

# LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE

2018

*WGBH enriches people's lives through programs and services that educate, inspire, and entertain, fostering citizenship and culture, the joy of learning, and the power of diverse perspectives.*

WGBH MISSION STATEMENT



# WGBH LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE

2018



WGBH serves our local audiences with trusted content and engaging experiences that are rooted in and reflect our region. Through TV and radio broadcasts, online and mobile services, educational activities, screenings, performances and forums convened in our Brighton and Boston studios, WGBH fosters citizen participation and community connections.

WGBH operates **10 public television services**: WGBH 2, WGBH 44, WGBH Kids, and Boston Kids & Family TV (a free educational service for Boston cable subscribers, in collaboration with the City of Boston); WGBH World and WGBH Create digital services; and four WGBY television services for viewers in western Massachusetts.

WGBH operates **three public radio services**: 89.7 WGBH, Boston's Local NPR; 99.5 WCRB Classical Radio Boston; and WCAI, local NPR for the Cape, the Coast, and the Islands (90.1, 91.1, 94.3).

The **Web services**: [wgbh.org](http://wgbh.org), [wgby.org](http://wgby.org), and [capeandislands.org](http://capeandislands.org) offer streaming, podcasts, blogs, news updates and a wide range of program resources.

These WGBH services offer a mix of national fare and locally originated content designed to serve the specific needs and interests of New England area audiences.

**COVER:** Callie Crossley hosts 50th anniversary program of *Basic Black*.

Cover: © Meredith Nierman/WGBH News

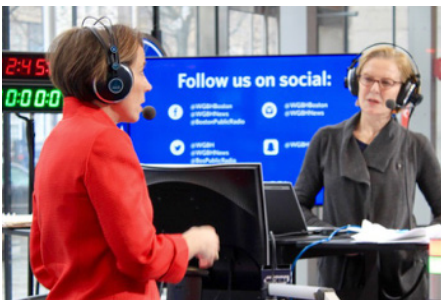
# WGBH NEWS



**WGBH provides comprehensive news coverage to our community via TV, radio, the web, and mobile.** Our local newsroom of experienced, award-winning journalists offers perspective and analysis across media, allowing WGBH to reach audiences in multiple ways and to take advantage of each platform's unique storytelling abilities. WGBH partnerships with the New England Center for Investigative Reporting (NECIR) and The GroundTruth Project, along with our co-productions with PRI: *The World* and *The Takeaway*, greatly expand our local news resources.

WGBH's multimedia approach informed all of its local programming in 2018, including:

- **89.7 WGBH** offers more than 30 hours every week of original local programming that brings listeners a wide range of voices and opinions. Our newsroom continues to expand, this year adding an overnight editor, to provide comprehensive coverage of the stories from neighborhoods across Boston, and towns throughout the state.
- **Boston Public Radio**, our three-hour live midday radio program hosted by seasoned Boston journalists Jim Braude and Margery Eagan, provides interesting and lively discussions on the day's news and issues. The show regularly hosts our region's most influential policymakers, business leaders, and cultural mavens. **Monthly one-hour, in-studio conversations with Governor Charlie Baker, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Attorney General Maura Healey, and new Boston Police Commissioner William Gross** offer citizens a direct opportunity to connect with their elected officials about the issues they care about.
- **Greater Boston**, our signature weeknight TV news program, continues to provide insight into the stories and newsmakers that matter to our local community.
- **Emily Rooney** and a media-savvy panel of journalists on WGBH television's *Beat the Press* review the news of the week every Friday night, holding the media accountable for journalistic lapses and giving a shout-out to local and national news coverage that gets it right. This year ***Beat the Press* celebrated its 20th anniversary and invited the community in for a live show in our studios.**
- The longest-running program on public television focusing on the interests of communities of color, **Basic Black** has been at the forefront



Attorney General Maura Healey speaks with *Boston Public Radio* host Margery Eagan at WGBH's Boston Public Library studio.

Photo: © Meredith Nierman/WGBH News



50th anniversary event of *Basic Black* at WGBH Studios.

