

COMMUNITY REPORT



2026

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026





We believe in community

It is the common ground we all share. News, information, music, arts, and culture unify us.



We believe in connection

Across multiple media, we believe in embracing and giving voice to the diversity of our community. We foster a dialog that aspires to link the members of Greater Cincinnati.



We believe in our city

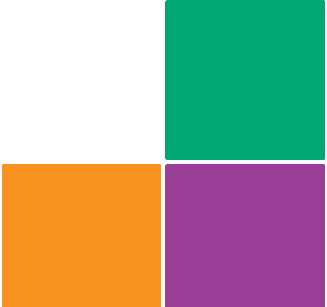
Ideas, passion and curiosity are woven into the character of our hometown. Together, we create a unique community that is informed, involved and inspired.





Table Of Contents

4	Letter from President & CEO	
5	Radio by the Numbers	
6	Podcasts	
7	Protect My Public Media	
8-9	NextGen Radio and Adam R. Scripps Fellowship	
10	Where Music Meets Live Radio	
11	Supporting Young Musicians	
12	Cultivating Place	
13-14	Studio Sessions	
15	Keeping Us on the Air	
16	Brady Block Pre-Party	
17-22	Awards	
23-24	Financial Report	
25	Board of Directors	
26-28	Meet the Team	
29	Events	



Letter from President & CEO

Over the past year, the new home of Cincinnati Public Radio® has become exactly what we hoped it would be: a gathering place for the community.

Since opening the doors to Cincinnati Public Radio's new building one year ago, we've welcomed listeners, artists, community leaders, nonprofit organizations, and neighbors into a space designed to inform, inspire, and connect. What began as a vision for a more accessible and community-centered public media organization has quickly become an active and vibrant hub for Cincinnati.

Throughout the year, we have hosted many of our own signature events, including live Cincinnati Edition broadcasts and concerts by the Cincinnati Opera and Cincinnati Song Initiative, bringing audiences together for meaningful conversations and performances and allowing community members to experience them as they happen.

One of the highlights of the year was our anniversary celebration. Supporters, partners, listeners, and neighbors stopped throughout the day to celebrate and enjoy performances. It was a great opportunity for people to come together.

The building has also become a destination for the broader community. More than 100 organizations and individuals have rented our spaces for speaking engagements, performances, meetings, celebrations, and community events. From our Gathering Space to our state-of-the-art Performance Studio, these rooms have been filled with creative people looking to make music and connections.

As we look ahead, we're excited to continue building on the connections and partnerships that we've built this past year.

Thanks for joining us on this journey.

