



COMMUNITY

July 2024–June 2025

IMPACT

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DEAR FRIENDS

We cannot thank you enough for everything you do to support WYSO!

Public media are facing existential threats right now, but you are a constant reminder that the fact-checked news, handpicked music, and inspired storytelling we provide are worth protecting. Because you show up for us as contributors, volunteers, and fans, we accomplished big things last fiscal year: We opened a downtown Dayton satellite studio and made big progress on our new headquarters. We launched a music-only channel. We amplified the voices of the Haitian community in Springfield, told the story of how Ohio's indigenous people were removed from their homeland, and won awards for our daily news coverage. We taught radio preservation skills at Historically Black Colleges and Universities throughout the eastern United States. And we had incredibly successful membership drives despite the uncertainties we all are facing.

We remain committed to being a source of information and other content that you can be proud of. In gratitude and community,



Luke Dennis
General Manager, WYSO
President, Miami Valley Public Media



Jeff Cox
Board President
Miami Valley Public Media

HIGHLIGHTS

355K
audio downloads

2.4M
web views

1300
open reel
tapes digitized



WYSO General Manager Luke Dennis,
Eichelberger Center for Community
Voices Founder Neenah Ellis tour
WYSO's soon-to-be headquarters.

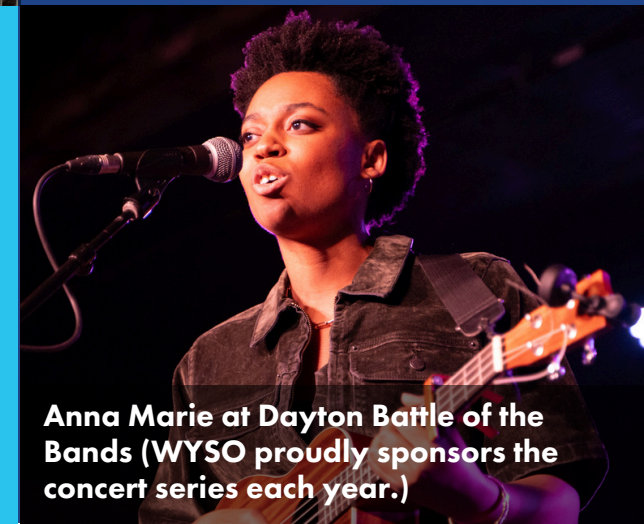
21
journalism
awards



WYSO Archives volunteer Alice Miller
preserves an old WYSO poster.

5.4K
donor
actions

6K+
hours of
music aired



Anna Marie at Dayton Battle of the
Bands (WYSO proudly sponsors the
concert series each year.)

Morning Edition
BBC Newshour
On Point
All Things Considered
Marketplace
Fresh Air
BBC World Service
Alternative Radio
WYSO Weekend

NEWS

INSPIRING AUDIENCES

Thanks to member support in 2025, we grew WYSO's reach, improved our newsletter, expanded our digital audience, published new podcasts, and made sure we kept our audience informed and inspired—however they choose to get their information.



We featured Taite and Ben Kyle during our Climate Solutions Week coverage. They operate their homestead with the space their suburban home provides and use recycled goods to reduce their environmental impact.



Inside the Navajo Code Talkers building, state and local officials—and Diné Development Corporation employees—gather for a photo. We covered Diné opening in Dayton's TechTown.



DeShae Jackson, a Dayton-based doula, supported her client Diamond Smith during a difficult pregnancy. Our reporting on Black maternal health won an Ohio APME award for enterprise reporting.

As always, our news team focused on solutions journalism in fiscal 2025. And for the first time, we participated in the now-annual Climate Solutions Week. Climate change is affecting our food, and our food is affecting the climate. That’s why WYSO and the NPR network dedicated a week to stories and conversations about the search for solutions. This complemented WYSO’s commitment to produce solutions-based reporting year round on food, agriculture, and the environment.

We also partnered with the [Ohio Newsroom](#) on a new newsletter, The Lift, which brings a monthly round up of Dayton and Ohio stories that inspire, find solutions, and spark joy.

WYSO’s journalism was recognized this last year at the state and national level with more than 21 awards. Some of this work included exclusive reporting on battery burning in Piqua, an in-depth look at the impact of Dayton’s gas station boom, and a feature on how restaurants are (and aren’t) keeping up with demand from Black vegans. We also received numerous awards for an hour-long audio documentary on the decade since John Crawford III was shot by police in a Beavercreek, Ohio, Walmart.



