

broadcast | online | community | events

2025 WYES CONTENT & SERVICES: A YEAR IN REVIEW



FOR 68+ YEARS

WYES has long provided trusted, educational programming that is free and accessible to residents of New Orleans, Southeast Louisiana, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The station has earned a strong reputation for producing award-winning cooking series and historical and cultural documentaries, while also broadcasting nationally recognized PBS and PBS KIDS programming.



WYES PROUDLY SERVES SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA & THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST REGION

Louisiana parishes: Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Terrebonne, Lafourche, Assumption, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Ascension, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Livingston and Washington.

Mississippi counties: Hancock, Harrison and Pearl River



WYES IS YOUR STORYTELLER

Informed Sources...

JEFFERSON PARISH

— BICENTENNIAL —

SPECIAL EDITION OF INFORMED SOURCES COMMEMORATING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF JEFFERSON PARISH

Premiered February 2025

In 1825, Gov. Henry S. Johnson signed legislation creating a new parish for Louisiana. It would be named after the president who championed the Louisiana Purchase, Thomas Jefferson.

Over two centuries, Jefferson Parish (now with a population of more than 418,000) has evolved into a political and economic powerhouse. It includes two distinctive sides, divided by the Mississippi River with suburban-style neighborhoods and several old towns on both the East and West Bank. Plus, there were swamps (once a hideout for pirates) on the southern tip of the west side. No other county or parish in the nation borders a major lake on one side and has barrier islands on the other.

Pictured left to right: geographer and Associate Dean for Research with the Tulane School of Architecture Richard Campanella, business reporter for The Times-Picayune and The New Orleans Advocate Tony McAuley, host Marcia Kavanaugh, producer Errol Laborde and political analyst for WVUE-TV and Professor of Urban Studies and Public Policy at Dillard University Robert Collins.



MORE NEW ORLEANS PARADES FROM THE PAST

Premiered February 2025

In this follow-up to the Emmy-nominated special NEW ORLEANS PARADES FROM THE PAST, Peggy Scott Laborde, Errol Laborde and Arthur Hardy return to feature more rare home movie and archival footage from Carnival krewes including Rex, Zulu, Proteus, Endymion, Bacchus, Thoth, Carrollton, Mid-City, NOMTOC, Argus, Venus and more.

Footage from the past 85 years offers a glimpse at Mardi Gras parades of the past, accompanied by expert Carnival commentary.





Narrated by WWL
radio news and
traffic anchor
Courtney P.

**WYES-TV'S NEWEST NATIONAL COOKING SERIES
CELEBRATES THE BOUNTY OF SOUTHEAST
LOUISIANA AND RAISES AWARENESS ABOUT
COASTAL RESTORATION**

Premiered April 2025

The 13-part national cooking series LOUISIANA COASTAL COOKING presents sustainable fare from chefs and home cooks who share recipes that capture the unique flavor of the Mississippi River Delta.

Featured chefs and restaurants include John Folse (Restaurant R'evolution), Michael Nelson (GW Fins), Dana Honn (Carmo), Nicole Cabrera Mills (Pêche Seafood Grill), Dickie Brennan (Bourbon House, Pascal's Manale), Tommy Cvitanovich (Drago's Seafood Restaurant), Jana Billiot (Chef John Folse Culinary Institute), Ryan Gaudet (Spahr's Seafood Restaurant) and Erik Nunley (Chefs on Boats). These culinary professionals work to bolster fishermen whose livelihoods are being threatened by multiple challenges.

The talented home cooks for the series are equally involved in the coastal restoration mission by sharing their traditions as cook-off contestants, outdoorsmen and community advocates.

The dishes for the series —over 30 in all —draw from the ingredients found in the coastal habitats of the state, including Creole White Beans and Shrimp, Burrata and Crab Stuffed Ravioloni with Crab Sauce, Red Snapper Tempura Fry, Game Bird Poppers, Tuna Sliders, Louisiana Satsuma and Rosemary Olive Oil Cake, Crawfish Bisque and Chargrilled Oysters.

