



2025

# Annual Programming Report

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wlrn



PBS

npr

# Letter from Leadership

Every day, across our radio, television, and digital platforms, WLRN brings the region's rich diversity, complex challenges, and unique culture to life. Through trusted journalism, original documentaries, and thoughtful programming, we strive to connect communities and reflect the voices of the people who call South Florida home.

That work is especially vital in today's media landscape, where local newsrooms are shrinking, misinformation is rampant, and communities often lack access to reliable, independent reporting. Public media remains one of the last bastions of fact-based journalism—free from commercial pressures and driven by public service. And it's not just on the radio dial—public television plays a critical role as well, offering lifelong learning, cultural programming, and trusted children's content that commercial outlets often overlook. Programming that explores the natural world, examines history, and showcases the arts helps to inform, uplift, and connect viewers of all ages. In a fragmented media environment, WLRN remains a place for shared experiences and thoughtful storytelling that brings people together.

But that mission is increasingly under threat. Persistent challenges to public media funding over the last year have put stations like WLRN at risk, especially in areas where they serve as one of the few remaining trusted news and educational sources. The stakes are high: without public media, entire communities could lose access to critical information, cultural connection, and educational resources.

Public media's impact is clear—and WLRN's work over the past year proves it. The investigative series *Unguarded* earned national recognition from the Esserman-Knight Journalism Awards and Investigative Reporters & Editors. WLRN News brought home five regional Edward R. Murrow Awards and nine honors from the Florida Association of Broadcast Journalists, including Station of the Year. WLRN-TV was also recognized by the Suncoast Regional Emmy Awards for its original

productions *Never Drop the Ball* and *South Florida Seafood Sustainability: Two Docks*. These honors reflect more than excellence—they affirm the essential role of community-rooted public media.

To build on that momentum, WLRN is embracing digital innovation to meet the challenges of the future and better serve a growing, increasingly connected audience. At the heart of this evolution remains our commitment to storytelling—delivered in new and dynamic ways. From expanding our on-demand audio and video offerings to award-winning podcasts, WLRN is finding fresh ways to tell the stories that matter. And with a new immersive app set to debut in the near future, WLRN is ensuring that powerful, meaningful storytelling remains at the center of the public media experience—now and for the next generation.

In a time when trusted, fact-based storytelling is both more essential—and more at risk—than ever before, **WLRN remains a steadfast source of truth and connection.** This strength is made possible by the unwavering support of our members, philanthropic champions, corporate partners, and our deeply engaged, civic-minded community.

Together, your support empowers us to elevate the voices and stories of South Florida—ensuring they are not only shared, but truly heard, understood, and valued across the region and the nation.



John Labonia  
CEO, South Florida  
Public Media Group  
WLRN Public Media



Sheila Reinken  
COO South Florida  
Public Media Group  
WLRN Public Media



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**You are a lifeline for millions of Americans.  
You provide commercial-free education for our  
children, in-depth journalism unencumbered by  
profit motive, and cultural programming that  
brings communities together.**

”

Slade, WLRN Member  
Coral Springs, FL



**91.3 FM**



As South Florida's only source for NPR News, 91.3 WLRN and 91.5 WKWM in the Florida Keys—along with 101.9 FM and 105.5 WOLL HD-2 in Palm Beach—deliver award-winning journalism, insightful reporting, thoughtful conversation, and engaging entertainment to a wide swath of Southeast Florida.

In addition, WLRN's Classical HD-2 service offers listeners a curated selection of classical music, expertly hosted and available around the clock on HD-capable radios and digital devices.

WLRN FM maintained a strong and consistent audience this year, along with solid market share. Morning Drive (6 a.m. – 6 p.m.) continues to perform exceptionally well, drawing an impressive average of 5.5% of the highly competitive market during that time slot. WLRN now ranks 9th overall in the market and 5th during morning drive.

## WLRN FM LOCAL PROGRAMMING

WLRN continues to serve South Florida's diverse community with an exceptional lineup of local radio programming. From in-depth news coverage to arts and culture stories that reflect the region's unique identity, WLRN's locally produced shows have earned widespread recognition for their quality and impact. Every week, listeners rely on WLRN for meaningful, relevant content that speaks directly to the heart of South Florida.



Host Tom Hudson is joined by journalists and newsmakers from across the state for a thoughtful look at the stories shaping Florida. This live, hour-long call-in program airs Fridays at 12 p.m., with a rebroadcast Saturdays at 7 a.m., and is carried statewide by all major Florida public radio stations.



