

# **WBGO (88.3 FM) ASCERTAINMENT: ISSUE-RESPONSE PROGRAMMING**

For the Period: April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

## **TOPICS ADDRESSED**

**Arts and Culture**

**Business and Economy**

**Health Care**

**Crime**

**Education**

**Environment**

**Government and State Agencies**

**Politics**

**Technology**

**Race and Ethnicity**

## ARTS and CULTURE

### McCarter Theatre Center's new production of 'Blues for an Alabama Sky' is a love letter to the Harlem Renaissance

The **Harlem Renaissance** will come alive on stage at **McCarter Theatre Center** in Princeton, New Jersey when the newest production of **Pearl Cleage's** play ***BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY*** runs from May 6-28.

The emotional play, a love letter to friendship, marks the McCarter directorial debut of Associate Artistic Director **Nicole A. Watson**. Watson spoke with *WBGO Journal* host **Doug Doyle** about the show in the Berlind Theater at McCarter.

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-05-04/mccarter-theatre-centers-new-production-of-blues-for-an-alabama-sky-is-a-love-letter-to-the-harlem-renaissance>

### Percussionist Bobby Sanabria leads "Dangerous Rhythms" all-star band at Birdland in celebration of T.J. English's new book about jazz and the underworld

**T. J. English** is an American author and journalist known primarily for his non-fiction books about the Irish mob, organized crime, criminal justice and the American underworld.

His latest book, ***Dangerous Rhythms: Jazz and the Underworld*** tells the symbiotic story of a relationship fostered in some of 20th century America's most notorious vice districts. For the first half of the century mobsters and musicians enjoyed a mutually beneficial partnership.

English, a big jazz fan, has also been producing concerts around his book, including three weekend concerts at **Birdland** (April 14-16).

Award-winning percussionist, bandleader and WBGO's host of "Latin Jazz Cruise" Bobby Sanabria will be leading an all-star band there.

T.J. joined **WBGO Journal** host **Doug Doyle** to talk about the book and the concerts.

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-04-15/percussionist-bobby-sanabria-leads-dangerous-rhythms-all-star-band-at-birdland-in-celebration-of-t-j-englishs-new-book-about-jazz-and-the-underworld>

## **The Vanguard Theater in Montclair is the only NJ non-profit to receive a community grant from Michael Jordan's Brand for improving Black lives in their neighborhoods**

The **Vanguard Theater** in Montclair, New Jersey has been hand selected to receive the **Michael Jordan Brand's Community Grant Program**, an initiative of its **Black Community Commitment (BCC)**, created in 2020. Grants were awarded to 48 grassroots, non-profit organizations that are driving action and leading sustainable solutions to improve Black lives in their neighborhoods.

Vanguard Theater, with a local connection to the initiative's four key focus areas of economic justice, education, narrative change, and social justice was the only recipient in New Jersey - and one of only two theater companies.

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-04-09/the-vanguard-theater-in-montclair-is-the-only-nj-non-profit-to-receive-a-community-grant-from-michael-jordans-brand-for-improving-black-lives-in-their-neighborhoods>

## **BUSINESS AND THE ECONOMY**

### **Casino effort near Citi Field hits roadblock**

Assemblyman Jeffery Aubry of Queens has introduced a bill allowing for a casino in the overflow parking lots by Citi Field.

"In a time when the city and the state need economic growth, you have a project that will engage in creating that kind of economics."

But he doesn't have a companion bill in the senate. Senator Jessica Ramos who represents the area now says she won't introduce legislation allowing for the casino. She says a lot of people oppose the project. The Mets owner through a reps says he will continue to work with the senator to figure out what to do with the 50 acres around Citi Field.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-05-23/casino-effort-near-citi-field-hits-roadblock>

### **NYC office values projected to drop a lot over coming years**

The values of New York City offices are expected to drop a lot in the coming years due to remote work.

A revised survey by researchers at NYU and Columbia predicts New York City's offices as a whole will lose 44-percent of their pre-COVID pandemic value by year 2029. That's higher than the 28-percent they were projected to lose in the original survey published last year. Professor Vrinda Mittal at Columbia is one of authors of the study.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-05-26/nyc-office-values-projected-to-drop-a-lot-over-coming-years>

## Deal reached on outdoor dining in NYC

The New York City Council and Mayor Eric Adams have reached a deal on a long stalled bill to address outdoor dining.

