

FRIENDS OF PUBLIC RADIO ARIZONA ANNUAL REPORT

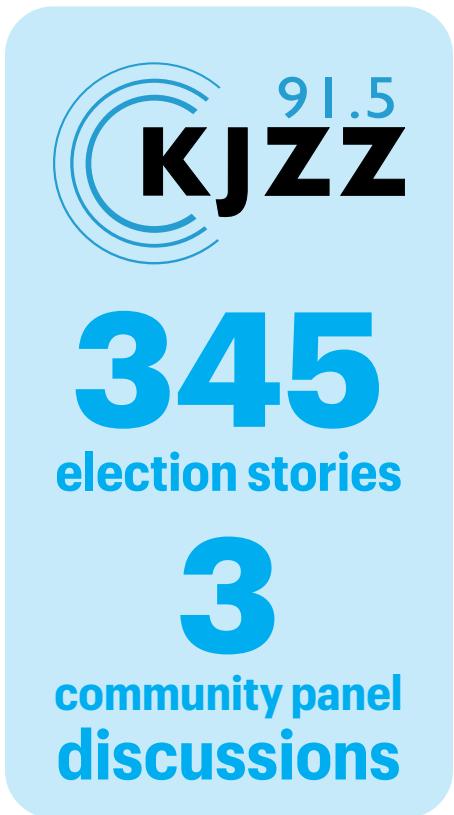
FY 2024-2025

ENDURANCE

An Enduring Presence In Our Community



Reporter/Host Sam Dingman interviews rally attendees (Mar. '25)



345
election stories

3
community panel discussions

classical 89.5 fm
K B A C H

5
performances
recorded

27
artist interviews



Host Greg Kostraba interviews guitarist Martha Masters (Feb. '25)



Music Director Blaise Lantana interviews George Benson (Jul. '24)

SPOT
127

231
students served

8 Sun Sounds
of Arizona

100
volunteers reading

200
publications

jazz 91.5
PHX HD2
JAZZPHX.ORG

14
jazz interviews

A Message from the Executive Director

No one runs a marathon alone. Yes, the runner takes each stride independently, but lasting the entire race requires the support of many others: the organizers, training partners, security, and volunteers offering water along the way. Public radio is much the same. We cannot do what we do without a dedicated community beside us.

It has always been about your faithfulness as members, especially in a changing and often uncertain world. Time and again, you've stepped up to support public radio through some of our most challenging seasons. It's your partnership that makes everything possible: trusted news and insightful storytelling, classical music that uplifts the soul, reading services for the visually impaired, and educational work that inspires the next generation. Together, we continue to run this race of endurance, side by side.

Recently, we traveled to visit with a generous donor who had KBACH playing in his home when we arrived. He shared with us that KBACH was on his radio all day, every day. One of our business cards was on his refrigerator, a simple but powerful symbol of his connection to public radio. For him, and for so many of you, public radio isn't just about listening; it's about relying on and believing in the mission. It's about partnership. It's about standing together, no matter what.

As we approach the finish line of this calendar year, we're profoundly grateful for your steadfast support. You inspire us to keep going, to serve with integrity, creativity, and heart, and to be there for you, always.

Here is to another year of endurance and fortitude! Thank you all.



Linda Pastori

Executive Director, Friends of Public Radio Arizona

Associate Vice President, Division of Public Service

"In times when almost all news is blocked by a paywall, the public deserves free, accessible, and digestible news."