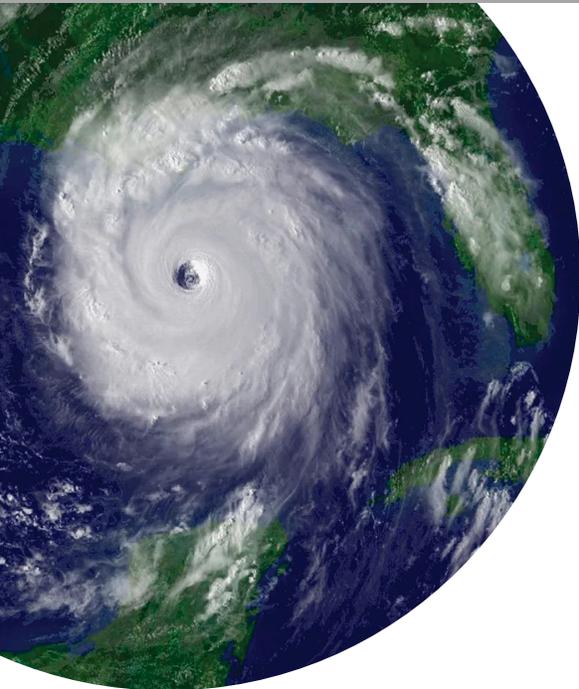
The series is produced and directed by Terri Landry, who has led 17 national public television cooking series for WYES. Executive producer is Jim Moriarty. Associate producer is Dawn Smith. Video editor is Lenny Delbert Sr.



Major Funding provided by
**The Melvin S. Cohen
Foundation, Inc.**

LOUISIANA'S
DELTA COUNTRY
Plaquemines Parish

Distributed by
APT
American Public Television



**WYES MARKED THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF HURRICANE KATRINA'S
CATASTROPHIC LANDFALL**

**Informed
Sources...**



Steppin' Out

**STEPPIN' OUT "KATRINA:
20 YEARS LATER"**

Premiered August 2025

What has been the trajectory of New Orleans' culinary, arts and cultural landscapes over the last twenty years since Hurricane Katrina?

In two special episodes of STEPPIN' OUT, Peggy Scott Laborde welcomed guests: WWNO radio host Poppy Tooker, food writer for *The Times-Picayune* and *The New Orleans Advocate* Ian McNulty, longtime local restaurant aficionado Dr. Brobson Lutz, WWNO radio host Gwen Thompkins, arts and culture writer for *The Times-Picayune* and *The New Orleans Advocate* Doug MacCash, and theater critic Alan Smason.



**INFORMED SOURCES "KATRINA: 20
YEARS LATER"**

Premiered August 2025

INFORMED SOURCES presented two special editions. The first explored the storm, the science behind it, and the preparations and evacuations. The second examined the city's rebuilding and recovery.

Producer Errol Laborde and host Marcia Kavanaugh welcomed guests: Chief Meteorologist for WVUE-TV Bruce Katz, WGNO-TV news anchor LeBron Joseph, WWL Radio news director Dave Cohen, Channel 12's Future Watch reporter and WGNO-TV reporter Dawn Ostrom, political analyst for WVUE-TV and Professor of Urban Studies and Public Policy at Dillard University Robert Collins, and freelance journalist Dennis Woltering.

**THE LOUISIANA COAST:
EARLY WARNINGS PODCAST**

Remembering the Pioneers of Coastal Preservation

A six-part podcast remembers those who worked to increase awareness of coastal loss, making clear the severity of its impact to the state of Louisiana and the urge of immediate action.

Listen to the podcast on Apple, Amazon Music, Spotify and iHeart — or watch on the WYES YouTube channel and at wyes.org.

Marcia Kavanaugh is host and producer. Steve Mathies is co-producer and host.

Informed Sources...



Fridays at 7pm; Repeats Sundays at 9:30am

INFORMED SOURCES has been broadcast since 1984.

Produced by Errol Laborde and hosted by Marcia Kavanaugh, this award-winning weekly roundtable features news analysis through the perspective of local journalists. The half-hour program examines the issues facing our area – from politics and politicians, to education, business, the environment, local events and history.

Pictured left to right: editor of Louisiana Illuminator Greg LaRose, staff writer for The Times-Picayune and The New Orleans Advocate Stephanie Riegel, host Marcia Kavanaugh, producer Errol Laborde, columnist for The Times-Picayune and The New Orleans Advocate Will Sutton.

Thursdays at 7pm; Repeats Fridays at 11pm

STEPPIN' OUT has been broadcast since 1986.

Host and senior producer Peggy Scott Laborde is joined weekly by regulars such as radio host Poppy Tooker, theater critic Alan Smason and other guests from the arts and cultural scene, as they discuss the latest happenings around the Crescent City.

In July 2025, the Press Club of New Orleans honored Peggy with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Steppin' Out



Kathy Anderson Photography

THE 2025 REX BALL AND THE MEETING OF THE COURTS OF REX AND COMUS

LIVE Mardi Gras Night



2025 marked the 29th year WYES broadcast THE REX BALL AND THE MEETING OF THE COURTS OF REX AND COMUS.

The first Meeting of the Courts took place in 1882.

WYES host and senior producer Peggy Scott Laborde, along with Errol Laborde, Carnival historian and author of *When Rex Met Zulu and Other Chronicles of the New Orleans Experience*; and Will French, Rex Organization historian and archivist, provide commentary throughout the evening.

PROUD PARTNERS



Throughout 2025, WYES partnered with Louisiana Public Broadcasting to provide coverage of statewide issues through programs produced by LPB.

This included press conferences with vital emergency and public safety information, as well as public affairs and cultural programming.

In January, WYES broadcast LPB coverage of press conferences from Governor Jeff Landry and other state officials following the New Year's Day terror attack on Bourbon Street and the record-breaking snow event.

Through our partnership with LPB, WYES is able to bring these emergency announcements to viewers in southeast Louisiana not included in the LPB viewing area.

In April, WYES also offered LPB live coverage of the address delivered by Governor Landry to state legislators during the opening of the annual legislative session.

On a weekly basis, WYES spotlights issues of statewide and regional interest by airing LPB's long-running series LOUISIANA: THE STATE WE'RE IN twice weekly.

In August 2025, WYES also broadcast a special edition of the program chronicling the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

Other local programs produced by LPB and aired on WYES in 2025 included the LOUISIANA SPORTS HALL FAME broadcast in July and two holiday programs: GEORGE BELL & FRIENDS: HOLIDAY JAZZ and AN EVENING AT THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION FEATURING MARC BROUSSARD.





**WYES
SCREENING
OF
MASTERPIECE
"ALL
CREATURES
GREAT AND
SMALL,
SEASON 5"
January 2025**

The free event welcomed fans of the beloved hit drama to the WYES studios for an exclusive first look at the newest season.



**WYES
KING CAKE
AND
CONVERSATION
February 2025**

Attendees sampled a variety of king cakes at the third annual event while enjoying a lineup of engaging Carnival-themed talks.

Featured guests included *The Big Book of King Cake* author Matt Haines; Peggy Scott Laborde, Errol Laborde and Arthur Hardy; and members of the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club and the Zulu Tramps.



**WYES VIRTUAL
WINE TASTING
WITH
RICK STEVES
February 2025**

Guided by a professional sommelier alongside Rick himself, participants enjoyed an unforgettable live Zoom tasting that uncovered some of Europe's best-kept wine secrets.

Guests asked questions, picked up expert tasting tips, and shared a memorable wine journey with fellow aficionados—all from the comfort of home.



**WYES
NORTHSHORE
SPRING FLING
PRESENTED BY
LCI WORKERS'
COMP
March 2025**

WYES held the second annual event at the home of Vince Liuzza and Frank Stuart in Mandeville.

Highlights included a silent auction, music by Louisiana Academy of Performing Arts, honey tasting by Wild Woods Apiary, wine tasting by Wild Bush Farms & Vineyard, and a ballerina performance by Ballet Apetrei.



**WYES
LOUISIANA
COASTAL
COOKING
LAUNCH EVENT
& TASTING
March 2025**

Before the 13-part cooking series premiered on WYES in April, guests met some of the chefs featured in the series, plus sampled dishes after an exclusive look at highlights from the series and the first episode.



