government militia, the Oath Keepers](#). They found several alleged members within law enforcement and the military in New York and New Jersey. In response, the NJ Attorney General's office began a probe into the matter. In New York City, the work [prompted a citywide investigation](#).
- On the [50th anniversary of the Attica Prison Uprising](#), Gothamist looked back on what set the stage for this historic event. **The team examined what has changed in New York State's prison system, and what remains unaddressed half a century later.**
- News and Culture editor **Jennifer Vanasco**, explored [Lincoln Center's racist history](#): the cultural landmark stands on the ruins of what was once a thriving, culturally-rich Black and Latino community. Speaking with *Morning Edition's* **Michael Hill**, Vanasco discussed what was once the [vibrant community of San Juan Hill](#).
- To celebrate International Women's Day, *The Takeaway*, in partnership with the **Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP)**, created a new series called [Women Leading Locally](#). Co-Hosted by *The Takeaway's* **Melissa Harris-Perry** and **Debbie Walsh**, Director of CAWP at Rutgers University, the series included Florida State Representative **Anna Eskamani**, the first Iranian American to be elected to the Florida State Legislature; Philadelphia Councilwoman **Helen Gym**; Ohio State Representative **Emilia Sykes**; and New Jersey Senate Majority Leader **Teresa Ruiz**.
- WNYC continued our partnership with the **Apollo Theater** to present our annual [Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration](#). WNYC hosts **Melissa Harris Perry**, **Kai Wright**, **Alison Stewart**, **Jami Floyd**, and **Brian Lehrer** led this commemorative and uplifting event, bringing together scholars, cultural and community leaders, and activists to engage in conversations and performances. Together they explored the many ways the arts influenced the creative and nonviolent resistance of Dr. King's activism, and how his work is continued today. Guests included: **Andrew Young**, **Najee Dorsey**, **Jacqueline Woodson**, **Rashaad Robinson**, **Garrett McQueen**, **Trezana Beverly**, and **Jonathan McCrory**.

# Newsroom Reporting



## ***Reckoning with Race, Justice, and Inequality in NYC and Nationwide***

- WNYC guest host [Tayari Jones celebrated Toni Morrison](#), the American literary master who died in 2019. Morrison's novels, including *Beloved*, *Jazz*, and *Song of Solomon*, have become an indelible part of the American canon. The program featured her essay, "A Knowing So Deep," read by Jones; an excerpt from *The Bluest Eye*, read by Tony Award-winner **Anika Noni Rose**; an excerpt from *Jazz*, read by Emmy and Golden Globe winner **S. Epatha Merkerson**; "Sweetness," read by NAACP Image Award winner **Phylicia Rashad**, and a tribute by Morrison's close friend, **Fran Lebowitz**.
- For Black History Month, *The Takeaway* sat down with [Black, LGBTQIA+ changemakers making an impact in their industries](#), their lives, and our world. Speakers included Minneapolis City Council President **Andrea Jenkins**; Black Futures Lab Principal **Alicia Garza**; NFL Player **Wade Davis**; San Antonio Councilman **Jalen McKee-Rodriguez**; Physicist **Chanda Prescod-Weinstein**; and others.
- *The United States of Anxiety* [hosted a national live call-in show recognizing Juneteenth](#) on Sunday, June 19, in collaboration with Houston Public Media and KERA. With Host **Kai Wright**, this special radio show took calls from people celebrating in Texas and around the country, and explored the good, the bad, and the unsure of Juneteenth's ongoing evolution as a national holiday.