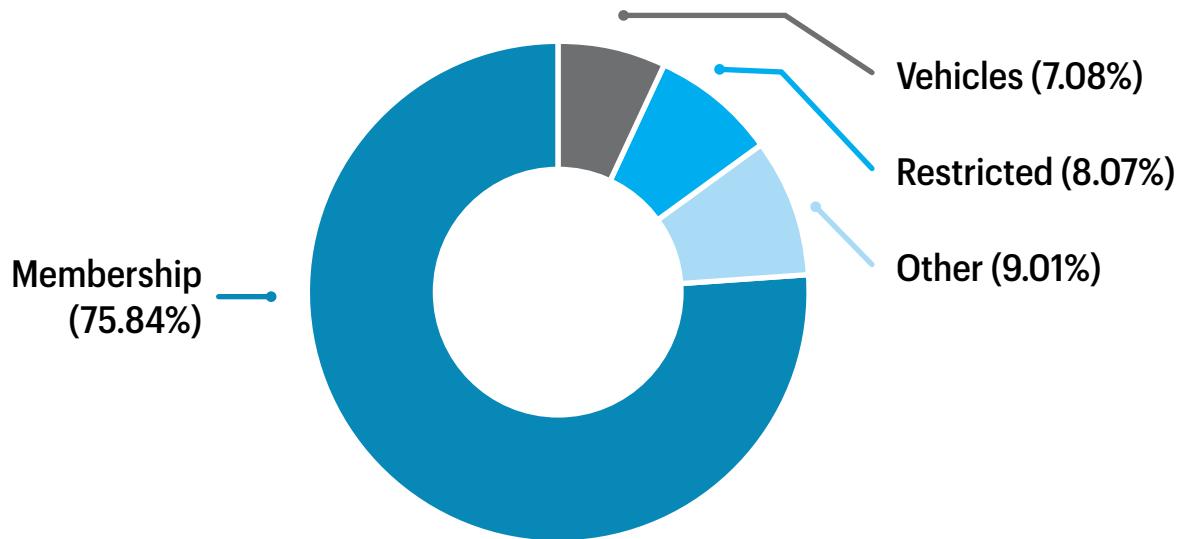
—KJZZ Member Sylvia from Phoenix

"In such a chaotic world, KBACH gives me peace."

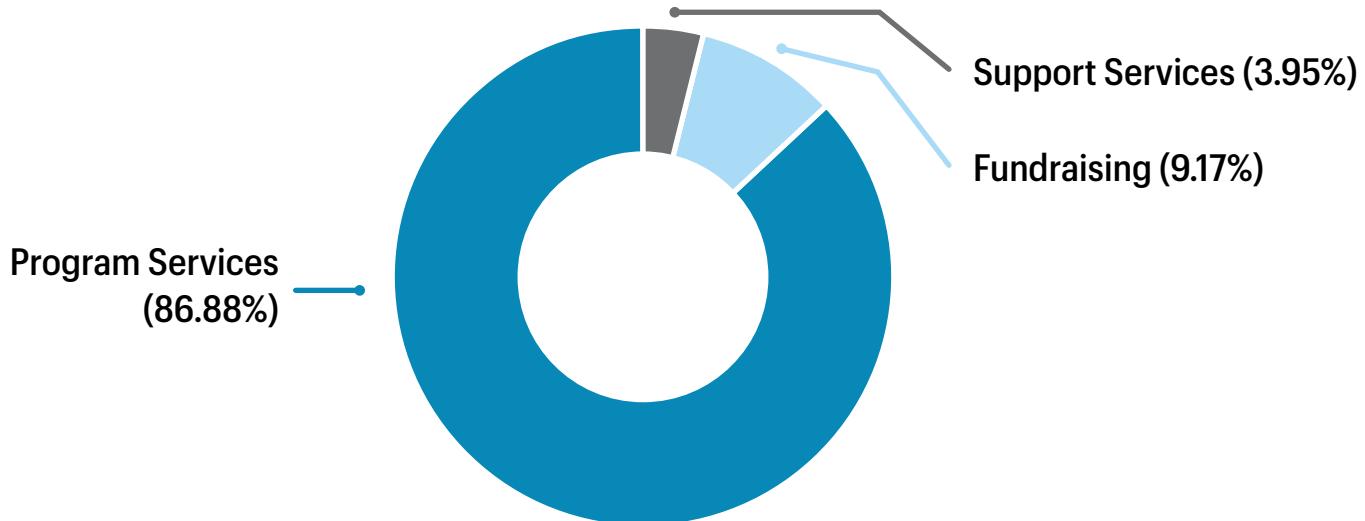
—KBACH Member Patrice from Goodyear

Fiscal Year 2024–2025 Financials

Total Revenue FY24–25: \$9,215,657



Total Expenses FY24–25: \$7,674,943



End of Year Assets: \$12,542,751

Members as of 6/30/25: 29,720

Persistently Pursuing Excellence: KJZZ

Member support of KJZZ allowed Senior Field Correspondent **Matthew Casey** in September 2024 to take a deep dive into the 126-page U.S. Department of Justice report that investigated Phoenix Police regarding civil rights. KJZZ's "Policing the Police" series examines the U.S. Department of Justice civil rights investigation of Phoenix section by section as well as the city's self-imposed reform efforts.