Photo: © Meredith Nierman/WGBH News

of emerging social media engagement and broadcast by incorporating a simultaneous Facebook stream and discussion with live TV to connect directly with audiences. In 2018, ***Basic Black* celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special event at WGBH Studios.** *Basic Black* continues to be responsive to current events, providing a platform for local voices on national issues. Some topics covered in 2018 included gun ownership in minority communities, the wave of diverse new faces after the mid-term elections, the creation of generational wealth, building a diverse pipeline of teachers of color, and the Asian American discrimination suit against Harvard University.

- On ***Open Studio with Jared Bowen***, Boston's only full-time multimedia arts reporter pulls back the curtain on the creative process, with interviews and stories on local, regional and national artists and arts organizations. Highlights of 2018 include a profile of Boston's Colonial Theatre and its historic restoration; a look at The Emerald Necklace Conservancy's commissioned project, Fog X FLO by artist Fujiko Nakaya to create her internationally known "fog sculptures" at several locations within the park designed by Frederick Law Olmsted; and interviews with Tony Award-winning Artistic Director of the American Repertory Theater Diane Paulus, Harvard alum and award-winning actor John Lithgow, City of Boston Artist-in-Residence Steve Locke, and Chinese artist Ai WeiWei. The program continued its in-studio performances with actors from the play *Hype Man* and country singer and environmentalist Chuck McDermott.
- ***Under the Radar with Callie Crossley*** highlights material from alternative press outlets and community sources, calling attention to stories often overlooked by traditional media. "The show engages with local reporters, authors, playwrights, and food and wine critics to examine the small stories before they become the big headlines," says award-winning journalist and host Callie Crossley. Stories and topics receiving in-depth coverage in 2018 included the changing use of gender pronouns and how to respectfully engage in conversations about gender identity; an interview with Boston-born artist, critic and black feminist writer Lorraine O'Grady; a deep-dive

into Massachusetts' new Alzheimer's law and its multifaceted approach to supporting dementia patients and their caregivers; a discussion about the phenomenon of #AsianAugust and Asian on-screen representation; and the first on-air debate about the hotly contested Massachusetts Ballot Question 1, which would have imposed a mandated number of patients that hospital nurses could care for at once.

## Local News Events and Initiatives

In addition to our regular programming which includes local guests and features on *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*, a number of special news events and reporting initiatives benefited from our hyperlocal focus in 2018:



Gubernatorial debate between Governor Charlie Baker and Democratic challenger Jay Gonzalez hosted by WGBH News' Jim Braude and Margery Eagan.

Photo: © Meredith Nierman/WGBH News



A photo essay of Ayanna Pressley's first days in Washington.

Photo: © Meredith Nierman/WGBH News



WGBH's *Morning Edition* anchor Joe Mathieu.

Photo: © Meredith Nierman/WGBH News

- **WGBH News hosted more than a dozen debates this year on both WGBH TV and 89.7 giving voters unprecedented access to the candidates for office. We hosted a gubernatorial debate between Governor Charlie Baker and Democratic challenger Jay Gonzalez in front of an audience at the WGBH Studios in Brighton.** *Boston Public Radio* hosts Jim Braude and Margery Eagan moderated the debate, which was broadcast live on 89.7 and streamed online. A large, diverse audience of Massachusetts residents attended the one-hour exchange. **We also hosted debates between candidates for Congress, Secretary of State, Attorney General and State Treasurer.**
- *WGBH News* produced **extensive coverage around the mid-term elections**, including a three-part series on state Ballot Questions, and produced an online guide for audiences. On Tuesday, November 6, WGBH produced four hours of live election night coverage on 89.7, hosted by Joe Mathieu, which included live updates from reporters in the field and in-studio analysis. Following the elections, **our WGBH News photojournalist was given access to newly-elected Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley during her first days in Washington** to give voters back here in her district a glimpse of their new representative in Washington.

- *WGBH News* **commissioned a national poll** to find out what the public thinks about higher education and the challenges it faces, and followed up with local discussion of the findings, which reflected views on race in college admissions, dealing with sexual assault on campus, and whether a college degree is still necessary.
- In September, dozens of gas explosions rocked the towns of Lawrence, Andover and North Andover. *WGBH News* was immediately on the scene, reporting from the shelters and speaking with residents and officials as the investigation began into what caused the disaster that led to thousands of homes and businesses to be evacuated. Since then, *WGBH* has **reported and produced more than 40 stories on the Merrimack Valley disaster from the initial explosions through the investigation and recovery**, speaking to the families and businesses affected.

