



2021 Local Content and Service Report



"PBS has been, for years, a mainstay of my television viewing. PBS is the one stalwart beacon of hope we can all look toward, secure in the knowledge that all is not forgotten. There still remains a sliver of dignity, integrity, class and good taste that manages to float above the quicksand which seems to drag the preponderance of our society into a swamp of degradation and despair. At no time in modern history have Americans needed an institution that is so trusted. If it weren't for PBS, I wouldn't even need a TV set!" Ron Oetting, New Haven

PBS Fort Wayne engages our community through content and collaborations that educate, inform, inspire, and entertain.



PBS FW is a valued service in northeast Indiana:

PBS FW is a critical, free, educational, cultural, and civic broadcast service, available to any home or classroom, regardless of income, education, gender, ethnic background, or age.

For every dollar of federal funding received, PBS FW raises nearly three additional dollars locally, providing a 265% return on the federal investment for a most successful and effective public-private partnership.

With community governance, an area advisory board, local management and regional support, PBS FW is responsive, relational and relevant to its service area.

PBS FW educates, engages across northeast Indiana:

PBS FW reaches more than 800,000 persons in northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio with children's educational programming 24-hours a day on air, online and over the PBS FW mobile app - plus local and national arts, sciences, humanities, local public affairs and national/international news.

For more than 45 years, PBS FW remains the only public television station in northeast Indiana and the region's only locally owned and operated full-power television service.

As a trusted community partner, PBS FW is a primary focal point for the advancement of arts and culture, history, education, and quality of life in our community.

In 2021, PBS FW provided a variety of key local services:

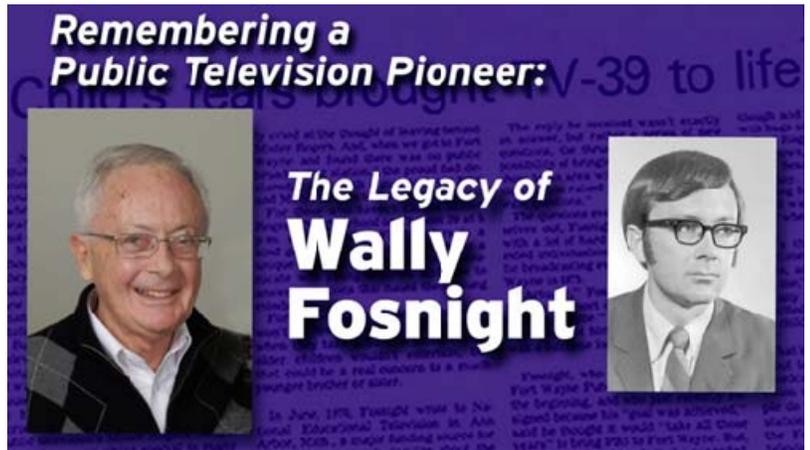
Produced engaging local programming, Mon.- Fri. at 7:30 pm, on community developments, health and wellness, regional arts, state government, and public affairs.

Expanded local livestreaming on PBS.org, YouTube TV, DIRECTV Stream, the PBS App, the PBS FW App, and PBSFortWayne.org.

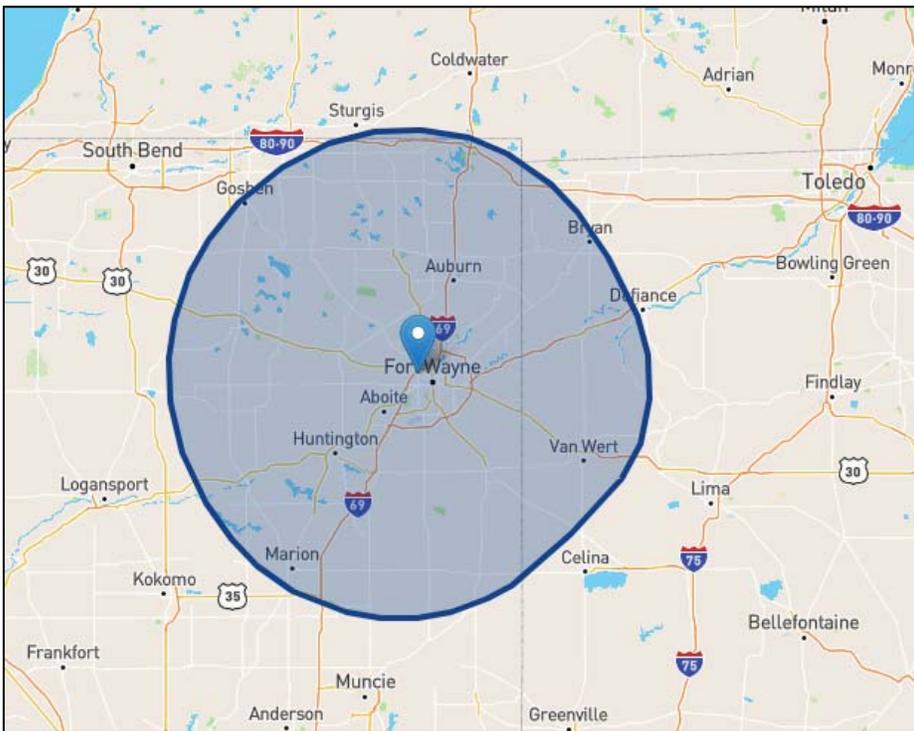
Implemented closed captioning that allows the station the capacity to provide closed captions for all locally produced programs, documentaries, and special broadcasts.

