2019 WOSU Public Media Diversity Programming Review

WOSU Mission – To Engage, Inform and Inspire Our Diverse Community
WOSU curates programming from PBS and NPR, which reflect the complexity and diversity of our country and our world. It also produces such programming focused on central Ohio. WOSU local programming won six regional Emmy Awards in 2019. This is a sampling of the relevant programming provided by WOSU Public Media.

WOSU Radio Programming

All Sides with Ann Fisher is a two-hour local news talk daily program aired on 89.7 NPR News and the WOSU Ohio TV channel. It’s also available on the WOSU app and online at wosu.org. Here are programmatic examples of one-hour programs related to diversity (a sampling):

1/10/19 - Columbus officials update a law that bans landlords from evicting renters in retaliation for complaints. Today, a program on Columbus housing and how the city does and doesn’t protect tenants.
GUESTS: Tristan Navera, Staff reporter, Columbus Business First (P); Michelle Heritage, Executive Director of the Community Shelter Board (S); Tinnissha Wilkerson, Columbus resident involved in legal dispute with landlord (S); Dimitri Hatzifotinos, Attorney, Willis Law Firm, LLC, submitted testimony on behalf of the Columbus Apartment Association (P); Greg Brown, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, National Apartment Association (P)

1/11/19 - Ohio’s occupational licensing policies and whether they hamper women and minorities.
GUESTS: Julie Graber, CEO, GenderEQA (P); Iris Cooper, owner of “JustAskIris!” an entrepreneurial coaching firm, Marketing Professor at Columbus State Community College, former Director of the Ohio Division of Entrepreneurship and Small Business (S); Greg Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst, Buckeye Institute (S)

1/21/19 - The connection between public spaces, art and social justice
GUESTS: Tom Worley, Washington Gladden Social Justice Park; Melissa Currie, assistant professor landscape architecture Texas Tech; Sharbreon Plummer, artist, PhD student, OSU.

1/23/19 - Columbus Homeless Count - families are staying longer in shelters because of Affordable housing crisis and homelessness in the suburbs.
GUESTS: Michelle Heritage, Executive Director, Community Shelter Board (S); Kelan Craig, Director of Planning, Preservation and Development, Ohio Housing Finance Agency (S); Hannah Jones, Deputy Director of Community Development, City of Columbus (S)
1/24/19 - The relationship between minorities and low-income communities and access to public transportation.
**Guests:** Matt Martin, writer and producer of Free to Ride (S); Jacky Grimshaw, Vice President of Government Affairs at Center for Neighborhood Technology (P); Patrick Harris, Director, Government Affairs and Special Projects, Central Ohio Transit Authority (S); Kafui Attoh, Associate Professor, City University of New York Labor and Urban Studies (P)

1/29/19 - The Supreme Court allowed President Trump’s transgender military ban to go through. What this means for the military and LGBT rights.
**GUESTS:** Robert Barnes, Supreme Court Reporter, The Washington Post (P); Marc Spindelman, law professor, The Ohio State University (S); Shannon Minter, Legal Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights (P); Thomas Spoehr, retired Army lieutenant general, Director of the Center for National Defense, The Heritage Foundation (P)

2/12/19 - How the nation has advanced – or not – when it comes to the employment of people who are disabled.
**GUESTS:** Mary Dale Walters, senior vice president of Strategic Communications, Allsup Employment Services (P); Scott Lissner, OSU’s Americans With Disabilities Act Coordinator, board member of the Center for Disability Empowerment (S); Kari Jones, President & CEO, Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (S)

2/19/19 - Black History is American History
**GUESTS:** Hasan Kwame Jeffries, African-American History Professor, Ohio State University; Marilyn K. Howard, American History and African American History Professor, Columbus State and Keisha Gibbs, Columbus Library’s Martin Luther King Branch.

3/11/19 Women in Male Dominated Careers
**GUESTS:** Kitty McConnell French, Communications and Outreach Specialist, The Affiliated Construction Trades of Ohio; Jenny Hauck, Marketing Coordinator, Wolf’s Ridge Brewing; Mary Tebeau, Executive Director, Builders Exchange of Central Ohio and Stacie Alexander, apprentice for Pipefitters.

4/3/19 Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has proposed budget cuts to programs meant to help students and others, including special education. Special education and how it's funded
**GUESTS:** Matthew Stieb, New York Magazine Intelligencer; Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ohio Department of Education; Terri Hessler, Professor, Ohio State University and Marc Egan, Director of NEA Government Relations.

4/24/19 U.S. Census and Citizenship Question
**Guests:** Hansi Lo Wang, NPR National Correspondent; Angela Plummer, Executive Director, Community Refugee & Immigration Services; Daniel Tokaji, Ohio State University Law Professor and Ilya Shapiro, Director of the Robert A. Levy Center for Constitutional Studies, CATO Institute, Washington, D.C.
6/13/19 Intersex and Transgender Athletes
GUESTS: Erin Strout, journalist and contributing editor for Runner’s World; Vikki Krane, Professor Bowling Green State University, studies gender, sex and athletes and Joanna Harper, transgender athlete, researcher and medical physicist at Providence Portland Medical Center.

6/24/19 How wealth in the African American community has been suppressed and what’s being done to teach financial literacy to the youth.
GUESTS: Lawrence Funderburke, certified financial planner, former NBA player (S); Rhonda Gaines, 700 Credit score program, Columbus Urban League (S); Kimber Moehrman, Trinity Catholic teacher (P); Nan J. Morrison, President of Council for Economic Education (P) Calvin Schermerhorn, Professor of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies, Arizona State.

8/22/19 The History and Legacy of American Slavery
GUESTS: Jevon Collins, Performing Arts Director, The King Arts Complex and Hasan Kwame Jeffries, Associate Professor, African-American History, Ohio State University.

8/27/19 Racial Bias in Policing
GUESTS: Bethany Bruner, reporter, The Columbus Dispatch; Andrea Mortbitzer, Risk Manager for Community Employee Safety at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and member of Franklin County Community Safety Advisory Committee; Lorie Fridell, Professor of Criminology at the University of South Florida, developed and owns Fair and Impartial Policing and Jason Pappas, Vice President of the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police.

8/28/19 The history of woman suffrage through the lens of movements for racial and gender justice and the enduring importance of voting access for those groups
GUESTS: Carol Lasser, retired professor of history, Oberlin College (S); Treva Lindsey, Professor of African American Women’s History, Ohio State University (S); Jen Miller, Director, League of Women Voters Ohio (S);

10/7/19 The history of representation and major themes in black entertainment, as seen in tv shows and limited series.
Guests: Eric Deggans NPR TV Critic (P); David Moody, retention and advising specialist, Lake Erie College, author of “The Complexity and Progression of Black Representation in Film and Television” (P); Cristyn Steward, founder of the Columbus Black International Film Festival (S);

10/21/19 11am: The History of LGBTQ Stories
GUESTS: David Vargo, Director of “The Turkey Men,” ; Douglas Whaley, Playwrite, Professor Emeritus of Law, Ohio State University, Co-founder of Stonewall Columbus; Marc Stein, Historian, Professor of History, San Francisco State University, Author of the new book “The Stonewall Riots: A Documentary History” and Erin Upchurch, Executive Director, Kaleidoscope Youth Center.
2019 WOSU Radio News Coverage

WOSU’s radio news station, 89.7 NPR News, was named the best news operation in the state of Ohio by the Associated Press in 2019. Here is just a sampling of some of the news coverage of the central Ohio region as it relates to reflecting the diversity of our region.

News Stories in 2019 (sampling):
Gov. DeWine names most diverse cabinet in Ohio’s history
Former mayor remembers iconic African American Columbus Community leader
Developers, government officials try to increase affordable housing
Advocates call on Ohio to increase minimum wage.
Prominent developer proposed fare-free COTA
Franklin Courts see shortage of translators in some languages
Beauty Store owner recruits natural style stylists for African American clients
Amid investigation, Columbus disbands Vice unit.
Groups attempt to help black women obtain quality neo-natal care
Developers encourage apartments as solution to affordable housing shortage
Central Ohio Hispanic leader dies
Law enforcement offers security lessons for local mosques, synagogues
Immigrants make up a large percentage of central Ohio physicians
Refugees seek mental health treatment
Interpreters help immigrants with medical appointments
Activists call for dropping charges against woman connected with police shooting
Activists urge lawmakers to add sexual orientation to anti-discrimination law
State Senate adds funds for pregnancy crisis centers
Alternative weekly newspaper to stop print edition
Immigrant owned grocery serves inner-city community
Veggie van seeks to provide fresh vegetables to food deserts
Somali restaurant expands to North Market
Report finds Columbus Police use force more frequently against people of
Local group addresses the state of education for minorities
Ohio attorney general backs case about LGBT rights
City intensifies effort to fight violent crime in three Columbus neighborhoods
Columbus tries to meet needs of growing Nepali population
Immigrants vulnerable to scams – Part 1 & Part 2
Slate of progressive candidates challenge incumbents on Columbus City
Reynoldsburg elects first Nepali-Bhutanese official in America
Local DACA recipients worry about looming court ruling
Police chief finalists meet at public forum
Lawmakers propose new law to protect religious freedom
Native American mound site candidate for UN recognition
Study shows black drivers stopped by police more than white drivers
Classical 101

Classical 101 is the only classical music service for central Ohio. The station elevates the performing arts in the community through deep partnerships with the symphony, chamber orchestra, opera company, and other groups. Classical 101 saw an incredible increase in readership of its popular blogs developed by the local on-air station hosts. Here are some examples of that work, all available at the Classical 101 website: Hear ‘Portraits of Langston’ on Classical 101; Grammy-Nominated Work Tells Story of Northward Migration; New Recording by UCelli Honors ‘Four Women’ Who Fought for Social Justice; First Recording by Woman African-American Composer; Fisk University Organists to Perform Concert of Black Composers; Jessye Norman: An Appreciation; and more.

Hear 'Portraits of Langston' On Classical 101

Earlier this year, Classical 101 and the Columbus Museum of Art collaborated for Portraits of Langston, a program featuring music by composers Valerie Coleman and William Grant Still. This weekend, Classical 101 is broadcasting some highlights from that concert.

Fisk University Organist Anthony Williams To Perform Concert of Music By Black Composers

It’s an unjustly neglected repertoire of music, likely obscured, at least in part, because of racism. Friday evening, one organist will bring some of this music to light in a concert benefiting a project to update the church building of one of Columbus’ oldest African American congregations.
StoryCorps Columbus

StoryCorps’s mission is to preserve and share humanity’s stories in order to build connections between people. Columbus and WOSU hosted the national StoryCorps project in July 2019 and captured over 120 local stories throughout the month. WOSU was provided the interviews to create a local version of the popular NPR series – StoryCorps Columbus. Starting in the fall of 2019, WOSU aired the stories on 89.7 NPR News and online at wosu.org. Many of these emotional, heartfelt stories provide an insight to the growing diversity of Columbus. A few examples of people telling their unique stories:

- Luster Singleton, who identifies as a non-binary, found a mentor in Ginger Boyd when they met at a gathering of transgender people of color in Columbus.

- Sahra Abdullahi and Ahmed Abukar were born in Somalia and now live in Columbus. Both have had a difficult time navigating American culture.

- Jhuma Nash Achayra recalled his journey from Bhutan to the U.S. during the Bhutanese refugee crisis.

- Preservationists recall the success of saving two buildings on the Near East Side of Columbus that represent the history of African American culture in Columbus.

- Jim Obergefell sued the state of Ohio and that led to the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage.
2019 WOSU Television Local Broadcasts

WOSU’s weekly television programming includes *Columbus Neighborhoods* and *Broad & High*.

*Columbus Neighborhoods* explores the rich diversity of our community through cultural and historical programming. The series has won multiple Emmy Awards. WOSU has aired a dozen major documentaries about the neighborhoods of Columbus over the past decade. In 2019, WOSU produced a series of 26 half-hour programs as part of its magazine series that included multiple segments. The series has two diverse hosts – Charlene Brown and Javier Sanchez. Here is a sampling of programming in 2019:

**1/24/19 – Uncovering the History of Milo-Grogan**
This 30-minute Columbus Neighborhoods special won a regional Emmy Award and includes historians, Fort Hayes students, and local activists researching this old Columbus neighborhood, uncovering photographs, maps, and stories.

**2/14/19 Impact Community Action Profile**
WOSU’s Leticia Wiggins interviews Leland Bass from *Impact Community Action*, about how skilled trades are also essential education and help individuals out of poverty.

**2/28/19 The American Addition Story**
Only three miles from downtown Columbus, American Addition was one of Central Ohio’s first African-American communities. But for decades it was neglected and impoverished. See how community members worked with the city and Homeport to make changes for the better.