A panel of journalists and newsmakers from around the state join listeners for a lively discussion of the week's top stories—through the lens of South Florida. The hour-long program is hosted this year by WLRN's Americas Editor Tim Padgett, with occasional hosting by other WLRN anchors and reporters. It airs live on Fridays and is rebroadcast Saturday mornings at 6 a.m.





Monday through Thursday from 1 to 2 p.m., WLRN News reporters contribute local stories and context to the nationally distributed NPR program Here & Now.

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Each Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m., Michael Stock brings listeners an intimate and insightful blend of folk and acoustic music. A mainstay on South Florida's airwaves since 1981, Michael shares rich musical history, the latest recordings, live in-studio performances, artist interviews, and a comprehensive calendar of folk-related events—all with warmth, depth, and a true passion for the genre.

## WLRN FM Program Distributors

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National Public Radio (NPR)

American Public Media (APM)

New York Public Radio (WNYC)

Public Radio Exchange (PRX)

BBC World Service

250,000

Number of listeners on average tuning into WLRN/WKWM/101.9FM each week.

## WLRN FM Listener Composition

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17%

Hispanic

19%

Black

63%

Other



WLRN News reports on the issues that matter most to South Florida. From the Palm Beaches to the Florida Keys, WLRN News provides timely, accurate, and locally focused coverage across radio, digital, and social platforms.

Whether it's breaking news, public safety, politics, the environment, or cultural stories, WLRN News ensures South Floridians stay informed, connected, and engaged with their communities.

## WLRN News Partnerships

Powerful journalism doesn't happen in isolation—it's built through collaboration. That's why WLRN News partners with trusted local, state, and national organizations to expand the reach and impact of our reporting. These partnerships help us share South Florida's stories with a wider audience and bring national context to local issues. By working together, we ensure that our community gets the most accurate, relevant, and far-reaching journalism possible.

**Artburst Miami:** A collaboration with top South Florida arts journalists to produce reviews, features, and stories highlighting the region's cultural scene.

**Miami Herald:** Stories from their arts and culture reporters, as well as their climate correspondents, are regularly featured and published.

**Key Biscayne Independent and Liberty City Independent:** Digital startups focus on watchdog journalism, with coverage centered on Key Biscayne and Liberty City.

**Caplin News Service:** A news service produced by the Caplin School of Journalism at Florida International University.

**University of Miami:** A collaboration with students from the University of Miami's School of Communication, who report on specific Miami-Dade communities.

**Coconut Grove Spotlight:** A digital news startup focused on Coconut Grove, founded by former *Miami Herald* reporter Don Finerock.

**Refresh Miami:** The region's largest and oldest tech and startup community, with over 16,000 members. Its mission is to educate, connect, and grow South Florida's tech ecosystem through daily news coverage, high-profile events, curated networking, and a dedicated job board and talent network.

**Miami Times:** The oldest Black-owned newspaper in South Florida.

## PALM BEACH

**Stet Media Palm Beach:** A digital startup formed by former Palm Beach Post reporters. They cover business and government news from Palm Beach County.

**MediaLab@FAU:** A new student-driven digital news outlet produced by Florida Atlantic University communications students.

## STATEWIDE/NATIONAL

**Florida Climate Change Network:** A consortium of Florida media outlets that share climate change/environmental coverage.

**University of Florida:** WLRN is one of several media outlets that publish content from Fresh Take Florida, a student-powered news service from the University of Florida specializing in high-quality investigative and political reporting.



**The Conversation:** A nonprofit independent news organization dedicated to unlocking the knowledge of experts for the public good.

**ProPublica:** The independent Pulitzer-Prize winning digital newsroom that produces investigative journalism with moral force.

**The Florida News Exchange:** A cloud-based platform connecting public radio stations across Florida, strengthening local reporting and broadening statewide news coverage.

## WLRN News Awards



WLRN News earned two 2024 Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards for outstanding reporting.

Environment Editor **Jenny Staletovich** won in the Excellence in Writing category for her exclusive report on a mass die-off of sawfish in the Florida Keys. Investigative Reporter **Daniel Rivero** received the award for Investigative Reporting for uncovering the widespread impact of Florida's 2023 anti-union law, which led to the loss of tens of thousands of public sector union memberships statewide.



WLRN was named **Radio Station Of The Year** by the FABJ for its news and current affairs coverage in 2024. The news team won an additional seven awards as well as seven finalist honors.



Reporters **Danny Rivero** and **Josh Ceballos** received an honorable mention for exposing Miami City Manager Art Noriega's undisclosed awarding of over \$440,000 in city contracts to his wife's furniture company.



