There are more than 191,000 of you who listen to KCUR weekly.
Dear Friends,

I started to write “Dear Listeners,” but decided to use friends instead. Whenever I meet someone who listens to KCUR, it’s as though we become instant friends (or at least comfortable acquaintances) eager to learn more about each other. We share similar interests, values and beliefs. We talk about our latest driveway moments, exchange listening experiences and gossip about NPR reporters and hosts.

There are more than 190,000 of you who listen to KCUR weekly.

That’s a lot of friends.

The KCUR “Year in Review” is (as the name implies) the station’s 2008 yearbook, of sorts. It’s our chance to brag about our accomplishments over the last year – a recap of our news awards with highlights from our local talk shows and our local music shows.

We also want to take this opportunity to again thank our underwriters and major donors who help us continue our mission of providing our listeners with high-quality programming and services (look for a list of underwriters and major donors on the following pages). We think our listeners should know where our money comes from – and where it goes – so you’ll find revenue and expense information included here as well.

Here, too, you will find a list of KCUR’s Community Partners in 2008. This list includes many other non-profits working to provide events and services that contribute to the well-being of our community. Of particular note, a station partnership that I especially enjoyed came in the fall when KCUR partnered with Wayside Waifs for their “Strutt with Your Mutt” dog walk in Brookside. My reason for highlighting this event is twofold: (1) The walk was great fun and successfully raised funds for a remarkable local animal shelter and (2) I wanted to have an excuse to include a favorite picture of my dog – Walker, Texas Ranger – in costume and “working” the KCUR booth.

We would be remiss if we didn’t also take this opportunity to again thank our many volunteers who generously give their time to the station and who help to make our services possible. For the Year in Review, we’re turning the spotlight on KCUR’s 2008 “Volunteer of the Year” award recipients.

In conclusion, KCUR appreciates all of our listeners who let us know – through their comments and financial contributions – that public radio is significant. We believe that public service begets public support.

Thank you.

Patty Cahill
General Manager
KCUR Radio

P.S.
After perusing these pages, we encourage you to spend some time enjoying our terrific website www.kcur.org and the myriad of stories and features to be found here. If you have any comments or questions about KCUR, please send me an email at patty@kcur.org.
Our Mission Statement

KCUR Radio will provide a premier non-commercial program service which allows people in our urban community and listening area to better their lives and tomorrow’s communities. It is the responsibility of KCUR to provide an audience of significant size with a program service that informs, entertains and enriches the community.
Awards

Local news coverage is a cornerstone of KCUR programming. Awards presented in 2008 to the KCUR news team include the following:

Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards

Hard News Feature: “Mining Town” (Frank Morris)

Feature Reporting: “Explosives Camp” (Frank Morris)

Investigative Reporting: “Corruption and Neglect: KCUR Investigates Missouri’s Mental Health System” (Kelley Weiss)

Writing: “Corruption and Neglect: KCUR Investigates Missouri’s Mental Health System” (Kelley Weiss)

Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards

Feature Story (silver): “Mining Town” (Frank Morris)

Feature Story (bronze): “Explosives Camp” (Frank Morris)

Breaking News Coverage (gold): “Greensburg Tornado” (Frank Morris)

Kansas City Association of Black Journalists

Radio Magazine Award: Body of work for “KC Currents” (Susan B. Wilson, Sylvia Maria Gross and Alex Smith)

Radio Community News Award: “The Walt Bodine Show” (Walt Bodine, Suzanne Hogan and Gina Kaufman)

Radio Feature Award: “Acting Beyond Prejudice” (Steve Walker)

Radio Feature Award: Body of work for “Up to Date” (Steve Kraske, Stephen Steigman, Danie Alexander and Kara Caldwell)

Missouri Public Health Association

Radio Media Award for health coverage (nominated by the Kansas City, Missouri, Health Department): Elana Gordon

Radio Media Award for health coverage (nominated by the Clay County Health Department): “The Walt Bodine Show”
The mission statement of KCUR promises to provide a service that will not only better the lives of today's listeners but will also improve the welfare of tomorrow’s communities. No matter the issue, we take the promise to inform and improve the lives of our listeners seriously.

Of primary importance for many listeners in 2008 was the November election. Throughout the year, both local and national news coverage provided our listeners with the state of politics in America. While the campaign for the presidency frequently took center stage, additional broadcasts examined the profusion of other important campaigns and key issues facing the nation and the world.

We hope you found KCUR to be a vital source of information as we reported on the campaigns, studied the candidates and examined the issues. All the better if our coverage spurred you to take action as a citizen and voter. Ultimately, we hope you were provided with the guidance you needed to make a series of informed decisions – decisions that will benefit the people of today and tomorrow.

Below we've listed a few highlights of our local news coverage from one compelling year in politics.

**Election 2008**

The presumptive Democratic Party presidential nominee and Illinois Senator Barack Obama spoke to a large crowd gathered at the Truman Memorial Building Auditorium in Independence.

**KCUR News – July 17**

**John McCain’s Town Hall in Kansas City**

Arizona Sen. John McCain held a town hall meeting at Union Station. The presumptive Republican presidential nominee addressed approximately 800 people in a forum at Union Station’s Sprint Celebration Plaza.

**KCUR News, Laura Spencer – August 1**

**Art the Vote**

Last fall, more than 70 billboards across Missouri began displaying artworks for an initiative called Art the Vote. “Art the Vote is a grassroots, unprecedented effort to get young people, young voters and members of the creative community to get engaged in the election,” said Sue McCollum, project organizer.

**Up to Date – August 5**

**Why Non-Voters Skip the Polls**

Even with an historic election staring them in the face, there were many citizens planning not to vote. Jason Whitlock discussed his non-voting stance. The program also looked at non-voters as a group to see who makes up this subset, whether their numbers are on the rise and the impact of their decision not to participate.

**KC Currents – September 22**

**Mary Frances Berry on Civil Rights and the Election**

Lawyer and activist Mary Frances Berry was first appointed chair of the U.S Civil Rights Commission by President Carter. She was fired by President Reagan for criticizing his civil rights position and was later reinstated by President Clinton. KCUR’s Susan Wilson spoke to Dr. Berry about civil rights and the election.