## ***Public Health Coverage: Civic Information***

- The WNYC Health and Science team broke important stories about the NYC Department of Education's handling of COVID-19. Our reporting revealed that [a third of the staff of one city school was quarantined](#) after a COVID outbreak, but details were not disclosed to parents. The team also discovered that the city's education department [cleared 4,000 classrooms for in-person instruction that did not meet the ventilation standards set by the CDC](#).
- WNYC reported on the rapidly changing policies around vaccination and mask mandates. Reporting highlights included a look into the [psychology of COVID exhaustion](#); new research [showing that the coronavirus may have come from germ spills from animals](#); and useful explainers on the news on [COVID booster shot accessibility](#).
- In August, Gothamist created a guide to navigate [the city's new vaccination requirements](#) for restaurants, gyms, and performance venues. Former Mayor Bill de Blasio shared the guide on both [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Following remarks by [Mayor Eric Adams regarding COVID-19 mask mandates](#), and continued pressure by his administration to push the city to reopen, Gothamist reported on the pressure parents across the city are feeling regarding [school mask mandates](#); and published [a guide with protocols for how different schools are handling COVID cases among students and teachers](#).
- Mayor Eric Adams shared reporter Jaclyn Jeffrey-Willensky's profile of the [NY and NJ Shave and Shots program](#) on [Twitter](#). The program trains barbers and hairstylists in New York and New Jersey to field questions about vaccine hesitancy.
- Gothamist continues to [produce its local and statewide COVID-19 stats tracker](#), which includes information on positivity and vaccination rates, ensuring New Yorkers have the most up-to-date information through the many chapters of the ongoing pandemic.

# Newsroom Reporting



## Community

- [We celebrated the Annual Lehrer Prize for Community Well Being](#) with a salute to some of the organizations that helped get our community vaccinated. Host **Brian Lehrer** was joined by **Mitra Kalita**, co-founder of URL Media and CEO and publisher of Epicenter-NYC, to recognize this year's honorees, which included India Home, Bed-Stuy Strong, and UCC Newark. You can listen to the event [here](#).
- Reporter **Jaclyn Jeffrey-Wilensky** reported on **Mayor Eric Adams'** emphasis on food policy in his agenda. Jeffrey-Wilensky explored the [food disparities](#) throughout New York and [discussed](#) what steps New York can take to make food more accessible.
- Reporter **Arun Venugopal** [reported on violence in the homeless community in Lower Manhattan](#). Civic and business leaders, residents, and activists continue to debate personal safety for the sheltered and unsheltered alike.
- With [record increases in tenants' rents](#), WNYC Reporter **Gwynne Hogan** continues to report on the [ongoing housing crisis](#), the [city's much-anticipated but vague housing plan](#), and the [targeting of homeless New Yorkers in encampment sweeps](#).
- [Vox Media also announced a partnership with WNYC Studios to distribute Today, Explained to public radio stations nationwide beginning in 2022](#). This partnership marks the first major terrestrial radio distribution partnership for **Vox Media**, following an hour-long special edition of the **Vox podcast Unexplainable** distributed by **American Public Media** this fall.

## Climate Change

- [The WNYC newsroom was a leader in coverage of September 2021's Hurricane Ida, posting stories on Gothamist late into the night](#) as it became clear that tornadoes and floods had killed more than a dozen people across the region. After Gothamist [reported on the lack of support reaching affected residents in Queens](#), several elected officials, as well as **President Biden**, [visited the ravaged sites](#). [The following morning, Michael Hill interviewed New York Governor Kathy Hochul, assessing the storm damage](#).
- Host **Brian Lehrer** [talked to callers](#) about the "new normal" of devastating storms, and the region's fragile infrastructure amid our changing climate. [Gothamist also followed up with a story about the City's continued lack of preparedness following these storms](#).
- WNYC-Gothamist reported on [New York lawmakers' proposed \\$15 billion climate justice bill](#), which would allow for investment in communities like Hempstead and Bedford-Stuyvesant, where residents have borne the brunt of the environmental burden of exposure to industrial waste and limited access to parks.
- WNYC reported on the [National Grid's plans to wean New York off natural gas by 2050](#). Our reporting demonstrated how, alongside boosting wind and solar energy production, the plan involves a switch from natural gas to biogas or biomethane, captured when methane is released from landfills and wastewater treatment plants, which environmental experts believe poses similar threats.

