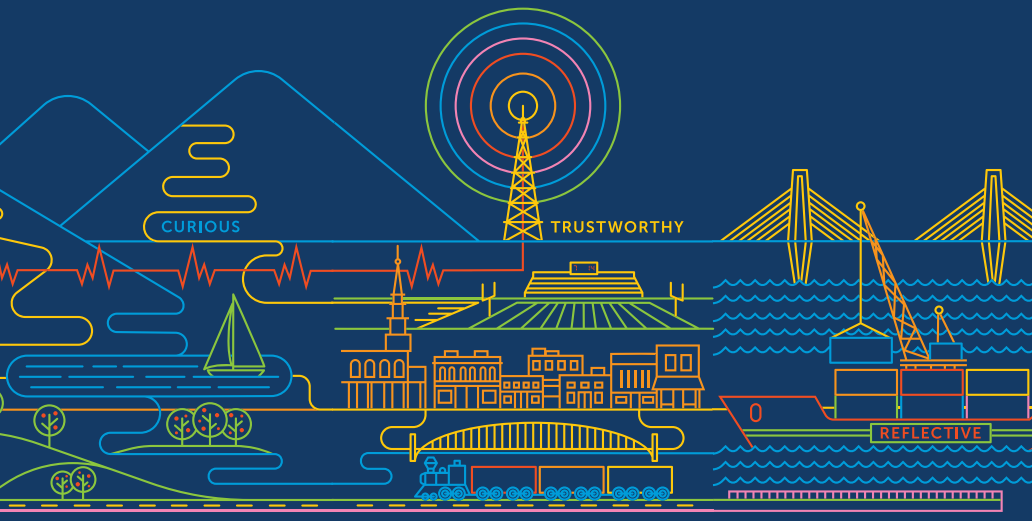
# GPB DONOR ANNUAL REPORT

Learn more about the programs and services you helped make possible this year.




FY26

# **Uniting & Uplifting Georgia** in Fiscal Year 2025-2026

For 66 years, GPB has proudly served as Georgia's signature public media network. Today, we continue fulfilling our mission, touching the lives of more than 11 million Georgians each year. As Georgia's only statewide public media network, GPB educates, informs and unites communities through trusted journalism, lifelong learning and cultural storytelling that reflects and enriches lives in all 159 counties.

The work highlighted here ties back to GPB's vision "to unite and uplift Georgia." That vision anchors GPB's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, and it has shaped where we invested our time, our airwaves and our community engagement this year. Across nine television stations, 22 radio stations and through our strong digital presence, we are connecting Georgians of all ages and backgrounds, from Waycross to Warm Springs, Carrollton to Columbus, Augusta to Atlanta and all points between.

Read on to learn more about the compelling and impactful programs and activities that your support has helped to make possible this year on television, radio, online and in-person.

# Television

## A Big Year for GPB Broadcast

At the heart of GPB's work is our goal to serve as a trusted knowledge hub for news, information and cultural enrichment, produced across every platform for every Georgian.

In commemoration of America's 250th anniversary, GPB produced an original multimedia series called *Marked!* The series explores 12 of the state's Historical Markers related to Georgia's history as one of the original 13 colonies. Through digital-first videos, podcasts and a TV show, *Marked!* has brought to light Georgia's unique and important contributions to the founding of the United States. The project was recently honored with a Public Media Award from the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) for best cross-platform content. GPB also premiered the six-part, 12-hour Ken Burns documentary *The American Revolution* as part of our 250th commemoration coverage.

We continue to increase our local program offerings about and for GPB audiences across the state, while also sharing more of our Georgia-produced content with national audiences.

This fiscal year, we aired over 700 hours of local programs with more than half of those programs produced by GPB. Independent producers created the rest of our local content, furthering the capacity of Georgia's film and television industry to tell our state's stories.

