

Spring/Summer 2026

Impact Report

How your support sustained public media and helped build our future



In March, a federal judge ruled that the 2025 executive order defunding public media violated the First Amendment. This ruling represented a positive development for free speech rights, but it *did not* restore our funding now or in the foreseeable future. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting remains shuttered, and our station and other public media outlets across the country must continue to operate without the \$1.1 billion of federal funding, including nearly \$3 million for New York Public Radio, that was clawed back by Congress.

And yet, this spring our programming reached millions of people. New York Public Radio investigated institutional wrongdoing, celebrated our city's biggest cultural events, and helped keep public radio alive across the country. We were there in moments big and small, opening minds and enriching morning commutes.

That's all thanks to you.

The support of our listeners remains crucial to helping New York Public Radio serve as a civic and cultural resource in New York City and nationwide. Your gift has had an immediate impact, and your continued support is essential as we work to keep stations on air, preserve local journalism, and ensure that all communities have access to trustworthy information and vibrant cultural programming.

Here's some of what your support made possible this spring.



Bess Adler/Gothamist

Informing voters and holding leaders and institutions accountable

Incisive local political coverage



WNYC and Gothamist delivered fair, comprehensive coverage of politics across New York and New Jersey.

We provided voters with the facts and context they need to make informed decisions, and gave listeners access to the political figures who shape our region.

In a conversation held live in The Greene Space and streamed on C-SPAN, New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani discussed his first 100 days in office with WNYC's Brigid Bergin. He'll return quarterly for "Ask the Mayor" with Brian Lehrer. New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill joined us for "Ask Governor Sherrill" during key moments like the hunger and labor strike, protests, and intense police response at the Delaney Hall ICE facility in Newark.

In the lead up to the 2026 primary elections, The Brian Lehrer Show hosted debates for candidates across four New York congressional districts: NY-7, NY-10, NY-13, and NY-17. WNYC partnered with Spectrum News NY1 to broadcast a debate between the candidates hoping to fill outgoing Rep. Jerry Nadler's seat in NY-12.



Lloyd Mitchell Photography/AM New York

Compelling and timely investigative work



On The Media launched "American Emergency: the Movement to Kill FEMA," a four-episode series investigating how the federal agency that prepares for America's worst case scenarios came to be distrusted, despised, and defunded—and exploring what its future may hold. The series culminated in a packed live event in The Greene Space featuring former FEMA official MaryAnn Tierney.

Fueling change through local reporting

“Homeless women sought shelter in NYC. They found chronic violence and dysfunction.”

A WNYC and Gothamist investigation found that the Tillary Street Women’s Shelter in Downtown Brooklyn has become a place where violence, overdoses and chaos are part of daily life.

After Gothamist reported on the violence, City Councilmember Crystal Hudson, chair of the committee that oversees homeless services, called for an investigation and reassessment of the shelter’s operations.

Journalist Andrew Giambrone joined NYC Now’s Janae Pierre to discuss reporting this story. Here’s an abridged and lightly edited excerpt from their conversation.

This isn’t something new, right?

No, the shelter's been around for more than 20 years. It opened in 2003. In reviewing media clips from the time and just doing my research, it was already drawing attention for violence as early as 2006, 2007. I looked at court records for this story. In 2014, a jury awarded a \$13 million verdict after a social worker at the shelter was really seriously assaulted, she said, by a resident, and she needed spinal surgery.

Another thing I looked into for this story is state inspection reports, because all city shelters are licensed and certified by New York State.

Andrew Giambrone is an award-winning editor and writer who is passionate about social issues, politics, and storytelling across media formats. He reported this story while he was an Assistant Editor at Gothamist.

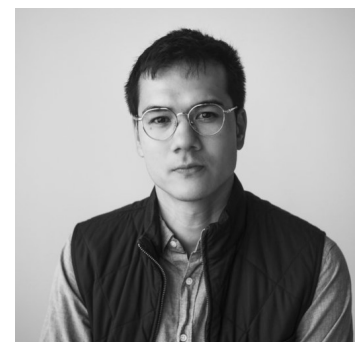
In 2015, the report described staff struggling with residents’ health needs, all these different conditions of people living in one place. The next year, the inspection showed security was lacking after a number of critical incidents in a short period of just three weeks. Again, just to think about the 911 calls that this shelter is getting every year, they rose 15% from 2019 to 2024. The residents I spoke with say little has changed.

Obviously the city is privy to all of this information. How has nothing been done yet?

