



2023

Local Content and Service Report to the Community



The Culture Show, GBH's daily arts and culture program, debuted in 2023. It is hosted by Jared Bowen, with co-hosts Callie Crossley and Edgar B. Herwick III. On Fridays, the show is live at the GBH Boston Public Library Studio
CREDIT: MEREDITH NIERMAN/GBH

GBH strengthens, includes, and serves our diverse community, fostering growth and empowering individuals. We strive to be a hub for positive change and understanding, focused on community and the public good.



GBH worked throughout 2023 to affirm and deepen the trust of our audiences across Massachusetts, across the country, and around the globe. Throughout the year, our local and national programs provided authentic, fact-based reporting in news and science, entertaining drama, arts, and engaging educational content. Dozens of free public events introduced audiences to politicians, influencers, and artists associated with our programs. With 28M weekly audience members across our platforms, GBH continually re-envisioned how to best reach out and engage readers, listeners, and viewers on all the platforms available in today's media landscape.

As the most-trusted media outlet in Greater Boston, GBH delivered compelling news, events, experiences, stories, and information to audiences wherever they consume content. GBH's local television channels include GBH 2, GBH 44, and GBH Kids. With a newsroom headquartered in Boston, GBH reaches across New England with GBH 89.7, CRB Classical 99.5, CAI, the Cape and Islands NPR station, and New England Public Media in western Massachusetts. From Boston to the Berkshires, from Worcester to the Cape and Islands, GBH is dedicated to connecting the Commonwealth.

GBH opened its doors to community members with 187 in-person and virtual events about local news, racial justice, history, arts, science, and children's media, and other issues that are central to our diverse audiences. GBH Boston Public Library Studio continued to expand its engagement with the community by adding musical and spoken word performances as well as children's offerings. [GBH Music](#) brought joy and expanded its offerings significantly, both in-person and streaming online.



GBH in 2023

In four key areas – journalism, science, children’s media and education, and history, arts, and culture – we provided relevant, engaging, and inspiring resources – across multiple platforms – for our community.

Community Partnerships

GBH broadened our collaborative partnerships, enhancing the ways we make media and engage with our communities. GBH’s network of community partnerships deepened and expanded with our exclusive public media sponsorship of the NAACP Convention in Boston, which included live broadcasts; the Boston Book Festival, where GBH executive producers, hosts, and our CEO led discussions on a diverse range of topics; and five new episodes of [The State of Race](#), a series that began in 2020 about race and inequality produced in partnership with GBH, WORLD, NAACP Boston, and *The Boston Globe*.

GBH Boston Public Library Studio

Attendance at events held in the [GBH Boston Public Library Studio](#) was up almost 200% over the last year, with nearly 9,000 people attending events. GBH’s new series of cultural events included Lounge Thursdays for live music, Outspoken Saturdays featuring curated spoken word poetry from emerging artists,



and Press Play Saturdays hosting activities for children. *Boston Public Radio* continued its audience-friendly broadcasts at the studio twice a week. This year, our newsroom partnered with James “Jimmy” Hills of Dorchester who is elevating the voices of Boston’s communities of color, to produce a special brew of his podcast “Java with Jimmy at GBH” at the library studio.

GBH Community Advisory Board

GBH depended on its [Community Advisory Board](#), composed of community leaders from around Greater Boston, to offer an external perspective on GBH’s responsiveness to the diverse educational and cultural needs and interests of the communities we serve. Board members review programming goals established by GBH, assist in being responsive to community needs, and evaluate whether GBH is meeting these goals.





GBH News' Paris Alston and Jim Braude interview Vice President Kamala Harris.

PHILIP C. KEITH

Journalism: Factual, Credible, Inclusive

GBH's journalism has earned our audiences' trust because it is factual, credible, and reflects the range of diverse voices that make up our community. At a time when local media outlets have been shuttered, GBH continues to provide a robust local service, deepening our commitment to cover the news in – and with – communities that have been traditionally under-represented.

[More](#)



GBH's NOVA team participated in a climate change forum at PEM.