Richard Eiswerth
President & Chief Executive Officer



Radio by the Numbers

MONTHLY BROADCAST LISTENERS

207,400

MONTHLY USERS ON DIGITAL PLATFORMS

391,569 Streaming Sessions

381,507 Websites & Apps

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



28,470

followers



1,590

subscribers



10,368

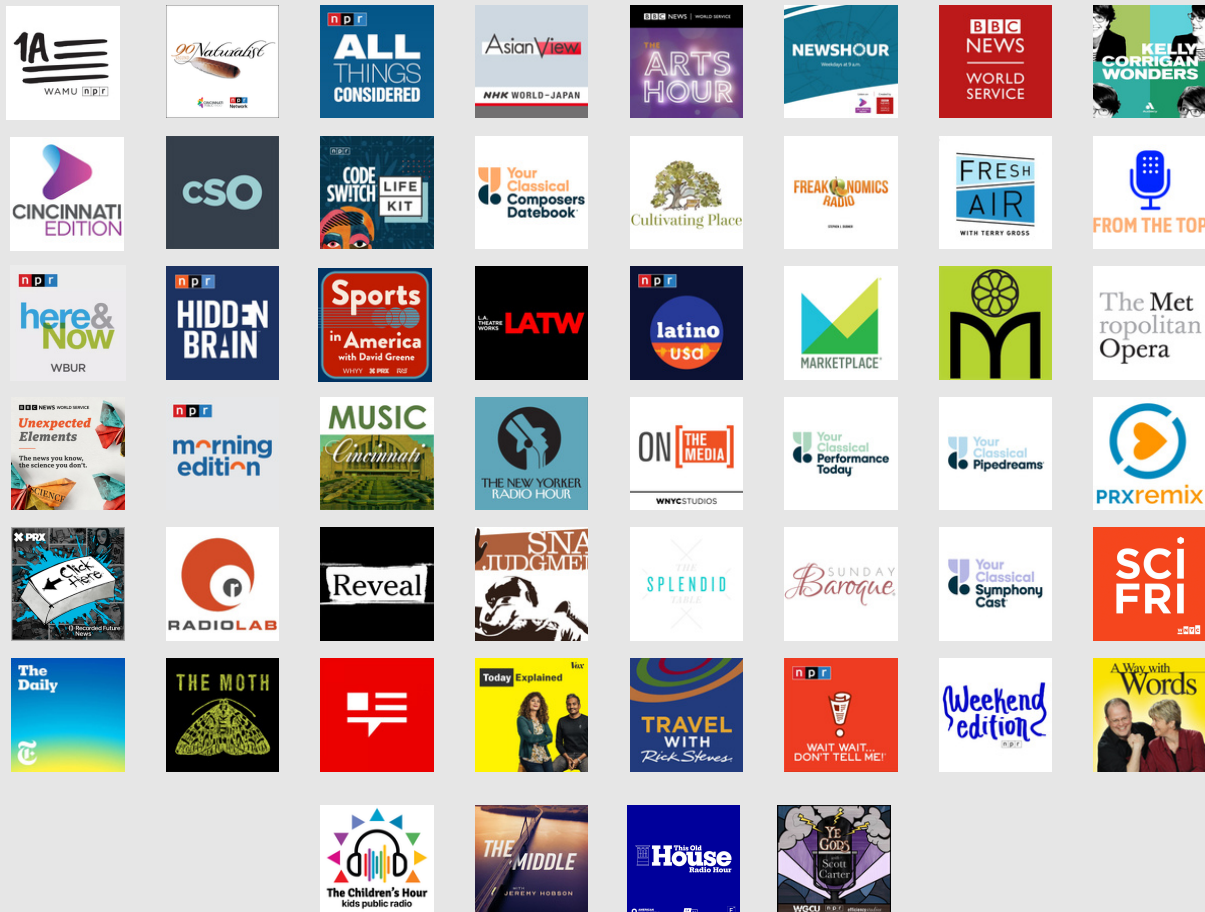
followers



11,304

followers

PROGRAMS ON BOTH STATIONS



Our Podcasts



Looking Up



The Novelizers



The Art Of...



Backed Up



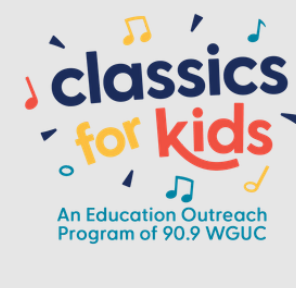
Cincinnati Edition



Juneteenth Cincinnati Shorts



The 90 Second Naturalist



Classics for Kids



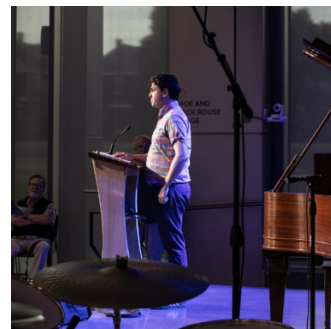
Democracy & Z

Protect My Public Media

On July 8, 2025, more than 300 listeners, donors, and supporters of Cincinnati Public Radio gathered in our new home, the Scripps Family Center for Public Media, for Voices for Public Media. We came together, along with the Community Advisory Board, to learn about the federal funding challenges facing public radio and TV, understand how those changes could affect our stations and others across the country, and to enjoy an incredible evening of live music from talented local artists.

Guests enjoyed performances by Jake Speed & The Freddies, Jade McClellan & Nuoya Zhang, Allison Phillips, and Cincy Jazz Train.

To everyone who came out to listen, connect, and show your support for the Protect My Public Media campaign: thank you. Your presence made the event truly special, and we were so proud to share this important moment with you.