**KC Currents – October 2**

**Meeting Payrolls Concern McCain Boosters**

To a woman who ran a small business in Blue Springs, John McCain offered hope that the economy could turn around and bring customers back to her family gymnasium. The Presidential candidate spoke at the Truman Library.

**KC Currents – October 6**

**Michelle Obama Pushes New Voter Registration**

More than 3,000 people gathered at 18th and Vine to hear first lady hopeful Michelle Obama. The rally was the Obama campaign’s first big event in the heart of Kansas City’s historically black community.

**KC Currents – October 6**

**Teacher’s Union Weighs in on State and National Races**

The country’s largest teacher’s union, the National Education Association, wanted to ensure public education was not overlooked by the candidates. KCUR’s Susan Wilson talked with National Vice President Lily Eskelsen and Missouri Chapter President Chris Guinther about the issues important to teachers.
Up to Date – October 9
KCUR Hosts Missouri Gubernatorial Debate
Up to Date hosted the second of four debates between Democratic Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon and his Republican opponent U.S. Rep. Kenny Hulshof of Columbia.

Up to Date – October 30
Political Pundits from the KC Library
A live broadcast from the Plaza Branch of the Kansas City Public Library with KMBC-TV’s Michael Mahoney, KU political science professor Burdett Loomis, and Kansas City Star reporter Dave Helling who analyzed, predicted and pondered many of the issues voters would face.

Election Day – November 4
The big day arrived, and the KCUR news team reported throughout the city. Complementing the numerous local and national broadcasts, reporters crossed the region, tracking election related rallies, speeches, protests and assemblies. Here’s a sampling of their coverage:

- Emergency services on standby
- Absentee voting in Missouri
- Absentee voting in Johnson County
- Election snafu
- Frustration at the polls
- Long lines
- Misleading robocalls
- Election night photos
- Election Results

island or under a rock to deny the power of the Internet. Certainly, the 2008 election provided plenty of material for web devotees with sites committed to every political preference. For every “serious” outlet, there were numerous sites created to counter the gravity of the situation by offering parody and satire.

With so many sites from which to choose, we are grateful so many of you spent time online with KCUR. Listed below are just a few KCUR web and new media highlights — features that were either launched or improved in 2008. Some features were added to specifically enhance election coverage while others were added to improve the overall web experience.

KCUR news and entertainment is now available in multiple ways — over the air, through online streaming and mobilecasting, on MP3 players, through desktop news readers, on Google or Yahoo personal pages, via feeds to blogs and websites, through email, on Facebook pages, via Twitter feeds and by Carrier pigeon (just kidding about the pigeon).

We are excited to connect with listeners through our online discussion boards, weekly eNewsletters and through the many new online interactive tools.

During the months leading up to the elections we offered interactive maps, calculators, “Ask Your Lawmaker” widgets and many more ways to help listeners navigate through all of the surrounding questions and issues. Recently, we’ve added even more online tools to enhance listener’s understanding of the economy.

KCUR reports are regularly updated on our website with audio slideshows. In addition, listeners can access hundreds of hours of archived talk shows, music shows, and news coverage at www.kcur.org.
Up To Date finished its sixth year in fine form. The program was presented the Gold Award for Talk Radio by the Kansas City Press Club – Society of Professional Journalists. Also in 2008, the Kansas City Association of Black Journalists recognized Up to Date with their Radio Feature Award for the program’s body of work.

The program brings pressing issues, local and national, to the table including politics, economics, planning and design, history, and entertainment – topics that have an impact on the lives of the Greater Kansas City region.

Up to Date airs Monday through Friday from 11 AM to Noon. Up to Date is hosted by Steve Kraske, a political correspondent for The Kansas City Star, and is produced by Stephen Steigman.

Below are listed ten of Up to Date’s best shows from 2008:

The Iowa Caucus Day 1 – January 2
In the first of two live broadcasts from Des Moines Steve Kraske explored how the Iowa caucus functions and why it’s so important to candidates.

The Iowa Caucus Day 2 – January 3
In the second of two live broadcasts from Des Moines, Steve Kraske talked with political pundits about why this race is too close to call, what placing in the top three means, and what tactics campaigns have used to convince Iowans to participate at one of the more than 1,700 caucus sites across the state.

Missouri Gubernatorial Debate – October 9
Up to Date turned its focus to the Missouri governor’s race as it hosted the second of four debates between Democratic Jay Nixon and his Republican opponent Kenny Hulshof.

David Sedaris – June 12
The frequent This American Life humor essayist discussed the absurdity of death, his career as a playwright, and his newest tome of laugh-out-loud stories When You Are Engulfed in Flames.

Kathleen Turner – May 23
Kathleen Turner talked about her new memoir Send Yourself Roses: Thoughts on My Life, Love, and Leading Roles, her work with the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and a career which has covered film, stage and television.

Modern Burial Practices and Alternatives – August 18
A discussion about the relatively short history of today’s traditional service and the growing trend toward home viewings and green burials.

Political Pundits at the Kansas City Public Library – October 30
In a live broadcast from the Plaza Branch of the Kansas City Public Library, Steve Kraske’s Political Pundits analyzed, predicted, and pondered many of the issues voters would face on the November 4 ballot and answered questions from audience members.

Resource Challenges of Public Defenders – November 19
A discussion of the challenges faced by public defenders including caseload, hours, pay and a budget that hasn’t significantly increased in years to help meet these challenges.
KMBC Gender and Age Discrimination Lawsuit – November 25
Christine Craft discussed her case against KMBC 25 years ago and compared it to a current case brought against the station by three of its female news staff. Dennis Egan, Craft’s former attorney was on hand to represent the current plaintiffs’ case. Communications professor Sherlynn Howard-Byrd from Alcorn State University discussed her study, Gender and Age Discrimination Among Women in the Broadcast News Industry.