That's a question I grappled with a lot through this reporting. If you talk with homeless advocates, what they'll say is that there isn't really strong oversight of the city shelter system on a day-to-day level. One 2024 study I found out of Canada found that smaller shelters with more privacy could reduce violence and other types of conflicts between residents. Advocates say the model really needs to change. Time will tell if things actually change at Tillary.

Have you heard from any of the women who spoke to you for this story since it came out?

Yes, they were really grateful for having their voices heard. At the end of the day that’s, I think, what journalism is all about.



Curating arts programming that reflects our city's culture

Broadway, live on the air



All Of It's Broadway On the Radio series brought the best of Broadway to audiences live in The Greene Space and over the airwaves, featuring performances from and discussion with the stars of Broadway's Chess, Ragtime, CATS: The Jellicle Ball, and The Outsiders. Past segments of Broadway on the Radio featured Hadestown, Buena Vista Social Club, and Hell's Kitchen.

"A Wonder Is What It Is": Poetry month in NYC

WNYC partnered with the Queens Public Library to expand our annual Poetry Month programming, hosting a poetry workshop for all ages. Participants read original poems live at the event and on the radio throughout the month. Actor, author, and woodworker Nick Offerman appeared on All Of It for a series called "A Wonder Is What It Is" celebrating poet and environmentalist Wendell Berry.



WQXR celebrates Juneteenth



In honor of Juneteenth, WQXR listeners enjoyed a 24-hour marathon of music by performers of African American descent, and the release of an intimate Greene Space conversation, recorded in May, between musical titans Terrance McKnight and Jon Batiste featuring music from Batiste's new album, "Black Mozart."

Grappling with the question of generative AI

To help listeners over the air and in the theater with existential questions posed by generative AI, actors Bill Murray, Oscar Isaac, and Lois Smith gathered at BAM's Harvey Theater for a reading of psychologist Paul Bloom's essay "A.I. Is About to Solve Loneliness. That's a Problem." The reading, our first live event featuring listener calls, was presented by Theater of War On The Radio and followed by a discussion led by journalist Kai Wright.



New York newsroom, national impact

Reporting made possible by your support traveled well beyond New York Public Radio's own platforms. Our journalism regularly enriches our fellow outlets' reporting, contributing to a robust media ecosystem in an era of misinformation and uncertainty. **Here are some of the times our unparalleled journalism was picked up locally and across the country in recent months.**

- WNYC and Gothamist **reporting about ICE and DHS operations, and community responses and pushback**, was consistently cited by outlets including NPR, The Guardian, La Nación, Hell Gate, TIME, and Fox News.
- ESPN and 17 other outlets cited **NJ Governor Mikie Sherrill's comments about World Cup transportation** made during her "Ask Governor Sherrill" appearance on WNYC.
- As the U.S. marks its 250th birthday, Radiolab's Lulu Miller and Latif Nasser participated in a TIME Magazine feature highlighting **250 years of health and science innovation**.
- C-SPAN broadcast **Mayor Zohran Mamdani's interview with Brigid Bergin about his first 100 days in office**, and numerous other outlets pulled from the mayor's comments.

Keeping public radio strong across the country

Funded by your support and launched amid the federal shutdown of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the [Station-to-Station Programming Project](#) is a bold initiative to keep public radio alive nationwide by providing NYPR's award-winning programs for free or at a discounted rate to stations in need. **As of June 2026, 220 stations in 32 states are receiving relief through the SSPP.** Here's what teams at some of those stations have told us:

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Reduced costs for programming have allowed us to not make further reductions in operations staff. Programming from WNYC is well received by our listeners and is consistently of high quality. We would have a minor revolt if we stopped carrying any of it.

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For **small rural and remote stations** like ours, the loss of CPB funding was so significant that it threatens the station's existence. **Fee relief has been a lifeline** to allow us to continue offering the same programming while we restructure our fundraising and build additional pathways for support.

Generosity across generations

When you ask Vivien Hoexter about her connection to New York Public Radio, two phrases stand out: “since I was born” and “still to this day.” These words tell a much larger story—a story that begins a generation earlier.

Vivien’s 98-year-old mother, Corinne, grew up listening to the radio. “One of my earliest memories was hearing over the radio that Germany had invaded Poland,” Corinne explains. “This was the way we got our news.”

When Corinne moved to New York as a young adult in 1950, she immediately looked for a trusted radio station and discovered WNYC. From that day on, the dial rarely moved.