NextGen Radio

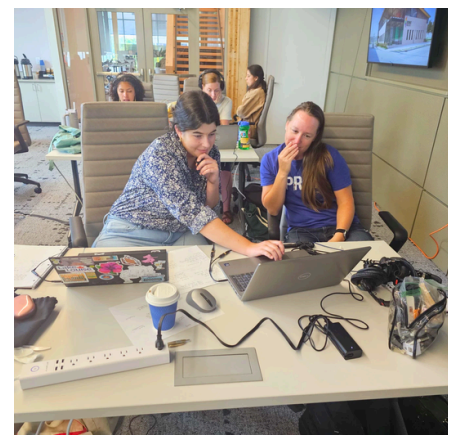
WVXU had the chance to host NextGen Radio in Cincinnati, a five-day journalism project that pairs emerging storytellers with professional mentors to create audio stories around a shared theme. The theme was “moments of truth,” and the stories the participants produced were thoughtful, personal, and deeply connected to the community.

The group included Ashton Boggan, V Robinson, Lilia Santeramo, Morgan Schneider, and Alanna Marshall, who spent the week reporting, writing, recording, editing, and presenting their final stories alongside mentors and editors from public media organizations around the country, including WVXU’s Tana Weingartner and Becca Costello.

Lilia Santeramo produced “A Poet Reclaims Her Voice,” about a writer rediscovering her creativity through a women’s writing circle. V Robinson’s story, “Life Begins at 46,” followed a man reflecting on finding happiness later in life. Alanna Marshall shared “Mom Honors Son Through Mental Health Outreach,” highlighting a Cincinnati mother turning personal grief into advocacy for young men’s mental health.

Morgan Schneider’s piece, “Transforming Cincinnati and Themselves,” explored identity, transition, and self-acceptance through the story of local LGBTQ+ leader Tristan Vaught. Ashton Boggan’s story, “From Protest to Nonprofit,” looked at how community organizing efforts during the summer of 2020 led to the creation of the Cincinnati Coalition for Community Safety.

Next Gen created space for meaningful storytelling and gave participants a chance to experience public media journalism. We’re excited to have the program back for a new session this summer.



Adam R. Scripps Fellowship

This year, 91.7 WVXU launched the new Adam R. Scripps Foundation Fellowship, creating an opportunity to grow our local journalism and deepen our connection to communities across the region. Our first fellow is Dany Villarreal Martinez, and she is helping expand WVXU's reporting presence in Northern Kentucky, bringing more attention to the people, issues, and stories in the area.

Dany's reporting has strengthened WVXU's ability to more consistently cover the communities, local governments, and everyday stories that are important to listeners across the river. Dany's story about Pete Hegseth's visit to Kentucky to campaign for Ed Gallrein in May aired on the NPR network.

The Adam R. Scripps Foundation Fellowship reflects Cincinnati Public Radio's continued commitment to investing in local journalism and ensuring more voices and perspectives are represented in the stories we tell every day.



Check Out
Dany's Stories



Where Music Meets Live Radio



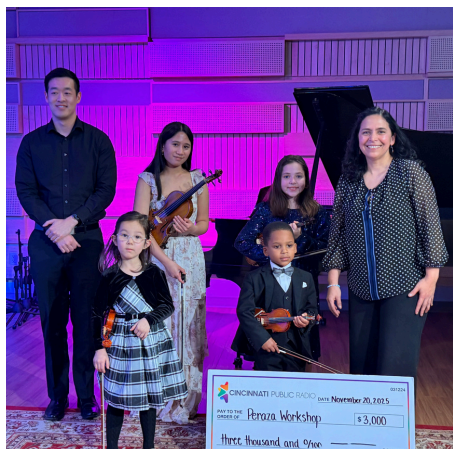
Over the past year, Cincinnati Public Radio's new home became more than just a place to produce radio; it became a place to experience it together. One of the most exciting milestones for 90.9 WGUC was hosting and broadcasting our very first live concert event from the building with the Cincinnati Song Initiative. Audience members filled the space to hear the performance live. The concerts brought listeners, performers, and the community together in an intimate setting where classical music could be experienced both in the room and across the airwaves.

