
New York Public Radio

IMPACT REPORT

Q1 & Q2: July-December

During a time of unprecedented challenges facing public media – amidst the loss of federal funding and the shuttering of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting – New York Public Radio has remained steady as a civic and cultural anchor for New York City and a source of powerful storytelling, fact-based journalism, and connection for audiences across our region and beyond.

New York Public Radio also deepened our leadership as a keystone organization in a deeply interconnected public media system, launching new programs and partnerships to strengthen the future of public broadcasting.

We are pleased to share NYPR's Impact Report detailing the impact of your support from July through December 2025. We are deeply grateful for your partnership.

This season, NYPR delivered bold storytelling, essential civic coverage, and real-world impact. Our journalism sparked **tangible change in communities, while major collaborations and investments strengthened the future of public media.** The highlights that follow offer a snapshot of how NYPR informed, inspired, and made a difference.

National Impact

- In response to the unprecedented threats facing public broadcasting, New York Public Radio launched the [Station-to-Station Programming Project](#), a bold, \$10M initiative to provide our programming free of charge to stations in need across the country. The goal of the program is to help at-risk stations invest their limited resources in their own sustainability and local programming, while also ensuring that communities across the country continue to have access to programming that is vital to the national conversation, such as WNYC's On the Media.
- NYPR also joined with four other public media leaders to launch [Public Media Infrastructure](#) (PMI), a new nonprofit designed to support the future of all public media organizations in this new and unprecedented era. With the support of one of the final grants distributed through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, PMI is developing essential digital tools for content distribution, audience engagement, and sponsorship growth — ensuring stations nationwide can continue delivering trusted journalism and enriching programming to their communities. We are also pleased to share that New York Public Radio Executive Chair LaFontaine Oliver was named inaugural Chair of the Board of PMI.

Election News You Can Trust

- To make local politics more accessible (and fun), Gothamist and THE CITY launched [Meet Your Mayor 2025](#), an online quiz that helped New Yorkers identify candidates who share their priorities.
- On October 22nd, WNYC host Brian Lehrer co-moderated the [final general election debate](#) before the New York City Mayoral election, with candidates Andrew Cuomo, Zohran Mamdani and Curtis Sliwa, along with NY1 and THE CITY.
- WNYC's series "Word from the Curb" continued with a public event in [Throggs Neck in the Bronx](#), asking community members what's important to them and what they want to see in city leadership.
- And in true WNYC fashion, [BAGEL-ECTION 2025](#) turned civic education into civic delight — teaching ranked-choice voting through the city's most beloved carb (winner: the egg bagel).
- Leading up to the New Jersey gubernatorial election, The Brian Lehrer Show engaged listeners in regular conversations about key New Jersey issues as part of its "[30 Issues in 30 Days](#)" series. The program [interviewed Governor-Elect Mikie Sherrill](#) the day after she won the election.

Fueling Change Through Local Reporting

- WNYC served as a vital resource when the government shutdown affected access to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for the most vulnerable New Yorkers. Our reporting [showed New Yorkers how to help their neighbors](#) who rely on SNAP for food access, and explained [what New Yorkers need to know](#) in preparation for the loss of SNAP.

- New York state Sen. Zellnor Myrie introduced new legislation to impose consistent standards on foreclosure auction sales following a [Gothamist and New York Focus](#) investigation into widespread irregularities that can cost former homeowners thousands of dollars while boosting lenders' profits.
- Zohran Mamdani righted a historic wrong upon taking office by being sworn in as New York City's 112th mayor, rather than the 111th. Mamdani's comments came in response to [Gothamist's coverage](#) of a historian's discovery that a 17th century mayor's second nonconsecutive term is not reflected in the official record, resulting in a mayoral miscount across centuries.

Programming That Informs, Educates and Sparks Wonder

- WNYC launched [Our Common Nature](#), a podcast series featuring cellist Yo-Yo Ma's journey in search of music and stories that celebrate our connection with the natural world and the people who inhabit it. The series far exceeded expectations by reaching a global audience with music, storytelling, and environmental connection at a scale rarely achieved by a new public media series.

