



# **Annual Report 2023**



# A Note From Jennifer Ferro, President



As we enter into a new year, we reflect on the programs and events that brought us together to celebrate the culture, history, and people of Los Angeles.

In 2023, KCRW expanded its slate of striking, bold programming to include new podcast series, *The Anti-Dread Climate Podcast*, and *City of Tents: Veterans Row*. These projects demonstrate the breadth of our work from hard news to arts and culture, and everything in between.

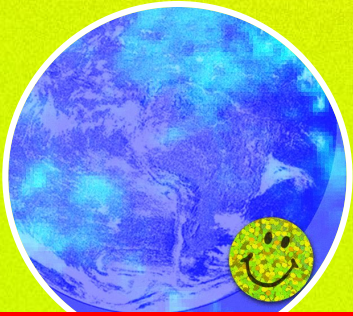
We expanded our commitment to bringing free, unmatched public events to our community throughout Southern California. After three years, KCRW's PieFest was back in person with nearly 10,000 visitors, and we hosted 17 free Summer Nights events reaching thousands.

Your support of KCRW fuels connection and community through the power of baked pies, eclectic music, summer dance parties, trustworthy and essential local and NPR news, cultural coverage, and all that's to come in 2024. We are so grateful for you.

*Jennifer Ferro*



# By The Numbers



**293 Questions**

Posed to *The Anti-Dread Climate Podcast*



**1 Proposal**

At Summer Nights  
(July 6 @ The Hammer)



**327 Pies**

Served at PieFest



**304 Emerging Artists**

Submitted their work for  
Young Creators Project



**360k Views**

(500) Days of Johnny Marr  
Morning Becomes Eclectic DJs reenacted  
the (500) Days of Summer elevator scene  
with the iconic Smiths guitarist