**3/11/19 Men of Courage**
How a mentoring program for African American youth hopes to make a difference. We talk with program director Derrick Lewis.
7/11/19  St. Stephen’s Community House
A Linden area settlement house strives to empower the physical, social, and emotional needs of the Greater Linden Community.

7/11/19 Linden – Past and Present
Join WOSU Public Media producer and former Linden resident George Levert and current resident and activist DeLena Scales as they reminisce about Linden both past and present. From Friday Night Lights to possible gentrification to measures to deal with infant mortality, Linden has seen challenges, celebrations and is poised for change.

11/21/19 Soul Food, Veggie Style
At Willowbeez Soulveg, locals create favorite soul food dishes that even a vegetarian can love. WOSU’s George Levert brings us the story of this healthy popup soul-food catering company.

Every year for nearly a decade, WOSU has broadcast a special forum focused on Rosa Parks:

2/10/19 Rosa Parks: The Power of One, panel discussion and public forum. Guests: Hassan Jeffries, Associate Professor of History OSU, who has written about the civil rights movement; Ginette Rhodes, president of OSU Chapter of the NAACP; and Andrea Davis Pinkney, a Bestselling author.
**Broad & High**
WOSU produces a weekly arts and culture 30-minute series called **Broad & High**, which profiles working artists and their work in central Ohio. This is a sampling of some of the artistic profiles in 2019.

1/10/19  The Flavor’d Flow Hip Hop Dance Studio  
1/10/19  T Wong Music Performance  
1/24/19  The OSU Frank Hale Art Collection (photo)  
1/31/19  Mark Lomax Profile  
2/7/19  Hamilton Poetry Slam  
2/7/19  Watu Utungo Music Performance  
2/14/19  Blacksmith Erin Simmons  
4/4/19  Poetry Out Loud  
4/11/19  VSA Art Challenge  
4/11/19  Music Therapy  
4/18/19  Parker Lewis Music Performance  
4/18/19  Mohamed Esmaty  
4/18/19  Celeste Malvar Stewart  
5/2/19  Adam Hernandez  
5/2/19  Maija Miettinen  
5/2/19  Honey & Blue Music Performance (photo)  
5/9/19  Tyshaw Freeman (photo)  
5/9/19  Olde Frnds Music Performance  
5/16/19  Mojo Flo Music Performance  
5/23/19  Southside Food Mural  
6/27/19  The Harlem Renaissance  
6/27/19  Ghana Funeral Coffins  
7/11/19  Sara Abou Rashed  
7/25/19  Tibetan Monks  

And more…
American Graduate

WOSU received a federal grant to produce programming for the American Graduate project, which is designed to focus on alternative career paths for the next generation of workers. The project in 2019 led to several documentaries, public forums, radio specials and a podcast series called Rivet.

9/05/2019   The Career Path Less Taken. Half-hour documentary about post-secondary career pathways including four-year degrees, two-year degrees, and certification featured diverse students.

9/05/2019   Forging Your Path: Your Career and How to Get There. Half-hour documentary about career pathways included diverse students.

10/20/2019   Hire Thinking. Diverse students and employers participate in an hour-long discussion about career pathways.

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05/06/2019   Spring Ohio State Commencement broadcast and live webstream.  
Speaker: Fareed Zakaria, host of Fareed Zakaria GPS (Global Public Square) for CNN Worldwide and columnist for The Washington Post

08/06/2019   Summer Ohio State Commencement broadcast and live webstream.  
Speaker: Rattan Lal, Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science in the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

In the Know: Every year for nearly four decades, WOSU has produced and aired 26 episodes of In The Know, a half-hour high school quiz show featuring student contestants from public, charter, parochial, urban, and suburban schools.
**Dialogue**
The interactive public forum series *Dialogue* is produced in partnership with the Glenn College of Public Affairs. The series, which is broadcast periodically, focuses on the major issues facing our state and nation. Topics in 2019 included *Basic Income for All – And Other Ways to Close the Income Gap* with guests including Dr. Darrick Hamilton, executive director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity.

**WOSU Classroom**
WOSU serves the community in many ways beyond broadcast. We work with pre-school caregivers across central Ohio, providing support and strategies for developing literacy, math, and science skills for young children. Through its WOSU Classroom division, WOSU also works with K-12 teachers on technology training, especially focused on the Columbus City Schools.