NEW YORK PUBLIC RADIO

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SUMMER/FALL 2026

IMPACT REPORT

Here for New York, then and now.

This summer and fall, **New York Public Radio showed up for New York City** in celebration, in service, and in remembrance.

We marked the **25th anniversary of September 11, 2001**, a day that changed our city and our station forever, by revisiting WNYC's original reporting and exploring how 9/11's legacy continues to shape New York and the nation.

In the **lead-up to the midterm elections**, we gave our listeners direct access to leaders by hosting conversations with Mayor Zohran Mamdani, New York Governor Kathy Hochul, New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill, and other elected officials. And, we **launched a live community event series** to drive meaningful discussion about one of the key forces behind decisions at the ballot box: affordability.

We **thanked Jeff Spurgeon for 30 incredible years** with WQXR as an inimitable part of weekday mornings and one of the most recognizable, beloved voices in classical music broadcasting.

Your support makes this kind of **trustworthy journalism, civic connection, and cultural programming** possible.

As always, thank you.



ACROSS NEW YORK PUBLIC RADIO

Celebrating 30 years with WQXR's Jeff Spurgeon



Following an extraordinary career that has helped define classical radio in New York and around the world, beloved morning show host Jeff Spurgeon retired at the beginning of September. Jeff says that exploring the world of classical music alongside WQXR's listeners has been a wonderful adventure. "His good cheer and warmth helped me get started every morning," one listener shared.

WNYC honors the iconic Dolly Parton with broadcast special



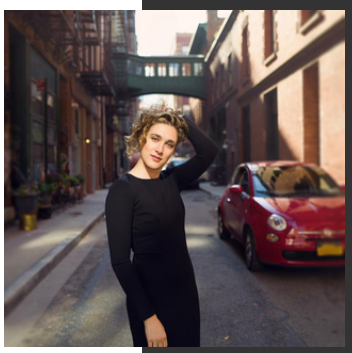
America has felt intensely divided in recent years, but Dolly Parton has always been an icon of unity. Radiolab creator Jad Abumrad trailed Dolly around the world to find out why in the Peabody Award-winning podcast *Dolly Parton's America*. In August, we celebrated Dolly's life and legacy with a new broadcast special drawn from the podcast. Over 700,000 people downloaded the show, and you can listen here.

Factual, reliable, accessible midterm election coverage



Ahead of the midterms, we gave listeners the news and context they needed at the ballot box. "Democracy depends on an informed electorate. WNYC helps us become an informed electorate," said Jonathan from Brooklyn. We hosted conversations with elected officials and launched our new politics show *Who's Running This Place?,* and WNYC's new live event series, *In Conversation,* addressed key affordability issues in the communities directly impacted.

Rocky Duval joins WQXR as host of *Old School*



Award-winning musician and musical raconteur Rocky Duval brings her passion and curiosity for all things early music to New York audiences as the host of *Old School,* taking listeners on musical treasure hunts through time. Rocky's passion is finding throughlines from history, science and art and braiding seemingly disparate threads into easy to understand tapestries.

After 9/11, Two New Yorkers Told WNYC How They Felt. Reporter Samantha Max Found Them 25 Years Later.

Samantha Max reports on whether New Yorkers feel safe and whether the institutions that are supposed to protect them are working. Before coming to WNYC/Gothamist, she spent three years covering the criminal justice system in Tennessee for Nashville Public Radio.



In the days, weeks, and months following the September 11th attacks, WNYC spoke with countless New Yorkers. Journalist Samantha Max listened to hours of archival tape of New Yorkers who shared their feelings with WNYC back in 2001, and followed up with two: Janelle Lewis and Nahima Ahmed.

Max joined NYC Now's Janae Pierre to discuss the experience. Here's an abridged and lightly edited excerpt from their conversation.

MAX: There's something so visceral about hearing our reporter Beth Fertig being just blocks away, hearing from people who had been outside or who had been in the area and how they escaped. It really just brought me into that moment in this direct way that I had never really felt before.

PIERRE: How did you actually track Janelle and Nahima down?

I was digging through our archives and doing some detective work. Janelle was actually part of WNYC's earliest youth radio program, Radio Rookies, and the Radio Rookies mentor was still in touch with her. Then I found Nahima on LinkedIn.

Do they both still live in New York?

Yes, they're both still here in the neighborhoods where they grew up. In 2001, Janelle was terrified for her unborn child's future.

She remembered a little bit that she had done this Radio Rookies project after 9/11, but she really had no idea what she had said. She now actually has two kids. She says she tries to protect her daughter and her son from the worry she felt back then. She was able to move forward from it, and she says that's a blessing.

Nahima told me she had basically forgotten that this interview even existed until I got in touch with her. She talked about how Islamaphobic attacks started shaping the way she moved through the city after 9/11. Today she's a researcher for a company that tries to change how minorities, including Muslims, are perceived through pop culture.

It seems like for some New Yorkers, 9/11 is still very present, and for others, they're more concerned about the world they're living in today.

Yes. That's why we have places like the 9/11 Memorial. That's why it was so important for me to go through these archives. Also, there's this whole generation behind us, and more to come that won't have that same experience. I think it's really a question of how will they relate to this tragedy in the future.

Impact by numbers

5.5M

people choose NYPR audio every week, in New York and across the country

12M

hours of listening every week across NYPR audio

1.4M

Gothamist.com visitors a month (making 2.4M visits a month)

32M

downloads of WNYC podcasts between July and September

2.1M

listener hours spent with WQXR in an average week

870,000 people in the New York area listen to WNYC or WQXR in an average week

584,000 people in the New York area listen to WNYC in an average week

336,000 people in the New York area listen to WQXR in an average week

People across New York and the country make New York Public Radio part of their week, on the radio, on our livestreams, in our podcasts, and on Gothamist. Every week, millions of listeners choose to spend their time with our journalism and music.

Sources: Nielsen Audio PPM, New York Metro, Persons 6+, Monday–Sunday, 6 a.m.–midnight, July–September 2026 and January–March 2026. Nielsen Audio National Listener Hours, Fiscal 2026, Persons 6+, Monday–Sunday, 6 a.m.–midnight. Nielsen Audio Nationwide, Fall 2025, Persons 12+. Triton Digital and NYPR internal data, January–March 2026. Google Analytics 4, Gothamist.com, July–September 2026. NYPR podcast download data, July–September 2026.

None of this would be possible without you.
Thank you.

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