Public radio commentator and author Sandra Tsing Loh – December 10
Loh talked about her new book *Mother on Fire: A True Motherf%#$@ Story About Parenting*, her experiences in finding a suitable school for her four-year old daughter and the major realization it brought her. Also discussed: Loh’s career as a writer, performer and commentator.

Joe Miller, former communications director for Mayor Mark Funkhouse – December 11
Miller discussed his deposition in the Ruth Bates case, revealed that he acted unethically during his service in the mayor’s office and talked about the impact the mayor’s wife Gloria Squitiro had at City Hall.

Listen to all of the above programs (and more) while visiting our website. Hundreds of hours of archived Up to Date programming can be found at [http://www.kcur.org/UTDarchive.html](http://www.kcur.org/UTDarchive.html).
The Walt Bodine Show

The Walt Bodine Show specializes in a wide variety of topics, interviews, and live listener call-ins. Gina Kaufmann who worked previously at The Pitch and for the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art joined Walt as the show’s new co-host in March. Intern Jamie Medlicott, originally from the UK, came aboard in November. Both Gina and Jamie are happy to be the newest members of “Team Bodine.”

Awards for The Walt Bodine Show in 2008 included the Radio Community News Award from the Kansas City Association of Black Journalists, and the silver award in talk radio from The Kansas City Press Club.

The program airs Monday through Friday from 10 to 11 AM, and is produced by Suzanne Hogan.

Below are listed ten of The Walt Bodine Show’s best broadcasts in 2008:

**Presidential Debates – October 16**
Gabe Cook, Director of DEBATE – Kansas City; Kelley Winfrey, Assistant Debate Coach for the University of Kansas; and Christopher Bernard, Johnson County Community College Debate Team offered thoughts on the presidential and vice presidential debates.

**Tattoos – September 3**
As part of our Odd Job Series we had a conversation with a Tattoo Artist and a Tattoo Remover. We talked about why people get tattoos, get them removed and we also learned about the history of tattoos in different cultures.

**Tale of Two Bottoms – July 23**
We looked at the history and future of Kansas City’s East and West Bottoms. We learned about community driven efforts to boost these areas and discussed the challenges and perks of living and working in the Bottoms.

**Listener Line on the Smoking Ban – March 19**
Callers discussed Question 3 on the Kansas City, Missouri ballot – a proposed Smoking Ban for public places that excluded gaming areas.

**Curbside Recycling – June 24**
We looked at Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri curbside recycling programs. We talked with KCK’s Program Coordinator Kirk Suther, Public Information Officer Dennis Gagnon from KCMO’s Public Works and UMKC professor and waste management expert, Syed Hasan.

**Kansas City History Series: Harry S. Truman – August 20**
As the nation prepared for the Republican and Democratic National Conventions, we looked 60 years back to the nomination of Harry S. Truman at the Democratic Convention of 1948.

**Distance Running – July 2**
We looked into a different kind of distance running as a growing number of people are moving off the pavement and onto the trails.

**Inter-racial Relationships – May 19**
In light of the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival production of Othello, we discussed how inter-racial relationships have been depicted in literature and film.

**Psychology of Fear – October 30**
Whether you’re scared of heights, spiders or the dark, fear can control how we interact with the world. We heard about the psychological factors and the folkloric origins of why we fear what we fear.

**Cougars in Kansas – April 14**
Are there cougars in Kansas? We separated the fact from fiction on contested cougar sightings throughout the state.

Listen to all of the above programs (and more) while visiting our website. Hundreds of hours of archived programming of The Walt Bodine Show can be found at http://www.kcur.org/WaltBodineArchive.html.
KC Currents amplifies the voices and stories of cultural and ethnic communities in and around Kansas City. Susan B. Wilson became the program’s new co-host in 2008. Since her arrival she has asked smart, persistent questions with everyone from artists to small business advisors to the mayor. Assistant producer Alex Smith has also contributed a number of interviews with local jazz musicians.

In the news program category, KC Currents received the Kansas City Press Club’s Heart of America silver award in 2008. The Kansas City Association of Black Journalists also recognized KC Currents with their radio magazine award for the program’s body of work, and a certificate of merit for sports reporting was awarded the program from the Radio-Television News Directors Association.

The program airs Sundays from 5 to 6 PM with a repeat on Mondays from 8 to 9 PM, and is produced by Sylvia Maria Gross.

Below are listed ten of KC Currents’ best broadcasts from 2008:

**Gee’s Bend Quilters – April 20**
Susan B. Wilson interviewed two quilt makers from Gee’s Bend, Alabama, whose work became known around the world as masterpieces of modern art.

**Jazz Drummer Brandon Draper – March 2**
Local drummer Brandon Draper told KC Currents’ Alex Smith about his passion for Middle Eastern rhythms and the furious beats of electronica.

**Dress Codes at the Power and Light – March 30**
Sylvia Maria Gross visited the new Power & Light district to ask happy hour patrons their thoughts about the extensive dress codes for the area.

**Collecting Signatures to End Affirmative Action – May 4**
A petition was circulated for a ballot measure to end affirmative action in Missouri. Opponents said people were signing petitions without understanding the issue. Just before the deadline, KC Currents’ went to a strip mall to watch a petition circulator at work.

**Working After Prison – June 15**
Sylvia Maria Gross visited businesses in the Kansas City area that make a point of hiring ex-offenders - from barbering to metal work, Olathe to 18th and Vine.

**Buddhism in Prison – June 15**
Alex Smith spoke with a Buddhist lama who visits prisons, and to a former white supremacist who discovered compassion in Buddhism.

**Master Horse Trainer Tom Bass – September 28**
The American Royal named a new equine warm-up arena for legendary trainer Tom Bass, who founded the first major horse show in Kansas City. Sylvia Maria Gross talked about Bass’ legacy, and local riding enthusiasts who are trying to interest young African Americans in riding.

**Quindaro, Kansas – February 10**
A new play commissioned by UMKC’s Theatre Department re-creates the history of Quindaro – a community in present-day Kansas City, Kansas which was founded by runaway slaves, white abolitionists and Native Americans.