That momentum continued with the Cincinnati Opera 2026 Summer Festival Season Preview led by guest host Evans Mirageas, Cincinnati Opera's Harry T. Wilks Artistic Director. It was a wonderful opportunity to welcome opera fans and community members into the building for another live broadcast event on WGUC. Guests had the opportunity to hear performances, conversations, and previews of the upcoming season while experiencing the energy of a live radio broadcast firsthand.



Supporting Young Musicians

Through the Peraza Music Workshop



One of the highlights of the year was welcoming students from the Peraza Music Workshop to perform for Cincinnati Public Radio's Board of Directors. Board members were treated to musical performances by talented young string musicians whose hard work, focus, and joy filled the room.

Cincinnati Public Radio is proud to support the Peraza Music Workshop through Classics for Kids® scholarships sponsored by the Charles H. Dater Foundation. This support enables students to take music lessons with Marion Peraza, creating opportunities for young musicians to grow their skills, confidence, and love of music.

classics for kids



CHARLES H. DATER
FOUNDATION

Cultivating Place

When Jennifer Jewell, host of the national public radio program Cultivating Place, visited Cincinnati Public Radio, our Gathering Space quickly filled with gardeners, nature lovers, and devoted listeners eager to meet the voice behind the program they enjoy each Saturday morning on 91.7 WVCU and 88.5 WMUB.

The event, Cultivating Place: The Power of Gardeners, brought the community together for a discussion of the history and future of Cultivating Place, allowing our guests to help shape the radio program and podcast.



Studio Sessions

Cincinnati Public Radio's new building has become more than a place to make radio and host events. Over the past year, the Performance Studio has welcomed local musicians, performers, and arts organizations for live sessions, interviews, recordings, and video projects.

Broadway Cincinnati performers, local artists, and community partners such as the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and the May Festival have all used the space to share their work with new audiences through broadcasts, digital videos, and online features. The studio has created new ways for Cincinnati Public Radio to connect listeners with the region's arts and culture community.

Groups and performers interested in using the Performance Studio or booking a studio session can contact recording engineer and CCM alum Brian Niesz at brian.niesz@cinradio.org.



Studio Sessions



Check Out This
Year's Sessions



Training, Troubleshooting and Keeping Us On the Air



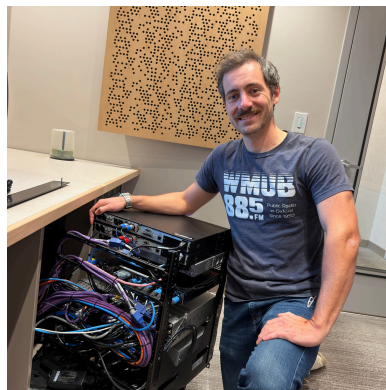
Will Staffan
Chief Engineer

Cincinnati Public Radio's Chief Engineer Will Staffan is someone you won't hear a lot about, but he's a big part of the team that keeps our radio stations up and running every day.

Will works quietly behind the scenes to bring you the classical music on 90.9 WGUC and news and information on 91.7 WVXU and 88.5 WMUB.

Will worked closely with the sound engineers who designed and built our new studios on Dana Avenue. He also trained our on-air hosts to use the new studios and equipment, and quickly troubleshooted any technical problems.

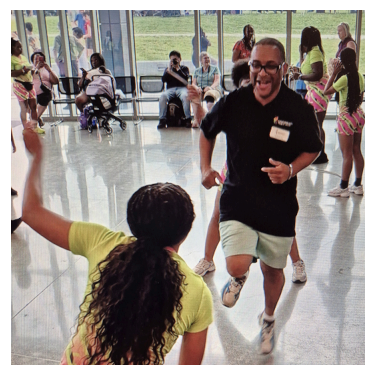
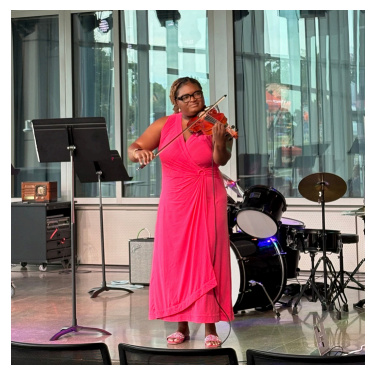
Whether it's supporting live broadcasts and events or responding when something unexpectedly stops working, Will always jumps in to help. He works quietly in the background and has made a huge difference in helping everyone settle into the new building.



