



President's Report to the Board

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Introduction

Spring is finally here (for the most part). We are seeing light at the end of the tunnel with the pandemic, and people are feeling more confident and safe. We deserve good news and optimism after the “Year of COVID.”

We're looking back and reassessing how much life has changed from “before COVID” to life that returns to “normal,” whatever that may be. I hope we emerge stronger and better prepared, that we appreciate loved ones more, and that we can improve society based on our experiences of the last year.

I am so proud to say that WQED did not miss a beat. We didn't know what would happen when we started remote operations, but it's gratifying to know that we had a plan that worked. We expanded our educational options across the board, we solidified a statewide cooperative of all public media stations, and we entered into an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the datacasting project. We produced broadcast and online content that helped people get through the pandemic. And WQED-FM remained an oasis for people working from home, taking care of children or elderly relatives, and otherwise having their lives upended.

I am proud of every member of this staff, all of who stepped up to keep WQED going through very tough times. Thank you to the entire Board of Directors and CAB, who guided us through the year.

Senate Passes Covid Relief for Public Media

The Senate approved its COVID-19 relief package on March 6. The funding is part of the American Rescue Plan of 2021 that contains \$175 million in COVID-related emergency assistance for public radio and television stations that will be distributed by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Three amendments were filed that sought to strike funding. Ultimately, they were not offered. The House of Representatives finally voted for the package on March 10 for the President's signature.

Since May 2020, Protect My Public Media's grassroots network delivered more than **154,000 communications to Congress** urging additional relief for local public radio and television stations, with **51,000 generated in February**, and **3,200 calls placed over the last day** in response to the first amendment filed.

University of Michigan Taps WQED for National Racial Inequity Initiative

The University of Michigan Center for Social Solutions (CSS) has selected WQED to participate as a partner in its recently awarded Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's Just Futures Initiative grant. This \$5 million grant **addresses reparations through community-institutional partnerships**. The project creates and leverages a national network of college and university-based humanities scholars working in partnerships with community-based organizations to develop research-informed reparation plans for each location.

The project, which will span three-years, will include a WQED produced documentary. It will be under the auspices of Darryl Ford Williams, former WQED Vice President of Content, who retired in February to relaunch her own media management company. In her first collaboration with WQED following retirement, Darryl will lead the development and production of a content initiative exploring the concept of reparations and fostering an understanding of and dialogue about the differing trajectories of life rooted in our nation's racial and ethnic divide. WQED will present the project to the PBS system in 2023.

Reparations refer to compensation, which may include a national apology, educational, housing, and healthcare programs, and financial redress from the U.S. government to Native Americans for genocide and African Americans for the detrimental effects of slavery and beyond.

The Mellon Foundation said the initiative was designed to support "visionary, unconventional, experimental and groundbreaking projects in order to address the long-existing fault lines of racism, inequality, and injustice that tear at the fabric of democracy and civil society."

In addition to WQED, the Center for Social Solutions will undertake this ambitious project with the University of Michigan's nine national network partner institutions:

Carnegie Mellon University
Emory University
Rutgers University--Newark
Spelman College
The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC)
Concordia College in Moorhead, MN
Connecticut College
Wesleyan College in Macon, GA
Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC

Partnership with the University of Michigan is not new for WQED. Darryl brought the two institutions together to present a town hall meeting and panel discussion examining religious diversity. Pittsburgh was chosen for this May 2019 television discussion not only because of the city's synagogue mass shooting tragedy but for its efforts as a city to heal and overcome.

Darryl, who announced her retirement after 16 years with WQED, brought world audiences such grand documentaries as the highly acclaimed American Masters program *August Wilson: The Ground on Which I Stand*, and most recently *Harbor From The Holocaust*.

Under Darryl's leadership, WQED now has a supremely talented team that makes us proud every day and has garnered scores of awards. Those productions have taken WQED documentary teams across the globe for productions distributed to the PBS system. And even more, the content teams have created community-focused, unique, and memorable local programs and services that are mission-driven and a WQED hallmark. Darryl's body of work is deeply rooted into WQED's history.

**Achieva Early Intervention and WQED Education
Launch Innovative Infant Massage Online Series**



Infant massage can help calm and soothe fussy babies, ease digestive issues such as colic, gas, and indigestion, induce a more restful sleep, in addition to enhancing the bond between baby and their parent/caregiver.

WQED Education is excited to collaborate with Achieva Early Intervention on a groundbreaking Infant Massage series. The Infant Massage

video, produced by WQED, was launched and opened for registrations on February 15 at www.achievaearlyintervention.org. After registering, families were sent a link to the video to watch and practice at a time most convenient for their baby.

Infant Massage is a tool that many Achieva Early Intervention therapists use with their families, in addition to instructional classes being offered in the community prior to COVID-19.

Given the lack of community opportunities to teach Infant Massage due to the pandemic, the opportunity to provide this service virtually, in partnership with WQED Education, is an opportunity to reach many families who can add infant massage to their parenting tool box.

Also featured in the collaboration is a curated classical music playlist to accompany infant massage. Set as background music in the video, but also available as a separate link, the exclusive Infant Massage playlist was created by WQED-FM 89.3 and features selections designed to support a relaxing and calm environment.

WQED Education Presents Cartoon Academy with Joe Wos

WQED Education expands its offerings to students, parents and teachers with an innovative and fun project - cartooning. This educational video series was created in collaboration with WQED Education and WQED Production to support the Pennsylvania Department of Education's "Learning at Home" initiative.

Renowned Pittsburgh cartoonist Joe Wos takes students of all ages (and the young at-heart) through the creative steps of drawing cartoon characters, while sharing educational facts on the cartoon subjects.

The videos were released digitally on February 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, and 24 on WQED's YouTube channel and at www.wqed.org/cartoonacademy. The entire series of six videos aired on the WQED Showcase Channel education block on February 25 at 3:00 pm and rebroadcast every two weeks at the same time.

The six-to-nine-minute videos were produced in chapter clusters of three, by topic, with episode one in the chapter being the most elementary, and the second and third

being slightly more advanced. Each of the videos include lesson plans, extension activities and coloring sheets to accompany them.

