



2023 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

"WLRN has been a source of very thought-provoking academic analysis and discussion topics. For busy people it provides very efficient and condensed news analysis and interviews. And for young listeners, it's an opportunity to be engaged in stimulating and intellectual activity."

*– Soneet Kapila, CPA, CIRA, CFE, CFF,
Founding Partner of KapilaMukamal, LLP.*

The mission of **WLRN Public Media** is to provide information, entertainment, and learning services with a commitment to excellence in serving local, national, and international communities.



WLRN Public Media is the premier choice for trusted, quality programming that reflects the diversity of thought and expression of the community we serve. We are "South Florida's storyteller" — providing content in ways that no other media outlet does. We operate as a public trust and exercise the highest ethical and professional standards. We respect our audience's intelligence and have a deep appreciation for public media's role in shaping society.

WLRN's award-winning journalism and documentary work continues to have meaningful impact both locally and nationally. We have been producing and presenting local stories that showcase the people, places and events that make our community special and unique. WLRN rose to the top in a variety of areas including investigations, politics, arts, public affairs, continuing coverage, newscasts and breaking news, and the release of its originally produced two-hour documentary exploring NASA's Shuttle Program.

WLRN-Public Media is a multi-media enterprise that has the reputation of being South Florida's storyteller. WLRN Public Media is South Florida's largest public media conglomerate reaching almost 1-million people each week from Palm Beach to Key West. WLRN consistently produces award-winning content recognized on national, regional and statewide levels in both digital and broadcast categories.



WLRN Public Media has established itself as a vital part of the South Florida community.

With successful focus on high quality programming and award-winning original productions, WLRN-TV has created a schedule that resonates with its' audience and reflects the diverse demographics of the South Florida region. WLRN has produced and presented more than forty-five of its award-winning television documentaries with PBS affiliates nationally. In FY 2023, WLRN premiered its two-hour feature documentary titled *When We Were Shuttle* which **garnered WLRN-TV's 33rd Suncoast EMMY by The Suncoast Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences**. WLRN's award-winning documentaries and short stories are made available online for teachers and classrooms. These unique South Florida stories range from history, nature, culture, and the arts, and can be accessed at WLRN's video portal <https://video.wlrn.org>, providing an educational resource that reflects the diverse interests of the community that we call home.

WLRN's award-winning journalism and documentary work continues to have meaningful impact both locally and nationally. WLRN rose to the top in a variety of areas in 2023, including focus on reorganizing and developing the radio news operations to expand and deepen WLRN's Florida news coverage. In FY23, emphasis on investigative

reporting, longform audio journalism, including features, documentaries, podcasts, and newsletters, along with building a robust digital website with timely and breaking news, is offering strong local and regional enterprise stories that serve our South Florida market on multiple levels. In addition, WLRN News is expanding its journalism impact by sharing its content with other news outlets serving the South Florida market, including Apple News, the Miami Herald, El Nuevo Herald, the Haitian Times, the Associated Press and Univision News. WLRN is working towards a partnership with PolitiFact, the Pulitzer Prize-winning fact checking institution, which will provide additional content for WLRN radio and wlrn.org. The partnership will collaborate closely together for the upcoming 2024 election season with resources to fact-check Florida politicians.

Directing resources and support for WLRN's new investigative reporting team is already proving to be impactful with the release of their inaugural report on the Guardianship Program. The Guardianship story was acknowledged for outstanding local and investigative stories in Local Matters, a weekly newsletter supported by Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) and the Knight Foundation.

WLRN Original Production: **WHEN WE WERE SHUTTLE**

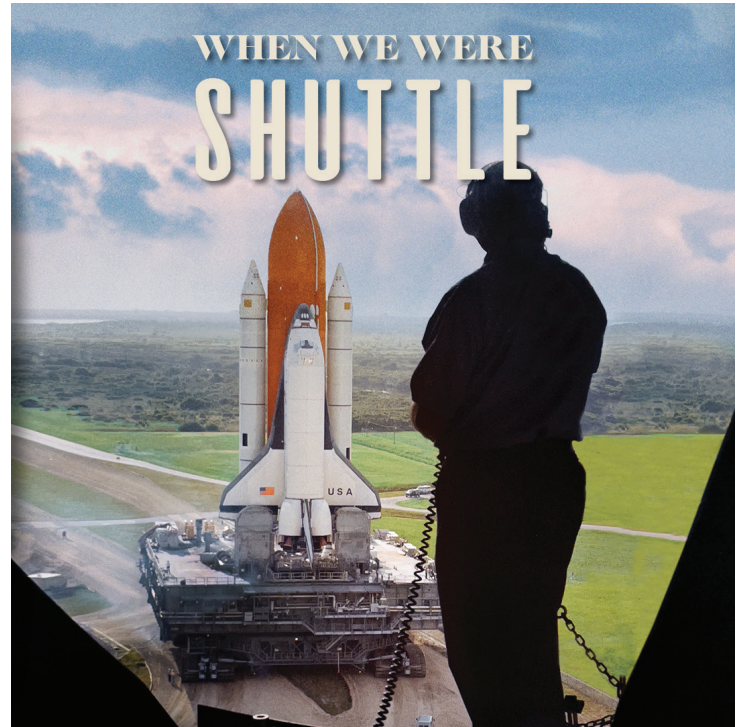
In FY 2023, WLRN Public Television released its two-hour documentary *When We Were Shuttle*, exploring the Space Shuttle Program through the eyes of some of the exceptional men and women who worked behind-the-scenes to make it fly.