WLRN received 4 first place wins and four 2nd place wins from the prestigious association.

## Special News Coverage



### *Haiti on the Line*

Over 5,000 people were killed in gang-related violence in Haiti last year, amid a prolonged political crisis. For Haitians in America, navigating both unstable realities is increasingly difficult. To explore this, public radio stations from cities with large Haitian populations—New York, Boston, and Miami—teamed up for a live special. On February 24, 2025, Brian Lehrer, Saraya Wintersmith, and Tim Padgett hosted *Haiti on the Line*, a 90-minute program featuring personal stories from Haitian communities, examining their ties to Haiti, the crisis, and the challenges faced by migrants in the U.S.



### HISTORY WE CALL HOME



### History We Call Home

A century ago, South Florida's land boom transformed swampland, farms, and small settlements into thriving cities, fueled by post-war growth, entrepreneurial spirit, and Florida glamour. By the mid-20th century, the region's population surged into the hundreds of thousands. In 2025 and 2026, 11 cities from Palm Beach County to Miami-Dade will celebrate their centennials. To mark this milestone, WLRN News will present History We Call Home: 100 Years of South Florida, a year-long series that explores the area's past to better understand its present and future.

### Florida Public Radio **FPREN** Emergency Network

### Hurricane Ready

WLRN is part of the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network (FPREN), activated during weather emergencies to provide timely, accurate information. WLRN's climate reporting highlighted discussions about shifting the season's start to mid-May. We continue to broadcast and share essential safety information, with forecasts and interactive maps available on our weather page, powered by Florida Storms.



**WLRN is my lifeline to what is happening around the globe, and locally. I'd be lost without you.**



Angela, WLRN Member  
Oakland Park, FL



## 2024 Elections

WLRN delivered standout, multiplatform election coverage in 2024—on-air and online—across presidential, state, and local levels:

### Presidential Election

#### **Election-night live updates:**

WLRN's digital live-blog followed South Florida voting—tracking turnout, voter lines, and key developments—and offered in-depth real-time analysis tailored to local conditions at [wlrn.org](https://wlrn.org)

**NPR partnership:** On the radio, WLRN broadcast NPR's national election-night programming, featuring live results, electoral vote counts, and context on pivotal swing states—all grounded in WLRN's regional perspective.

### Statewide Races

#### **"Know Your Federal, State Candidates" digital guide:**

WLRN compiled profiles for every major state and federal candidate—covering their platforms, campaign finance, and stance on ballot amendments—serving as a comprehensive voter prep tool.

#### **Fact-checking via PolitiFact:**

Through its collaboration with PolitiFact, WLRN integrated rigorously vetted content on political statements directly into its coverage, reinforcing clarity and accuracy for Florida voters.

### Local & Regional Coverage

**Live blog insights:** WLRN's blogged highlighted county-level races—MiamiDade's tax collector and property appraiser, Palm Beach's mayoral and commission races—providing real-time results and explanations.

**Voter guides & early voting updates:** Featured interactive tools to locate polling sites, early voting schedules county by county, and candidate forums for local posts

#### **In-depth roundtables:**

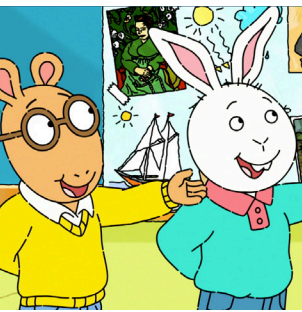
Programs like "The Florida Roundup and South Florida Roundup" before and after the elections to explain the implications of a historic presidential race and crucial local and state contests.



For over 60 years, WLRN-TV has been a proud PBS member station, dedicated to serving the South Florida community with a vibrant mix of educational, cultural, and entertaining programming. Our mission is to inspire curiosity, celebrate diversity, and reflect the unique spirit of our region through stories that matter. From acclaimed PBS series to award-winning

documentaries, captivating dramas from around the globe, and blockbuster films that bring people together, WLRN-TV offers something for every viewer. Whether you're seeking thoughtful perspectives, powerful performances, or programs the whole family can enjoy, we're here to connect, engage, and enrich—every day.

## LEARNING MADE FUN



WLRN airs 35 hours of award-winning children's programming weekly. With a lineup of programming that is perfect for young learners, WLRN airs a mix of fun and educational shows like *Arthur*, *Wild Kratts*, *Elinor Wonders Why* and *Odd Squad*. These programs dive into everything from science to social-emotional skills, making learning both exciting and accessible for kids.