Program Descriptions:

Chapter 1: Down Under

Episode 101: Kangaroo and Joey, Too

Cartoonist Joe Wos takes viewers through the simple steps of drawing one of “Down Under’s” most popular denizens - a kangaroo and its baby, commonly known as a Joey. Students will also learn about adding background to an illustration.

Episode 102: Koala and a Kooky Kookaburra

Joe Wos, takes to the trees of Australia where we learn to draw a Koala and Kookaburra. Students will also learn about using line to create the illusion of texture.

Episode 103: Platypus and Crocodile

Learn to draw one of the world’s most unusual animals, the platypus. Follow along step-by-step with Joe Wos to create this unique Aussie mammal. He’ll draw in another Australian water creature, the crocodile. Students will also learn how similar features can be used to create completely different characters.

Chapter 2: Down on the Farm

Episode 104: Playful Pig and Delightful Duck

Joe Wos teaches students how to draw a playful piggy and a delightful duck using easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions. Students will be familiarized with art terms such as “setting,” “symmetry” and “profile.”

Episode 105: Rooster on the Roof

High up on the barn roof, a rooster wakes up early and waits for someone to draw him. Joe Wos will teach students how to draw that barnyard alarm clock commonly called the rooster. Students will also learn about conveying emotions through facial expression.

Episode 106: Cow

Students will create a real scene at the farm. Incorporating a cow character, barn, and scenery, Joe Wos will demonstrate how to pull together all the elements to set the stage. Students will also learn the basics of art composition.

WQED Education Launches Smart Schools in Trinity Area School District

WQED teamed up with local schools to bring teachers, students, and families **Smart Schools**. *Smart Schools* infuses PBS resources into classrooms to create innovative and impactful learning experiences for school-aged learners.

The partnership, made possible with financial support from the **EQT Foundation**, the philanthropic arm of EQT Corporation, empowers teachers to be innovative, create imaginative programming by using researched-based instruction and technology, and parent-trusted content from PBS. **The EQT Foundation will fund Smart Schools in four elementary schools in the Trinity Area School District in Washington County: Trinity South, Trinity East, Trinity West, and Trinity North.**

The schools hosted virtual community kick-off events to celebrate Smart Schools on March 4. The event included a visit with Board Member Lisa Donovan, local author of “Birds in My Backyard” and illustrator Dee Paras.

Each school received a copy of “Birds in My Backyard” for their library and copies of the book were raffled off to students. Students engaged in a bird collage activity and received kits with other bird-related activities to work on at home (DIY binoculars, bird observation journal, bird checklist, and coloring sheets).

Education is at the center of WQED’s mission. Parents and educators desire programs and resources that spark curiosity, inspire creativity, and engage learners in innovative experiences that encourage learning within schools, but that also pave the way for impactful out-of-school time as well. Students and teachers are inundated with content from a variety of sources, and often the impact and effectiveness of this content on actual learning is slight.

PBS KIDS is the #1 educational media brand because it produces high-quality educational content, informed by research that inspires, engages, and entertains learners of all ages—wherever learning is happening. *Smart Schools* empowers teachers to create innovative, imaginative learning experiences using this research-based, parent-trusted content from PBS.

WQED Offers iQ: smartparent Teachable Moments, Webinars and Support Material for Parents and Educators

Building on the success of *iQ: smartparent*, WQED’s national television program for parents and educators, WQED inaugurates **iQ: smartparent Teachable Moments**.

Teachable moments <https://www.wqed.org/smartparent/teachablemoments> are short vignettes that extend at home learning for students and families by showcasing local educators demonstrating engaging activities, resources and ideas. In addition to the vignettes, students, parents and educators are directed to WQED’s Interactive website to get more detailed information on the topic of each teachable moment.

Teachable Moments, generously funded by the Grable Foundation, also includes four 20 minute-long webinars/virtual events hosted by WQED’s education team:

SPRING TRANSITION

This webinar focuses on transition and social and emotional development. WQED staff and experts discuss transitions to elementary, middle and high schools and the challenges and opportunities that those transitions often present.

BACK TO SCHOOL KICK-OFF

Kick-Off WQED solicits input from parents on what their needs are, and teachers on what students should be learning from a teacher's perspective. Education staff also distributed a survey to viewers/participants for more in-depth feedback. Information gathered will be used to assess what gaps WQED can fill with future lessons.

PARENT/TEACHER NIGHT

This webinar is a virtual parent/teacher meeting through our OVEE or Zoom platform. Parents have the ability to submit questions in an "ask the experts" style. WQED staff, teachers and other education experts are be part of a panel to answer parents' questions.

CELEBRATING THE ARTS

This virtual event celebrates the arts and artistic pursuits. Education staff offers creative project ideas for kids and parents with seasonal themes, such as holiday decorating or snowman-making.

Physical and digital materials are distributed to parents and include toolkits and other ancillary materials related to the content presented in each webinar.

WQED Education Gets Kids to "Warm Up With WQED"

Kids love to be creative and helpful. **Warm Up With WQED** is a pilot project from WQED Education that focuses on STEM and sharing, and connects creative kids with those who can use what they make.

WQED Education has partnered with local libraries that are part of its Inquire Within initiative and with area Girl Scout troops. WQED provides kits that contain enough material to make two no-sew scarves, with the idea that children can make one scarf to keep or give to a loved one and leave the other someplace in the community where a person in need can take it.

Libraries and the Girl Scout troops can make arrangements with locations in their community to place the scarves (library, grocery stores, food bank, etc.) or they can have them collected and hung in one centralized location. It is a great opportunity to partner with another community organization in a high traffic area.

WQED Education provides all of the supplies and instructions in individual grab-and-go bags. Kids are encouraged to send photos of their completed creations to WQED and share in their community.

Pennsylvania PBS and Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) launch 'Educast: Datacasting for Education' Pilot Program

The pandemic has further exposed disparities across Pennsylvania with the use of remote learning. About 35,000 households in the state are estimated to lack access to high-speed internet, with another 350,000 under-connected Pennsylvanians. [Datacasting](#) offers a way to help bridge the digital divide.