**71 Events**

Produced by KCRW to  
bring people together



**486 Tickets**

Giveaways to concerts,  
festivals, and events  
around SoCal



**34 Guest DJ sets**



**34 "Live From KCRW" Sessions**



**59 Musicians**  
Performed at School Night

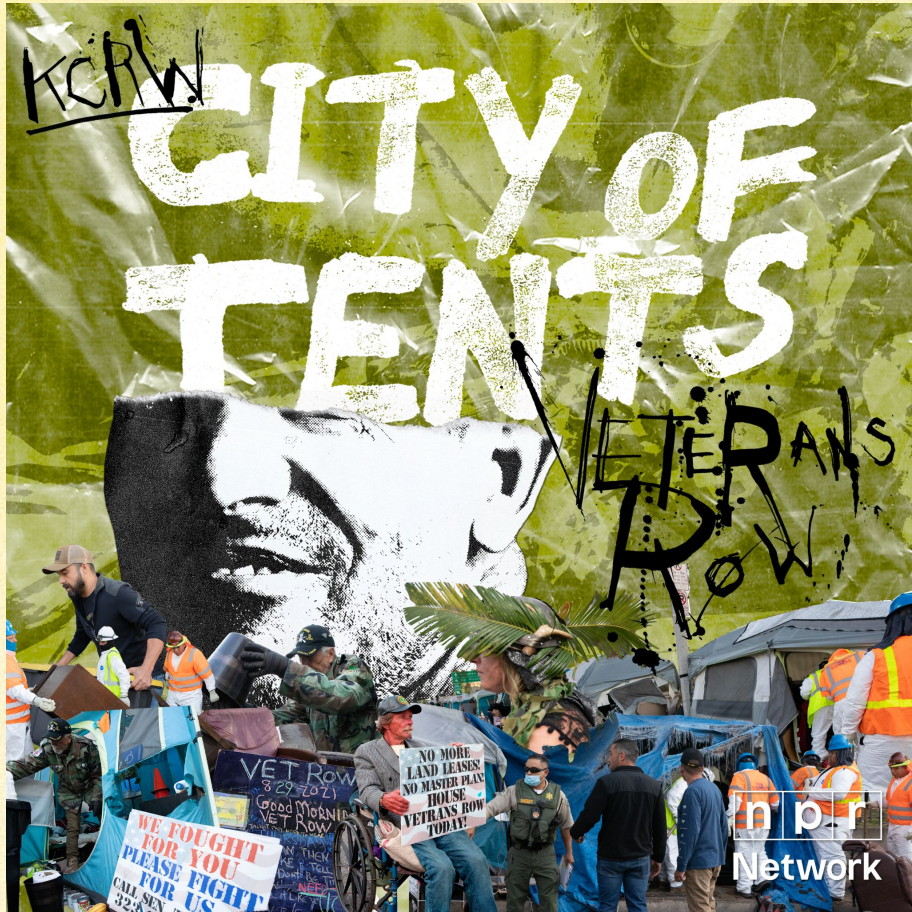


“KCRW is like the cultural axis of Los Angeles for me. I'm a long time member and supporter and greatly appreciate all of the amazing music, news and information. *Left, Right & Center*, Madeleine Brand, *Good Food*, *New Yorker Radio Hour* and all of the NPR programming; plus great tunes from Travis Holcombe, Raul Campos, Chris Douridas, Anne Litt, and the *Morning Becomes Eclectic* team!”

- Dave (Hollywood Hills), KCRW Member



# KCRW IS YOUR GO-TO FOR Housing Coverage



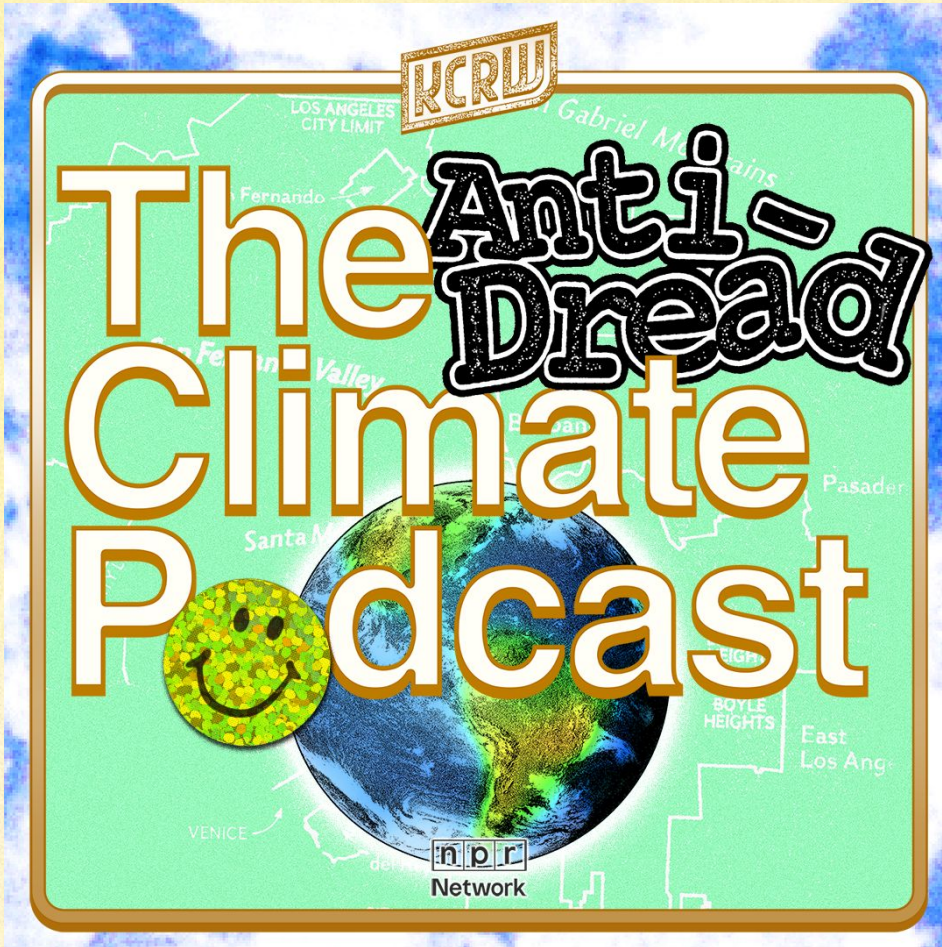
In February, [City of Tents: Veterans Row](#) took listeners through the history and impact of the Veterans Row encampment in Los Angeles' Brentwood neighborhood. The series investigated the Veterans Administration and their plans for assisting unhoused veterans. The eight-episode series is the culmination of more than two years of research and relationship building to uncover the complex perspectives, policies and bureaucracies surrounding a community of veterans. We're grateful to the Wells Fargo Foundation for their support of the project.