Alice Young-Basora (r) and her daughter (l) visited the new Dayton landmark peace sign at RiverScape in spring 2025. It was created to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords and the 2025 NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

FREE CULTURE

Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!

Conrad's Corner

Book Nook

Bird Note

The Moth

This American Life

Splendid Table

It's Been a Minute

Hidden Brain

Snap Judgment

Alpha Rhythms
American Routes
Around the Fringe
Beat Latino
The Blues Revival
Bounce With Me
Club Cuts
A Country Ramble
The Dear Green Place
Down Home Bluegrass

MUSIC

DISCOVERING MUSIC

After years of research, planning, and technical effort, we launched Novaphonic.FM in fiscal 2025. Novaphonic is a 24/7 music-only streaming channel that features WYSO's music programs and a mix of music curated by our in-house music experts.

Last fiscal year, we also were proud to host a second season of "The Outside Presents," a free quarterly concert series of experimental music in Yellow Springs, and to co-present with Dayton Metro Library the "Tiny Stacks" concert series.

With the addition of Novaphonic, we played more music than we ever have—more than 6,000 hours—and that includes live in-studio performances from over 200 musicians and groups.



Hour performing at The Outside Presents



MOIRA performing at the Novaphonic launch party



WYSO Music Department Coordinator and "Club Cuts" host Barry Leonhard at Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience



Midwestern Mrs and Jeff Butcher warming up for their Tiny Stacks concert at the Burkhardt branch of Dayton Metro Library



TINO performing at Art Parkd



Beavercreek High School Jazz One in the WYSO performance studio

MUSIC

- eTown
- Jazz Night in America
- Kaleidoscope
- Louisiana Byways
- Midday Music
- Mountain Stage
- NiteTrane
- The Outside
- Rise When the Rooster Crows
- Tables of Content
- World Cafe

UNITED STORYTELLING

Haitians in the Heartland
Blue Skies and Tailwinds
Culture Couch
WYSO Youth Radio
Loud As The Rolling Sea
The Ohio Country
ReEntry Stories

AMPLIFYING VOICES

Under the leadership of new director Will Davis, the Eichelberger Center for Community Voices in fiscal 2025 sustained its commitment to meaningful storytelling through its signature series, including “Veterans’ Voices” and “Culture Couch.” The Center also re-launched “Dayton Youth Radio” as “WYSO Youth Radio,” broadening its reach and offering high school students hands-on training in audio storytelling.

Other notable series this year included “ReEntry Stories,” which shares the personal journeys of individuals returning to society after incarceration; “Loud as the Rolling Sea,” presenting oral histories from Black and white activists of the Civil Rights era; “Blue Skies and Tailwinds,” chronicling the Miami Valley’s rich aviation heritage; and “Studio Visit,” offering intimate glimpses into the lives and creative processes of contemporary Miami Valley artists.

Reaching new audiences and deepening its community ties, the Center launched several impactful projects: “The Ohio Country,” a podcast exploring lesser-known regional history; “Think Twice,” a series offering a deep dive into topics that matter



Clark County students recorded public service announcements as part of “WYSO Youth Radio.”

to our community; “Haitians in the Heartland,” which amplifies the voices of Haitian immigrants in Springfield; “We Outside,” a series highlighting the experiences of people of color in outdoor environments; and “Translucent,” which uplifts stories and voices from the trans community.

The Center’s national impact was affirmed when it was selected as one of only four organizations to participate in StoryCorps’ “One Small Step,” a project that fosters respectful conversations across political divides. Another standout moment was Center Founder Neenah Ellis receiving the Leo C. Lee Award from the Public Media Journalists Association, honoring her decades of service to public broadcasting.



Center intern and “Translucent” producer Lee Wade



WYSO brought “The Moth Mainstage” back to Dayton in fiscal 2025.



Center Founder and Leo C. Lee award winner Neenah Ellis



Air Force veteran Dwayne Ezell and his wife, Jeanette, told their story for “Veterans’ Voices.”



Haitian poet and journalist Jacques Adler Jean Pierre recorded for “Haitians in the Heartland” at the WYSO studio.