# COVERING CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS



WCAI, a service of WGBH, gives listeners on Cape Cod, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, and the South Coast their own NPR station—one infused with a uniquely local sound and sense of place. The station serves the community with unique programs that feature local personalities and topics specific to the Cape and Islands region. A partnership with the *Cape Cod Times* and the area's weekly papers enriches the station's news reporting.



The Host/Executive Producer of WCAI's *The Point*, Mindy Todd (left) discusses books each month with Jill Erickson, head of reference and adult services at the Falmouth Public Library.

Photo: © Dan Tritle

- ***The Point with Mindy Todd*** provides lively and informative discussions each day for local residents.
- Our weekly ***Local News Roundup*** invites up to eight local journalists onto the airwaves each week for an hour-long discussion of the region's top news stories.

In 2018, WCAI produced six special series:

- ***Indicator Species: New England's Fishermen and the Challenges of Climate Change*** New England's coastal waters are warming faster than 90% of the rest of the world's oceans. We look at fishermen as an indicator species, on the leading edge of that change, forced to adapt. Fishermen are engaged in new collaborations with scientists to understand and adapt to climate change.
- ***Teaching the Future: Climate Change Education on Cape Cod*** It could be the most important subject of the next 20 years. But in most schools, climate change is still just starting to make its way into classrooms, and many teachers don't have the training, or the resources, they need to teach it.
- ***Cape Cod's Hidden Student Workforce***: They're students from abroad, and they're called J-1's, after the type of visa they hold. It's a cultural exchange visa, but it allows them to work while they're here for three-to-four months. Massachusetts has the highest number of these kinds of J-1 students in the United States, and the majority are on the Cape and Islands for the summer. Our three-part report examines why they've become so important to the seasonal economy, whether the program that brings them here has drifted from its original mission in order to fill a labor need, and what the experience of Cape Cod is for these students, many of whom are living away from home for the first time while working two, and sometimes three, jobs.

- ***Are We Ready? Hurricane Preparedness on Cape Cod and the Islands:*** A collaboration with the *Cape Cod Times*. Last year's historic hurricane season, with its devastating impacts on Texas, Puerto Rico, and Florida, raises questions about our readiness for the likelihood of a major hurricane striking Cape Cod. In this five-part series, we examine the ways in which regional and local planners are preparing for a major hurricane; the ways in which development in recent decades has made us more vulnerable to catastrophic storms; how building engineering has evolved to create more storm-proof housing; and what individuals can do to be ready when a major storm strikes.
- ***Voices Along the Herring River*** The Herring River Restoration is a proposed \$40–\$50 million project in Wellfleet. The idea is to remove the Chequessett dike, originally built in 1909, allowing seawater to flow up the river estuary, restoring the saltwater marsh. It would affect more than 1,000 acres and six miles of waterways and require the construction of two secondary dikes. Within Wellfleet, there are those who are passionately in favor of the project. There are those who are opposed. And there are many who see both sides of this immense issue. At WCAI, we were interested to hear some of these voices and featured three people, each with a different understanding of what's at stake.
- ***In the Shadow of Extinction: The Effort to Save the North Atlantic Right Whale:*** The North Atlantic right whale is facing extinction. Researchers estimate there are less than 450 left. Of those, about 100 are reproductive females. Last year, at least 16 of the whales were found dead, while just five new calves were identified. If nothing is done, scientists say, the North Atlantic right whale could be functionally extinct in 20 years. But an effort is underway to save them. WCAI examines the challenges facing the North Atlantic right whale, and the people working to preserve the species.



WCAI at the Woods Hole 4th of July parade.

Photo: © WCAI

**WCAI's ongoing programs highlight and reflect the many dimensions of life and issues in the region:**

- ***Living Lab*** is a weekly local science program hosted by Science Editor Heather Goldstone.
- ***Local Food Report*** looks at the local food scene.
- ***Hidden History*** focuses on lesser-known historic events, places and people from around Cape Cod, the Islands and the South Coast.