Throughout the year, KCRW Housing & Homelessness Reporter Anna Scott also brought you coverage of the housing crisis from every angle. From the results and analysis of the [2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count](#) to [deep investigations into state-supported housing projects](#), this work is essential for holding leaders accountable as our community addresses this critical issue.



KCRW IS YOUR GO-TO FOR

# Climate Coverage



The climate crisis gets more terrifying every year. The impact is undeniable and can feel totally overwhelming. Hope won't solve it, but neither will hopelessness. A surefire way to manage anxiety and stress over the existential problem threatening our planet is to participate in solutions, which is where [The Anti-Dread Climate Podcast](#) comes in. Led by KCRW Climate Reporter Caleigh Wells, our team answered your questions about how to meaningfully make a difference in a short, digestible podcast and weekly newsletter.

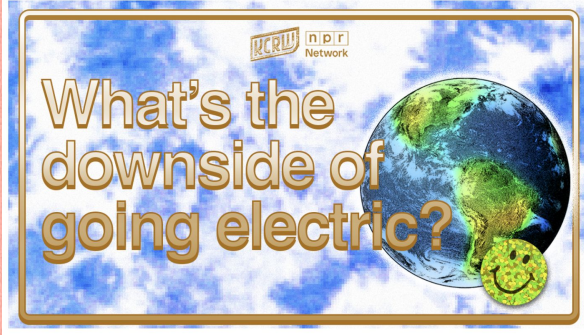


# Reporting For The Community

THE ANTI-DREAD CLIMATE PODCAST

## What's the downside of going electric?

Hosted by Caleigh Wells and Candice Dickens-Russell • Jan. 10, 2024 ENVIRONMENT



**Making a Meaningful Difference to the Planet:** Over the summer, we asked listeners and readers to tell us what they want to know about how they can help the planet. In a matter of weeks, we had over 250 responses. As a result, we launched *The Anti-Dread Climate Podcast* and an accompanying newsletter with Caleigh Wells, KCRW Climate Reporter, and Candice Dickens-Russell, environmental educator and CEO of Friends of the LA River, to answer audience questions that ranged from “Does composting really move the needle?” to “How big a difference do my driving habits make?”

KCRW FEATURES

## Explainer: Catalytic converter thefts, and what to do about them

By Danielle Chiriguayo • May 22, 2023 TRANSPORTATION



**Uncovering the Plight of Car Owners:** When a KCRW staffer’s catalytic converter was stolen from her Prius, she was met with a deluge of similar stories from colleagues. Finding more questions than answers — from why it’s happening, to what city officials and law enforcement are doing about it, to what you should do if it happens to you — reporters Megan Jamerson, Danielle Chiriguayo, editor Sonya Geis, and KCRW Digital Producer Andrea Domanick got to work. Their results captured the big picture of the wildly pervasive problem plaguing our fair car-first city and helped provide resources for Angelenos struggling with this problem.



**“Thanks for providing an alternate universe of entertainment and engagement. From music to news to food and so much more, KCRW programming makes a connection through sight and sound not only on the airways but in person as well. We've met so many people who have become dear friends through the years. Thank you for that KCRW.”**

**- Margaret & Michael (El Segundo), KCRW Members**



# KCRW IS YOUR GO-TO FOR **Food Coverage**



As an international food city, Los Angeles can be hard to navigate. KCRW's *Good Food* team with host Evan Kleiman break down the complexities — from social trends, and food politics to the science behind cooking — to highlight the diverse cooks, farmers, entrepreneurs, historians, and journalists who have devoted their lives to food.

