



Fiscal 2025 IMPACT REPORT

Unabridged Version

We are pleased to share highlights of New York Public Radio's work in Fiscal Year 2025, none of which would have been possible without your dedication and your belief in the work that we do. New York Public Radio may be defunded, but we are not defeated. Your partnership is essential in 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.

11 Awards and 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

[NYC Now](#), *He went by Champagne on Rikers Island* [Audio Reporting, Finalist]

GRACIE AWARDS

Alison Stewart, Interview Feature [Radio - Non-Commercial Local]

Sarah Qari, Best Documentary, Reporter /Correspondent [Radio - Nationally Syndicated Non-Commercial]

FRONT PAGE AWARDS

Karen Shakerdge, for WNYC and The Pulitzer Center, [Imminent Danger: One Doctor and a Trail of Injured Women](#) [Investigative Reporting, 2024]

THE DEADLINE CLUB AWARDS

[Hot spots: NYPD data shows most shootings occur on the same blocks, year after year](#) [Newspaper / Digital Local News Reporting]

THE WEBBY AWARDS

[If This Hall Could Talk](#), WQXR and Carnegie Hall [Podcasts, Arts & Culture, Nominee]

INSIDE RADIO'S TOP 10

WNYC-FM ranked #1 among all public radio news/information stations across the country. [NOV 2024]

WNYC holds the #5 spot for all news/talk stations nationally and the #2 spot locally in the New York market [when combining commercial and non-commercial stations]

THE 2025 NEW YORK CITY POWER 100

[Brian Lehrer](#), Host, *"The Brian Lehrer Show."*

WNYC and Gothamist

Gothamist [broke the news](#) that Gov. Kathy Hochul was going to **relaunch the controversial congestion pricing program** after abruptly pausing its rollout. We also beat our competitors – locally and nationally – to the news that the toll would move forward at a lower price point.

Statehouse reporter **Jimmy Vielkind** [got the scoop](#) that former NY Congressman Marc Molinaro, a foe of congestion pricing, would be named to oversee the federal agency in charge of transit projects.

Gothamist [first reported](#) that the city planned to shut down five childcare centers by not renewing their leases. After a month-long public pressure campaign, all five were [granted extensions](#) through June 2026. [Three of those centers](#) also began receiving back payments from the city after we reported they were still owed millions of dollars.

WNYC provided in-depth reporting on how towns in **New Jersey** are fulfilling – or resisting – their obligations to [create affordable housing](#) under the state's updated affordable housing rules. New Jersey reporter Mike Hayes also provided a [how-to guide](#) for finding affordable housing in New Jersey.

The city's consumer protection agency is [investigating](#) Long Island University in Brooklyn after we reported on scholarship students who now owe the school money despite being [promised](#) they would graduate "debt free." This is one of our most-read stories of the year and was aggregated by national outlets.

Reporter **Jon Campbell** led several scoops this year on Gov. Hochul's behind-the-scenes budget negotiations on [MTA funding](#) and a [controversial mask ban](#). He was the first to report that Hochul would not use her power to remove Mayor Eric Adams from office.

A [special episode](#) of WNYC's podcast **NYC NOW** featured WNYC's investigative reporting into ongoing sexual abuse at Rikers Island, focusing on one officer nicknamed "Champagne" and 24 women who say he assaulted them while they were held in the long-troubled city jail. WNYC's reporting was named a finalist for the **Pulitzer Prize for Audio Reporting**.

Reporter **Brittany Kriegstein** has tracked data across New York City for four plus years to pinpoint so-called "[gun violence hotspots](#)." In partnership with CUNY's John Jay College of Criminal Justice, she found just 4% of the city's 120,000 blocks account for nearly all of its shootings. Brittany spoke to victims, residents and crime experts on why gun violence remains contained and persistent.

David Brand reported on the years-long wait some tenants endure before they can return to homes damaged by fire. The very next day, his story inspired the state Senate's deputy majority leader [to propose legislation requiring landlords](#) to pay for the displacement rent if they were found to be negligent.

A WNYC interview went viral when Senator Kirsten Gillibrand appeared on *The Brian Lehrer Show* for a "[Call Your Senator](#)" segment in June. Her controversial comments regarding New York City Democratic mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani spread to other media outlets around the city, state and the country.

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.

Listeners and staff were thrilled to welcome Alison Stewart back from her leave after surgery for a brain abscess. Her first episode back saw the beloved host [interviewing](#)

[her own neurosurgeon](#). Alison's health ordeal and this riveting on-air discussion led to much press coverage, including in the [New York Times](#) and [New Jersey Monthly](#).

[Buena Vista Social Club](#), one of the hottest tickets on Broadway, came to The Greene Space for a live performance in June. Alison Stewart hosted the Tony Award-winning band, cast and creative team behind the show for an hour of rollicking live radio.

Election Coverage

Gothamist teamed up with The City to create [Meet Your Mayor 2025](#), an online tool allowing New Yorkers to take a quiz and sift through candidate statements to discover which mayoral candidates most closely aligned with their views on housing, public safety, health and more.

The **WNYC Morning Edition** team debuted [BAGELECTION 2025](#): an exercise in ranked choice voting, asking people to vote for New York City's most iconic bagel.

Brian Lehrer hosted a five-week series of live national shows in advance of the 2024 presidential election as part of the [America, Are We Ready?](#) series. Americans called in to discuss the issues at stake and the impact on their lives.