While broadcasting refers to sending programming “over-the-air” across a geographic region that can be received by an antenna and played on a television, datacasting refers to using those same broadcasting signals to transmit educational data to be used on a computer. By supplying families with a small, inexpensive antenna and receiver, students will be able to download educational resources that are transmitted over the air waves without the need to connect to the internet.

Datacasting receivers and antennas were distributed through local [Intermediate Units](#) that cover the school districts involved in the state’s Connectivity to Learning pilot. The units tested the devices and prepared programming and content distribution began on March 1.

Meanwhile, state-level work groups and district engagement groups are meeting to provide support and best practices around the pilot roll out. Thirty school districts across the Commonwealth will be involved in the pilot

Please be sure to sign up for the monthly PA PBS newsletter at <https://pennsylvaniapbs.org/newsletter/>

Design Lives Here Stem-Based Engineering Program for Local Students Culminates with Virtual Competition on March 30

This year, *Design Lives Here* looked a little different, but was still a fun 90-minutes of design, invention and competition for hundreds of local students. This was the 12th year of the competition and included seven returning schools from previous years with the addition of six new participating schools and three libraries that are part of WQED’s Inquire Within initiative.

Approximately 300 students in grades 5-8 represented different southwestern Pennsylvania educational stakeholders in preparation for the culminating competition day of March 30 with a virtual event

<https://www.wqed.org/education/designliveshere>

Over the last eleven years, WQED has engaged close to 2,300 middle school students through its *Design Lives Here* program aimed at encouraging area kids to learn more about and consider the value of a profession in engineering. Participating educators and students utilized provided materials and the engineering design process to address STEM challenges laden with content from *Design Squad Nation* episodes and interactive resources, with support from local engineering mentors.

Design Lives Here is made possible by Howmet Aerospace Foundation, Arconic Foundation, PPG Foundation, MSA Safety Incorporated (MSA), and Mastech Digital. *Design Lives Here* is presented by WQED in partnership with the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania (ESWP).

Participating schools included:

- Marshall Elementary - North Allegheny School District
- Valley Junior Senior High School - New Kensington Arnold School District
- John F. Kennedy Catholic School
- Cecil Intermediate Cannon McMillian School District
- Independence Middle School Bethel Park School District
- Propel Homestead
- Propel Braddock
- Propel McKeesport
- Propel Montour Middle School
- Propel Pitcairn
- Propel Hazelwood
- J.E. Harrison Middle School-Baldwin Whitehall School District
- Laurel Highlands Middle School will host their own Design Lives Here event day in May. The school includes Design Lives Here activities as part of its STEAM curriculum.

WQED Inquire Within libraries participate in Design Lives Here in their communities on a separate schedule:

- Butler Area Public Library
- Chartiers-Houston Community Library
- CC Mellor-Edgewood Library

Design Lives Here is a student outreach program based on the PBS show *Design Squad Nation*, a reality-style program created to “inspire the next generation of

engineers.” The original show featured teens engaged in challenges all over the United States and globe, vying for available scholarships by engaging in the engineering design process to discover solutions that addressed various challenges which occur in the complex, yet compelling, world of engineering.

WQED Education Showcased at NETA Conference

The WQED Education team’s work was showcased at the start of Day 2 of the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) Conference on January 26. **WQED was invited to share a partner’s story with this national audience working in the education and engagement space how public media stations quickly pivoted to provide heightened services during the pandemic.**

Produced by Beth Dolinar, *A Neighborhood of Learning* showcases teachers, parents, and students in the Laurel Highlands School District. They are among the many school districts connected with our education team on exciting educational initiatives. From a STEAM curriculum to early learning programs, the schools have found a supportive partner with WQED - both before and during the pandemic. In this feature story, Laurel Highlands shares its appreciation of the collaboration.

<https://vimeo.com/500600725>

WQED Presents

Out of the Woods: Battlefields of Western Pennsylvania

Southwestern Pennsylvania played a key role in a war that led to the American Revolution in the 18th Century. And many of the key sites of the conflict are preserved and restored for future generations. A new WQED documentary provides insight to these historic battlefield sites.

Out of the Woods: Battlefields of Western Pennsylvania premiered January 14 on WQED.

In the mid-1700s, the world’s two greatest military powers, France and Great Britain, focused their attention on western Pennsylvania. The French were seeking Native American trade partners in a land of abundant natural resources, while the British were looking to colonize. This set the stage for a world war with key battlefields in the Pittsburgh region. With stunning photography and fascinating interviews, the 30-minute documentary takes viewers to historic sites including Fort Ligonier, Fort Necessity, Fort Pitt, Bushy Run Battlefield, Braddock’s Battlefield, and historic Hanna’s Town.

Out of the Woods: Battlefields of Western Pennsylvania was produced, filmed and edited by multiple Emmy® Award winner Paul Ruggieri. The documentary was made possible with support from the Allegheny Regional Asset District and the members of WQED.

WQED Presents Digital Look Back with *Black Horizons: From the Archives*

WQED's *Black Horizons* went on the air in the tumultuous year of 1968 shortly after the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy, and after the civil unrest at the Chicago Democratic Convention and in cities across the country.

By the time it went off the air in 2010, *Black Horizons* had logged more than 700 episodes over 42 years.

WQED has reached into its archives to digitally re-master select clips from this groundbreaking program and released the following three segments on WQED.org during Black History Month on February 12, 19 and 26:

February 12 at www.wqed.org/blackhorizons

Black Horizons: From The Archives goes back to the 1990s for Chris Moore's interview with Ed Dwight, Jr. John F. Kennedy chose Dwight to be the first Black astronaut, but things didn't quite work out that way. Instead, he became an acclaimed sculptor, capturing Black history for museums and organizations throughout the country.

February 19 at www.wqed.org/blackhorizons

Julian Bond was a legendary leader in the American Civil Rights movement. He co-founded SNCC, the Southern Non Violent Coordinating Committee and fought on the front lines against segregation and discrimination. In 2003, Chris Moore had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Bond during a trip to Pittsburgh. These are highlights from that interview.