The agreement that still needs to be voted on would allow for outdoor dining year round on sidewalks and would allow dining structures on streets for eight months out of the year from spring until fall. Director of the New York City Hospitality Alliance Andrew Rigie says the deal cuts red tape and lowers fees for restaurants to participate.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-05-20/deal-reached-on-outdoor-dining-in-nyc>

## HEALTH CARE

### Roslyn Young-Daniels brings her Black Health Matters Summit & Expo to Newark on May 20

**Roslyn Young-Daniels** started **Black Health Matters** in 2012. The former senior executive in broadcast and publishing, and ovarian cancer survivor, is a nationally respected health strategist with more than 20 years designing and implementing cross-cultural health education programs.

Young-Daniels joined **WBGO Journal** host **Doug Doyle** to talk about BHM's upcoming summit in Newark and her career.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-05-18/roslyn-young-daniels-brings-her-black-health-matters-summit-expo-to-newark-on-may-20>

## **Anti-smoking groups still seek FDA ruling banning menthol cigarettes**

**A federal law passed in 2009 banned flavored cigarettes -- except menthol**

Anti-smoking groups want to see the FDA issue a final rule banning menthol cigarettes later this year. It issued draft regulations a year ago. Advocates say the tobacco industry has used menthol for decades as an appeal to minorities and teens.

Dr. Phillip Gardiner of the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council said he is skeptical.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-04-19/anti-smoking-groups-still-seek-fda-ruling-banning-menthol-cigarettes>

## **End of continuous Medicaid coverage could result in millions uninsured, experts say**

As of April 1, states have been able to reevaluate people for continued Medicaid coverage and many don't know of the change.

The continuous Medicaid coverage that has been in place since the pandemic started is over. As of April 1 states have been able to end someone's Medicaid coverage if they no longer qualify.

Dr. Kathy Hempstead of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation said surveys have shown most people don't know this is happening, and certain groups will be at most risk of losing benefits.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-04-06/end-of-continuous-medicaid-coverage-could-result-in-millions-uninsured-experts-say>

## **CRIME**

### **Daniel Penny pleads not guilty in subway chokehold death**

The Marine veteran who has gained national attention for a deadly New York City subway chokehold seen widely on video was arraigned today. Daniel Penny pleaded not guilty to two charges.

Following the arraignment, The Attorney For Daniel Penny, Thomas Kaniff expressed confidence that Penny will be cleared of manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide charges

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-06-28/daniel-penny-pleads-not-guilty-in-subway-chokehold-death>

### **High number of vehicle thefts continue in NYC**

Vehicle thefts continue to take place at a high level in New York City.

NYPD Chief Michel Lipetry says there's been a 37 percent increase in vehicles thefts in April compared to April of last year. He says a quarter of the thefts are Hyundai and Kia models.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-05-05/high-number-of-vehicle-thefts-continue-in-nyc>

### **NYPD experimenting with robots to help fight crime**

The NYPD is testing out some new crime fighting technology including two robots.

In the summer, The NYPD will be piloting the K5 Security Robot which will move around confined public areas to provide additional camera coverage. The department will also test out a so called DigiDog robot

which is ideal for hostage and other dangerous situations. Mayor Eric Adams says he's scanning the globe for new security technology.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-04-11/nypd-experimenting-with-robots-to-help-fight-crime>

## EDUCATION

### **New Jersey poet Rashad Wright finds his calling in the classroom and at poetry slams**

Last week we told you about the life of jazz singer **Dwight West** of Maplewood who passed away earlier this year. This week we have a story about his son **Rashad Wright** who lives in Paterson. The 28 year-old African-American poet lives in a unique artist compound in an old industrial building on the Passaic River. He's has been teaching New Jersey school children what poetry can be.

WBGO's **Jon Kalish** continues his three-part special series.

Next week we'll visit Prototype 237, the live/work space for artists in in Paterson that Rashad Wright calls home.

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-06-25/new-jersey-poet-rashad-wright-finds-his-calling-in-the-classroom-and-at-poetry-slams>

### **Newark schools chief goes back on promise of extra days off, angering teachers**

Superintendent Roger Leon had promised in August to end school two days early if snow days were not used. but reversed that after student performance declined.

Newark's superintendent of schools and teachers' union are doing battle over a broken promise.