Brady Block Pre-Party

In partnership with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Public Radio welcomed the community to Evanston for a Brady Block Pre-Party celebrating local young talent and neighborhood connections. Hosted by 91.7 WVXU reporter Dany Villarreal Martinez, the event featured performances from violinist Tamaiya J, the Cincinnati Rope Twisters, and Cincinnati Jazz Academy's New Heights Combo before the evening continued with the CSO's Brady Block Party and outdoor CSO concert at Evanston Playground.

The collaboration created a fun and energetic evening that brought families, music lovers, and community partners together through the arts.



classics for kids



CHARLES H. DATER
FOUNDATION



Awards

Cincinnati Society of Professional Journalists

BREAKING NEWS & DEADLINE COVERAGE

Winner: It's Sad': Troop Leaders React to Archdiocese Cutting Ties with Girl Scouts

Entrant: Tana Weingartner

Finalist: Reopening of Big Mac Bridge Targeted for March

Entrant: Tana Weingartner

FEATURES STORY

Finalist: Need to Know the Time or Temp? There's (Still) a Phone Number for That

Entrant: Tana Weingartner

HUMAN RIGHTS & MINORITY ISSUES REPORTING

Winner: 60 Years Ago, The West End Was Uprooted by I-75. Can the Area Be 'Stitched' Back Together?

Entrant: Nick Swartsell

GOVERNMENT ISSUES & COMMUNITY REPORTING

Winner: Seniors Could Be Hit Hardest by Cincinnati's Property Tax Increases

Entrant: Nick Swartsell

HEALTH/MEDICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Finalist: Body of Work

Entrant: Tana Weingartner



91.7 WVXU
NEWS

Awards

Cincinnati Society of Professional Journalists

SPORTS & SPORTS FEATURE REPORTING

Finalist: This Para Athlete Can't Train When It Rains. 3 UC Students Want to Change That

Entrant: Tana Weingartner

Finalist: Pete Rose Leaves Behind Lifetime Fans and a Complicated Legacy

Entrant: Bill Rinehart

BEST OVERALL BROADCAST REPORTER

Finalist: Tana Weingartner

BEST RADIO NEWS ANCHOR

Winner: Maryanne Zeleznik

BEST RADIONEWSCAST OR NEWS PROGRAM

Winner: WVXU News Team

BEST PODCAST

Winner: Backed Up

Entrants: Becca Costello & Ella Rowen



Awards

Ohio Associated Press

BEST RADIO REPORTER

First Place: Body of Work
Entrant: Tana Weingartner

BEST SPORTS

First Place: This para athlete can't train when it rains. 3 UC students want to change that
Entrant: Tana Weingartner

BEST COVERAGE OF A SCHEDULED EVENT

Second Place: Hamilton County's infant mortality rate drops below national average for first time
Entrant: Tana Weingartner

BEST FEATURE REPORTING

Second Place: Once a 'juggernaut,' fine arts programs are making a comeback at Withrow High School
Entrant: Zack Carreon

BEST NEWSCAST

WVXU News Staff



91.7 WVXU
NEWS

Awards

Ohio Society of Professional Journalists

BEST ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

First Place: A prolific Cincinnati artist lost his sight. Now his murals are disappearing too

Entrant: Nick Swartsell

BEST GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTING

First Place: A prolific Cincinnati artist lost his sight. Now his murals are disappearing too

Entrant: Nick Swartsell

BEST SPORTS REPORTING

Second Place: This para athlete can't train when it rains. 3 UC students want to change that

