

NEW YORK
PUBLIC
RADIO

STANDING TOGETHER FOR NEW YORK PUBLIC RADIO:

OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT



ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2025

Dear friends, This year reminded us what the public in public radio truly means.



When the federal government turned its back on public media, we turned to you: New York Public Radio listeners, supporters, partners, and friends. You rallied around our shared mission, keeping trusted news, vital music, and essential conversation alive. As we celebrated our 100-year legacy as the “Voice of New York” in 2024 and stepped into our second century, we reaffirmed what we can accomplish together.

New York Public Radio stood strong in the face of unprecedented threats to freedom of the press. With your support, we not only endured but flourished, doubling down on the independent journalism, original storytelling, and enriching culture that fuels democracy and fosters a sense of a common good. New Yorkers, as always, came together to support each other, meeting the moment once again.

We have much to be proud of over this past year. Highlights include:

The WNYC and Gothamist newsroom was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize

in audio reporting for its *NYC Now* special investigation into decades of abuse allegations at Rikers Island.

WNYC became a producing partner with Theater of War Productions,

actively engaging the public through a series of live theater performances and discussions based on pieces from *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *Pro Publica*, and others. These timely conversations tackling public health issues and other urgent topics were recorded and edited for broadcast, further extending their reach and impact.

WQXR launched *Once Upon a Composer*,

a 12-episode series designed to introduce kids and families to the life and music of famous composers. The series was hosted by flutist Emi Ferguson, a host of *Young Artist's Showcase* on WQXR.

We raised \$1.5 million

to ensure that *New Sounds*—the show that has introduced generations of listeners to the limitless creativity of music—will continue to play on.

At this consequential moment for our industry, we were particularly pleased to create the **Station-to-Station Programming Project**. This initiative makes our roster of critically acclaimed, nationally syndicated programs—including *Radiolab*, *On the Media*, *The New Yorker Radio Hour*, *Terrestrials*, and *Carnegie Hall Live*, along with NYPR-distributed shows *Freakonomics Radio*, *Science Friday* and *Today, Explained*—available to at-risk public radio stations at no cost. This peer-to-peer relief allows our fellow public radio stations to devote as much of their budgets as possible to the local reporting and original programming that every community needs to stay informed and connected.

With your help, we are holding steady to what we’ve built over the last 100 years and looking forward to the next century of curiosity, culture, and connection. Every broadcast, download, and note of music carries the promise that an informed, inspired, and united public can rise to any challenge.

Thank you for standing with us and proving that New York Public Radio is powered not by politics or profit, but by people.



LaFontaine E. Oliver
LaFontaine E. Oliver
President and CEO



John S. Rose
John S. Rose
Chair of the Board

OUR IMPACT

199M

total listening hours
across WNYC
platforms in FY25



Michael Hill
Host, *Morning Edition*

John Schaefer
Host, *New Sounds*

91M

total listening hours
across WQXR
platforms in FY25



Emi Ferguson
Host, *Once Upon a Composer*

1.6M

monthly Gothamist
readers

655K

weekly WNYC listeners

346K

weekly WQXR listeners

“I couldn’t imagine starting my day without listening to WNYC! I’ve grown dependent on these conversations, and feel grateful for the reporting and human connection that it brings New Yorkers each day. Thank you for all of your work!”

– Natalie, Brooklyn, NY



3.6M

total podcast listeners

93M

total podcast
downloads

698+

affiliated radio stations
carry NYPR programming



Alison Stewart
Host, *All of It with Alison Stewart*

“WQXR is priceless to me! It carries me through life, every single day.”

– Ronald, Wilmington, DE

178K+

supporting donors



354K

total Instagram followers
for Gothamist



Gothamist reporter
Jimmy Vielkind



Gothamist reporter
Arya Sundaram

Breaking News

WNYC-Gothamist reporter Jon Campbell’s untiring coverage of Gov. Kathy Hochul and her administration produced a string of scoops, from inside the tense MTA budget talks to the first look at a proposed statewide mask ban. He also broke the news that Hochul would not remove Mayor Eric Adams from office after federal prosecutors dropped their case against him, prompting several aides to resign.

Our newsroom was the first to report Hochul’s decision to restart Manhattan’s fiercely contested congestion toll—

and WNYC-Gothamist reporter Jimmy Vielkind revealed that former Congressman Marc Molinaro, a longtime critic of congestion pricing, would be appointed to oversee the federal agency responsible for transit projects.

