



KERA

**MID-YEAR
CONTENT
REPORT**

FY24

TV & VIDEO

KERA continues to meet its goal to create and share exceptional content for our North Texas communities.



LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

Finding Our Voice: The History of the Dallas Gay & Lesbian Community

In conjunction with Dallas Pride Week, KERA revisited its 2000 production with new content from North Texas LGBTQ+ leaders.

Terence Blanchard in Dallas Recorded Live from the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center

This special co-production with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra featured the GRAMMY® winner and Oscar-nominated composer Terence Blanchard at his appearance in Dallas in 2023. KERA distributed the original production to hundreds of PBS stations nationwide in November.

A Preston Hollow Christmas with John Rutter

World-renowned composer and conductor John Rutter joined choirs from Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church and a number of Dallas Symphony Orchestra performers for this special, seen by approximately 75,000 individuals in North Texas.

JFK: Breaking the News

In November, KERA aired and distributed its 2003 documentary about how Dallas reporters covered the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. KERA also distributed the special to over 200 PBS stations across the country.

WRR on KERA

In this new 8-part series, WRR and KERA teamed up to introduce and host programs from *Great Performances* and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra for local audiences.



Bella Ainsworth and Carlo Albani in *Hotel Portofino*.
Photo credit: Eagle Eye Drama Ltd.

NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Masterpiece

Several *Masterpiece* favorites have returned so far in FY24, including *Hotel Portofino*, *World on Fire* and *Annika*.

American Buffalo

The latest series from renowned director Ken Burns premiered in October, reaching approximately 100,000 households in the North Texas area.

Frontline: Inside the Uvalde Response

FRONTLINE partnered with ProPublica and The Texas Tribune to explore the chaotic response to the Uvalde school shooting and examine the missteps. The documentary, which aired in December, dove into the lessons learned and the lingering trauma of that day.

RADIO & NEWS



Finda Koroma says she was not notified that the HOA foreclosed her Mesquite home, only finding out when she received an eviction notice. Reporting by Christopher Connelly. Photo by Yfat Yossifer.

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

Ken Paxton Trial

In September, KERA and The Texas Newsroom led extensive coverage of the high-profile impeachment trial of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. The Texas Newsroom provided on-the-ground reporting to the entire NPR system, including on *Up First*, *Morning Edition* and more.

Texas Legislative Session

From impeachment to border security and property taxes to gender affirming care — the 88th Texas Legislative Session was an eventful one. [The Texas Newsroom](#) provided facts, context and guides to audiences across the state.

Government Accountability

KERA's Government Accountability team continued to uncover many important issues around North Texas. The team was the first to report that [Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson has missed more than 130 hours of City Council meetings](#) since 2019. KERA's Christopher Connelly also uncovered a story about Mesquite resident Finda Koroma, who is [losing the home she owned for 18 years](#) after owing her HOA \$3,500, and explored a Dallas area [program helping over thousands move from homelessness to a home.](#)

Education

So far in FY24, KERA's education reporters have reported on: how [Dallas ISD is doubling its psychiatric services](#); [a new policy](#) in Carroll ISD allowing district schools to hire chaplains as counselors; Texas districts [suing the Texas Education Agency](#) over A-F rating retroactive changes that will affect schools; and more. Additionally, KERA, the *Fort Worth Report* and the *Denton Record-Chronicle* collaborated to provide audiences with a guide on policies shaping education in North Texas.

Wars Abroad

When Hamas terrorists launched an attack on Israel on October 7, KERA provided live, special coverage from NPR. NPR also continues to cover the ongoing war in Ukraine. With its vast system of reporters abroad, and commitment to facts and context, NPR's coverage of these global conflicts is a trusted and essential source for North Texas listeners.

Health

Top stories on KERA's health beat have included how [Texas kicked more than 728,000 kids off of Medicaid rolls this year](#); an attempt to revive the historic [Brooks Clinic](#) in Fort Worth; and how the role playing game [Dungeons & Dragons is helping combat loneliness and anxiety](#) in teens and adults.



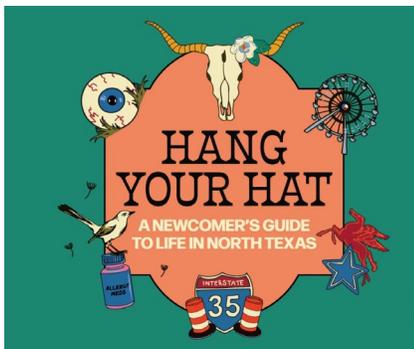
Players participate in a Dungeons & Dragons game in Denton. Photo: Elena Rivera / KERA News

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

KERA News welcomed several new teammates to its growing newsroom this fiscal year, including a daily reporter/producer, a Dallas County government accountability reporter, a new Marjorie Welch Fitts Louis Fellow, and an Arts Access reporter. KERA's Pablo Arauz Peña also stepped into a new role as growth and infrastructure reporter, to cover how people are affected as North Texas communities grow and expand.

The newsroom has participated in foundational training sessions, focused on headline writing and writing for radio. The sessions have been helpful to both radio veterans and newer reporters.

Teammates from KERA News and the Audience Development team also participated in a program from the Poynter Institute for Media Studies called Table Stakes. The team explored continuous change to develop new products, reach new audiences and better engage communities. As a result of this program, the team developed [A Newcomer's Guide to North Texas](#), as well as a popular bracket series about the [best burger](#) in North Texas.



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

The Texas Newsroom

In addition to covering Ken Paxton's impeachment, The Texas Newsroom — led by KERA — also explored a [DPS investigation](#) into troopers accused of mistreating migrants.

KERA's Ana Campbell also led the launch of [Oye Texas](#) — a bicultural, weekly newsletter helping to reach new and diverse audiences, including the 40% of Texans who are Hispanic. Subscribers receive a rundown of the most interesting news, arts and culture stories from all over the state, compiled by and for a new generation of Texans.

Denton Record-Chronicle

In August, KERA took a transformative step forward and officially welcomed the *Denton Record-Chronicle* into its portfolio of services. The newspaper is Denton County's primary source of local news and now, as part of KERA, is in a strong position to sustain, grow and expand essential reporting for the people of Denton. Already, KERA listeners are reading and hearing *Record-Chronicle* reporters on KERA News, providing a more robust portrait of our entire North Texas community.

Fort Worth Report

Arlington is among the nation's largest cities previously without daily professional news presence. But the *Fort Worth Report* and KERA's Kailey Broussard, accountability reporter for Arlington, continue to cover critical stories, including how a [self-driving shuttle program is expanding vaccines](#) and health information to marginalized communities.

Arts Access

Former Marjorie Welch Fitts Louis Fellow, Brittany Stubblefield-Engram, joined the Arts Access team as a digital engagement fellow this fiscal year. In October, she and the team spent a day engaging with folks visiting Art Walk West in West Dallas. They asked visitors what they'd like to see Arts Access covering, and the team will follow up with stories on same.



The Arts Access team in West Dallas.

ARTS & MUSIC

KERA ARTS

In Q1, KERA livestreamed The Arts Community Alliance (TACA)'s Perforum, an annual gathering of North Texas artists and arts professionals. Jerome Weeks also collaborated with KERA video intern Johnathan Johnson on a radio, digital and video package about [Ben Stevenson](#), the legendary choreographer and leader of Fort Worth's Texas Ballet Theater.

Other top stories included covering the opening of the [Kimbell Art Museum's Bonnard show](#) and the tragic story of [the Von Erich family](#) — wrestling legends who inspired the movie *The Iron Claw*.



Sunny War performing at KXT's Summer Concert Series. Photo by Jessica Waffles



The KXT team at Get Loud.

KXT

In line with KERA's Strategic Plan, KXT is creating exceptional, one-of-a-kind music experiences for listeners. These events both connect audiences to local music in North Texas, and inspire support of the station:

- Over the summer, the station partnered with Klyde Warren Park to host a free concert series showcasing a diverse lineup of musicians from across North Texas. And in the fall, KXT returned to the Dallas park to celebrate Local Music Month with Get Loud with KXT. The free concert engaged audiences in the local scene with performances by Jack Barksdale, Remy Reilly and Lou Charle\$.
- KXT presented one of its core artists for an inimitable performance over the holidays. Arlo Parks mesmerized listeners at Granada Theater by performing both her GRAMMY®-nominated music and original poetry.
- KXT wrapped up the calendar year by asking listeners to vote for their [top songs](#) and [albums](#) of the past year. Also, in line with KXT's strategic goals, the countdown served as a revenue opportunity: Listeners who became members during the countdown were entered into a drawing for 80 vinyl records and a new turntable.

KXT 91.7

ARTS & MUSIC



Booker T. Washington students performing at WRR's Caroling in the Arts District, led by William George-Twyman.



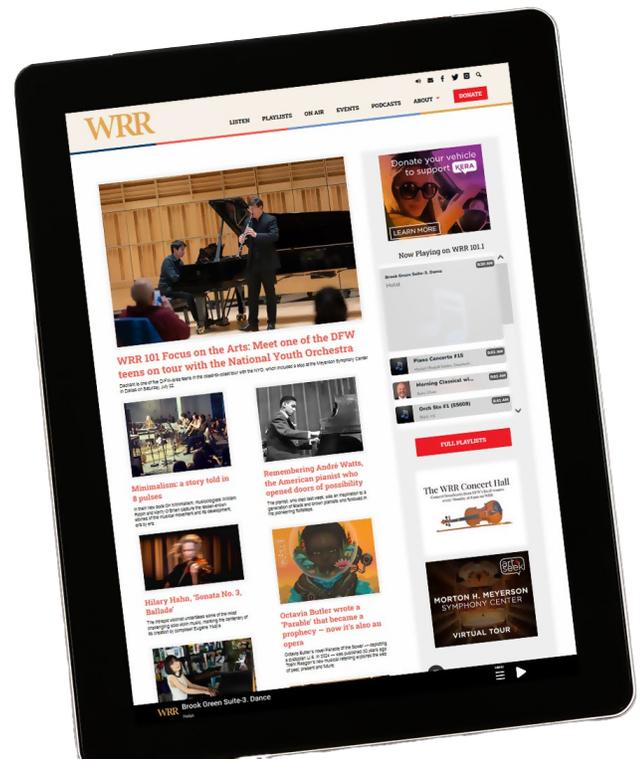
Emilio Alvarez, WRR Music Director & Host

WRR

WRR is growing and thriving under KERA's management, and meeting its goal to augment classical music and the arts in North Texas:

- At the start of FY24, WRR welcomed Emilio Alvarez as Music Director and Host, and launched a new, [user-friendly website](#) that makes streaming easier and more accessible.
- Out in the community, WRR has hosted or had an on-site presence at dozens of events across North Texas, including the Art Worth Festival in Fort Worth, the British Emporium in Richardson, opening night at the Eisenmann Center, and more. The team also worked with KXT to co-present a special concert with Ben Folds and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.
- And in Q2, listeners welcomed the return of classical holiday programming between Thanksgiving and New Year's, as well as the beloved Caroling in the Arts District. For one week, audiences enjoyed performances — both in person and on air — from Booker T. Washington students, the University of North Texas' Voices of Praise, Turtle Creek Chorale and more.

WRR {101}



EDUCATION

KERA's Education team continues to meet its strategic goal to be a trusted learning partner for children, families and schools across North Texas, through programs, workshops, events and more:

- In Q1, the team wrapped up its annual Summer Learning Challenge, and scaled its Growing Healthy Families initiative by training 18 individuals as facilitators of this work.
- Also in Q1, the team completed a “Learning Neighborhoods” summer workshop series in the Bachman Lake neighborhood — as part of KERA’s five-year, Ready to Learn grant from PBS and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The team is now exploring adding an additional Learning Neighborhood in West Dallas.
- In October, the team kicked off its inaugural Family & Community Learning workshop at Wesley Rankin, a community-based organization that serves multiple generations of families in West Dallas. The workshop — focused on Family Math — garnered so much enthusiasm that it had a waitlist.
- The team also launched a Ready To Learn workshop from the new series *Work It Out Wombats* in the Bachman Lake area, focusing on computational thinking, which included sequencing and abstraction.



KERA