Renewed the partnership with Allen County Public Library's Audio Reading Service to stream its programs on an audio channel of 39.4 to serve those with visual difficulties.

PBS Fort Wayne exists thanks to a visionary father's commitment to fulfill the educational needs of his little girl. When Wally Fosnight moved to Fort Wayne from Pittsburgh in 1969, he soon discovered that his young daughter's favorite program, *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*, could not be seen locally. Motivated to address this void, Mr. Fosnight networked, wrote letters, and made calls - and the more he researched, the more he was convinced that public television was not only possible here, but needed here. Mr. Fosnight and others guided the efforts and the engineering to bring public television to the region in 1975. Wally Fosnight would serve as the first chairman of the station's Board of Directors.



For more than 45 years, PBS FW has been the only public television station in northeast Indiana and is today the only locally owned and operated full power television service in the region. Digital technology provides PBS FW the ability to align its mission with programming across five broadcast channels that reach more than 800,000 persons in 11 northeast Indiana and three northwest Ohio counties. This highly rural area includes 6.8% of persons who live below the poverty level.



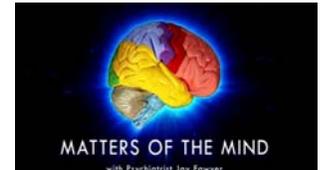
In addition to PBS FW's main channel (39-1), viewers can receive PBS FW Kids (39-2), a 24-hour free service dedicated to quality, non-commercial, educational children's programming. Beyond broadcast, PBS FW Kids streams live online for children and families to watch on a variety of devices over the free PBS FW mobile app. PBS FW Create (39-3) offers a national schedule of "How To..." and travel programs. PBS FW Explore (39-4) airs local and Indiana-centric programs, international news, public affairs, and the best of PBS. PBS FW WX (39.5) provides continuous near real-time (within 30-seconds) National Weather Service Doppler radar, weather warnings and NWS audio. With a broadcast signal of more than 350,000-watts, and the expansion of program delivery via livestreaming on digital platforms, PBS FW is well positioned to serve its region more than ever before.

Fort Wayne Public Television, Inc. (PBS Fort Wayne) is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, tax-exempt organization chartered by the state of Indiana and licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to operate as a non-commercial, educational, public television station. The station operates as a community licensee and is governed by a 20-member board of directors. A 12-member community advisory board meets quarterly. PBS FW is staffed by 18 full time and 15 part-time employees. PBS FW is a member of the Public Broadcasting Service, the Indiana Broadcasters Association, Greater Fort Wayne, and Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations. To its varied audiences, PBS FW is a free, over the air broadcast service, including closed captioning broadcasts for the hearing impaired, descriptive video service for the sight impaired, and carriage of Allen County Public Library's Audio Reading service on a secondary channel of PBS FW Explore (39-4).

Empowering Local Connections

Meeting the broad range of needs and interests of the community is the heart of PBS FW's mission to *engage our community through content and collaborations that educate, inform, inspire, and entertain*. PBS FW provides a schedule of locally produced public affairs, health, cultural, and community information programs Monday-Friday at 7:30 pm. Nearly all of these are live studio broadcasts allowing viewers to call in with questions for the guests:

Matters of the Mind - hosted by Dr. Jay Fawver, Mondays at 7:30pm. This program offers viewers the chance to interact with one of this area's most respected mental health experts.



HealthLine - since January 1996, this informative half-hour has featured local experts from diverse resources and backgrounds to put these developments and trends into a local perspective. *HealthLine* keeps viewers informed of the latest developments in the worlds of medicine, health and wellness.

LIFE Ahead - on Wednesdays at 7:30pm, serves as a weekly call-in resource devoted to offering an interactive news and discussion forum for adults. Hosted by veteran broadcaster Sandy Thomson.



arts IN focus - the region's only locally produced weekly regional arts magazine airs Thursdays at 7:30 pm. The program introduces viewers to area artists, and cultural organizations. The show is the one of the most watched offerings online.

PrimeTime - a live weekly news, analysis, and cultural update forum, *PrimeTime* airs Fridays at 7:30pm. The show provides viewers access to the region's state lawmakers during sessions of the Indiana General Assembly.



Beyond this weekly lineup are initiatives that arise from area partnerships that are realized through the production of local educational, informational, and cultural programs. In 2021, this work included:

- In June, officials with the City of Fort Wayne participated in a live presentation via PBS FW in a competition to be named an All-America City by the National Civic League.
- The broadcast collegiate premiere in October of *The Invention of Morel*, an opera by Stewart Copeland, featuring students from Manchester University's Music Department and the Manchester Symphony Orchestra
- In December, the station produced its 10th annual live broadcast of the Purdue Fort Wayne School of Music's *Home for the Holidays* concert.
- Throughout the year, work continued on a production documenting the history of the state developmental center in Fort Wayne. The project's completion and broadcast are expected in 2022.
- In September, PBS Fort Wayne initiated a collaboration with Fort Wayne Ballet to produce and broadcast a performance featuring choreography by the late award-winning dancer Edward Stierle, who became the youngest principal member of the Joffrey Ballet. As part of its 65th anniversary celebration, Fort Wayne Ballet is working with the trust of Edward Stierle to perform three of his works on a single night in late September/October of 2022 – the first time such an event has been staged – for a program to be produced and distributed to all PBS stations by PBS Fort Wayne.

Providing an International Spotlight for Young Musicians



In 2020-2021, the station's production truck headed out to The Clyde to record music performed by the Fort Wayne Philharmonic's Youth Symphony Orchestra. With no audience permitted due to the pandemic, the young musicians filled the floor of the venue for COVID-19 distancing protocol. In May 2021, the station received a note of thanks from Troy Webdell, Director of Youth Orchestras for the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, which referenced "a few unexpected international honors/highlights that are directly associated with your work on our concerts this season:

"In November 2020, we celebrated Beethoven's 250th birthday with a concert that has attracted the attention of the official Beethoven@250 Festival in Vienna, Austria. The Youth Orchestra has been invited to perform at the Musikverein in Vienna, Austria for the 2022 Beethoven Festival. Unfortunately, it is the same dates as our rescheduled New York/Carnegie Hall trip, so we will investigate the possibility of Vienna in the future! Our performance of "The Moon Represents My Heart" was included in an international cloud concert that was premiered in China and the USA. So far, it has had over 3 million views! (most of the views are from China!).

"Our ONE EARTH concert, featuring Zorba's Dance from Zorba the Greek, will be included in the official Mikis Theodorakis Archive in Athens Greece. Mikis Theodorakis will turn 96 this July and is one of the most well-known composers throughout Greece and Europe.



"Thanks again for helping to create something meaningful in a time when our entire world was in chaos. I know it meant a lot to the youth orchestra kids and parents as well. I look forward to more collaborations in the future!"

Photo above(top) shows Engineering Manager Matt Kyle providing final checks on video quality before recordings. Below, Associate Producer Jonathon Nuthals (l) and Operations Manager Todd Grimes (r) look over multiple camera positions for the recordings. Ten PBS FW staff members were positioned behind the cameras and in the truck to record these local cultural events.

