



Celebrating 100 years of public radio in Iowa

What a year it has been!

2022 was a critical point in the long, storied history of Iowa Public Radio. We celebrated a century of service at our two flagship stations, WOI in Ames and WSUI in Iowa City. Both were among the first in the nation to receive radio broadcasting licenses in 1922!

In the midst of commemorating this milestone, we were hard at work setting a new one. The Iowa Board of Regents approved the transfer of the university radio network to Iowa Public Radio, establishing IPR as an independent public radio network.

The university communities supported public radio separately — and jointly — for decades. As we close that chapter of our history, we're thankful for those that made Iowa Public Radio what it is today. And **we're so grateful for you, our members**, who have supported us throughout this transition.

Whether you've been with us for a year — *or the whole century!* — we appreciate that you continue to invest your time, attention and dollars in support of this essential public service.

Best,



Myrna Johnson
Executive Director



The equipment and technology have changed. But after 100 years, public radio still revolves around a trusted voice delivering the day's news from the studio.

Early broadcasts focused on farmers, sharing the latest local weather and market reports. Today's broadcasts deliver local, national and international news to **209,300 radio listeners** and **34,408 digital listeners** each week.



Highlights from a century of service

We told hundreds of significant stories this year. Perhaps none bigger than our own — from our origins within the universities to our future outside them.

A CENTURY TO CELEBRATE

WOI and WSUI both turned 100 in 2022. We dug deep into our archives to share photos, facts and radio equipment from the past century. Our podcast, [From the Archives](#), explored archival audio that maintains its significance to this day. Most importantly, we shared memories with longtime listeners and members with events at each of our locations.

AN INDEPENDENT IPR

In February 2022, the Board of Regents approved the [transfer of licenses and ownership](#) of the university radio network to Iowa Public Radio. Approvals by the IPR Board and FCC followed, establishing Iowa Public Radio as an independent, community-based public radio network on July 1, 2022.

THE RETURN OF LIVE MUSIC

The industry eased back into live events in the summer of 2021. IPR relaunched its own concert series, All Access Live, and hosted Iowa artists at xBk in Des Moines. We also hosted and aired the second annual Juneteenth: The Movement and returned to the festival scene ourselves with stops at Hinterland and Mission Creek Festival.

NEW SHOWS & SERVICES

Grants and gifts supported some innovative work throughout the year. We launched a new franchise, [All Access](#), that puts greater focus on Iowa artists via a monthly concert series, weekend Studio One show and accompanying newsletter. Months in the basement archives of the Iowa City studio became *From the Archives*. We spun off the popular *Talk of Iowa* segment “Horticulture Day” into its own podcast and newsletter, [Garden Variety](#). And we created another newsletter, *Political Sense*, to highlight the unparalleled political reporting of the news team.

IMPACTFUL NEWS STORIES

The news team published 378 local stories and shared hundreds more on-air. We continued critical coverage of COVID-19 and its effects on students, teachers and workers across the state — including Natalie Krebs’ [special series on meatpacking workers](#). In partnership with the Midwest Newsroom, we delivered in-depth reporting on issues throughout the region. Our most popular story came out of this collaboration, as Kassidy Arena explored [the effects a little-known law](#) has on Iowa’s non-English-speaking residents.



Your support expands our impact



\$5+ MILLION

Member Support



28,420

IPR Members



209,300

Weekly Radio Listeners



34,408

Weekly Stream Listeners



20,744

Newsletter Subscribers



75,425

Monthly Website Visitors



26,158

Monthly Podcast Users



8,003

Monthly App Users

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Looking ahead to the next 100 years of public radio in Iowa!



Listening to Iowa Public Radio makes the world a little less crazy... thank you so much for the excellent reporting, thoughtful music selections and continuing to be a part of my life."

— ELANA IN
CEDAR FALLS



I am a daily listener and it pleases me to know that I have done my part, as small as it may be, to support the ongoing efforts of reliable journalism that keeps me informed on a local and national level."

— MELINDA IN
DES MOINES

2022 was a year for looking back and celebrating our legacy. Now, we're looking ahead to a promising future as an independent public radio network with a renewed commitment to the communities we serve.

THE SOUNDING BOARD

We're creating a [community advisory board](#) to provide perspective and guidance to help us better serve all Iowans. This group will represent a range of communities, voices, interests and needs, and help shape Iowa Public Radio going forward.

EVEN MORE LISTENING

We secured a generous grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to aid our transition. As part of that, we have multiple projects with an aim to listen to the audiences we serve. Feedback from audience surveys and in-person listening sessions across Iowa will help us re-center ourselves around what matters to you.

NEW SIGHTS & SOUNDS

Insights from our listening efforts will also be used to shape how you experience Iowa Public Radio. You're sure to see — *and hear* — more of us, in more ways. Look for a bigger presence in your community, online and on air that reflects our vision for the future of IPR.

DEEPER NEWS COVERAGE

We're committed to providing more Iowans with a trusted source of free, balanced news. We're growing and adapting our journalistic footprint to match the changing needs of Iowa. You can count on more in-depth reporting into the issues that matter and local coverage in additional areas of the state.

MORE HOURS OF IPR MUSIC

While we lost a beloved show in *Backtracks*, we're excited to bring you more *Studio One Tracks*. Not just on Saturday, but every day. Our music hosts have curated more hours of our unique blend of indie and alternative artists from Iowa and all over the country.