**WYES
SCREENING OF
INDEPENDENT
LENS “FREE FOR
ALL: THE PUBLIC
LIBRARY”**
March 2025

WYES hosted two free, public screenings of INDEPENDENT LENS “Free for All: The Public Library” directed by New Orleans native Dawn Logsdon.

The screenings were held at the Jefferson Parish East Bank Regional Library in Metairie and Broad Theater in New Orleans, in partnership with the New Orleans Public Library, Friends of the New Orleans Public Library and the Jefferson Parish Public Library.



**WYES
SEASON OF
GOOD TASTES**
March 2025

This premier annual series of wine-pairing dinners showcases top restaurants from across the Greater New Orleans area and runs from April through July.

The 2025 series marked its 32nd year and featured Cafetomas, Saffron, Saint John, Briquette, Criollo, Dickie Brennan’s Palace Café, Zasu and Nikkei Izakaya.



**WYES
SCREENING OF
INDEPENDENT
LENS “WE WANT
THE FUNK!”**
May 2025

Guests were invited to a free screening and community-driven conversation at the Andre Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice in New Orleans.

The discussion was led by DJ Soul Sister, the renowned DJ and curator of Tulane University’s Hogan Archive of New Orleans Music and New Orleans Jazz.



**2025 GALA —
WYES GOES
COUNTRY &
WESTERN
PRESENTED BY
OSCAR J. TOLMAS
CHARITABLE
TRUST**
May 2025

Cowboy boots and hats set the scene for WYES’ largest fundraiser of the year, while live music by Parish County Line kept the party going.

The event committee and event co-chairs—Allie and Duncan Brown, Maria and Noel Johnson, and Dreda and Conor Lutkewitte and auction committee chairs Katie and Eric Hoffman — helped make the night a success.



**WYES ANTIQUES
SHOWCASE WITH
NEW ORLEANS
AUCTION
GALLERIES**
June 2025

For three consecutive years, New Orleans Auction Galleries, one of the nation’s leading auction houses, provided antique experts for the WYES-hosted event.

Three presentations were included by antique experts with Q&A following.

Presentations included: Greg S.Kowles "The Genius of American Cabinet Maker John Henry Belter"; Charles C. Cage "Collecting Antique Silver" and Claudia Kheel "The Legacy of Preservation Hall & The New Orleans Artists of the 1960s & 70s."



**WYES
PRESENTS
MORGUS
MADNESS
PRESENTED BY
KEESLER
FEDERAL**
October 2025

The third annual event, inspired by local icon Morgus the Magnificent and created by Sid Noel Rideau, continues to draw crowds with its lively mix of food, live music and spirited drinks, making it a standout Halloween celebration.

This year, event co-chairs Debbie Holzenthal and Donna LaNasa elevated the event with the debut of a VIP experience.



**WYES
HOLIDAY
MARKETPLACE**
November 2025

WYES opened its doors to holiday shoppers for the festive event, which featured more than 60 local vendors offering a wide array of seasonal finds.

Adding a touch of nostalgia, puppeteer Jeff Kent brought the original Mr. Bingle marionette — the very same character brought to life by Oscar Isentroust at Maison Blanche in the late 1940s — giving shoppers a rare opportunity to snap a photo with the beloved holiday icon.



**WYES AFTERNOON
TEA: CELEBRATING
250 YEARS OF
JANE AUSTEN**
December 2025

The afternoon celebrated the author’s 250th birthday with music, literary readings, fine teas, traditional treats and a nod to Regency-era fashion and culture.

Guests enjoyed a tea tasting alongside classic tea fare, while pianist Michael Harold and the New Orleans Celtic Harp Ensemble provided musical selections. Renowned society columnist Nell Nolan of *The Times-Picayune* and *The New Orleans Advocate* delighted attendees with a reading from *Pride and Prejudice*, and English Country Dance Master Rebecca Anne Calvert offered insights into the attire and customs of the Regency era.