STORYTELLING

Studio Visit
Think Twice
Veterans’ Voices
We Outside
Translucent
One Small Step

Women's Voices/
Women's Music
Rediscovered Radio
The HBCU Radio Legacy
HBCU Radio Preservation
Oral Histories

PRESERVATION



Preservation team from Northeast Document Conservation Center, working at Central State University
(From left): Bryce Roe, Becca Bender, Chinyere Neal

ARCHIVING HISTORY

The HBCU Radio Preservation Project (HBCU RPP) and the Center for Radio Preservation and Archives at WYSO were in full gear in fiscal 2025.

The Center recruited and trained a dozen volunteers; sorted, packed, and shipped 1,300 open reel tapes for digitization through the American Archive of Public Broadcasting; and won a grant from the Yellow Springs Community Foundation to fund an Encore Miller Fellow to process WYSO's nonaudio archival collection. The HBCU RPP conducted site visits to eleven HBCU radio stations in six states; conducted 46 oral histories (accessible on the YouTube channel of the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University), and launched "Broadcasting History: The HBCU Radio Legacy," a podcast that explores how HBCU radio stations became powerful platforms for Black voices, music, and perspectives.

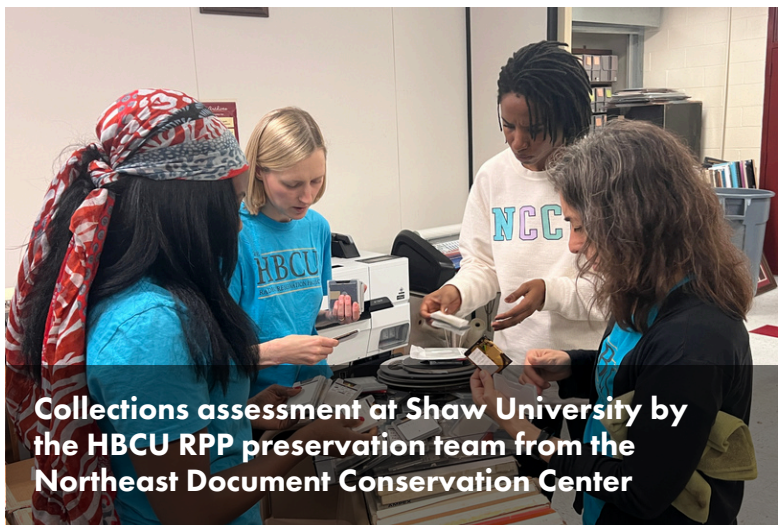
The HBCU RPP also presented at four conferences (including the 2024 Oral History Association conference) and hosted its second annual Radio Preservation Symposium, in partnership with Shaw University and the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission.



An interview with the Rev. Dr. John Mendez (left) of Durham, North Carolina, is one of the almost fifty oral histories housed in the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University. He was interviewed by Breighlynn Polk, the HBCU RPP's inaugural fellow.



Encore Miller Fellow Dorothy Smith processed posters, photos, program guides, news clippings, and more in the WYSO Archives.



Collections assessment at Shaw University by the HBCU RPP preservation team from the Northeast Document Conservation Center



WYSO Archives volunteer Cora Markicwicz helped process WYSO's collection of locally produced audio tape.

PRESERVATION

- Digital Asset Management
- Open-Reel Tapes
- Digital Audio Tapes
- Cassettes
- CDs
- Carts
- Mini Disks
- Born Digital Assets
- Photographs
- Negatives
- Slides
- Posters
- Program Guides

FINANCES

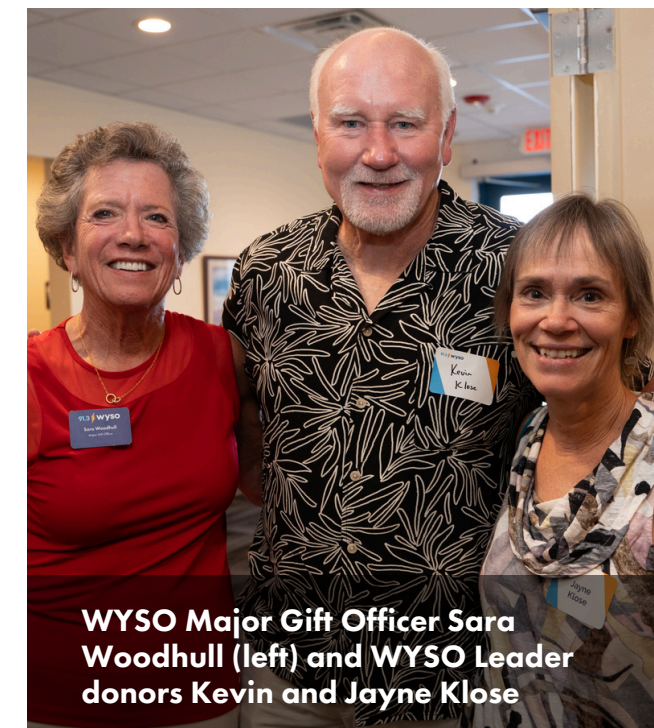
Member Drives
9130 Society
WYSO Leaders
Resonator Society
Vehicle Donations
Sustainers
Planned Giving
Business Support
Sponsorship
Grants