LIZ FRIAR

Science: Research, Education, and Engagement

GBH deepened its [commitment](#) to covering our changing climate, illuminating the challenges and highlighting solutions through documentaries, trusted reporting, meaningful partnerships with community organizations, and dedication to science education. NOVA, our flagship science program, engaged with student journalists and offered an array of science documentaries covering climate change, the Earth's history, whales, mega-volcanoes, our brains, and more.

[More](#)



Zeke tours downtown Boston as *Work It Out Wombats!* debuts.

JACQUI KELLIHER

Children’s Media & Education: Broadening Student Perspectives

In addition to being the leading producer for PBS in primetime for general audiences, GBH is also PBS’s largest producer of children’s programs. Parents and teachers depend on GBH’s children’s educational programs as trusted and safe sources for children to watch television and play digital games and mobile apps.

[More](#)



A new program, *The Culture Show*, features local and regional arts and culture coverage every weekday on GBH 89.7.

GBH CREATIVE, PHOTOGRAPHY BY MEREDITH NIERMAN AND DAHLIA DANDASHI

History, Arts, and Culture: Elevating and Entertaining

Through our radio and television programs, as well as our community events in person and online, GBH presents history, arts, and culture to inform the present and uplift the arts in Boston and beyond.

[More](#)

Journalism: Expanded, In-depth Reporting

Throughout the year, GBH has covered stories that make a difference – locally, nationally, and internationally.

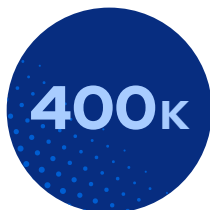
- GBH News continues to operate one of the largest public media newsrooms in the country, producing timely, award-winning multiplatform reporting [online](#) and on radio and television. Embracing a “newsroom without walls” approach, GBH News tells stories infused with and informed by the diverse communities we serve across the Commonwealth, through our bureaus at the State House, Dorchester, and Worcester, and our broadcast studio at the Boston Public Library. Our newsroom won three 2023 National Edward R. Murrow Awards from the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA). And CAI, the Cape and Islands NPR station, which is an affiliate of GBH, won five.
- With funding from the Barr Foundation, GBH News established an [Equity and Justice desk](#), a multiplatform unit that will focus on racial and socioeconomic equity issues in Greater Boston and shine a light on inequity –around healthcare, housing, income, or other topics of interest to our increasingly diverse community. The unit will develop regional and national stories around these key topics, expanding its commitment to community events, interacting directly with the audience, and elevating community voices.



GBH News' *Life After Prison* explores the experiences of Massachusetts residents who return from incarceration.

BILL MILLER, GBH CREATIVE

- With a focus on the stories of often historically excluded people, GBH developed two new series. [Priced Out](#) explored the local impact of skyrocketing home prices, especially in communities where residents can least afford to pay more; and [Life After Prison](#), an ongoing project of the [GBH News Center for Investigative Reporting](#), explores the challenges faced by thousands of people who return from incarceration each year in Massachusetts and the organizations, communities, and families that welcome them home. This series features contributions of dozens of returning citizens who share their struggles and successes.
- GBH News' new podcasts, including the Boston-focused ["The Big Dig"](#) with more than 2.5 million downloads, the largest in GBH history, and ["College Uncovered,"](#) drew listener acclaim, with behind-the-scenes coverage of the nation's largest construction project and the hidden workings of colleges and universities.
- On GBH 89.7 [Boston Public Radio](#) with Jim Braude and Margery Eagan continued to be GBH News' most popular show across multiple platforms. They continued their long tradition of broadcasting live "Ask the Mayor" and "Ask the Governor" segments from the GBH Boston Public Library Studio, where listeners had opportunities to engage with decisionmakers.



