The Numbers In Focus

**KJZZ members support 6 dedicated coverage areas:**

- Business, Education, Politics, Science and Innovation,
- Sustainability, & Tribal Natural Resources

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**THE SHOW**

airs 5 days a week

*hosted by Mark Brodie & Lauren Gilger*

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**9** Engineering & IT support staff

keeping us on the air with a high-quality sound

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**204** Sun Sounds outreach events

*sharing this important service with the community*

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**259** e-newsletters

providing information to listeners & members

---

**37** laptops installed with Adobe Creative Cloud

and distributed to high-school students, enabling them to gain multimedia skills that will enhance their future

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**10** KBACH on-air hosts who are there for listeners day and night
A Message from the Chair

If 2022 was the year of the comeback, then 2023 was the year to remind us to focus on what matters. We are all inundated with information, some good, some bad, some helpful, and a lot that is just distracting or not very useful. Every day, we must cut through the clutter and the noise to focus on what really matters to us and our families.

The fact that you are a Friends of Public Radio Arizona member lets us know that the programming we provide matters to you. The Board and Staff are grateful for that support. Whether you've been a member for less than a year or you're a long-term supporter, we appreciate you! We are committed to continuing to create quality programming and content that help you cut through the noise and improve your day.

Going into 2024, an election year, it will be more important than ever to tune into a reliable news source you can trust on KJZZ or listen to KBACH to relax and leave all the politics behind. Either way, we have you covered. You can hear your favorite national and local programs in a variety of ways, from radio to streaming online, smart speakers, our mobile apps, and podcasts. Whether you are in Arizona all year or only part of the year, you can catch your favorite programs and personalities anywhere and everywhere you are.

Stay tuned as we continue to evolve as an organization and focus on new and exciting ways to bring you programming that matters to you, in ways that are more accessible to you.

Additionally, we ask you to share the importance of public radio with your friends and family, to ensure continued support by the next generations and beyond.

Thank you from your Friends of Public Radio Arizona!

Mistie Hague Weishaar
FPRAZ Chair
Greenberg Traurig, LLC

Friends of Public Radio Arizona (FPRAZ) assures the future vitality and excellence of our community’s public radio and broadens its support.

FPRAZ’s Tax ID is 01-0579687. Our Form 990s are available online at fpraz.org/public-files
KJZZ has been tackling big questions about Arizona’s water future in the ongoing series *Every Last Drop*. Groundwater has taken on even greater importance as the state’s allotment of the Colorado River has been reduced. In April, KJZZ convened an expert panel exploring the current state and future of Arizona’s groundwater. Panelists at this event included Kathleen Ferris, senior research fellow at the Kyl Center for Water Policy, Troy Hayes, director of the Phoenix Water Services Department, and Holly Irwin, chairwoman of the La Paz County Board of Supervisors. Panel attendees are pictured below. This in-person and live-streamed event was moderated by KJZZ’s *The Show* Host Mark Brodie and is available online at [water.kjzz.org](http://water.kjzz.org).

*KJZZ keeps us informed and educates us on important national and state issues in an intelligent and balanced way.*

“Robert in Phoenix

*This is my source for news: thorough, in-depth, and timely. KJZZ’s coverage of water issues, especially here around the Colorado River, is superb. The regional news is excellent—I appreciate hearing news from Sonora, for example—in giving me a better picture of regional events. Add in the BBC—super worldwide coverage.*

“Patricia in Tempe
KJZZ’s Award-Winning Collaborations Inform Listeners

In July 2022, KJZZ and the Arizona Republic published the results of a yearlong investigation into how prison labor works in Arizona. Reporters at the Republic and KJZZ analyzed more than 11,000 documents and built a program to download tens of thousands of public profiles of prisoners that the Arizona Department of Corrections refused to provide. Read the results at prisons.kjzz.org

KJZZ also partnered with America Amplified, an initiative funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, to create a community-powered journalism project that used texting and online forms to answer listener questions about voting in the 2022 midterms. In December, Executive Producer of The Show, Amy Silverman, and the Arizona Daily Star released UNSAFE, an investigation into Arizonans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The investigation’s results garnered Silverman a Regional Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Listen to the series at unsafe.kjzz.org

Award-Winning Fronteras Desk Connects Listeners to the Southwest

The Fronteras Desk is a unique KJZZ project that covers a wide expanse of an under-covered news desert that stretches from northern Arizona deep into northwestern Mexico. In June 2023, the Fronteras Desk won multiple second-place Public Media Journalists Association awards, which recognize the best of local public radio news, in the following categories:

• Arts Feature: “Asylum seekers turn to traditional arts to ease the strain of long waits at the border” by Kendal Blust
• Continuing Coverage: “Title 42 leaves asylum seekers in limbo at the U.S.-Mexico border” by Kendal Blust, Alisa Reznick, and Murphy Woodhouse
• Feature: “Hundreds of feet in the air, Sonoran highliners face fears and find balance” by Murphy Woodhouse
• Sports Feature: “In a Sonoran mining town, the pins have been falling in historic bowling alley for nearly a century” by Murphy Woodhouse
• Use of Sound: “Hundreds of feet in the air, Sonoran highliners face fears and find balance” by Murphy Woodhouse

For the latter story, Murphy Woodhouse was additionally awarded a Regional Edward R. Murrow Award for Feature Reporting in 2023.
A Message from the Executive Director

It is so important to see things clearly. The ability to really see things for what they are gives us the direction we need in life. Seeing clearly allows us to make decisions that give us the confidence to stand on firm foundations and build for the future.

This 2022–23 annual report was themed “In Focus” to recognize the ever-changing environment that we live in, the world around us, and the pace which we must keep in order to achieve our goals. Time seems to go by quickly and changes come to us at a record pace. Fortunately, coming out of COVID showed us what is important and that we could, in fact, focus and see clearly a path that would keep us strong and viable for the future.

Each year, our development team creates a strategic plan. Our goals become clear, allowing us to focus our time and energy on what matters most: our members. We want to engage you and invite you to events, tours of the station, and gatherings, giving you the opportunity to meet the staff, including those on the classical music team and in the newsroom.

We are also committed to community outreach. We have been building our volunteer core and strengthening our resolve to be out in the community hearing the voices that make up the “public” of public radio. We are reaching into our schools, assisted-living homes, and hospitals and we are partnering with non-profits and businesses that have similar missions to serve our community. These connections provide the unity we need to be a stronger voice for all.

We are inviting you to spend time with our staff and the members of our Friends of Public Radio Arizona board. This dedicated, loyal, and passionate group are leading the way for more engagement and outreach and they are helping us build needed revenue for the future.

We greatly value your support. Your financial contributions and partnership guarantee a future where we stay focused. Your loyalty to public radio is appreciated beyond any words we could express. We are grateful and remain dedicated to you now and in the future.

Linda Pastori
FPRAZ Executive Director
Associate Vice President

Fundraising In Focus

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Source: FPRAZ FY 22–23 Audit

I have a long way to go in my music education. But this great station is my educator. Thank you very much, KBACH!

Kathryn in Phoenix
The Future In Focus

KBACH continues to celebrate the future of classical music each month by recognizing students between the ages of 7 and 13 who sing or play an instrument.

KBACH featured 10 exceptional students in the 2022–2023 school year. Each honoree was invited to the KBACH studios to record an interview with KBACH Host Melissa Greene—and give a short performance to share on KBACH’s social media!

Listen to their interviews at kbaq.org/classicalnext

April 2023 Student Benny Taylor, a 12-year-old violinist.

May 2023 Student Katherine Jivcu, an 11-year-old violinist.

Thanks to KBACH, I’ve been introduced to many different styles, time periods, and compositions of music that have opened up a whole new world to me. Thank you KBACH for bringing this richness into my world.

Donna in Tonto Basin

When I need to take a break from the stress of the outside world, I listen to KBACH for instant relief. Thank you and keep up the good work.

Mary in Glendale
KBACH Celebrates 30 Years of Broadcasting Classical Music

The last classical music station in Phoenix shuts down.

1986

KBAQ broadcasts at 12,700 watts on the White Tank Mountains.

1996

KBAQ moves from Mesa Community College to its current studios at Rio Salado College in Tempe.

2002

KBAQ broadcasts at 30,000 watts, moving back to South Mountain.

2009

Host Linda Cassidy joins KBACH.

2013

KBAQ rebrands as KBACH.

2012

KBACH reaches record-high listenership and becomes third-most-listened-to all-classical station in the nation.

2017

Host Janine Miller joins KBAQ.

1993

KBAQ begins airing at 3,000 watts on South Mountain.

1999

Host Duart Martin joins KBAQ.

2008

Open and recorded.

Smith
KBACH finishes construction of a new broadcast antenna on South Mountain.

2017

Program Director and Host Matt Rogers joins KBACH.

2018

Host Charlotte Wilson joins KBACH.

2020

Longtime Host Jon Town retires. Host Greg Kostraba joins KBACH.

2021

Thanks to generous member contributions to the RENOVATION 2021 campaign, KBACH's production studios and master control are modernized and upgraded.

2022

KBACH celebrates its 30th anniversary by treating listeners to the first work that KBACH aired when the station signed on: Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, "From the New World."

2023
Sun Sounds of Arizona Reaches Out

Sun Sounds provided an audio version of the entire Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission voter guides for the August primary as well as the November general election.

New volunteer David Kirk was the first volunteer back in the studios to learn to record on the modernized and upgraded equipment at Sun Sounds Tempe.

Tucson Station Manager Murry Everson reads to residents at Tucson Place Memory Care.