- *The Fishing News* looks at who is catching what and where.
- This year, **in partnership with the GroundTruth Project**, two Fellows were placed at WCAI for environmental reporting related to the human impact of climate change.

## The Arts

- *Ways of Life* is a collection of stories about the people who live down the street—our neighbors: fishermen, scientists, craftspeople, recovering addicts, surgeons, dog rescuers, motorcycle gang members, nursing home residents, musicians, homeless people, kid athletes, social activists, and all the others who share this place. Each portrait becomes part of the surprising, interwoven tapestry of our lives together here on the Cape, Coast and Islands.
- *Cape Cod Notebook* features essays on nature.
- *Poetry Sunday* features a different local poet on the air each week.
- A **partnership with the nonprofit group, 20 Summers**, allows WCAI to record and air for listeners Cape-themed events hosted from the historic Hawthorne Art Barn in Provincetown.

## Nature and Science

- *Bird Report* highlights bird sightings and seasonal information on breeding and migration.
- *Pelagic Report* features the work of researchers off shore.
- *Looking Skyward*'s Regina Jorgenson, Director of Astronomy at the Maria Mitchell Association, talks about the latest astronomy news and interesting developments, as well as a wrap-up of what's currently visible in the night sky.

## Sports

- And for the quintessential Cape experience, WCAI broadcasts the **Cape Cod Baseball League All-Star Game** for local fans each July.

# MUSIC



**99.5 WCRB is our region's only 24/7 classical radio station.** Of its 168 hours each week, 167 are locally programmed, produced, and hosted by WCRB staff in our WGBH studios. WCRB devotes more time than any other station in the country to broadcasts by local arts organizations, with more than **50 full-length broadcasts by the Boston Symphony Orchestra**, along with other concerts recorded and produced by WCRB of performances by the Handel and Haydn Society, the New England Conservatory, the Boston's Children's Chorus, Rockport Music, the Steinway Society Piano Competition, the Cantata Singers, The Boston Early Music Festival, Boston Baroque, A Far Cry, and many other local ensembles and presenters.

- WCRB airs ***In Concert***, a weekly program that captures the wealth of live music performed in and around Boston. Presented by rotating WCRB hosts, the series partners with many local musical organizations that assist in promoting the show.
- WCRB online offers listeners **three classical streaming channels: BSO Concert, Boston Early Music, and Bach.**
- ***The Answered Question***, a weekly podcast, exposes WCRB listeners to a variety of music and the performers who make it come alive.
- This year we **launched Classical.org** which, in its first year, **celebrated the 100th birthday of the iconic American conductor and composer Leonard Bernstein**, providing local audiences with access to exclusive Bernstein-related archival material, interviews and recordings and included a 24/7 stream of Bernstein compositions and performances. Classical.org also provided **a special Holiday Experience** that included three 24/7 streams of varied holiday music offerings.
- WCRB collaborated with WGBH TV colleagues on a special for the holidays, ***'Tis the Night with Ben Folds & Friends*** hosted by the versatile singer-songwriter Ben Folds. Produced in our Calderwood Studio with a local audience, the show featured outstanding local musicians from Handel & Haydn, New England Conservatory, as well as singers from the Boston Children's Chorus. It was widely available for audiences throughout December.



*'Tis the Night with Ben Folds & Friends*, WGBH's holiday special.

Photo: © Sam Brewer

## Jazz



Eric Jackson celebrated 40 years of on-air jazz this year.

Photo: ©WGBH/Anthony Tieneli

89.7 WGBH's celebrated jazz music program, *Eric in the Evening*, is broadcast Friday through Sunday evenings from 9pm-midnight. The program is hosted by the "Dean of Boston's Jazz Scene," musicologist and educator Eric Jackson **who celebrated 40 years on-air this year**. WGBH marked this milestone with a **week-long series of events in April and performances around the community in partnership with organizations and venues** that highlighted Jackson's many contributions and gave the public access to Jackson and local jazz performers.