monthly
gbhnews.org
users



- GBH News launched its first major show in a decade [The Culture Show](#), hosted by GBH Executive Arts Editor Jared Bowen with co-hosts Callie Crossley and Edgar B. Herwick III, and featuring local and regional arts and culture coverage each day for an hour on GBH 89.7.
- In 2023, the GBH-produced FRONTLINE, America's longest-running investigative documentary series on television, celebrated 40 years. The series' [YouTube channel](#) currently reaches more than 2.6 million subscribers with approximately 665 million views. FRONTLINE's and The Associated Press' feature documentary [20 Days in Mariupol](#) was nominated for an Academy Award® in the Documentary Feature Film category. In an effort to reach teens who are consuming news on social media, [FRONTLINE launched a new series called FRONTLINE Short Docs](#) – offering boldly told, digestible films that explore the critical issues impacting young adults and the world they live in. By publishing the films on YouTube, [FRONTLINE Short Docs](#) aims to combat rampant misinformation that's reaching younger audiences online. The documentaries were developed by FRONTLINE in collaboration with GBH Education. Each film is available free to teachers on [PBS LearningMedia](#) with an accompanying curriculum unit.
- [The World](#), public radio's longest-running daily global news program, is now airing on a record 376 public radio stations across the United States and in Canada, more than at any point in the program's history. The show, produced by GBH and [PRX](#) in our Brighton studio, is heard by nearly 2 million people nationwide each week. [The World](#) reporters dug into real-time coverage of the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East and delivered critical information on key topics such as climate change, global security, women and gender, migration, and public health. Carolyn Beeler joined Marco Werman as co-host.



"The Big Dig" podcast drew a national audience, with 2.5 million downloads.

COURTESY GBH

"I'm grateful to GBH for the service it has provided and for the attention to local as well as national and international concerns."

– Lynne R.

Focus on Solutions

GBH's science series NOVA plays a key role locally and nationally in demystifying the scientific and technological concepts that shape and define our lives, our planet, and our universe. Science educators in Massachusetts and across the country rely on NOVA for trusted resources used in the classroom as well as in museums, libraries, and after-school programs. NOVA also was honored with an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award for the 2022 documentary [Arctic Sinkholes](#).

- Many NOVA documentaries draw on Greater Boston's renowned resources in research and science, featuring local experts and locations. For example, *Chasing Carbon Zero* featured Miles O'Brien who lives in Massachusetts and drove a loaned electric car from Boston to Bangor, Maine. The film also features an interview with Yet-Ming Chiang from MIT. *Saving the Right Whale* included Charles Mayo from the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown. Phoebe Cohen from Williams College appears in *Ancient Earth*, and Kelly Sims Gallagher from Tufts Fletcher School is in *Inside China's Tech Boom*.
- NOVA, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2024, launched *Climate Across America* to spotlight how climate change affects communities across the country and engaged audiences in conversations about innovative climate solutions. In conjunction with the initiative's debut, NOVA presented two complementary climate documentaries, [Weathering the Future](#) and [Chasing Carbon Zero](#).
- *Climate Across America* extended into the classroom through [NOVA Science Studio](#), which is dedicated to teaching science journalism, digital media literacy, and video production to high school students. In Virginia and Michigan, NOVA partnered with public media and local schools, building students' knowledge and skills to report on climate change in their communities.



Students learn about science journalism from NOVA's Arlo Pérez.

COURTESY OF GBH/NOVA

- As part of its longstanding commitment to supporting science education, Boston public media producer GBH awarded the [2023 Paula Apsell/GBH STEM Scholarship](#) to 10 Boston public school high school graduates. Each will receive a \$3,500 award toward post-secondary STEM education. The scholarship is named for Paula Apsell, senior executive producer emerita of NOVA.

“NOVA has been one of the most important influences in my life, including my career choice and life philosophy that holds science in great esteem.”

– Donald L.

Engaging Education

Educational media programs developed at GBH are not only entertaining and informative, they also help kids get ready for school, nurture social-emotional learning, foster the arts and creativity, and enhance literacy.

