

**ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE
MINNESOTA LEGACY ARTS AND
CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND**

Minnesota Public Radio's Fiscal Year 2023
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023



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Minnesota is a culturally rich and diverse state. MPR’s programs are aligned with the goals of the Minnesota Legacy Amendment’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to create and showcase “arts, history and cultural heritage programs that will bolster Minnesota’s reputation as a center for creativity, innovation and imagination, supporting the long-term vitality of our state.” MPR achieves the state of Minnesota’s goals through MPR News, YourClassical MPR, The Current, and live events programming, as well as archiving our regionally created and distributed content. Information about MPR’s activities can be found on our website: mpr.org/public/legacy-amendment-projects.

In 2008, Minnesota’s voters passed the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment (Legacy Amendment) to the Minnesota Constitution. The amendment created four funds, one of which is the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (“ACHF”). The ACHF receives 19.75 percent of the sales tax revenue resulting from the Legacy amendment to support arts, arts education and arts access, and to preserve Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage.

Minnesota Public Radio is proud that the Minnesota Legislature has chosen to allocate ACHF funds for our work across the state. Following each fiscal year, MPR is required to submit an annual report to the Legislature detailing its ACHF activities and expenditures. This report covers MPR’s programs and projects conducted in our 2023 fiscal year and supported by the following ACHF Grant:

MPR Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) – \$1,950,000 total award

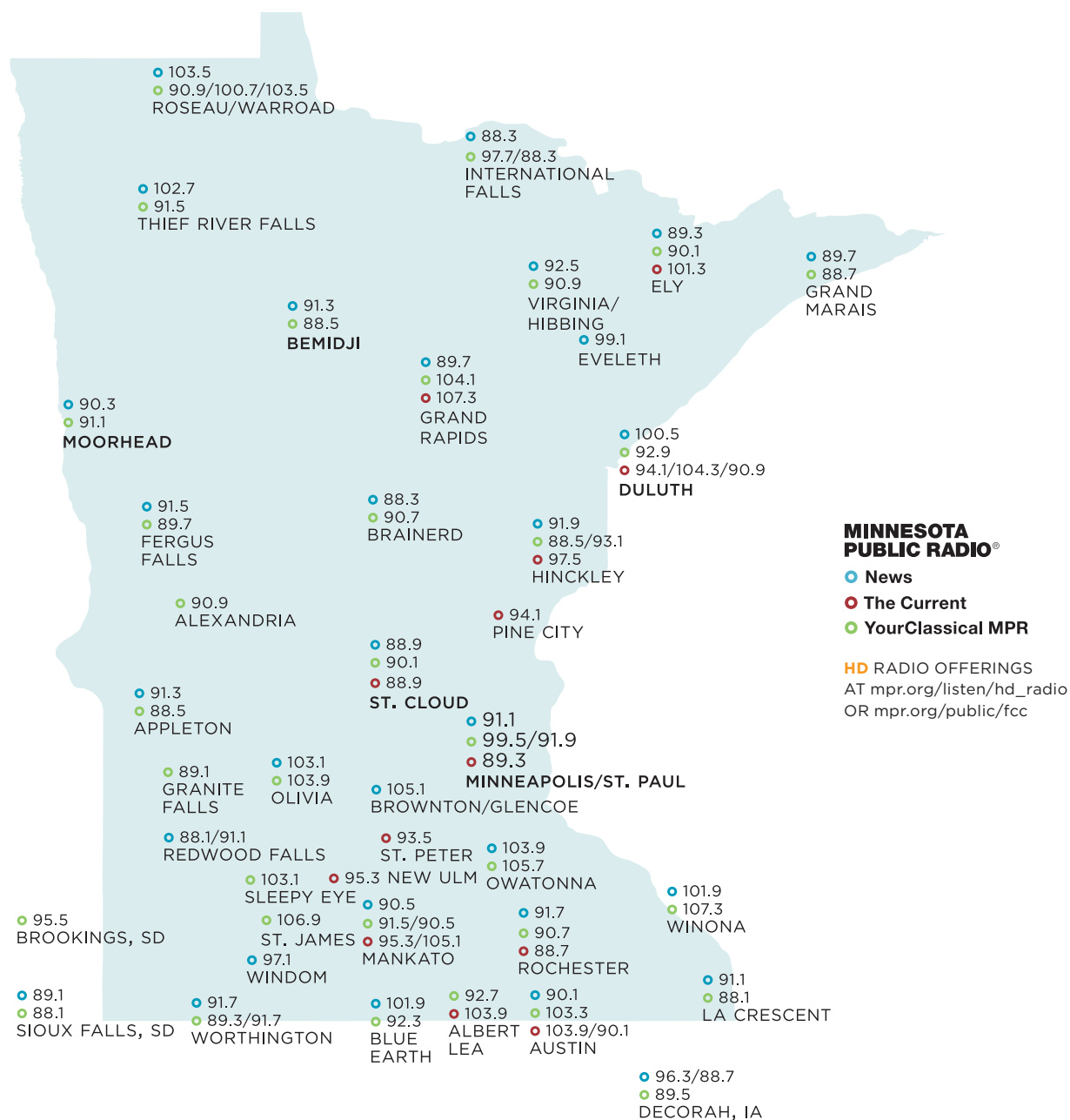
- ACHF Grant administered by the Department of Administration (Minnesota Laws, 2013 Regular Session, Chapter 137, Article 4, Section 2, Subdivision 6)

Cost of Report Preparation

The total cost for Minnesota Public Radio to prepare this report was approximately \$1,400. These costs involved staff time in compiling and analyzing data, and preparing the written report.

Estimated costs are provided in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 3.197 (2020), which mandates that the cost of preparing a required report must be provided at the beginning of all reports to the legislature.

MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO STATIONS



DEAR LEGISLATIVE LEADERS AND FELLOW MINNESOTANS,



In fall 2023, Minnesota Public Radio (“MPR”) approved a new strategic plan that will guide us through 2027. One of the central pillars of this plan is a focus on bringing more value at the local level. This will be an important new priority as we make decisions for our national programming, but for our regional programming this commitment has been integrated from our very first broadcast from Collegeville in 1967.

It is because of this “local-first” focus that MPR is able to advance the Legacy Amendment’s public broadcasting priority to expand Minnesotans’ *“knowledge, information, and access to arts, and Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage.”* Tune in at nearly any time of day to one of our regional services—MPR News, YourClassical MPR and The Current—or to one of our local streams and you will find local arts, culture, and history content. And not only does our broadcast signal reach 95% of the state, but MPR is also physically present in many communities, whether through our reporters and other staff living and working in every corner of the state, or through those of us headquartered in Saint Paul traveling to cities and towns throughout Minnesota to create programming.

Here are just a few highlights from this past year that demonstrate MPR’s deep commitment to offering singular cultural experiences at the local level:

- Class Notes, which brings Minnesota musicians into K-12 schools, traveled to 123 school districts across the state serving 56,000 students; this is double the previous year as schools were eager to have in-person experiences again.
- YourClassical MPR’s Bring the Sing partnered with our regional stations to gather more than 400 singers for community choral events with local musicians in Rochester, Fargo-Moorhead and Duluth.
- Carbon Sound, our streaming station dedicated to the depth, breadth, and influence of Black musical expression, brought listeners together to help celebrate its first birthday with a concert at the Fine Line in Minneapolis on Juneteenth.
- Minnesota Now and Then, a new segment on MPR News’ noon show with Cathy Wurzer, enlivened Minnesota history with more than a dozen stories from across the state.
- The Current hosted the Emerging Artists Showcase at Duluth’s Sacred Heart Music Center, an intimate event focused on Indigenous artists with representation from the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Boise Fort Band of Chippewa, and the Red Lake Nation.
- Rock the Cradle was live at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts for the first time since March 2020 with two events full of music and family activities serving more than 13,000 people of all ages.
- And, as we do every year, MPR was in residence throughout “the Great Minnesota Get-Together,” providing the best of Minnesota music and other experiences for Minnesotans from all over the state and beyond.

Beyond these examples, every week MPR highlights artists, musicians, historians, and culture bearers from all over the state on air and online as detailed in this report. On behalf of our nearly one million weekly listeners, thank you for the extraordinary support of the Minnesota Legacy Amendment’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund that makes all this local content possible. We are deeply grateful for the Legislature’s generous support of MPR but also for its support of the entire arts and culture ecosystem that helps nurture Minnesota as a place where so many talented creators choose to live and work.

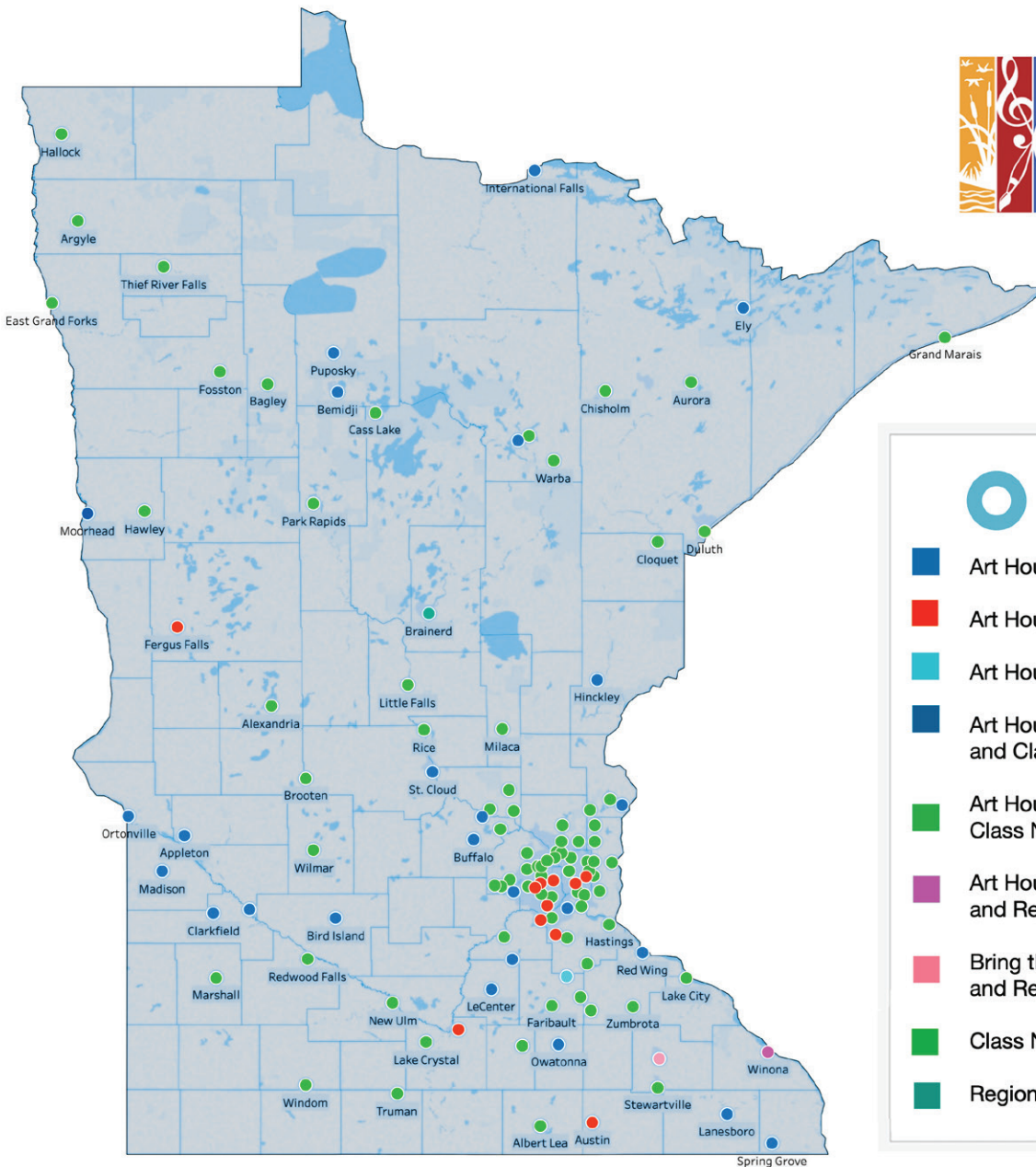
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Duchesne Drew".

