

2026

Annual Programming Report



Letter from Leadership

Dear Friends,

Every day, WLRN serves South Florida by connecting people with trusted information, meaningful stories, and one another. Across our radio, television, and digital platforms, we strive to reflect the richness of our communities while providing the journalism, educational resources, and cultural programming that help our region better understand itself and the world around it.

That mission has never been more important. Over the past year, public media faced significant challenges. Reductions in both state and federal funding created uncertainty for stations across the country and raised important questions about the future of public service journalism and educational media. At a time when local news organizations continue to shrink and misinformation spreads with unprecedented speed, trusted, independent media remains essential to an informed and connected society.

What happened next was both inspiring and affirming.

In response to these challenges, our community rallied around WLRN. Members, donors, corporate partners, and philanthropic supporters demonstrated their belief in the value of public media through an extraordinary wave of generosity and engagement. Their support provided not only financial stability, but also a powerful reminder that the work we do matters deeply to the communities we serve.

Because of that support, WLRN did more than weather a difficult year. We continued to grow, innovate, and thrive.

Our journalism earned national recognition when WLRN was named a finalist for the 2026 Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting, reflecting the dedication and excellence of our newsroom. We expanded our commitment to local storytelling through the production of two original documentaries that explored issues shaping the future of South Florida

while amplifying the voices of our community. We also took a transformative step forward in expanding our public service mission through the acquisition of a new public radio station in Palm Beach County, strengthening our ability to serve audiences throughout the region with trusted news, information, and cultural programming.

These accomplishments represent more than milestones. They demonstrate the enduring value of public media and the impact that community-supported journalism and storytelling can have in people's lives. They reflect an organization that continues to evolve while remaining grounded in its core purpose: serving the public interest.

As media consumption habits continue to change, WLRN remains committed to meeting audiences wherever they are. From broadcast and streaming platforms to podcasts, digital journalism, and emerging technologies, we are expanding access to the trusted content our communities rely upon while ensuring that local voices remain at the center of the conversation.

The year ahead will undoubtedly bring new opportunities and challenges. But thanks to the strength of this community and the support of people who believe in the importance of public media, WLRN is well positioned to continue informing, inspiring, educating, and connecting South Florida for generations to come.

On behalf of everyone at WLRN, thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your support. Together, we are ensuring that the stories, voices, and experiences of South Florida continue to be heard, shared, and valued.