- The newest GBH Kids series [Work It Out Wombats!](#) which helps young children with computational thinking, launched in 2023 to great acclaim and is the number three show in weekly reach on PBS KIDS, with 1.1 million weekly viewers. To introduce the characters to local viewers, GBH sponsored a day-long series of events around the city, with employee volunteers dressed as Zeke. They visited locales such as Franklin Park Zoo, Boston City Hall, Boston Children’s Museum, and the Boston Common. Since its launch, *Wombats!* videos have been streamed more than 120 million times across PBS Kids platforms, and the digital games have tallied over 12 million plays. Common Sense Media hailed the series as one of the best television shows of 2023, awarding it the notable Common Sense Media Seal for Families.
- The [U.S. History Collection](#), developed by GBH Education for middle and high school students on PBS LearningMedia, has exceeded 1 million users, with research showing that students using the resources made significant gains in learning both content knowledge and historical thinking skills. The collection was named the best social studies instructional solution of 2023 as part of the annual SIIA CODiE Awards, which recognize the most innovative education technology products in the country.



Buckingham Browne & Nichols School won 2023’s High School Quiz Show.

LIZ FRIAR

- The nationally traveling exhibit [Molly of Denali: An Alaskan Adventure](#) made its way across the country, including to Springfield, Massachusetts, allowing young people to explore Alaska Native culture by pretending to fly a replica bush plane, drive a snowmobile, navigate a snow maze in snowshoes, go ice fishing, care for sled dogs, and more. The animated series has received a Peabody Award, a Television Critics Award, and a Kidscreen Award, garnering a television reach of more than 42 million people and some 450,000 users on PBS Kids digital platforms each month.
- Each year, in partnership with New England Public Media (NEPM), GBH Education works with a group of [Educator Ambassadors](#) – 18 this year – who advise them on a broad range of topics and provide feedback on educational content development and teacher engagement. The ambassadors span the state geographically, and are diverse in the subjects, grades, and students they teach.
- *High School Quiz Show* completed Season 14 with Buckingham Browne & Nichols School winning the championship, besting 16 other teams from schools around Greater Boston.

Understanding Culture

GBH opened up the worlds of music, drama, history, and arts through programming, podcasts, events, and digital resources. GBH invited artists into its world-class recording and performance studios for a set of cross-genre concerts for in-person and virtual audiences.

- GBH News launched [The Culture Show](#) this year, a daily radio program to provide an expansive, inclusive look at society through art, culture, and entertainment. Hosted by GBH Executive Arts Editor Jared Bowen and featuring Callie Crossley of *Under the Radar with Callie Crossley* and Edgar B. Herwick III of *The Curiosity Desk* as co-hosts, the show led engaging conversations and interviews with guests from the local arts community.
- AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, the longest-running history documentary series on television, continued its presentation of broader, more inclusive, and representative roster of documentaries, including [The Busing Battleground](#) and [The Harvest](#), which examined the deeply mixed legacy of America’s efforts to racially integrate public schools in the 1970s. GBH hosted community dialogues involving people directly affected by the busing crisis in Boston and will continue to host conversations throughout 2024, the 50th anniversary year of that period.
- MASTERPIECE rolled out its 53rd season with both new episodes of cherished series and intriguing all-new productions. [Tom Jones](#) debuted with a four-part series based on Henry Fielding’s classic novel. Building on the success of the first two seasons, a new season of [All Creatures Great and Small](#) debuted to critical acclaim. A new season of [World on Fire](#), the epic World War II drama; [Annika](#), starring Nicola Walker as a crime solving police detective; and new seasons of [Unforgotten](#) and [Van der Valk](#) made for a varied and audience-pleasing lineup.



GBH held community events to launch AMERICAN EXPERIENCE’s *The Busing Battleground*, which examined the busing crisis in Boston.

MEREDITH NIERMAN/GBH

- GBH Music’s repertoire expanded throughout the year, with concerts and recording sessions in GBH facilities by world-acclaimed musicians. During a year of record ratings that ushered in growing audiences for CRB Classical 99.5, the station continued GBH’s longest-standing commitment to the arts – a schedule of 50 concert broadcasts of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. In addition, [WCRB in Concert](#) produced more than 20 concert broadcasts with local arts organizations, including a presentation of Boston Lyric Opera’s production of Rhiannon Giddens’ *Omar*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for music. GBH Music produced 10 virtual and streaming performances including [Peace – The Concert for Eric Jackson](#), in Calderwood and a Celtic/classical crossover in Fraser Performance Studio featuring the Rasa Quartet and Boston Baroque’s X-Tet. In collaboration with JazzBoston, the JazzNOW series included a performance of pianist Nina Ott and friends.