**Jazz 24/7** is WGBH Digital's online music station featuring the best in classic and contemporary jazz, as well as in-depth looks at great artists, live interviews and performances from the WGBH studios. Available anytime on our website at [wgbh.org/jazz247](http://wgbh.org/jazz247) and on 89.7 WGBH weekends at midnight, *Eric Jackson's Playlist* starts the day, alternating with ***The Jazz Gallery with Tessil Collins*** throughout the day.

Our dedication to making jazz available in our community includes programs such as WGBH's **Live from Scullers**. This partnership with the region's famous local jazz club continues to bring the magic of live performances to our audience of jazz fans monthly. NPR's ***Jazz Night In America* program** joined 89.7 WGBH's late night Friday evening/Saturday morning line-up. We continue to support the region's jazz music programs, concerts and conversations through relationships like those with Harvard University's Office of the Arts, Celebrity Series of Boston, Cambridge Jazz Festival and Berklee College of Music.

## Celtic

For over three decades, 89.7 WGBH has reached deep into New England's sizable Celtic and folk communities with the weekly music program ***A Celtic Sojourn***. Host Brian O'Donovan, born and raised in West Cork, celebrates his passion for traditional and contemporary music from around the Celtic world with special broadcasts and performances for audiences across the region. His belief in the power and benefits of live music has led him to create two signature events, ***A Christmas Celtic Sojourn***, and ***A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn*** in many parts of New England with combined audiences of more than 20,000 each year. A summer program of live presentations

called “Celtic Roots and Branches” has led to a **new, cross-genre collaborative festival in partnership with Rockport Music on the North Shore**. O’Donovan also hosts a weekly, intimate, traditional music series in Davis Square in Somerville, and has added a once-monthly live public broadcast at WGBH’s studios at the Boston Public Library.

## Front Row Boston: Live at Fraser



Jamila Woods performs at Fraser Performance Studio for Front Row Boston Live at Fraser.

Photo: © Meredith Nierman/WGBH

**Front Row Boston Live at Fraser**, our monthly in-house music series featuring cross-genre artists from jazz, indie rock, Celtic, and classical categories, welcomed 20 ensembles and **engaged with over 1,600 supporters into our state-of-the-art Fraser performance studio**. This year’s lineup included ‘90s indie rock band **Belly**, R & B artist **Jamila Woods**, classical artist **Lara Downes** and Celtic trio, the **Seamus Egan Project**.

# EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

WGBH Education leverages our many award-winning brands and key strategic partners to bring educational content and engagement to students and educators, both inside and outside of the classroom, and to parents, librarians, and youth leaders throughout the communities we serve. Highlights from 2018 include:

- WGBH supported citywide **Countdown to Kindergarten** programs across our region in Boston, Lawrence, Springfield, and Worcester to ensure that all rising kindergarten students received a new picture book to take home and enjoy with their family. Activity sheets from WGBH's most popular children's series, including **PEEP and the Big Wide World**, **Arthur**, and **Plum Landing**, accompanied these book distributions, which were held at neighborhood block parties, kindergarten enrollment events, read aloud sessions at public libraries, and at children's museums. Together, **WGBH distributed more than 16,000 books to over 10,000 children**, helping to start home libraries and ensuring that the Commonwealth's next generation continues the tradition of books and reading. This was made possible with the support of the Krueger Charitable Foundation.
- We welcomed hundreds of students for **our ninth season of High School Quiz Show**, our award-winning single-elimination academic team competition for high school students in Massachusetts. **Endorsed by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Massachusetts PTA**, *High School Quiz Show* rewards the academic achievements of local high school students who compete as teams, answering questions correlated to state curriculum guidelines in literature, history, science, math, civics, current events, and general knowledge. Teams were cheered on by **enthusiastic studio audiences, which totaled over 1,200 for the season and included families, friends, teachers, and several costumed school mascots**.
- This year we continued our work to **implement enrichment programs for recent immigrants**, especially families from Puerto Rico who were displaced by Hurricane Maria. With the support of a **Ready to Learn grant** from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, WGBH partnered on these activities with **Tech Goes Home, English for New Bostonians, the Boston Public School Adult Learning Center, and the Boston**



Andover High School receiving the trophy from host Billy Costa for their Season Nine win of *High School Quiz Show*.