February 26 at www.wqed.org/blackhorizons

It was an auspicious occasion for the historic civil rights organization and the city. In July of 1997, the NAACP held its national convention in Pittsburgh for the first time. *Black Horizons* was there, interviewing Civil Rights Royalty Myrlie Evers and Kweisi Mfume.

Black Horizons was the nation's longest running series aimed at the African American audience and went on the air in 1968. Chris Moore took over the program in 1980 and was later joined by producer Minette Seate, before the program evolved into WQED's *Horizons* in the 2000s.

Local and national figures were interviewed on the weekly public affairs program over its multi-decade run. Alex Haley appeared on *Black Horizons* before the "Roots" mini-series made him a big star. As well as National Urban League president Mark Morial, civil rights leader Julian Bond, R&B star Jeffrey Osborne and many others. A variety of performers, educators and activists have appeared including: opera star Demarius Cooper, artist producer Emmaí Alaquiva and Hip Hop on Lock, B-PEP President Tim Stephens, Dr. Vernell Lillie and the actors of the Kuntu Repertory Theatre, jazz great Nathan Davis and artist Vanessa German.

Whether a public affairs program examining some modern social ill or a cultural affairs program celebrating African Heritage, *Black Horizons* was the television show that Pittsburghers tuned in to for information about the Black community.

Jewish Healthcare Foundation Presents *What Covid-19 Exposed in Long-Term Care*

Despite our COVID environment, WQED continues to engage our community. We may not be in the studio with an audience, but we continue to bring meaningful topics and issues to digital platforms and a remote audience. Our latest partnership with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation explored the causes behind the COVID-19 crisis in long-term care facilities across the United States.

More than 400 people joined Lynne Hayes-Freeland for the documentary *What COVID-19 Exposed in Long-Term Care*, produced by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and presented by WQED on February 24. The documentary was followed by a national panel of experts who discussed what is happening in the industry, what it means for boomers and their children, and what policy changes are needed to care for our frail seniors in the decades ahead.

Panelists

Alice Bonner, PhD, RN, FAAN

Senior Advisor for Aging of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and Director of Strategic Partnerships of the Center for Innovative Care in Aging

Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN

President & CEO of the John A. Hartford Foundation

Bobbi Jo Haden, MA

Vice President Retirement Services of Presbyterian SeniorCare

Bill Thomas, MD

Founder and Chairman of Minka and Founder of the Green House Project

WQED Presents Compelling Programming for Black History Month on Television and Radio

Throughout its 67-year history, WQED has produced local, statewide and national specials that focus on the significance of the African American community. This February, WQED aired some annual local favorites, national productions from PBS, and radio programming on WQED-FM 89.3 in celebration of Black History Month.

Black History Month programming on WQED was made possible with support from Highmark BCBS and Equitrans Midstream, with additional support from the University of Pittsburgh and Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter School.

Programming highlights in February:

The Good Fight

The Good Fight celebrates members of “The Greatest Generation,” African-American men and women who served their country even when their country didn’t always serve them. Over seventy-five years after the D-Day invasion, WQED shares the stories of WWII veterans and war workers - men and women who fought the good fight -- battling racism at home while fighting for democracy overseas. Written and produced by Chris Moore and Minette Seate, *The Good Fight* introduces viewers to these remarkable Americans who share the experiences that helped make history.

American Experience: The Murder of Emmett Till

The murder and the trial horrified the nation and the world. Till's death was a spark that helped mobilize the Civil Rights movement. Three months after his body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River, the Montgomery bus boycott began.

Childhood Lost: The Adulthood of African American Girls

Adulthood: it’s a disturbing phenomenon that’s happening across the country - and with notable impact right here in the Pittsburgh region. Adulthood is the perception that African American girls are more adult, more aggressive, more sexually aware and less in need of support and care than girls of the same age, but of different race. Experts have linked adulthood to disproportionate rates of classroom discipline, school suspension, and referrals to the juvenile justice system for Black girls which has a direct connection to the school-to-prison pipeline. What’s more, the racial disparity in juvenile justice referrals of Black girls is much higher in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County than school districts in 95 percent of similar cities.

Beacon for Change: The Pittsburgh Courier Story

Groundbreaking, influential, transformative. From its beginnings in 1907, the Pittsburgh Courier has been a leader among the nation’s African American newspapers - sparking historic change on issues ranging from education, housing and employment to discrimination in the military. With rare archival images and compelling interviews, this documentary explores the Courier’s impact on civil rights, social justice, culture and sports. The paper also provided historians with an invaluable chronicle of everyday life in the black community.

Wylie Avenue Days

Producer and Host Chris Moore takes viewers on a tour through the illustrious history of Pittsburgh’s Hill District when it was described as “The Crossroads of the World.”

Torchbearers: The Story of Pittsburgh's Freedom Fighters

Revisit Pittsburgh's struggles during the so-called golden era of civil rights, and meet many of the men and women who lit the way for the generations that followed. Hosted by Chris Moore and produced by Minette Seate, *Torchbearers* is a celebration of lives driven by a greater purpose.

Barbershops: PA Stylin'

Chris Moore takes a loving look at the cultural importance of barbershops in the African American community, focusing on barbers of color from Pittsburgh to Philly, and many places in between.

American Experience: Freedom Riders

Freedom Riders is the powerful harrowing and ultimately inspirational story of six months in 1961 that changed America forever. From May until November 1961, more than 400 black and white Americans risked their lives—and many endured savage beatings and imprisonment—for simply traveling together on buses and trains as they journeyed through the Deep South. Deliberately violating Jim Crow laws in order to test and challenge a segregated interstate travel system, the Freedom Riders met with bitter racism and mob violence along the way, sorely testing their belief in nonviolent activism.

An Evening with Diahann Carroll

This hour-long, one-on-one interview program provides a rare and insightful look into the life and career of legendary entertainer Diahann Carroll. Taped live in Washington, D.C. at George Washington University's Jack Morton Auditorium this program was the seventh in *The HistoryMakers' An Evening With...* series. Television journalist, moderator and managing editor of *Washington Week*, Gwen Ifill interviewed the actress and singer.

Civil Rights: Witnesses To History

They are senior citizens now, but during the early 1960s, their youthful actions reshaped America. WQED shares the unforgettable memories and rare photographs of Civil Rights era activists including the Reverend C.T. Vivian, Sister Patricia McCann, and freedom singer Rutha Harris, who fought against segregation and for African-Americans' right to vote.

American Experience: Goin' Back to T-Town

The story of Greenwood, an extraordinary Black community in Tulsa, Oklahoma, that prospered during the 1920s and 30s despite rampant and hostile segregation. Torn apart in 1921 by one of the worst racially-motivated massacres in the nation's history, the neighborhood rose from the ashes.

We Knew What We Had: The Greatest Jazz Story Never Told

This documentary film explores the social conditions and historical events that came together to make Pittsburgh one of the leading contributors to the legacy of jazz music in the world. This one-hour program is packed with interesting interviews, historical photographs, and over 20 live performance clips of the Jazz Masters including George Benson, Ahmad Jamal, Stanley Turrentine, Billy Eckstine, Kenny Clarke, Art Blakey, Billy Strayhorn Mary Lou Williams and more—all Pittsburghers.

Dave Chappelle: The Mark Twain Prize

An outstanding lineup of entertainers gathers in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall to salute Dave Chappelle, recipient of the 22nd annual Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

Return To The Roots of Civil Rights

WQED follows a group of western Pennsylvanians who journeyed to the sites of America's Civil Rights struggle. The Return to the Roots of Civil Rights Bus Tour covered nearly 2,600 miles, traveling from Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania to cities throughout the deep south. Participants, who ranged in age from 15 to 75, explored historic locations and met some of the foot soldiers who helped abolish segregation.

A Conversation with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

A Conversation With Henry Louis "Skip" Gates, Jr. is a live to tape interview program featuring Gates being interviewed by CNN reporter Suzanne Malveaux. The taping occurred on February

18, 2010 at the West Virginia Cultural Center in Charleston, West Virginia. The Harvard professor was interviewed about his life and experiences including growing up in West Virginia and his trip to the White House to meet with President Barack Obama.

Come By Here: A History of Five Churches

Church has always been an important part of African-American life. While western Pennsylvania is blessed with hundreds of predominantly black churches, this documentary focuses on just five - but each with a very different story: a church with ties to the underground railroad (Bethel A.M.E. in Monongahela), one known for its rich music program (Mount Ararat Baptist in Pittsburgh's Larimer neighborhood), a small church soldiering on despite dwindling membership (Allen Chapel A.M.E. in Elizabeth), one known for its civil rights activism (Ebenezer Baptist in Pittsburgh's Hill District), and a church built by the hands of laborers (First Cambria A.M.E. Zion in Johnstown).

The Black Church: This Our Story, This is Our Song

Two-part series reveals the broad history and culture of the Black church and explores African American faith communities on the frontlines of hope and change. Featuring interviews with Oprah Winfrey, John Legend, Jennifer Hudson, Bishop Michael Curry, Cornel West, Pastor Shirley Caesar, Rev. Al Sharpton, Yolanda Adams, Rev. William Barber II, BeBe Winans, Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie and more.

Driving While Black: Race, Space and Mobility in America

Discover how the advent of the automobile brought new mobility and freedom for African Americans but also exposed them to discrimination and deadly violence, and how that history resonates today.

Let 'Em Know You're There

Made in partnership with the Onondaga Historical Association, Let 'Em Know You're There is a short documentary about Jim Tucker, a former NBA player who has held the record for fastest triple-double for the past 60 years. Featuring animation that depicts a vibrant, unforgettable evening in Madison Square Garden in the 1950s, the film uses Jim's record as a lens into a remarkable life outside of basketball.

Flyboys: Western Pennsylvania's Tuskegee Airmen

The story of struggle and the ultimate triumph of the brave African American soldiers who served their country during World War II. The film chronicles the "Tuskegee Airmen" program, a controversial military initiative designed to measure African-Americans' competence for flying the engines of war. This fascinating documentary features the stories of the more than 40 aviators from western Pennsylvania, including the pilots, navigators and bombardiers who flew fighter and bomber planes during the war, as well as the maintenance and support staff, instructors and personnel who kept the planes in the air.

Marching Forward

In the segregated South, music inspires two *marching* band directors to cross color lines and give their students the opportunity of a lifetime.

The Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards

The Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards recognize books that have made important contributions to our understanding of racism and human diversity. For 85 years, the distinguished books earning Anisfield-Wolf prizes have opened and challenged our minds.

An Evening with B.B. King

This hour-long one-on-one interview provided a rare and insightful look into the life of B.B. King, the King of the Blues. Taped in Chicago on October 24, 2003, in front of a live audience, King was interviewed by musician and entertainer Isaac Hayes. King has traveled the world spreading his brand of blues to fans. *An Evening With B.B. King* shared the good times and the bad as experienced by this legendary blues guitarist.

Memories of the March: Pittsburgh Stories

Fifty years ago, a quarter of a million people gathered in our nation's capital for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. At that iconic civil rights demonstration, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his most-quoted speech, "I Have A Dream." Pittsburgh area men and women were there; they share their thoughts of that day -- and the events leading up to that time and the ensuing years -- in *Memories of the March*.

Independent Lens: Mr. Soul!

In 1968, producer Ellis Haizlip developed a new show aimed at Black audiences, one that used the familiar variety-show format to display and celebrate the breadth of Black culture. For five years, the public television series *SOUL!* highlighted Black literature, music, and politics, and often paired guests in unexpected juxtapositions that gave them an opportunity to shine in unique ways.

Black History Month Programming on WQED-FM 89.3

Throughout the month of February, WQED-FM 89.3 honored Black History Month by featuring works by Black composers and performers. Listeners heard music by William Grant Still, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Duke Ellington, plus performances by Branford and Wynton Marsalis, Andre Watts, the Imani Winds, and more. Pieces were scheduled at 7:30am and 5:30pm each weekday.

Lift Every Voice: A Musical Story From Song to Justice

Tuesday, February 16 at 8pm

A collection of powerful songs, stories and interviews with some of today's most acclaimed Black Artists and Scholars. This program was curated with the intent of creating awareness around the African American musical past, while inspiring listeners to cling to the hopefulness of our musical future together as every voice is heard and celebrated.

Local Black History Month Programs on *Performance in Pittsburgh*:

WQED-FM rebroadcasts local Black History Month programs recorded and performed in Pittsburgh.

February 5 - The Colour of Music performance of "Requiem for Rice", recorded at Carnegie Music Hall on February 13, 2019.

February 12 - In celebration of Black History Month, The Imani Winds concert from Carnegie Music Hall in November 2018 - part of the Chamber Music Pittsburgh concert series.

February 19 - A rebroadcast of the Mendelssohn Choir Let My People Go concert, recorded February 2019 at Ebenezer Baptist Church.

February 26 - Music from the Colour of Music Festival at Carnegie Mellon University, recorded April 28, 2016. Featuring music by Mozart and Chevalier de Saint-George.

WQED Sessions

<https://wqed.org/sessions>

WQED Sessions is a Digital First series showcasing local musicians. New installments premiere every two to three weeks and viewers can follow the show and keep up to date on upcoming webisodes.

Recent installments featured the song "Future Tripping" by Jon Bindley of Bindley Hardware Co.; Phat Man Dee, a cosmic jazz cabaret vocalist, band leader and music educator; and Tomi Adebayo, who uses an electric violin with a looping pedal to build her own orchestra.

Another episode featured jazz singer Etta Cox and pianist Daniel May. Legendary in the jazz community, Etta is also a teacher at the Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts High School where she carries on the musical style so dear to her. Here she performs songs "All of You" and "You are There" at Maywood Studios in McCandless.

WQED Digital Docs

Created for digital viewing, this ongoing series of documentary shorts explores fascinating topics, people and places. These in-depth mini-documentaries are designed for web, social media and educational distribution. History, human interest, social concerns, medical advances, sports and more. The series includes:

A Critical Connection

https://www.wqed.org/digitaldocs#overlay-player=Hr6pDrcjL3o9_atiBSVPdA

A look at difficulties teens have in discussing mental health issues with their parents.

Behind Enemy Lines

https://www.wqed.org/digitaldocs#overlay-player=Hr6pDrcjL3o9_atiBSVPdA==

Shot down two weeks before D-Day, P-47 fighter pilot Wally King experienced the turmoil first-hand. Now 97 and living in New Wilmington, Mr. King relives the uncertainty and desperation, along with unexpected moments of humanity.

Emma Witt: Pittsburgh's Pioneering Suffragist

https://www.wqed.org/digitaldocs#overlay-player=rL_iErQr8Tg

In Pittsburgh's African American community, the suffrage movement was vibrant, and it grew out of women's reading clubs.

Mary Lou Chapman: A Remarkable Life

<https://www.wqed.org/digitaldocs#overlay-player=VXXd6E6TsjE>

The late Mary Lou Chapman was featured in the documentary *Finding Elizabeth's Soldiers*. Her service in World War II and her decades of work with the American Red Cross were only two of the fascinating facets of her life.

August Wilson Park: You Plan Right

<https://www.wqed.org/digitaldocs#overlay-player=Vfsi3y2j3Go>

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and other agencies worked closely with the community to transform the Hill District's rundown Cliffside Park into a nature sanctuary that serves the needs of its neighbors.

Lynne Hayes-Freeland: A Determined Voice

<https://www.wqed.org/digitaldocs#overlay-player=-Z073PGIO5U>

The respected television journalist and radio personality reflects on her remarkable career, long-running minority affairs television program, and her concern about who will pick up the torch after community-minded broadcasters of her generation sign off.

Gift of Art

<https://www.wqed.org/digitaldocs#overlay-player=D7DScJqZMCInRtBslRXWYA>

Steve Mendelson takes his gallery to the street to spread joy during the pandemic.

Autism: Behind the Lens

<https://www.wqed.org/digitaldocs#overlay-player=YjTlghZ1NKE>

For young people with autism and on the spectrum, high school years can be difficult, especially when it comes to communication. But filmmaking is opening new doors for them.

WQED Showcase Channel Presents “Family Night: Coding” to Celebrate Computer Science Education Week



With technology advancing rapidly, WQED wants to ensure that children at a young age are exposed to 21st century skill-sets that will prepare them for the future. ***Family Night: Coding*** aired December 10 on the WQED Showcase Channel (over-the-air channel 13.4 and on local cable) and on affiliated Pennsylvania PBS stations. With coding perceived as complicated or

intimidating, this hour-long family program, being held during Computer Science Education Week, demystifies coding, making it fun and easy.

It is essential for Pennsylvania's learners to have access to computer science early on in their education. Programs like *Family Night: Coding* create opportunities for families to experience all of the exciting things computer science has to offer and

help to prepare a new generation of commonwealth residents for the jobs of tomorrow.

This family learning event designed for kindergarten to fifth graders introduces the basic principles of coding through hands-on activities and games. Parents and caregivers learn to code alongside their young children to increase interest in computer science and as a potential career path. Throughout the program, viewers hear from engineers on the pathway they took to pursue a career in computer science, and the fulfillment of their occupational choice.

WQED Welcomes Baldwin Borough Public Library to Inquire Within

WQED continues to expand *Inquire Within*, a program in partnership between two key community institutions - WQED and local libraries. *Inquire Within* aspires to re-imagine media-first partnerships that create impactful educational experiences in learning for children and families.

WQED and Gateway Health Plan welcomed **Baldwin Borough Public Library** as the newest library to the Inquire Within program with a Winter Reading Program from January 18 through March 15.