**Singer-Songwriter Krystle Warren – September 14**
Singer-songwriter Krystle Warren talked with Susan B. Wilson about developing her voice, her travels, signing on to a new record label in Paris and about moving back to Kansas City, her hometown.

**Paying to Burn the Prairie – April 20**
Sylvia Maria Gross visited farmer Jan Jantzen in Emporia, who has tourists pay to help him with his yearly prairie burn.

Listen to all of the above programs (and more) while visiting our website. Hundreds of hours of archived KC Currents programming can be found at http://www.kcur.org/kccurrentsarchives.html.
Renew Your Membership

Since 1957, KCUR 89.3 FM has provided its audience with a service that informs, entertains and enriches the community. Each time you turn to 89.3 FM you benefit from the non-commercial programming provided by National Public Radio, Public Radio International and KCUR’s own local shows.

You are a vital part of the KCUR community. Donations from our listeners provide a large part of our operating budget each year. With your support, KCUR is here every day with the quality programming on which you have come to rely.

Whether you’re a new member to KCUR or a longtime donor renewing your membership, there are several easy ways to donate. You may:

1. **GO TO OUR SECURE ONLINE PLEDGE FORM AT WWW.KCUR.ORG.**

2. **CALL KCUR AT 816-235-1551 AND ASK FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT.** Request monthly billings by mail, pay with credit card or arrange for electronic funds transfers.

3. **MAIL YOUR GIFT TO THE STATION.** Make your check payable to KCUR and address your donation to KCUR Membership, 4825 Troost Ave., Suite 202, Kansas City, MO 64110.

Thank you again for your support and for listening to KCUR. If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact our membership department.
Program Descriptions

**All Things Considered** – This news magazine delivers in-depth reporting, news, analysis, commentary, interviews and occasional quirks.

**American Routes** – A broad range of American music — blues, jazz, gospel, soul, old-time country, zydeco, Tejano, roots rock and pop, avant-garde and classical.

**BBC News Overnight** – An international perspective on the news from the BBC. If news breaks, the BBC has the story and we bring it to you live.

**Car Talk** – Tom and Ray Magliozzi, affectionately known as “Click and Clack” offer advice for car problems with a large dose of humor thrown in.

**Classical** – Classical and romantic repertories illuminated by well-researched, insightful information.

**Cyprus Avenue** – An intellectual study of the many facets of rock ‘n roll, with Bill Shapiro.

**The Fish Fry** – A party in your living room as Chuck Haddock serves up the best in blues, R&B, soul, jumpin’ jive and zydeco.

**Fresh Air** – Interviews with cultural figures and newsmakers, as well as reviews and commentaries about movies, books, television, music, theater, art and lifestyles. Hosted by Terry Gross.

**Fresh Air Weekend** – Some of the best episodes from recent weekday broadcasts.

**Hearts of Space** – Quiet, contemporary space music, electronics, classical adagios, soft jazz, and meditation. Hosted by Stephen Hill.

**Here and Now** – News, information and cultural features, hosted by Robin Young.

**Humankind** – Stories of remarkable people dedicated to humanizing our society.

**Kansas City Symphony Hour** – A weekly one-hour broadcast featuring the live concert performances of the Kansas City Symphony.

**KC Currents** – Amplifies the voices and stories of cultural and ethnic communities in and around Kansas City.

**Marketplace** – A weekday wrap-up of the world’s business news with feature pieces that are important to your business, personal finances and life.

**Marketplace Morning Report** – A 10-minute update on the world’s stock markets, with features about business and personal finance.

**Morning Edition** – Five hours of in-depth news reports, features and commentary from NPR and KCUR.

**New Letters on the Air** – A literary review of some of the foremost contemporary writers who talk about and read from their works. Hosted by Angela Elam.

**Night Tides** – Renée Blanche presents a mellow blend of new age and innovative music forms.

**On the Media** – Decodes what we hear and see in the media every day. Hosted by veteran journalists Brooke Gladstone and Bob Garfield.

**Only a Game** – A magazine that appeals to sports fans and non-fans alike. It’s characterized by exceptional writing and friendly presentations.

**A Prairie Home Companion** – Two hours of wit, wisdom, skits, music and the news from Lake Wobegon. Hosted by Garrison Keillor.

**Studio 360** – A richly textured and emotionally resonant look at art’s creative influence in everyday life.

**Talk of the Nation** – Intelligent talk on compelling issues and your phone calls are welcome. Hosted by Neal Conan.

**This American Life** – Personal stories about living in America. Some are sad, many are poignant. Hosted by Ira Glass.

**Thistle and Shamrock** – A contemporary and traditional Celtic musical journey. Hosted by Fiona Ritchie.

**Up to Date** – Brings pressing local, national and international issues to the table including politics, planning and design, economics, history, entertainment and social points of view. Hosted by The Kansas City Star’s Steve Kraske.

**Wait Wait … Don’t Tell Me!** – Test your knowledge of the week’s news and have fun playing along with the cast on this fast-paced quiz show.

**The Walt Bodine Show** – A live call-in show exploring a wide variety of provocative issues, topics and personalities. Co-hosted by Gina Kaufmann.

**Weekend All Things Considered** – News magazine that features in-depth reporting, breaking news, analysis, commentary and interviews.


**What’s Up?** – Michael Feldman hosts America’s most off-beat and entertaining radio call-in quiz program, featuring trivia, music and the staccato beat of Feldman’s humor.