Photo: © Elizabeth Friar

**Public Library.** With a particular focus on these families, WGBH partnered with the Boston Public Library to host the **Ruff Ruffman Sensational Science Camp**. Young campers explored science through inquiry and the engineering design process, experimenting with mixtures by making their own variety of trail mix, and learning about the properties of materials by designing outerwear that keeps you dry.

- Over the past year, WGBH Education worked with **partners such as Boston area Girls STEM Collaborative, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Girls Inc., Boston Public Library and TechSaavy** to host nearly **a dozen Design Squad Global events** and training presentations reaching more than 250 educators, parents, and youth in eastern Massachusetts. Events included designing a structure that is lighted with the power of light pipes or a building that can withstand an earthquake.
- WGBH was **media partner and presenter for two major STEM events, Worcester Polytechnic Institute's TouchTomorrow Science Festival**, attended by 10,000 people, and the **Massachusetts STEM Summit**, attended by over 4,000. As partners at these events, we presented WGBH-produced STEM resources and hands-on activities to children and their parents and teachers.
- WGBH Education **supported Boston Public Schools (BPS)** by producing a website of curated **PBS LearningMedia resources to support Capstone projects for third to fifth graders in BPS Excellence for All schools**. These are enrichment programs particularly focused on the most underserved populations in BPS Elementary Schools. We also attended the students' **Capstone Project Showcase**, an event that WGBH will host in June 2019. WGBH hosted and participated in several professional learning events for BPS educators and librarians. We also support the **Brighton High School School—Community Partners Program** and participated in a panel on one of their STEM Career events.
- **Five state education conferences** featured WGBH presentations and exhibits reaching more than 5,000 educators with in-person and in-booth presentations about WGBH-produced resources and programs. NERC (Northeast Regional Council on the Social Studies), MAST (Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers), MSLA (Massachusetts School Librarians Association),



WGBH hosts Boston Public School STEM educators for a professional development event and a studio tour.

Photo: © WGBH

MassCUE (Massachusetts Computer Using Educators), and MATSOL (Massachusetts Association of Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages).

- A new **Massachusetts Educator Ambassador program** was launched, with the goal of increasing partnerships with teachers to help spread the word to educator communities about WGBH-produced resources, and to create a teacher community to advise the Education Department on teacher programs and training. Twenty-three teachers from across the state and a cross-section of grades and disciplines were selected for the program. Their combined efforts in webinars, conference presentations, and other professional development events **reached over 2,800 Massachusetts educators**. These and other MA educators also participated in numerous WGBH PBS LearningMedia product development efforts, including advising on and testing the NASA-funded *Bringing the Universe to America's Classrooms* (BUAC), and *FRONTLINE* and *American Experience* resources. We also filmed professional development videos in Worcester.
- WGBH held **22 in-person and virtual educator trainings or presentations**, in collaboration with various partners and touching on a broad range of WGBH-produced resources. **Two afterschool professional development events on media literacy were held in collaboration with MassCUE and MSLA (Massachusetts School Librarians Association)**. In-person trainings were held in various school districts, and a special event was held at the Louisa May Alcott house in Concord around classroom resources developed from *MASTERPIECE: Little Women*. Our webinars for Massachusetts educators included one on supporting project-based learning with digital resources. **In total, our Massachusetts educator events reached more than 3,200 teachers**. In addition, many Massachusetts teachers also attended our national webinars and presentations.
- Massachusetts teachers visited Afghanistan, Mexico, and the west coast of the U.S. via a unique portable **digital Portal from Shared Studios** hosted by WGBH. 70 teachers and other community members stepped into a shipping container equipped with immersive audiovisual technology and participated in cultural exchange and arts discussions with people in far-flung cities. Visitors could also attend information sessions about the Portal and get a WGBH studio tour.

- WGBH Education staff participated in the **BuildBoston's BUILDFest Pitch Challenge**, which celebrates the culmination of a year of hard work by Boston Public School ninth-grade students on their entrepreneurship projects.
- WGBH Education staff presented on topics related to educational media, screen time, learning through technology, media literacy, and more, to students, educators, parents, and caregivers at various local organizations, including the **Boston Children's Museum, Tufts University Department of Child Development, Harvard Graduate School of Education**, and local preschools.
- The WGBH Education Department hosted 12 college and graduate students as interns or researchers who helped us carry out our work across multiple functions while they learned about educational technology, public media, child/youth development, production, marketing, content development, leadership, and social impact.