# Newsroom Reporting



## *Remembering 9/11*

- On September 11, 2021, **Brian Lehrer** [hosted live special coverage of official memorial ceremonies in New York City](#), revisiting the timeline of what happened 20 years ago. **Reporter Beth Fertig**— who reported for WNYC from Ground Zero on 9/11 — joined to discuss her work that day and in the months that followed.
- WNYC aired "[Blindspot: The Road to 9/11](#)," a two-hour radio documentary adapted from the nine-part podcast of the same name co-produced by WNYC Studios and HISTORY.
- WNYC presented [9/11 and the Rise of the 21st Century NYPD](#), a sweeping project on how the attacks forever transformed the NYPD and led to unprecedented growth in its ranks and powers.

# Arts and Culture




## Community and Connection

- WQXR commemorated the anniversary of September 11 with a series of special programs called “[We Shall All Be Changed: Musical Reflections on 9/11](#).” The program wove together curated musical selections with interviews from musicians and composers. Composer **John Adams** described how he captured the deep pain and intimate losses felt by New Yorkers, and musicians from the **New York Philharmonic** and **Brooklyn Youth Chorus** recalled how healing it was to take part in the performances that consoled so many in the weeks after the Twin Towers fell.
- In December, we celebrated [WQXR’s 85th anniversary as New York City’s only all-classical radio station with a concert in The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space \(The Greene Space\)](#). This joyful concert featured a mix of world premieres and beloved favorites, performed by [The Knights](#), [Kara Dugan](#), and [Simone Dinnerstein](#). We were also delighted that former Mayor **Bill de Blasio** officially declared December 3, 2021, “[WQXR Day](#).”
- To usher in the New Year, WQXR presented a brand-new radio show based on the podcast [Calm it Down](#). Like the podcast, WQXR’s *Calm It Down* was dedicated to the meditative power of music and sought to help listeners recharge and find their inner resilience. Hosted by **Chad Lawson**, *Calm it Down* aired for six consecutive Sunday nights at 8 PM ET starting January 9, 2022.
- WQXR hosted a [Valentine’s Day countdown](#), during which listeners were asked to submit their top three romantic pieces (capital “r” Romantic or not). [Visit us online here to view the winners of the countdown.](#)
- On March 14, WQXR aired the Metropolitan Opera’s special live broadcast: [A Concert for Ukraine](#), a performance offering support and solidarity with the citizens of the war-torn nation. **Vladyslav Buialskyi**, the Ukrainian bass-baritone who recently made his company debut, opened the concert with the Metropolitan Opera Chorus in a rendition of the Ukrainian National Anthem.
- On March 22, the [Avery Fisher Career Grant](#) recipients were officially announced in a special one-hour program hosted by **Jeff Spurgeon**, featuring performances by the awardees and a celebration of their achievements.

## Kids and Family Programming

- Throughout the month of September, WQXR partnered with the New York Philharmonic to [showcase music written by nine extraordinary teenagers—all participants in the New York Philharmonic’s Very Young Composers program](#). These talented middle-and high-schoolers spent the summer writing music inspired by the theme of reconnecting and reuniting. Their compositions can be heard online [here](#).
- In August, WQXR hosted a **Classical Kids Fair** for the first time in the Bronx—and for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic—in collaboration with partners **Bronx Arts Ensemble**, the **Bronx Children’s Museum**, **Bronx House**, **Bronx Opera**, and **Bronx Heritage Music Center**. The event was covered on [News 12 The Bronx](#).
- In May, WQXR presented its first-ever [Kids and Family Week](#), a week-long celebration featuring specially curated radio programming: music for kids, by kids, and about kids. [The week culminated in a Classical Kids Fair at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum](#) in collaboration with the **Brooklyn Conservatory of Music**, **Little Orchestra Society**, and Dancers from the **Met Opera**. Over 1,600 adults and children enjoyed live performances, dance workshops, an instrument “petting zoo,” and more.

