Local Content Impact Report

FISCAL YEAR 2025

wmht

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MISSION

WMHT enriches communities and elevates diverse perspectives by providing content, connection, and conversation that advance education, culture, and civic engagement.

VISION

WMHT is the essential public media source for education, entertainment, and inspiration, engaging diverse communities of lifelong learners.

VALUES & GOALS

DIVERSITY

EXCELLENCE

INNOVATION

INTEGRITY

RESPECT

A LETTER FROM
President & CEO Anthony V. Hayes

Friends and Partners,

It is my sincere pleasure to share WMHT Public Media's Local Content Impact Report for the fiscal year 2025—a look back at the programs and services that your support made possible.

WMHT premiered the original documentary **From Land to Legacy: 100 Years of NY State Parks**. Spanning a century of preservation, the film traverses historical landscapes, from the first American conservation efforts at Niagara Falls to the multicultural narratives of Sojourner Truth and Roberto Clemente State Parks.

On January 9th, 2025, WMHT celebrated 50 years of extraordinary journalism—from Inside Albany to New York NOW—with a 30-minute documentary: **New York NOW & Then: 50 Years of Service**. Hosts from across the show's tenure join current Managing Editor and Host Shantel Destra to reflect on the stories and journalists that contributed to the 50-year legacy of state capital reporting.

North to New York: The Great Migration in NY's Capital Region premiered in February as a companion to PBS' **The Great Migration** from Henry Louis Gates Jr. This original documentary shares the stories of the families that moved from the Jim Crow South to the Capitol Region searching for opportunity, freedom and a new home. Co-producers Shantel Destra and Dana Wright were honored by the Rapp Road Historical Society for the creation of the film and support of their ongoing preservation efforts.

Classical WMHT-FM and the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall hosted the inaugural **Next Generation Festival**, featuring ensembles from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, SUNY Schenectady, University at Albany, UMass Amherst, Bard College and Marist University.

When WMHT premiered **Reflections on the Erie Canal**, a special 10-part series exploring the 200-year journey of the engineering marvel, a WMHT donor, Pat, sent a reflection of her own that I thought apt to share with you:

"The Erie Canal is more than a place—it's where memories are made. I learned to canoe there as a girl, shared one of my first dates with my husband along its banks, and still enjoy kayaking its waters today. It connects us across generations. I support WMHT because this project celebrates the history and community that make our region so special."

That is the power of public media. Of connection and community. Celebration and reflection.

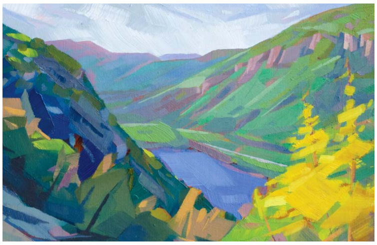
WMHT's Local Content Impact Report is a testament to what we've accomplished together—and to the perseverance, creativity, and community spirit that blossoms through your generosity.

With gratitude,

Anthony V. Hay

Anthony V. Hayes
President and CEO
WMHT Public Media

Local Programming: Original Series



AHA! A House for Arts

AHA! A House for Arts features the stories of artists, makers, and creative institutions right here in our own backyard.

Pictured: 'Chapel Pond Slab' by Joe Klockowski (AHA! 5/21/25).

New York NOW

The state's only local, independent public affairs program, more than 50 years running.

Pictured: Managing Editor and Host Shantel Destra and Multimedia Journalist Elise Kline at the premiere screening of New York NOW & Then (1/9/25).

NEW YORK NOW & THEN
THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

BEGINNER
PRO

Field Trip

Field Trip is a video postcard from the places that make our region amazing, suggested by WMHT viewers!

Pictured: 'We Tried Disc Golf with a Pro' (Field Trip 3/20/25).

TVFilm

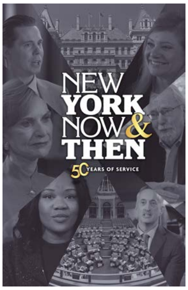
Over 15 years running, TVFilm showcases short films of all genres from Upstate New York filmmakers.

Pictured: *Dissolution*; Dir. Anthony Saxe (TVFilm Season 17).

UNLOCK YOUR PASSPORT BENEFIT

WMHT membership includes unlimited streaming of all your favorite PBS and WMHT programs — anywhere you watch. Scan with your smart device to learn more.

Local Programming: Documentaries


NEW YORK NOW & THEN
50 YEARS OF SERVICE

New York NOW & Then

Since 1975, New York NOW has provided in-depth reporting and analysis on New York State politics, both inside the State Capitol and across the state. WMHT celebrated a milestone anniversary with the original documentary New York NOW & Then: 50 Years of Service.

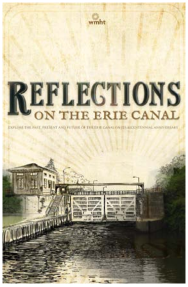
STREAM THE FILM AT NYNOW.ORG

North to New York
The Great Migration in NY's Capital Region

North to New York

A companion piece to Henry Louis Gates Jr's PBS series Great Migrations, WMHT's North to New York: The Great Migration in NY's Capital Region, is an original documentary about the history and legacy of those that left all they knew behind to make the Capital Region home.

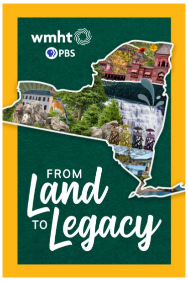
STREAM THE FILM AT WMHT.ORG/NORTHTONY


wmht
REFLECTIONS
ON THE ERIE CANAL

Reflections on the Erie Canal

In Reflections on the Erie Canal, WMHT looks back at the 200-year journey of the man-made waterway that made New York the Empire State. Dig deeper into intimate stories from the canal in a special 10-part online series, available to stream now.

STREAM THE 10-PART SERIES AT WMHT.ORG/ERIECANAL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PBS
FROM Land TO Legacy

From Land to Legacy

Spanning a century of preservation, 'From Land To Legacy' is an original full-length documentary that explores the efforts of preservation and conservation for the natural and cultural treasures that define New York's identity and future.

STREAM THE FILM AT WMHT.ORG/NYSPARKS

Local Programming: Radio

88.7FM **WMHT-FM** **89.1FM**

From celebrated favorites to the next generation of talent, Classical WMHT-FM has been your classical companion since 1972.

88.7FM & 89.1FM | classicalwmht.org

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

next generation festival

Next Generation Festival

Students from across the region take the stage to perform! The next generation of classical music brings energy and excellence to a program that spans centuries.

WMHT.ORG/NEXTGENERATION

Music for the Holidays

Enjoy a selection of Capital Region youth choirs performing seasonal songs and holiday favorites! Choirs were featured from Troy, Chatham, Schenectady, Bethlehem, and more!

WMHT.ORG/MUSIC-FOR-THE-HOLIDAYS

Classical Student of the Month

WMHT-FM highlights the future of classical music through local student musicians as nominated by teachers and the community.

Pictured: Teresa Rodrigues, May 2025.

CLASSICALWMHT.ORG

97.7FM **WEXT Radio** 106.1FM

WEXT Radio is the Capital Region's listener-supported roots and rock station celebrating 18 years of music discovery in 2025.

97.7FM & 106.1FM | wextradio.org

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play

Pictured: Kendra McKinley performs in the WEXT studios; DJ Hollyw8d with WEXT DJs Dave Michaels, Andy Gregory, Tabitha, and Chris Wienk.

WEXT Radio highlights arts from the popular music world, featuring roots and rock music legends like Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Tom Petty and a host of new artists and music discoveries. WEXT led the way in the nation with airplay of artists like Adele, Mumford & Sons, Hozier and others.

