At Kansas City PBS, our mission is to promote understanding and make our communities a better place to live. We’re dedicated to keeping the public in public media by partnering with civic, business and educational organizations to share the best children’s educational programming, civic-minded journalism and national PBS shows that entertain and inspire.

The past five years have been exciting for Kansas City PBS as our service to the community experiences growth on many fronts. From the launch of the Hale Center for Journalism, which has evolved into KCPT’s digital magazine, ‘Flatland’ to the acquisition of 90.9 The Bridge to the expanded offerings for children made possible by the addition of the 24/7 KCPT Kids Channel, the Kansas City community has felt the impact of this growth.

KCPT serves almost a million people each month online, on air, and in person through community events. Your generous support makes this possible. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Kansas City.

In this time of rapid evolution in the media industry, KCPT remains focused on our central mission - to share stories of Kansas City that help us understand and engage in this place we call home. We work each day to continue what has taken us from one television channel to an organization that offers information and engagement on digital platforms, social media, via radio and on four television channels. We will continue our work each day to improve upon these services and continue to provide a daily value in your life.

As we near the season of thanks and giving, KCPT is excited to share this Community Impact Report showcasing a small portion of our work in the community. Seeing this information organized this way really brings home our vision, mission, and service for Kansas City. I’m proud of our team and all the excellent work they do. I hope you are equally proud of how your support drives the services we provide to our community. Thank you.

Kliff Kuehl, President & CEO
KCPT | The Bridge | Flatland
Kansas City PBS explores complicated issues facing our region with ongoing reporting, investigative journalism and informed discussions with newsmakers, policymakers and decision-makers.

*Week in Review* convenes journalists and media leaders to break down weekly stories affecting our region for audiences interested in going beyond the headlines. *Ruckus*, our weekly political roundtable, highlights newsmaker interviews and convenes community panelists to ensure diversity in viewpoints.

*Public Works? A Level Foundation* explored the lives of Kansas Citians affected by housing issues ranging from evictions and gentrification to the fight over apartments. In-depth video reports, web stories, documentaries and town hall conversations brought audiences into courthouses and homes, introducing us to those most affected by housing policy and practice.

A decade after KCPT’s in-depth examination of the childhood obesity epidemic, *Generation XL: A 10-Year Weigh-In* re-examined the trends in childhood obesity at the local, state and federal levels. The month-long, in-depth reporting project was capped by a televised community panel discussion.

*Take Note* asks students, school leaders and parents what schools will look like in 10, 20 or 50 years – and what that means for students of the future and today (funded by the Kauffman Foundation).

We feel it is vital for community members to better understand what is at stake in elections. KCPT’s Nick Haines moderated the *Kansas Governor’s Debate* (in partnership with the JoCo Bar Association). The debate was shared via Facebook Live and broadcast to reach maximum audience.

This program (*Public Works? Evicted*) was a model of how local reporting can look fairly and in-depth at a critically important issue. This is why we never miss *Week in Review* or your other reports. As a retired social worker, I appreciate the sensitivity to social justice concerns.

~ John Flaherty, 
KCPT Producers Society Member
Arts & Culture

Kansas City PBS is our region's largest stage and cultivates an appreciation for the artistic and cultural forces that shape our communities. The stories KCPT shares foster understanding, appreciation and investment in the Arts.

Show Me returned for a third season highlighting four influencers of Kansas City's cultural identity: actor Jason Sudeikis, design company Porter Teleo, artist Susan Lordi Marker and filmmaker Kevin Willmott. Work in Progress explored a diverse group of artists' processes through the lens of their own self-discovery in a four-part series and broadcast documentary. And we teamed up with Hello Atelier, a Kansas City-based podcast that explores what it means to be a working artist.

We addressed cultural diversity in Music Is an Immigrant, a music documentary that followed Enrique and Diego Chi of Making Movies, a Kansas City-based band, as they returned to Panama to explore their musical influences. Resurrecting Quindaro was a multipart multimedia story about the history of Quindaro, which famously harbored escaped slaves, and how preservationists are working to mark it as a historic landmark.

Ongoing columns like Origin Stories, Order Up, Best Eat in the House, Tap List and Other Weekend Possibilities provided our readers on Flatland with the deep dish on local fare. We looked at the local music industry in the biweekly column Sympathetic Vibrations. And Turning The Tables: KC Edition from 90.9 FM The Bridge reported a multipart series on the contributions of Kansas City women in music – capturing their experiences in a traditionally male-dominated industry.

Speaking of columns, Flatland provides readers with the insights of one of Kansas City's most accomplished and thoughtful faith writers, Bill Tammeus, whose column appears on the fourth Sunday of every month. This commentary is part of Flatland's efforts to fill a gap in Kansas City's media landscape by covering happenings in the local faith community.

And when it comes to live performances, no one in Kansas City is doing more. For over a decade, KCPT has partnered with the Kansas City Symphony to present the live broadcast of the Bank of America Celebration at the Station to our community and surrounding states. Every week, we feature live in-studio music performances from local and national artists on 90.9 The Bridge and rebroadcast them on the TV series Live on The Bridge and to a growing YouTube audience.
Educating the children of the Kansas City region has been at the heart of our mission since our founding as part of the Kansas City School District over 50 years ago. Today we connect learners of all ages with educational resources and training to bring learning to life and turn concepts into action.

KCPT partnered with four school districts (Blue Springs School District, Center School District, Hickman Mills School District and Wellington-Napoleon School District) to create a series of professional development videos for the Making Math Matter grant from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Incarceration, gun violence, hunger – those were just a few of the tough topics we brought front and center for workshops that engaged early childhood professionals and parents as part of the Sesame Street in Communities curriculum. We continued our long-standing relationship with Black & Veatch to bring engineering mentorship opportunities to fifth-grade students in high-needs school districts. And we partnered with local organizations to create stories about Kansas City kids for the KCPT 24/7 PBS Kids Channel.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood, KCPT honored the memory of this beloved public television pioneer. Events included the “Mister Rogers Kindness Crawl” with Serve KC; a partnership with PNC Grow Up Great presented “Be My Neighbor Day” at the Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center that focused on children being caring neighbors through acts of kindness and conservation; and yearlong conversations about the impact Fred Rogers had on our viewers.

Kansas City PBS knows that early childhood providers face huge challenges in trying to get the most resources out to the families that they serve. Sesame Street in Communities is a fantastic free resource that I share with all of my families.

~ Dr. Rupal Gupta, Pediatrician Children’s Mercy Hospital / Medical Director Operation Breakthrough
Community Engagement

We work with partners throughout the region to convene community conversations and work collaboratively with organizations to better understand the needs of our community.

In conjunction with the national PBS series *The Great American Read*, we brought our voting booth to more than 30 library locations to learn what Kansas City’s most-loved book is.

We convened community conversations around *'68 The Kansas City Race Riots* (in partnership with the Kansas City Public Library and 41 Action News); women’s service in the military accompanied by a screening of *Served Like a Girl* (in partnership with the National Archives at Kansas City and the National WWI Museum and Memorial); and racial and labor justice through a screening of the Independent Lens film *Dolores* (in partnership with The Kansas City Public Library, Stand Up KC, the Fannie Lou Hamer Women’s Committee, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, the Cross Border Network for Justice and Solidarity, the League of United Latin American Citizens and El Centro).

Our curiousKC initiative invites the public to inform our reporting by posing questions about our city and the surrounding areas. It covers concerns as big as, “How integrated are our schools?” to culture touchstones such as, “Whatever happened to Smaks?”

We continue to honor the stories of veterans through our Veterans Coming Home project. And this year launched American Graduate: Getting to Work, a multiyear engagement initiative – funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting – to engage with local students and community partners about how schools are preparing students for the workforce.

*Photos by Suzanne Corum-Rich*
An Investment in Kansas City PBS is an Investment in our community

More than 81% of KCPT revenue is generated locally. Thank you for your support.
81% of our funding comes from the Kansas City region, and most of that comes from individuals members just like you!

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