# Arts and Culture




## Supporting Artists and Cultural Organizations

- WQXR's cultural partnerships have provided free access to classical music performances from the city's most beloved institutions, showcasing the vibrancy of New York—on-air and on-demand. [New York in Concert](#), hosted by John Schaefer, featured episodes dedicated to uptown and downtown venues, works premiered in New York, and the reopening of iconic spaces such as **The Metropolitan Opera** and **Carnegie Hall**. WQXR was also thrilled to bring back live broadcasts of [Carnegie Hall Live](#), and the return of the beloved [Naumburg Orchestral Concerts](#) in Central Park.
- In January 2022, WQXR launched the second phase of [Project Airlift](#), WQXR's initiative to promote and support BIPOC-led arts organizations with budgets of \$2 million or less. Supported in part by a grant from **The New York Community Trust**, WQXR will work with 50 organizations over a three-year period.
- In early February, WQXR announced six new artists in the [Artist Propulsion Lab \(APL\)](#), our program to support and amplify early- and mid-career musicians. The 2022 cohort includes [Justin Austin](#), baritone; [Steven Banks](#), saxophonist; [Layale Chaker](#), violinist and composer; [Emi Ferguson](#), flutist; [Andrew Yee](#), cellist, and [The Aizuri Quartet](#) (Emma Frucht and Miho Saegusa, violins; Ayane Kozasa, viola; Karen Ouzounian, cello). The artists are infusing the broader work of WQXR with their diverse perspectives and ideas—from [Emi Ferguson's inspiring collaboration with The Aizuri Quartet](#), celebrating Women's History Month, to Justin Austin's compelling concert and panel discussion, [American Perspectives](#), focused on what it means to be an American.

## New Sounds

- As the world heard increasingly tragic stories of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan last summer, New Sounds spotlighted [music from Afghanistan](#), a program of beautiful and diverse music by a group of largely diasporic Afghan artists. The special featured rubâb music from **Homayun Sakhi and Quraishi**, folk poems of Afghani women from the Hazara tradition by **Hamid Sakhizada**, and adapted music from the Khorasan region by the duo **Badieh**.
- New Sounds host **John Schaefer** published a [conversation with guitarist, composer, and ethnomusicologist Paolo Angeli](#)—during which Angeli played a “prepared guitar,” one of the many instruments he builds himself. Angeli, who is widely regarded for his expertise in Sardinian music, filmed an intimate performance at the northern shore of Sardinia for this remote session of Soundcheck.
- In November, [Soundcheck featured musician, composer, poet, and self-identified stutterer JJJJerome Ellis](#). In his 2021 album *The Clearing*, Ellis takes speech disfluency and considers how it affects one's experience of time. If you heard Ellis on [This American Life](#) in 2020, this conversation is a terrific opportunity to hear his latest extraordinary work.
- In solidarity with Ukraine, [New Sounds curated a list of contemporary music from Ukraine and by Ukrainians abroad](#), from Swedish-based **Lubomyr Melnyk**, German-based **Mariana Sadovska** with the Bay Area choir **Kitka**, and Irish ensemble **Yurodny**.
- June 14-17, New Sounds and The Greene Space presented the [2022 New York Guitar Festival](#), four dazzling nights of music and conversation. The series featured guitar talents **Vieux Farka Touré**, son of the legendary West African blues guitarist **Ali Farka Touré**; **Glenn Jones**, an evocative fingerpicking guitar player of the “American primitive” style, and many more.