In New Jersey, reporter Mike Hayes uncovered a local ordinance that would have jailed unhoused residents for sleeping in public. The revelation drew widespread outrage—including condemnation from the governor on WNYC’s

Ask Governor Murphy—and led to the law being amended.

And when reporter Arya Sundaram obtained multiple videos of Homeland Security officers handcuffing an aide to Rep. Jerry Nadler inside his Manhattan office, the footage sparked a congressional inquiry and deepened the national debate over immigration enforcement.

Investigations and Impact

Our *NYC Now* investigation into decades of abuse at Rikers Island, one episode in an extensive series on the troubled jail, was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in audio recording.

Ramsey Khalifeh’s exposé of LIU-Brooklyn’s so-called “debt-free” scholarships triggered a state probe, while our reporting on plans to shutter childcare centers in Brooklyn and Queens kept five open and prompted

overdue city payments. After a WNYC-Gothamist story revealed that affordable apartments sat vacant because of a housing lottery rule, the city lifted the policy.

Even our cultural programming inspired action: when budget cuts threatened *New Sounds with John Schaefer*, listeners donated \$1.5 million to secure its future—further proof of what “public” means in public radio.



LOCAL NEWSROOM

GOTHAMIST & WNYC

In fiscal year 2025, WNYC and Gothamist delivered some of the region’s most consequential journalism—holding power to account, breaking stories that resonated far beyond the city, and prompting real change across New York and New Jersey.



Lulu Miller and Latif Nasser
Hosts, *Radiolab*

STORYTELLING &
NATIONAL PROGRAMMING

WNYC

It was a landmark year for WNYC's national shows, with new voices, ambitious collaborations, and stories that reached audiences far beyond New York.



Micah Loewinger and Brooke Gladstone
Hosts, *On the Media*



Micah Loewinger was named co-host of *On the Media*, joining veteran host Brooke Gladstone. A longtime producer and reporter for the show, Loewinger has built a reputation for unpacking how internet culture shapes American politics. His award-winning investigation into how right-wing militias organized online before January 6, 2020, earned national attention as well as a segment on *60 Minutes*.

With Loewinger in the co-host chair, *On the Media* launched a new limited series, *The Harvard Plan*, in collaboration with The Boston Globe. Hosted by award-winning reporter Ilya Marritz, the three-part series takes listeners inside the chaos at Harvard University, tracing the rise and fall of Claudine Gay's presidency and the explosive fight for the soul of one of America's most prestigious institutions.

Another OTM series, the Peabody Award-winning *The Divided Dial*, returned with a new chapter, this one exploring the trajectory and influence of shortwave radio. Host Katie Thornton traveled the country meeting the influential voices in this once-dying medium that's experiencing a quiet resurgence.



Radiolab continued to inspire curiosity on a cosmic scale. In January 2025, the show partnered with the International Astronomical Union to rename one of Earth's quasi-moons. Nearly 3,000 name submissions were narrowed to seven finalists before more than 10,000 people voted to rename what was previously known as (164207) 2004 GU9 to Cardea, after the ancient Roman goddess of hinges and thresholds.

Radiolab spinoff *Terrestrials* returned with Lulu Miller for season two. This year, the show, which makes science and nature accessible and exciting to young minds, explored topics including arctic squirrels, the secret power of lichen, and giant honeybees who predict the future—all with help from a panel of kid correspondents dubbed the "The Badgers."



And in honor of James Baldwin's centennial, *Notes from America* partnered with Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs to produce *Notes on a Native Son*, a limited audio series hosted by Razia Iqbal. Through conversations with Ta-Nehisi Coates, Bryan Stevenson, Nikki Giovanni, and others, the series reflected on Baldwin's enduring influence—and how his words continue to shape the national conscience today.



WQXR Classical Kids Fair

CLASSICAL MUSIC

WQXR

WQXR deepened its commitment to nurturing the next generation of classical music lovers—on the air, online, and in person.

In September 2024, the station launched *Once Upon a Composer*, a 12-episode series introducing kids and families to history’s great composers. Hosted by flutist and Young Artist’s Showcase contributor Emi Ferguson, the series blends storytelling, humor, and world-class performance to spark curiosity and delight.

On Sunday afternoons, WQXR connected books and music with the debut of Annie Bergen’s Book Club—pairing classic and contemporary literature with thoughtfully curated selections from the classical repertoire. From *Romeo and Juliet* to modern bestsellers, the series invites listeners to experience literature and music as companion art forms.

Live Broadcasts & Events

This year, WQXR continued to bring extraordinary live music to listeners. In partnership with Carnegie Hall, the station presented the fourteenth season of *Carnegie Hall Live*, a 13-concert series hosted by Jeff Spurgeon and John Schaefer. The collaboration extended to seven live broadcasts from World Orchestra Week, showcasing youth ensembles from around the globe.

Across the city, WQXR hosted three Classical Kids Fairs, transforming cultural institutions into playgrounds of sound. Families enjoyed instrument “petting zoos,” dance and songwriting workshops, live performances, and hands-on art activities—fulfilling WQXR’s mission to welcome young audiences into the world of classical music.

In February, WQXR joined forces with WBGO (Newark), WFUV (Fordham University), and WSHU (Sacred Heart University) to launch the Tri-State Public Radio Music Collaborative—a groundbreaking and unprecedented alliance designed to amplify music discovery, expand audiences, and support long-term sustainability for public radio.

In June, WQXR celebrated PRIDE with an unforgettable evening of music and bold self-expression led by countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo, spotlighting LGBTQIA2+ artists across genres. And this season, the station proudly hosted the 2025 Avery Fisher Career Grant Awards, honoring the rising virtuosos who will shape classical music’s future.

Michael Hill
Host, *Morning Edition*

LIVE PERFORMANCE

THE GREENE SPACE

The Greene Space continued to serve as WNYC and WQXR’s home for bold, boundary-pushing live events.

In February, The Greene Space marked Black History Month with *Out of Egypt Have I Brought My Children: The 15th Amendment in NYC*, featuring Anna Deavere Smith performing the words of nineteenth-century Black New Yorkers, followed by a conversation with historians moderated by WNYC’s Michael Hill.

In June, the Tony Award-winning cast and creators of *Buena Vista Social Club* brought their electrifying rhythms to The Greene Space for a live radio takeover hosted by Alison Stewart.

The season also celebrated the release of the first Public Song Project album with a special performance at Joe’s Pub. The project invites anyone to create new musical works from the abundance of art that enters the public domain each year. Many of the standout

submitters performed their song covers and musical adaptations of books, poetry, films and more.

And through a new partnership with Theater of War Productions, WNYC began producing a series of public, performance-based dialogues—using live readings to spark urgent conversations about public health, civic life, and the stories that shape our shared future.



FY25 FINANCIALS



\$73,412,786 Contributions and Grants

\$3,903,893 Production and Other Income

\$2,238,630 Investment Return (net)

\$964,822 Special Events (net)



\$54,615,365 Program Services

\$15,820,977 Fundraising

\$8,317,598 Management and General Expenses

To view New York Public Radio’s Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Statements, please visit nypublicradio.org/financials

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

Alfred I. Dupont-Columbia University Awards

On The Media: We Don't Talk About Leonard

George Foster Peabody Awards

WNYC Studios and The History Channel: Blindspot: The Plague in the Shadows

The Pulitzer Prize

Audio Reporting, Finalist

NYC Now: He went by Champagne on Rikers Island

Gracie Awards

Radio, Non-Commercial Local

Alison Stewart, Interview feature

Gracie Awards

Radio, Nationally Syndicated Non-Commercial

Sarah Qari, Best Documentary, Reporter/Correspondent

Front Page Awards

Investigative Reporting, 2024

Karen Shakerdge, for WNYC and The Pulitzer Center: Imminent Danger: One Doctor and a Trail of Injured Women

The Deadline Club Awards

Newspaper / Digital Local News Reporting

Hot spots: NYPD data shows most shootings occur on the same blocks, year after year

The Webby Award

Podcasts, Arts & Culture, Nominee

If This Hall Could Talk, WQXR and Carnegie Hall

The 2025 New York City Power 100

Brian Lehrer, Host, The Brian Lehrer Show

Inside Radio’s Top 10

November 2024

WNYC-FM ranked #1 among all public radio news/information stations across the country

Inside Radio’s Top 10

November 2024

WNYC holds the #5 spot for all news/talk stations nationally and the #2 spot locally in the New York market

*Radiolab was ranked in the **top 50 US podcasts** in the second half of 2024 by Edison Research—a significant achievement in today’s increasingly crowded podcast market and an indicator of the show’s stability and success*



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Brian Lehrer
Host, *The Brian Lehrer Show*

**For a century, our strength has come from
standing together with listeners like you—
and our future depends on continuing that unity.**

Please join us in keeping public media strong,
vibrant, and accessible in New York City, the
tri-state area, and across the country. Together,
we can secure its future and its power to
connect us all.



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WNYC

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THE
GREENE
SPACE

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