"KJZZ is not an algorithm telling you what to think, but people respectfully sharing stories and facts and encouraging critical thinking."

—KJZZ Member Christian from Chandler

In September 2024, KJZZ's *The Show* aired LAST RESORTS, a series of stories on the history and future of resorts and on the Valley as a resort community. From Paradise Valley to Litchfield Park, this series visits some of the Valley's oldest and newest resorts. The series reveals how Valley resorts have impacted the region from art and architecture, to how people all over the world view the West.

"Listening to the multiple perspectives of people around the world has enriched my life and made my connections with other people stronger."

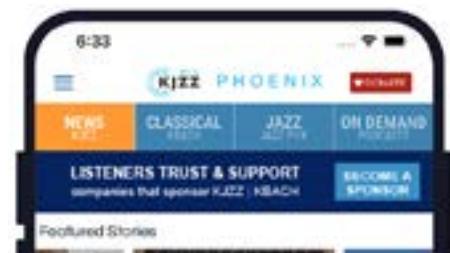
—KJZZ Member Ashly from Phoenix

KJZZ has joined the Mental Health Parity Collaborative, a group of newsrooms that are covering stories on mental health care access and inequities in the U.S.

Here at the station, **Amy Silverman**, executive producer of KJZZ's *The Show*, and **Athena Ankrah**, assistant producer, put together OVERWHELMED, a multi-part series in February 2025 addressing the serious issues experienced by autistic patients at the Arizona State Hospital.



In June 2025, **Bri Balcazar** joined the station as an on-air host/producer. Bri came to KJZZ from Nevada Public Radio, where she was the lead announcer and host of *All Things Considered*.



Hosting Enduring Performances: KBACH

KBACH connects listeners to the Valley's classical scene, as local artists drop by for music and conversation with Host Greg Kostraba from the KBACH performance studio. These original recordings are broadcast on air and later available as a podcast.



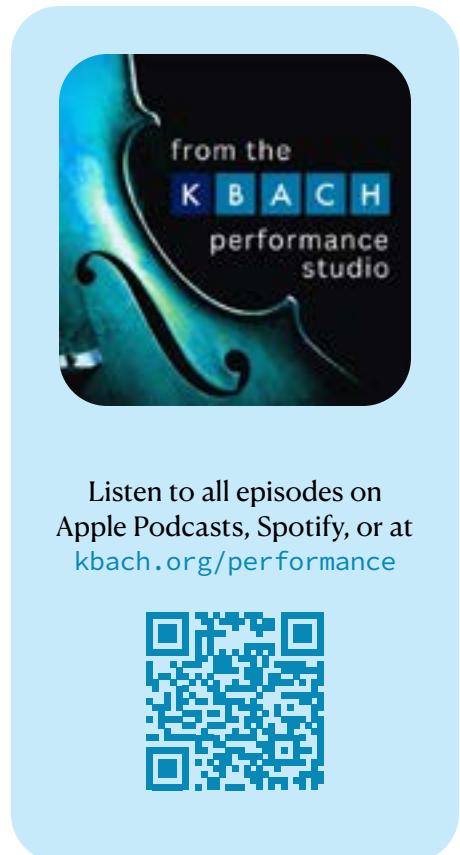
Mill Ave Chamber Players (Feb. '25)



Guitarist Martha Masters (Feb. '25)



Tetra String Quartet (Mar. '25)



Listen to all episodes on
Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or at
kbach.org/performance



Mill Ave Chamber Players (Feb. '25)



Driftwood Quintet (Aug. '25)



Phoenix Symphony Brass Quintet
(May '25)

An Award-Winning Tradition: KJZZ



Matthew Casey
Senior Field Correspondent



Phil Latzman
Host - Morning



Gabriel Pietrorazio
Tribal Natural Resources Reporter



Alisa Reznick
Senior Field Correspondent - Tucson



Tiara Vian
Host - Afternoon

Your donations over the past year have allowed KJZZ editors, hosts, producers, and reporters to do quality work that is getting recognized by national organizations.