Impact at a Glance

- 537,000+ total downloads
- 28,000–180,000 downloads per episode
- 120,000+ unique listeners
- 14,000+ followers across Apple Podcasts and Spotify

A Truly Global Audience

- Listeners in 10+ countries, with top audiences in U.S., Canada, Japan, U.K., Australia, Germany, South Korea, France, Mexico, and China
- Broadcast on 92 public radio stations nationwide, expanding access beyond podcast platforms
- 20,000+ likes across combined Instagram posts
- [Radiolab](#), WNYC's acclaimed show that explores science, philosophy, and the human experience, continues to rank among the most influential podcasts in the world and is recognized by platforms, industry leaders, and listeners alike:
 - Amazon – Best Podcasts of 2025
 - Left of Dial Media – The 100 Greatest Podcasts of All Time
 - Edison Research – Top 50 Podcasts (Q3 2025)-ranked #31 nationally
 - Podscribe – Top 100 Shows (December 2025)
- Radiolab's family-friendly podcast [Terrestrials](#) expanded to an ongoing, twice-monthly podcast release schedule. Hosted by Radiolab's Lulu Miller, *Terrestrials* tells true stories about extraordinary creatures right here on Earth through a blend of original music, humor, science, and wonder.

Impact at a Glance

- Nearly 90,000 subscribers across Apple Podcasts and Spotify
- Broadcast on 91 public radio stations nationwide, extending access beyond podcast platforms
- Continued growth among family and youth audiences, a key strategic priority for the station.
- *On the Media* followed its award-winning first season of "[The Harvard Plan](#)" with a second season that digs deeper into the challenges facing Harvard and higher education more broadly. The show also significantly expanded its social media presence, with Instagram engagement up more than 100% in November and December, growing momentum on TikTok, and an upcoming integration with WNYC's YouTube channel.
- *On the Media* continues to be recognized as an essential voice in journalism, noted for standout storytelling and editorial excellence.
 - 10 Narrative Podcasts We Loved This Year" (2025)-Recognized for standout storytelling and editorial excellence.
 - Amazon – Best Podcasts of 2025-Named among the year's most impactful and trusted podcasts across all genres.
 - Left of Dial Media – The 100 Greatest Podcasts of All Time

WQXR and The Greene Space delivered a season of special programming and live events that brought world-class classical music, dance, and Broadway to audiences on air, online, and in person. From landmark broadcasts at Carnegie Hall and the Park Avenue Armory to new series spotlighting New York’s dance artists and family-friendly experiences for young listeners, these programs expanded access to the performing arts while celebrating creativity, excellence, and community.

- WQXR’s [Park Avenue Armory Recital Series](#) was a five-week collaborative series featuring thoughtfully curated programs of lieder, art song, and contemporary works by some of today’s most exciting musical interpreters.
- We asked artists from five great New York dance companies to tell us about a dance work they love and the music that makes it so special. [Dancing On-Air](#), a weeklong series supported by BAM, brought together their reflections with the music itself.
- Carnegie Hall and WQXR celebrated the 15th Anniversary Season of [Carnegie Hall Live](#). The legendary live broadcast series brings the thrill of live classical performance to audiences in New York, across the country, and around the globe.
- WQXR presented two family-friendly [Classical Kids Fairs](#) in Queens and New Jersey. Designed for children ages 4-10, the beloved events engaged more than **3,000 attendees** with classical music through interactive live performances, workshops, arts and crafts, and other hands-on experiences.
- **All Of It’s Broadway on the Radio:** Cast members from [Broadway’s Hadestown](#) joined Alison Stewart for a live performance and conversation in New York Public Radio’s The Greene Space. Lead actors Morgan Dudley, Kurt Elling, Rebecca Naomi Jones, Paulo Szot, and Jack Wolfe performed songs from the show and reflected on stepping into principal roles in the long-running Broadway hit. Presented as part of *All Of It’s Broadway on the Radio* series, the event reached well beyond The Greene Space—drawing nearly 6,000 viewers to the livestream on our website.

The results below reflect the impact of your support. We saw strong audience growth with the growing downloads of our national shows, and deepening engagement with our community in the first half of fiscal year 2026.

- **WNYC Studios Downloads**
 - **Radiolab:** 25,329,238 (3% increase from last year)
 - **New Yorker Radio Hour:** 9,430,402 (19% increase from last year)
 - **On the Media:** 7,827,055 (19% increase from last year)
- **Donor Participation**
 - **Sustaining Donors:** 134,577 (9% increase from last year)
 - **Active Donors:** 186,592 (8% increase from last year)