# Arts and Culture




## *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*

- In February, WQXR celebrated **Black History Month** with special radio programs all month long. Programming included WQXR host **Terrance McKnight's radio documentaries about Black artists** who have shaped classical music, including [Still Swinging, Still Classic](#), a portrait of **Hazel Scott**; [The Price of Admission: A Musical Biography of Florence Beatrice Price](#); and [A Beautiful Symphony of Brotherhood: Music in the Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)
- On March 8, [WQXR celebrated International Women's Day](#) with our annual **24-hour marathon of classical music written by women**. Over 100 different composers and 150 pieces were featured. Listeners heard works by increasingly familiar names, including **Clara Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn, Amy Beach, Florence Price**, and many more whose music is still largely overlooked.
- WQXR celebrated **Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month** with a [live event at The Greene Space](#), featuring works composed and performed by artists of Asian descent. Performers included celebrated tenor **Nicholas Phan** and pianist **Myra Huang**; pianist **Donna Weng Friedman**; cellist **Sophie Shao** with pianist **Anna Polonsky**; and award-winning Tibetan singer **Yungchen Lhamo**.
- WQXR **commemorated Juneteenth** with a suite of programs, including [Music for Juneteenth](#), a 24-hour marathon of music written and performed by artists of African descent; a special rebroadcast of **Damien Geter's [An African American Requiem](#)** hosted by **Terrance McKnight** in partnership with **All Classical Portland**; and [Deep River: Black Currents in Classical Music](#), co-presented with the **Apollo Theater** and **American Composers Orchestra**.
- [WQXR celebrated Pride Month with a concert](#) in The Greene Space hosted by pianist **Sara Davis Buechner**, featuring musicians from the LGBTQ+ classical music community, including members of **ChamberQUEER**, highlights from the operas of life partners and composers **Mark Adamo** and **John Corigliano**, and a performance from violist **Jesus Rodolfo**.

# Arts and Culture




## *The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space*

- In October 2021, The Greene Space was thrilled to bring back live in-person performances for the first time in almost two years. Our re-opening kicked off with a recital by [WQXR Artist Propulsion Lab artist Kelly Hall-Tompkins](#), featuring two contemporary works written for Tompkins during the pandemic.
- WQXR and The Greene Space presented an Alumni Celebration for the [Luna Composition Lab](#), a program launched by composers **Missy Mazzoli** and **Ellen Reid** with the **Kaufman Music Center**. The project elevates underrepresented voices in the world of classical music by providing mentorship and resources for young female, non-binary, and gender non-conforming composers across the country.
- The Greene Space's **Artists-in-Residence Program** featured composer and performer **Angélica Negrón's** [Living Room](#), a playful multimedia exploration of belonging, personal history, sound, and story; pianist **Eunbi Kim's** [It Feels Like](#), exploring rituals of healing and identities through music, performance, conversations, and food; and **Staceyann Chin's** [Prodigyal: Home](#) is where the Hurt/Heart/Hope is, expanding the concept of home and homecoming.
- WNYC's *All of It* with Alison Stewart continued [Get Lit with All of It](#) book club, its partnership with the New York Public Library to get New Yorkers reading together through the offering of free e-books and rich conversation with some of our brightest literary lights. The Greene Space continued to host live video stream events throughout the year with authors including **Hernan Diaz**, **Jennifer Egan**, **Jason Mott**, **Gary Shteyngart**, **Lauren Groff**, **Jonathan Lee**, **Nghi Vo**, and **Zakiya Dalila Harris**.