Entrant: Tana Weingartner

BEST ANCHOR

Second Place: Maryanne Zeleznik

BEST NEWSCAST

WVXU News Staff

BEST OF SHOW - RADIO

First Place: Tana Weingartner & WVXU News Staff



91.7 WVXU
NEWS

Awards

Ohio Society of Professional Journalists

BEST PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM

WVXU, Cincinnati Public Radio

What young voters are thinking of this election

BEST OF SHOW - RADIO

Second Place: Cincinnati Edition

Entrants: Lucy May, Selena Reder, Marshall Verbsky

BEST PODCAST

Second Place: Backed Up

Entrants: Becca Costello and Ella Rowen

Public Media Journalists Association

NARRATIVE/PRODUCED PROGRAM

First Place: Backed Up

Entrants: Becca Costello and Ella Rowen

NEWSCAST

First Place: WVXU

**7/24/2024*

SPORTS FEATURE

Second Place: This para athlete can't train when it rains. 3 UC students want to change that

Entrant: Tana Weingartner



**91.7 WVXU
NEWS**

Awards

City Beat Best of the City 2025 Issue

BEST RADIO STATION

91.7 WVXU

BEST JOURNALIST

Fourth Place: Tana Weingartner

Fifth Place: Lucy May

Ninth Place: Nick Swartsell

Tenth Place: Becca Costello

BEST LOCAL CAUSE

Cincinnati Public Radio

BEST NORTHERN KENTUCKIAN

Third Place: Maryanne Zeleznik

Tenth Place: Lucy May

BEST RADIO SHOW

Second Place: All Things Considered

Third Place: Cincinnati Edition

BEST RADIO TALK SHOW HOST

Second Place: Lucy May

Third Place: Maryanne Zeleznik

Ohio History Connection