A number of other districts in New Jersey have decided to extend the Memorial Day weekend with unused snow days. Newark schools chief Roger Leon had promised teachers two extra days off as well, but has reneged, citing students' poor performance.

Jessie Gomez, a reporter for Chalkbeat Newark, a non-profit that covers education, says it's a hot-button issue.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-05-23/newark-schools-chief-goes-back-on-promise-of-extra-days-off-angering-teachers>

## **NJ education advocates taking case to Trenton to try to improve students' reading**

Some statistics show that in urban areas of the state less than 10% of students are reading at grade level.

New Jersey has some work to do to get students reading skills up to where they should be.

Recent government statistics show there has not been much change in the past 20 years in the state in getting 4th graders to read and read well regardless of race or economic status.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-05-14/nj-education-advocates-taking-case-to-trenton-to-try-to-improve-students-reading>

## ENVIRONMENT

### **Whale deaths linked to climate change — not wind farm development, according to NJDEP**

State lawmakers held a second hearing this month addressing the recent spate of [whale deaths in New Jersey](#).

“The culprit is a changing climate, and our inability societally to get it under control,” Shawn LaTourette, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner (NJDEP) said.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-05-19/whale-deaths-linked-to-climate-change-not-wind-farm-development-according-to-njdep>

### **Mayor releases NYC climate plan**

Mayor Eric Adams is laying out New York City’s climate plan strategy, a move now required by local law.

The mayor says the plan builds on previous administrations climate initiative and details how to protect the Big Apple from climate threats and build a green economy.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-04-20/mayor-releases-nyc-climate-plan>

### **Mega climate hub coming to Governors Island**

A major climate hub is coming to New York City.

This is going to be a 700-million dollar campus built on Governors Island for research and solutions related to climate change. It will create seven

thousand permanent jobs. Stony Brook University will lead the effort. President Maurie McInnis says what's called the New York Climate Exchange will have an impact locally and around the world.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-04-24/mega-climate-hub-coming-to-governors-island>

## **GOVERNMENT AND STATE AGENCIES**

### **New Jersey's ARRIVE Together program shows promise in Brookings study**

Experts say people who suffer from mental illness are more likely to be hurt or killed in encounters with the police.

So about a year and a half ago New Jersey started the ARRIVE Together program, ARRIVE standing for Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation. It pairs mental health professionals with cops, for calls from people with mental illness.

The Brookings Institution recently held a discussion on how the program has worked so far. New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin said the results have been encouraging.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-06-15/new-jerseys-arrive-together-program-shows-promise-in-brookings-study>

### **NY governor urges feds to grant migrants working papers**

New York Governor Kathy Hochul is urging the federal government to grant the tens of thousands of migrants who have arrived in New York over the last year working papers.

Governor Kathy Hochul says there's a labor shortage right now in the state after pointing to thousands of job openings in farming, food services and cleaning industries.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-05-22/ny-governor-urges-feds-to-grant-migrants-working-papers>

## The next edition of "Ask Governor Murphy" on May 3 at 7pm

The next edition of ***Ask Governor Murphy*** is May 3 at 7pm on wbgo.org. Host **Nancy Solomon** and **New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy** will be talking your phone calls and social media questions. Some of the topics to be discussed are current budget issues and the upcoming June primary elections.

Ask Governor Murphy, a co-production of **WBGO, WNYC and WHYY**.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-05-03/watch-here-for-the-next-edition-of-ask-governor-murphy-on-may-3-at-7pm>

## POLITICS

### Reports: Chris Christie to run for president

Numerous reports indicate former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie will announce he's running for President. He'll reportedly make the announcement next Tuesday in New Hampshire.

Political science professor Dan Cassino thinks Chris Christie will try and win over enough Republicans by being the lone Republican presidential candidate to heavily criticize Donald Trump, something other candidates have stayed away from. Cassino thinks Christie will also demonstrate his ability to work with Democrats.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-05-31/reports-chris-christie-to-run-for-president>

## **The next edition of Newark Today is on April 20 at 8pm**

On the next edition of **Newark Today** on April 20 at 8pm, **Mayor Ras Baraka** will join us in studio to talk about his 9th State of the City address.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-04-20/watch-here-for-the-next-edition-of-newark-today-on-april-20-at-8pm>

## **Candidates for Newark Board of Ed tackle major issues at forum before April 25 vote**

Elections for the Newark Board of Education are coming up on April 25, in a little less than two weeks. The candidates took part in a forum to talk about the issues.