DANIEL TIGER

April 2025

WYES was delighted to bring Daniel Tiger for special visits to Morris Jeff Community School - Lopez Campus, Joey Georgusis Center for Children at Delgado Community College, Hazel Park/Hilda Knoff Elementary, William Hart Elementary School and The Good Shepherd School.



CELEBRATION OF THE YOUNG CHILD

April 2025

WYES once again partnered with Delgado Community College to open its campus for the free, family-friendly event, CELEBRATION OF THE YOUNG CHILD.

Hands-on activities were plentiful: children washed baby dolls with Delgado Community College, planted and grew seeds with Total Community Action, crafted newspaper hats with Agenda for Children, and created colorful stamped art with the New Orleans Public Library. Kids also enjoyed the bubble machine and hula hooping with the LSU AgCenter, while Healthy Blue provided snacks and refreshments to keep the fun going.

WYES was grateful to have PBS KIDS, the New Orleans Public Library, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and the New Orleans Pelicans PelSquad take part in the day's festivities.



DIGITAL MEDIA SUMMER CAMP
July 2025

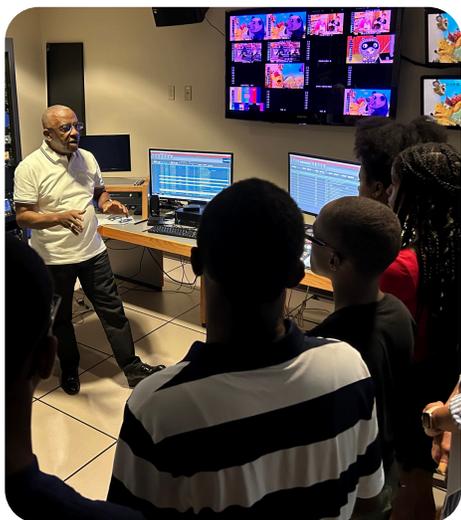
WYES hosted its second Digital Media Summer Camp over the summer. The application process began in April through WYES social media and outreach to local schools. The free camp was open to any interested local high school student and was held for two weeks in July.

During the sessions, led by local educator and broadcasting veteran Mary Jackson, students gained hands-on experience in broadcasting and digital media and helped produce “Did You KnowLa?” segments for WYES’ YouTube channel.

Campers had the chance to meet and chat with Chef Dook Chase on his kitchen set of *DOOK CHASE: A CHEF'S JOURNEY* airing in July 2026. Lucy Bustamante, Fox 8’s morning news anchor, and Margaret Crosby, a freelance social media contributor, shared valuable insight and practical tips for future careers in media. Campers videoed adoptable pets through Animal Rescue New Orleans (ARNO), which they used to create social media posts. Students also sat down with WYES senior producer Peggy Scott Laborde, WYES media & technology Coordinator Calvin Barrett, WYES director of production and event services Tam Kady and WWLTV’s Brandon Walker.

WYES welcomed students from Frederick A. Douglass High School, Ben Franklin High School, Hahnville High School, New Harmony High, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), Northshore High School, Riverdale High School and St. Augustine High School.

Funding provided by—New Orleans Recreation & Culture Fund.



**STUDENTS GET A SNEAK PEEK OF PBS KIDS SERIES
THE ACOUSTIC ROOSTER AND HIS BARNYARD BAND**

April 2025

WYES welcomed 150 pre-K and kindergarten students from across the Greater New Orleans area for a sneak peek of ACOUSTIC ROOSTER AND HIS BARNYARD BAND, a PBS KIDS series created by Newbery Award-winning author Kwame Alexander and based on his book of the same name.

Julius Harper, executive producer of the series, greeted students from Academy of the Sacred Heart, the Joey Georgusis Center for Children at Delgado Community College, Cream of the Crop Child Care Center and Young Audiences Charter School at Crocker Elementary.

The series premiered on WYES in May 2025 and follows a guitar-strumming rooster who leads a jazz band, introducing preschoolers to music, cooperation and emotional expression through original songs and three-minute “Jazzy Jams” shorts.



JOB FAIRS

WYES staff members, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Dominic Massa and Vice President of Communications Aislinn Hinyup, participated in campus visits to colleges in fall 2025. During these visits, students stopped by the WYES table to submit their resumes for future internships. It also provides the opportunity to share the value of WYES and its place in the community.

