

January-March

IMPACT REPORT

At a moment of profound change for public media, your support has never been more essential or more important. In the face of ongoing uncertainty and significant challenges, including federal funding cuts and the shuttering of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, your generosity is helping ensure that New York Public Radio remains a trusted source of independent journalism, cultural programming, and connection for New Yorkers and audiences nationwide.

This report highlights what your support made possible from January through March 2026. During this period, NYPR contributed to the future of public media both nationally and locally. We helped launch Public Media Infrastructure, a new collaborative nonprofit equipping public media organizations with shared digital tools for a rapidly changing landscape. At the same time, award-winning reporting from WNYC and Gothamist drove meaningful change, leading to reform efforts at Rikers Island and action against predatory tow truck operators. NYPR also continued to lead in innovative programming, with *Terrestrials* earning both an Ambie Award for Best Podcast for Kids and recognition from the American Library Association. Through WQXR, audiences engaged with classical music in fresh and joyful ways, from the launch of Classical Music Happy Hour to the return of the Classical Kids Fair, which welcomed thousands of families.

Together, these accomplishments reflect what is possible because of you. Thank you for sustaining public media and helping build its future.

News & National Shows

Gothamist



National Impact

With your support, NYPR joined four other public media leaders to launch [Public Media Infrastructure](#), a new nonprofit created to support the future of public media in this unprecedented era. PMI is developing essential digital tools for content distribution, audience engagement, and sponsorship growth so stations nationwide can continue delivering trusted journalism and enriching programming to their communities. We are proud to share that New York Public Radio Executive Chair LaFontaine Oliver was named [inaugural Chair of the Board](#).

Fueling Change Through Local Reporting

WNYC's newsroom was recognized with an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award for the NYC Now podcast episode, [He went by 'Champagne' on Rikers Island](#). The episode revealed the scope of alleged misconduct at Rikers Island by focusing on one officer nicknamed "Champagne" and 24 women who say he assaulted them while they were held in the long-troubled city jail. As a result of our reporting, Rikers staffers were reassigned and the City Council passed two bills to bring transparency to abuse allegations at the jail.

A Gothamist investigation [exposing the rise of unlicensed tow trucks in New York City](#), and showing drivers how to identify them, spurred action from New York City consumer protection officials. [Hundreds of tow truck companies were put on notice](#), and officials warned that licenses will be swiftly revoked for operators exploiting drivers.

Programming That Informs, Educates and Sparks Wonder

WNYC marked the 20th anniversary of its annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration with [MLK26: The Pan-Africanist — Restitution & Reconciliation in a Global State of Emergency](#), presented in partnership with The Apollo and March On!. The program reflected on Dr. King's 1957 journey to Ghana and connected his global vision for liberation to today's urgent calls for justice across the African Diaspora. Hosted by WNYC's Michael Hill, Brian Lehrer, and Janae Pierre, alongside WQXR's Terrance McKnight, the event brought together conversation, performance, and reflection, and was recorded for broadcast on WNYC and public radio stations nationwide.

WNYC's [Terrestrials](#) was honored with an Ambie Award as the Best Podcast for Kids! The podcast also received an award from the American Library Association, in recognition of its outstanding contribution to youth media and learning. Together, these honors affirm WNYC's continued leadership in producing innovative, high-quality audio that informs and inspires audiences nationwide.

Terrestrials also launched a partnership with Yoto, offering families another way to build digital libraries and create personal audio content for kids.

Arts & Culture

WQXR :||



Raise a Glass to Classical Music

WQXR and Carnegie Hall launched [Classical Music Happy Hour](#), a new podcast series inviting listeners to pull up a chair, pour a favorite cocktail, and revel in the joy and lighter side of classical music. Hosted by pianist Emanuel Ax, the series features conversations with an eclectic lineup of composers, performers, and creative voices from the world of classical music and beyond.

Kids Take the Stage

WQXR returned to Brooklyn Children’s Museum for the seventh annual [Classical Kids Fair](#), welcoming 3,000 attendees of all ages. This beloved, family-friendly event introduces children to classical music through live performances, workshops, arts and crafts, and other hands-on experiences.

Giving Voice to Today's Issues

WNYC partnered with Theater of War to launch [Theater of War on the Radio](#), a monthly broadcast series bringing together journalism, performance, and listener dialogue. The debut program, “ICE in Our Schools,” featured readings by Julianne Moore, Daphne Rubin-Vega, and Sam Waterston, followed by a live call-in conversation. The series builds on our 2025 collaboration and creates a powerful platform for exploring urgent issues of the day.

Winter Fund Drive

Thanks to the strength of this community, the funds raised in New York Public Radio’s winter pledge drives for both WNYC and WQXR will continue to help power our programming as we face the first year of a new reality without federal funding.

If you’re one of the thousands who donated, thank you—we’re grateful for how this extraordinary response signals your ongoing trust in our journalism, storytelling, and music programming.

Here’s what you had to say about the impact of New York Public Radio’s work:

Mina in Sleepy Hollow, NY - I'm 82 and listen to WNYC every day. I made my daughter show me how to make a monthly pledge, because I want you to know how much I enjoy and appreciate your station and your work. Thank you.

Paige in Atlantic Highlands, NJ - We love New York’s Classical Station. My nine-year-old son, Wilson, listens for hours on his radio every day. Thank you for being a great station in the greatest city!



Gothamist



Impact in Numbers

The results below reflect the impact of your support. We saw strong audience growth, an impressive number of downloads of our national shows, and a deep engagement with our community during the first few months of the year.

- 2.2 million monthly Gothamist readers
- 360,024 Instagram followers for Gothamist
- 700,000 weekly WNYC listeners
- 9 million total listening hours across WNYC platforms
- 305,400 weekly WQXR listeners
- 3.6 million total listening hours across WQXR platforms
- 7.5 million total podcast listeners
- 20 million total podcast downloads