## ANYTIME. ANYWHERE. WLRN-TV.



WLRN-TV recognizes the importance of connecting with viewers across multiple platforms. Our broadcast signal is available for livestreaming on [wlrn.org](http://wlrn.org) and [pbs.org](http://pbs.org), as well as through the WLRN and PBS apps on smart devices, allowing audiences in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area to watch WLRN anytime, anywhere.

In 2024, WLRN-TV also began streaming its broadcast signal on Amazon Prime. Additionally, WLRN-TV can be seen on YouTube TV, DirecTV Stream, and Hulu+, providing even more ways to enjoy our content.

WLRN's on-demand library of PBS favorites and WLRN original productions, **WLRN Passport**, is available to WLRN-TV members and streamed through the PBS and WLRN App and at [wlrn.org](http://wlrn.org).

**WLRN**  **Passport**

## SOUTH FLORIDA'S STORYTELLER

WLRN-TV has long been at the forefront of telling the stories that make our community truly one-of-a-kind. From local legends to cultural treasures, we shine a light on the people, places, and events that define South Florida. With over 47 of our award-winning productions shared with PBS affiliates nationwide, WLRN's acclaimed documentaries and short stories are also available online to Miami-Dade County Public School teachers and students at [video.wlrn.org](http://video.wlrn.org).



In 2025, WLRN-TV premiered *The Creole Pig: Haiti's Great Loss*, an original production exploring the impact of a 1980s swine flu outbreak that led to the mass extermination of Haiti's Creole pigs, a vital resource for the country. This decision, made by USAID and the Haitian government, caused a devastating economic blow to an already struggling nation. The film was released nationwide in February 2025 through American Public Television, airing on 95 stations. WLRN-TV also created an educational study guide for grades 9-12, aligned with Florida's Sunshine State Standards, available for download at [thecreolepig.org](http://thecreolepig.org).

In addition to WLRN-TV's original productions, WLRN-TV also produces the following programming:

### The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade

An annual event in Liberty City, WLRN-TV recorded the three-hour event held on January 20th, 2025. Viewers were able to see a condensed one-hour version days later on WLRN-TV.

### The 67th Annual Silver Knight Awards Ceremony

Presented by The Herald/El Nuevo Herald, WLRN broadcast a one-hour awards highlight on Tuesday, June 10th, to honor Miami-Dade and Broward County public school seniors for their academic excellence and passion for community service.

### Spanish Language Programming

WLRN produces four hours of Spanish language programming in conjunction with community producers airing every Sunday from 3pm-7pm.

- Entre Mujeres Sunday 3pm
- Ante Usted Sunday 330pm
- Colombia al Dia Sunday 4pm
- Cuba y su Historia Sunday 430pm
- Show de Pedro Roman Sunday 5pm
- Opiniones Sunday 530pm
- Comentando Sunday 6pm
- Foro 17 Sunday 630pm

### WLRN Viewership

49% Male 46% Female

8.6% White TV Households 6.4% Hispanic TV Households 6.9% Black TV Households

### And The Winner Is...

WLRN-TV is proud to be recognized for excellence in television and the region's leadership for its artistic, educational, and technical achievements within the commercial and non-commercial television industry.



The Suncoast Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences honored WLRN with four Suncoast Regional Emmy Awards:

- *Never Drop the Ball* won three awards for Documentary/Historical, Director-Long Form Content and Editor-Long Form Content.
- *South Florida Sustainability Seafood: Two Docks* - a WLRN original presentation won for Environment/Science Short Form

This marks 35 Regional Emmy's for WLRN since 2012. Submissions come from all over the region including Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia and Puerto Rico.



We need public broadcasting. The work you do matters.

Damaris, WLRN Member  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL



### Major Program Distributors

PBS  
AMERICAN PUBLIC TELEVISION  
BBC  
NETA



### University of Miami Rosenstiel School Climate Café Series

*The Climate Café Series*, a signature event of the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School, invites students and the public to explore cutting-edge climate science and its relevance to South Florida and beyond. Moderated by award-winning WLRN environment reporter Jenny Staletovich, each event features Rosenstiel faculty, collaborating scientists, graduate students, and local stakeholders discussing the impacts and challenges of climate change in the region.



### The Florida Roundup LIVE at Zoo Miami



WLRN's *The Florida Roundup* took the show on the road with a special live broadcast from Zoo Miami. Host Tom Hudson led a dynamic conversation exploring the intersection of politics and animal conservation, featuring Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and Dr. Frank Ridgley, Zoo Miami's Head of Research and Conservation. The event also included live music by Bob Bonnen & The Side Effects, adding to the lively atmosphere.