So, when Vivien says she has been listening to public radio “*since I was born*,” this is no exaggeration. “I listened to WNYC or WQXR my entire childhood,” Vivien remembers. “My husband, Mark (Schleisner), often jokes that if WNYC was New York’s only station, I would be just fine.”

A love of public radio alone is not the only thing Vivien and Corinne share—they are both members of the Listeners Legacy Circle, a group of listeners who have included New York Public Radio in their estate plan through a planned gift.

“I saw generosity from my mother and my grandmother,” Vivien shares. “I’ve always wanted to give back.”



Mark adds, “We felt very strongly that we would do everything we could to support WNYC. Including them in our will was a no-brainer.”

Between work, enjoying art in the city, and traveling abroad, Vivien’s life is busy, but there is one thing she always has time for: “I could have WNYC on the radio for hours,” she says enthusiastically. “I love it...still to this day.”

Want to make support for public radio a part of your legacy?

Corinne, Mark, and Vivien are all part of New York Public Radio’s Listeners Legacy Circle. To learn more about the LLC, contact the Office of Legacy Giving at (646) 829-4587 or giving@nypublicradio.org.

A legacy that secured our independence



New York Public Radio joins the Tisch family, especially Andrew, Daniel, James, and Thomas, in mourning the loss of our Honorary Trustee, longtime friend, and steadfast champion Wilma "Billie" Tisch. Few people can claim a legacy as far-reaching and compassionately driven as hers. Countless individuals and institutions throughout New York City are able to carry out vital, civic-minded work thanks to her steadfast support, and our station is chief among them.

Billie was an unparalleled and transformative advocate for public radio in New York City. Elected to the WNYC Foundation Board and confirmed by Mayor Ed Koch in 1985, she served as Chair of our Board of Trustees from 1988 to 1993. Her visionary leadership and herculean efforts were integral to establishing our station's independence from the city.

While serving as a member of Mayor Rudy Giuliani's transition team, Billie joined forces with a small group of Trustees to secure WNYC's independent future, leading the City of New York to transfer the licenses for WNYC-AM and WNYC-FM to the WNYC Foundation in 1997.

As she said during her speech at our Gala in 1998, **"We have much to celebrate—how far we have come since the early days of the WNYC Foundation when we were the small but feisty band passionate about public radio in NY and all the possibilities. Today as you know now, if you didn't know before, we are an important part of the cultural life of this city, a voice to be heard, an island of sanity on a cluttered dial."**

Elected to the Honorary Board of Trustees in 2016, Billie maintained her dedication to the mission of New York Public Radio throughout her life. Her unwavering support has powered our evolution and innovation, allowing us to continually set the standard for public media while serving communities in New York and nationwide in line with her ambitious vision. The work that we do today, from bold investigations that create real and needed change, to events that connect kids across the city with classical music, would not be possible if Billie hadn't believed in our mission and recognized how it aligned with her own vision.

Simply put, without Billie there would be no New York Public Radio. She will be missed dearly across the station and throughout the city.

Your impact, by the numbers

In April, May, and June our audience stayed deeply engaged with our reporting and music programming, and our top-performing podcasts grew even further. Our reporters continued to earn competitive and prestigious awards in recognition of their exemplary work.

- **#1** - WNYC is the country's top public radio station (Nielsen)
- **#2** - WQXR is second nationally in classical listener hours (Nielsen)
- **1.7 million** Gothamist readers per month
- **21 million+** total podcast downloads
- **7 award wins**, including:
 - Season 2 of On The Media's "The Divided Dial" received the **2025 Bart Richards Award for Media Criticism**
 - Gothamist/WNYC received three **New York Press Club Awards** in the Continuing Coverage, Crime Reporting, and Feature reporting categories
 - Journalist Jon Campbell receiving both the **Deadline Club Award for Radio or Audio Feature Reporting** and the **2026 Legislative Correspondents Association Alumni Award**
 - Terrestrials received an Association for Library Service to Children **Excellence in Early Learning - Digital Media Honor Award**

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I have been listening to WNYC/NPR since I moved to New York, in 1982.

It has been my main source of news since the beginning. I do read the papers, and some local online sources too, but ultimately it is Public Radio that helps to organize what I need to pay attention.

- Cynthia, Brooklyn

“

WNYC is family—familiar voices, consistent support, tough love when needed, always nurturing our inner selves. **A part of the fabric of our very being.** Grateful for the unending dedication to keeping our family strong.

- Kathryn, Wyckoff, NJ

None of this would be possible without you.

Thank you.