Among the independent productions GPB aired this year was the documentary, *The Games in Black and White*, a look back at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games through its two main organizers, Billy Payne and Andrew Young. The documentary was so well received that we also shared the show across the national public media system, and it won four Emmys® at the Southeast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences ceremony this past spring. GPB took home another Emmy® for the *2025 King Celebration Concert*, a joint production with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra that was taped at historic Ebenezer Baptist Church. GPB also presented this program on public media stations.

Two other popular local productions, *View Finders* and *Your Fantastic Mind* also remain national favorites. With GPB as the presenting station, the latest season of *View Finders*, a photography and travel show, has been distributed to 90% of public media outlets across the country! The health and science series, *Your Fantastic Mind* (co-produced with Emory University), also continues to be nationally distributed through NETA.

New seasons of the local productions, *Georgia Legends*, *A Fork in the Road*, *Peach Jam*, and the long-running *Lawmakers* program, aired in addition to special programming, such as the *Georgia Tech Inventure Prize*, and *The Georgia High School Musical Theatre Awards*. We have maintained our decades-long partnership with the Atlanta Press Club to broadcast all major debates for statewide and key congressional races so that Georgians can remain informed about the candidates running to represent them.

Several beloved *MASTERPIECE* series debuted new seasons this fall and spring joined by fresh favorites, including: *The Marlow Murder Club, Unforgotten, Maigret, The Gold, All Creatures Great and Small, Miss Scarlet, The Forsytes, The Count of Monte Cristo* and *Grantchester*.

Popular PBS shows also returned this year, such as: *Finding Your Roots, NOVA, Nature, Secrets of the Dead, Lucy Worsley Investigates, Call the Midwife, American Experience, American Masters, Great Performances, Father Brown, Midsomer Murders, Sister Boniface Mysteries, National Memorial Day Concert* and *A Capitol Fourth*.

▲ Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

# Radio

## New Voices, More Local News: GPB Expands Local On-Air Offerings

We added several programs to our weekend lineup, including *Sports in America* hosted by former NPR host David Greene (Saturdays at 4 p.m.), *Folk Alley* (Saturdays at 7 p.m.), and *Ye Gods* (Sundays at 6 a.m. on GPB Network). This year, *The A.S.O. on GPB* celebrated its 20th year on the GPB radio network and was added to our weekend programming on Sunday mornings from 6 to 8 a.m.

We continued our commitment to serving our local audiences, by increasing the amount of local news that we provide statewide each hour during *Morning Edition*. We also added two feature segments in the 5 a.m. hour: *Yale Climate Connections* and *Marketplace Tech*.

This summer, we aired a 13-week, special *Peach Jam* radio series Saturday nights at 8 p.m. The series featured some of the best recordings from the *Peach Jam* podcast uniquely repackaged for our radio audience.

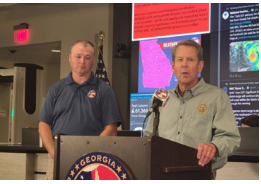
We also offered new *Narrative Edge*, *Classroom Conversations* and *Football Fridays in Georgia* podcast episodes.

As part of our 250th birthday programming initiatives, GPB partnered with the Georgia Historical Society to air an encore presentation of the daily *Today in Georgia History* series across radio and TV.

Other radio specials included remembrances of Dolly Parton and NPR's Susan Stamberg, Governor Kemp's final State of the State address, the Atlanta Press Club debates plus many specials for various holidays and observances.

# News

## GPB News Teams Find New Ways to Keep Georgians Alert and Aware When News Hits Home



Our News team has provided insightful, award-winning reporting and context around major stories across the state during FY26, including affordable housing in Atlanta and other Georgia cities, the growth of data centers, rural healthcare challenges, the proposed ICE detention center in Social Circle, Ga., and realtime coverage of the trials for the Appalachee High School mass shooting gunman and his father.

The GPB News and Radio teams went above and beyond this January, providing winter weather updates during significant ice storms. This included hourly weather reports and a real-time blog, plus live special coverage from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA), providing crucial safety information to Georgians when they needed it most. We also rolled out localized weather bulletins on HD radios across the state so you can get your weather via your car's HD radio every 10 minutes.