WORKING TOGETHER

We are grateful for another strong year of financial support from so many donors—including listeners, corporations, small businesses, private and government foundations, underwriters and sponsors, and major donors. We also welcomed the most new members this year since fiscal 2021. These contributions make it possible for us to grow and find new ways to serve our community while we continue to deliver the news, music, and storytelling our listeners count on.



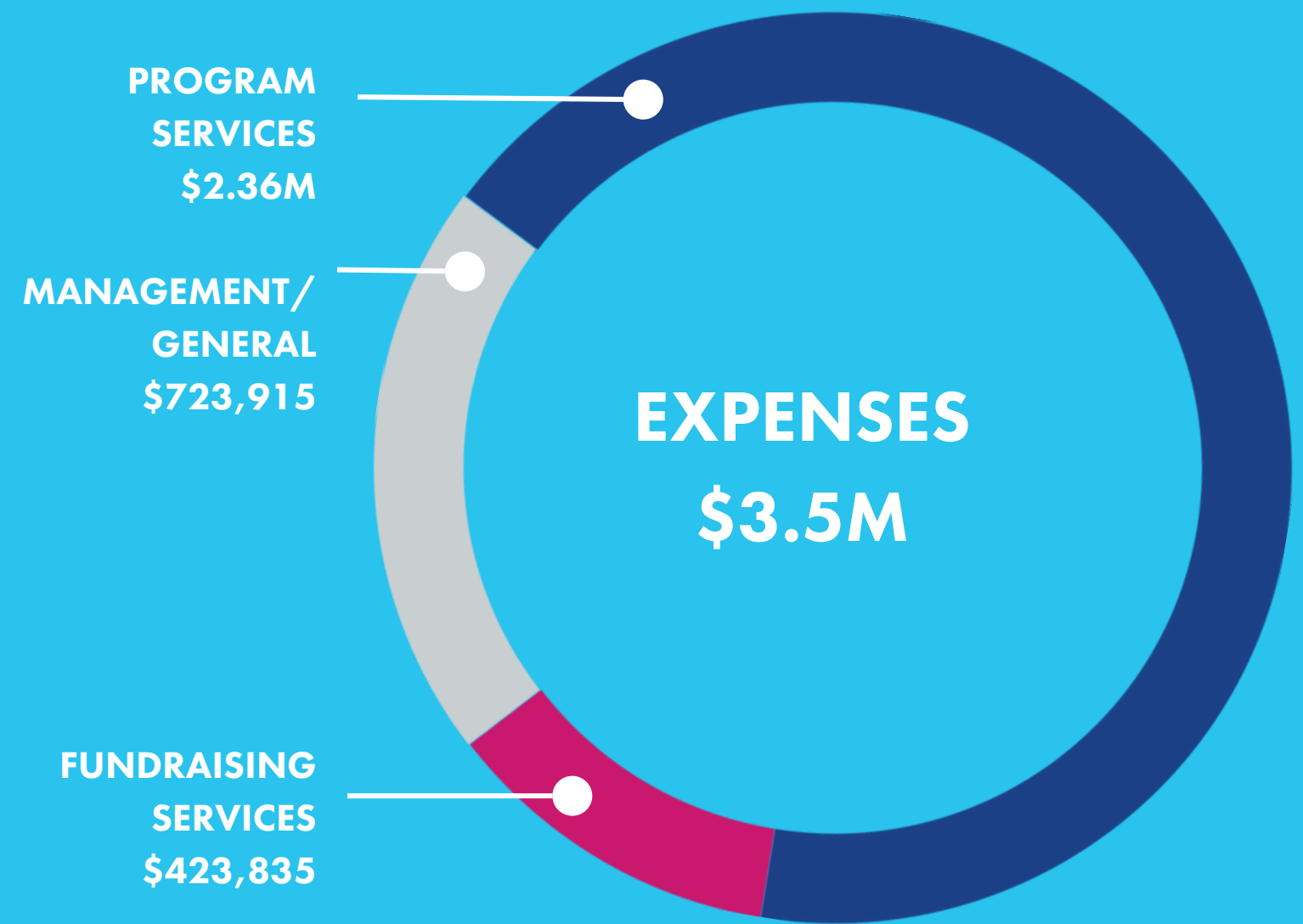
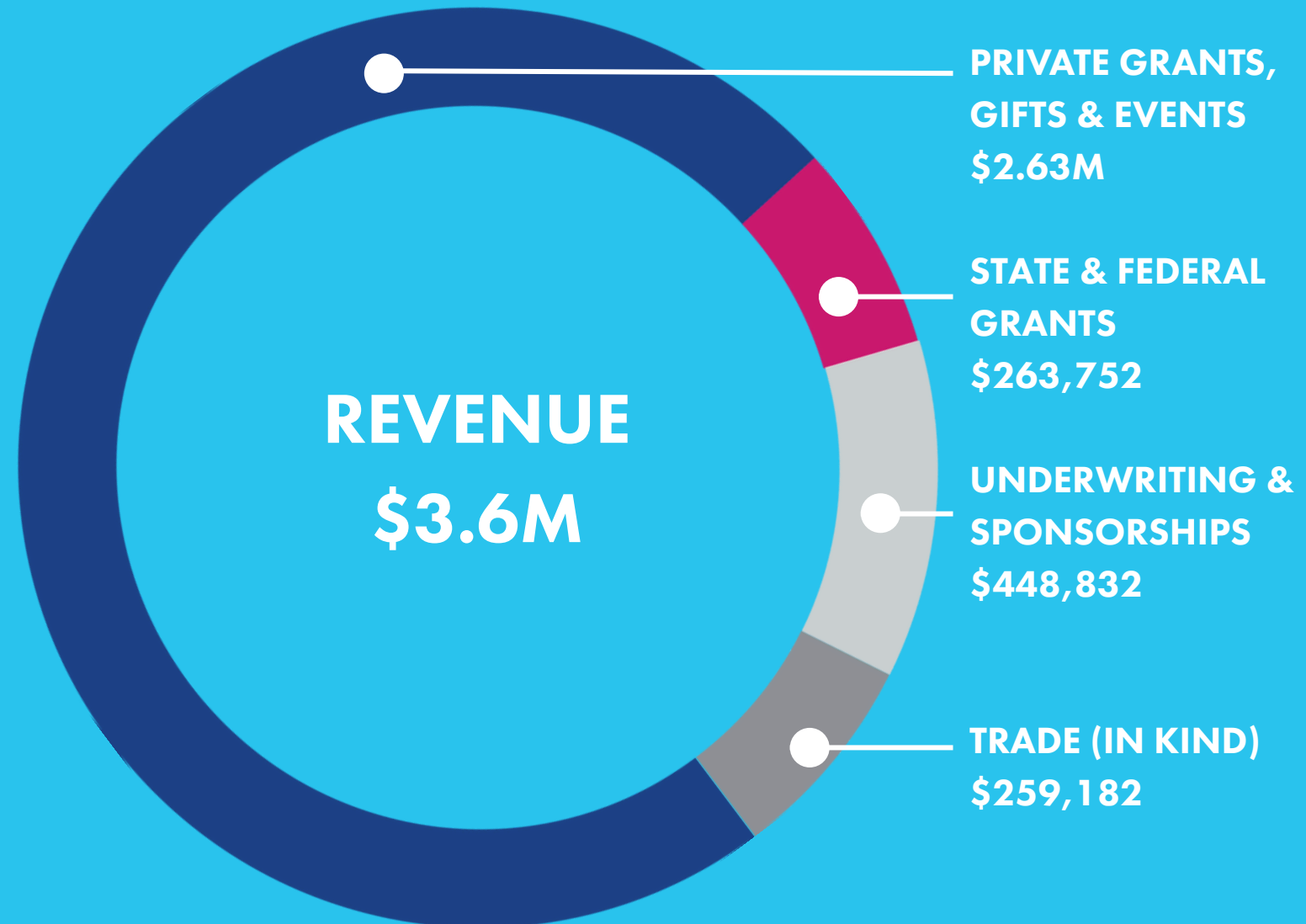
WYSO General Manager Luke Dennis (left), Berry Family Foundation Executive Director Nora Vondrell, Cross Street Partners Development Vice President David Williams, and WYSO Board Chair Jeff Cox at the grand opening of WYSO's Chuck Berry Studio at the Arcade, downtown Dayton



WYSO Major Gift Officer Sara Woodhull (left) and WYSO Leader donors Kevin and Jayne Klose



2025 gathering of the 9130 Society



FISCAL 2025*

*Unaudited numbers; fiscal 2025 audited financials will be available at wyso.org in early fall 2025.