One of the cornerstones in WEXT's musical toolbox is highlighting the work of Local 518 musicians—from those just starting out to those who made music in the community decades ago. The stories of Local 518 and national touring artists are highlighted in more than 150 studio sessions, airing on **Live @ EXT** (FRIDAYS AT NOON) and **518 Sessions** (THURSDAYS AT 930PM).

RISE is WMHT's 24-hour radio information service for the blind and print disabled in New York's Capital Region and the Hudson Valley. Each week, our dedicated team of volunteers reads articles from local and national newspapers, popular periodicals and books to audiences who would otherwise be unable to access such information. **WMHT.ORG/RISE**

RISE Radio Reading Service

wmht education is...

in the community

PBS KIDS

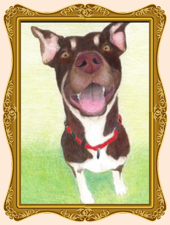
Free educational games, videos, and a 24/7 livestream just for kids! **PBSKIDS.ORG**

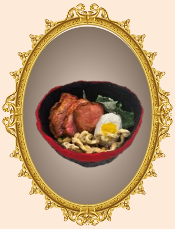
Early Literacy

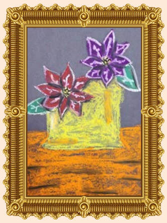
WITH WMHT & PBS KIDS

WMHT's Early Literacy program uses the power of public media content to significantly expand the literacy skills of children across the region. This summer, WMHT teamed up with **PBS' Carl the Collector** for a free learning-based scavenger hunt at the NYS Museum.

SCAN TO EXPLORE MORE
wmht.org/learn





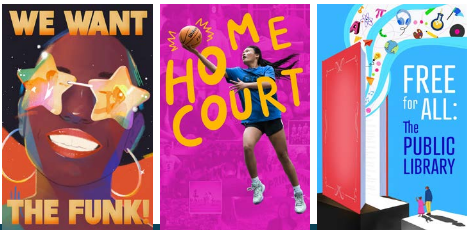


Youth Art Month

Each year, art submitted by students and teachers is published across WMHT's social media. This year, 70 students were featured!

Indie Lens Pop-up

In 2025, WMHT partnered with the Albany Public Library to screen films from PBS' Indie Lens Pop-up Series. To promote the film Home Court, WMHT joined the University at Albany Women's Basketball Team at practice for a social media collaboration.



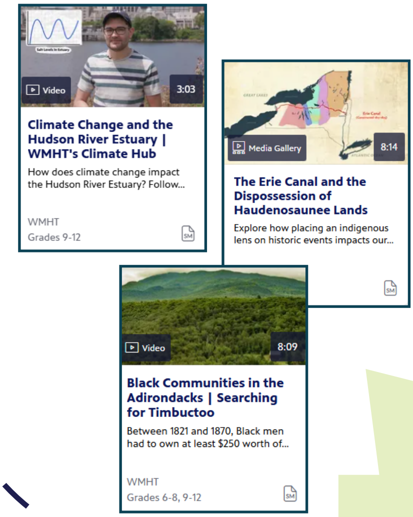
Teacher Appreciation Week MAY 5-9 2025

Each year, educators from our viewing area are nominated by fellow teachers, parents, and community members to say thank you! Selected educators from a variety of schools and subjects are featured on WMHT's website, social media, and are sent a goodie bag courtesy of the WMHT Education team.

MEET THE TEACHERS AT WMHT.ORG

CHERYL FERRARO
ORCHESTRA
SACANDAGA ELEMENTARY, SCOTIA-GLENVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL & SCOTIA-GLENVILLE HS
TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK
SCOTT TESSIER
AUTOMOTIVE TRADES TECHNOLOGY
CAPITAL REGION BOCES CAREER AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL - ALBANY CAMPUS
TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK
CAMI SAMUELSON
MATH
HUDSON FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL
TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

PBS LearningMedia


Video
3:03
Media Gallery
8:14
Video
8:09

Climate Change and the Hudson River Estuary | WMHT's Climate Hub

How does climate change impact the Hudson River Estuary? Follow...