Children and teens added fun to the cold winter months by joining the Baldwin Borough Library's Winter Reading Program with books available for curbside pickup, a reading kit with logs, activity sheets, and winter bingo with a chance to win prizes.

Inquire Within launched in October 2016 at Peters Township Library in Washington County, PA and now includes 40 libraries throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia.

WQED is working with local and national library partners to create and implement PBS-themed curriculum that leverages public trust with a thirst for innovation in service of 21st Century learners, by developing a community of practice that can experiment, lead and sustain a new approach to "educational public media."

WQED Annual PBS Kids Writers Contest

WQED announced its annual [PBS KIDS Writers Contest](#) in January. WQED has been able to reach out directly to schools, libraries, and families throughout Pennsylvania and West Virginia to encourage children to submit their wonderful, original stories and illustrations. This program has been critical to the mission of WQED's Education Department, as it engages children in writing and illustrating, includes parents and

teachers in the creative process, and emphasizes the relevance of all literacy activities in a child's life.

In the past 11 year WQED has received more than 12,000 story entries, directly communicated with hundreds of teachers and librarians to provide them resources to work with their students, impacted thousands of WQED viewers with messages about the contest, and provided a website full of information that encourages students, and arms adults with relevant literacy information.

Partnering with WQED this year are [West Virginia Public Broadcasting](#) (WVPB); WPSU serving central Pennsylvania; and [PBS 39](#) (WLVT) serving eastern Pennsylvania and western New Jersey.

From January 4 through March 31, children in western, central and eastern Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and western New Jersey submitted their entries to the PBS KIDS Writers Contest at www.writeonkids.org . WQED selected local winners and awards prizes including the opportunity to record their winning story. All finalists, past and present, are broadcast on iQKidsRadio.org. This year's winners will be broadcast on [Saturday Light Brigade](#) (SLB) Radio over the summer.

Pittsburgh Symphony Musicians Take "Center Stage" on Classical WQED-FM

WQED-FM introduced a new feature to its weekly *Symphony on the Air* series, which was developed at the pandemic's onset to serve to keep Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra music omnipresent. WQED-FM and the PSO welcome listeners to "Center Stage," a weekly showcase of new performances recorded live expressly for WQED-FM.

The music in "Center Stage" are short pieces personally chosen by the musicians (either soloists or small ensembles). In addition to the performance, an interview with WQED-FM morning host Jim Cunningham explores the personal connection between musician and repertoire. PSO Musicians were invited to perform for "Center Stage" under a COVID controlled environment, with many musicians returning to Heinz Hall for the first-time since the pandemic began.

The new program is designed to create new performance opportunities for musicians as the Orchestra continues to weather the pandemic, and to reach wider audiences through a broadcast with WQED-FM. Programs are broadcast throughout the next few months on select Wednesday mornings at 8:30 am.

Feb. 17, 2021

Center Stage 1: James Rodgers, principal contrabassoon
Johann Sebastian Bach Sarabande from Cello Suite No. 1

Feb. 24, 2021

Center Stage 2: Lorna McGhee, principal flute

Georg Philipp Telemann Fantasia No. 9 for Solo Flute
Johann Martin Blochwitz *Sarabande*

March 3, 2021

Center Stage 3: Ron Samuels, clarinet

Béla Kovács *Hommage a Z. Kodaly*

Béla Kovács *Hommage a R. Strauss*

March 10, 2021

Center Stage 4: Lorna McGhee, principal flute

Ernst Von Dohnányi *Passacaglia for Solo Flute*

March 17, 2021

Center Stage 5: James Rodgers, principal contrabassoon

Erwin Schulhoff *Bass Nightingale for Solo Contrabassoon*

“Center Stage” is a new feature of WQED Classical FM's *Symphony on Air Series*, which is brought to listeners through the generous support of the Spanos Group of Raymond James. “Center Stage” is also made possible by the Musicians of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

WQED Helps Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Celebrate 125 Years

WQED-FM aired a special Pittsburgh Symphony Radio broadcast on February 24 and 28 to celebrate the orchestra's 125th Anniversary. Listeners heard the new Deutsche Grammophone re-issue of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with William Steinberg conducting the PSO from 1966. The program also featured an audio documentary of the rich history of the PSO, a recording of the orchestra conducted by former Music Director Mariss Jansons, and a comment from current Music Director Manfred Honeck about the two PSO recordings of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 - the Steinberg recording, and the recording with Manfred Honeck just released in February.

This program also contained the very first and only recording of Otto Klemperer conducting the Pittsburgh Symphony in Mozart at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Music Hall in October 1937 just after he reorganized the musicians. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt speaks on the same program asking for donations to the Mobilization for Human Needs during the Depression.

The 125th celebration includes Leonard Bernstein talking about his work in Pittsburgh, Former Music Director Fritz Reiner, Former Music Director Andre Previn, and William Steinberg speaks about his 24 years in Pittsburgh. Otto Klemperer speaks about his work in Pittsburgh, and he is remembered by his son Werner Klemperer, Colonel Klink of *Hogan's Heroes*.

WQED and Well Beings Host Virtual Event on Youth Mental Health

A live panel discussion hosted by WQED on March 10 engaged local mental health experts, parents, teachers and students on the topic of youth mental health at .

www.wellbeings.org/wqed. Pittsburgh was the eleventh stop on the nationwide Well Beings tour.

Well Beings and **WQED**, in partnership with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Keystone PA and several Pittsburgh area school districts, hosted a **live virtual event and panel discussion** “Healthy Connections: Teens, Parents, Educators, and Mental Health” to explore specific tools that will help parents and teens find common grounds and understanding, while offering guidance to educators in recognizing signs of mental illness in students.

Most teenagers agree that expressing their emotions is difficult - especially in conversations with their parents. And when asked what most parents get wrong, young people usually point to parents who minimize the mental health experiences of their children. That disconnection can lead to delayed treatment, worsening symptoms, and emotional crises.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, more teens are now finding help in an unexpected way: through social media and similar platforms. Virtual therapy has become a lifeline - especially for teens whose parents are unable or unwilling to connect with them on the issue of mental health.