Sheila Reinken

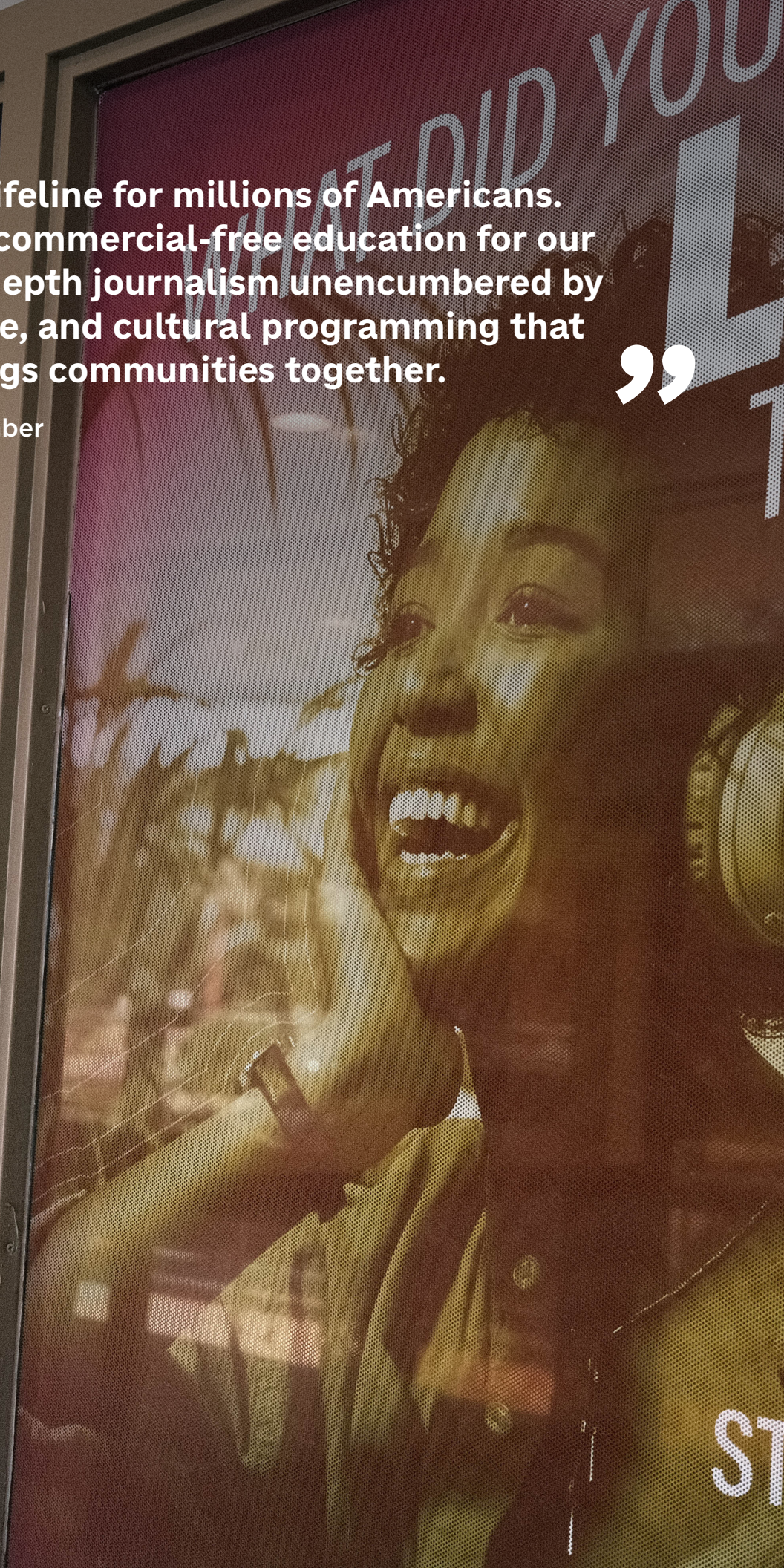
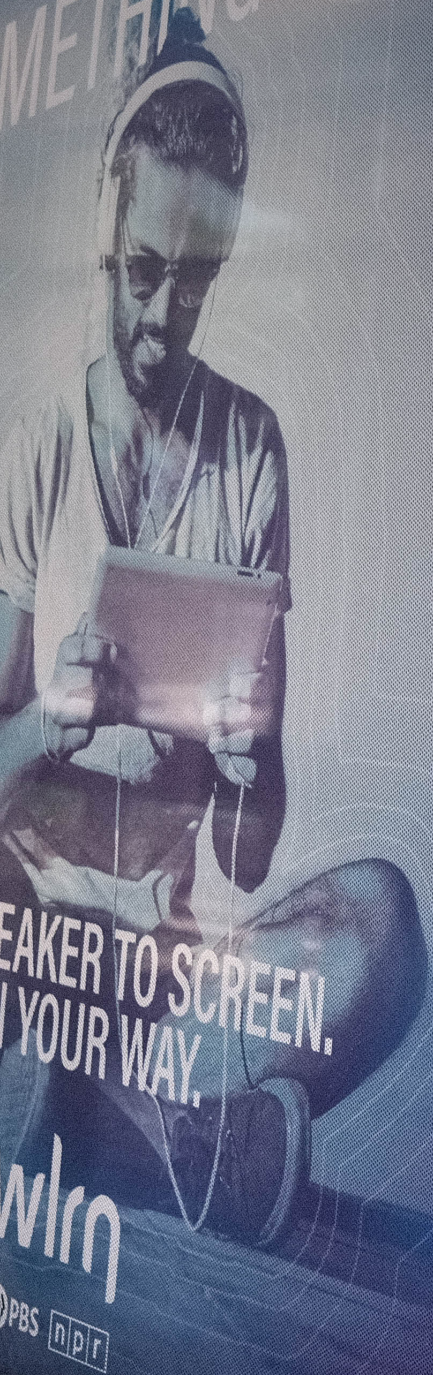
*COO South Florida Public
Media Group
WLRN Public Media*

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**You are a lifeline for millions of Americans.
You provide commercial-free education for our
children, in-depth journalism unencumbered by
profit motive, and cultural programming that
brings communities together.**

”

Slade, WLRN Member
Coral Springs, FL



From breaking news and in-depth reporting to thoughtful conversations and cultural programming, WLRN Public Radio remains a trusted companion for listeners across South Florida. Serving communities from Key West to the Palm Beaches through 91.3 WLRN, 91.5 WKWM, and 105.5 WOLL, WLRN provides fWLRN provides trusted journalism and public service programming journalism and public service programming that helps audiences better understand the issues shaping our region and the world around us.