The Brian Lehrer Show played a critical role to inform and engage listeners across our region leading up to the NYC mayoral and New Jersey gubernatorial primaries. Brian invited all of the candidates onto the program to take questions directly from listeners, and featured discussions on key issues in the [New Jersey](#) and [NYC](#) races.

Morning news host **Michael Hill** was one of the moderators of the [New Jersey gubernatorial primary debates](#), while **Brian Lehrer** was a moderator of the final primary [debate for leading Democratic contenders for NYC mayor](#).

WNYC Studios

Notes from America with Kai Wright partnered with Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs on [Notes on a Native Son](#), a limited audio series celebrating James Baldwin, hosted by Razia Iqbal. In honor of Baldwin's centennial, the program featured intimate conversations with notable cultural figures reflecting on how Baldwin's words continue to resonate and shape their work today.

OTM

On The Media named [Micah Loewinger](#) as co-host, alongside 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 earned national attention as well as a segment on *60 Minutes*.

Spring brought a new season of OTM's Peabody Award-winning series "[The Divided Dial](#)," this one exploring the trajectory of shortwave radio. Host Katie Thornton traveled the country to meet influential voices in this once-dying medium that's experiencing a quiet resurgence.

On the Media launched the series, [The Harvard Plan](#), in collaboration with The Boston Globe in December. Season 1, hosted by award-winning reporter Ilya Marritz, is a three-part podcast series that takes listeners inside the chaos at Harvard University, exploring the rise and fall of Claudine Gay's presidency and the explosive fight for the soul of America's most prestigious university.

RADIOLAB

Radiolab and the International Astronomical Union joined forces to [launch a contest to help name one of Earth's quasi-moons](#). Nearly 3,000 entries were narrowed down to seven finalists and more than 10,000 people cast votes to rename what was previously known as (164207) 2004 GU9 to **Cardea**, after the ancient Roman goddess of hinges and thresholds.

Back on planet earth, **Radiolab** brought listeners on a journey [Swimming with Shadows: A Radiolab Week of Sharks](#), a five-episode series inspired by the 50th anniversary of *Jaws* that dispels myths about these often-misunderstood creatures and, what's really scary, the show does include the song *Baby Shark*.

Lulu Miller returned with season two of [Terrestrials](#), the Radiolab spinoff that makes science and nature accessible and exciting for young minds. Topics included arctic squirrels, the power of lichen and giant honeybees who predict the future! A panel of kids, dubbed "The Badgers" helped get answers to pressing questions about our planet and beyond.

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 saturated podcast market. Radiolab also appeared in Time's [100 best podcasts](#) of all Time.

WQXR

For more than 40 years, **New Sounds with John Schaefer** has been a vital platform for adventurous, boundary-pushing music. In response to unprecedented economic headwinds facing public media, New York Public Radio launched a successful \$1.5 million fundraising campaign to protect New Sounds and keep it funded for three years, [thanks to the support of our generous donors.](#)

Carnegie Hall and WQXR proudly united to present the 14th season of [Carnegie Hall Live](#), a 13-show series of live concert broadcasts throughout the season hosted by Jeff Spurgeon and John Schaefer. WQXR also partnered with Carnegie Hall to feature seven live broadcasts from World Orchestra Week, a [celebration of youth orchestras from around the world.](#)

WQXR launched [Once Upon a Composer](#), a 12-episode series designed to introduce kids and families to the life and music of famous composers, hosted by flutist **Emi Ferguson**, one of the hosts of WQXR's Young Artist's Showcase.

Pairing music with the written word, WQXR host [Annie Bergen](#) started a popular weekly **Book Club** feature on Sunday afternoons. From classics like Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* to books by contemporary writers, the segments put together something great to read and something great to listen to.

February saw the announcement of the newly created [Tri-State Public Radio Music Collaborative](#), a landmark partnership between WQXR, WBGO (Newark), WFUV (Fordham University) and WSHU (Sacred Heart University). WQXR and our partners are collaborating to create content, build audiences and generate revenue.

WQXR **provided a platform for emerging artists** through our weekly series [Young Artists Showcase](#), and a partnership highlighting extraordinary young composers aged 9-17 in the [New York Philharmonic's Very Young Composers program.](#)

Live Events

WQXR hosted the [2025 Avery Fisher Career Grant Award Ceremony](#) in the Jerome L. Greene Performance Space, recognizing talented instrumentalists and chamber ensembles.

WQXR hosted [Classical Kids Fairs](#) at the Queens Theatre and the Brooklyn Museum, featuring interactive live performances, an instrument "petting zoo," dance and songwriting workshops, arts & crafts, and more. These events are part of WQXR's

ongoing mission to foster the **next generation of musicians and audiences**, and share pathways for kids to experience the joy, fun, and wonder of classical music.

In June [WQXR celebrated PRIDE](#) in a dazzling evening of music, laughter, and bold expression! Hosted by the superstar countertenor **Anthony Roth Costanzo**, this evening spotlighted LGBTQ+ voices across genres.

[Out of Egypt Have I Brought My Children: The 15th Amendment in NYC](#), an examination of the ratification of the amendment promising universal suffrage to all Black men for the first time in American history was held at **The Greene Space** during Black History Month. Anna Deavere Smith brought to life the words of 19th century Black New Yorkers, and WNYC's Michael Hill moderated a conversation with historians Leslie Harris, Jelani Cobb and Annie Polland.

Joe's Pub was the venue for a celebration of WNYC's [Public Song Project's](#) first album in January. The Project invites anyone, professional musicians and hobbyists alike, 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.