

2022

Local Content & Service Report to the Community

INDIANA PUBLIC RADIO

A listener-supported service of Ball State University



MISSION STATEMENT

**CONNECTING
PEOPLE TO
EDUCATIONAL
EXPERIENCES
AND TRUSTED
STORIES.**

From The General Manager:

For more than half a century, Ball State Public Media has served our community thanks to the generous support of individuals, organizations, and the Ball State University Board of Trustees. From our origins as a radio laboratory in education, to the commitment of four women who absolutely saw the need for educational television as an option in the region, we have always reflected the needs and interest of our community. In fact, **public media is in Ball State's DNA**, with Ed Ball being one of the national leaders in the early development of public media.

2022 was a year of significant transition for us. We emerged slowly from the pandemic and went back to holding community events in person, something that has long been a key component in our work and was sorely missed when safety required fewer public events. My tenure as General Manager started with a New Year in January 2022. Our first focus as a team with a new leader was to spend several months working together to refocus and plot a new course for Ball State Public Media. As you'll see elsewhere in this report, the team here did an amazing job in 2022 as the pandemic began to wane.

Our refocused mission is to connect you to educational experiences and trusted stories. Maybe to you that means educational content you can trust for your young children, or meaningful storytelling based in thoroughly researched history by Ken Burns. Maybe it means starting every day with Stan Sollars and the trusted reporting on **Morning Edition**. Or perhaps it means ending your workday with Stephanie Wiechmann and **All Things Considered**.

Or perhaps you love the regional stories we tell in our popular **Now Entering** series, where we focus on the east central Indiana residents telling the stories of their town in their own, authentic voices.

Our vision for the future? We seek to become a leader in education, innovation, and diverse perspectives in our region and beyond. After an intense year of research, reflection, and renewal, 2023 is set to be the year we begin **The Comeback**. Coming back from the pandemic, coming back into our community, and coming back into our mission of telling your stories with your help. We'll be focusing on the renewed energy happening all around us every day in our communities here in East Central Indiana. Truly, Ball State Public Media and supporters like you are really **Better Together**. Thank you for your steady support in the storms of the past few years, and we look forward to your partnership as we work collectively to make our region an even better place to live.

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— Dr. Phil Hoffman,
General Manager of
Ball State Public Media



STORIES OF IMPACT

PMX ACCELERATOR

The Future of Public Media

The new **Ball State Public Media Accelerator (PMX)** launched in August 2022, giving highly motivated students the opportunity to work at IPR and Ball State PBS while exploring potential careers in public media. Positions include audio/video production, marketing, community engagement and news reporting. All Ball State students are eligible to apply for the program, which currently operates during the academic year (August-May).

The Public Media Accelerator program features paid work in a professional public media environment; dedicated

personal workspace in the new PMX Innovation Lab; a dedicated academic professional who will make sure the student's experience aligns with Ball State Public Media's goal to create a high-impact learning practice; ongoing career mentoring; monthly lunch and learn sessions with nationally-recognized media experts, and opportunities to participate in Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations (IPBS) webinars and other public media learning opportunities.

The program offers students an immersive experience from Day 1. Projects align with Ball State Public

Current PMX student Dahlia Aliwa (pictured), a junior public relations student, said the program “is an incredible opportunity for Ball State students.”

Media's mission—“connecting people with educational experiences and trusted stories”—and vision—“Ball State Public Media will be a leader in innovation, education and diverse perspectives.”

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PMX students, in addition to learning about and assisting with day-to-day operations of the stations, are tasked with a group project. This project must have a community impact. That will require students to develop relationships/partnerships with community leaders, organizations, and community members.

Mentoring is also a big part of the PMX experience. Mentors, veteran public media professionals at the station, will work closely with their student fellow. Mentors will work to 1) build a relationship with the mentee, and 2) impart knowledge about career pathways and professionalism and 3) help them solve problems whether work related or otherwise.

The community (East Central Indiana) benefits from original, locally focused informative, educational and entertaining content created by the students in the PMX Accelerator delivered by the area's most-trusted news sources—NPR (Indiana Public Radio) and Ball State PBS.

Current PMX student Dahlia Aliwa, a junior public relations student, said the program "is an incredible opportunity for Ball State students."

"Since working with Ball State PBS and Indiana Public Radio, I've assisted with efforts to encourage voter education and registration; recorded spots that have actually aired on Indiana Public Radio; prepared

educational lesson plans for PBS Kids Clubs and to be distributed to local daycare centers and helped plan and participate in community events such as Happy Little Fest, and the IPR Radio Drama," she added. "Most importantly, I've been able to see the impact that PBS and IPR have had on the community. Educational programming and resources the stations provide empower listeners and the public to get involved in their communities. During Happy Little Fest, it was very special to see our attendees enjoying themselves and having a great time while bonding over their love for Bob Ross and his PBS show. Not only has this work impacted me, but I get to see daily the positive impact Ball State Public Media has on the community."

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— Dahlia Aliwa

PMX students like Dahlia are offered an opportunity unique to this university and Ball State Public Media. It is an immersive opportunity to educate, entertain and engage the community in a way that is meaningful and impactful. These students are making a difference in our community and that is something that will stay with them long after they graduate.

Ball State Public Media to go

In the fall of 2022, Ball State Public Media launched its new mobile app. The new app is designed to give you instant access to stories from the award-winning IPR News team, local weather reports and lets you stream the best of IPR Ball State PBS local programs like Cardinal Compass and Now Entering You even have access to all your favorite national



shows like Morning Edition, All Things Considered, Masterpiece, Nature, NOVA and so many more. Best of all, you have access anywhere, anytime, to your favorite IPR and Ball State PBS programs. And with news updates sent directly to your phone, and access to IPR News on the go, you will stay in-the-know. Available to download free on iOS and Android.





Photos by Riley Paulsen

STORIES OF IMPACT

IPR RADIO DRAMA

Holiday Whodunnit

Indiana Public Radio offered “A Chris-Mystery” for its annual Holiday Radio Drama broadcast in December.



Michelle Kinsey voicing Shirley Jakes.

LifeStream Services and sponsored by Michelle Walker Thrivent Financial, Yorktown Public Library, Mark’s Service Center and PrimeTrust Federal Credit Union.

Written by local Radio Drama veteran Michael J. Kleeberg, the mystery centered on a down-on-his-luck private eye and his sidekick, a talking dog. Yes, a talking dog.

The radio drama was directed by David Taylor Little and musical director was Michael Elliott. Executive producer was Dr. Jennifer Blackmer.

Each year, IPR recreates the nostalgia of a live radio drama featuring community and campus actors, musicians and authentic sound effects.

“A Chris-Mystery” is presented by

Voter Event

Indiana Public Radio and IPBS teamed up for a voter event on October 5, 2022 at Ross Community Center. Special guest Brandon Smith (IPB Statehouse Bureau Chief) talked about his work and dropped some interesting political knowledge on us.

Audience members also received voter guides, enjoyed some pizza and played 6th grade Civics Trivia (it wasn’t easy) hosted by our own Stephanie Wiechmann, host of “**All Things Considered.**” And first-time voters registered on site thanks to the League of Women Voters.

Local News Awards

Indiana Public Radio’s Stephanie Wiechmann received two awards from the **Society of Professional Journalists “Best in Indiana”** awards in 2022. All radio stations in the state compete together, regardless of size. Stephanie received two second place awards – one in the “Radio Newscast”



category and one in “Radio Breaking News” for a story on Muncie’s former mayor being sentenced to federal

prison for taking a bribe while in office. Stephanie has hosted the afternoon “**All Things Considered**” broadcasts and reported stories from East Central Indiana for more than 14 years.



STORIES OF VALUE

CONTINUING LOCAL SERIES

BlueNotes Jazz

BlueNotes continued to offer its eclectic blend of classic and contemporary jazz monthly on Indiana Public Radio. Hosted by Larry Beck, this is east central Indiana's only jazz radio broadcast offering great music, news of local jazz events, and features with local jazz musicians.

Cardinal Compass

IPR aired seven half-hour episodes of **Cardinal Compass** produced by Ball State students which features student hosts and reporting on a theme as well as guests in conversation with Ball State University President, Geoffrey S. Mearns. Themes this year included Ball State's Immersive Learning program, the YWCA of Muncie, and Ball State partnerships with area arts organizations.

The Facing Project

Indiana Public Radio continued its podcast/program **The Facing Project**, a monthly, half-hour program that is "StoryCorps meets This American Life." Founded in 2012 in Muncie by J.R. Jamison and Kelsey Timmerman, The Facing Project began as a one-off response to debates about the poverty statistic in Delaware County—to explore the human story behind the numbers—but quickly grew into a program model and then into its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has now spread across the country to over 100 communities. Each episode of the IPR program, which is now in

syndication, introduces the month's theme followed by performances of two Facing Project stories from different points-of-view but related to the month's theme. The Facing Project continued to build empathy and shared experiences through telling peoples' stories, and this year, the production continued its ongoing monthly feature interviews that add insight to the topics explored in each episode's set of stories. Topics explored this year include the role teachers play in everyone's lives, reclaiming the disabled narrative, stopping the cycle of addiction, and what life is like living with cancer.

Owsley Moment

In 2022, a Ball State graduate assistant worked with a Ball State student voice actor to produce short, interstitial programs that were written by classes led by a Ball State professor. **The Owsley Moment** explores art in the David Owsley Museum of Art's collection, describing a piece of work and its historical context each episode. The program creatively pairs these descriptions with relevant music to suggest the style of the visual art. The featured art and its history spans anywhere and anytime from 7th century China to modern day America.

The RoundTable

In 2022, IPR continued to broadcast the Ball State PBS-produced program **The RoundTable**. The program is hosted by Michael Hicks, George and Frances

Ball Distinguished professor of economics and director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University. The program focuses on public affairs issues and how they affect the people and places of Indiana.

The Scene, from Indiana Public Radio

This year, the weekly hour-long live music show produced by BSU student employees winded down its production while celebrating its history. **The Scene** continued its push for more interviews with artists and influencers in the Indiana music scene, and topics explored included the Indianapolis Music Co-op, the 2021 Juneteenth festivities in Indianapolis, live performances from Ball State's studios, and interviews with up-and-coming artists. The series finished with a number of lookback episodes celebrating the show's 12-year history, which included past student employees and how the show impacted their careers.

State Government Debates, Speeches and Election Coverage

IPR continued to keep our listeners connected with state government by airing live coverage of events including the Governor's State of the State address, the Secretary of State Debate, and midterm election night results.

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Key Services

In 2022, IPR provided these vital services:

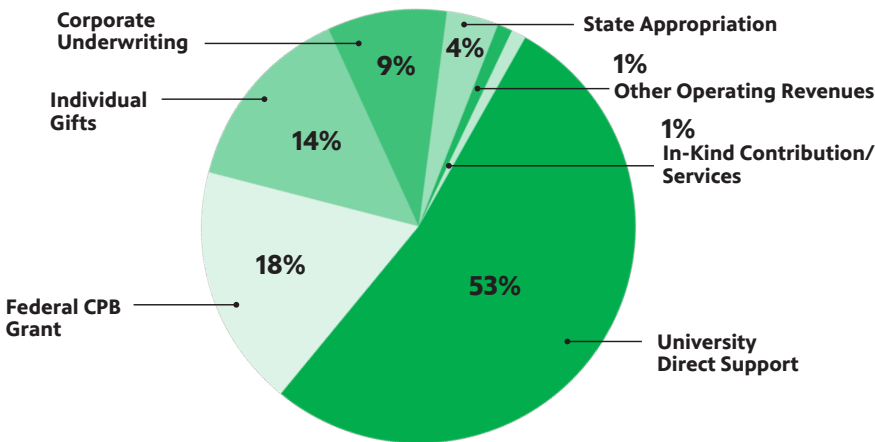
- Launched the **Public Media Accelerator (PMX)**, offering highly-motivated Ball State students the opportunity to work at Ball State PBS and IPR while exploring potential careers in public media.
- Partnered with **local organizations** like the League of Women Voters and Indiana Legal Services to convene conversations about important topics such as voter education and renter’s rights and provide resources to community members.
- Continued to **connect our listeners with state government** by airing live coverage of events including the Governor’s State of the State address, the Secretary of State Debate, and midterm election night results.

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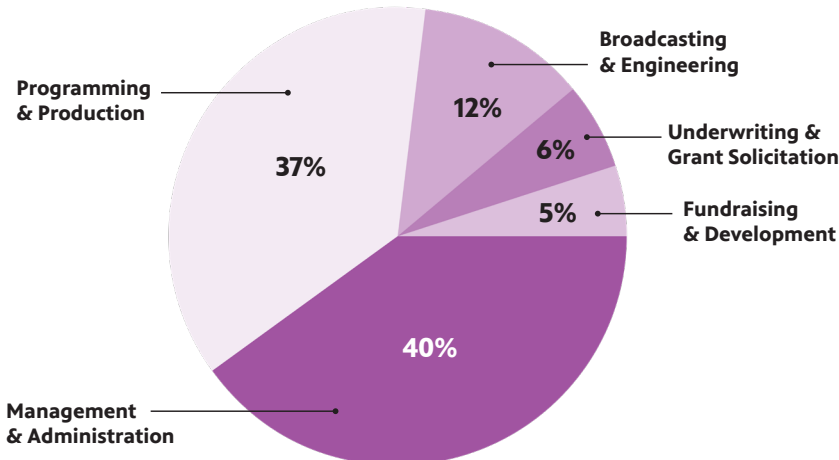
IPR News

Every weekday, IPR airs approximately 30 minutes of live and recorded newscast content during drive time. **“All Things Considered”** host and reporter Stephanie Wiechmann continued to cover regional, county, and municipal issues through her reporting in an area with few local news outlets. State and regional news partnership with Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations (IPBS) continues to support IPR’s diverse news sources.

WHERE THE \$ COMES FROM



WHERE THE \$ GOES



Friends of the station

Here are some of the arts and culture and non-profit organizations with whom IPR partnered with last year:

- Anderson Symphony Orchestra
- Arts Place, Inc.
- Ball State Dept of Theatre & Dance
- Ball State School of Art Ball State School of Music
- Ball State TCOM Dept
- Civic Hall Performing Arts Center
- David Owsley Museum of Art
- Honeywell Center
- Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations
- Mainstage Theatre Anderson
- Marion Philharmonic Orchestra
- Masterworks Chorale
- Muncie Arts and Culture Council
- Muncie Civic Theatre
- Muncie Symphony Orchestra
- Orchestra Indiana
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra



Ball State University

“Local journalism is so important as a way of educating community members and holding those in power responsible for their decisions. I think IPR and Ball State PBS are vital to our local democracy and therefore the health of community.”

—IPR Member



INDIANA PUBLIC RADIO

Ball State University

Muncie, IN 47306

indianapublicradio.org

Ball State Public Media is a service of the College of Communication, Information, and Media at Ball State University.



BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Communication, Information, and Media

LOCAL PROGRAMMING

192 HOURS

IPR aired 192 hours of distinctive local programming in the following categories:

