

---

# Spring FY24

# IMPACT REPORT

---

## WNYC and Newsroom Programming

- WNYC investigated more than 700 lawsuits filed under the Adult Survivors Act, pointing to a pattern of institutionalized sexual abuse at Rikers Island and other city jails, and spurring immediate action. Within 24 hours of publication, state legislators promised new legislation and city leaders vowed to hold investigations. Other media pressed the mayor to account for our findings at a press conference the next day, and the Bronx DA has stated publicly that the investigation drove her to launch a new team of prosecutors to review them. Most recently, council members demanded the city cut the number of women inmates in city jails.
- WNYC established a new two-year early-career reporting fellowship on the Community Partnerships desk, as part of our commitment to fostering the next generation of public media journalists and producers—especially for New Yorkers from underrepresented backgrounds. Our first Fellow, Brooklyn College alum **Jodi Malarbe**, has produced powerful work for the newsroom, including a piece on Black-owned bookstores and an innovative new project called Suds and Civics, turning laundromats across the region into hubs for civic dialogue during election season.
- In July 2023, reporter **David Brand** exposed a loophole in New York state law that has allowed insurance companies to refuse coverage to tenants with subsidized housing. Two days after the report, three lawmakers vowed to introduce legislation banning the discriminatory practice. In April 2024, measures were approved that will reduce inequity in the state’s housing market, eliminating unnecessary additional insurance costs for low-income residents.

## Breaking News

- WNYC’s **Caroline Lewis** investigated a longstanding dispute between Mount Sinai and UnitedHealthcare, which disrupted coverage for thousands of patients. Her reporting provided tangible instructions for residents who may be eligible for Mount Sinai’s financial assistance program. Just six days after her report, Gothamist broke news that an agreement had been reached.

- **WNYC reporters have been on the ground since the beginning of the campus protests** surrounding U.S. and university support for Israel—providing nuanced, human accounts and breaking news coverage. In January, WNYC was the first to report on NYPD investigations that Columbia students were allegedly hit with [skunk spray](#), a chemical weapon used by both Israeli and U.S. military law enforcement. Recently, our teams have explored the [economic impacts of the protests](#), and investigated [whether the NYPD has made changes to policing tactics](#) that were mandated after the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests.
- **WNYC was a regional leader in coverage of the April 5 earthquake** that shook the metro area. **Brian Lehrer** was on-air as the quake hit, pivoting instantly to special coverage that extended to four hours, and which was regularly cited across social media and other journalism outlets. Gothamist published a breaking news email before all major national and local outlets, and continued to publish stories in the following days, including a [detailed explainer](#) and [accountability journalism](#) on why it took nearly an hour to send cell phone alerts to New York City residents.

## WNYC Studios

- WNYC Studios' critically acclaimed podcast *Blindspot* launched [Season 3: The Plague in the Shadows](#). Hosted by **Kai Wright**, this season explores the early years of the HIV epidemic in New York City, when the virus tore through some of our most vulnerable communities while the wider world looked away. Each episode features testimonials from New Yorkers who changed the narrative about AIDS by demanding that they, and their illness, be seen.
- During an especially fraught time for news media, *On the Media* host **Micah Loewinger** produced "**The Collapse of Digital Media**," a series exploring the current crisis in journalism, and what our future may look like. In April, the series was named as a finalist for "Best Commentary" in the [Mirror Awards](#), among the highest honors in journalism. **Brooke Gladstone**'s October episode [on confusion and disinformation after the October 7 Hamas attack](#) was named a finalist in the "**Best Story on Media Coverage of the Israeli-Hamas Conflict**" category.
- "[We Don't Talk About Leonard](#)," a special *On the Media* series in partnership with ProPublica about the influence of far-right activist **Leonard Leo** on the American judiciary, is a finalist for the [Silver Gavel Award](#)—the American Bar Association's highest honor "recogniz[ing] outstanding work that fosters the American public's understanding of law and the legal system." The project is also a finalist for the [2023 IRE Award in Audio](#), honoring the year's best watchdog journalism.
- *Radiolab* won two [Webby Awards](#) in 2024—in the Science & Education Podcasts and People's Voice categories! The show also made history with its recent episode about a [strange object orbiting Venus](#). After co-host **Latif Nasser**'s captivating reporting and the team's persistence, the [International Astronomical Union \(IAU\)](#) officially named the quasi-moon Zookve, after the title of the episode, and included *Radiolab* on the [NASA Facts page](#). *Radiolab* then secured a partnership with the IAU to allow our listeners to name a quasi-moon of Earth. This unique investigation shows the powerful impact of *Radiolab* in facilitating engagement with the sciences, and the passionate engagement of the show's global community.

## WQXR

- In February, WQXR debuted a second season of *The Open Ears Project*, the beloved podcast featuring actors, authors, musicians, and others speaking about their favorite piece of classical music. During a time of great challenges, locally and around the world, *Open Ears* is a weekly refuge that offers listeners the chance to stop, take a breath, and reconnect to our shared humanity.
- Over the past three years, the WQXR *Artist Propulsion Lab* has supported 17 emerging and mid-career artists in producing innovative, multimedia work across WQXR's platforms. This past February **Brandon Patrick George**, a member of the APL's 2021 cohort, won a Grammy Award for Best Classical Compendium. George plays flute for the ensemble Imani Winds, which also won the category for its recording "Passion for Bach and Coltrane."
- The first season of *Every Voice with Terrance McKnight*, spotlighting Black voices in the history of American opera, was selected as an Honoree in Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Podcasts at the 2024 *Webby Awards*.
- In May 2024, WQXR and Carnegie Hall released *If This Hall Could Talk*, exploring the history of American music through the history of the venerated and eccentric concert hall. This project continues WQXR's strategic aim of producing shows in partnership with the city's cultural institutions, engaging both new audiences and devoted listeners while championing the classical community.

## The Jerome L. Greene Space

- Artist In Residence **Kia LaBeija** mounted a *photography exhibit* as a companion project to **Blindspot Season 3: The Plague in the Shadows**, featuring portraits from the series. LaBeija's residency included multiple evenings of performance, conversation, and celebration—including a reading of *I, of Course, Was Livid*, a documentary theater work based on an historic 1992 CDC hearing that included women in the clinical definitions of AIDS, with **Elizabeth Koke** and **Theodore (Ted) Kerr**.
- For years, *Morning Edition* has featured listener-submitted poems during National Poetry Month. This April, host **Michael Hill** welcomed *seven local poets* who have contributed over the years to perform their work in front of a live audience in The Greene Space. The evening's success spoke to the strength of NYPR's multimedia approach and cross-platform collaboration, as well as the impact of cultural programming rooted in community engagement.
- In May, **WNYC partnered with BBC Newshour** to host a *live conversation on immigration* and the migrant experience. WNYC reporter **Arun Venugopal** spoke with BBC Newshour host **Nuala McGovern** and BBC Assistant Editor **Heba Ayoub**—going behind the scenes of BBC Newshour's coverage, and taking audience questions about the situation in NYC and globally.