Connecting Education Resources with Children and Families

Celebrating Creativity in Story and Pictures

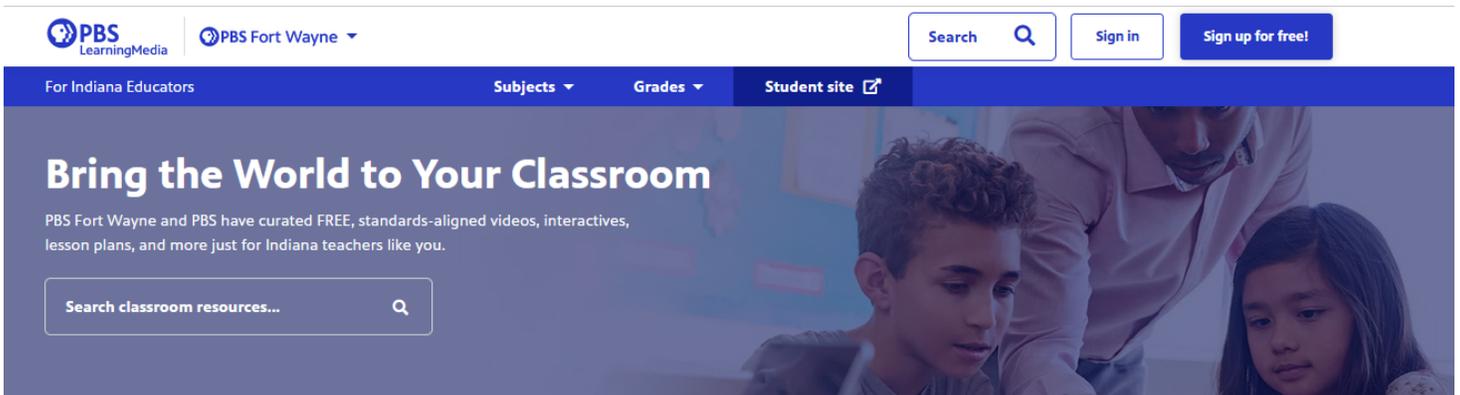
The PBS KIDS GO! Writers Contest encourages the advancement of children’s reading skills through hands-on, active learning. This contest, open to children in grades K-3 in communities across the PBS Fort Wayne viewing area, nurtures the power of creating stories and illustrations through the submission of original works. The station partners with educators, schools, and libraries across the region. More than 170 entries were received in 2021. PBS FW has continued to offer this annual program even after the initial 15-year national run of the “Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest.” The top stories are announced in May with a ceremony for the winners and their families. The winning stories are produced by the station for broadcast on PBS FW’s main channel (39-1) and PBSFW KIDS (39-2). Winning stories can be viewed [here](#) or online at pbsfortwayne.org.



Supporting New Parents via Bright by Text



Going into 2021, PBS Fort Wayne teamed up with Early Childhood Alliance to participate in Bright by Text, a national program offering free quality information by text to parents. Bright by Text puts expert tips, games, and child development information directly into the hands of parents and caregivers, with content focused on pre-birth through age eight. The service includes valued content from PBS. Bright by Text includes messages about events and resources specific to the Fort Wayne community, including PBS Fort Wayne. To sign up, parents and caregivers with children under five can text the word “Child” to 274448.



Providing Learning Assistance Amid the Pandemic

As the pandemic continued throughout 2021, PBS FW and all eight Indiana’s public television stations continued their partnership with the Indiana Department of Education (DOE) to offer at-home learning experiences for students K-12. The station published its PBS Kids programming schedules that connect on-air educational programs to corresponding curriculum focusing on math, science, literacy, and other subjects. (PBS Fort Wayne broadcasts more than 220 hours of high-quality educational children’s programming each week.) An At Home Learning website was created at pbsfortwayne.org to assist teachers and families. The site links visitors to PBS LearningMedia, a free source of educational tools organized by grade-level, subject area, and learning objectives that align with Indiana curriculum standards.



PBS Fort Wayne is the People's Choice!

Thanks to the support of visitors to the Embassy Theatre's Festival of Trees, the station won 1st Place honors for "Big Bird's Magic of the Season." Our 2021 tree was designed by PBS Fort Wayne Traffic Coordinator Lisa Rysiawa with assembly assistance by Membership Operations Manager Erin Arnold – a wonderful and whimsical entry!

The People's Choice award is a very gratifying community recognition of the creativity and collaborative work that goes into producing something very special. PBS Fort Wayne enters 2022 with thanks and appreciation for the singular role you play, in community with others, to support creative and collaborative local and national programming for our region, and beyond! Your contributions and comments help us provide something very special on air, online, on demand and on multiple platforms. It is your partnership that makes quality programming possible.

May what we do together educate, inspire, inform, and entertain in ways that PBS Fort Wayne would continue to be "the people's choice" in the new year! Here's to a happy and healthy 2022!