**The World** – An evening news magazine — a joint production of the BBC, PRI and others — that features news, arts and culture.
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Fresh Air</td>
<td>All Things Considered</td>
<td>Marketplace</td>
<td>The World</td>
<td>The Fish Fry</td>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fresh Air</td>
<td>All Things Considered</td>
<td>Marketplace</td>
<td>The World</td>
<td>Kansas City Symphony Hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Fresh Air</td>
<td>A Prairie Home Companion</td>
<td>Marketplace</td>
<td>The World</td>
<td>The Fish Fry</td>
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<td>9 p.m.</td>
<td>Fresh Air</td>
<td>All Things Considered</td>
<td>Marketplace</td>
<td>The World</td>
<td>The Fish Fry</td>
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<td>10 p.m.</td>
<td>Fresh Air</td>
<td>All Things Considered</td>
<td>Marketplace</td>
<td>The World</td>
<td>The Fish Fry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midnight</td>
<td>Fresh Air</td>
<td>All Things Considered</td>
<td>Marketplace</td>
<td>The World</td>
<td>The Fish Fry</td>
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Note: The table represents a sample of programming schedule for a specific time slot. The programs listed are hypothetical and may not correspond to any actual broadcast content.
A note from Bill Shapiro, host of Cyprus Avenue

While a good case can be made that any year one writes about in retrospect is a good year, for me 2008 held special significance. It marked 30 years of Cyprus Avenue broadcasts on KCUR making it the longest running locally produced music program not only on KCUR but also in Kansas City.

If ever I’ve engaged in a labor of love, it’s been creating and hosting Cyprus Avenue – it was always my fantasy to be a disc jockey and KCUR has allowed me to live out that fantasy in spades. Music has been my passion since I was 5 years old when I found it on 78 rpm records and AM Radio while America was engaged in World War II. I’ve tracked our history since then through the ever changing music of more than half a century. It’s been a wondrous journey, the last three decades of which I’ve been privileged to share on public radio.

Cyprus Avenue has enabled me to listen to unreleased studio banter between Elvis Presley and Sam Phillips in the Sun Studio control room at 706 Union Avenue in Memphis; to write and publish two books on rock ‘n roll; to create and host a concert series at Kansas City’s historic Folly Theater to preserve that amazing, historic entertainment venue; and, to play James Brown in the art galleries of the Nelson-Atkins Museum.

I know I’m a very lucky man and that I am deeply indebted to the many incredibly loyal listeners who have been KCUR’s most financially supportive audience for decades – I thank you one and all.

Bill Shapiro
Host, Cyprus Avenue

Reflections on another year of Night Tides

Night Tides’ listeners were treated to another year’s worth of eclectic grooves spiced with electronic/space/ambient drone sprinkled with vocalise and world rhythms all laced, of course, with contemplative undertones. Much of the aforementioned were the compositions of new artists aired on the program. What’s even more exciting – two of them are local electronic musicians Steve Brand and Steve Ballard.

On what was probably the hottest night of the summer, mantra vocalist Krishna Das led a Kirtan at Unity Temple on the Plaza. The event was a powerful celebration of Divine love with Krishna Das leading the way. His voice, strong and resonant, filled the sanctuary and catapulted the audience to their feet. Jennifer and Chris of Boulevard Yoga & Healing Arts were the gracious hosts responsible for bringing Krishna Das to Kansas City.

Sincere thanks to Barbara Anderson, owner and director of the yoga studio, Body and Soul Kansas City. Barbara arranged for a concert in the fall with Anton Mizerak and Kim Lorene at the studio. The gentle presence of Anton and Kim promoted a relaxed atmosphere as the audience chanted and played instruments provided by these two fabulous musicians. Photos of the event are posted on our MySpace page at www.myspace.com/nighttideskcur.

To the Night Tides audience, I extend my undying appreciation. Here’s to another successful year made possible with the combined efforts of the artists, promoters, the MySpace page and many others. As always, I hope the program continues to serve as an island in the storm of life; as that special place of refuge where presence of mind, body and spirit can just be. I’ve come this far by the grace of a long list of supporting cast members who helped me through what has been a particularly challenging year.

In gratitude,

Renée Blanche
Host, Night Tides
A Year of Highlights at the Fish Fry

It’s hard to pick one highlight at the Fish Fry this past year when there were so many fun events, programs and interviews. The year began on a bright note when choreographer Donald McKayle stopped by the Fish Fry for a conversation ranging from his early days growing up in Harlem to his latest work “Hey-Hay, Going to Kansas City” commissioned by the Kansas City Ballet. Donald graciously gave me credit for collaborating on the music selections for the ballet which opened in Kansas City then premiered in New York.

The Ground Hog Day celebration at B.B.s Lawnside Barbecue on February 2 was a real hoot. Levee Town rocked the joint all afternoon. The festivities culminated with a rag tag parade around the parking lot. We ended up with eight more weeks of winter, but had a ball with the event. Later that month, we celebrated Mardi Gras with a festive evening of brass bands, New Orleans party music and songs of carnival.

In early April, Walter Coppage, Michael Byars and Kansas City’s “Radio Sweetheart” Linda Sher put the fun in our spring on-air fund drive. The fall on-air membership drive went well considering we were up against Barack Obama and the MU/KU football game. Other special programs followed including our annual Halloween and Christmas shows. We wrapped up the year in fine fashion with a look back at the best of 2008. Over the year, we had a number of wonderful guests including Fast Johnny Ricker, Scottyboy Daniel, Myra Taylor, Carolyn Wonderland, Dan Doran and Bill Lupkin. And it is always a pleasure to have Walter Trout in the house. Special thanks to Michael Byars.

Chuck Haddix
Host, The Fish Fry

These interviews and much more are available in the Fish Fry archives at http://www.kcur.org/FFA Archives.html.
Underwriters
As of December 31, 2008

