Mission: We provide news, information, and entertainment to foster community engagement.

Vision: We will be a public media leader in Alaska providing programming that strengthens the cultural, civic, and social fabric of our community.

We will build KBBI’s future on the strong foundation of a dedicated community, who established the station and continue to support it with enthusiasm, and with talented, skilled, resourceful staff and volunteers.

KBBI is a valuable part of the city of Homer, Kenai Peninsula, and South Central Alaska’s advancement.

As a part of the community’s vibrant group of nonprofit organizations, KBBI plays an important role in connecting the public with culture, arts, current events, and education.

In 2022, KBBI provided these vital local services:

- Broadcast of Homer City Council Meetings
- Broadcast of Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Meetings
- Emergency Services Broadcasts for tsunami warnings
- Coverage of local elections
- Weekly public interest program: Coffee Table
- Weekly public interest program: Covid Brief

KBBI’s local services had deep impact on the southern Kenai Peninsula.

Without funding from CPB, KBBI would not be able to provide the coverage and depth of services to the area as effectively. The listening public has come to depend on KBBI as a source of information about weather and marine conditions, school closures, tsunami, earthquake, wildfire, and other emergency events, and local news. KBBI’s newsroom is the only local source for daily information.

"What I love most about KBBI is the combination of national public radio programming with significant local programs and announcements. KBBI is truly the best connector for all of us, whether we need a ride to Anchorage and will share expenses, lost our cat, dog or keys, want to connect with family and friends on nearby islands or isolated communities on the Bush Line. And, as the Homer Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center and Special Events Manager, I know that KBBI public service announcements will attract locals and visitors alike to an immense array of community special events."

Testimony prepared by Janet (Jan) Marie Knutson
KBBI serves our community through a variety of local programming choices. In addition to approximately 30 hours a week of volunteer produced local music shows, KBBI also produces several weekly programs, and partners with several local organizations to present relevant information to listeners.

KBBI News is produced twice a day, one in the morning and one in the evening. The newscast is nine minutes, and will include stories about local current events, politics, arts, and more. The newscast is also produced as a podcast for on-demand listening after the newscast airs.

The Coffee Table is one of KBBI’s longest running programs, airing Wednesday mornings at 9am. The Coffee Table is a longform program encouraging listener engagement through call-ins, and the focus is community events, politics, and issues of local public concern.

The Covid Brief, now ended, ran from March 2020 through October 2022, in partnership with Alaska Public Health and South Peninsula Hospital, to present a once a week rundown on the current spread of covid, locally, treatment options available, lists of resources, and an opportunity for listeners to ask questions from medical professionals.

Homergrown, now finishing its third season, is a weekly, one hour program about gardening, farming, agriculture, and sustainability. Topics range from gardening techniques, to exploration into local agriculture industries, including decorative flowers, sustainable gardening, cattle ranching, kelp farming, cold climate considerations, and more.

KBBI has partnered with the Homer Public Library to present Storytime, a once a month hour long show featuring the head children’s librarian, who curates a list of children’s books and music into a themed program. In addition to stories and music, the show also encourages listeners to call in to the show.

KBBI has partnered with Pier One Theatre to present Shakespeare in Context, a half hour monthly program exploring the context of various Shakespeare plays in conjunction with a live reading of that month’s work at the local community college. Pier One Theatre also produces a two minute daily segment in February called Sonnet of the Day, highlighting a Shakespeare authored sonnet every day of the month.

KBBI partners with the Friends of the Homer Public Library to produce Reading Between the Lines, a weekly four minute segment spotlighting content available in the library’s collection.

KBBI partners with Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies to produce Kachemak Currents, a weekly four minute segment focusing on local marine science.

KBBI partners with the City of Homer to produce the Clerk’s Calendar, a weekly two minute segment providing a schedule of city meetings and events. KBBI also broadcasts the Homer City Council, every other Monday.
New Salmon Sisters dress called out for 'cultural appropriation'

9/1/22: The Homer-based company Salmon Sisters launched a line of apparel in August that’s getting a lot of attention. Hundreds of comments on social media have called their new clothing design “cultural appropriation.”

Homer schools placed under temporary lockdown Tuesday after TikTok threat

10/4/22: Homer area schools were under a soft lockdown Tuesday following the threat of a school shooting, according to the Homer Police Department. Around 8 a.m. Tuesday, the Anchorage FBI told police that a 16-year-old Homer teenager posted on TikTok that he was going to shoot up a school and be the “next serial killer,” according to a statement from police. The specific school under threat was not identified.

‘A Battle over Books’: Petitioners push to remove LGBTQ titles from Homer Library children’s section

11/22/22: A contentious battle over books is playing out in Homer. Homer’s Library Advisory Board is deciding what to do with more than 50 children’s books with LGBTQ themes.
Concert on the Lawn

In 2022, KBBI restarted its longest running community event, Concert on the Lawn. After a seven year break from the event, this year it was reimagined as a one day event, bringing in local businesses and nonprofits as partners, sponsors and vendors, and featuring local musicians for a six hour concert. The concert also acted as a fund raiser for the station, and was broadcast live on the radio.

Reach in the Community:
Almost 400 tickets were sold for the event, with another 100 tickets given to performers, sponsors, and volunteers.

Partnerships:
Over a dozen local businesses and nonprofits stepped up as sponsors to support the event, including: Fireweed Meadows, Duncan House Diner, Classic Cook, Ashore Taxi, Bay Realty, Four Glaciers Inn, Nomar, Ulmer’s Drug & Hardware, Homer Uber, Salmonfest, Skiff Chicks Custom Design, Nomad Shelters, Horizon Satellite, East End Grog Shop.

Impact and Community Feedback:
The event was well received and well attended, and was featured in the local newspaper before and after the event.

"Homer’s public radio...what would we do without all of the connection to our community it offers us to stay informed and entertained. Thank you KBBI for sending the wattage to our cottage."- Homer Brewing Company

"It's our morning ritual, coffee & KBBI. No TV, just quality programming, so refreshing."- Dave Derry

"The Bushlines were a lifeline when I lived across the inlet for 20 years and although I now have a Sat. phone, they still are essential when I go over there. Not sure how we could of done without them back in the day. It was the only way people could communicate with us. Thank you so much for this feature."- Trish Wild
"Thanks KBBI for all your great programming and the wonderful news reporters, myriad hosts and music over the years. And of Course NPR. Where would we be without you." - Therese Lewandowski

Students from a local elementary school recording public service announcements.

KBBI is proud to fulfil our mission to serve our community with public information, current events, education, and entertainment.