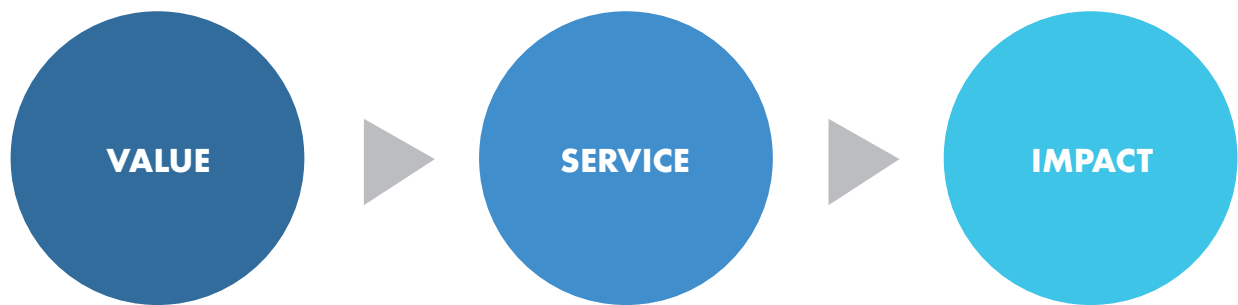


2024 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Timothy Yean is the seventh student to receive the annual \$15,000 Rhode Island PBS and The Public's Radio Scholarship. Timothy entered Rhode Island College in September 2024 and is pursuing a major in communications. See his interview on the set of [A Lively Experiment](#).



In a time when trusted news and information are more essential than ever, we are building something truly special: a local media organization that places our audience at the heart of everything we do. Rhode Island PBS and The Public's Radio is committed to delivering local journalism and award-winning content across multiple platforms—on-air, online, in person, and through podcasts, newsletters and social media. From daily investigative journalism to in-depth explorations of events and stories in our community, we continue to redefine what it means to be a public media organization. Serving Rhode Island and southern New England, we explore arts and culture, stay on top of public affairs and provide educational resources to learners of all ages.

Rhode Island PBS and The Public's Radio actively engages with the community through in-depth storytelling, workshops, panel discussions and educational resources. Through the **Ready To Learn** program, **Cyberchase** and Media Literacy programs, our Education Services department focuses on digital literacy and topics such as kindergarten readiness, career exploration, and media literacy. In 2024, we directly connected with nearly 3,000 community members including students, adult learners, families, caregivers and educators.

Rhode Island PBS and The Public's Radio is dedicated to uncovering the stories that matter most to our community, providing relevant public affairs and enriching arts and culture journalism. In collaboration with **FRONTLINE**, our reporters uncovered underage and unprotected migrant children working in dangerous conditions in New Bedford seafood processing plants. This story earned multiple awards, including an Edward R. Murrow Award. Partnering with the University of Rhode Island, **Rhode Island PBS Weekly** hosted an in-depth panel discussion on microplastics, exploring their impact on human health, aging and the environment. Additionally, programs like **Ocean State Sessions** and **ART inc.** continue to highlight the artists in our community, showcasing the many ways they enrich the cultural fabric of our region.

AWARDS:

It was an award-winning year for Rhode Island PBS and The Public's Radio. In 2024, our work was honored with two Boston/New England Emmy awards, 18 Telly awards, an Edward R. Murrow award, four Public Media Journalists Association (PMJA) awards and an award from The Arnold M. Dubin Labor Education Center at UMass Dartmouth.



The **Rhode Island PBS Weekly** segment **Anti-Graffiti Vigilantes** took home a Regional Emmy Award under the **Arts/Entertainment News** category. The story, produced by reporter Pamela Watts, photographer Dewey Raposo and executive producer Barbara Dury, chronicles the work of the dedicated volunteer group Anti-Graffiti Vigilantes, based in Narragansett, RI. For two decades this organization has developed an art method to combat graffiti on coastal rocks, promoting environmental restoration and preservation.



The original series **ART inc.** received the station's second Regional Emmy Award in the **Societal Concerns - Short Form Content** category. The winning piece, titled **Forged in Fire**, was created by producer Lindsey Poole and executive producer Tracy MacDonald. Set at The Steel Yard, a nonprofit industrial art center in Providence, Rhode Island, **Forged in Fire** offers a unique perspective on the critical issue of gun violence. The story features the Metal Lab class, where students engage in open conversations about gun violence while transforming firearms into works of art.



Underage and Unprotected, an investigative collaboration with **FRONTLINE**, received an Edward R. Murrow Award for **Investigative Reporting**. The investigation revealed how some migrant teens ended up working risky jobs at seafood processing plants in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Reporters interviewed more than two dozen migrant teens who said they worked in processing plants as far back as 2016.

EVENTS:

Our Town: Lincoln Community Screening

February 28, 2024



Volunteer filmmakers, storytellers and residents were invited to a community screening of ***Our Town: Lincoln*** at Lincoln High School. More than 100 people registered for the event. ***Our Town: Lincoln*** featured the following stories: ***A Life at Brae Crest, Chaos Farm, Lincoln's Great Road, The Saylesville Meeting House, The Whipple-Cullen Farmstead, Lincoln's Mr. Enos, Cherry on Top, Life at the Butterfly House, The Butterfly Farm, The Climbers at Lincoln Woods, Hocus Pocus Comes to Lincoln, and The Hearthside Gang.***

Our Town: Lincoln was made possible by a partnership with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island.

Breaking Down Plastics: A Conversation on How Plastic Pollution Affects Us All

August 21, 2024



Rhode Island PBS and The Public's Radio hosted an in-depth panel discussion at the University of Rhode Island on the topic of plastic pollution. Moderated by ***Rhode Island PBS Weekly*** reporter Michelle San Miguel, the event featured a screening of the ***Rhode Island PBS Weekly*** segment, ***Green Seeker: Plastic Pollution***, followed by a panel with University of Rhode Island researchers Dr. Jyothi Menon, Dr. Jaime Ross and Dr. John (J.P.) Walsh. Together, they discussed how plastic affects our brains as we age, the increasing human exposure to plastics and its potential health risks, and the effects of plastic pollution on water bodies and marine life.

EVENTS:

Cranston Mayoral Debate: Republican Candidates

August 26, 2024

Rhode Island PBS and The Public's Radio partnered with The Cranston Herald on a debate between the two candidates that were vying for Cranston's Republican nomination in the September 10 mayoral primary. The candidates debated the finer points of education and homelessness and answered community questions delivered by a panel featuring Ian Donnis, political reporter for The Public's Radio, **Rhode Island PBS Weekly** reporter Isabella Jibilian and The Cranston Herald's Rory Schuler. Nearly 100 people turned up for the event. The debate was uploaded to YouTube and reported for next-day coverage.

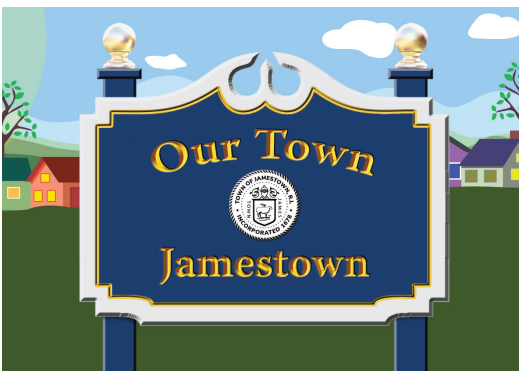


Our Town: Jamestown Community Screenings

September 3, 2024 & December 3, 2024

Rhode Island PBS and The Public's Radio was met with great enthusiasm when the **Our Town: Jamestown** project was announced. Residents submitted more than 20 stories, resulting in the production of two documentaries for the town. To celebrate, Rhode Island PBS and The Public's Radio held two community screenings at the Jamestown Arts Center. Combined, the events attracted around 200 registrants. Highlights from the **Our Town: Jamestown** submissions included stories such as **Beavertail Lighthouse**, **Jamestown's Black History** and **The H.P. Lovecraft Mystery**.

Our Town: Jamestown was made possible by William Raveis Real Estate, Jamestown Arts Center and Grapes & Gourmet.



Rhode Island PBS

EVENTS:

Cranston Mayoral Debate: Top Contenders

October 7, 2024



Rhode Island PBS and The Public's Radio again partnered with The Cranston Herald on a debate between Republican incumbent Ken Hopkins and Democratic challenger Robert Ferri. Moderated by The Public's Radio morning host Luis Hernandez, a panel of three journalists — The Cranston Herald's Rory Schuler, The Public's Radio political reporter Ian Donnis and **Rhode Island PBS Weekly** reporter Isabella Jibilian — asked the political opponents about topics ranging from immigration to the city's flooding problem. More than 70 people attended the event. The debate was live-streamed on The Public's Radio and reported for next-day coverage.

The Public's Voice

October 10, 2024

The Public's Radio political reporter Ian Donnis moderated an election discussion in partnership with the Providence Athenaeum before a live audience of around 100 guests. Topics included the upcoming Rhode Island gubernatorial and mayoral races, as well as the threat of voter suppression. The discussion was recorded for an election special that aired on The Public's Radio the weekend of October 25.



RHODE ISLAND PBS EDUCATION SERVICES

The Rhode Island PBS Education Services team provides free Early Childhood Education, K-12 Education and Community Engagement programs and resources, calling on local organizational partnerships to further the reach and impact of public media throughout Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. This work is centered around digital literacy and covers topics such as Kindergarten readiness, career exploration, media literacy and more. In 2024, we connected directly with nearly 3,000 community members including students, adult learners, families and caregivers, and educators.

- Ready To Learn** - In 2024, the Education Services team collaborated with Central Falls and Pawtucket community partners, Progreso Latino and the Blackstone Valley Community Action Program's Parents as Teachers, utilizing Ready To Learn content to offer programs for educators, families and young children. Through the implementation of a Learning Neighborhood, the team fostered a community-wide culture, empowering children and adults to learn together anytime, anywhere. Bilingual resources and events including professional development, family workshops and free high-quality educational materials provided support for multilingual learners of all ages. In addition, an ongoing partnership with Professor Nuria Alonso Garcia and the Global Studies program at Providence College has strengthened the work by evaluating content and workshops through the lens of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.



- Cyberchase: Green It Up** - Rhode Island PBS was awarded the 2024 **Cyberchase: Green It Up** grant through WNET. To maximize reach and impact throughout Rhode Island, we established a three-way implementation model, connecting with community members, educators, caregivers and children in unique ways and fostering new relationships while continuing collaboration with trusted partners. A Train-the-Trainer workshop connected us with The Office of Library & Information Services, Farm Fresh RI, the Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England, and supported librarians and informal educators to lead workshops in their local communities. At the Warwick Public Library, we engaged directly with children through a six-week summer program in collaboration with library staff and local experts which culminated in a community celebration showcasing lessons learned and student-created media projects.

RHODE ISLAND PBS EDUCATION SERVICES



- Media Literacy Week in Rhode Island** - Rhode Island PBS and The Public's Radio collaborated with The Media Education Lab to celebrate the 10th annual U.S. Media Literacy Week hosted by the National Association for Media Literacy Education in Rhode Island. Leading up to and during the week of October 20-26, staff curated an educational social media campaign, produced a media literacy-focused episode of **Generation Rising** and **The Rhode Island Report**, participated in five high school visits, hosted the **Media Literacy is for Everyone** stakeholder event, led a station tour and mentored high school students who presented a webinar for educators.



- Career Exploration** - In 2024, our staff led fifteen tours of the station for local school and community groups. Station tours provide visitors such as the Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England (GSSNE) Girl Scout Media Team, The Village Common of RI, and Westbay Community Action, with a backstage pass to media creation and distribution at Rhode Island PBS. Also, high school students from around the state who are focused on media production or who are exploring career options have observed tapings of **Rhode Island PBS Weekly**, connected with various staff and created television shows at the nearby PEG station.

LOCAL SHOWS



Ocean State Sessions, a Rhode Island PBS Original series, continued with its fourth season in July with more of New England's up-and-coming musicians. During this season, the series returned to Big Nice Studio in Lincoln, R.I., featuring an eclectic catalog of music from artists, followed by intimate interviews where the songwriters shared their insights into the local music scene and the creative inspiration behind their music.

Each episode of **Ocean State Sessions** went beyond the broadcast, providing extended interviews and exclusive insights found on our website and YouTube channel. [Enjoy the series On Demand here.](#)

ART inc. is a digital series and a half-hour magazine-style broadcast exploring the art around us, from the traditional – music, performance, visual arts – to unexpected discoveries: the art of the tea ceremony, the art of grieving, and the art of creating a prosthetic eye. Through dynamic footage and narrative storytelling, **ART inc.** explores the full possibility of the arts: the diversity of who creates it and why, where art can take us, and why it takes us there.

[Enjoy the series On Demand here.](#)



Generation Rising, hosted by Anaridis Rodriguez, is a community-focused series that evokes conversation about various inequalities across Rhode Island. Featuring interviews with community leaders, journalists and academics, the second season of **Generation Rising** shed light on maternal health disparities, police corruption and the power of Black storytelling.

Generation Rising airs Friday at 7:30 p.m. [Enjoy the series On Demand here.](#)

For more than 30 years, **A Lively Experiment** has provided insight and analysis of the week's local and national political events. Asking the hard questions and shaking out the answers in spirited, fast-paced debate, a rotating panel of journalists and opinion leaders, economists and political scientists, elected officials and pundits dig deep into the local issues that affect Rhode Islanders.

A Lively Experiment airs Friday at 7 p.m. [Enjoy the series On Demand here.](#)



PODCASTS



The Weekly Catch is a half-hour show hosted by **Morning Edition** host Luis Hernandez. It features the work of our local journalists and brings you beyond the headlines of the week's most important stories. Listen every Friday at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. You can find it in your podcast feed of choice on Friday afternoons.

The Rhode Island Report is a weekly podcast from The Boston Globe and Rhode Island PBS and The Public's Radio on what's bubbling in Rhode Island news. The podcast includes in-depth interviews with newsmakers, perspective and analysis from reporters, and intimate conversations with community members across the state. You can find it in your podcast feed of choice on Thursdays



Veteran political reporter and analyst Ian Donnis guides lively conversations that get to the heart of our community's political issues. **Political Roundtable** gives you a front-row seat to Rhode Island and southern New England's latest political stories. Listen every Friday during **Morning Edition** and **All Things Considered**. You can also subscribe to the podcast using the podcast provider of your choice.

Discover Rhode Island's vibrant cultural scene with **Artscape**, your weekly window into the creative heart of our community. From intimate gallery openings to grand theatrical productions, stirring musical performances to groundbreaking dance, we showcase the artists and innovators who bring our local arts landscape to life. Listen every Thursday during **Morning Edition** and **All Things Considered**. You can also subscribe to the podcast using the podcast provider of your choice.



Sick and tired of environmental gloom and doom? Want to know what you can do? Listen to **Possibly** – where we take on huge problems, like the future of our planet, and break them down into small questions with unexpected answers. New episodes are released every Tuesday. Subscribe today wherever you get your podcasts.

INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS

The Risk of Giving Birth

January 12, 2024

The Risk of Giving Birth is a locally-focused three-part series examining the maternal health crisis in the U.S. The series comprises personal stories and interviews with medical professionals, politicians and community activists to shed light on Rhode Island's efforts to improve outcomes, the impact of structural racism on Black mothers and the alarming rise in complications for Latina mothers.



Treasures Inside the Museum Season 5

June 28, 2024

Treasures Inside the Museum steps into the back rooms of more than a dozen museums throughout southern New England, delving into their treasured collections and uncovering pieces that often remain hidden away. In season five of the series, 12 museums were featured, including Fort Adams, the National Museum of American Illustration, the National Sailing Hall of Fame and the Providence Library.



A World of Hurt: How Medical Malpractice Fails Everyone

June 21, 2024

Produced by Brown University medical students, ***A World of Hurt: How Medical Malpractice Fails Everyone*** examines the devastating impact of medical malpractice on patients, doctors and society. The film presents three powerful stories from the perspectives of patients and doctors who have been directly affected by medical malpractice.



WaterFire: Art & Soul of a City...The Story Continues

June 14, 2024

Picking up where the 2012 documentary, ***WaterFire: Art & Soul of a City*** left off, this sequel shows viewers how WaterFire, in its 30th year, has evolved over the past 12 years, continuing to create world-class art and memorable experiences for more than 20 million attendees and counting.



RHODE ISLAND PBS WEEKLY

It was another flagship year for **Rhode Island PBS Weekly**. Since launching in 2020, our team of talented journalists has produced more than 336 unique local and regional stories on a variety of issues, including the environment, education, health care, local business, the immigrant experience, history, youth perspectives and political commentary. 96 of those stories were diversity, equity and inclusion-related.



On-camera correspondents Pamela Watts and Michelle San Miguel are consummate news professionals who bring objectivity, in-depth research and a genuine warmth to each of their stories. They, and the entire **Rhode Island PBS Weekly** team, are committed to presenting balanced, diverse voices and perspectives on stories that matter to Rhode Island, southern New England and beyond.

This year, **Rhode Island PBS Weekly** continued its strong partnership with PBS's premier and highly regarded newscast, **PBS NewsHour**, contributing more regional stories than any other PBS affiliate in the country. Senior Executive Producer & Senior Vice President, Sara Just, reflected on the partnership, "At **PBS NewsHour**, we look for opportunities to bring some of the best local public media journalism to a wider national audience. We have been grateful to **Rhode Island PBS Weekly** for consistently delivering meaningful, beautifully told stories that we have been proud to present on **PBS NewsHour**. We welcome the opportunity to partner with Rhode Island PBS in bringing more stories from the country's smallest state to a national audience."

Rhode Island PBS Weekly airs Sunday at 7:30 p.m. and encores the following Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

[Enjoy the series On Demand here.](#)



We recently moved here from Indianapolis, where we were longtime monthly sustainers and volunteers at our local NPR/PBS station (WFYI Indianapolis). We are happy to support the Public's Radio and appreciate your local focus and NPR programming.

Megan C.

So thankful to be able to expose my family to your excellent level of journalism and continuous hard work. I worked in the non-profit sector for close to twenty years and know the challenges and rewards you encounter. Thank you!
Kara O.

LETTERS, EMAIL AND PHONE MESSAGES FROM OUR VIEWERS

I moved here from NYC in 2020. Rhode Island PBS helped to sustain me during the pandemic. Rhode Island PBS Weekly is one of my favorite programs, which has introduced me to many wonderful aspects of life in Rhode Island. One of its segments featured the tap dancer, Brian Jones. As a result, I've enrolled in his tap class and have found an exciting new hobby.

Claudette M.

I support Rhode Island PBS to honor the memory of my wonderful wife, who passed in the spring of 2020, just short of our 50th wedding anniversary, after a courageous battle with the glioblastoma form of brain cancer. She had a superb productive career as an elementary school teacher, could do so much so well, and was an avid viewer of PBS, enjoying and appreciating the experiences and information from that viewing. Thank you so much for making that possible, and for continuing to do what you do.

Thomas I.