Through recollections and personal archive, WLRN's latest film reveals their fondest memories and darkest hours: from the launching and repair of the Hubble Space Telescope and the construction of the International Space Station to the loss of Shuttles Challenger and Columbia in accidents that were ultimately seen as avoidable, and in many ways served as the impetus for the fleet's early retirement.

The world premier screening was held at the Kennedy Space Center IMAX Theater with over 450 in attendance on October 20, 2022, in collaboration with Central Florida public media stations WMFE and WUCF. Special guests included students from Blue Origins Club for the Future and the Society of Women Engineers Florida Polytechnic Chapter. Following the screening was a Q & A session moderated by Brendan Byrne, host of WMFE's space exploration program *Are We There Yet?* with the NASA workers who participated in the film. A second screening was held in the Planetarium at Miami's Philip & Patricia Frost Museum of Science on November 3, 2022, with 260 in attendance.

WLRN considers both the entertainment and educational value of its originally produced films. The film comes with a companion *When We Were Shuttle* Teacher Guide and Lesson Plans designed for middle and high school classrooms.

The film was released nationally in April 2023.



The America Report: **COMMENTARIES, PODCASTS, AND NEWSLETTER**

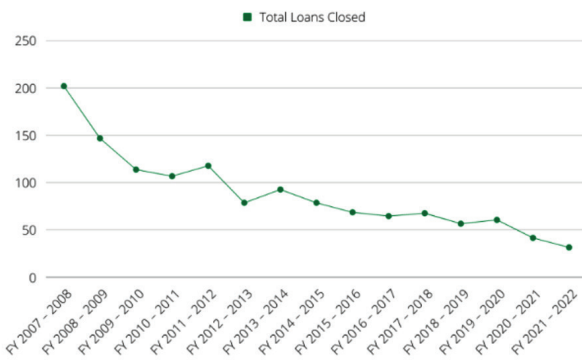
WLRN's Americas Editor **Tim Padgett** is covering a wide range of stories on multiple platforms that explores Latin America and the Caribbean and their key relationship with South Florida. Through radio broadcasts, podcasts, and now the launch of the popular weekly Americas newsletter, launched in 2023, WLRN's audience is staying informed on how what happens in Latin America and the Caribbean has a profound effect on South Florida.

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Public Media

THE AMERICAS REPORT



HOMES PURCHASED THROUGH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S **FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS PROGRAM**



Source: Miami-Dade County

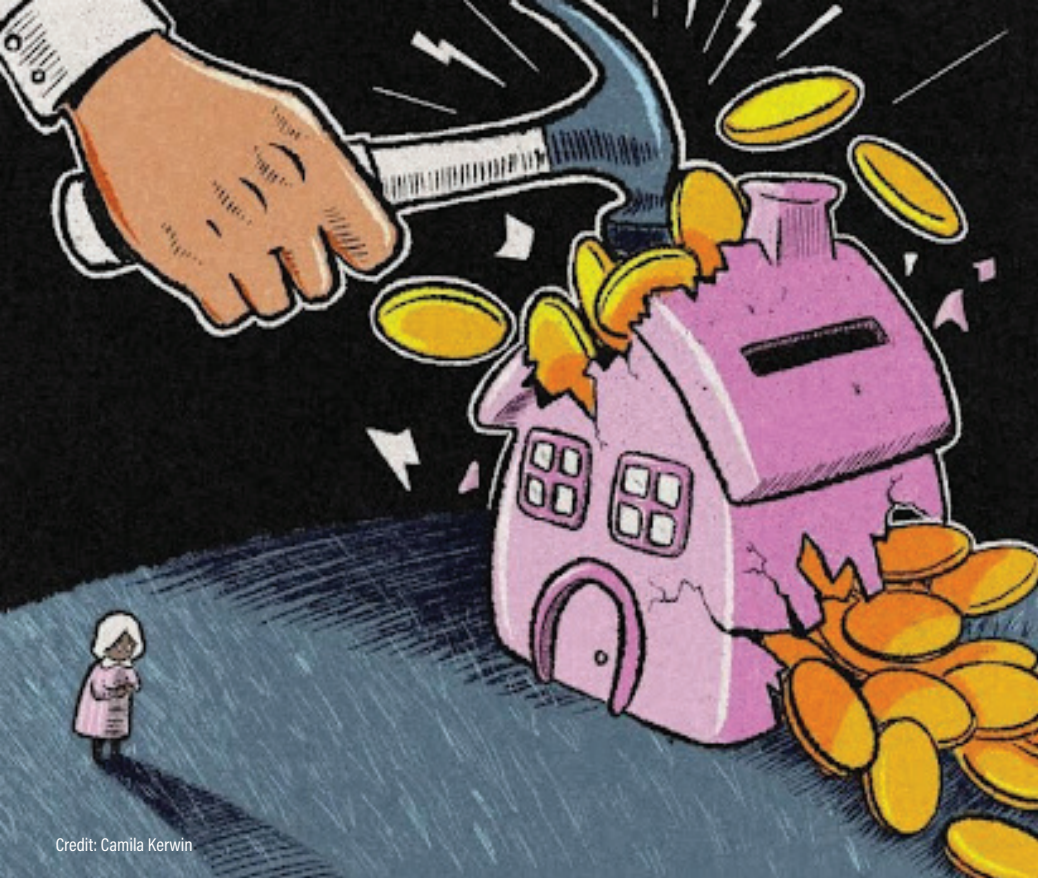
Unaffordable Housing: **INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

With soaring prices, first-time homebuyers' programs pushed to irrelevance in South Florida. Miami-Dade is now broadly considered the most unaffordable housing market in the nation. And as the ultra-wealthy continue to move into the area, they are also skewing other key qualification criteria against low and medium-income families. As hundreds of people receive government help purchasing homes in other highly populated (and rural) parts of the state, South Florida markets have been left behind by state first-time homebuyer programs.

Celebrating Poetry Zip Odes: **COMMUNITY**

WLRN's annual, successful, capstone project titled The Zip Ode is an original idea invented by O, Miami and WLRN. Each year, since 2015, the community is invited to transform their zip code into an occasion for place-based, lyrical celebration, by submitting their five-line poems, with the number of words confined to the numbers in their zip code. Since its inception, WLRN has received 17,936 poems. This event which captures the essence of South Florida's diverse communities through poetry. Poets were selected and invited to read their poems at O, Miami and WLRN's Zip Ode Finale at Vizcaya Museum & Gardens on April 26, 2023. The winner of this year's The Zip Ode went to Luz Rossy with zip code 33125.





Credit: Camila Kerwin



Daniel Rivero is a reporter and producer and part of WLRN's Investigative Unit.



Joshua Ceballos is WLRN's Local Government Accountability Reporter and a member of the investigations team.


Unguarded: INVESTIGATIVE SERIES REPORT

WLRN's new investigative reporting team makes extraordinary impact with their inaugural report on the Guardianship Program. WLRN's reporters followed a tip which revealed that the Guardianship Program of Dade County had a relationship with a real estate company to sell property that was retrieved from incapacitated individuals and sold quickly, reaping significant gains. That company sold the homes for profit, renovated the homes to sell later, or kept the buildings as rental property. Gains collected from the subsequent sales did not go towards the care of the non-profit agency's "incapacitated" clients. The impact after publishing the story was immediate.

Following the publication online and broadcast, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava directed the county administration to cease grant payments to the Program and asked for an independent investigation. This was followed by two Miami-Dade commissioners, Eileen Higgins and Raquel Regalado, who called on the county's independent Inspector General's Office to launch a probe of the Guardianship Program of Dade County's real estate transactions.

Series reports included:

- Buying Guardianship homes turns into family affair
- Miami-Dade commissioner wants independent probe of Guardianship Program of Dade
- Guardianship Program must halt property sales — for now — to keep Miami-Dade funding
- WLRN investigation featured in national conversation about guardianship reform
- How a tight-knit network of Miami real estate players bought and sold Guardianship homes for profit



WLRN Public Media is committed to being the most trusted source of information and entertainment in South Florida's diverse community.

Licensed to the school board of Dade County, WLRN is best known for its award-winning journalism, its original productions and its public radio and television programs. But WLRN's services go well beyond the airwaves – WLRN is a South Florida treasure.

"My business law professor inspired me to listen to public radio; she told our class that listening to public radio was as valuable as obtaining a post-graduate degree. I've been listening to, and supporting WLRN, ever since."

– Jack Glottmann, Owner, Saglo Companies

WLRN PUBLIC RADIO & TELEVISION
IS THE PREMIER CHOICE FOR QUALITY PROGRAM CONTENT,
RESOURCES AND SERVICES THAT POSITIVELY IMPACT
THE SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY.

