

How to Use Category Blocks in the Core Publisher Responsive Theme

The Core Publisher Responsive Theme now includes a new homepage category block that will allow station admins to create a block of content based off of a select category. This feature will allow you to display headlines and teaser copy from specific category content onto your homepage for better promotion and engagement into your site.

Home

Block Factory

36 blocks remaining.

- All Blocks
- Add block
- Settings

Max number of items on home page

30 ↓

Submit

Edit Queues

- Flexi Menu
- Podcasts and RSS Feeds
- Partner Footer
- Auxiliary Links Footer

Choose Block Type ◦

Curated Block

The Curated Block is a block that allows you to choose various layouts and the stories that are contained with them.

Promotional Block

The Promotional Block allows you to promote anything like local events, pledge drives or local programs.

RSS Block

Display headlines from an RSS feed.

Category Block

Use this block to create an NPR news block, a local news block, or a block based on a category such as "Arts" or "Business."

Getting Started

Note: This option is only available for users that are designated as **Station Admin** users.

1. Log into the admin account for your Core Publisher site and click on the **Configure CorePublisher** button in your top gray tool bar.
2. Scroll down to the **Homepage Management** section and click on the **Block Factory** option.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with 'Configure CorePublisher' circled in red. Below it, the 'Homepage Management' section is visible, with 'Block Factory' also circled in red. A red arrow points from the 'Block Factory' link to the 'Add block' option in the 'Block Factory' sidebar on the left.

3. Once you get to the **Block Factory** you will notice a grey Block Factory short cut area on the top left of the page. Select the **Add Block** option.

The screenshot shows the 'Block Factory' page. On the left sidebar, the 'Add block' option is circled in red. The main content area shows a table of existing blocks with columns for Title, Treatment, Author, and Actions.

Title	Treatment	Author	Actions
11 of Us		Beth Messina	Edit Delete Clone Preview
Alternative Live stream		Beth Messina	Edit Delete Clone Preview
Bridgeport Election		jbrown@npr.org	Edit Delete Clone Preview
Connecticut Garden Journal		Ryan Caron King	Edit Delete Clone Preview
Conversations About Cancer, Illness, and Facing Mortality		Beth Messina	Edit Delete Clone Preview

4. On the Add Block page you will need to **Choose Block Type**. Select **Category Block**.

[Home](#)

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5. Next you will **Choose a Treatment** select **Mini River**. The Mini River allows you to display your select category of content as if it were a river of news including a headline, image, teaser text, byline, timestamp, and inline audio.

Choose Treatment ◌

Mini River

Display stories as though they were in the river of news, with headline, image, teaser text, byline, timestamp, and inline audio.



Setting Up Your Block Content

In this section, you can now customize your block content. **Note:** Skip to [Page 6](#), if you would like to find examples and scenarios about how you may want to use this block.

Block Factory

30 blocks remaining.

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- Add block

Max number of items on home page

30

Submit

Edit Queues

- Flexi Menu
- Retrieve and Categorize NPR API Content
- Podcasts and RSS Feeds
- Partner Footer
- Auxiliary Links Footer

Choose "Mini River" Content

Block Title *

 Hide Block Title

Block Content

Local Stories

NPR Stories

Both Local and NPR Stories

To display stories from NPR you need to already have them on your site. [Help me get NPR stories](#)

NPR Content is automatically pulled onto your site for all syndicated programs, as well as a mix of top stories throughout the day. If you want to pull content from the NPR Story API onto your site for one or more categories, create a custom API query for that content. To create a custom API query, go to the [Manage, Retrieve and Categorize NPR API Content](#) admin.

Filter By Category

Number of stories to display

"More News" Button

Let users get more content from this category.

6. Enter a **Block Title**, note this is a required field. Use the check box on the right of the field to "**Hide Block Title**" from appearing on the homepage.
7. Next, you can make the block title a clickable link to any destination you like, by entering a full URL, including "http://", in the "**Make Block Title a link**" field.

Choose "Mini River" Content

Block Title *

 Hide Block Title

8. Now select your **Block Content**.

Block Content

Local Stories

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You have **3** options:

- a. Local Stories – Stories only created by your station editors
- b. *NPR Stories – National top stories only created by NPR editors
- c. Both Local and NPR Stories – A mix of local station stories from a specific category + NPR top stories.

*Note: Please note the helper text around NPR content in grey.

9. Next, you can select the local Category on your site from which the block should pull content.

Filter By Category

No Filter

No Filter

Arts/Culture

Politics

Education

Health

Mental Health

Environment

Business

Sports

News

Let users get more content from this category.

10. Let users get more content from this block with call to action button text. Enter text into the “**More News Button**” field.

"More News" Button

e.g. More News

Let users get more content from this category.

11. Last, click “**Save**” or “**Save & View**”

Save Save & View

12. Finally, don't forget to visit your homepage “Layout” to place the block into a region of your homepage.

Examples

Here are a few examples of how you can use this block to promote content on your homepage.

Scenario 1

I would like to create a **Category Block** with posts from my Arts/Culture category, how do I do this?

1. Under **Block Content**, select the “Local Stories” option
2. In the **Filter By Category** select my Arts/Culture category from the drop down list
3. Customize your “**More News**” button and **Save**.

Scenario 2

I would like to create a **Category Block** with latest stories from NPR, how do I do this?

1. Select the “**NPR Stories**” option under Block Content
2. In the **Filter By Category** leave it set to “No Filter”
3. Customize my “**More News**” button and **Save**.

Scenario 3

I would like to create a **Category Block** with a posts from my local news category from my site combined with latest stories from NPR, how do I do this?

1. Select the “Both” option under **Block Content**
2. In the **Filter By Category** select “News”
3. Customize my “**More News**” button and **Save**.

Scenario 4

I would like to create a **Category Block** with posts from National Education stories created by NPR editors, how do I do this?

1. YOU CANNOT COMPLETE THIS SCENARIO USING JUST THE CATEGORY BLOCK.
2. You must first have a category created in Core Publisher for which you want the NPR Story content to publish
3. Next, go to “**Manage Queues**”
4. Select the “**Retrieve and Categorize NPR Content**” and enter in the appropriate category and Org ID information.
5. You can find instructions on how to use this queue here:
<http://digitalservices.npr.org/post/automatically-publish-mountain-stage-content-core-publisher>.
6. Then you can come back to the **Category Block** and complete the steps on pages 1 – 5.