Duchesne Drew
MPR President

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE MINNESOTA LEGACY ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

Minnesota is a culturally rich and diverse state. MPR's goal is aligned with that of the Minnesota Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to create and showcase "arts, history and cultural heritage programs (that) will bolster Minnesota's reputation as a center for creativity, innovation and imagination, supporting the long-term vitality of our state." MRP provides programming via special events, YourClassical MPR, MPR News and The Current.



MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO®

- Art Hounds
- Art Hounds and Class Notes
- Art Hounds and Regional Classical
- Art Hounds, Bring the Sing, and Class Notes
- Art Hounds, Bring the Sing, Class Notes, and the Current
- Art Hounds, Class Notes, and Regional Classical
- Bring the Sing, Class Notes, and Regional Classical
- Class Notes
- Regional Classical

MINNESOTA ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND LEGACY

HIGHLIGHTING MINNESOTA ARTISTS

Fiscal Year 2023 finally felt like the world and the arts ecosystem was firmly centered in the new post pandemic normal with mostly being able to “go on with the show.” This meant that MPR arts and culture programming across our news and information and music services also found its new normal. There were once again more live events from Minnesota artists and arts and cultural organizations to cover (though virtual events did not disappear) while MPR itself was also able to host in-person events throughout the year.

MPR News

MPR News’ arts and cultural coverage, made possible by the Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, helps Minnesota artists and Minnesota audiences connect, highlighting arts and cultural news and happenings from throughout the state. We cover this across MPR News, including on Morning Edition and All Things Considered, MPR News with Angela Davis, and Minnesota Now with Cathy Wurzer (Minnesota Now also included programming focused on Minnesota history, which is detailed on page 23).

This year’s stories demonstrated how Minnesota’s arts and cultural ecosystem is ever changing, from major anniversaries (Guthrie Theater and Hmong Cultural Center) to new leadership at major arts institutions (Minnesota Orchestra and Minneapolis Institute of Arts) to organizations struggling with financial difficulties in the wake of the pandemic (Park Square Theater and Artistry Theater).

MPR News: Arts and Cultural Coverage

We were thrilled to welcome three new journalists to the arts team: editor Max Sparber and reporters Alex V. Cipolle and Jacob Aloï. Together with our other reporters from across the state, MPR News was able to report on more than 100 arts and culture stories this year. The arts team also introduced MPR News Arts Briefs, a new weekly guide to the art scene in Minnesota, providing even more opportunities to highlight what’s going on.

Highlights of FY23 Coverage include:

Sixth grader Judeah Reynolds released her children’s book, “A Walk to the Store,” documenting the effect that George Floyd’s murder had on her: [Young witness to George Floyd’s murder tells her story of sorrow and growth](#)

Washburn High School performed “Spring Awakening,” the 2007 Tony award-winning musical that tackles teen pregnancy, suicide, and family abuse: [‘Minneapolis Washburn high school tackles heavy topics through song and dance](#)

Eleven local choreographers of all backgrounds and genres featured in performance at the Walker Art Center: [Giving local artists a platform: ‘Choreographer’s Evening’ at the Walker Art Center](#)

The Minneapolis Institute of Art created a new position, a curator of Latin American art. After a global search, Mia tapped the chief curator of the Pinacoteca de São Paul in Brazil: [The Mia welcomes Valéria Piccoli, its first-ever curator of Latin American art](#)

Thousands of nutcrackers line the shelves and cabinets at the Rock County History Center in Luverne, a town of nearly 5,000 people: [There are now more nutcrackers than people living in Luverne](#)

White Bear Lake artist Michael Engebretson shared his intergalactic world creations at his solo exhibition at the Interact Gallery in St. Paul: [The artist’s guide to the galaxy: Michael Engebretson explores space and autism](#)

Duluth's Lyric Opera of the North opened its 2022-2023 season with a production of the groundbreaking "As One": [Opera of a trans woman's coming of age opens this week in Duluth](#)

Actor, writer and producer Doua Moua, who was born in a refugee camp in Thailand to Hmong parents and grew up in St. Paul, has created the first feature film to focus solely on a Hmong American family: [Minnesotan Doua Moua discusses making a film about a Hmong American family](#)

Professor of Ojibwe and author of "Inside the Birchbark Canoe" Anton Treuer led a virtual discussion highlighting Indigenous contributions to boatbuilding: [Panel explains pivotal role of birchbark canoes in connecting cultures](#)



LEFT: Betty Mann unboxes nutcrackers at the Rock County Historical Society (Jackson Forderer | MPR News) **MIDDLE:** Jaylen Franklin (from left), Rachel Kalema and Lydia Jones rehearse "Choosey," choreographed by Averie Mitchell-Brown, on the Walker Art Center stage (Ben Hovland | MPR News) **RIGHT:** Michael Engebretson at his exhibit (Courtesy of Bernie Wire)

MPR News: Art Hounds

As part of MPR News' Arts and Cultural coverage, each week three Minnesota "Art Hounds" tell us about an arts happening in their respective communities that they want to highlight for others. Art Hounds represents the best of public media, inviting listener voices onto our airwaves, helping us reach into every part of the state with our coverage, and fostering connections between arts and culture lovers. Art Hounds stories can be found [here](#).

In FY23, Art Hounds was produced by Emily Bright, with support from Art Hounds Ambassador and scheduler Denzel Belin, as well as by the MPR News Arts team, including Max Sparber, Alex V. Cipolle, and Jacob Aloï.

Art Hounds by the Numbers:

- Art Hounds featured 123 artists or performances, of which 38% were in Greater Minnesota, including:

Greater Minnesota: Appleton, Austin, Bemidji, Bird Island, Buffalo, Duluth, Ely, Fergus Falls, Franconia, Grand Rapids, Granite Falls, Hinkley, International Falls, Lanesboro, LeCenter, Madison, Mankato, Milan, Monticello, Moorhead, New Prague, Northfield, Ortonville, Owatonna, Puposki, Red Wing, Spring Grove, St. Cloud, and Winona, as well as the St. Croix River Valley and the Cannon River Valley.

Seven-county metropolitan area: Bloomington, Eagan, Excelsior, Hopkins, Lakeville, Minneapolis, Saint Louis Park, Saint Paul, and White Bear Lake. One show that took place in Minneapolis featured artists from the Red Lake Nation.

- Art Hounds showcased a wide variety of arts and cultural activities for all ages, including multiple styles of music (from symphony to choral, sea chanties to rock concerts, classical guitar to Taiko drumming), dance, and theater, puppetry, film, a theatrical escape room,

pottery, beadwork, natural dying, sculpture, Ojibwe story time, comedy, podcasts, a wide variety of 2D art, an illustrated Bible, two book launches, and little free art museums.

- Art Hounds highlighted work in or from 10 of the 11 Regional Arts Council Districts as defined by the Minnesota State Arts Board.

A Few of Our Favorite Art Hounds Stories from FY23:

In August, Art Hounds [highlighted artists from across Greater Minnesota](#), including an exhibit from five **Otter Tail County teens documenting COVID-19 effects on their lives and education**, a **solo exhibit by Mankato landscape painter Andrew Judkins** and a **new album by Louis and Dan and the Invisible Band**, a Northfield-based group.

In December, Art Hounds [spanned dance, theater, music and museums](#), featuring the **Minneapolis Afrobeats Dance Party** at the Cedar Cultural Center, **“Striking 12,” a musical inspired by Hans Christian Andersen’s “The Little Match Girl,”** and the **Ralph’s Corner Bar exhibit** (a fixture in the music scene) at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead.

In April Art Hounds [featured a trio of opportunities from the traditional to the unexpected](#), including an exhibit by wildlife painter **Bradley Donner** in Willmar, **performances by singer/songwriter Dan Rodriguez** in Excelsior, and an exhibition of **Sadie Ward’s portraits of women throughout history made out of bras** in Minneapolis.

In February, Art Hounds [recommended art that interacts, engages and stretches boundaries](#), including artist and muralist **Peyton Scott Russell’s retrospective exhibition** at the White Bear Center for the Arts, **MacPhail’s Spotlight Series: Musical Explorations in Spectral Colors** featuring visual art and short films projected in response to live classical music, and **Free Little Art Galleries** across Minnesota.

In November, Art Hounds [showcased irresistible music and delightful visual art](#), including **Finding Her Beat, a new documentary centering women and nonbinary people in Taiko drumming**, the Minnesota Guitar Society’s new **Jazz and Fingerstyle Guitar Concert series**, and a collection of **Franz Allbert Richter’s beloved pencil drawings and clay folk figures**.

“The MN Arts community (both patrons/artists) is vibrant, supportive and circular (not linear). Both artists and patrons are necessary to remain vital. I love how this program provides art lovers a forum to recognize/highlight local art/art organizations.”

–Art Hounds survey participant



LEFT: Artist Peyton Scott Russell in front of “Icon of a Revolution,” his portrait of George Floyd (Evan Frost | MPR News) **MIDDLE:** Taiko performers from around the world during a rehearsal in 2020 inside of Taiko Arts Midwest in St. Paul (Evan Frost | MPR News) **RIGHT:** The Ralph’s Corner Bar exhibit at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead (Courtesy of Markus Krueger)

The Current

The Current, MPR's indie rock music station, receives funding from the Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to help audiences connect with Minnesota artists on-air, online, and through in-person events. The Current's local programming also influences what other DJs play at public radio stations across the country. In FY23, The Current featured 900+ Minnesota artists, who received approximately 15,000 spins. At least one local song is aired every hour, every day.

"I can always rely on The Current to be there for me; like a best friend when I'm down, my biggest cheerleader to celebrate with me, and the coolest teachers to teach me more about the music I love, while also playing all the nostalgic songs that ground me home. The Current truly makes the Twin Cities special and helps me feel connected to the community" –Current Listener

The Duluth Local Show

The Duluth Local Show, which ended with the departure of host Brittany Lind in summer 2023, highlighted Minnesota-based artists from the Arrowhead region and Greater Minnesota. The Duluth Local Show aired statewide every Sunday at 8 p.m. following The Local Show. The Local Show has been reimagined and extended from 7 p.m. to midnight with a focus on highlighting artists from throughout Greater Minnesota.