In 2023, Tribal Natural Resources reporter Gabriel Pietrorazio profiled Native chefs who see a future for tribal agritourism in Arizona. His story was recognized by the Arizona Press Club in November 2024 with a first-place award in the category for arts, food and beverage reporting for 2023!



In 2024, Gabriel Pietrorazio reported on Michael Kotutwa Johnson, a Hopi farmer who is leading research on drought-resistant Hopi corn. His story was recognized by the North American Agricultural Journalists in April 2025 with a third-place award in the Profile category!



In May 2025, Tucson-based Senior Field Correspondent Alisa Reznick won a regional Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) for news coverage in 2024. Her story, "Arizona immigrant families brace for the threat of Trump's mass deportations," won in the Hard News area.



In June 2025, Gabriel Pietrorazio earned six 2025 Indigenous Media Awards from the Indigenous Journalists Association, including a first place for best news story in the radio/podcast category.



In June 2025, KJZZ won five Public Media Journalism Association awards that recognize the best of local public radio news:

- News/Public Affairs Program, second place: KJZZ's *The Show* (November 27, 2024)
 - Newscast, first place: KJZZ Newscast (April 11, 2024) by Tiara Vian
 - Series, first place: "Policing the Police" by Matthew Casey
 - Sports Feature, first place: "Some say Title IX changes will hurt women's sports. Supporters say protections bigger than athletics" by Phil Latzman
- Listen to all of these award-winning stories at kjzz.org/awards

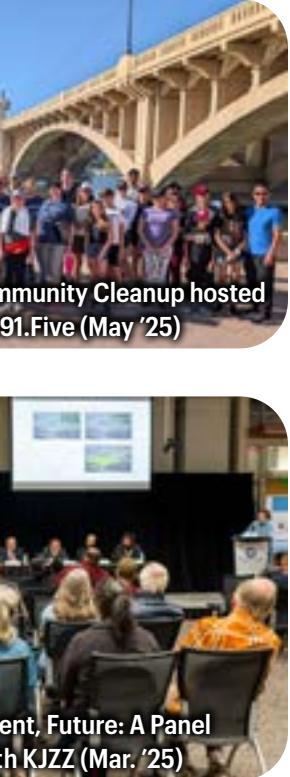






Arizona's Water Future: A Panel

with KJZZ (Jun. '25)



Community Cleanup hosted by 91.5 KJZZ and 91.5 Five (May '25)



Arizona's Water Future: A Panel with KJZZ (Mar. '25)

Gallery of Events

Throughout the past year, KJZZ and KBACH have hosted community discussions about contemporary issues, invited members to hear from experts and meet like-minded people, and celebrated Arizona's local wine terroir while raising funds for public radio.



KBACH Host & Pianist Greg Kostraba and daughter Julia perform at Friendship Village (Jun. '25)



KJZZ Host Phil Latzman at First Press Fine Wine Festival (Mar. '25)



Oak Flat: Past, Present, Future: A Panel Conversation with KJZZ (Mar. '25)



Welcome to My So-Called Midlife, a KJZZ panel hosted by Kathy Ritchie (May '25)

Efficiency and Endurance: Sun Sounds of Arizona

Ahead of the 2024 general election, Sun Sounds of Arizona provided audio access to critical information for Arizona voters with disabilities.

These resources were recognized by the International Association of Audio Information Services (IAAIS) with the **2025 Public Affairs Award for Excellence in Communications & Marketing**.

Sun Sounds was also the recipient of the **2025 Program of the Year award** in the Books/Short Stories category for *Christmas Stories: An Ellis Island Christmas*, read by Janina Latack and produced by Daniel Redondo.

Additionally, Sun Sounds received a **2025 Program of the Year award** in the Interview/Call-In category for *Lions Program: Leader Dogs*, read by Murry Everson and produced by Doug Martz.

These awards recognize outstanding achievements in fostering accessibility and inclusion through innovative programs and dedicated service.



In March 2025, **Michael Frahm** joined Sun Sounds of Arizona as its new Director.