### News Awards

The GPB News team was honored with numerous awards for its reporting during FY26, including two national Public Media Journalists Association awards as well as individual honors for political reporter, Sarah Kallis, who was named a **Georgia Association of Broadcasters Rising Star.** Savannah-based reporter Jillian Magtoto was honored with a **National Educational Telecommunications Association Public Media Award** for her environmental reporting and Pamela Kirkland won a N**ational Association of Black Journalists award** for investigative reporting on the BioLab plant fire.

# Podcasts

**1.6 million**
Downloads of GPB Podcasts

**25**

Georgia musical artists highlighted in *Peach Jam*

**41**
High School football coaches interviewed for *Football Fridays In Georgia*

## *Robbery Inc.*

GPB's most popular podcast this year covers the true crime mystery of a 1970s Marietta bank robbery. The series was produced in partnership with the ***Marietta Daily Journal.***

**23**
Georgia Grown businesses and products featured in GPB Podcasts

**27**
Books with Georgia connections featured on ***Narrative Edge***

**2026**
National Association of Black Journalists Salute to Excellence award.

## GPB Social

In FY26, our social team published over 10,000 posts, driving 55 million views and added 161,000 new followers across YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, X, and Threads. Instagram anchored this growth, generating 21 million views.

## GPB Takes Home Top Broadcast Honors Across Georgia and the Southeast

Several local and national organizations honored GPB this year for our excellence in programming, news and educational content.

At the 2026 Southeast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, GPB received 26 Emmy® nominations and won 11 awards, including honors for *The Games in Black & White*, *A Fork in the Road: The Golden Hills of Dahlonega*, *Georgia Artists: Video Game Sound Designer*, *Colors of Atlanta*, *Your Fantastic Mind* (produced with Emory Brain Health) and special event coverage of the *2025 King Celebration Concert*.

At the 2026 Telly Awards, *Building Towers* earned a Silver Telly in Television/General Sports. And at the Atlanta Press Club Awards, GPB journalist Grant Blankenship won an award for Best Single Image.

# Education

Empowering Georgia Students of All Ages to Engage in Digital-Based Learning

GPB is Georgia's premier digital education content provider, providing both lifelong learning opportunities and standards-aligned K-12 resources that strengthen teaching for educators, students and families statewide. GPB seeks to continue to grow the reach of our educational content by 50% by 2030, and this year, we have made major progress toward achieving that goal.

**From July 2025 to June 2026, more than 3.4 million users accessed GPB's online education content 12.5 million times!**

**The most-utilized resources included special collections of educational materials:**

- **Georgia Studies Collection** (featuring an online course, more than 40 Virtual Field Trips, the *Georgia Stories* video series and the *Georgia RaceThrough Time* scholastic game)
- **Science Collection** for grades 7–12 (including *Physics in Motion*, *Chemistry Matters*, *Let's Go Enviro*)
- **Economics Collection** (*Econ Express*, *Lights, Camera, Budget!* and *Start It Up!*)

Other popular materials released this year were: *GASHA GO! World* (13 games, seven animated videos and support materials teaching computer science and literacy for grades K–2); and Georgia Classroom, built with the Georgia Department of Education.

**9,791**
educators, children and families reached through Education Outreach Team.

**296**
workshops and professional learning sessions.

**82,000** subscribers: 50% increase in GPB's educational YouTube channel.

**1,222**
schools and partner organizations in all 157 school districts.

**100,000**
educator and family subscribers for our monthly education newsletter.

The 2025–2026 school year also brought new milestones for popular initiatives like the Student Voices Collective, which marked its third year bringing together Georgia educators and students to build civic engagement, media literacy and digital citizenship.

The *Classroom Conversations* podcast, which elevates educators from across the state, produced its eighth season and is nearing its 100th episode! *Georgia Stories*, a digital-first video series, reached its 75th episode with 20 episodes added this year, alone. *Georgia EdTalks* paired expert talks with real-world discussion from Georgia educators, and GPB's PBS KIDS Writers Contest invited Georgia's youngest writers, kindergarten through third grade, to submit original illustrated stories. GPB also added the *FarmTech Quest* virtual reality journey to its Virtual Reality Learning collection and Biology Revealed to its science video classes.