### *The Creole Pig: Haiti's Great Loss* Premiere Screenings

WLRN hosted a series of free community screenings for our new original production, *The Creole Pig: Haiti's Great Loss*. This powerful documentary explores the story of the Creole pig—a vital part of Haitian life for generations—and the lasting impact of its eradication on the country's rural communities. Each screening was followed by a moderated Q & A session with the films creators and community leaders.



### *Never Drop the Ball*: WLRN's Film Screenings



WLRN hosted a series of screenings for its original production *Never Drop the Ball*. Each screening was accompanied by a moderated Q & A session providing audiences the opportunity to interact with the documentary filmmakers and participants.

## O, Miami and WLRN Present: Zip Odes Finale

In partnership with the O, Miami Poetry Festival, WLRN hosted a special evening celebrating *Zip Odes* at Vizcaya Museum & Gardens. *Zip Odes*—an original poetic form created by O, Miami and WLRN—invite South Floridians to transform their zip codes into brief, place-based lyrical tributes. The event featured spotlight poets who performed their *Zip Odes* and shared the personal stories and inspiration behind their work. Audio from the evening was recorded, with an excerpt scheduled to air on WLRN Radio in July 2025.



## Miami Book Fair: Evenings with ... Presented by WLRN



WLRN proudly served as the presenting sponsor of this year's *Evenings With...* series at the Miami Book Fair. Members of the WLRN News team moderated compelling conversations with authors whose work reflects and shapes the landscape of contemporary American culture. Featured authors included Sarah Smash and Clarissa Ward.

## A Bright Lit Place Community Events

To celebrate the launch of the WLRN podcast *A Bright Lit Place*, WLRN hosted a series of free public events. The first was a panel discussion at Florida Atlantic University, moderated by WLRN environmental reporter Jenny Staletovich, focusing on the future of Everglades restoration. This was followed by a month-long pop-up gallery set in the heart of the Everglades, showcasing powerful imagery captured during the podcast's production by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Patrick Farrell.



## Eye of the Storm



WLRN took part in the *Eye of the Storm* event at the Museum of Discovery and Science in Fort Lauderdale—a free community gathering focused on hurricane preparedness and safety for the upcoming season. WLRN's booth offered fun, hands-on activities for children, along with information about the station's essential services and programming. Attendees also got a sneak peek at *Weather Hunters*, an upcoming PBS Kids series featuring meteorologist Al Roker.

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## WLRN Station Tours

WLRN provides station tours for community groups and non-profit organizations. Station staff engage with the participants to make the experience educational and enjoyable for all.





WLRN is proud to be a PBS Learning Media provider for Miami-Dade and Broward counties. This digital library offers thousands of ready-to-use resources that enhance learning with the tools needed for success in today's classrooms. PBS Learning Media provides educators and students nationwide with customizable content designed to boost teaching effectiveness and student outcomes.

## NEWSROOM INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

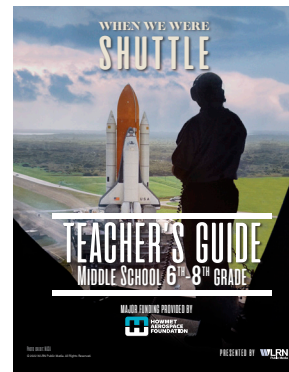
WLRN is committed to nurturing the next generation of journalists year-round. We actively recruit a diverse group of current and recent college students, offering them hands-on training in a professional newsroom setting. Paid during their time at the station, these students gain confidence, sharpen their skills, and build impressive portfolios. Past participants have come from institutions like Northwestern University, Florida International University, Miami-Dade College, and the University of Florida.

## WLRN HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The WLRN High School Internship Program offers students hands-on experience in real-world professional roles within an award-winning media organization. Interns work as Television Production Assistants, Newscast Reporters/Producers, and Public Affairs Production Assistants, gaining valuable industry skills.

## WLRN Original Production Companion Education Guides

WLRN creates custom education guides to accompany its original productions, providing teachers and students with enriching tools that extend the impact of our content beyond the screen. These guides, created to adhere to Sunshine State Standards, are made to spark curiosity, encourage critical thinking, and support classroom learning through thoughtfully crafted discussion questions, activities, and standards-based resources.



**PBS and NPR is the truth of the people and the epitome of support for children and family programming. My children and our family love the quality of programs on television and radio.**

Rhonda, WLRN Member  
Miami, FL