This year, WYES participated in job fairs at Loyola University and Dillard University.



COLLEGE INTERNSHIPS

During this past year, WYES welcomed college interns, from Dillard University, Tulane University, University of Louisiana Lafayette and Delgado Community College. WYES continues to run a robust internship program year-round, introducing local college students to all areas of production including scripting, producing, electronic graphics, camera, floor directing, graphic arts, post-production and social media and promotion.

Our interns can receive college or university course credit for their work on our weekly shows INFORMED SOURCES and STEPPIN’ OUT as well as our local documentaries and productions. They work directly with seasoned WYES producers, editors, photographers, engineers and other professionals.

ANOTHER YEAR OF CONTINUED GROWTH ON WYES' SOCIAL MEDIA!

WYES remains committed to engaging our audience through the use of social media. Growing our social presence is essential to expanding our reach, strengthening community connections and keeping viewers informed and involved.

Social platforms allow WYES to share timely updates, promote programming and events, highlight community partnerships, and interact directly with viewers in meaningful ways. By continuing to grow our engagement, we not only broaden awareness of our mission but also build lasting relationships with the audiences we serve.



2025	20,464	5,377	11,500
2024	18,912	4,335	10,020
2023	17,381	3,966	8,130
2022	16,039	3,487	5,980

WE LOVE HEARING FROM OUR VIEWERS!



“WYES played such a huge role for me growing up in New Orleans. My sister and I grew up watching Sesame Street and Mister Rogers Neighborhood and we would watch Cajun, Creole and Italian cooking shows with my mother. My mom and dad also love watching concerts and Broadway shows on WYES. I hope my donation goes to help WYES endure the recent sad news.”
—Stephen, Washington, DC

“We are devoted to WYES and PBS. We watch many programs and stream others. The local documentaries are a treasure!”
—Barbara, New Orleans

“We love PBS and WYES for all things TV — Molly Of Denali, Nova, Nature, Masterpiece, history... We and our 6 year old watch the Passport every night before bed. Perfect ending to the day.”
—David, Lacombe

“You guys raised me, and will continue to support me in raising my own children! I cannot thank you enough.”
—Nova & Henrie, New Orleans

“Love the programming and appreciate the hard work you do to bring a variety of voices and shows to the local area.”
—Mafwa, Metairie

“I have enjoyed WYES since I was a child. The shows and documentaries taught me much about the history of our city, while also nurturing my desire to travel and experience different cultures.”
—William, New Orleans

“Thank you for all you do to keep me informed and entertained!”
—Robin, New Orleans

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT KEEPS
WYES STRONG**

The generosity of our donors plays a vital role in keeping WYES thriving. Community support enables us to continue offering quality programming and services to the community. An updated list of sponsors can also be found on the WYES website at: wyes.org/friends-of-wyes/

- Alden & Margaret Laborde Foundation
- Arlene & Joseph Meraux Foundation
- Bienville Capital
- Brennan's Restaurant
- Christwood
- Katie & Howell Crosby
- Deep South Development
- Entergy
- The Eugenie and Joseph Jones Family Foundation
- Garden District Book Shop
- The Gayle and Tom Benson Charitable Foundation
- Hammack, Hammack & Jones
- Hancock Whitney Bank
- Inside New Orleans
- Keesler Federal Credit Union
- Liberty Bank
- LCI Workers Comp
- Louisiana Entertainment
- Louisiana Weekly
- Mardi Gras World
- Theresa Bittenbring Marque and John Henry Marque Fund
- MECO
- The Melvin S. Cohen Foundation
- New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation
- NOLA Family
- The Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust
- Poydras Home
- Raising Cane's
- James & Erica Reiss
- Rex Organization
- Rink Shopping Center
- Rouse's Markets
- Kathy & Edmund Schrenk
- Sophisticated Woman
- Southern Jewish Life Magazine
- Paulette & Frank Stewart
- Ted and George Men's Shop
- The Valentino Family
- Villere's Florist
- WWNO