

## Fiscal Year 2023

## IMPACT REPORT

FY23, BY THE  
NUMBERSTHE JEROME L.  
GREENE SPACE

produced **73 live shows**, and hosted  
**17 community events**.



## GOTHAMIST

welcomed **19.8 million unique visitors**,  
who visited the site **33.7 million times**.

REPORTERS  
AND STAFF

at New York Public Radio  
earned **19 awards and  
accolades**, including a  
Peabody Award for *The  
Divided Dial*, produced by  
*On the Media*.



## WQXR

welcomed **5 new  
artists** to the Artist  
Propulsion Lab's 2023  
cohort.

THE WNYC  
NEWSROOM

is **close to 50% BIPOC journalists**, making our  
newsroom one of the most diverse in the country.

AND, ON JULY 8, WNYC MARKED ITS  
**99TH ANNIVERSARY!**

On behalf of the board and staff of New York Public Radio (NYPR), thank you for your support. As a non-profit organization, the majority of our funding comes from individuals like you—**so thank you for helping us to make our area a thriving democracy and vibrant center of culture.** WNYC, Gothamist, and New Jersey Public Radio (NJPR) keep our communities engaged and informed through rigorous investigative reporting, online and on the air; and The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space (The Greene Space) and WQXR amplify the work of musicians, artists, and thinkers at the forefront of New York culture.

Audience support fuels our mission—to **make the mind more curious, the heart more open and the spirit more joyful through excellent audio programming that is deeply rooted in New York**—and inspires us to reach as many members of our region as possible with impactful, necessary programming. We are pleased to share with you some highlights from the past fiscal year (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023), all of which were made possible by your generosity. Now more than ever, we're grateful that you're standing with us.

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# Awards and Accolades

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## George Foster Peabody Award

- Podcast & Radio Award: “The Divided Dial,” presented by *On the Media*

## 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

## 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*

## 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”*

## Breaking News

- **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.
- 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.**
- As wildfire smoke from Canada [blanketed our region with smoke](#) in June, the community turned to WNYC for critical updates. **Brian Lehrer** and **Brigid Bergin** spoke to experts and answered community questions live on the air, while Gothamist published [regularly-updated data on the crisis, analysis of the City's response, and a guide to making your own air cleaner.](#)
- Mere days after Gothamist reported last summer on a landlord's use of a "[Frankenstein](#)" [loophole](#) to evict tenants of rent stabilized units and redo their apartments, a state agency proposed a rule change to close the loophole. In June 2023, **New York lawmakers passed a ban on the practice**, requiring rent regulation for buildings with at least one stabilized apartment.
- The WNYC newsroom led coverage on the government's response to [migrants arriving in New York City](#). Reporters **Liz Kim** and **Jon Campbell**, respectively, were the first to report on [an executive order](#) that allows the city to bypass parts of the longstanding right-to-shelter law, and the news that **Mayor Adams** was backing off his [controversial plan](#) to house migrants in an Orange County hotel.

## WNYC and Gothamist

- In October, NYPR launched a **substantial redesign of the Gothamist website**. The changes—which include streamlined navigation and more stories accessible on the homepage—make it easier for readers to both find what they need and discover new and unexpected stories. The redesign represents 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.
- 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 illegally continue to hold inmates in [solitary confinement](#) for long stretches of time.
- WNYC was a leading voice of critical information about the 2022 elections. In addition to regular reporting including concise, digestible guides on pressing topics like incumbent reelection and absentee vote status in the [primary](#) and [general](#) elections, we 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. Plus, WNYC's **Brigid Bergin's story on a loophole she found in registration rules** for the August primary elections that would have allowed voters to change their party registration through Primary Day **prompted the State Supreme Court to issue a decision** moving up the deadline to August 12.

- 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 enlists NYC residents to 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.

## New Jersey Public Radio (NJPR)

- In advance of a Superior Court ruling on whether New Jersey’s school segregation is unconstitutional, NJPR and NJ Spotlight are co-leading “[Segregated](#),” a collaboration with newsrooms across the state to bring attention to the issue. NJPR has been a leader in its coverage, with reports including reporter **Karen Yi**’s piece on local [resistance to affordable housing](#) and a recent in-depth discussion on [The Brian Lehrer Show](#).
- In June 2020, **Karen Yi** reported on how the [unregulated temp worker industry](#) disregarded health and safety regulations during the pandemic, particularly affecting immigrant workers. Over the past year, **that work informed a bill in the NJ State Legislature to improve conditions for temp workers**. The bill’s sponsor, State Senator **Joe Cryan**, cited our reporting for bringing attention to the issue.



## Podcasts: WNYC Studios



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- ***Radiolab Presents: Terrestrials***—In September, **Radiolab** premiered its first project created specifically for young audiences, with the mission of cultivating the innate curiosity of young minds and encouraging them to discover and connect with Earth’s natural wonders. *Terrestrials* features a dynamic blend of rigorous scientific investigation and innovative sound design—plus interviews with entomologists, physicists, surfers, hip-hop artists, and other experts in kid-friendly wonderment—to tell lush, sound-rich stories about our fellow creatures here on Earth. Season one has garnered positive feedback from teachers, parents, and young listeners who tuned in.
  - ***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 was **awarded multiple industry accolades, including a Peabody** “for its robust and unprecedented look at a formidable political force in the United States.”
  - ***Notes from America with Kai Wright***—In September, Notes from America transformed into a podcast and a nationally-syndicated radio show broadcast on more than 100 stations across the country. Through deep conversations with changemakers and listeners nationwide—[like this episode](#) on the past, present, and future of Juneteenth, broadcast live from Houston—examines our country’s cultural landscape, making sense of current events.
  - ***La Brega, Season Two***—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. And, the Whitney Museum of American Art made *La Brega* the centerpiece of the closing celebration of their recent exhibition about Puerto Rico.

## WQXR

- 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'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 flutist **Brandon Patrick-George**, whose work recently received funding from the Ford Foundation; flutist **Emi Ferguson** and saxophonist **Steven Banks**, who were both awarded the 2023 Avery Fisher Career Grant; and cellist **Andrew Yee**, whose program "Halfie," is a finalist for a Third Coast Audio Award - Best Documentary.
- WQXR held two Classical Kids Fairs this year: at the Queens Theater and the Brooklyn Children's Museum! **Over 1,700 people** enjoyed live performances, "instrument petting zoos," musical arts and crafts, and dance and songwriting workshops. Musicians from the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, dancers from the Met Opera, the Little Orchestra Society, and more joined to help excite the next generation of classical musicians.
- WQXR expanded its partnership with The New York Philharmonic to produce a new five-part podcast that explores the history of our city through the lens of its most prominent orchestra. ***The NY Phil Story: Made in New York*** launched on April 5, and is hosted by **Jamie Bernstein**—author, filmmaker, and daughter of famed conductor **Leonard Bernstein**.
- 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.

## The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space

- 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; a staged reading of a new play by **Kaili Y. Turner**; and a number of vibrant conversations about land treaties, food, dance, Indigenous representation, storytelling and more.
- In celebration of both Women's History and Pride Months, The Greene Space hosted three exceptional 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, an illuminating conversation about this critical issue affecting everyone in our region. The panel featured WNYC's **Josefa Velásquez** with **Mayor Eric Adams**—as well four major players in urban planning and justice, including New York City Comptroller **Brad Landen**. Gothamist's article on the event sparked further conversation about the Mayor's views on housing and homelessness and was picked by multiple outlets, including *Politico New York Playbook*, *Curbed (New York Magazine)*, *Urbanized NYC*, and *The Architect's Newspaper*, among others.