# Podcasts



## Radiolab

- To celebrate *Radiolab's* 20th anniversary, New York Public Radio hosted a variety of events including:
  - New York Public Radio's 2021 Gala, hosted by actress **Julianna Margulies**. The November 16 event featured performances from **Kishi Bashi** and members of the **WQXR Artist Propulsion Lab**. You can access the [livestream here](#), with the password Gala2021.
  - After two decades at the helm, Host **Jad Abumrad** decided to step down from hosting *Radiolab* in January 2022. This was a big transition for the show, for the millions of listeners who have built a relationship with Jad over the last two decades, and for the industry itself—which he and his team helped launch before anyone knew the word “podcast.” Jad planned his departure thoughtfully over the last several years, and as he wrote in his [statement, linked here](#), he waited until he was sure the time was right. In 2020, **Lulu Miller** and **Latif Nasser** stepped up to lead the show as co-hosts, producing more episodes than ever.
  - The team also commemorated the show's 20th anniversary by harkening back to its origins as a radio show with [Radiolab After Dark](#), a special live national call-in episode broadcast from WNYC and WBEZ.
- *Radiolab* was thrilled to present their groundbreaking episode [The Helen Keller Exorcism](#), which was translated into digital Braille Ready Files, marking the first time a *Radiolab* episode has used this technology to make our content more accessible for all. In this episode, reporter **Elsa Sjunneson** and host **Lulu Miller** delve into the complicated legacy of **Helen Keller**.
- [Radiolab updated its Peabody-award-winning episode “60 Words,”](#) focusing on the 60 words that authorized the United States to go to war in Afghanistan. The team looked at what has changed with those 60 words during the past 20 years.
- *Radiolab* launched [Mixtape](#), a powerful new miniseries hosted by **Simon Adler**, exploring the importance of a once-powerful technology—the cassette tape. This seemingly mundane object has hypnotized us, toppled regimes, and changed the way we say “I love you,” breaking our shared reality along the way.
- The subject of *Radiolab's* duPont Award-winning six-part series **The Other Latif, Abdul Latif Nasser**, was transferred from Guantanamo Bay to his home country of Morocco after nearly 20 years in detention. *Radiolab* host **Latif Nasser broke the news on Twitter** and has since been interviewed about his reporting on *All Things Considered*, *The Takeaway*, and on the *Washington Post* podcast *Post Reports*. *The Other Latif* has been cited by several other news outlets in their reporting of this story, including [The New York Times](#), [ABC News](#), [Forbes](#), and [HuffPost](#).
- *Radiolab* Founder and Co-Host [Jad Abumrad was interviewed by Fresh Air's Terry Gross](#), where the two discussed *Radiolab's* 20-year influence on podcasting and audio storytelling.
- Long before Motown, there was Black Swan Records, the record label founded a century ago during the Harlem Renaissance by **Harry Pace**. A protégé of **W.E.B. DuBois**, Pace launched the career of **Ethel Waters**, partnered with **W.C. Handy**, and was the first person to record “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” Then suddenly, he disappeared. [The Vanishing of Harry Pace](#), a *Radiolab* mini-series, explores color lines, hidden identities, and the phenomenal but forgotten man who changed the American music scene.

# Podcasts



## On the Media (OTM)

- [On the Media correspondent, Micah Loewinger turned to Kurt Vonnegut's theory of "the shapes of stories" to understand what kinds of narratives sustain our attention.](#) Micah spoke with **Soren Wheeler**, executive editor of *Radiolab*, and **Rachael Piltch-Loeb**, a preparedness fellow at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, to make sense of how, and why, we lost the plot on Covid.
- Over the past year, *OTM* produced multiple timely mini-series:
  - [The Fog of War](#): Pivoting to meet the moment, *OTM* took a deep into the war in Ukraine, helping audiences find truth in the noise of mis- and disinformation. Through *The Fog of War* mini-series, *OTM* explored how to sift fact from fiction.
  - [The Subversion Playbook](#): This episode explores how election subversion takes the anti-democratic playbook to the next level, and demonstrates the Russian government's efforts to use bureaucracy to stifle elections and the press.
  - [Constitutionally Speaking](#): "The right to throw a punch ends at the tip of someone's nose." This is an idea that underlies American liberties, but does it still fit in 2021? *OTM* looked back at our country's radical, and radically inconsistent tradition of free speech.
  - [Blame It On The Booze](#): Nearly a quarter of American adults have reported drinking more at home to cope with their pandemic blues. Curious to understand why, recent episodes of *OTM* took a deep dive into the ancient and contemporary history of alcohol, exploring how Americans normalized drinking alone, and how the media shaped the shifting reputation of red wine.

## Blindspot

- On the 20th anniversary of 9/11, WNYC Studios presented a [special episode](#) of [Blindspot: The Road to 9/11](#), co-produced with **The HISTORY® Channel**. Hailed by *The Atlantic* as "an essential treatise on 9/11" and one of the best podcasts of 2020, the program tells the dramatic and largely unknown story of the lead-up to September 11, 2001.
- Season 2 of the *Blindspot* series, [Blindspot: Tulsa Burning](#), was decorated with many of the highest honors in journalism. It received an [Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award](#) and the **NAACP Image Award for Outstanding News and Information Podcast**, and was nominated for a **Peabody Award**. Hosted by WNYC Studios' **KalaLea**, [Blindspot: Tulsa Burning](#) considers the events that lead to the **Tulsa Race Massacre, 100 years after the horrific event**. Through six powerful episodes, the program explores the 35 blocks of Tulsa's remarkable Greenwood District, the thriving Black residential and business community that **Booker T. Washington** called "Black Wall Street."

# Podcasts



## Death, Sex & Money (DSM)

- In partnership with [Radiolab](#), the team collaborated on an episode about death and loss. Building on her viral [New York Times Modern Love column](#) about the death of her mother, [Radiolab](#) producer **Rachel Cusick** investigated the life and surprisingly complicated [death of Elizabeth Kübler-Ross](#), the scholar credited with [developing the famous five stages of grief](#).
- The show [launched a new three-part series with financial therapist Amanda Clayman](#), following Detroit-area couple Cora and Garrett as they grapple with the emotional fallout of COVID-induced unemployment and financial challenges.
- [Exploring the 25th anniversary of Viagra, the Death, Sex & Money team did a deep dive into the history and culture of the small pill](#). With over a year of research into physiology, pharmacology, capitalism, sex therapy, and evolving sexual norms, *DSM* presented a three-part series that explored the lives of listeners who have struggled with ED, or have partners who have. They dug into shame and disappointment; the wild story of scientific discovery that led up to Viagra's release in 1998; and how people are reimagining what sex can be because their bodies don't work the way they used to, or never worked the way they thought they should.

## The Experiment

- [The Experiment](#), created in partnership with [The Atlantic](#), presented its final episode on June 2, 2022. The show was recognized by colleagues in the industry for its incredible work and legacy—landing on multiple “Best of 2021” lists by [Apple](#), [Vulture](#), [Mashable](#), [Pandora](#), [SiriusXM](#), [AnOther](#), and [Pocket Casts](#).
- Earlier in the year, *The Experiment* launched [SPAM: How the American Dream Got Canned](#), a miniseries about the remarkable journey to the heart of the salty canned treat. The series explored its history from remote Philippine provinces, where American GIs disseminated the American dream through cans of SPAM, to Austin, Minnesota, SPAMtown U.S.A., where SPAM employed generations of meatpackers, and tore the town apart. SPAM inspired aspirations and opened wounds in the American worker's psyche that we still yearn for and ache from today.

## Dead End

- [Dead End: A New Jersey Political Murder Mystery](#) launched in April 2022 as a seven-part investigative podcast hosted by **WNYC Senior Reporter Nancy Solomon**. The podcast was the result of more than two years of reporting by Solomon, on the killing of prominent political couple John and Joyce Sheridan. **This reporting led the [New Jersey Attorney General to reopen the murder case at the center of the podcast](#)**. In addition to reaching #3 on the Apple iTunes charts, *Dead End* was also prominently featured in [The New York Times](#), [POLITICO](#), [The Philadelphia Enquirer](#), and other peer outlets.

# Podcasts



## *The New Yorker Radio Hour*

- On *The New Yorker Radio Hour*, Host **David Remnick** continued to present timely interviews and compelling profiles. Recent highlights include:
  - Reporter [KalaLea's segment "Returning to the Office . . . While Black"](#). KalaLea spoke with four Black professionals about their experiences working from home and explored the story of **Robert Churchwell**, a Black reporter hired by the Nashville Banner in 1950. Churchwell was excluded from the white newsroom and worked from home for five years.
  - [Reporter Steven Valentino reported on Kraina FM, a radio station that broadcasts in Kyiv, Ukraine, and more than twenty other cities](#). When Russia invaded Ukraine, Kraina took on the mantle of "the station of national resistance," airing news bulletins and logistical information like requests for supplies, but also jokes, advice from psychologists, and fairy tales for children. Host **Nicola Niarchos** spoke with the station about their work and how they continue into the future.

## *Keeping Score*

- On June 9, 2022 WNYC premiered [Keeping Score](#), a new project hosted by WNYC's **Alana Casanova-Burgess** and reported in partnership with **The Bell**, a nonprofit organization that prepares NYC students from underrepresented backgrounds for journalism careers. Keeping Score explores a year inside a divided Brooklyn school building trying to unite through sports.

## *Helga*

- Visionary artist, curator, and performer **Helga Davis** returned with the fourth season of her acclaimed podcast [Helga: The Armory Conversations](#). In partnership with the **Park Avenue Armory**, Helga draws listeners into profound and intimate conversations with a diverse slate of cultural luminaries, including **Nick Cave**, **Karen Finley**, and **Radiolab** host and founder **Jad Abumrad**.

## *Aria Code*

- **WQXR** and the Metropolitan Opera launched the third season of the hit podcast [Aria Code](#), hosted by MacArthur Fellow and Grammy Award-winning musician **Rhiannon Giddens**. Repeatedly featured in [The New York Times](#) this year, this ambitious 18-episode season was featured among the "[Podcasts Opera Pros Tune To](#)" for inspiration and continues to [set the standard for classical music podcasts](#) by pulling back the curtain on some of the most famous arias in opera history.

# NYPR Updates

## Archives

- This past fiscal year, the **New York Public Radio (NYPR) Archives** department responded to **556 requests, 387 of which were from external sources**, for archival material to enhance productions, including film, TV, and radio.
- In addition to supplying producers with archive audio, the **NYPR Archives** team continued to showcase the station's assets through [daily tweets \(9:02 AM\)](#), our [weekly E-Newsletter NYPR History Notes](#), and an [additional 29 articles and blog pieces on the web](#).
- The NYPR Archives is now halfway through a digitization and DAM project primarily funded by the **Leon Levy Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, and other foundations**. The funding covers digitizing 40,000+ NYPR and Municipal Archives assets and implementing a digital asset management system or DAM known as Cortex. The NYPR Archives plan to continue with our primary digitization project through the end of 2024.
- After receiving about 1,000 nominations, **The Library of Congress** named **WNYC's 9/11 broadcasts one of the twenty-five audio treasures worthy of preservation** for all time based on their cultural, historical, or aesthetic importance in the nation's recorded sound heritage. Read more about this honor [here](#).
- For WQXR's 85th birthday, NYPR Archives Director **Andy Lanset** shared a special edition of his "[History Notes](#)" newsletter, shedding light on WQXR's rare historical content, including vintage WQXR programs and logos and an [updated timeline](#) reflecting on the station's rich history.
- According to NYPR Archives Director **Andy Lanset**, "by most measures, WNYC should not exist. You might even call it a radio station with more than nine lives." He explored WNYC's peculiar origin story in his [blog here](#).
- In honor of **International Women's Day**, the NYPR Archives pulled together some of the department's leading preservation work, series, and sonic artifacts concerning [women's history](#). And for **Black history month**, the department collected preservation work, series, and sonic artifacts concerning [African-American history](#).