Michael was previously the Senior Supervisor, Broadcast Operations in Technical Operations and Master Control at Dish Network. He was also a lead technician for broadcast operations at EchoStar Corporation and worked as a Technical Director at KPNX, Channel 12.

"There is such a variety, a little bit of everything to reach listeners of all backgrounds."

—Sun Sounds Listener
Karen from Phoenix

Continuity and Tradition: SPOT 127 Youth Media Center

This spring, our new SPOT 127 team put together a comprehensive two-level curriculum designed to equip students with foundational and advanced skills in digital media.

Bootcamp students in Level 1 received hands-on experience in audio and video production, photography, and basic editing using Adobe Audition, Lightroom, and Premiere Pro. Their sessions emphasized storytelling and practical project creation. The curriculum was created so that the Level 2 bootcamp session builds on those skills and students learn advanced storytelling and Adobe After Effects for motion graphics, ending with a final project that integrates all learned disciplines.



ABC 15 Arizona Multimedia Journalist Lillian Donohue speaks to Summer Bootcamp students, sharing an engaging "Day in the Life" perspective (Jun. '25)

"SPOT 127 has definitely been one of the highlights of my summer. It was so fun and it also helped me learn skills that I'm positive will be useful in the future."

— SPOT 127 Student Noah



Summer Bootcamp (Jul. '24)



Summer Bootcamp (Jul. '24)



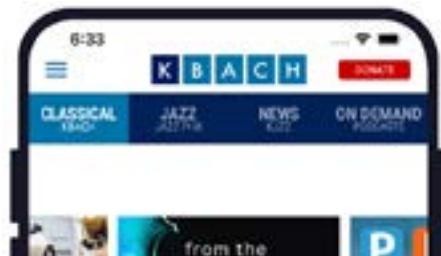
Rosey Dowling is the new SPOT 127 Program Manager. She's from Chicago and has lived in Arizona for the past eight years. With a Master's degree in both Educational Administration and Reading, Rosey has served as a teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, and Director of Technology in K-12 education for 27 years.



Jakob Wastek is the new SPOT 127 Lead Instructional Facilitator. Jakob has been a multimedia producer and storyteller in the industry for over ten years and comes to SPOT from Cobalt Ed, an educational technology platform. He graduated from Barrett, the Honors College at ASU with a Journalism/Mass Communications major. Jakob was also a Fulbright UK Summer Institute Scholar and taught English in Germany.

The Durability of Classical Music: KBACH

An overhauled KBACH app was rolled out to listeners in June 2025, offering a fresh look and a simpler design. Audio is now front and center with the album art for what's currently playing as well as playlists so you can easily catch that piece you just heard. And the new app is CarPlay enabled for road trips!



"I'm a retired choral director and love to listen and discover new works I haven't heard before and also to hear my favorites."

—KBACH Member Emily from Mesa



In June 2025, **Michael Keelan** stepped into the role previously held by Operations Director & Host Brian Smith, who retired in April after years of dedicated service.

Michael joined KBACH from Kansas Public Radio, bringing a rich background in classical music and public radio.



Host Janine Miller interviews Phoenix Chorale Artistic Director Christopher Gabbitas (Mar. '25)



Operations Director & Host Brian Smith slices cake at his retirement party with hosts Matt Rogers, Duart Martin, and Greg Kostraba (Apr. '25)



Program Director & Host Matt Rogers accompanies The Concert Truck for a free performance at Chandler City Hall (Oct. '24)

"My grandfather taught music professionally for his whole life. KBACH helps remind me and keep me close to him and my grandmother."

—KBACH Member Finlay from Mesa

A Message from the Board Chair

This year has shown us that endurance is not just about weathering challenges—it is about discovering new strengths and possibilities along the way. At Friends of Public Radio Arizona, we have been reminded again and again that when we stay true to our mission and values, we not only endure, we thrive.

Public radio continues to shine as a trusted source of information, culture, and connection across Arizona. Even in times of uncertainty, our listeners, donors, and partners have reaffirmed their commitment to KJZZ and KBACH. That unwavering support is proof that endurance builds a stronger, more connected community. It has been inspiring to witness how generosity, creativity, and shared purpose have transformed challenges into opportunities for growth.