WMHT
Grades 9-12

The Erie Canal and the Dispossession of Haudenosaunee Lands

Explore how placing an indigenous lens on historic events impacts our...

Black Communities in the Adirondacks | Searching for Timbuctoo

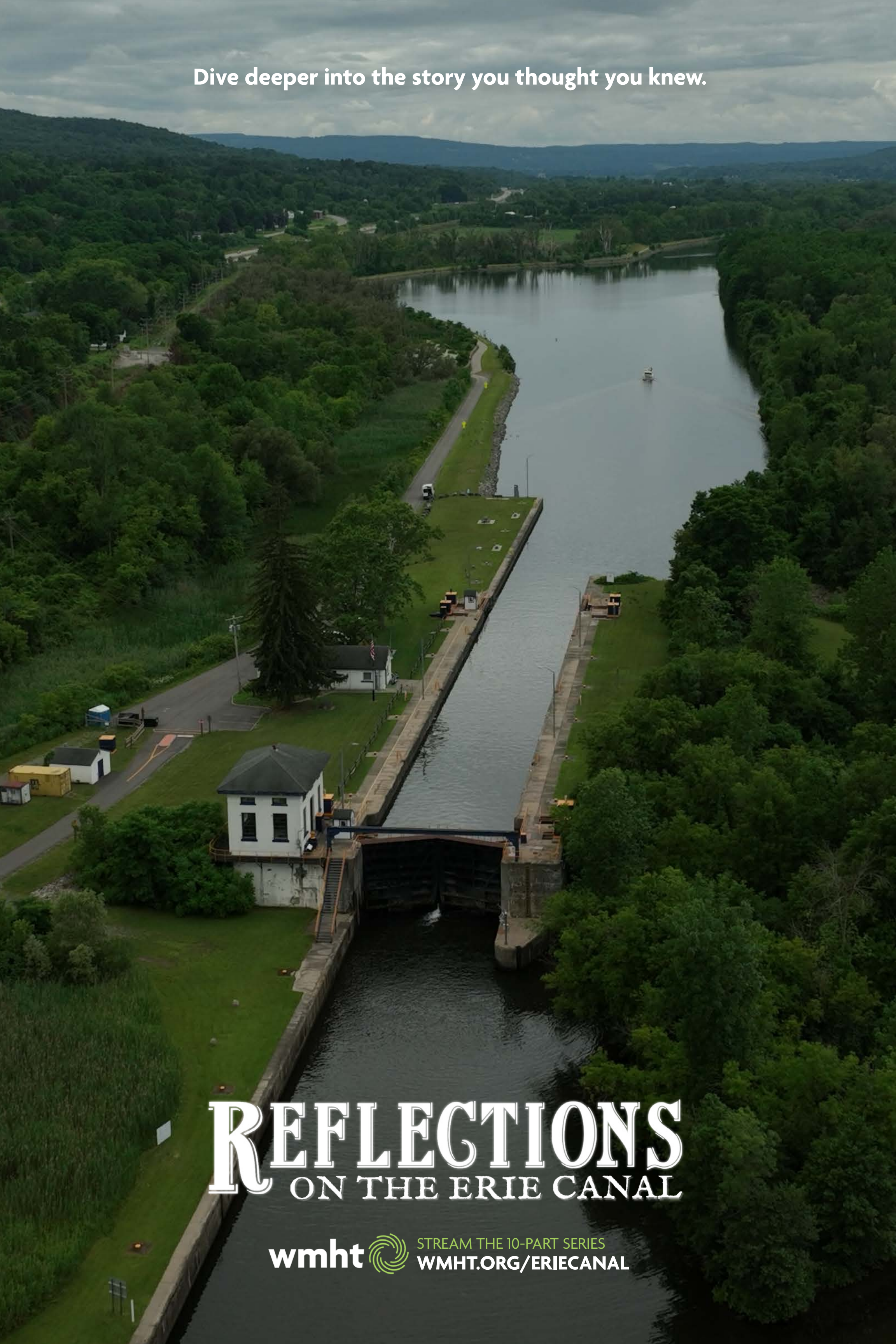
Between 1821 and 1870, Black men had to own at least $250 worth of...