Every Duluth Local Show featured up to 15 local artists, averaging one new release per week. In December 2022, in partnership with The Duluth Local Show, The Current held the inaugural Emerging Artists Showcase at Duluth's Sacred Heart Music Center. The purpose of this emerging artist showcase is to enable and empower musicians who are in the beginning phases of their careers by providing a platform to cultivate their craft and build a portfolio of recorded work to advance their career. Hosted by Brittany Lind, along with community curators David Huckfelt and Khayman Goodsky, this inaugural showcase introduced an intimate audience to the music of Minneapolis-based musician [Laura Hugo](#) (Diné [Navajo]), and the Oshkii Giizhik Singers (Fond du Lac Anishinaabe) from Cloquet, Minnesota and provided live concert footage available on The Current's YouTube channel.



LEFT: Laura Hugo at the Emerging Artist Showcase (Evan Clark | MPR) **MIDDLE:** Rafaella at The Current studios (Evan Clark | MPR) **RIGHT:** Sounds of Blackness at The Current Studios (Eric Xu Romani | MPR)

The Local Show

Sunday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. (7 p.m. to midnight as of fall 2023) The Current's Local Show with host Diane Miller gives radio listeners a window into the best in Minnesota music from all genres; emerging metro and regional Minnesota musicians as well as Minnesota musicians who have become nationally recognized names.

The Local Show features great Minnesota music curated by Diane, sometimes according to themes, such as a [show devoted soul, hip-hop, R&B, folk, jazz, electronic, and pop for Black History month](#) with special guest content director Julian Green from Carbon Sound, [a show devoted entirely to women's music for Women's History month](#), [a show devoted to local music from the '90s](#), or [a show devoted to highlighting artists from Greater Minnesota](#). The Local Show also provides an opportunity for audiences to hear artists perform live and learn more about them through intimate interviews with Diane. Performances and interviews are also shared with audiences via The Current's digital channels, which includes features at thecurrent.org and our YouTube channel, which surpassed 400,000 subscribers in FY23. See also The Current Studios summary below.

Highlights of FY23 Local Show Sessions include:

An interview and live performance with [Joe Rainey](#), a powwow singer who has won national acclaim for his recorded work with local experimental musician Andrew Broder

An interview and live performance with [Raffaella](#), a talented singer-songwriter who has made a home in Minnesota in recent years

An interview and live performance with [Sounds of Blackness](#), three-time Grammy-winning Minneapolis-St. Paul ensemble

An interview and live performance with [Dave Pirner and Ryan Smith of Soul Asylum](#), ahead of their MTV Unplugged Anniversary show and vinyl release

In fall 2021, Diane founded [The Scouting Report](#), a monthly list highlighting 10 Minnesota artists actively performing and/or releasing new music to represent the high volume of submissions we receive. Each report includes a short summary of the artists' work and a sample track. For example, our July 2022 post included music by Mayyada, Traiveon, EHN JEY, Bomb's Ex-Lover, The Get Together, SOLANA, Stanley, Awesome Snakes, Zak Khan, and Ondara. Throughout the year, we highlighted 120 local artists in our monthly Scouting Report posts.

"@dianealsoraps not only played my single but said some of the kindest words about my sound on @thecurrent Local Show last night." -Maddie Thies

The Current Studios

The Current Studios is a production unit within The Current that works across platforms and media to co-create content with musicians. The work of Current Studios extends artist visits to the Local Show or events like performances at the State Fair and makes them available to audiences on digital channels 24/7, when and where music lovers prefer, whether audiences are in rural Minnesota or across



LEFT: Turn, Turn, Turn at The Current Studios (Guillermo Bonilla | MPR) **MIDDLE:** Ondara at the Hook and Ladder (Eric Xu Romani | MPR) **RIGHT:** Ka Lia Universe at the Minnesota State Fair (Tom Campbell | MPR)

the country. MPR also used Legacy funding to begin a project to edit hundreds of hours of raw archival footage of local artists from throughout the Current's history to make that content publicly available to audiences. We published 70 videos to YouTube featuring Minnesota musicians and topics in FY23.

Highlights from FY23 Concert Performances include:

[Miloe](#) in an MPR Day Session at Dan Patch Park at the State Fair
[Ka Lia Universe](#) in a Local Show Session at the Camp MPR booth at the State Fair
[The Cactus Blossoms](#) in an MPR Day Radio Heartland Session at Dan Patch Park at the State Fair
[Mati](#) in a Carbon Sound Session at the Camp MPR booth at the State Fair
[Ondara](#) in a Microshow at The Hook & Ladder
[Durry](#) at Winter Dig Out at The Hook & Ladder
[Turn Turn Turn](#) in a Radio Heartland Session at MPR

In addition to video performances, The Current's feature articles cover Minnesota musicians as well as the everyday stories of our rich music culture. The Current published 277 digital posts during FY23, from concerts and artist profiles to road trip music recommendations to stories of people supporting the music industry who are not on stage.

Last year, The Current profiled many great members of Minnesota's vibrant local music community, highlighted for The Current by local writers and photographers. Artists featured included: [Zora](#), [Graveyard Club](#), [Raffaella](#), [Psalm One](#), [producer Zak Khan](#), [Andrew Broder](#), [Glitteratti](#), [Angelenah](#), [Ondara](#), [Lazerbeak](#), [Laura Hugo](#), [Heart to Gold](#), [Joe Rainey](#) and [Unknown Prophets](#). We also remembered those who are no longer with us, including [Low's Mimi Parker](#).



LEFT: Violin repair student Mario Miles works on his project at Minnesota State College Southeast in Red Wing (Nate Ryan for MPR) **MIDDLE:** Zak Khan and musician Kinfu work on music in Khan's South Minneapolis studio. (BUMP OPERA for MPR) **RIGHT:** Eldri Snow and Mississippi Mike play Wussow's Concert Cafe in Duluth (Keely Zynda for MPR)

The Current also published news and information about the industry, including an [interview with George Floyd's former partner](#), Courtney Ross, about how she uses their shared love of music to heal, a highlight of the [20th anniversary of the Wussow's Concert Café's One Week Live concert](#) blitz at its longtime location in West Duluth, a piece about [a YouTube channel that unearths raw footage of '90s Midwest punk](#), a profile of [students who are learning to make and repair musical instruments](#) in Red Wing, and a look at [how music venues can make concerts accessible to more people](#). New in FY23, select articles from The Current and Carbon Sound were cross posted on MPR News' Arts and Culture collection page as well, capitalizing on the deep knowledge we have about Minnesota's music scene across our services.

Other digital posts included monthly editions of The Scouting Report highlighting up-and-coming Minnesota musicians (noted above), [the Gig List](#), a calendar where Minnesota artists can share information about their upcoming concerts with Current audiences, and our 89 Days seasonal guides for [89 Days of Fall](#), [89 Days of Winter](#), [89 Days of Spring](#), and [89 Days of Summer](#), which provided information on concerts and other activities happening in the community featuring artwork by local

graphic designers. We worked with local artists Natalia Toledo, Alexis Politz, Emma Eubanks, and Jose Dominguez to create art to accompany these content campaigns highlighting top concerts, things to do, and much more happening in Minnesota. In addition, The Current offered regular engagement on Instagram to celebrate anniversaries, Local Current Twitter updates, email newsletter inclusions, and more.



FIRST FROM LEFT: 89 Days of Spring artwork (Emma Eubanks for MPR) **SECOND:** Minneapolis-based artist/illustrator Jose Dominguez created three original works for The Current's 89 Days of Summer 2023. (Jose Dominguez for MPR) **THIRD:** 89 Days of Fall 2023 artwork. (Natalia Toledo | MPR) **FOURTH** 89 Days of Winter 2023 (Alexis Politz for MPR)

The Current Streams

The Current streams makes it possible to offer uniquely curated playlists highlighting Minnesota's contemporary musicians all day, every day. Our streams include:

The Local Current (listen [here](#)), dedicated entirely to musicians from Minnesota. As a 24/7 (8,760 hours of programming each year) service that elevates the voices of hundreds of Minnesota musicians, this stream has continued to serve as the first place local music reaches music fans.

Purple Current (listen [here](#)), received an overhaul in FY23 to put a greater emphasis on the music of Prince and his musical legacy. The Current continues to preserve the legacy of Prince and the music he inspired through our library of over 750 titles from his genre-spanning career and by amplifying artists who shaped the Minneapolis sound. The innovative work behind Purple Current as a streaming experience from The Current led MPR to launch Carbon Sound last fiscal year.

Radio Heartland (listen [here](#)), features acoustic, Americana, and roots music streaming 24/7. In addition, each weekday from 9 a.m. to noon, the show is hosted by Mike Pengra. In FY23, we expanded our commitment to Radio Heartland by adding a broadcast hour on The Current Sunday mornings and also by giving it its own YouTube channel. In March 2023, MPR's former channel for Live from Here (which ended in 2020) was rebranded as Radio Heartland, providing a national platform with 180,000 subscribers to amplify content from local bands featured on the stream. During the past year, Radio Heartland highlighted local musicians with new music including Trampled by Turtles, Sarah Morris, Luke LeBlanc, Laudon Wainwright III, Dan Israel, and Maygen and The Birdwatcher.

"Unlike listening to Spotify, Radio Heartland seems to have a human touch...I hear new and old music and have become a fan of artists I might not have heard of if it hadn't been for Heartland." -Radio Heartland Listener

Digital Downloads

In FY23, The Current featured over 50 Minnesota artists as part of [The Current's Song of the Day download](#), which received an average of 91,000 downloads per month. The song is featured on air on Fridays at 11 a.m. on The Current's statewide network and is promoted on social media to help extend the reach of new local music to our audience.

Carbon Sound



Carbon Sound, launched by The Current in June 2022, is a new standalone stream dedicated to the depth, breadth, and influence of Black music, with an eclectic mix of genres like hip-hop, R&B, electronic, Afrobeat, and local music. Content is shared 24/7 on the stream with 12 hours of live content a week with host Current host Sanni Brown.

Carbon Sound is designed to attract new audiences ages 18-35. MPR's digital product team led the development of an innovative streaming service that provides app-based and web-based access not only to Carbon Sound, but to two additional streams: Purple Current (a Prince-inspired playlist) and The ICE (from our partners at KMOJ). In addition, Carbon Sound content is shared on broadcast on "The Message," The Current's hip-hop and R&B show.

Carbon Sound features a dynamic playlist – content director Julian Green adds new music weekly shared in a regular update to listeners. In its first year, Carbon Sound added 240 songs by local artists. In addition, Carbon Sound's stream, YouTube channel, and website include in-studio sessions with local artists and Twin Cities community figures. It also regularly partners with local community concerts and events and had 300+ ticket giveaways to Twin Cities venues.

In addition to highlighting local music, Carbon Sound is meaningfully contributing to the creative ecosystem in the Twin Cities by directly supporting the careers of young and emerging writers, photographers, videographers, producers, and designers who are Black, Indigenous, or persons of color. All visual and narrative work featured on carbonsound.fm and our social channels was created by or co-created with local BIPOC writers and multimedia artists who previously had not provided freelance services to MPR. Carbon Sound's visual identity was created by local artist and designer Cornel Beard. Carbon Sound published more than 60 features in FY23, including profiles of artists and the music venue [The Cherry Pit](#) along with coverage of [Intellephunk's 25th anniversary](#).