2025 PUBLIC EDUCATION & AWARENESS AWARD

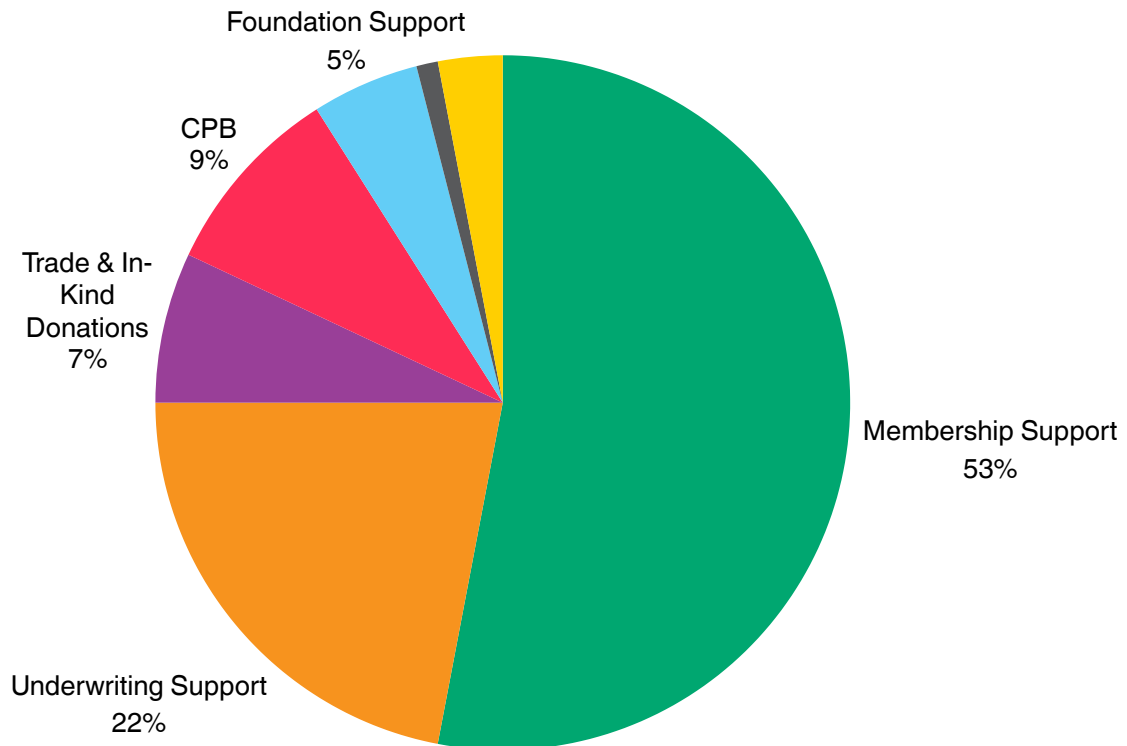
Juneteenth Cincinnati Shorts



91.7 WVXU
NEWS

Financial Report

Operating Revenue



Key

- Membership Support (Individuals) 53%
- Underwriting Support 22%
- Trade and In-Kind Donations 7%
- Corporation for Public Broadcasting (Federal) 9%
- Foundation Support 5%
- Ohio Broadcast Educational Media Commission (State) 1%
- Other Support & Earned Revenue 3%

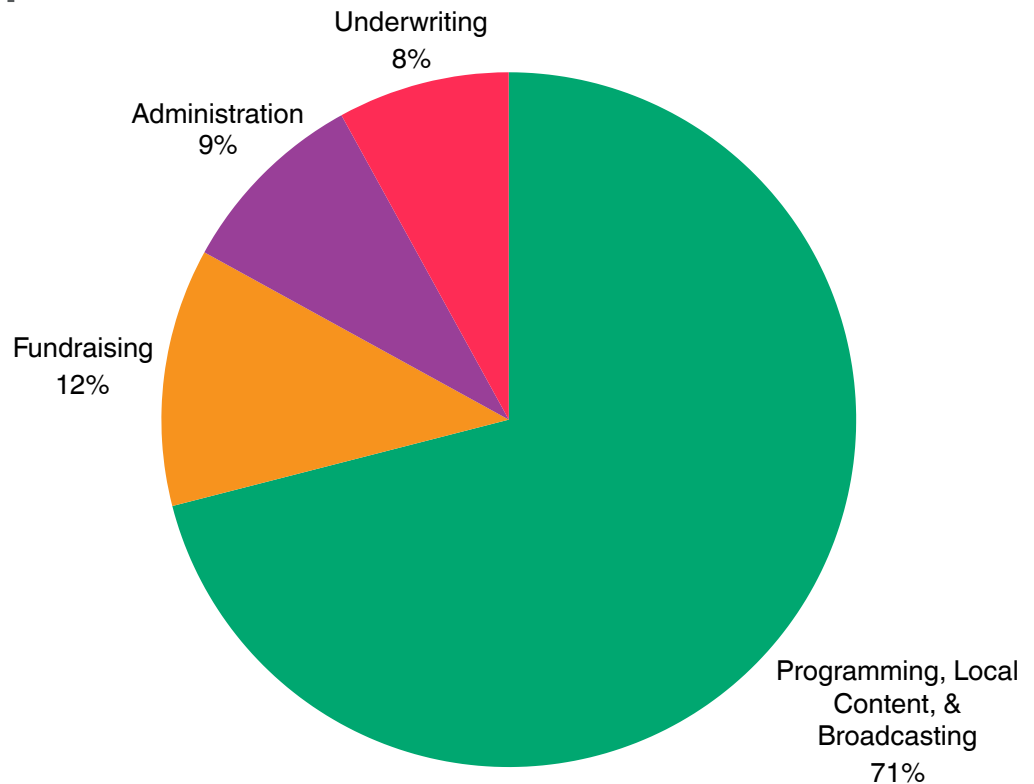
*Figures above are for the previous fiscal year, but in-line with current fiscal year budget and historical percentages. For up-to-date financial statements and more information, please see our [“Reports and Filings”](#) section on our website.

*Corporation for Public Broadcasting Support was rescinded by Congress in July 2025

*Support excludes grants for our new headquarters

Financial Report

Operating Expenses



Key

- Programming, Local Content, & Broadcasting 71%
- Fundraising 12%
- Administration 9%
- Underwriting 8%

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Board of Directors

Chair

Mr. Mu Sinclair
Chairman & CEO
Sinclair Family Office

Vice-Chair

Mr. Jerry Kathman
Chairman & Founder
LPK

Treasurer

Mr. Chip Workman
Sr. Director & Sr. Wealth Advisor
Mercer Advisors

Secretary

Ms. Amy Goodwin
President & CEO
The Johnson Foundation

Board Member Emeritus

Mr. Otto Budig Jr.
President
Budco Group, Inc.