WMHT
Grades 6-8, 9-12

The WMHT Education team utilizes local content to build out free, NYS curriculum-aligned videos, interactives, lesson plans, and more, for educators through PBS LearningMedia. Easily accessible through Google Classroom, teachers, students, parents can access thousands of resources.

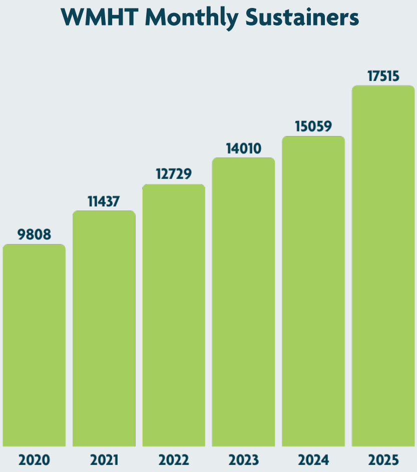
WMHT.ORG/CLASSROOM

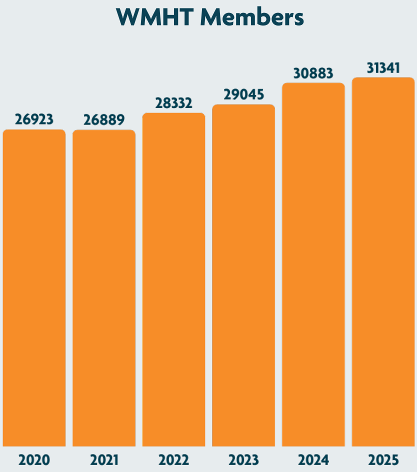
& in the classroom

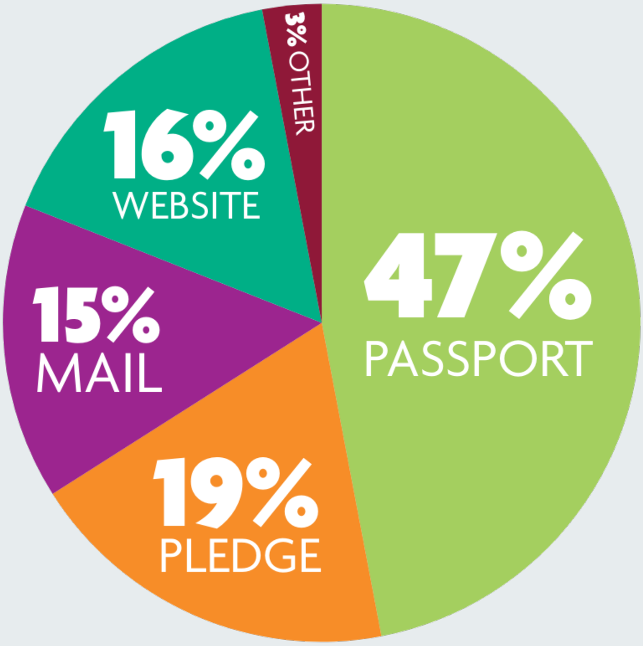

Dive deeper into the story you thought you knew.
REFLECTIONS
ON THE ERIE CANAL
wmht
STREAM THE 10-PART SERIES
WMHT.ORG/ERIECANAL

Membership at a Glance

This fiscal year, WMHT saw increased member support, a greater number of members supporting as monthly sustaining partners, and more members using their Passport benefit.







Sources of New Donors

PBS streaming service Passport is WMHT's single largest source of new supporters. Members get unlimited access to the PBS and WMHT library, with new films, series, and specials added daily.

Contact the WMHT Membership Team to make sure you're taking advantage of this benefit!
membership@wmht.org
(518) 880-3400

wmht

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