“My radio is tuned in to CRB all waking hours—except when watching the news.”

– Joseph T.

- The GBH community mourned the loss of Brian O’Donovan, the longtime host of GBH’s radio show *A Celtic Sojourn*, who died at the age of 66. O’Donovan was the creative force and host of *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn*, which has been a Boston holiday tradition for over 20 years.
- The Ulysses Quartet, the first GBH Music quartet in residence, started its year-long program, visiting a diverse range of schools in Boston and across the state, bringing free, close encounters with music to young people from kindergarten through graduation. The quartet will spend five weeks in a variety of Massachusetts schools and will perform for GBH audiences throughout the 2023–2024 season, including four free hour-long performances in the GBH Boston Public Library Studio. In-studio performances by the quartet will be transformed into recordings for future release. The program resulted from a generous donation from the Mattina R. Proctor Foundation.
- Stewarded by GBH and the Library of Congress, the [American Archive of Public Broadcasting](#) represents a national effort to identify, preserve, and make accessible the historical record of public media from the last 70 years. As of 2023, the archive holds more than 160,000 digital files of television and radio programming contributed by more than 550 public media organizations, producers, and archives across the United States. The entire collection is available on location at GBH and the Library of Congress, and more than 100,000 items are available for free public viewing in the AAPB’s online reading room.
- [ANTIQUES ROADSHOW](#), PBS’s most-watched ongoing series, seen by about 5 million viewers each week, received its 21st nomination for a Primetime Emmy Award in 2023. Filming for the 2024 season was completed last summer at five locations including a first-ever visit to Alaska and a stop in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, with each event site drawing about 3,000 people. Now in its 28th season, ROADSHOW is a pop culture phenomenon, reaching a new generation of fans with 1.4 million followers on Facebook, more than 9 million video “likes” on TikTok, and more than a quarter million subscribers on [YouTube](#).



The Ulysses Quartet, GBH’s first quartet in residence, performs at the Edison K8 school in Brighton.

MEREDITH NIERMAN/GBH

- GBH took viewers on global explorations of food, culture, natural history, and travel, earning a total of seven [Telly Awards](#). The new [Lidia Celebrates America: Flavors That Define Us](#) followed the famed chef, star restaurateur, and international ambassador of Italian cuisine as she traveled across the U.S. to break bread with immigrants, who, through food, describe their love for their native and adopted countries.
- Now beginning its seventh season, [Stories from the Stage](#) is produced in Boston and broadcast on 194 WORLD channel stations, in markets representing 77 percent of the nation’s households. More than 5,000 people have applauded multicultural storytellers at the program’s live events in Boston or at virtual events. The series has expanded from its roots as an award-winning television show to a radio hour on GBH 89.7, a popular podcast, features on the GBH national radio program *The World*, and digitally on Facebook, Instagram, and its own [YouTube channel](#).

Together with our communities and audiences, GBH created opportunities to experience fresh perspectives, greater insight, and closer bonds as Americans and as citizens of the Commonwealth.

“GBH is a gem for all of us in the Bay State – we are fortunate to have so much first-rate programming available.”

– Serena D.H.



Berklee College of Music student Alexander Abdulah

DAVID DEGNER/IN SHORT MEDIA

Berklee College of Music student Alexander Abdulah was featured on GBH’s 30-by-45 foot LED screen alongside our studios on the Mass Turnpike. The mural signals the spirit and content of public media for thousands of passersby each week. The digital mural mirrors the vibrancy of our region: images reflecting events and issues in our community and nation are displayed, drawing attention to the cultural richness of Boston and New England and to what’s on the minds of those in the neighborhoods we serve.