Sun Sounds attended the Arizona Brain Injury Alliance Rays of Hope Conference, where Outreach Coordinator Mares Wright met Miss Wheelchair Arizona, Kimberly Marmack, who has a new clothing line, “Adaptability,” designed for people with disabilities.

At the African American Conference on Disabilities, Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes stopped by the Sun Sounds table, shared with Christine Tuttle of the Arizona Talking Books Library.
SPOT 127 Youth Media Center

SPOT 127 prepares students with the tools they need to succeed in the 21st century as they transition from high school to college or their career.

Former student Anilee reflects on her experience at SPOT 127, saying: “SPOT 127 gave me the skills I hope to use in my career. After putting SPOT 127 on my resume, I got a job offer!”

Virtual classes are held in the fall and spring semesters while summer boot camp takes place in person at our facility. SPOT 127 also went on the road to provide in-classroom workshops at several Valley schools. Hands-on digital lessons provide students with multimedia training not otherwise offered at their high school. Students appreciate learning these important skills as they prepare for post-secondary education.

SPOT 127’s high school seniors once again participated in Student Scholarship Day to gather and apply for post-secondary education scholarships. 14 scholarships exceeding $15,000 funded through SPOT 127 were awarded to current and former SPOT students.

Thanks to Our Tax-Credit Donors:

We received $78,746.20 in FY 22–23!
Hear Arizona Podcasts Address Issues, Empower Our Community

Starting in 2021, InHospital producer Anthony Wallace enlightened listeners on how global problems like drought and heat affect real Arizonans—and possible solutions.

The final stories focused on fire and introduced listeners to a Flagstaff family whose home was destroyed in the 2022 Tunnel Fire, leaving them struggling after their homeowner’s insurance came up $150,000 short. Wallace discovered that residents of Flagstaff are increasingly aware that “fire is not the enemy” as they continue to look for long-term wildfire solutions and fight against flooding.

Thanks to the Arizona Community Foundation and Intel for their support of this podcast series.

There is no getting around the realities of growing older. As part of the Aging podcast series, producer Nathan Collins delved into the challenges inmates 55 and older face in Arizona prisons as he examined the Arizona Department of Corrections, which has been failing to provide adequate medical and mental healthcare to its prisoners for the past decade.

During years of nuclear testing in the American West, the people who lived and worked in areas exposed to the radioactive fallout became known as “downwinders.” InAccessible podcast producer Nate Boyle revealed that not all of them have been treated well by the U.S. federal government. Listeners heard directly from devastated downwinders in Mohave County, Arizona, and how they are trying to get a resolution.

The UnSheltered podcast series dives into the issue of homelessness. After the city of Tempe forced hundreds of unhoused people to leave the Salt River bed, producer Greg Hahne investigated where those people went—and how Tempe’s solutions might work elsewhere.

Listen to UnSheltered and all Hear Arizona podcasts at HearArizona.org.
First Press Celebrates Mardi Gras

First Press Fine Wine Dinner and Auction, a Valley institution and fundraiser for KJZZ, KBACH, and SPOT 127, was held for the 19th year on February 18, 2023, at the private SRP Pera Club.

The elegant affair, colorfully themed as a tribute to Mardi Gras, featured a five-course wine-paired dinner with cuisine custom created by Mark Tarbell. Guests also enjoyed a fine-wine reception, entertainment from KJZZ’s Blaise Lantana and friends (pictured to the left), plus exclusive wine-themed auction lots.
The FPRAZ Board and Emeritus Council members and their families attended an Ice Cream Social this past summer to get to know one another in an informal setting.
Division of Public Service
Executive Team

Jon Hoban  
Vice President & General Manager  

Matt Myers  
Executive Director, SPOT 127  

Ben Overbaugh  
Chief Engineer  

Linda Pastori  
Associate Vice President  
Executive Director, Friends of Public Radio Arizona  

Matt Rogers  
Program Director, KBACH  

John Sage  
Associate Vice President  
Director of Information Technology  

Brian Smith  
Operations Director, KBACH  

Chad Snow  
News Director, KJZZ  

Friends of Public Radio Arizona (FPRAZ) Emeritus Council

Evelyn Casuga  
Steve Curley  
Susan Edwards  
Karen Greenberg  
Phil Hagenah  
Julie A. Johnson  
Laura W. Martin  
Carl Matthusen (General Manager Emeritus)  
John McDonald  

Carol McElroy  
Suzanne Pfister  
Armando Roman  
Todd Sanders  
Dan Schweiker  
Chip Scutari  
Larry Stewart  
Diane Veres  

I love public radio because it gives diverse perspectives and local community coverage. I learn something new from KJZZ every day!

Neysha in Tempe
Friends of Public Radio Arizona assures the future vitality and excellence of our community’s public radio and broadens its support.