Highlights of FY23 Coverage include:

A profile of Obiora Obikwelu, solo artist, and co-founder of artist collective Ozone Creations, **who is dedicated to bringing African highlife to Minneapolis** and the mainstream: [Obi Original blends his influences into something new](#)

A review of the Hi Cotton Ball, which initially emerged as an informal response to last year's Afropunk festival and this year celebrated the release of Blu Bone's long-awaited EP, [Hi Cotton: Blu Bone raptures crowd at the Hi Cotton Ball](#)



LEFT: Obi Original (Awa Mally for MPR) **MIDDLE:** Blu Bone in the Carbon Sound studio for a performance and interview (Guillermo Bonilla for MPR) **RIGHT:** Destiny Spike, Blu Bone, Denaisha, Goldgrll, and Gym Kang performed at Fine Line as part of the Hi Cotton Ball 2023 (Darin Kamnetz for MPR)



LEFT: Juice Lord in the Carbon Sound studio (Carbon Sound) **MIDDLE:** Crowd at Carbon Sound's 1st Birthday Party at Fine Line Minneapolis on June 19, 2023 (Darin Kamnetz for MPR) **RIGHT:** Minneapolis-based artist Essjay TheAfrocentricRatchet in the Carbon Sound studio (Guillermo Bonilla for MPR News)

An interview with **Bigg Kiaa** (Nakia Neal) who at 20 years old, is making a name for herself in the Twin Cities music scene: [Bigg Kiaa interview](#)

An interview and live performance with Minneapolis-based artist **Blu Bone**: [Blu Bone in the Lab with Carbon Sound](#)

An interview and live performance with Minneapolis-based artist **Essjay TheAfrocentricRatchet**: [Essjay the AfrocentricRatchet in the Lab with Carbon Sound](#):



Crowd gathered at and around The Hook and Ladder in Minneapolis for the South of the Southside Festival on Juneteenth (BUMP OPERA for MPR)

Bigg Kiaa (Awa Mally for MPR)

An interview and live performance with St. Paul-based artist **Juice Lord**: [Juice Lord in the Lab with Carbon Sound](#)

A look at how Minneapolis musicians SoulFlower, Breezy2Fresh, Mack OC, and Oaojooo think about the role of music in bringing about healing and social change: [How George Floyd's murder changed four Minneapolis musicians' paths](#)

Photo essay from the **2023 Juneteenth street festival**, which featured live performances, a Black-owned marketplace, yoga, and meditation sessions, and more: [Soul of the Southside's Juneteenth celebration](#)

Carbon Sound won a [2023 Anthem Award](#) in the category of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for Awareness and Media and wrapped up its first year with [a birthday bash featuring a concert and party](#) at the Fine Line on Juneteenth with DJs Kwey, McShellen, Yhanté, Pin, and BYZARRA, as well as Fanaka Nation with a live band and Carbon Sound's Content Director Julian Green playing a set as echOastral.

"@carbonsoundfm [is one] of the coolest things to happen to MN music since I've been paying attention - much respect to everyone involved in building some infrastructure to support artists in the music scene - very inspiring for me!"
-@DJBVCKWOODS

YourClassical MPR

YourClassical MPR receives funding from the Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for its programming to highlight Minnesota music organizations and artists across its broadcast and digital services. This work also includes posting videos on its social media channels and feature articles on the Minnesota classical music scene on its website, as well as music education experiences for schools and families across the state.

"I can't imagine a day without classical music to uplift me, inspire me and keep me focused on my work. Your program hosts are entertaining and enlightening. They are all wonderful. Thank you for keeping this music alive and available" -YourClassical Listener

YourClassical MPR: Classical Minnesota Stories

During FY23, we published [13 stories](#) about Minnesota music makers from throughout the state and produced 10 original videos, which received more than 15,000 page views and 500,000 video views. Of these, 38% focused on content related to Greater Minnesota and 46% covered diverse artists.

Highlights of FY23 Coverage include:

Annual high-school marching band championship at U.S. Bank Stadium, featured 21 Minnesota bands nearly half of which were from Greater Minnesota: [Relive 34 top marching bands' shows at 2022 Youth in Music Championships](#) this story included an online gallery with more than 100 photos, including of every band.



Grand Rapids High School marching band performs at the Youth in Music Championships (Dack Nehring for MPR)



Courtland Pickens leads the Minneapolis youth choir Known MPLS (Provided by Known MPLS)

Interview with the director and founder of Known MPLS Choir, an all-Black Minneapolis youth choir using singing to create harmony: [Known MPLS choir director leads a musical quest for community healing](#) This ended up being our most popular Legacy-funded story, with more than 8,000 page views.

Anniversary celebration of the Indian Music Society of Minnesota: [World-renowned tabla and sitar musicians coming to Minnesota](#)

Artistic director and composer Gerald Gurss' **multimovement suite for chorus, piano, dancers, percussion, narrator and soloists focused on AIDS** was created from choir members' own lived experience: [Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus explores stigma of AIDS crisis in Gerald Gurss' 'Stigmata'](#)



Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus Artistic Director Gerald Gurs
(Provided by the artist)



Zakir Hussain and Niladri Kumar performed as part of the 40th-anniversary celebration of the Indian Music Society of Minnesota (Susana Millman)

Regional Recordings and Choral Works

Each year Legacy funds help support MPR's efforts to amplify classical music in Minnesota. One of the most important ways this is accomplished is through regional recordings of music performances across the state by MPR's broadcast operations staff. This year, MPR's staff captured the annual Minnesota Beethoven Festival in Winona, performances by Accordo, Cantus, and the Minnesota Opera, as well as live performances with the Minnesota Orchestra and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO). This work brought our staff to Winona and Rochester and back and forth across the Twin Cities. Thanks to these partnerships, audiences across the state were able to tune in when new Minnesota Orchestra Music Director Thomas Søndergård led the Orchestra in a performance of the Rite of Spring and to help celebrate the Schubert Club's 140th anniversary.



LEFT: St. Paul Chamber Orchestra (Jeffrey Thompson / MPR News) **MIDDLE:** The Merz Trio performed at the Minnesota Beethoven Festival in Winona (Provided by the artists)
RIGHT: Voices8 Scholars and Augsburg University Choir perform Nunc Dimittis (Evan Clark|MPR)

Highlights of FY23 Regional Recordings include:

Merz Trio presented a program of 19th- and early 20th-century masterworks, all quintessentially Viennese in style in July: [Merz Trio performs at the Minnesota Beethoven Festival](#)

MPR helped celebrate the Schubert Club's anniversary with a week of some of the institution's greatest hits: [Schubert Club's 140th anniversary](#)

Minnesota Opera presents Donizetti's romantic comedy *The Daughter of the Regiment*: [Minnesota Opera performs Daughter of the Regiment](#)

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra featured Ludwig van Beethoven's timeless Pastoral Symphony, performed under the baton of conductor Gábor Takács-Nagy: [64th season final of the SPCO](#)

MPR's Choral Works Initiative helps highlight Minnesota's outstanding choral community through several avenues. Music by Minnesota's revered choral groups is available 24/7 through YourClassical MPR's Choral Stream. We also host choral groups in our studios and work with them to produce original content which helps them attract new audiences. Finally, YourClassical MPR also helps audiences of all ages participate in making music through Bring the Sing community choral events (shared in the Events section of this report).

29:11 International Exchange: This all-Black, Minnesota-based choir was co-founded by a Twin Cities couple who bring over young singers and musicians from South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo to live and perform in Minnesota and the region. We recorded eight videos of songs from their repertoire of traditional African songs, unique arrangements and original compositions that draw from their cultural background. One of the videos went viral on Facebook – “Angiwanaki,” a traditional protest song sung in Zulu. [Watch all of the 29:11 videos here.](#)

Voces8 Scholars: MPR hosts this training ensemble each fall in our studios. This year we recorded their performance of the world premiere of Minnesota Indian composer Shruthi Rajasekar's “[Sat on the Shore.](#)” We also brought in the Augsburg University Choir to record “[Nunc Dimittis](#)” with the Scholars.

YourClassical MPR provides additional exposure for Minnesota classical musicians and groups as well as deepening understanding about the industry through our online features, broadcast discussion of upcoming events through Weekend Picks with John Birge, aired weekly on Fridays, and through Project DJ. Project DJ is a chance to know some of Minnesota's up and coming young musicians as they share their favorite classical music pieces. To help infuse fresh perspectives into our playlists, Classical Host Steven Staruch invites young performers, 14 to 24, to join him as co-hosts for Friday favorites. The guest DJs get a chance to share their background and passion for music, introduce pieces from the playlist and share favorite pieces. Twenty DJs participated in FY23. For more on the young people who have participated, you can find them [here.](#)

SUPPORTING MINNESOTA MUSIC EDUCATION

Class Notes Artists

YourClassical MPR's Music Education programs open a door to greater understanding of and enthusiasm for classical and other music. At the center of our music education work is the Class Notes program, which partners with Minnesota musicians who go into K-12 schools across the state to perform and deliver curricula designed with standards-based learning objectives in mind.

As noted earlier in this report, in FY23 the world settled into the post-pandemic “new normal.” This meant the option of in-person Class Notes visits was more widely available than in the past couple of years. Schools were eager for this change – demand was incredibly high for live Class Notes experiences this year. Class Notes more than doubled its previous year's reach, serving more than 56,000 students in 195 unique schools across 123 districts with in-person and digital programming. More than 25% of Class



LEFT: The Paper Clips (Courtney Perry for MPR) **MIDDLE:** Titambe West African Dance Ensemble (Venn Productions)
RIGHT: e(L)ement. Karen Baumgartner, flute; Mallory McHenry, harp (Provided by the artists)

Notes concerts happened outside of the 7-county metro area and nearly 40% of Class Notes student audiences live near or below the poverty line. We continued to offer live virtual Class Notes concerts in FY23 but only three schools chose this option over the live in-person option.