And what's food without its community of eaters? In 2023, we expanded the communal table by inviting more people in and also meeting you where you are:

- Added more social videos featuring recipes, gardening, taste-tests, and demos
- Expanded capacity at food-related events such as PieFest at UCLA in partnership with the Fowler Museum, and KCRW and Gustavo's Great Tortilla Tournament in partnership with and at Smorgasburg
- Promoted *Good Food* the podcast to serve younger, more diverse listeners.
- Grew the Good Food newsletter, written by Evan Kleiman, to include more recipes, favorite books, restaurants, interviews, and Evan's favorite recommended links



# KCRW IS YOUR GO-TO FOR **Entertainment Coverage**



As this year's Hollywood strikes took hold, KCRW focused on entertainment's biggest story from two distinct angles. It was a local business story that would affect caterers and florists in our communities as much as it would impact the actors and writers who were picketing, and even when the strikes ended there was going to be lasting economic impact that needed to be explained to you, our audience. The strikes were also part of a larger national labor story we had already seen playing out in LA through labor actions by hotel workers, fast food workers and many others who keep LA going.



**“I've been a KCRW member for over a decade. I am so grateful for the amazing resources that KCRW offers: amazing music, local and international news programs, food programs. I'm always learning, grooving and/or wishing I was eating at a local restaurant or food truck when I tune into KCRW. Thanks for decades of solid, sound reporting as well as enriching my mind, ears and soul!”**

**- Cathleen (Ojai), KCRW Member**



# Pathways For Emerging Talent

As a public media innovator, KCRW is proud to use our platform to amplify the next generation of talent. Supported by Members, Champions, and institutional funders, these initiatives nurture new voices and bring you fresh perspectives.

**Interns:** In partnership with Los Angeles County, KCRW offered paid internships to undergraduate students in the membership, audience, and music teams. We provided professional development opportunities and mentorship throughout the summer. Interns contributed their ideas and skills to influence community events, music selections, email appeals, member benefits, and newsletters.

**Podcast Bootcamp:** Aspiring podcasters came to KCRW to hone their storytelling skills thanks to this program, designed to increase the diversity of people contributing to the work on public media.



**Young Creators Project:** Los Angeles youth shared their music, journalistic storytelling, and visual arts. The top creators were featured across KCRW channels including our website, social media, and on-air.



# Fellows

Our Report LA Fellowship program recruits underrepresented voices to public radio. The Fellowship pays full-time salaries and provides extensive training in public radio producing and reporting. Two cohorts have completed their fellowships and we are proud to have placed two of our Fellows in full-time positions at KCRW.

Now in its third cohort, thanks to our ongoing funders, the Report LA Fellowship continues to be an important investment in the future of KCRW and public media.



## Eddie Sun

Eddie graduated from the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, where he started the school's first non-fiction literary mag, hosted a weekly NBA podcast, and won an LA Press Club award. He's interned at CNN and the SF Standard.



## Kelsey Ngante

Kelsey graduated from UCLA in June, where she produced, edited, and hosted a weekly pop culture radio show at UCLA Radio. She's also written for *FEM Newsmagazine*, worked on their audio content, and interned at KNBC

**Our thanks to the Snap Foundation for support of our  
Next Generation programs**



# Public Radio Engineering Apprenticeship

While there are more than 250 local public radio stations in the country, the professionals who keep the towers and transmissions running seamlessly are aging out of the industry and replacements for the retiring engineers are simply not there. KCRW's Public Radio Engineer Apprenticeship aims to diversify the next generation of engineers by providing a hands-on, paid, 18-month program to attract early career individuals to train for this critical role.



**Reggie Jean:** Reggie was born and raised in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and moved to California a few years ago for a change of scenery and to pursue a career in mechanical engineering. He has prior experience in the electrical industry from years of working in the low-voltage field.

**Mark Wendell:** Mark was born in West Virginia and grew up in Florida. He studied music business in college and moved to Los Angeles in 2014. His professional background is in audio engineering and live production, and he's also worked as an assistant to several producers and record label executives.

**Our thanks to the Rosalinde & Arthur Gilbert Foundation for support of the Engineering Apprenticeship.**



**“KCRW opens your ears, eyes and soul to the world. All of the new music introduced into my life is from KCRW. Right now, I am listening to Say She She and Jalen Ngonda non stop, and my world is a brighter, happier place. Long live KCRW.”**

**- Robert (Phoenix, Arizona), KCRW Member**



# Bringing People Together





# Bringing People Together



Total RSVPs: 107,902





# Members-Only Events



**Dater LA Presents: Valentine's + Vinyl**  
*Greater LA* host and everyone's boo, Steve Chiotakis, along with KCRW Music Director + DJ Anne Litt put our members behind the turntables to show off their vinyl records of choice during a night of mingling and merriment.

**Miracle on 89.9th St: A KCRW Member-Only Holiday Movie Marathon**  
KCRW took over Brain Dead Studios for a movie marathon for all of KCRW's best friends — our members. We picked a few holiday classics to screen and *Greater LA* host Steve Chiotakis (AKA Santa Chio) was hanging out between the films.

**KCRW Members-Only Summer Nights with The Huntington**  
Members got to dance the night away amidst the stunning gardens to live sets from KCRW DJ Anne Litt and a very special guest DJ set by Mark Speer of Khruangbin. There were bars, food offerings, and special surprises.



**“I’m renewing my membership because KCRW is not just the heartbeat of Southern California, but a vital part of its fabric. I am happy and proud to help sustain the station that provides so much sonic sustenance to so many.”**

**- Mark (Long Beach), KCRW Member**



# KCRW's Champions Go Behind The Scenes

[KCRW Champions](#) support the organization at the highest level and regularly get to see that support in action at exclusive gatherings.

In 2023 that meant grooving along to 34 [Live From KCRW...sessions](#), featuring artists like Wilco, Little Dragon, Killer Mike, Margo Price, Cat Power, and Los Lobos.

Champions caught intimate performances with their favorite artists and made the biggest impact at KCRW, but an equally meaningful benefit is the close-knit community they form. That was on full display in 2023 during the return of the Champion Lounge at PieFest, an exclusive corner of the festival where Champions, along with Evan Kleiman and the judges, got to taste the winning pies.





# Getting Away (With KCRW)

Champions packed their bags and headed out for a glimpse into how KCRW's work happens.



In May, Chief Content Officer Arnie Seipel took KCRW Champions to DC where they advocated for public media with members of Congress, toured NPR HQ, visited Glenstone and even explored the rare books basement at the Library of Congress.



In November, Champions joined a music discovery adventure with Anne Litt and Dre Domanick from the Music Team. On exclusive delegate invitations from the *M pour Montreal* festival in Canada, Champions were concert-going with Litt as she discovered the artists that will soon be heard on KCRW's airwaves.



# A Note From Anne Litt, Music Director



At a time when music curation is being driven by algorithms and artificial intelligence, KCRW's human-curated music programming is a precious source of real connection. This year, KCRW Music stayed strong hosting 34 live performances and 34 Guest DJ Sessions as we invited artists into our studios to share music and their inspirations. We continue to be at the forefront of music discovery and are constantly working to bring you the best up-and-coming musicians and legendary artists alike.

KCRW has continued to deliver exceptional music programming that highlights both established and up-and-coming artists. This year, we leaned into in-studio performances and interviews. We brought you 34 in-depth, personal Guest DJ sets with artists ranging from Nabihah Iqbal, St. Panther, John Stamos, Leon Michels, Seal, and the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles.

We also invited 34 artists into our studios for Live From KCRW sessions including Arlo Parks, Baby Rose, Natalia Lafourcade, WITCH, Slowdive, and many more.



**“Love, Love, Love the music on KCRW. It's my anti-aging prescription.”**

**- David & Thomas (Thousand Oaks), KCRW Member**



# Recognizing KCRW's Work

## Golden Mike Awards

["Steve Martin Hasn't Watched LA Stories in 30 Years"](#)

Best Entertainment Reporting

["To Infinity And Beyond With JPL's New Director"](#)

Best Science Reporting

## James Beard Award Nominations

[Masa](#)

[The Blacker the Cherry](#)

## LA Press Club Southern California Journalism Awards

- **Elina Shatkin** won first prize for an audio lifestyle feature for the *Good Food* episode "[Maiz is Life](#)"
- **Jonathan Bastian and Andrea Brody** won in the over 10 minute category for the *Life Examined* episode "[Inciting joy: Poet Ross Gay on gardening, grief, and basketball](#)"
- **Marcelle Hutchins and Madeleine Brand** won the top prize in the under 10 minute category for *Press Play* segment, "[Designing costumes for 'Masked Singer': New technologies help](#)"
- Second prize went to **Steve Chiotakis, Christian Bordal, Nihar Patel, and Zeke Reed** for *Greater LA's* "[Rita Wilson on Family Work and Defining Community](#)"
- Third prize went to **Megan Jamerson** for her feature "[Need to fix EV charger? Get help from women startup founders](#)"
- Two *Greater LA* pieces reported by independent producer **Susan Valot** and edited by **Sonya Geis** won top prizes. For best audio news feature: "[No disease but no food: CA pelicans are mysteriously hurt and hungry.](#)" And for use of sound: "[Marine Mammal Care Center LA survives COVID, cares for seals and sea lions.](#)"



# LA Press Club National Arts And Entertainment Awards



## Multimedia Package

Myke Dodge Weiskopf, Andrea Domanick, Bob Carlson, Anne Litt

[“Bent By Nature”](#)

*Judges’ comments: This deep dive is so much more than an archive of music and interviews. The packaging and variety of offerings (interviews, performances, stories, photos, playlists, podcasts) capture an era and fully engage the listener.*

## One-on-One Interview, Film Personalities

Elvis Mitchell, Rebecca Mooney, Katie Gilcrest

[“Oscar nominee Stephanie Hsu on loving her vile ‘Everything’ character”](#)

*Judges’ comments: Host Elvis Mitchell ... His presence, enthusiasm, poignant questioning, active listening and general knowledge elevated the conversation and brought the best out of his guest.*

## Soft News Feature

Danielle Chiriguayo

[“LA’s boot scootin’ boogie: Queer line dancing hits Echo Park”](#)

*Judges’ comments: With wonderful scene setting and writing, the feature gives listeners historical context while meeting great characters.*

## Best Use of Sound

Madeleine Brand, Bennett Purser

[“Plagiarism or just the basics of a pop song? Sheeran-Gaye trial explained”](#)

*Judges’ comments: Brand and Purser’s excellent piece shows how the use of sound helps non-musicians understand the whole chord issue.*



**“Kudos KCRW, for maintaining the highest standards in broadcasting, for producing consistently engaging and stimulating programs, and for holding me as a captive listener for thirty years wherever I am in the world. KCRW is simply the best. Thank you, all of you, for your professionalism and dedication to the fine art of communication. You’re with me now on my sailboat at sea in the Bahamas and I share you with everyone I meet.”**

**- Robert (Green Cove Springs, Florida), KCRW Member**



# National And Regional Edward R. Murrow Award For Best Radio News Documentary

[Burned](#), a major investigative project from KCRW, CapRadio, and The California Newsroom focused on the devastating Caldor fire. It revealed how the U.S. Forest Service has fallen short in doing what the agency knows must be done to keep Californians safe from wildfires.

KCRW reporter Caleigh Wells was a part of the project team. Her work focused on Big Bear, where only a fraction of the thousands of forest acres approved for thinning and prescribed burns had been properly managed. This was reporting with life and death consequences, demonstrating the enormity of KCRW's service to the public.



The screenshot shows a news article layout. At the top left is the 'Greater LA' logo with 'PODCAST' below it. The main title is 'The window to protect Big Bear from wildfire is shrinking' in large, bold black font. Below the title is the byline 'By Caleigh Wells/KCRW, George LeVines/The California Newsroom • Aug. 24, 2022' and a 'WILDFIRES' tag. A play button icon is followed by 'LISTEN 11 MIN'. Below that are social media icons for Facebook, a link icon, a code icon, and an email icon. The main image is a landscape photo of a forested valley with mountains in the background under a cloudy sky. Below the image is a caption: 'The U.S. Forest Service wants to burn 3,000 acres per year in and around Big Bear Valley to keep residents there safe from wildfire. Last year, they burned 300. Photo taken July 26, 2022.' At the bottom of the image area is the credit: 'Photo by Zaydee Sanchez for The California Newsroom.'





GREATER LA

# LA's card rooms and tribal casinos at odds over Prop 26

PODCAST

By Megan Jamerson • Oct. 17, 2022

BUSINESS & ECONOMY



Michelle Fernandez, an instructor at the Millennium Casino Academy, demonstrates how table games are played in California's card rooms. If Proposition 26 passes, they could be forced to change the way they do business or shut down.

## Public Media Journalists Association

The California Newsroom received honors for the best collaboration from the Public Media Journalists Association. It was awarded for 2022 election coverage and part of the work that was recognized included Megan Jamerson's reporting on [Prop 26](#), which put tribal casinos and card rooms at odds.

The story had great reach, airing as a feature on *Greater LA*, as well as on [The California Report](#) and the [Marketplace Morning Report](#).

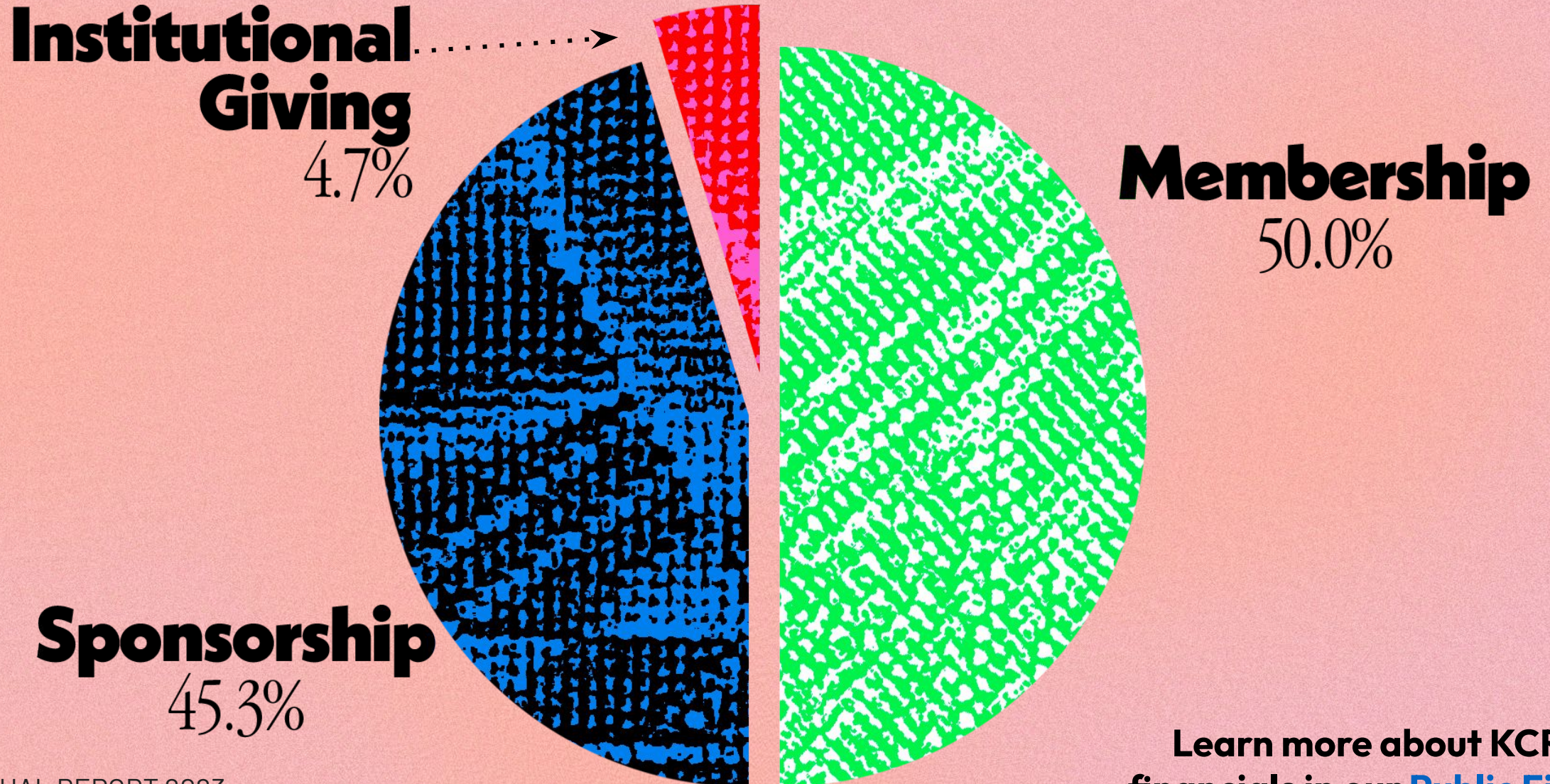


**“KCRW, you are the poster child for delivering well-researched content, rolling out different approaches & presenting facts from multiple angles avoiding bias, a respectful way to present content - and after all, providing awesome shows and podcasts that I love! The more I listen, the more I want to hear, your station & format became my new staple in 2023.”**

**- Joern (Palms), KCRW Member**



# KCRW Support





# Thanks To Our Supporters



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[KCRW Champion Donors](#)

## Institutional Funders

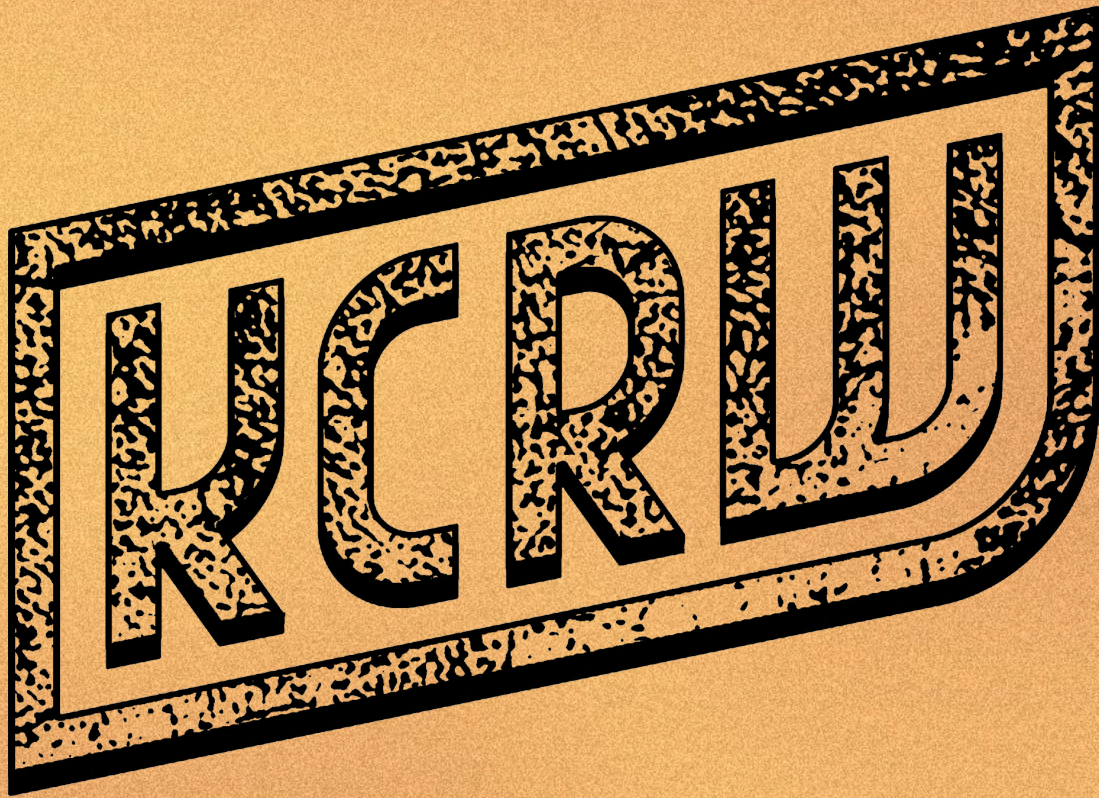
- Ahmanson Foundation
- David Bohnett Foundation
- City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
- City of Santa Monica
- Johnson Foundation
- Lannan Foundation
- Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Ring Foundation
- Rosalinde & Arthur Gilbert Foundation
- Rosemary Kraemer Raitt Foundation
- Satterberg Foundation
- Snap Foundation
- Tarbell Family Foundation
- Wells Fargo Foundation



**“KCRW is a sanctuary for me. There’s a program and host for every moment of the day and night. You are a constant source of fuel for my imagination, education and good vibes. Thank you!”**

**- Elaine (Redondo Beach), KCRW Member**





**Thank  
You!**