One important one is the city's charter schools. Thomas Luna's name will be on the ballot. He said Superintendent Roger Leon has been trying to stop the expansion of charter schools through lawsuits, which he called a mistake.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-04-13/candidates-for-newark-board-of-ed-tackle-major-issues-at-forum-before-april-25-vote>

## TECHNOLOGY

### **Annual Brooklyn performance is a "melding of jazz, power tools, and pyrotechnics."**

This weekend a unique performance is taking place in Brooklyn. A combination of professional musicians, amateurs and metal shop workers collaborate on something that has come to be known as the **Mecha Sonic Sessions**. There's music coming from flame-spewing brass instruments and some unconventional percussion instruments.

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-05-19/annual-brooklyn-performance-is-a-melding-of-jazz-power-tools-and-pyrotechnics>

### **Newark public schools may upgrade security system with artificial intelligence**

Artificial intelligence may be on its way to Newark's public schools, as the district seeks to replace its security cameras with a surveillance system that would be equipped with A-I.

The new system would have more than 7000 cameras, one for every five students, and be able to recognize not just people but cars, guns, and even sensors to detect chemicals in vape pens.

Community advocates and security experts say such a system could violate the privacy of students and staff. And Chalkbeat Newark's Jessie Gomez said so far the state has been pretty hands off on A-I.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-06-01/newark-public-schools-may-upgrade-security-system-with-artificial-intelligence>

## **New law in NY helps speed up nurse certification process with severe nurse shortage**

There's another effort in New York State to try and address a severe nursing shortage.

Industry experts predict New York state will be short by 40 thousand nurses by year 2030 if nothing changes. Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation Monday that speeds up the process to get nurses certified. The new bill allows nursing students to complete up to one third of their clinical training through simulation experiences.

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-05-15/new-law-in-ny-helps-speed-up-nurse-certification-process-with-severe-nurse-shortage>

## **RACE AND ETHNICITY**

### **Annual Passover seder at Katz Deli draws auto writers, Jews and non-Jews alike**

Every April a group of **Jewish Auto Writers** who attend the big **New York International Auto Show** at Javitts Center gathers for an unconventional **Passover seder** at **Katz's Delicatessen**.

This week WBGO's **Jon Kalish** joined them at the iconic Lower East Side deli...

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-04-08/annual-passover-seder-at-katz-deli-draws-auto-writers-jews-and-non-jews-alike>

## "CBS Saturday Morning" co-host Michelle Miller's memoir "**Belonging: A Daughter's Search for Identity Through Love and Loss**" is changing lives

"CBS Saturday Morning" co-host and veteran reporter **Michelle Miller** is finding out that her *New York Times* Best-Selling memoir is literally changing lives. Miller's ***Belonging: A Daughter's Search for Identity Through Love and Loss*** was published earlier this year by Harper Collins.

Miller recently spoke with WBGO News Director **Doug Doyle** about her journey.

Throughout much of her life, Michelle Miller has had to deal with a family secret that has shaped her personal and professional life in so many ways and she says the rejection from her birth mother has shaped Michelle's understanding of herself and her own Blackness.

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-06-15/cbs-saturday-morning-co-host-michelle-millers-memoir-belonging-a-daughters-search-for-identity-through-love-and-loss-is-changing-lives>

## Pulitzer prize-winning director Nilo Cruz brings his powerful "**Two Sisters and a Piano**" to Two River Theater in Red Bank

Two River Theater's latest production, ***Two Sisters and a Piano***, written and directed by Pulitzer Prize winner **Nilo Cruz** runs through June 25th.

The play is a passionate tale of revolution, art and dreams. Although trapped under house arrest, novelist Maria Celia and her sister Sofia can still hear the rumors of shifting global politics growing in 1990s Havana. As they await changes for Cuba as well as changes to their situation, it's uncertain whether freedom will come through government



regime change, Maria Celia's far-off husband, or the charismatic military officer who has begun insinuating himself into the sisters' lives.

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-06-13/pulitzer-prize-winning-director-nilo-cruz-brings-his-powerful-two-sisters-and-a-piano-to-two-river-theater-in-red-bank>