The year closed with two signature events: the PBS KIDS Writers Contest awards ceremony and the Student Voices Collective storytelling showcase, both celebrating the students and educators who make this work meaningful.

# Community Engagement

**24 Counties, 4 Mission Critical Areas, 43 Partners and Counting to Engage All of Georgia**

Community engagement work elevates all four of GPB's Mission Critical Areas for our programming: Literacy & Learning, Arts & Culture, Health & Wellness and Civic Engagement.

This year, GPB engaged directly with 4,340 Georgians through 37 initiatives and events held virtually and in neighborhoods across the state. Twenty-four of the counties visited were new to GPB's Community Engagement program, joining a growing family of partners statewide and helping GPB to achieve its strategic goal of having community partnerships in 75% of counties in Georgia by 2030 (see the complete list on page 29).

## Literacy & Learning

GPB marked America's 250th anniversary with special events built around Ken Burns's new documentary series, *The American Revolution* and GPB's own original production, *Marked!* Partnering with Georgia Highlands College, the Bartow History Institute, the Rome International Film Festival and others across the state, GPB hosted screenings and panel discussions about Revolutionary War history in Georgia.

In the Dublin-Laurens area, GPB partnered with the local Chamber Community Foundation and UGA Archway Partnership for a screening of *Make a Circle*, on the systemic challenges facing childcare providers and families. And no year is complete without a visit from Daniel Tiger! Nearly 2,000 visitors joined Daniel at GPB's Be My Neighbor Day at Legacy Park in Decatur to learn about being a caring neighbor.

## Arts & Culture

GPB celebrated the new season of *Antiques Roadshow* with a behind-the-scenes look at the Savannah episode and a panel hosted by GPB President and CEO Bert Wesley Huffman. ALL ARTS Artist in Residence Joy "Kuma" Gasaway premiered *WeOn-Fyre Cypher* with a red-carpet screening, and *Sesame Street* stopped by an Augusta GreenJackets game. In May, the Atlanta History Center featured GPB in its Party with the Past series, welcoming guests to GPB's Atlanta headquarters for a studio tour and a visit from PBS KIDS' favorite aardvark, Arthur.

## Health & Wellness

GPB partnered with the Beyond Dementia Coalition for a screening of Caregiving and a livestreamed panel, Dementia from the Inside Out, exploring cognitive change from the perspective of individuals, clinicians and clergy.

## Civic Engagement

For International Day of the Girl last fall, GPB welcomed Atlanta-area girls for panels and mentorship with The Mayor's Office of One. In Albany, GPB and Albany State University hosted a screening of *Becoming Thurgood: America's Social Architect* with a panel that included original Freedom Singer Rutha Mae Harris. And in March, GPB honored the legacy of Barbara Jordan with a screening of *The Inquisitor*, joined by community partners D4 Women In Action and The Links, Incorporated Atlanta.

# Georgia Public Safety

GPB is a key partner in Georgia's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA) communications framework by operating 29 emergency-ready tower stations across the state to keep Georgians informed and safe during dangerous weather and other emergencies. It is a role that reflects GPB's core promise to serve Georgians. As one GPB community partner put it, "GPB gives Georgians ways to connect with their communities, so they don't feel isolated and stay informed."

Including GEMA, GPB partners with more than 20 public safety agencies and organizations, including the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Governor's office. GPB also hosts National Weather Service Weather Radio transmitters at five towers: WNGH/Chatsworth, WGTV/Stone Mountain, WCES/Wrens, WXGA/Waycross and WABW/Pelham.

This year tested that safety infrastructure more than once, with GPB sending out more than 4,000 safety alerts in the past 12 months.

In September, GPB News focused on hurricane preparedness with special radio features, interviews, digital news articles and a dedicated severe weather page, alongside hurricane content across GPB's social platforms. When the federal government shutdown disrupted services for many Georgians last fall, GPB kept a live blog with information on food resources, educational support for families and travel disruptions.