Class Notes featured 14 ensembles representing 41 artists during the 2022-23 school year:

- **Afoutayi Dance Music and Arts Company**, a performing arts group that celebrates the history and culture of the country of Haiti
- **The Brian/Susan Project**, an oboe/saxophone duo showcases a repertoire from a wide variety of genres commissioned
- **Delphia Cello Quartet**, a cello quartet with a unique and eclectic repertoire
- **e(L)ement**, an ensemble featuring flute and harp focusing on music from the last 100 years, including contemporary composers
- **Heliopsis**, a duo featuring cello, voice and a variety of traditional Sub-Saharan instruments
- **Kroehm Duo** touches on improvising while highlighting the music of the marimba and vibraphone
- **Lyz Jaakola** is an Ojibwe-Anishinaabe composer, singer, and hand drummer who incorporates guitar, piano, flute a violin in both traditional and contemporary music
- **Mirandola Ensemble** is focusing on choral music with a wide-ranging repertoire
- **Nanilo**, vocal music duo specializing in music of the Jewish Diaspora, including translation and storytelling
- **OK Factor** writes and performs their own original music while teaching general music students to explore their own musical voices
- **The Paper Clips**, a trombone quartet Inspired by the music and energy of Motown
- **Siama's Congo Roots**, a trio featuring original music from the Democratic Republic of Congo
- **Titambe West African Dance Ensemble**, a group focused on African drumming, dance heritage, cultural understanding, and appreciation of diversity
- **Zenith Contemporary Ensemble**, flute, horn, and piano trio who incorporate a variety of styles and composers into their performances

New in FY23, Class Notes also piloted bringing Class Notes artists to the wider community; The Paper Clips trombone quartet performed a community concert as a part of their Class Notes tour in Moorhead in May 2023.

www.classnotes.org

In FY23, Class Notes was very excited to launch a new website - <https://www.classnotes.org/> - in February 2023 in conjunction with Minnesota Music Educator Association conference. The new website consolidates years of Class Notes content, from virtual concerts to more than 100 lesson plans, in a user-friendly format to make it easy for teachers and parents to find what they need. Examples of new content available on the website in FY23:

[e\(L\)ement Virtual Concert](#). e(L)ement is an ensemble made up of two performers: Karen Baumgartner plays flute, and Mallory McHenry plays harp, focusing on music from the last 100 years, including contemporary composers. Learning objective: students will learn about the harp and flute.

[Instrument Families](#) is an example of more general music lessons that compile video and assets that Class Notes has produced over the years. This lesson includes Kroehm Duo (percussion), OK Factor (strings), Concordia Wind Quartet (woodwinds), and The Paper Clips (brass). Learning objective: students will be able to identify the four primary instrument families and list an example of an instrument from each family.

The Value of Class Notes in the Classroom

Class Notes asks for formal teacher and student evaluations from every Class Notes visit. We are grateful that we have high response rates – 72% of teachers served in FY23 completed our post program survey- and that we have had a lot of positive feedback through the years.

The Class Notes team found that student responses indicated good alignment with the learning objectives. In addition, common themes in their responses included music as a source of calm, focus, self-expression, and human connection. In this era when we are beginning to understand the importance of social/emotional tools in schools, this is very meaningful.

“The only thing I can do is Thank you. This was an incredible experience for me and my kids. They were able to hear and learn something that, honestly, I could not properly teach them. That gift is beyond words. Class Notes concerts was new to me this year, and I hope that it continues as I would love to bring more and more to my kids.”

-Music Teacher, Maple Grove.

“Please continue this program for our students. With the rising cost of busing and new time constrictions in our schools, many of our kids will not have these amazing cultural experiences unless they come to us. We need our kids to have these enriching, nourishing experiences so they can better connect with themselves and humanity.”

-Music Teacher, Stacy

“Music is important to me because it describes a whole different universe. It’s like learning a whole new language.”

-Class Notes student participant

Educators help us shape our programming

Class Notes is continually trying to improve its service to the education community. In addition to post-program evaluations, the Class Notes team is regularly reaching out to teachers across the state for input on our programming. Feedback from teachers has influenced things such as 1) format and delivery of materials (pdfs with live links); 2) integrating a movement-based activity; 3) including grade ranges for lessons and approximate time limits (how long each lesson or activity takes); 4) creating more video that shows professional musicians demonstrating proper technique and tone quality; and 5) developing more lessons that facilitate student creativity, improvisation, and composition in the classroom.



LEFT and MIDDLE: From Christ Lutheran School, North Saint Paul RIGHT: From Student from Linwood Elementary in Saint Paul

LIVE EVENTS ARTS EXPERIENCES

MPR Events

Each year, MPR sets aside a portion of its support from the Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to create extraordinary live events that bring audiences together with local artists, other community organizations, and each other. In FY23, we were happy to be able to offer a full schedule of in-person experiences designed to meet different audience interests.

Bring the Sing

MPR's Bring the Sing is a community sing-a-long choral event series that brings Minnesotans and local artists together through the joy of music. Each year, we offer several Bring the Sing events in partnership with YourClassical MPR and The Current.

After in-person Bring the Sings had been on pause during the pandemic, MPR was thrilled to host three Bring the Sing events in partnership with our regional stations in Moorhead, Rochester, and Duluth this past year as well as one Twin Cities event. We engaged local partners to help lead the gatherings in each community; across these gatherings there were more than 1,300 participants.

Moorhead: Our partner was the Fargo-Moorhead Choral Artists. You can see a short video excerpt [here](#).

Rochester: Our partners included Rochester Civic Music, Threshold Arts and the Rochester Downtown Alliance along with local Rochester musicians LaSonya Natividad, Dianna Parks, Mitch Stevenson, Eric Straubmuller, and Chris Wessel.

Duluth: Our partners included Dr. Bret Amundson, Director of Choral Activities at The College of St. Scholastica, along with the College's Justice Choir, and local singer songwriter Sarah Thomsen.

Minneapolis: Our partners included The Great Northern Festival, Jevetta and Jearlyn Steele, and Kith + Kin Chorus.



FIRST: Bring the Sing Fargo-Moorhead (Kristi Booth|MPR) **SECOND:** Bring the Sing Duluth at the Mitchell Auditorium on the College of St. Scholastica (Maria Isley|MPR) **THIRD:** Bring the Sing Rochester (Kay Hocker|MPR) **FOURTH:** Bring the Sing Rochester (Kay Hocker|MPR)

Rock the Cradle

Rock the Cradle is an annual collaboration between MPR, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (Mia), and Children's Theatre Company (CTC) that brings families with young kids together for a day of exploring music, arts, and culture. After a two-year hiatus, MPR and its partners hosted two Rock the Cradle events in FY23 – one in July 2022 and one in March 2023 - for more than 13,000 kids and their grownups.

Our Rock the Cradle events offered a mix of fun activities for people of all ages to inspire creativity, from longtime favorites such as the Kids' Disco, visits from the Brains On! team, and YourClassical Storytime to hands-on arts and crafts, including “make your own” options for cardboard castanets, a music-inspired collage in the Cubist style of Braque and Picasso, and a CTC Corduroy Bear. For those who wanted a more active experience, there was Music in Motion with CTC Training Artists, Choreography Lessons with Cypher Side Dance School, and outdoor games (summer only). And of course, there was plenty of live music from a variety of artists.

Our FY23 Rock the Cradle Artistic Partners include:

Celtic Junction Irish Dance Company
CypherSide Dance Company
DJ Chamun
DJ Lazerbeak
Heliopsis
Kalpulli Huitzillil Aztec Dance
Koo Koo Kanga Roo
McNasty Brass Band
School of Rock St Paul
School of Rock Eden Prairie All Stars
She's Burgers
Siam's Congo Roots
TaikoArts Midwest

In addition, YourClassical MPR and The Current offered other live experiences, including State Fair shows with a variety of artists including Siam's Congo Roots, the Twin Cities Beer Choir, and Known MPLS Choir, as well as local bands including Good Morning Bedlam, Mati, The Cactus Blossoms, Ka Lia Universe, Miloe, and Sharon Rose. MPR also participated in the 2023 Twin Cities Pride Parade in June.

Between Bring the Sing, Rock the Cradle, and MPR presented performances at the State Fair, audiences were able to connect with more than a dozen live groups representing more than 120 individual artists.

“We have always loved Rock the Cradle and try to go every year. Our fave activities are the kids disco, the concerts (especially Koo Koo Kangaroo!) and the art/craft projects scattered throughout.” -Rock the Cradle attendee



FIRST: Rock the Cradle Kids Disco (Darin Kamnetz for MPR) **SECOND:** Current Host Ayisha Jaffer DJs the Kids Disco at Rock the Cradle (Darin Kamnetz for MPR) **THIRD:** Cactus Blossoms play at MPR Day at the State Fair 2022 (The Current) **FOURTH:** MPR Team at The 51st Annual Twin Cities Pride Festival (Liam Doyle for MPR)

HIGHLIGHTING AND PRESERVING MINNESOTA'S CULTURE AND HISTORY

MPR allocates some of its support from the Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to help preserve and highlight Minnesota's history and culture. In the early years, the primary way we did this was to preserve MPR's 50 years of historical audio content for future generations through the work of the MPR Archive. In recent years, the Archive has been increasingly focused on making as much of our historical content as possible available to the public through its website. In addition, in the last two years MPR News has added two projects that are bringing stories of history and culture directly to our audiences through our broadcast and digital services; in FY22 we added North Star Journey and in FY23 we added Minnesota Now and Then.

North Star Journey

Launched in March 2022, North Star Journey is a project of MPR News celebrating the history and culture of diverse communities across Minnesota. From its beginnings, North Star Journey has sought to bring new understanding of our state, what brought us to today, and where we are headed in the future all while highlighting the leaders who have helped enact change.

In FY23, reporters across the newsroom and across the state produced more than 60 content pieces. New this year, North Star Journey content was featured regularly in hour-long segments on MPR News with Angela Davis, which reaches a weekly audience of 105,000. North Star Journey covered a wide range of topics over the past year, from promising ways that Minnesota communities and institutions are addressing historical racism to new-found respect for traditional knowledge. All North Star Journey stories can be found [here](#).

Highlights of FY23 Coverage include:

A history of KMOJ radio which has defied the odds and stayed on mission to enrich the community for 46 years: [The 'People's Station' KMOJ pushes forward](#)

This story shined a light on an increasing recognition of Traditional Ecological Knowledge about the natural world and how it is being incorporated into the policies and practices of Minnesotans working with forestry and wildlife: [Once-ignored Indigenous knowledge of nature now shaping science](#)

Members of the Hastings community came together to remember Brown's Chapel AME — the only place where Black residents could worship — which was burned by arsonists in 1907 and acknowledge the legacy of racism that led to the fire: [A century after a Black church burned, a call to acknowledge history](#)

The Minnesota State Capitol hosted a recognition of the Día de los Muertos holiday, celebrated throughout Mexico and parts of Latin America, for the first time in 2022: [Capitol display for Día de los Muertos empowers visitors](#)



LEFT: BJ Gotchie, forestry and fire restoration coordinator for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and a tribal member (Kirsti Marohn | MPR News) **MIDDLE LEFT:** Billy Lor, a Hmong shaman, shows the several-toned sound of a ritual gong (Nicole Neri for MPR News) **MIDDLE RIGHT:** Artists unveiled an altar in observance of Día de los Muertos at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul (Ben Hovland | MPR News) **RIGHT:** Muwahida Hadis asks a question during a music class with teacher Becca Buck in the basement of Gideon Pond Elementary (Kerem Yücel | MPR News)

An interview with a Hmong shaman who explains that shamanism goes beyond religion to include holistic healing within the community, whether that is spiritual, physical or mental: [Bridge to the spirit realm: Hmong shamanism in Minnesota](#)

An overview of the findings of an in-depth report by the TRUTH (Towards Recognition and University-Tribal Healing) Project, which details the University of Minnesota's long history of mistreating the state's Native people and lays out recommendations to improve relations between the university and Minnesota's 11 tribal nations: [Researchers reveal U's painful past with Minnesota's Indigenous people](#)

A visit to Gideon Pond Elementary's music classroom, where teacher Becca Buck has incorporated Somali music suggested by students and families to better serve her students, half of whom are Somali American: [Burnsville music class includes songs familiar to Somali students](#)

Architect Damaris Hollingsworth, founder and principal architect of Design by Melo, knows what it is like to enter new spaces and wonder if you belong. That's why she focuses on making inclusive spaces here in Minnesota: [Architect Damaris Hollingsworth on how buildings can be welcoming](#)

Untangled Roots, a North Star Journey Podcast: [Untangled Roots](#) is a podcast of the North Star Journey project. MPR journalist Brandt Williams and media entrepreneur Jonathan Rabb unpack the untold stories of communities of color.



Children perform a traditional dragon dance during the Taste of Little Mekong in Saint Paul (Nikki Tundel | MPR)

Building on the first five episodes focused on the Rondo Neighborhood in FY22, **episodes 6-10 of the podcast focus on various aspects of ethnic enclaves in Minnesota**, from their role in building communities and as a pathway to cultural connection to their economics and future, highlighting Saint Paul's Little Mekong.

Episodes 11-15 of the podcast focus on what it means to be Black in Minnesota, a state which has a long history of gaping inequities between whites and people of color and the place that touched off worldwide protests after the killing of George Floyd.

"What I'm starting to love about Minnesota is the potential...I don't feel like Minnesota actually represents what we think it represents, so there is potential because we already have the mindset of what we want it to [be]."

-Joetta Cooke, Black Minnesotan and guest on Untangled Roots

Minnesota Now and Then

Minnesota Now, MPR's daily noon show with Cathy Wurzer which tells stories from throughout the state through live, unscripted interviews, launched a new series focused on Minnesota history. The name of this recurring segment – Minnesota Now and Then – was suggested by one of our listeners. In its first year, Cathy and her team produced fifteen stories, from Minnesota's distant past to the more recent past. All Minnesota Now stories can be found [here](#).

Highlights from our FY23 Coverage include:

On July 13, 1977, the tiny Iron Range town of Kinney sought to gain independence from the United States to draw attention to difficulties in securing state and federal money to improve the city's water system: [Kinney, MN secedes from the U.S.: On this day in history](#)

A conversation with the Lavender CEO and the Major General of the Minnesota National Guard about the 2018 issue of Lavender Magazine that contained the first national guard recruitment ad to be printed in a publication for the LGBTQ+ community: [Lavender Magazine's First Military Recruitment Ad](#)

Host Cathy Wurzer talks with Maureen Bausch, who was the Mall of America's public relations manager for 25 years, as we remember its opening in 1992: [Mall of America at 30: A look back](#)

A look back on Judy Garland's debut performance in her hometown in 1924 with the Executive Director of the Judy Garland Children's Museum: [Judy Garland's life in Grand Rapids](#)

Dred Scott, a black man enslaved to an army officer in the 1800s lived for a time at Fort Snelling. When he later sued his owners to gain his freedom, he used the argument that he had lived in Minnesota, which was considered free soil: [Dred Scott's fight for freedom is a Minnesota story](#)



LEFT: The new main entrance of the Mall of America in 2015, flanked by the JW Marriot hotel and an office building (Tim Nelson | MPR) **MIDDLE:** Dred Scott and Harriet Robinson Scott in an illustration from the Library of Congress (Library of Congress) **RIGHT:** A parade entry passes a building with a "Republic of Kinney" sign during a Republic of Kinney 30th anniversary parade in 2007 (Andrew Krueger | MPR)

MPR Archive

The Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund continues to be essential to the MPR Archive as it supports the preservation of and access to Minnesota history through the unique audiovisual collections it contains. During FY23, work funded by Legacy included preserving daily born digital, broadcast, and programming recordings; digitizing and migrating at-risk analog and digital media; updating, correcting, and completing catalog records so that they fully, accurately, and respectfully describe their

content; processing and preserving paper records and ephemera; uploading audio to the [MPR Archive public website](#), and adding publicly accessible catalog records; and by creating engaging collections, stories, and content to share with Minnesotans through our website and social media platforms.

At the very heart of this work, the MPR Archive preserved 37,471 daily broadcast audio recordings across our three major brands: MPR News, The Current, and YourClassical MPR. These recordings include all daily news programming covering both Minnesota specific stories, from regional election coverage to weather reports capturing a record-breaking winter, to the first season of Thomas Søndergård conducting for Minnesota Orchestra, and regional coverage of the Canadian wildfire season that affected communities across the state. The programmatic stories and news captured and preserved by the MPR Archive are essential to telling Minnesotans' stories and depicting an accurate portrait of Minnesota for future generations.

In addition to the work spent archiving daily broadcast content, the Archive devoted time updating, correcting, and completing around 8,000 catalog records in the Archive's internal content management system. This is essential work that allows for the newsroom and other internal MPR partners to find, access, and use archival recordings in their research, reporting, and programming. The Archive also spent hundreds of hours digitizing and migrating at-risk analog audio and digital content, which resulted in around 300 digitized audio pieces being added to our internal content management system.

Of note this year was the digitization and processing of the American Indian Movement analog tape recordings (collection spans 1972 – 2023). This work included not only hours spent digitizing the analog tape reels, but also time spent listening deeply to the recordings and editing record metadata to ensure that information about the audio is correct and accurate so that it can be made accessible to our MPR brand partners and the public. Of particular interest is an August 28, 1974 interview with Harry Belafonte outside of the Saint Paul courthouse where the trial of Dennis Banks and Russell Means was being held.



A group stands outside the American Indian Center in 2020 before a press conference on the Washington NFL team's decision to change its team name and logo (Christine T. Nguyen | MPR)

Publicly accessible content on the MPR Archive Portal grew substantially this year with the addition and updating of 947 audio pieces to the website. The Archive also curated five new digital collections on the website, which exhibit and highlight related digital archival content under a singular theme.

New MPR Archive Collections in FY23 include:

[Wait 10 Minutes](#) – Minnesota's historic weather events (186 stories)

[Hispanic heritage of 10,000 Lakes](#) (27 stories)

[Farming: Minnesota's agricultural landscape](#) (87 stories)

[LGBTQ+ Life in Minnesota](#) (201 stories)

[Labor In Minnesota](#) (32 stories)



LEFT: Archivist Scott Adamson monitors the audio while digitizing an analog recording from the archive (Peter Ecklund | MPR) **MIDDLE LEFT:** Sarah and Lou Bellamy sit for a portrait at Penumbra Theatre in Saint Paul in 2019 (Evan Frost | MPR) **MIDDLE RIGHT:** Same-sex marriage supporters celebrate outside the House chamber on May 9, 2013 after members voted 75-59 in support of legalizing same sex marriage in Minnesota (Jennifer Simonson | MPR) **RIGHT:** Andy Olson takes a brief break in his son's soybean field in rural Heron Lake (Jackson Forderer for MPR)

The Archive continued to work with partners to share Minnesota history. This year 176 items from our collections were shared with the American Archive of Public Broadcasting (AAPB), where those MPR Archive collection items are now findable through their online catalog to researchers across the world. Materials shared with AAPB focused on archival MPR News content that centered on Minnesota's BIPOC communities, including East African Minnesotans, Asian American, Latino and Hispanic, Black, and Indigenous Minnesota stories.

The Archive regularly served as an essential resource for primary source and historical content for MPR's news, information, and music services on current stories, programming, and events. In particular, the Archive worked regularly with the MPR newsroom and the Minnesota Now team to source archival materials for current stories.

Highlights of FY23 MPR News Collaborations include:

This December 14, 2022 episode of Minnesota Now includes an **excerpt of 1995's Minnesota Voices interview with Lou Bellamy:** [A Twin Cities holiday classic: Black Nativity is a must-see show](#)

This November 14, 2022 episode of Minnesota Now and Then includes **excerpts of an interview with Meridel Le Sueur from 1982:** [Remembering writer Meridel Le Sueur, two decades after her death](#)

This November 15, 2022 episode of Minnesota Now includes **a full report on murdered police officer Jerry Haaf** from the archive in its entirety: [30 years after murder of Minneapolis police officer, killer could be released](#)

This January 31, 2023 episode of Minnesota Now and Then **played a clip from a Radio Talking Book tape from 1969:** [Radio Talking Book' keeps visually impaired Minnesotans engaged](#)

This January 31, 2023 **MPR News obituary of former Minnesota Senator Dave Durenberger** included a link to the MPR Archives collection of stories featuring the former senator: [Former Minnesota Senator Dave Durenberger dies at 88](#)

This May 20, 2023 episode of Minnesota Now used an **excerpt from a 1994 interview with Howard Sivertson:** [Grand Marais artist Howard Sivertson's legacy on the North Shore](#)

The Archive further engaged Minnesotans and the public with regional history through its social media platforms. From sharing audio of a 1991 interview about the creation of the new apple variety, "Honeycrisp," to early 2000s coverage of the Hmong farming community in Minnesota, and to audio excerpts of Minnesota authors and poets sharing their work, the MPR Archive brought historic, archival audio directly to many Minnesotans' days through our social platforms.

SUPPORTING MINNESOTA'S MEDIA ECOSYSTEM

MPR uses a portion of its support from the Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to help strengthen the public media ecosystem now and for the future through collaborations with community partners. In FY23, this work included our Youth Radio Camp and an Indigenous and Community Media Roundtable event with the goal to learn from each other and advance narrative change.

Youth Radio Camp

MPR News is committed to mentoring the next generation of journalists through the annual Youth MPR News is committed to mentoring the next generation of journalists through the annual Youth Radio Camp, a collaboration with ThreeSixty Journalism at the University of St. Thomas, KRSM LPFM 98.9 (Pillsbury United Communities), and MIGIZI. The goal of the Radio Camp is to train diverse Minnesota youth to tell stories of their lives and communities. You can see more about Radio Camp through the years [here](#).

Twelve BIPOC students from throughout the Twin Cities attended the weeklong FY23 Radio Camp in June 2023. The camp took place at MPR headquarters in Saint Paul. These aspiring journalists were mentored by MPR News staff including reporters, editors, and digital producers, as well as staff from our community partners. Over five days and under expert instruction from MPR Newsroom staff and our partners, students learned unique skills required for interviewing for radio, script writing, and producing.

Students also spent time listening to Indigenous leaders in the law, arts, and media describe their work and mission to make sure Native lives are accurately reflected at MPR's Indigenous and Community Roundtable event, described below. Each student got a chance to interview one of these leaders, from which they created their own original audio story. You can find their stories online [here](#).

On the last day (June 30), parents, friends, and mentors joined Radio Campers, MPR staff, and community partners in a final celebration highlighting the students and their audio projects.

"Our responsibility is to not speak for marginalized voices but to help uplift and support them, so they can speak for themselves and share their truths. Sovereignty means giving Indigenous people room to tell their own stories. My responsibility as a reporter is to give them the power to speak for what they believe in."

-Radio Camp Participant



LEFT: Participants of Radio Camp pose for a group photo on June 30, 2023 (Kerem Yücel | MPR) **MIDDLE:** MPR News reporter Nicole Ki mentors Alexis Aryeequaye during Radio Camp (Kerem Yücel | MPR) **RIGHT:** Douglas Buckanaga practices with MPR News reporter Jacob Aloï in MPR's studio during Radio Camp (Kerem Yücel | MPR)

COMMUNITY MEDIA LEARNING EXCHANGE

Since winter 2022, MPR has been partnering with We Are Still Here Minnesota (WASH MN) and MIGIZI to present Indigenous and Media Community Roundtables, community conversations with media professionals and Indigenous community members. These Roundtables are aimed at increasing mutual understanding. Participants work together to create community-based solutions focused on how to more authentically reflect Native and Indigenous communities in Minnesota.



VR artwork by Marlena Myles on the Indigenous History Walk as part of the Places of Power tour (Scott Adamson|MPR)

The 2023 Roundtable was held at MPR headquarters in Saint Paul and included an experiential tour – the Places of Power tour - led by partners from WASH MN. They led a tour of sacred sites in Saint Paul to root us in place and space prior to the Roundtable; a group of 75 people comprised of Radio Camp students as well as additional teen journalists from MIGIZI and KRSM, local journalists, and MPR staff took part.

In preparation for the Roundtable discussions, participants spent the day together immersing themselves in the authentic stories of Native people to gain a richer comprehension of the intricate layers of Native lives as well as more accurate understanding of history and clearer terminology that can stop the erasure and exploitation of Native communities. The Roundtable discussions were focused on Tribal sovereignty and its relationship with the State of Minnesota. Participants also investigated their own ancestral identity and how it can transform not only the stories they tell, but the lives they live.

Roundtable speakers included legal scholar and Chief Justice on the Sisseton-Wahpeton Supreme Court, Angelique EagleWoman; educator and Santee Sioux Dakota Nation member Ramona Kitto Stately, musician Reuben Kitto Stately (Kitto), and artist Marlena Myles (Spirit Lake/Dakota/Mohegan/Muscogee). Each Radio Camp student got a chance to conduct an interview with one of the speakers to produce their original radio piece. By teaching these young journalists about authentic storytelling, we can help the next generation of media makers do better by Native and Indigenous communities as well as other communities of color.

“Invisibility as well as false, inaccurate and incomplete narratives have led to the erasure of Indigenous people. The information gap and lack of representation have perpetuated damaging stereotypes. Media narratives, too, have helped shape Indigenous-focused perceptions, attitudes and behaviors across Minnesota.” -We Are Still Here Minnesota

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DATE: Denotes beginning of current term or current consecutive terms.

Minnesota Public radio Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)					
FY23	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Salary and Benefits	-	317,193.72	384,262.80	571,190.39	1,272,646.91
Contracted Services	25,721.84	123,051.72	100,263.66	214,953.80	463,991.02
Marketing and Advertising	5,896.00	960.00	10,193.73	83,513.09	100,562.82
Production and Supplies	184.73	10,145.47	20,826.14	23,142.91	54,299.25
Digital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-
Total	31,802.57	451,350.91	515,546.33	892,800.19	1,891,500.00

Minnesota Public radio Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)					
FY22 Rollover	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Salary and Benefits	291,308.23	-	-	-	291,308.23
Contracted Services	28,536.87	-	-	-	28,536.87
Marketing and Advertising	-	-	-	-	-
Production and Supplies	-	-	-	-	-
Digital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-
Total	319,845.10	-	-	-	319,845.10

Details and Outcomes
Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

Reporting per:

- Minn. Stat. [3.303, Subd. 10](#)
- Minn. Stat. [129D.17, Subd. 2 \(d\)](#)
- Minn. Stat. [129D. 19, Subd. 5](#)

Project Title	FTE Positions	Assessment Method	Measurable Outcomes
Highlighting Minnesota Artists <i>Please see detailed breakdown for MPR News, The Current, and Classical MPR.</i> <i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i>	10.49 (FY23)	Stream Requests Web Page Views Video Views: On-Air Listeners (estimated weekly came for Legacy-funded shows only)	Actual FY22: 1,661,083 Actual FY23: 1,609,216 Actual FY22: 764,152 Actual FY23: 896,458 Actual FY22: 857,072 Actual FY23: 1,272,817 Actual FY22: 31,000+ (MPR News) 15,000+ (Classical MPR) 17,000+ (The Current) Actual FY23: 25,000+ (MPR News)* 21,300+ (Classical MPR)* 14,000+ (The Current) * *Approximate
Supporting Music Education for Minnesota Students Class Notes Program <i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i>	3.06 (FY23)	Students Reached MN Artists Engaged Schools/Districts Participating Minnesota Counties Served Digital Impressions <u>Evaluation</u> Teachers: A 15-question survey was shared with teachers booking Class Notes Concerts to assist MPR in assessing if Class Notes content was valuable to their students/ classroom.	Projected: 25,000 Actual: 56,140 Projected: 14 groups (revised) Actual: 14 groups (41 artists) Projected: 56/125 Actual: 123/195 Projected: 35 Actual: 46 (additional geographic reach digitally) Projected Web Page Views: 75,000 (rev.) Projected Video Views: 140,000 (rev.) Projected Unique visitors: 75,000 (rev.) Actual Web Page Views: 66,672 Actual Video Views: 149,779 Actual Unique visitors: 48,871 <i>Note: digital numbers were more challenging to track this year as the new standalone Class Notes website was launched mid-year in February 2023.</i> Of 152 respondents: • Ave. rating of 1.2 (on a scale of 1-4, 1=the highest rating) that Class Notes was a valuable experience for students. • Ave. rating of 1.23 that students learned from their Class Notes experience. • Ave. rating of 1.59 that Class Notes provided useful tools for teachers.

Project Title	FTE Positions	Assessment Method	Measurable Outcomes
Supporting Music Education for Minnesota Students Workplan Details continued Class Notes Program <i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i>	3.06 (FY23)	<u>Evaluation</u> Artists: In lieu of a survey, staff conducted an 8-question interview of 10 FY23 Class Notes Artists to assist MPR in assessing the impact of participating in the Class Notes Program and areas for improvement. Of 14 groups, 9 were represented in this survey. <i>Note: while percentages are included for how many respondents brought up a given thought, this does not mean that other artists would not have agreed with that thought if prompted.</i>	General themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Artists aligned with Class Notes mission and core values, including a desire to reach new audiences and serve teachers and schools ● Artists enjoyed artistic freedom and professional development support in concert preparation ● Artists appreciated the opportunity for work with equitable and fair pay ● Desire for even more networking and professional development opportunities Free responses to stock questions tended to fall into four broad categories: appreciation, artist purpose, classroom management, and teacher relationship , as well as program logistics. <u>Appreciation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 40% expressed sheer appreciation for the existence of Class Notes. 30% expressed gratitude for the freedom to develop their own program. <u>Artist Purpose (both pragmatic and abstract)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 40% noted the importance of their presence for introducing their instrument Also shared: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the importance of artists bringing their full authentic selves ● cultivation of students' [metaphorical] voices ● the joy of performing for children, children's own joy in response to music. <u>Classroom Management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 40% expressed gratitude for MPR staff insight and tools for managing the classroom <u>Teacher Relationship</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 50% wanted the opportunity to observe teachers and/or other artists in classroom settings. ● 30% noted the positive impact of teachers having prepared their students for the concert beforehand using Class Notes materials

Project Title	FTE Positions	Assessment Method	Measurable Outcomes
<p>Live Events/Arts Access</p> <p>Includes Bring the Sing and Artist performances at the Minnesota State Fair</p> <p><i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i></p>	0.09 (FY23)	<p>Live Events</p> <p>Rock the Cradle (July 2022) Rock the Cradle (March 2023) Bring the Sing (January 2023) Twin Cities Pride Parade (June 2023)</p> <p><i>Note: Events managed the Minneapolis Bring the Sing events. The regional Bring the Sing events are reflected under YourClassical MPR.</i></p> <p>MN Artists Engaged</p> <p><i>Note: This does not include Class Notes Artists or artists for The Current or YourClassical MPR.</i></p> <p>Event Attendees</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u> Audiences: An 8-question survey was sent to attendees of the March 2023 Rock the Cradle (RTC) event to assist MPR in assessing what audiences value to help it improve future events.</p> <p>Artists: A 14-question survey was sent to artists who participated in the Rock the Cradle and Minneapolis Bring the Sing events to assist MPR in assessing the value of being part of MPR events for artists. MPR received 3 responses.</p>	<p>Projected: 1-2 (rev.) Actual: 4 (plus State Fair performances)</p> <p>Projected: N/A Actual: 19 groups (57 individuals, plus large choirs and bands)</p> <p>Projected (rev.): 5,000 Actual: 16,700</p> <p>Of 61 respondents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 85% were first time attendees of RTC ● 46% indicated the performances were their favorite part of RTC. ● Ave. rating of 6 (on a scale of 1-10, 10=highly recommended) how likely to recommend RTC to a friend or family member <p>Of 3 responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 100% believed that being featured made people more aware of their art. ● 2/3 indicated that being featured as part of an MPR event positively impacted their art and/or career ● 1/3 made connections with other performers that they did not have before. ● Ave. rating of 7 (1-7, 7=highly recommended) how likely they would be to recommend to other artists that they be featured as part of an MPR event
<p>Highlighting and Preserving MN History and Culture</p> <p>Includes North Star Journey, Minnesota Now, and MPR Archive</p> <p><i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i></p>	3.96 (FY23)	<p>North Star Journey from MPR News</p> <p>Number of Broadcast Stories</p> <p>Number of Digital Stories <i>Note: all broadcast stories are also digital.</i></p> <p>On-Air Listenership Morning Edition, All Things Considered, MPR News with Angela Davis</p> <p>Web Page Views Downloads</p>	<p>Projected: N/A Actual: 49 stories</p> <p>Projected: N/A Actual: 63</p> <p>Projected: N/A Actual: 25,200/week 105,000/week</p> <p>26,830/month 25,030 total</p>

Project Title	FTE Positions	Assessment Method	Measurable Outcomes
<p>Highlighting and Preserving MN History and Culture Workplan Details continued</p> <p>Includes North Star Journey, Minnesota Now, and MPR Archive</p> <p><i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i></p>	3.96 (FY23)	<p>North Star Journey continued</p> <p><u>Evaluation</u> Audiences: A survey about MPR's local arts, culture, and history programming was sent to MPR members who subscribe to the Member Essentials Newsletter. There were 190 responses overall.</p> <p><i>Note: 90% of survey respondents identified as White/Caucasian.</i></p> <p>Minnesota Now and Then from MPR News</p> <p>Number of Broadcast/Digital Stories <i>Note: All Minnesota Now stories are broadcast and digital</i></p> <p>On-Air Listenership</p> <p>Web Page Views</p> <p>MPR Archive Stories Digitized</p> <p>Stories Accessible via Public Portal</p> <p>Web Page Views</p>	<p>Of survey respondents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 22% have listened to North Star Journey (NSJ). ● 79% (who are aware of NSJ) feel that NSJ stories definitely or somewhat helped increase their understanding of BIPOC culture and history in MN. ● 83% (who are aware of NSJ) feel that NSJ stories definitely or somewhat helped increase their understanding racial disparities in MN. ● On a scale from 1-7 (7 = extremely valuable), those who were aware of NSJ rated the value of learning about the culture and history of BIPOC communities in MN as a 6.1. ● On a scale from 1-7, those who were aware of NSJ rated the authenticity and dignity of NSJ stories as a 5.4. <p>Projected: N/A Actual: 15</p> <p>Projected: N/A Actual: 85,800/week</p> <p>Projected: N/A Actual: 9,815/month</p> <p>Projected: Expand number of catalog records, digital preservation files, and published streaming audio by 5,000. Actual: 37,771 new audio files added to Archive database, 8,000 archival catalog records in the MPR Archive system</p> <p>Projected: Incr. by 10% (approx. 1,000) Actual: 947 stories, 5 new collections curated</p> <p>Projected: Portal utilization increases by 7-10% to 9,412/month Actual: 4,919/month</p>

Project Title	FTE Positions	Assessment Method	Measurable Outcomes
Supporting Minnesota's Public Media Ecosystem Learning Exchange and Radio Camp <i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i>	0.41 (FY23)	Learning Exchange Initiative Indigenous and Community Media Roundtable Event Event Attendees Number of Community Partners <u>Evaluation:</u> MPR attempted a new survey evaluation method using a QR code (rather than the mailed survey following the event). We did not receive any responses. Radio Camp Number of Camps Number of Community Partners High School Campers Number of Stories Created <u>Evaluation:</u> MPR attempted a new survey evaluation method using a QR code (rather than the mailed survey following the event). We did not receive any responses.	Projected (rev.): 1 Actual: 1 75 4 Projected: 1 one-week camp Actual: 1 one-week camp Projected: N/A Actual: 3 Projected: 12 students Actual: 12 students Projected: 6 stories Actual: 12 stories
Highlighting Minnesota Artists: Details across the 3 Services			
Project Title	FTE Positions	Assessment Method	Measurable Outcomes
MPR News: The Changing Face of Minnesota: Told through Arts and Culture Includes MPR News Arts Coverage, Art Hounds <i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i>	2.77 (FY23) Reflected above under Highlighting MN Artists	Number of Broadcast Stories Number of Digital Stories <i>Note: all broadcast stories are also digital.</i> Number of MN Artists/Ensembles/Arts Orgs/Events Covered Art Hounds: % of Greater MN Communities On-Air Listenership Downloads (podcast) Web Page Views Social Media Followers	Projected: 50 Actual: 71 stories Projected: 100 Actual: 137 250+ (many stories include multiple artists) Projected: At least 33% Actual: 38% Projected: 27,000/week Actual: 25,200/week Projected: 1,500/month Actual: 1,654/month Projected: N/A Actual: 4,202/month 34 10,187 followers (Facebook, Instagram)

Project Title	FTE Positions	Assessment Method	Measurable Outcomes
<p>MPR News: The Changing Face of Minnesota: Told through Arts and Culture Workplan Details continued</p> <p>Includes MPR News Arts Coverage, Art Hounds</p> <p><i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i></p>	<p>2.77 (FY23)</p> <p>Reflected above under Highlighting MN Artists</p>	<p><u>Evaluation:</u> Audiences: A survey about MPR's local arts, culture, and history programming was sent to MPR members who subscribe to the Member Essentials Newsletter. There were 190 responses overall.</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u> A 20-question survey was sent out to artists/groups featured on Art Hounds to assist MPR in understanding if being featured on Art Hounds had an impact on them as MN artists. The survey included open-ended questions such as "how can the MPR News Arts Team support Minnesota's art scene?"</p>	<p>Of survey respondents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 80% have listened to MPR News' local arts coverage. ● On a scale from 1-7 (7 = extremely valuable), respondents valued MPR News coverage featuring MN artists at a 5.9. ● 91% felt that local arts and cultural coverage helped to increase their knowledge of MN-based artists. <p>On a 1 to 7 scale (7 = extremely valuable) 52 survey respondents rated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the value of being featured on Arts Hounds at 6 (averaged). ● 95% indicated that being featured on Art Hounds definitely or somewhat helped make people more aware of their art. ● 60% indicated that being featured on Art Hounds definitely or somewhat helped lead to new artistic opportunities.
<p>YourClassical MPR</p> <p>Includes Regional Recordings, Classical Minnesota Stories, and the Choral Works initiative (Choral Stream and Bring the Sing)</p> <p><i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i></p>	<p>2.59 (FY23)</p> <p>Reflected above under Highlighting MN Artists</p>	<p>Regional Recordings:</p> <p>MN Artists/ Ensembles Recorded</p> <p>On-Air Listenership</p> <p>YourClassical MPR Online: Total Number Digital Features</p> <p>Diversity in Stories (Geographic and Communities Represented)</p> <p>Web Page Views</p>	<p>13 (several were recorded multiple times)</p> <p>Projected: N/A Actual: 10,200/week(MN Orchestra) 21,300/week (SPCO) 14,700/week (Project DJ)</p> <p>Projected (rev.): 10 stories Actual: 13 stories</p> <p>Proj.: 25% related to Greater MN 40% featured BIPOC and/or women musicians Actual: 38% related to Greater MN 46% featured BIPOC and/or women musicians</p> <p>1,327/month (Classical MN Stories) 66/month (Project DJ)</p> <p>Proj.: At least 300 page views each for Classical MN Stories Actual: 75% of stories received 300+ page views (the most popular received 8,000 pageviews)</p>

Project Title	FTE Positions	Assessment Method	Measurable Outcomes
<p>YourClassical MPR Workplan Details continued</p> <p>Includes Regional Recordings, Classical Minnesota Stories, and the Choral Works initiative (Choral Stream and Bring the Sing)</p> <p><i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i></p>	<p>2.59 (FY23)</p> <p>Reflected above under Highlighting MN Artists</p>	<p>Choral Works Initiative:</p> <p>Streaming Requests (Choral Stream)</p> <p>Video Views</p> <p>Number of Performances Created</p> <p>MN Artists/Ensembles Recorded</p> <p><u>Bring the Sing Live Regional Events</u> Fargo-Moorhead, Rochester, Duluth</p> <p><i>Note: Minneapolis Bring the Sing is reflected under the Events section.</i></p> <p>MN Artists/Ensembles Engaged</p> <p>Event Attendees</p> <p><u>Evaluation</u> Audiences: A survey about MPR's local arts, culture, and history programming was sent to MPR members who subscribe to the Member Essentials Newsletter. There were 190 responses overall.</p> <p><u>Evaluation</u> Artists: A 20-question survey was sent out to artists/groups featured as part of YourClassical MPR MN Stories to help us assess whether this program had an impact on them as MN artists.</p>	<p>Projected: 28,000/month Actual: 27,972/month 537,335 (Facebook, YouTube)</p> <p>10 videos</p> <p>3 groups</p> <p>10 artists/groups</p> <p>Projected: 400 Actual: 620</p> <p>Of survey respondents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 78% occasionally or frequently listen to YourClassical MPR's (YCMPR's) coverage of local music. ● On a scale from 1-7 (7 = extremely valuable), respondents valued YCMPR coverage featuring MN artists at a 5.8. ● 78% felt that coverage of local artists on YCMPR helped to increase their knowledge of MN-based artists or inspired them to attend a live event. ● 87% felt that coverage of local artists on YCMPR helped to connect them to artists, composers, or groups they were not aware of before. <p>On a 1-7 scale (7 = extremely valuable) 8 respondents rated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the value of being featured on YCMPR at 6 (averaged). ● how likely they are to recommend to other artists that they be featured on YCMPR at 7 (averaged). ● 88% indicated being featured on YCMPR definitely or somewhat helped make people more aware of their art. ● 75% indicated being featured on YCMPR definitely or somewhat helped lead to new artistic opportunities.
<p>The Current Workplan Details</p> <p>Includes The Local Show and The Duluth Local Show, The Current Streams (Local Current, Purple Current, and Radio Heartland), The Current Studios, and Carbon Sound</p> <p><i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i></p>	<p>5.13 (FY23)</p> <p>Reflected above under Highlighting MN Artists</p>	<p>The Local Shows:</p> <p>On-Air Listeners</p> <p>% Devoted to New/Emerging MN Artists</p>	<p>Overall, in FY23 The Current aired 900+ Minnesota artists who received 15,000+ spins for nearly 1,000 hours of music. Minnesota artists received an additional 150,000 spins on The Current Streams.</p> <p>Projected: 12,000/week Actual: 14,700/week (The Local Show) 200/week (The Local Show Duluth)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">36</p> <p>60%</p>

Project Title	FTE Positions	Assessment Method	Measurable Outcomes
<p>The Current Workplan Details continued</p> <p>Includes The Local Show and The Duluth Local Show, The Current Streams (Local Current, Purple Current, and Radio Heartland), The Current Studios, and Carbon Sound</p> <p><i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i></p>	<p>5.13 (FY23)</p> <p>Reflected above under Highlighting MN Artists</p>	<p>The Current Streams: Local Current Stream Requests</p> <p>Video Views</p> <p>Purple Current Stream Requests</p> <p>Video Views</p> <p>Radio Heartland Stream Request Video Views</p> <p>The Current Studios: Videos of MN Artists Digital Posts about MN Artists</p> <p>Video Views Web Page Views</p> <p>Carbon Sound Stream Requests Video Views Web Page Views (local content)</p> <p><u>Evaluation</u> Current Audiences: A survey about MPR's local arts, culture, and history programming was sent to MPR members who subscribe to the Member Essentials Newsletter. There were 190 responses overall.</p> <p><u>Evaluation</u> Carbon Sound Audiences: A survey about MPR's local arts, culture, and history programming was sent to MPR members who subscribe to the Member Essentials Newsletter. There were 190 responses to the overall survey. Only 8 people responded to this section of the survey.</p> <p><u>Evaluation</u> Artists: The Current did not conduct an artist survey in FY23.</p>	<p>Projected: 6,000/month Actual: 6,735/month 660 total</p> <p>Projected: 20,000/month Actual: 20,979/month 1,549 total</p> <p>Projected: 65,000/month Actual: 72,162/month 98,783 total</p> <p>70 videos Projected: Up to 400 pieces/year Actual: 554 224,192 total 24,117/month</p> <p>Projected: N/A Actual: 6,243/month 410,298 total 1,943 total</p> <p>Of survey respondents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 95% are aware of The Current's local music coverage and listen frequently or occasionally. ● On a scale from 1-7 (7 = extremely valuable), respondents valued The Current's featuring of MN artists at 6.5. ● 89% feel that coverage of local artists on The Current helped to increase their knowledge of MN-based artists or inspired them to attend a live event. ● 89% feel that coverage of local artists on The Current helped to connect them to artists they were not aware of before. <p>Of survey respondents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 16% of those who listen to The Current were also aware of and listen to Carbon Sound. ● On a scale from 1-7 (7 = extremely valuable), respondents valued Carbon Sound featuring of MN artists at 6.3. ● 63% feel coverage of local artists on Carbon Sound helped to increase their knowledge of MN-based artists or inspired them to attend a live event. ● 88% feel coverage of local artists on Carbon Sound helped to connect them to artists or groups they were not aware of before.

Sources for outcomes listed above and cited throughout report:

- Listenership data © Nielsen Audio, 2022-2023, Persons 6+.
- Page view data from Google Analytics, 2022-2023.
- Stream request data from Triton Digital, 2022-2023.
- Video views from Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & YouTube, 2022-2023.