WLRN-FM remains a powerhouse in South Florida's highly competitive radio landscape. Throughout

the year, listeners continued to turn to WLRN-FM for trusted news, information, and thoughtful analysis. During Morning Drive, WLRN-FM ranked fifth among all radio stations in the market and held the top position among News and Information stations, underscoring the enduring value of public media and the critical role WLRN plays in keeping our communities informed and connected.

Listeners also enjoyed around-the-clock access to WLRN Classical HD-2, which offers a carefully curated classical music service available on HD radio and digital platforms.

South Florida Voices

Local programming remains a cornerstone of WLRN's commitment to serving and strengthening our community. Through trusted journalism, insightful discussion, and coverage of the issues, people, arts, and culture that define South Florida, WLRN provides listeners with the information and context they need to better understand the world around them. This dedication to local storytelling continues to earn the trust and support of audiences throughout the region.



Produced by WLRN and distributed statewide, **The Florida Roundup** brings together newsmakers, journalists, experts, and Floridians from all walks of life for thoughtful discussions on the issues affecting communities across the state. Hosted by veteran journalist Tom Hudson, the program continues to serve as a trusted forum for civil discourse and informed conversation, reaching audiences through public radio stations throughout Florida.



Hosted by WLRN Americas Editor Tim Padgett, **The South Florida Roundup** delivers in-depth conversations on the issues shaping our community and our connection to the broader Caribbean and Latin American region. Leveraging decades of reporting experience and a deep understanding of South Florida's unique cultural and political landscape, Padgett and his team bring together diverse voices and expert perspectives to help listeners better understand the stories affecting their daily lives.



Through regular news updates featured during **NPR's Here & Now**, WLRN brings local reporting to audiences across South Florida each weekday. Produced and hosted by Senior Producer Sherrilyn Cabrera, these segments showcase the work of the WLRN News team, delivering timely, fact-based coverage of the issues, events, and developments impacting our region.

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Hosted by Folk Radio Hall of Fame inductee Michael Stock, **Folk and Acoustic Music** has been a staple of WLRN's programming for decades. Through music, interviews, and live performances, the program connects listeners with acclaimed artists and emerging voices while celebrating the enduring traditions of folk and acoustic music.

WLRN-FM Program Distributors

National Public Radio (NPR)
American Public Media (APM)
New York Public Radio (WNYC)
Public Radio Exchange (PRX)
BBC

300,000

Number of listeners on average tuning into WLRN/WKWM/101.9FM each week.

Source: Nielsen Media Research

WLRN FM Listener Composition

28% 26% 46%

Hispanic

Black

Other

Every day, WLRN News brings South Florida closer to the stories that matter. Through thoughtful reporting and timely coverage, WLRN serves communities from the Palm Beaches to the Florida Keys with trusted news across radio, digital, and social platforms. By covering everything from local government and public safety to environmental challenges and cultural issues, WLRN helps residents stay informed, engaged, and connected to the region they call home.

The Power Of Partnership

WLRN News believes that informed communities are built through strong journalism and strong partnerships. By collaborating with leading local, state, and national news organizations, we expand the depth and reach of our reporting while ensuring South Florida stories are part of larger conversations. These relationships help us provide audiences with trusted coverage, diverse perspectives, and meaningful context on the issues shaping our region and the world around us.

Refresh Miami: A trusted source for news and insights on Miami's technology sector, documenting the region's growth and evolution for more than a decade.

The Miami Times: South Florida's oldest Black-owned newspaper, providing trusted community journalism for generations.

The Miami Herald: Stories produced by their arts and culture reporters and climate correspondents are frequently featured as part of WLRN News coverage.

Key Biscayne Independent & Liberty City Independent: These community-focused digital news organizations deliver investigative and accountability reporting centered on Key Biscayne and Liberty City.

MediaLab@FAU: Produced by Florida Atlantic University communications students, this digital news outlet serves as a training ground for the next generation of journalists.

Caplin News Service: A news service produced by the Caplin School of Journalism & Media at Florida International University, showcasing reporting from the next generation of journalists.

The Miami Hurricane: WLRN partners with The Miami Hurricane to amplify student journalism and bring fresh perspectives on issues impacting the University of Miami and South Florida.