GPB also grew its own emergency-ready footprint. WABW 89.9FM went on air in Pelham on December 1, 2025, serving Adelaide, Camilla, Cotton, Flint, Funston, Greenough, Hartsfield, Hinsonton, Meigs, Pebble City, Pelham and Sale City, rounding out GPB's network to 22 radio stations with full coverage across Georgia.

In January, backup generators kept operations running through an ice storm, though several stations temporarily operated on reduced power to protect transmitters from ice buildup. Only the Helen area briefly lost service, when WPPR FM was off air for less than 24 hours. Throughout the storm, GPB worked closely with GEMA to broadcast and stream press briefings from Governor Kemp and other state officials.

During April's wildfires in South Georgia, GPB kept a live blog with updates on evacuation orders, forest fire preparedness and ongoing disaster relief efforts from nonprofits like the American Red Cross.

Looking ahead, GPB and GEMA are building a new data delivery network for the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) and Emergency Alert System (EAS). Today's largely internet-based system can be vulnerable to disruptions from system failure, disasters or cyberattacks; the new network will give state, local and commercial partners an added layer of out-of-band messaging to rely on when it matters most.

# Celebrating Our Community Partnerships Across Georgia

GPB is proud to have partnered with the following local organizations this past year:

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Metro Atlanta Chapter, Atlanta
Albany State University, Albany
All Arts (National)
Alzheimer's Association, National, Atlanta
Athens-Clarke County Library, Athens
Atlanta History Center, Atlanta
The Atlanta Mayor's Office of One, Atlanta
Augusta GreenJackets, Augusta
Bartow History Institute, Cartersville
Berry College, Mt. Berry
Beyond Dementia Coalition, Gainesville
Columbus Public Library, Columbus
Columbus State University's Carson McCullers Center, Columbus
Compassionate Atlanta, Atlanta
Congregation Mickve Israel, Savannah
Creative Mornings Atlanta, Atlanta
D4 Women in Action, National (headquarters in Atlanta)
Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities, statewide, Atlanta
Decatur Library, Decatur
Dublin-Laurens County Chamber Community Foundation, Dublin
Emory Arts, Atlanta
Fulton County Arts, Atlanta
Fulton County Library System, Fulton County (headquarters in Atlanta)
Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys Albany Chapter, Albany
Georgia Conservancy, statewide (headquarters in Atlanta)
Georgia Highlands College, Cartersville Campus
Georgia Public Library Service, statewide
Georgia Writers Museum, Eatonton
Hinesville Library, Hinesville
Jeannette Rankin Foundation, National, Georgia
Kennesaw State University's Museum of History and Holocaust Education, Kennesaw
Kinchafoonee Library System, Dawson, Edison, and Cuthbert
MARTA, Atlanta
Navigate Foundation, Atlanta
Page Turners Make Great Learners, Atlanta
PNC Grow Up Great, National
Rome International Film Festival, Rome
Roots Down, Decatur
The Learning Center Savannah, Savannah
The Links, Atlanta Chapter
The Peachtree Road Farmers Market, Atlanta
UGA Archway Partnership, Athens
WeonFyre, Atlanta

# Foundation Support FY25-26

## Thank You To These Foundations Who Make Our Work Possible

Grants awarded to Georgia Public Broadcasting by private and corporate foundations are crucial to keeping our original programming thriving. Without their support, award-winning programs, reporting from the GPB newsroom, family engagement and outreach to schools around the state would be significantly diminished. We are deeply grateful to these generous partners from Georgia's philanthropic community.

### $100,000+

Georgia Health Initiative

### $50,000+

Green South Foundation | The Imlay Foundation | Vasser Woolley Foundation | The Zeist Foundation

### $25,000+

David, Helen and Marian Woodward Fund

### $15,000+

John & Mary Franklin Foundation | Courtney Knight Gaines Foundation | Price Gilbert, Jr. Charitable Fund

### $10,000+

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### $2,500+

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