
Spring 2023

IMPACT REPORT

Awards and Accolades

The Newswomen's Club of New York: Front Page Awards

- Local Reporting Feature Award: **Samantha Max**, Public Safety Reporter
- Audio Investigative Reporting: **Mary Steffenhagen**, Associate Producer, *The Takeaway*

Radio World

- Excellence in Engineering Award: **Steve Shultis**, New York Public Radio Chief Technology Officer

New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management Awards

- Media Award: **Karen Yi**, New Jersey Reporter

Bart Richards Award for Media Criticism

- "The Divided Dial," presented by *On the Media*

Silurians Press Club

- Feature News Reporting: **Jake Offenhartz**, Reporter, *The NYPD Accidentally Shot a Fellow Officer. A Queens Man May Spend Life in Prison for His Death*

Alliance for Women in Media's 48th Annual Gracie Awards

- Documentary [Radio – Non-Commercial Local]: *Notes from America* and WNYC Radio Rookie **Folashade Olatunde**, *Half My Parents, All of Me*
- Special [Radio – Nationally Syndicated Non-Commercial]: **Rebecca Clark-Callender**, *Staying Alive: the History and Hope of "Black Horror"*

WNYC and Gothamist

- Gothamist's **Elizabeth Kim** reported [an exclusive piece](#) on the Adams administration's proposed plan to convert the Department of Design and Construction into a state authority, potentially accelerating the construction timelines for public projects at the cost of public oversight.
- Reporter **Bahar Ostadan** uncovered a story about employees at NYC's two juvenile detention centers [exchanging contraband](#) with detainees in exchange for safety, after a rise in violence and smuggling culture that likely resulted from a state law passed in 2017 directing more kids into the centers.
- Marshaling the spirit of the city, Gothamist led coverage of the New Yorkers rallying behind Flaco, the beloved owl who escaped from the Central Park Zoo in February. [Our coverage](#) also featured on **Late Night with Seth Meyers** in March.
- All of It launched its [Public Song Project](#), inviting listeners to reinvent and record songs and texts in the public domain. The project garnered more than 80 original audio submissions from listeners. All entries, as well as interviews with the winning contributors, are accessible online.

Breaking News

- In December, Senior Reporter **Brigid Bergin** covered a [lawsuit](#) filed by the New York Civil Liberties Union challenging a New York state law that bans jury service for people convicted of felonies, which is still in effect for people whose crimes are no longer considered felonies.
- **Bahar Ostadan's** exclusive [investigation](#) of a baby in Mount Sinai's NICU who died during the January nurses' strikes called into question the staffing decisions and preparations made by hospital executives in advance of the strike.
- **Karen Yi** and **Nancy Solomon** broke the news of the impending Rutgers [faculty strike](#) on February 24. They continued to lead coverage as faculty walked out on [April 10](#) for the first time in the University's 257-year history, profiling the voices on the picket line and offering deep background and rich context.
- When the man convicted of killing eight people in New York City's worst terrorist attack since 9/11 was sentenced to life in prison on March 13, public safety reporters **Samantha Max** and **Isidoro Rodriguez** promptly broke down the case's legal intricacies and implications, [online](#) and on the air.
- In March, Albany reporter **Jon Campbell** [investigated](#) a troubled Brooklyn nightlife venue's rare and private meeting with a top aide to Governor Hochul. The piece prompted a [response](#) from Mayor Eric Adams about his ties to the venue during a press conference at City Hall, and several other outlets picked up the story and the mayor's reaction.

WNYC Studios

- *Death, Sex & Money's* "[Estrangement](#)" is a special three-part series featuring listeners' stories about cutting family ties, ending friendships, leaving a religion, and more. Originally mounted in November 2022, it spoke to the mixed emotions that many feel during the holidays.
- In February, *The New Yorker Radio Hour* presented an exclusive [interview](#) with author **Salman Rushdie**, his first since experiencing a near-fatal attack back in August. The episode was the only interview Rushdie gave about his new book, *Victory City*.
- The acclaimed second season of *La Brega* was #1 on Apple podcasts' "New and Noteworthy" list, just after launching. A pioneer in dual-language podcasting, *La Brega* also commissioned an album of classic Puerto Rican songs covered by contemporary artists. The Whitney Museum of American Art also made *La Brega* the centerpiece of the closing celebration of their recent exhibition about Puerto Rico.



Arts & Culture Programming



The Jerome L. Greene Space

- In celebration of Women's History Month, The Greene Space hosted two concerts with drag artist and violinist **Thorgy Thor**, featuring performances from Grammy Award-winning **Catalyst Quartet**, New York City Youth Poet Laureate **Stephanie Pacheco**, and other artists.
- On March 20, The Greene Space hosted [The Future of Housing](#), a conversation between reporter **Josefa Velásquez** and **Mayor Eric Adams**, and four major players in urban planning and justice, including New York City Comptroller **Brad Landen**.
- **The Civilians** kicked off their artist residency at The Greene Space with live events that explored theater and music influenced by [artificial intelligence](#) and content from WNYC's own [archives](#).

WQXR

- WQXR's Artist Propulsion Lab (APL), piloted in 2020 to amplify young and diverse NY-area musicians during the pandemic, welcomed five new dynamic artists this year. APL alumni include flutists **Brandon Patrick-George**, whose work recently received funding from the Ford Foundation; and **Emi Ferguson**, who was awarded the 2023 Avery Fisher Career Grant.
- On February 16, WQXR launched [Every Voice](#), a new podcast by WQXR evening host **Terrance McKnight**. The show builds on McKnight's extensive work as a broadcaster and scholar to explore Black representation in opera, and elevate Black luminaries and perspectives in classical music.
- In March, WQXR's **Emma Bauchner** launched "[Classical Around Town](#)," a new online feature highlighting classical music concerts in New York City, New Jersey, Westchester, and beyond, strengthening bonds between the station, listeners, and musicians in our local communities.
- WQXR partnered with The New York Philharmonic to produce [The NY Phil Story: Made in New York](#), a new five-part podcast that launched on April 5. It's a unique exploration of both music and history, hosted by **Jamie Bernstein**—author, filmmaker, and daughter of famed conductor **Leonard Bernstein**.