Florida Climate Change Network: A collaborative network of Florida news organizations that produces and shares in-depth reporting on climate change and environmental challenges.

Fresh Take Florida: A University of Florida news service that provides student-produced investigative and political journalism from across the state.

The Conversation: An independent nonprofit newsroom dedicated to making expert knowledge accessible and understandable for the public.

The Florida News Exchange: A shared digital network that enables Florida's public radio stations to collaborate on reporting, amplify local stories, and serve audiences across the state.

Special News Coverage

Hurricane Ready



WLRN is a member of the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network (FPREN), a statewide collaboration that provides critical weather information before, during, and after severe weather events. Through this partnership, WLRN delivers timely forecasts, emergency updates, and public safety information to South Florida audiences. WLRN also contributes climate and resilience reporting to the network, including coverage of emerging discussions around shifting the official start of hurricane season to mid-May. Forecasts, interactive maps, and storm resources remain available year-round through the [WLRN.org](https://www.wlrn.org/weather) weather page, powered by Florida Storms.

Trusted Reporting, Local Impact



A compelling four-part series that investigates a shocking family tragedy in the Florida Keys, using one young man's story to examine the complex relationship between mental illness and the criminal justice system.



This investigative podcast examines the troubling safety record of Brightline, the nation's first privately operated passenger rail system in more than a century. Through a yearlong collaboration between WLRN News and the Miami Herald, the series explores why Brightline has become the deadliest passenger train in the United States and the questions surrounding its rapid expansion.

From Our Newsroom to Your Inbox

WLRN's growing family of newsletters extends the reach of our newsroom, connecting thousands of readers each week with original reporting, expert insights, and the stories shaping South Florida and beyond.



Dedicated to the people and stories behind South Florida's creative scene, the Arts & Culture newsletter showcases the region's rich artistic traditions, emerging voices, and cultural experiences.



The Americas Report newsletter brings readers timely news and analysis from Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighting the stories, trends, and events that shape South Florida's connection to the region.



Inspired by the journals scientists use to document their work in the field, Field Notes brings readers deeper into the environmental stories shaping South Florida. The newsletter combines original reporting and expert analysis to explore climate change, conservation, restoration efforts, and the unique ecosystems that define our region.

Recognition for Excellence

The quality and impact of WLRN's journalism earned national and regional recognition throughout the year. These accomplishments reflect WLRN's commitment to producing journalism that informs, engages, and serves the public while holding institutions accountable and telling the stories that matter most to South Florida.



WLRN was named a finalist for the 2026 Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting for Killer Train, one of only four finalists nationwide and the only public media enterprise. Pulitzer judges cited the investigation's data-driven reporting and its role in exposing the human cost behind the Brightline rail system.

The newsroom also received five Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards, including honors for Investigative Reporting (Killer Train), Podcast (Keeper and Killer), Feature Reporting (Bending the Bars), Excellence in Writing, and Digital Journalism.



EDWARD R. MURROW
AWARDS



Additional honors included an Investigative Reporters & Editors Award for Killer Train, recognizing the project's outstanding accountability reporting, and the Esserman-Knight Grand Prize, one of South Florida's most prestigious journalism awards.





“ PBS was a formative influence as a young child and I have yet to grow out of its ability to enrich my life. I wholeheartedly support the work it does to offer a variety of programs and perspectives. Thank you! ”

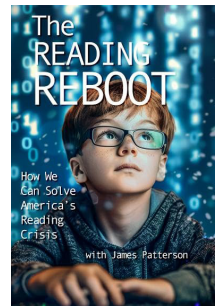
Kelly, WLRN Member
Miami, FL

For more than 60 years, WLRN-TV has connected South Florida audiences with programming that educates, inspires, and brings communities together. As a PBS member station, WLRN-TV offers a broad range of content, including trusted public affairs programming, award-winning documentaries, world-class drama, arts and culture, science, history, and educational children's programming. By combining national productions with stories that reflect the people and places of South Florida, WLRN-TV continues to fulfill its mission of informing, engaging, and enriching the communities we serve.

Stories that Inform and Inspire

Storytelling has always been central to WLRN's public service mission. Through original documentaries and local productions, WLRN-TV captures the people, places, and experiences that shape South Florida, creating a lasting record of our region's history, culture, and identity. With more than 60 productions distributed nationally through PBS and a growing library available to Miami-Dade County Public Schools through video. wlrn.org, these stories continue to educate, inspire, and connect audiences both locally and across the country.

In 2026, WLRN-TV premiered *The Reading Reboot: How We Can Solve America's Reading Crisis*, a documentary created in partnership with bestselling author James Patterson that examines the challenges facing young readers and the proven strategies helping children succeed. The film highlights educators, families, and experts working to improve literacy outcomes and create brighter futures for students nationwide. The film will go into national distribution in November 2026.



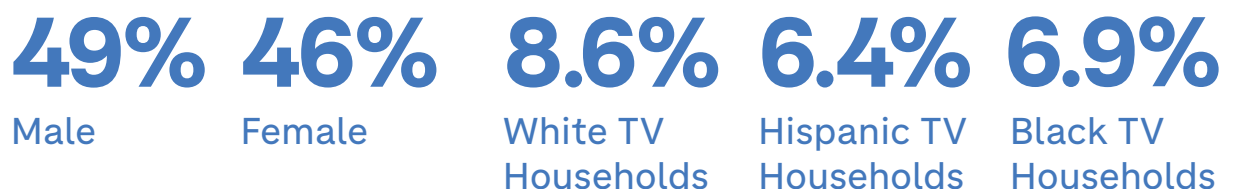
Climate change takes center stage in *Facing the Future: South Florida vs. Climate Change*, an original documentary that explores the local impacts of climate change and the efforts underway to address them. The film highlights the scientists, community leaders, policymakers, and residents working together to develop innovative solutions and build a more resilient future for South Florida. National distribution is planned for fall 2026.

Marching Forward Together

WLRN-TV once again brought the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration in Liberty City to audiences throughout South Florida. Recorded on January 19, 2026, the three-hour event was condensed into a one-hour television special that highlighted the community's tribute to Dr. King's life, leadership, and lasting impact.

WLRN Viewership

Source: Nielsen Media Research



Silver Knights, Golden Futures

WLRN-TV partnered with *The Miami Herald* and *El Nuevo Herald* to present a one-hour Silver Knight Awards special on May 26, 2026. The program honored outstanding Miami-Dade and Broward County public school seniors whose academic achievement, leadership, and dedication to community service exemplify the best of South Florida's next generation.



Inspiring the Next Generation

As part of its commitment to education, WLRN airs 35 hours of children's programming each week. Featuring trusted PBS KIDS favorites including *Arthur*, *Wild Kratts*, *Elinor Wonders Why*, and *Odd Squad*, these award-winning programs help young viewers build critical thinking, literacy, science, and social-emotional skills while fostering a lifelong love of learning.



Bright Minds, Bold Futures



In partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, WLRN launched *EdVentures 305*, a new series that celebrates the students, educators, and innovative programs shaping the future of education in South Florida. Through inspiring stories from classrooms across the district, the series highlights the opportunities and achievements that make Miami-Dade County Public Schools a national leader in public education.



Serving Every Community

WLRN's commitment to serving South Florida's diverse communities includes four hours of locally produced Spanish-language programming each Sunday. Created in partnership with community producers, these programs offer engaging conversations, cultural perspectives, and content that reflects the voices and experiences of our region's Spanish-speaking audiences.

- Entre Mujeres Sunday 3 p.m.
- Ante Usted Sunday 3:30 p.m.
- Colombia al Dia Sunday 4 p.m.
- Cuba y su Historia Sunday 4:30 p.m.
- Show de Pedro Roman Sunday 5 p.m.
- Opiniones Sunday 5:30 p.m.
- Comentando Sunday 6 p.m.
- Foro 17 Sunday 6:30 p.m.



Major Program Distributors

PBS

BBC

AMERICAN PUBLIC TELEVISION

NETA

Beyond the Broadcast

From screenings and discussions to educational programs and community celebrations, WLRN is proud to be an active partner throughout South Florida. These experiences create opportunities to meet audiences where they are, spark meaningful conversations, and strengthen connections that extend well beyond our broadcasts. Whether at schools, museums, libraries, festivals, or neighborhood events, WLRN remains committed to serving the community in person as well as on the air.

History Talks: Miami's Boom Era Communities

In partnership with HistoryMiami Museum, History Talks examined the stories behind some of South Florida's most notable boom-era communities, including Miami Shores, Coral Gables, Opa-locka, and Hialeah. Hosted by Dr. Paul S. George and moderated by WLRN investigative reporter Josh Ceballos, the two-part series complemented *History We Call Home: 100 Years of South Florida* and explored the history that continues to shape our region today.