Aberdeen Village
Actors Theatre of Kansas City
Agenda USA
AHA Dance Theater
American Heartland Theatre
American Humane
American Jazz Museum
American Restaurant
Americans for Fairness
in Lending
Ameristar Casino
Angie's List
Aristocrat Motors
Association of Unity Churches
Assurant Employee Benefits
AT&T
Atchison County
Historical Society
Atlantic Monthly Press
Atonement Lutheran Church
Audio Mart
Baker University
Baltimore Bend Vineyard
Barstow School
Bartlett-West
Bayer Corporation
BB's Lawnside Bar-B-Q
BKD, LLP
Bancability Network of Banks
Bang & Olufsen on the
Country Club Plaza
Beaver Productions
Benton Festival
Birdies
Bloomsday Books
Blok Cancer Foundation
Bo Ling's
Bonterra Catering
Brookside Art Show
Brookside Barkery
Brookside Business Association
Brookside Chiropractic
and Acupuncture
Brookside Farmers Market
Brookside Frontier Math
and Science School
Brown & Dunn, PC
Bud Simpson Photography, Inc.
Ruth Burke and Associates
The Business Journal
C-BIZ
CCO
CFM Distributors
CFR Insurance
Cafe Sebastienne
Californos Restaurant
Carolyn Curry Elbel Memorial
Foundation
Catholic Charities
Central Baptist Theological
Seminary
Central Exchange-Women's
Lyceum
Central Presbyterian Church
Center for Practical Bioethics
Central Exchange
Christenberry Collet
Children's Mercy Hospital
Chipotle Mexican Grill
City Center Square
City in Motion Dance Theater
City Market
City of KC MO
Civic Opera Theater of KC
Collaborative Law Institute
of Missouri
Colonial Church in Prairie Village
Colorado Technical University
Commerce Bank
Community Christian Church
Community of Christ
Community LINC
Communitarian
ComfortCare Homes
Congregation Kol Ami
Conservatory of Music
Contract Furnishings
Coterie Theatre
Country Club Bank
Country Club Christian Church
Crosscurrents/Willow Productions
Crossroads Music Fest
Dalmax
Dement, O'Flaherty & Collier
DIFFA (Design Industries
Foundation Fighting Aids)
Digital Arts Guru
Digital Labrador
Digital Lagoon
Digix Inc.
 Dobies Healthcare Group
Donnelly College
Downtown Council
Dry Basement and Foundation
Systems
Durrie Vision
Dynamic Earth
Energy Star
Episcopal Community Services
Episcopal Diocese of
West Missouri
Ethnic Enrichment Festival
The Family Conservancy
Fasone & Partners
Festival of Faiths
Fiddly Fig Florist
Financial Planning Association
of Greater Kansas City
Fine Arts Chorale
Folly Theater
Friends of Chamber Music
Friendship House/
 Catherine's Place
Fuji Film
Genworth Financial
Ghengis Khan Restaurant Group
Good Samaritan Project
Grace Covenant
Grand Arts
Greater Kansas City Business
Magazine/The Star
Greater Kansas City
Community Foundation
Greater Kansas City Chamber
of Commerce
HCAP International
H.M.S. Beagle
Habitat for Humanity Kansas
City/Habitat ReStore
Halo Foundation
HarmonyNCCJ
Harrah's Foundation
Harriman-Jewell Series
Hawk Student Employment
Heart of America
Shakespeare Festival
Heartland All Species Project
Heartland Men's Chorus
Heartland Renewable
Energy Society
Henry W. Bloch School of
Business and Public
Administration
Hidden Glen Arts Festival
HNTB Corporation
Houlihan's
Hovey Williams
Howerton Insurance Agency
Hudson Home
Humane Society of Greater
Kansas City
IMA Corporation
I saw you at dot com
Intercontinental Hotel
International Relations Council
Irish Festival
Islamic Center of Greater
Kansas City
JCCC Carlsen Center
JCCC Center for Business
and Technology
JCCC Continuing Education
JDRF-Kansas City
James B. Nutter
Japan Festival
Jeffrey Byrne & Associates
Jewell Inc.
Jewish Community Center
Jewish Community Foundation
Jewish Federation of Kansas City
Johnson County
Community College
Johnson County Library
Johnson County Transit
Just Desserts by Gary Bakery
and Pastry Shop
KC Cat Clinic
KC Metropolitan Bar Association
Major Donors
Your membership contributions allow us to bring you stimulating programs of consistent high quality and rich diversity.

The following lists include members who donated $500 or more between July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.

$500-$999

John & Dena Adams
George R. Adams
Randy & Meg Adler
All Care Sweeping
Jean Alley
Jeff & Cathy Alpert
Sheila Ananth
John & Cathy J. Anderson
Dr. & Mrs. Edward Andres
Anonymous Listener
Applebee's International
Keith & Connie Ashcraft
AT&T Incorporated
Julia Atkins
Ramesh Arva
Bud & Jennifer Bacon
Mark B. Bailey
Jesse Bartley
Sarah R. Baum
Cathleen Jane Beck
Donald Beets
Patricia A. Bernal
Carol Blum
Walt Bodine
Andy Fromm & Laurie A. Bomba
Kevin & Karen Bond
Stephen R. & Andrea Bough
Catherine A. Brazeal
John & Mary Jo Brennan
Scott & Michelle Britton-Mehlisch
Karen Brown
Pete B. Browne & Julie Walker-Browne
Bruno's Semi Trailers
Randall D. & Penny Burdge
Philip M. Burger
Michael & Gaeen M. Burgess
Jeff & Merrikey O. Burkey
Kathryn Burlison & Eileen Brewer
Louis C. Burmeister
Fred Burns
Tim Butt
James Byrd
Alan & Barbara Ann Callaway
Lourdes Carvalaj
Brian & Cheryl Casement
Charitable Flex Fund
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Bill & Dorothy F. Curry
Joe & Nora C. Dalton
Barry S. & Pat Daneman
Renee Daniels
James Day
Marshall & Jill Dean
Rick & Barbie Dierks
Steven D. Dietz
Susan Dimick
Carol Ducak
Eileen Duggan
Rex & Kathy L. Elbert
Steve F. Ellis
Eric R. & Beverly O. Elving
Frances E. Emmer
Frank D. & Elaine M. Eppler
Rayla A. Erding
Dana E. Fields
Bradley & Linda M. Finkle
Meg Fishback
Jack Fitzpatrick
Daniel & Candace N. Flanagan
Mark T. & Susanna E. Ford
Jan E. Fortney
Rebecca A. Francis
Mark Frazier
Richard & Kenya Frazier
David J. & Terry Fry
David M. & Carolyn B. Fulk
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William J. Shapiro
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Karen S. Taylor
Steve Taylor
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Robert F. Thompson
Wayne & Diane E. Tompkins
Sherrell H. Tyree
Robert & Kim Van Maren
Mark & Nancy J. Viets
Todd A. & Janice Walline
The Wally Foundation
Christine Walter-Thomas
Rebecca M. Wareham
Michael Webb & Mary
Nell Westbrook
Jeffrey Weidman
Nancy J. Welsh
Richard Weyand & Sarah Taylor
Gerald M. White

Pam Whiting & David Bayard
Felecia Williams
Stephen K. & Mara Williamson
Linda Winter
Peter L. Woodsall
Mary Beth Yates
Christine M. Zalar
Dewey K. Ziegler
Judith Lee Zillner
Zoglin Family Fund
Greer A. Zuberbuhler

Ellen A. Aisenbrey
Suzanne E. Allen
Dr. Lowry K. & Linda Arnold
AT&T Foundation
Gloria J. Bandstra
Peter & Sarah Beren
Bert & Joan M. Berkley
Eliot & Marcia R. Berkley
George Breidenthal
Katie Brust
Marilyn R. Carbonell &
David Weinglass
Cornerstone Foundation
Michael E. Coughlin
Gina M. Danner
Duana M. Dralus
DST Systems, Inc. Advised Fund
Embarq Matching Gifts Program
Ben & Sandra L. Embry
Bob & Susie Evans
Robert Buddemeier &
Daphne Fautin
Kelly A. Gamble
Chad M. Giddings
Ronald W. & Susan L. Goldsmith
Richard C. Green, Jr.
Hallmark Corporate Foundation
Shirley & Barnett
Helzberg Foundation
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Richard E. Mistler
The Morgan Family Foundation
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Hwang-Nan Tsay & I-Tung J. Chang
Elizabeth Wade
Charitable Foundation
David A. & Julie J. Warm
W. Russell & Debbie Welsh
The Westport Fund
Kathy L. Wilcoxon
Jerome P. & Tammy Wood
Scott & Maria Worthington
Rodger & Patricia A. Wright
The Watts Endowment Society: Power for the Future

Hundreds of thousands of people listen to KCUR. Thousands of these listeners support the station with their membership contributions. And a very devoted group of KCUR members are investors in the future.

These investors are the Watts Endowment Society members who own the virtual watts that power KCUR.

KCUR’s signal is broadcast by a 100,000-watt transmitter. These 100,000 watts are the station’s units of power, and our lifeblood. In honor of this, all Watts Endowment Society members purchase a minimum of 10 virtual watts (valued at $100 each). Some members have invested in more than 10 virtual watts, and those who invest in 100 virtual watts or more have the opportunity to create a specially named endowment fund to support KCUR.

Our late friend and community leader, John Dods, was the inspiration behind the Watts Endowment Society. John believed it was necessary to “ensure a strong future for KCUR in our community,” and his devotion to the station inspired others to follow his lead. Together they created an ensemble of passionate public radio patrons.

The Watts Endowment Society members demonstrate their desire to ensure KCUR thrives and serves the generations that follow us – our children and grandchildren. They also get to know the people whose voices you hear on the air, and how the magic of KCUR radio is created.

When you join the Watts Endowment Society, you align yourself with its distinguished members. You share their passion for insightful news programs, intelligent analysis, lively interviews, and surprising entertainment. And you share their commitment to making all this available to the entire community in a non-commercial format.

You can learn more about the Watts Endowment Society and how to help provide more power in KCUR’s future. Visit www.KCUR.org or call Danny Baker, director of development, at 816-235-2861. Join those who are taking their membership commitment to a new level, and are enjoying the benefits.
The Walt Bodine Legacy Guild:

Several years ago, KCUR’s distinguished talk show host gave permission for the station to establish a planned giving program in his name. The Walt Bodine Legacy Guild was created by a lead gift from Mr. Bodine in order to acknowledge and honor our friends who have included KCUR in their estate plans. Anyone who designates a planned gift to KCUR can automatically become a member of The Walt Bodine Legacy Guild.

These days there are many ways to include KCUR as an estate plan beneficiary. Some listeners make a provision in their wills. Others may simply add the station as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy, or their IRA or 401(k) savings plan. Still others purchase Charitable Gift Annuities or create Charitable Reminder Trusts. Some of these methods can provide worthwhile tax advantages for you, and experienced professionals can walk you through them.

The decision to include KCUR in your estate plans will create a wonderful feeling. You will be leaving a legacy, a bequest that will help secure the future of your public radio station while it creates the joy and satisfaction of leaving a legacy that enriches the lives of others for generations to come.

You can learn more about the many ways to make a planned gift that not only helps KCUR, but also benefits you during your lifetime. Please contact Danny Baker, director of development, at 816-235-2861 or send him an e-mail at danny@kcur.org.
In November, KCUR held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Party. As part of the festivities, we were pleased to present two KCUR volunteers with our highest honor. “Volunteer of the Year” awards were given to Mary Hutchison and Joel Whitaker.

JOEL WHITAKER

How long have you volunteered with KCUR?
I was commuting from NYC to KC about 15 years ago, and then settled in KC in 1995 when I landed a job with Sprint. I do not remember a time in KC when I was not doing something for KCUR.

What prompted you to volunteer? What was your first volunteer experience?
NPR had been a part of my life since college. It was an amazing thing I was introduced to and I always wanted to be a part of it. I always wanted to “give back.” KCUR was the perfect fit.

Give us some examples of the volunteer duties you’ve performed.
I have answered phones, been a phone room supervisor, delivered food, entered pledges, been a chauffeur, and, most recently, become an on-air pitcher.

In your view, what has most noticeably changed at the station through the years?
First, the renovations have really made the place more, well, professional. The offices are not ornate by any stretch, but they are better and more effective. Second, KCUR is now a producer of news programming rather than simply a consumer of it from NPR corporate. I grin every time I hear a news report from our local folks on the nationwide broadcast.

What’s a favorite memory of your time spent with KCUR?
Wow, that is a VERY difficult question. I LOVE the phone room. You meet such an incredibly diverse people with a vastly diverse set of experiences and opinions. I also vividly remember two things: being backstage at the last Prairie Home Companion show at Starlight. I was watching from the wings when to my surprise, Garrison paced right past me. It was before his monologue and it almost seemed as though he was working it all out just prior to his performance. Early the next morning, I took the Carolina Chocolate Drops (Garrison’s musical guests) to the airport. They were such nice kids – they slept all the way to the airport!

What do you like best about volunteering here?
The people. From my fellow volunteers to the “wheels” of the station. I have always felt welcome, appreciated and valued as a member of the team. No, valued as a part of the family. I volunteer at two places in KC. One is the zoo where I have been a docent for just over 10 years. There I marry my love of animals to my love of education and knowledge. The second is KCUR, where I marry my love of Kansas City to my love of the people of KCUR.
MARY HUTCHISON

How long have you volunteered with KCUR?
Since 2003.

What prompted you to volunteer? What was your first volunteer experience?
A good friend and volunteer, Julie Green, recruited me. She knew I was a loyal listener and had a background in radio. My first experience was in the phone room.

Give us some examples of the volunteer duties you’ve performed.
Talking with listeners on the phone is still my favorite. I’ve also pitched on the air, worked the Story Corps booth and was a volunteer driver for the Prairie Home Companion crew during their visit.

In your view, what has most noticeably changed at the station through the years?
The staff has been very successful in bringing national programs to town, giving our city positive national exposure. Also, the emphasis on in-depth local news reporting – if it’s a hot topic, you’ll hear about it on KCUR and have the opportunity to talk about it on the air or through their web based discussion boards. Having the programming available through podcasts is convenient – you can listen later if you miss it live.

What’s a favorite memory of your time spent with KCUR?
It’s hard to pick just one. The first time I was on the air pitching, I was pretty nervous. During a segment when the anchor (KCUR program director, Bill Anderson) was pitching, I heard a cell phone ring. I heard it through my headphones so I was pretty sure listeners could hear it as well. Bill, while speaking, took the cell phone out of his pocket, turned it off and put it back – all while making a successful fundraising appeal. I wasn’t so nervous after that experience – even the pros can make a mistake but still smoothly cover it up! Another great memory is working the phone room as a supervisor when we reached $10,000 in pledges in one hour during The Walt Bodine Show. It was crazy-busy the entire time, and very exciting to raise that much money in an hour. Answering the phones during Cyprus Avenue during the pledge drive is also special. You hear from real diehard music lovers who may ultimately only give a few bucks, but you can tell how much they love listening to the show each week and want to show their appreciation in some way.

What do you like best about volunteering here?
The KCUR staff is so appreciative of the volunteers; they treat us very well. They are a dedicated, friendly group of people, and I enjoy getting to know them during the drives. I’ve met some wonderful people – interesting, funny, who talk about current events, politics, local happenings, etc. KCUR is an important community asset, and I’m proud to be a part of it in this small but significant way.
Almost 90 percent of KCUR’s operating budget is funded by the Kansas City area community. This revenue makes possible all the outstanding programming you hear on KCUR and kcur.org, including your favorites from National Public Radio, plus notable local news, health information, business reports, features, music and arts coverage.

During KCUR’s 2008 fiscal year, nearly 9000 members made gifts exceeding $1.25 million to maintain the programs they value.

In addition, community businesses and corporations continued to discover the quality of KCUR programming. Underwriting sales exceeded $1.14 million in fiscal year 2008.

Our thanks to all of you for your generous support.
Listener Comments

We’ve said it before … the staff of KCUR loves to hear from listeners. And whether the expressions are flattering or critical, and whether the messages arrive via phone, e-mail or in person, we hear, read and appreciate every word.

Below are a few notes of appreciation received from some of the many generous people who made online contributions during the fall membership drive.

We offer our sincere thanks to each and every one of you for sharing your message with us.

I listen to KCUR every morning while driving to work, and every evening while driving home. It’s a 45 mile drive each way, but KCUR makes the time worthwhile. Thank you!
— Amy

I'm a college student and can't really afford much. I have never contributed to anything, but you make my day every day! I have learned so much from all of your programs. Thanks for everything you do!
— Gabriela

As newlyweds on a shoestring budget, we can’t really afford much. But we still wanted to do our part in supporting KCUR!
— Rachelle & Nick

I listen at work every day. It really helps overtime go by too. I’m not originally from Kansas City, so Walt Bodine’s show was my first introduction to KCUR. I love the LOCAL programming like Up To Date especially at election time. I also enjoy Morning Edition, Talk of the Nation, Fresh Air, and All Things Considered. KCUR IS THE BEST STATION!
— Laurie

Recently moved to the area from San Diego, CA where we listened to KPBS and were members. Glad to hear the great programs here as well [and] some new ones like Walt - I love his show.
— David

We are a military family that moves every 2-3 years, and we always rely on our local public radio station to help us get acquainted with our new city. We love Walt Bodine, Steve Kraske, and the other KCUR hosts for helping us make Kansas City our new hometown!
— Louise

As a newly retired person, I have discovered the wonderful daytime programming on KCUR/NPR. What a joy!
— Peggy

I've been all over the country listening to NPR where I land, and no other station is nearly as good or informative as KCUR. I feel relieved when I come home to Kansas City that I get to listen to some of the best programming in the country.
— Tim

I have supported a public radio station in every city that I have lived in – including Chicago, St. Louis, Seattle, San Diego. Of course I tune into all the NPR standards, but the local scheduling at KCUR is by far the best I have ever experienced with shows like Up to Date, The Fish Fry and Cyprus Avenue! Keep up the good work and know that no matter what city I go to next I will continue to support this amazing station and be streaming online!
— Cayce
KUDOS TO STEVE KRASKE, TERRY GROSS, SYLVIA MARIA GROSS, & IRA GLASS FOR PRODUCING SOME OF MY FAVORITE PROGRAMS

— Patrick

THE PROGRAMS ON KCUR & NPR KEEP ME ENTERTAINED & INFORMED THROUGHOUT THE DAY

NPR informs me in the morning and connects me to the world on my drive home.

— Jessica

there is always a story that either inspires me to create, ponder, strive or share.

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