Endurance is not about holding on tightly to the past—it is about moving forward with resilience and hope. This year, we celebrated new initiatives, deepened relationships, and welcomed more people into the circle of support for public radio. Each step forward is a reminder that our work is not just sustainable, but full of potential for innovation and impact.

What gives me the most optimism is the passion of the people behind this mission. Our board, staff, volunteers, and community champions bring fresh ideas, boundless energy, and a spirit of collaboration that fuels our progress. Their dedication shows us that endurance is not a solitary effort—it is a collective achievement that makes us stronger together.

Looking ahead, I see a future filled with opportunity. With every gift, every hour of service, and every voice raised in support of public radio, we are building momentum. We are laying the foundation for a future where KJZZ and KBACH continue to inform, enrich, and connect Arizonans for generations to come.

On behalf of the Friends of Public Radio Arizona Board of Directors, thank you for being part of this journey. Your belief in public radio inspires us daily, and together, we will not only endure—we will flourish.



Adriane Youngblood

Friends of Public Radio Arizona Board Chair

Regional Director, Sales – Southwest, Clear Channel Outdoor

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

Friends of Public Radio Arizona Board Members (FY 24–25)

Linda Pastori
Executive Director,
Friends of Public Radio Arizona

Adriane Youngblood (Chair)
Clear Channel Outdoor

Stacy Mendez (Vice Chair)
Avnet, Inc.

Paul Hickman (Secretary)
Arizona Bankers Association

Libby Goff (Treasurer)
Blockwise

Pallav Acharya
REDW LLC (Retired)
CPA Global Tax

Geraldine Belafsky
Freelance Reality TV Producer

Rita Bostick
Retired

Gail Bradley
Northern Trust (Retired)

Bryan K. Darby
QTS Data Centers

Amy Heisler
Silicon Valley Bank

Jennifer Holsman Tetreault
TPI Composites

Betty Hum
Photographer/Intel Corporation
(Retired)

José Patiño
Aliento Education Fund

Eshé N. Pickett
Intel Corporation

Dan Sloan

Carla Vargas Jasa
Valley of the Sun United Way

Kathleen Weber
JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

Victoria Williams
American Express

Jon Hoban (Ex Officio)
Rio Salado College
Division of Public Service

Kate Smith (Ex Officio)
Rio Salado College

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Phil Hagenah
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Julie Johnson
Laura W. Martin
Carl Matthusen
General Manager Emeritus
John McDonald
Carol McElroy

Suzanne Pfister
Todd Sanders
Dan Schweiker
Chip Scutari
Larry Stewart
Diane Veres

*“KBACH is the one place I can turn to and enjoy peaceful and
engaging music and commentaries.”*

—KBACH Member Grei from Mesa

Honoring Suzanne Pfister and Libby Goff

Suzanne Pfister, a Friends of Public Radio Arizona Emeritus member, passed away this year. Suzanne served on the FPRAZ Board beginning in 2017, first as Secretary and later as Board Chair from 2018 to 2020.

In 2023, she was named an Emeritus Board member in recognition of her lasting impact. Suzanne played a key role in shaping the structure and direction of our board and generously used her connections throughout the Valley to convene quarterly gatherings that brought together KJZZ reporters and marketing professionals for in-depth conversations on health care issues.

We will remember Suzanne for her wisdom, insight, and deep commitment to public service. Her passion for photography brought us joy each year through the travel calendars she created and shared.



In August this year, we suffered the loss of **Libby Goff**, a dedicated FPRAZ board member. Libby served on our board for six years as our Secretary, chairing the Finance Committee and contributing her expertise to the Investment Committee.

She was instrumental in establishing a partnership with the Arizona Humane Society and lent her time and talents to support the Hear Arizona initiative. Libby's legacy of dedication and service leaves a profound impact on all of us who had the honor of working alongside her.



In November 2025, FPRAZ board members and Libby's family and friends gathered on the campus of Rio Salado College to plant a tree in her memory and leave messages on stones around the trunk.





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Friends of Public Radio Arizona is recognized and certified by:



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vitality and excellence of our community's
public radio and broadens its support.**



classical 89.5 fm

K B A C H



HEAR!ZONA
ADDRESSING ISSUES EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY