

Grantee Information

ID	5212
Grantee Name	KEXP-FM
City	Seattle
State	WA
Licensee Type	Community

6.1 Telling Public Radio's Story

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The purpose of this section is to give you an opportunity to tell us and your community about the activities you have engaged in to address community needs by outlining key services provided, and the local value and impact of those services. Please report on activities that occurred in Fiscal Year 2023. Responses may be shared with Congress or the public. Grantees are required to post a copy of this report (Section 6 only) to their website no later than ten (10) days after the submission of the report to CPB. CPB recommends placing the report in an "About" or similar section on your website. **This section had previously been optional. Response to this section of the SAS is now mandatory.**

Joint licensee Grantees that have filed a 2023 Local Content and Services Report as part of meeting the requirement for TV CSG funding may state they have done so in the corresponding questions below, so long as all of the questions below were addressed as they relate to radio operations in such report. You must include the date the report was submitted to CPB along with the TV Grantee ID under which it was submitted.

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1. Describe your overall goals and approach to address identified community issues, needs, and interests through your station's vital local services, such as multiplatform long and short-form content, digital and in-person engagement, education services, community information, partnership support, and other activities, and audiences you reached or new audiences you engaged.

KEXP-FM Seattle is a public radio station that serves passionate music lovers and artists by producing high-quality - and highly engaging - music discovery experiences using world class curators and a world class distribution and interaction platform. KEXP-FM is owned and operated by Friends of KEXP, an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit arts organization. Friends of KEXP's platform is constantly shifting and evolving to bring new opportunities for music and discovery, and includes a broadcast service, online programming, online editorial coverage, performance archives and podcasts, online video content, mobile device services, and in-person music engagement events and concerts at our facility at Seattle Center and throughout the Pacific Northwest. Through this programming, KEXP serves a broad range of content to music lovers, and gives voice to emerging Pacific Northwest artists, providing an outlet for artistic expression and an opportunity to connect with audiences and music industry professionals. This exposure can assist these artists in growing their careers and inspires ongoing creativity. Our aim is to delight and engage music lovers from the Pacific Northwest and all over the world with quality music experiences they can't find anywhere else. Our work inspires curiosity, creativity and connection within and among people and we believe this leads to a more creative, diverse, and bonded community. And we believe that when people are inspired by discovering music, they will engage others in music discovery.

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2. Describe key initiatives and the variety of partners with whom you collaborated, including other public media outlets, community nonprofits, government agencies, educational institutions, the business community, teachers and parents, etc. This will illustrate the many ways you're connected across the community and engaged with other important organizations in the area.

In addition to providing broadcast and online programming that brings community members together around a shared passion for music and discovery, KEXP strives to create opportunities for enrichment and personal, face-to-face interaction throughout the local area. These efforts were expanded to include virtual events such as panel conversations among DJs and staff. KEXP has continued participation in campaigns that benefit artists and the music industry, participation with basic needs and food drives, engagement with government and educational partners, and shared fundraising efforts with other local public radio stations. In 2023, key partnerships initiatives included: KEXP's Music Heals program featured three special programming days in 2023, offered in partnership with the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (now Fred Hutch Cancer Center) and other community groups, with all-day programming dedicated to experiences with cancer, mental health, death and dying, and grief. In addition to delivering on-air and online content, these programs contained in-person event activation. Live music can be cathartic, and it can connect music lovers more deeply with each other and with the artists they appreciate. Live Music Heals is both an opportunity for listeners to share stories about live music experiences that were meaningful to them, as well as a focus on the music venues that have struggled so much as a result of the pandemic, and what listeners can do to support them. The City of Seattle and King County have been consistent partners for KEXP. KEXP's Afternoon Show Producer and Programming Education Manager, Sharlese Metcalf, and Afternoon Show Host and Director of Editorial, Larry Mizell Jr are Seattle Music Commission Emeriti. In those roles, they participated in the City initiatives boosting the music industry, including efforts to raise awareness of the economic impact of music and advocate for policies and issues that affect the local music industry, as well as provided leadership in advancing the City's equity and inclusion agenda. Andrea Friedman, Community Engagement Manager, Events is a member of the Seattle Music Commission and previously served on the Youth & Community Committee. A number of KEXP staff are a part of the organization Seattle Arts & Culture Anti-Racism (SACA). As a tenant of the Seattle Center (a part of the Seattle Parks system), KEXP works closely with the city to offer free and low-cost programming for Center visitors, including over 100 free live performances attended by over 7,000 visitors throughout the year. KEXP continued the Youth DJs Program, an education program instructing youth in the art and technology of music curation and radio presentation. The goal of the KEXP Youth DJs program is to provide confidence skills, identify career goals, build positive thinking, learn curation, technical and programmatic knowledge and training through the art of broadcast journalism and DJing. The Teaching Artist Program connects schools, teachers, educators, and non-profits with DJs, musicians, audio engineers, and videographers to augment and supplement in-school curriculum around music, media creation, and history. KEXP's paid internship program develops and equips emerging leaders interested in furthering their careers in music with experience in programming, production, events and software development. 6-month, 15 hour a week internships pay \$22 an hour. The 2023 cohort was 5 interns.

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3. What impact did your key initiatives and partnerships have in your community? Describe any known measurable impact, such as increased awareness, learning or understanding about particular issues. Describe indicators of success, such as connecting people to needed resources or strengthening conversational ties across diverse neighborhoods. Did a partner see an increase in requests for related resources? Please include direct feedback from a partner(s) or from a person(s) served.

KEXP's community initiatives generate two kinds of measurable impact for local residents. First, there is the easily quantifiable measure of amount of dollars/goods raised for partner nonprofit service providers, and the number of people attending each event or performances. Second, KEXP measures the impact of broadcast programming through standard industry metrics, such as Nielsen and Tapscan, as well as a periodic listener surveys, which takes into account how our programming and partnerships contribute to the community. We also receive feedback through more informal means, such as the compilation of qualitative reviews from programming participants and audiences. Throughout the year, listeners provided feedback to DJs and other staff via email and web comment forms. Examples include: KEXP dedicates the space to play the breadth and depth of genres and sounds from around the world. – Evan, California KEXP has been a source of solace, celebration, and community during the changes that come with the experience of being alive. We all want to feel connected, so thank you for recognizing this and reflecting it in programming. – Elizabeth, Rainier Valley I've loved how KEXP is always evolving in order to build a thriving community. This year, it's been great to see the thoughtful new shows that bring a wide range of new music and voices into listeners' lives. – Erin, Seattle KEXP is not only a source of great music, both new and old, but also a source of so much inspiration, acceptance, and above all, LOVE. Love for music, for community, for the planet, for the people we've lost and the people we still have with us. Every day is better with KEXP. – Austin, Burlington, WA I really appreciate how committed you are to diversifying your lineup and keeping the tunes fresh. I have discovered so much stuff that there is NO WAY I would have found otherwise. I love putting on KEXP while we're working in class; it's been a great way to connect with kids over new and cool music. – Ryan, Silver Spring, MD

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4. Please describe any efforts (e.g. programming, production, engagement activities) you have made to investigate and/or meet the needs of minority and other diverse audiences (including, but not limited to, new immigrants, people for whom English is a second language and illiterate adults) during Fiscal Year 2023, and any plans you have made to meet the needs of these audiences during Fiscal Year 2024. If you regularly broadcast in a language other than English, please note the language broadcast.

To KEXP, championing music and discovery often means giving airtime to artists that might not otherwise be heard. This can mean opportunity for emerging local and touring acts in a wide range of genres, from folk and punk to electronic and hip-hop. KEXP's curatorial staff prides itself on presenting a "wide and deep" range of voices which also advances KEXP's commitment to becoming an anti-racist organization, and making the station's music programming stronger overall.. KEXP has a wide range of DJ voices, experiences, and expertise in its radio programming, for example: • The Continent, a specialty show focused on Afrobeats music, hosted by Seattle DJ and musician Lace Cadence • Mechanical Breakdown, a show focusing on dark wave and post-punk, hosted by long-time KEXP DJ Sharlese Metcalf • KEXP's modern Latin music program, El Sonido, co-hosted by Albina Cabrera, the station's full time Latin American Content Producer As we did in 2023, KEXP plans a number of efforts to highlight music created by minority communities and communities of color in 2024, including our programming honoring Black History Month with Black History is Now, Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month, Aqui y Ahora (Here and Now); Without Borders a month dedicated to amplifying the voices, stories, and music of the communities of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latin and Latinx diaspora around the world, and Indigenous Peoples' Day . In 2023, KEXP debuted a new podcast series, 50 Years of Hip Hop. Hosted by KEXP's Larry Mizell Jr weekly episodes celebrated the anniversary by highlighting a different year of its history each week. Jumping around the timeline from 1973 to today, episodes included personal reflections, iconic tracks and albums, and conversations around the genesis of the culture. El Sonido: Cancioneros the first season of KEXP's newest podcast series, El Sonido, and the first produced fully in Spanish debuted in In May 2023. Listeners could access the podcast with English subtitles on KEXP's YouTube channel. Host Albina Cabrera guided a musical tour through the personal songbooks of key artists in modern alternative, popular and independent Latin music to explore what it means to be from a place and what Latin music is today.

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5. Please assess the impact that your CPB funding had on your ability to serve your community. What were you able to do with your grant that you wouldn't be able to do if you didn't receive it?

KEXP's entry into the CPB's Radio Community Service Grant funding program beginning in Fall 2014 has given our organization the resources to continue to operate as an independent, non-commercial source of music discovery across a range of genres. This support is especially crucial in maintaining KEXP's ability to produce and distribute high-quality original content. The content and experiences produced with the support of CPB have allowed KEXP to serve the community in a number of ways. Through CPB's support of our in-studio performances, we have given emerging local artists an opportunity to connect with their earliest audiences, and have introduced touring artists to new fans locally. This exposure encourages the local music community to flourish, and provides music lovers with countless opportunities to discover new music to become passionate about. By supporting KEXP's efforts to introduce the new and unexpected, the CPB has helped to enrich the cultural lives of all who encounter KEXP's programming. Support from the CPB has also allowed KEXP to create and distribute a live performance program, "Live on KEXP" a stand-alone podcast as well as an on-air program. Live on KEXP features live performances captured in the KEXP studio, along with editorial content about the featured band and their music. Now with over 275 episodes , Live on KEXP is distributed free of charge to radio stations around the world, primarily college and university-run public radio stations. Over two dozen stations air this content on a regular basis, and the network that has aired Live on KEXP includes over 60 stations in the United States , as well as stations in Canada, United Kingdom, Israel, and Australia . Live on KEXP as a podcast has seen large increases in listenership over the past year.

Comments

Question Comment

No Comments for this section