GOVERNING BOARD

Miami Valley Public Media Inc., governed by the members below, owns and operates WYSO under license from the Federal Communications Commission.

- Shelly Blackman, Founder and Lead Agent, The Shelly Blackman Group at eXp Realty
- Bruce Bradtmiller, Community Volunteer
- Jeff Cox, Chair; Partner: Faruki, P.L.L.
- Kathy Hollingsworth, Retired Banker, Partner/Facilitator, iiChange
- Kevin McGruder, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of History, Antioch College
- Judd Plattenburg, President, Oregon Printing Communications
- Amelia Robinson, Opinion and Community Engagement Editor, The Columbus Dispatch
- Elizabeth Sandhu, Assistant General Counsel, Crown Equipment Corporation

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

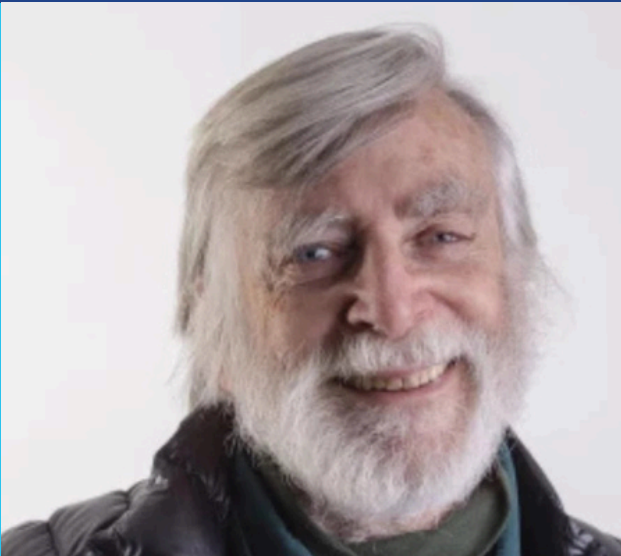
The Corporation for Public Broadcasting requires WYSO to have a Community Advisory Board, which provides the station with feedback on programming and its overall engagement with the community.

- Kevin Carter, Cyber Security Engineer, U.S. Air Force; Co-Owner, Black Box Improv; Hip-Hop Artist
- Demarus Crawford-White, NPower Executive Director, Ohio
- Jacob Elder, Project Manager, AES Ohio
- Kim Fish, President, Kaleidoscope, Inc. Consulting Services
- Patrick Gill, Executive Director, Dayton-Montgomery County Scholarship Program, Montgomery Co. Ohio College Promise
- Michelle Hayford, Associate Professor; Director of the Theatre, Dance, & Performance Technology Program, University of Dayton
- Sierra Leone, Poet, Impresario, Diversity Consultant
- Angela McMurry (Chair), Director of Programs, Ohio Academy of Science
- Shannon Neal, Vice President of Strategic Communication, Dayton Development Coalition
- Jen Papadakis, Owner, Jen Gets Social
- Ed Richard, Community Volunteer, WYSO Founder
- Rodney Veal, Dancer, Choreographer, TV Host, Faculty, Sinclair Community College
- Bill Wendel, Director of Consulting Services, Pentecom, LLC

COMMUNITY

From preparing mailings to hosting music shows to staffing our booth at community events, WYSO volunteers are generous and creative, and we’re grateful for them. Here are volunteer milestones from fiscal 2025.

“Poor Will’s Almanack” host Bill Felker (right) retired in April 2025. His reflections on the transformational power of nature were a listener favorite.



“The Dear Green Place” host Cindy Funk (left) celebrated 20 (and 25!) years on the air—having hosted "Shamrocks, Heather and Roses" until 1987 and starting her current show in 2005.



Fifty-three volunteers staffed booths, stuffed 6,000 envelopes, and answered phones at membership drives.