11th Annual Race for Education at the Superintendent's 5k

On March 7, 2026 more than 6,000 runners, joggers, walkers, students, teachers, families, and community supporters came together in support of Miami-Dade County Public Schools during this annual celebration of education and wellness. WLRN was proud to participate with an interactive information table, connecting with attendees and sharing the station's local programming and community initiatives.



Creating Connections



Through a series of free movie events at senior communities across South Florida, WLRN-TV shared its original documentaries with audiences beyond the television screen. These screenings fostered connection, conversation, and community while bringing engaging, locally relevant programming directly to older adults throughout the region.

University Of Miami Rosenstiel School Climate Cafe Series

In partnership with the University Of Miami Rosenstiel School, WLRN hosted the Climate Café series, bringing together scientists and community members for accessible conversations about climate science and its impact on South Florida. Moderated by environmental journalist Jenny Staletovich, the series explored topics ranging from the future of Florida's Coral Reef to the role of the deep ocean in shaping our climate, helping audiences better understand the challenges and discoveries influencing our region's future.



Miami Book Fair: Evenings With Presented by WLRN

WLRN served as the presenting sponsor of Miami Book Fair's Evenings With... series, which brings acclaimed authors and thought leaders together for engaging conversations about the ideas shaping our world. As part of the series, author Sarah Smarsh discussed her book *Bone of the Bone: Essays on America by a Daughter of the Working Class*. WLRN News staff moderated the discussion, helping foster a thoughtful dialogue between the author and the South Florida community.

News & Neighbors

WLRN launched a new free community engagement series designed to bring our newsroom closer to the people we serve. Held at libraries throughout South Florida, these events gave residents an opportunity to connect directly with WLRN journalists, discuss issues affecting their communities, and help inform future coverage. The series reflects WLRN's commitment to listening, engagement, and community-driven journalism.

South Florida Roundup LIVE at Little Haiti's Cultural Complex



Hosted by WLRN Americas Editor Tim Padgett, a live taping of *The South Florida Roundup* brought together community leaders and residents to discuss the end of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians in the United States. The event provided an opportunity for audience members to engage directly with the topic and participate in a meaningful community conversation about an issue affecting many South Floridians.

Facing the Future Screenings

WLRN extended the impact of *Facing the Future: South Florida vs. Climate Change* through a series of community screenings held across South Florida. The events brought together residents, scientists, policymakers, and environmental advocates to explore the challenges and opportunities presented by a changing climate. Screenings included panel discussions with experts and film participants, as well as opportunities for attendees to connect with local environmental organizations working to build a more resilient future for the region.



WLRN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

PBS Learning Media

WLRN proudly serves as PBS LearningMedia provider for Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe counties, connecting educators and students with a rich collection of curriculum-aligned digital resources. Designed to enhance classroom instruction and support student success, PBS Learning Media offers thousands of videos, activities, lesson plans, and interactive tools that bring learning to life.

Newsroom Internship Program

As part of its commitment to fostering future journalists, WLRN offers paid, hands-on learning opportunities for current and recent college students throughout the year. By working directly with experienced newsroom professionals, participants develop practical skills, gain real-world experience, and build strong portfolios that prepare them for careers in journalism and public media. Students have joined the program from institutions including Northwestern University, Florida International University, Miami Dade College, and the University of Florida.

WLRN High School Internship Program

The WLRN High School Internship Program provides students with hands-on experience in professional media environments while introducing them to careers in journalism, production, and public affairs. Working in various departments throughout the station, students develop valuable industry skills through real-world experience. In partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, WLRN works directly with educators and students to identify and recruit talented participants, helping cultivate the next generation of media professionals in South Florida.

WLRN Original Production Companion Curriculum Guides



To extend learning beyond the broadcast, WLRN develops custom educational guides to accompany many of its original productions. Aligned with Florida's academic standards, these resources help educators bring local stories into the classroom through engaging activities, discussion prompts, and critical thinking exercises. By connecting curriculum to real-world topics and experiences, the guides deepen student understanding and enhance the educational impact of WLRN's content.

“ Now, more than ever, we need public media.
Thank you for your work in these trying times.

Vivian, WLRN Member
Coral Gables, FL

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As media continues to evolve, WLRN remains focused on serving South Florida with trusted journalism, inspiring stories, lifelong learning, and meaningful community connections. None of this is possible without the support of our members, donors, partners, and viewers. Together, we look forward to continuing this work for generations to come.

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