Well Beings is a multi-platform, multi-year campaign from public media to address the critical health needs in America through original broadcast and digital content, engagement campaigns, and impactful local events. The campaign begins with the **Youth Mental Health Project**, engaging youth voices to create a national conversation, raise awareness, address stigma and discrimination, and encourage compassion. Well Beings was created by WETA Washington, D.C., the flagship public media station in the nation’s capital, and brings together partners from across the country, including youth with lived experience, families, caregivers, teachers, medical and mental health professionals, social service agencies, private foundations, filmmakers, corporations and media sponsors, to create awareness and resources for better health and wellbeing.

Recent Awards

Ronald H. Brown Corporate Leadership Award

It was my honor to accept the prestigious Ronald H. Brown Corporate Leadership Award on behalf of the WQED staff and Board, and truly the entire community, on the evening of February 11.

Even though the gala event was virtual, the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh created a festive and memorable evening, including congratulatory messages from PBS CEO Paula Kerger, and Former WQED CEO George Miles. As I said in my acceptance speech, this award is as much a celebration of this community as it is for the company itself. We strive to be universally inclusive. It's nice to be reminded that we're on the right path. The acceptance speech can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/D3A5ftZzPjU>

Robert L. Vann Media Awards

The Pittsburgh Black Media Federation announced the winners in its 32nd annual Robert L. Vann Media Awards contest on December 4. The awards honor excellence in journalism coverage of African American and African diaspora communities, individuals and issues.

WQED was well represented with multiple honors for this prestigious award. A huge round of applause for our WQED honorees!

All entries, which were published or broadcast between Jan. 1, 2019, and Dec. 31, 2019, came from western and central Ohio, and the National Association of Black Journalists Region I territory: the District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

EXCELLENCE IN VIDEO / BROADCAST

Arts/Entertainment

Anne Casper and Andrew Holman
WQED Multimedia
"Alisha B. Wormsley: Art & Humanity"

Documentary

Beth Dolinar, Paul Ruggieri, Dave Forstate
WQED Multimedia
"Serving Time, Too"

News Feature

Nathalie Berry, Amy Grove, Zak Boyle, Harold Hayes
WQED Multimedia
"Here Lies..."

Public Affairs/Politics/Government

Minette Seate, Christopher T. Moore, Lisa Washington, and Rebecca Jean Born
WQED Multimedia
"The State of Black Pittsburgh 2019"

Sports

Brian Cook and Zak Boyle

WQED Multimedia

“USS Cunningham: The Biggest Fight of My Life”

Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters (PAB) Awards

WQED has been honored with three 2021 PAB Awards from the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters. This year's statewide awards ceremony will be virtual, date TBA.

Congratulations to producers Minette Seate and Annette Banks, their project colleagues, and the entire WQED family. Teamwork makes our quality work possible.

Outstanding Documentary

An Unlikely Refuge: Surviving the Holocaust in Shanghai

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-O6a7jNx0gg&t=13s>

Outstanding Public Affairs Program

Childhood Lost: The Adulthood of African American Girls

[Childhood Lost | WQED](#)

Outstanding Feature Story

A Crowning Achievement

[A Crowning Achievement - YouTube](#)

We Remember Kevin Conrad

WQED lost one of its longest-serving employees on December 16. Kevin Conrad fought a courageous 10-year battle against cancer. Throughout it all, he never lost his great sense of humor and passion for his craft.

Kevin was the second longest-tenured employee, having arrived at WQED in 1977, right out of Ohio University. He started in master control, but his talent was quickly recognized. He became WQED's premiere editor, giving us national shows like *Kennedy Center Tonight*, *The Chemical People*, *Mister Rogers Neighborhood*, and of course, we all know him best as a collaborator with Rick Sebak on dozens of programs in The Pittsburgh History Series and national PBS specials.

Kevin was a devoted family man and our thoughts go out to his wife Jami and their five children.

Joanne Rogers

Our friend and neighbor Joanne died peacefully on January 14 in her home, surrounded by her family. Joanne touched so many of our lives. When she walked into the station, she lit up the place with her beaming smile, infectious laughter, and a heart so big. We are blessed to have known her and to have many fond memories to hold dear. I truly loved Joanne, and I knew she loved me back. We told each other so - whenever we parted.

As you know, Joanne was a brilliant and accomplished musician, a wonderful advocate for the arts, a champion for children, and a dear friend of WQED. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Joanne's family, wishing them comfort and peace today and always.

Pittsburgh - indeed the world - will not be the same without Joanne Byrd Rogers.

Ceci Sommers

Ceci Sommers passed away on February 2. Ceci forever will hold a place in WQED's history as the founder, along with her husband Jack of WQED-FM. Arriving in Pittsburgh from Chicago's classical WTTW, they would bring classical music to Pittsburgh airwaves in 1973, and a year later secured the rights for broadcasting the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. WQED-FM, which is now closing in on 50-years, went on to prove its early detractors wrong; Pittsburgh could and would support an all-classical music station.

Ceci enjoyed a more than 20-year career at WQED, serving as Vice President and Station Manager of WQED-FM, as well as public and community relations roles. She was also responsible for starting the WQED Auction, which was popular for years.

Anyone that knew Ceci knew she was a voracious reader and zealous in her promotion of literacy. In an email, Ceci's son Matt said, "Want to honor my Mom's legacy? One word: Read. Read to your kids, volunteer at a literacy council, teach someone how to read. I don't need to tell any one of you this. Reading. That was Mom's passion, reading. She freely admitted she was addicted to *The New Yorker*."

Jim Cunningham remembered Ceci on behalf of all of us and her many friends during a tribute on the *QED Morning Show* on February 4 at 8 am.

Conclusion

We hope that the worst of the pandemic is behind us, but we will continue to be cautious and monitor the situation before we resume operations in the WQED building. We never imagined that we would be working remotely for more than a

year, but it's gratifying to know that operations continued unimpeded from the first day. It will be interesting to see how the world re-adapts once we emerge from the pandemic. I know that we have learned some valuable lessons, and I look forward to working with staff and board as we chart our course for the future.