President

Mr. Richard N. Eiswerth
General Manager & CEO
Cincinnati Public Radio

Mr. Alex Bakkum
Miramar Charitable

Mr. Peter Barrett
Owner
Investment Analytics, LLC

Ms. Linnea Bonacci
Chief Financial Officer
Resource Group

Mr. Mark Clement
President and Chief Executive Officer
TriHealth

Mr. Tripp Eldredge
Chairman
DMR Interactive

Ms. Elizabeth House
Business Banker
First Financial Bank

Mr. Eric Kearney
President & CEO
The Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky African American Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Beryl Love
Editor & Vice President of News, Regional Editor
The Enquirer & USA TODAY Network

Sue MacDonald
Freelance Writer & Editor

Dr. Wendy Maxian
Associate Professor & Communication Arts Departments and
Associate Professor, Gender Studies & Diversity Studies
Program
Xavier University

Dr. John Owens
Associate Professor, Electronic Media
University of Cincinnati

Dr. Rosemary Pennington
Professor & Chair, Department of Media, Journalism and Film
Miami University

Mr. Edward Steiner
Partner
Squire Patton Boggs, LLP



Meet the Team

President, General Manager & CEO

Richard Eiswerth

Administration & Operations

Dan Smith

Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer

Dave Schermer

Broadcast Operations Manager

Samantha Graham

Staff Accountant

Content

Jenell Walton

Vice President of Content

David Crean

Classical Music Director

Elaine Diehl

Classical Music Host & Producer

Michael Grayson

Classical Music Host & Producer

Megan Lavilla

Classical Music Host & Producer

Brian O'Donnell

Classical Music Host & Producer

Rodney Lear

Events & Volunteer Coordinator

Kevin Reynolds

Communications Manager

Kahvah Whittaker

Program Coordinator

Corporate Support

Peter Pickering

Vice President of Corporate Sales

Valerie Abbott

Corporate Sales Representative

Ed Luft

Corporate Sales Representative

Robert Pearse

Corporate Sales Representative

Juri Tults

Corporate Sales Representative

Barb Spiller

Traffic Manager



Meet the Team

Development

Sherri Mancini

Vice President of Development

Aron Back

Membership Manager

Conrad Thiede

Director of Major & Planned Giving

Milan Weaver

Donor Services Manager

Digital

Jennifer Merritt

Vice President of Digital Strategy & Audience Growth

Jodi Franks

Assistant Traffic Manager

Hannah Pflum

Digital Marketing & Social Media Coordinator

Ronny Salerno

Digital Platforms Manager

Engineering

Don Danko

Vice President of Engineering

Stephen Baum

Production Director

Carlos López Cornu

CE Technical Director and Production Engineer

Joel Crawford

Recording & Mastering Engineer

Brian Niesz

Recording Engineer

Will Staffan

Chief Engineer

News

Maryanne Zeleznik

Vice President of News and 'Morning Edition' Host

Zack Carreon

Education Reporter

Becca Costello

Local Government Reporter

John Keisewetter

Media Beat

Harper Carlton

Associate Producer, 'Cincinnati Edition'

Meet the Team

News Cont.

Lucy May

Host of 'Cincinnati Edition'

Isabel Nissley

Environment Reporter

Erica Peterson

Fellowships Managing Editor

Selena Reder

Producer, 'Cincinnati Edition'

Bill Rinehart

Reporter/Host of 'All Things Considered'

Nick Swartsell

General Assignment Reporter

Dany Villarreal Martinez

*Northern Kentucky Reporter;
Adam R. Scripps Fellow*

Tana Weingartner

Senior Editor/Reporter

Howard Wilkinson

Senior Political Analyst

Part-Time Talent & Board Operators

Jeff Hood

Katie Musso

AshLee Reed

Oakley Scott

Pam Temple

Nataly Wickham

The Ohio Newsroom

Clare Roth

Managing Editor

Kendall Crawford

Reporter

Erin Gottsacker

Reporter

Kaitlin Thorne

Reporter

Celebrating a Year of Community & Connection