# IN OUR STUDIOS

A 30-by-45 foot LED screen alongside WGBH Studios signals the spirit and content of public media for some half-million passersby each week, with one theme a day showcased through photography or slow-moving images. This “digital mural” also mirrors the vibrancy of our region: images reflecting events and issues in our community and nation are displayed on the LED, drawing attention to the cultural richness of the Boston and New England areas and to what’s on the minds of those in the neighborhoods we serve.



WGBH’s digital mural features local icons and events. Here: honoring Boston Day.

Photo: © City of Boston/Hill Holliday

**Nearly 50,000 visitors came through our doors or attended WGBH sponsored events** in our community in 2018. A representative sampling:

- ***Tell Them We Are Rising*** explores the pivotal role historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have played over the course of 150 years in American history, culture and identity. **In January 2018, WGBH’s 200-seat auditorium was filled as guests screened the film, followed by an in-depth discussion with filmmaker Stanley Nelson and local business leaders and HBCU alums.** WGBH News reporter Tina Martin moderated the conversation. This film reveals the rich history of HBCUs and the power of higher education to transform lives and advance civil rights and equality in the face of injustice. Other panelists included Ron Walker, chief operating officer of Rasky Partners Inc., and Kimmie Jackson, senior vice president of human resources of OneUnited Bank.



Liz Cheng, General Manager of WGBH Television and WORLD Channel, speaks at annual celebration of Asian Pacific American culture.

Photo: © Elizabeth Dresdow



Studio audience at *Basic Black* 50th anniversary special.

Photo: © Meredith Nierman/WGBH News



Screening of *Ted Williams: "The Greatest Hitter Who Ever Lived"* at WGBH's Yawkey Theater.

Photo: © Peter J. Baumgartner

- WGBH's **10th annual celebration of Asian Pacific American culture** included specially selected films and programs airing in May 2018 on WGBH 2, WGBX 44 and WORLD, our national documentary and information channel. The event featured Asian Americans in various business sectors who have risen to the top of their respective industries and remain civically engaged in their communities. Leaders shared their personal experiences and journeys to professional success with the event attendees. Liz Cheng, general manager of WGBH Television and the WORLD Channel, moderated the discussion with panelists Yvonne Hao, COO and CFO of Pill Pack, Mohamad Ali, President and CEO of Carbonite and Ian So, CEO, co-owner and co-founder of Chicken and Rice Guys. Panelists offered real-world advice to event attendees.
- WGBH hosted **a special evening celebrating the 50th Anniversary of *Basic Black***. *Basic Black* is the longest-running program on public television focusing on the interests of people of color. The show, which was originally called *Say Brother*, was created in 1968 during the height of the civil rights movement as a response to the demand for public television programs reflecting the concerns of communities of color. **The evening began with a live broadcast of *Basic Black* in WGBH's Calderwood Studio, followed by a discussion with the featured program's panelists Kim McLarin, Callie Crossley, Darren Duarte, Phillip Martin and Sarah Ann Shaw and the live studio audience.** The event provided an opportunity for the community to mingle with individuals involved with the production over the five decades it has been a broadcast staple.
- Members of the general public were invited in to WGBH Studios for **a preview screening of the documentary *Ted Williams: "The Greatest Hitter Who Ever Lived"*** from public television's award-winning biography series *American Masters*. Filmmaker Nick Davis was on hand, along with Williams biographer Ben Bradlee, Jr., to discuss the extraordinary life of the Red Sox legend and take questions from the standing-room-only audience.
- Beat the Press* celebrated its 20th anniversary in December 2018 in front of a live studio audience**, with a look back on the last two decades of news and media. *Beat the Press* Executive Editor Emily Rooney and panelists Adam Reilly and Callie Crossley of *WGBH News*, Dan Kennedy of Northeastern University and Jon Keller of *WBZ News* discussed the ways in which the news and media have changed over

the past 20 years, including the shift in objectivity and the challenges covering some of the biggest local and national stories.

- For over forty years, Eric Jackson has served as host of *Eric in the Evening* on 89.7 WGBH, welcoming talented jazz musicians in studio as his guests and sharing their artistry with radio listeners throughout the region. Featuring the best in classic and contemporary jazz, as well as in-depth looks at great artists, live interviews and performances from the WGBH Studios, *Eric in the Evening* is Boston radio's signature jazz program. **In April, a week-long celebration of Eric's contribution to the jazz community included lectures at Northeastern University, jazz performances at City Winery and a luncheon with members of the community at WGBH** to raise a glass to toast to Eric's substantial contribution to the greater jazz community.
- In October, we hosted **a community advance screening at our Yawkey Theater of NOVA's film *Addiction*, with Massachusetts General Hospital, about the opioid crisis.** The event included a panel discussion with MGH practitioners and other specialists in supervised injection and other treatment options. The panel was moderated by NOVA's Ralph Bouquet and also included writer, director and producer Sarah Holt. The film has been distributed to policymakers and educators across the country.
- **The fourth season of WGBH's televised program *Sing That Thing!* showcased local performers and celebrated the joy of singing and the diversity of choral music.** Eighteen ensembles representing genres from barbershop and pop to gospel and classical competed across seven episodes in three age-based divisions. The Season Four champions included Chelmsford High School's TheThursdays in a tie with Wellesley High School's Rice Street Singers in the High School category; Bowdoin College's Miscellia (College) and Oure Pleasure Singers (Adult).
- ***Stories from the Stage*, taped at WGBH Studios before a studio audience and broadcast on WORLD Channel, illustrates the power of real stories told by masterful storytellers.** Each episode, hosted by Theresa Okodon and Wes Hazard, explored the art of storytelling by featuring three multicultural storytellers—from Boston, New England and around the world—and included interviews with each teller talking about their craft, footage of their amazing on-stage performances and comments from the audience.



A community advance screening of NOVA's film, *Addiction*, at WGBH's Yawkey Theater, co-hosted by Massachusetts General Hospital.

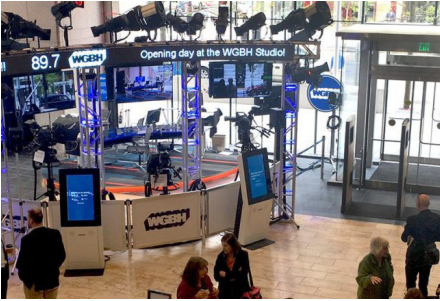
Photo: © Julia Cort



Season Four of *Sing that Thing!* contestants AmherstDQ.

Photo: © Patricia Alvarado

# IN THE COMMUNITY



WGBH's studio at the Boston Public Library is a hub for community conversations.

Photo: © Meredith Nierman/WGBH News



Design Squad Global Pop-up design/build event at the WGBH studio at the Boston Public Library.

Photo: © WGBH

The **WGBH studio at the Boston Public Library** is a welcoming community space in the heart of the city that encourages civic engagement with open public access to WGBH broadcasts and events as well as local newsmakers. This year it expanded its impact with even more offerings of radio, television and digital programming.

- In addition to the **live production of the Boston Public Radio program** for three hours, twice each week, our radio show of Irish music and cultural performances, ***A Celtic Sojourn*, hosted by Brian O'Donovan**, is now produced live from the Library each month.
- There are weekly digital streaming shows that have included audiences of all ages, from ***Make Way for Millennials*** to children's events centered around literacy and arts with our pre-school series ***Pinkalicious & Peterrific***, and engineering for young people with ***Design Squad Global***.
- Each week, the public has an opportunity to see and engage directly with local leaders on radio and television shows produced by WGBH. Our ***Hear at the Library* digital segments allow residents and visitors to voice their opinions on current issues and news** topics. This year they were able to weigh in on their favorite books as part of the national PBS series ***The Great American Read***.
- We hosted three **Trivia Nights**, hosted by WGBH News State House Reporter Mike Deehan for an evening of trivia based on the news and current events.