



2023 Local Content and Service Report



Thank you, over and over, for the programs that you provide because they are by far the most meaningful things that I watch on TV. I am always impressed with the variety, and I am always learning something that I haven't been exposed to. – MJ Garber, Fort Wayne

I find PBS programming, above and beyond, great content and meaningful subjects. I applaud your efforts! I, for one, am very pleased with your standards for great entertainment. – B Schultz, Decatur

Enriching community through engaging content.

**LOCAL
VALUE**

**2023 KEY
SERVICES**

**LOCAL
IMPACT**

PBS FW is a valued service in northeast Indiana:

PBS FW is a free educational, cultural, and civic broadcast service, available to any home or classroom, regardless of income, education, gender, ethnic background, or age.

For every dollar of federal funding received, PBS FW raises nearly three additional dollars locally, providing a 265% return on the federal investment for a most successful and effective public-private partnership.

With community governance, an area advisory board, local management and regional support, PBS FW is responsive, relational, and relevant to its service area.

In 2023, PBS FW provided a variety of key local services:

Produced programs of local interest Mon.- Fri. at 7:30 pm, covering community developments, health and wellness, regional arts, state government, and public affairs.

Launched YouTube channels for the station's 7:30 pm weeknight local programs & documentaries:
[youtube.com/@pbsfortwayne](https://www.youtube.com/@pbsfortwayne)

Expanded local livestreaming on PBS.org, YouTube TV, DIRECTV Stream, Local Now, PBS App, PBS FW App, & PBSFortWayne.org.

Provided closed captioning broadcasts for the hearing impaired, descriptive video service for the sight impaired, and carriage of Allen County Public Library's Audio Reading service on a second audio channel of PBS FW Explore (39-4).

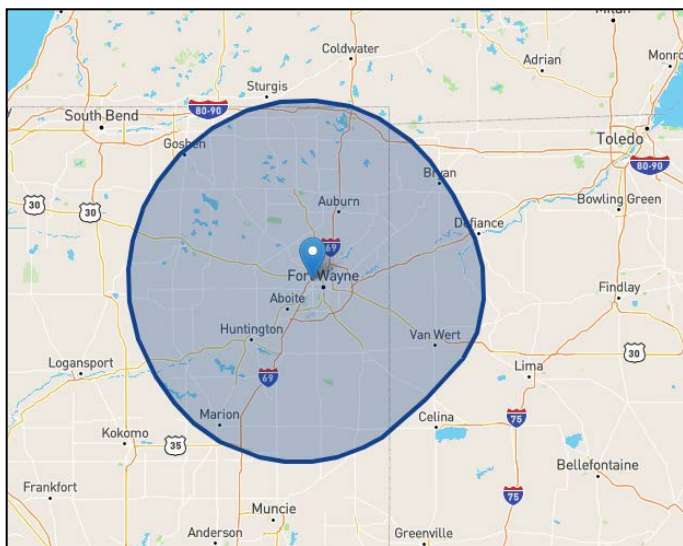
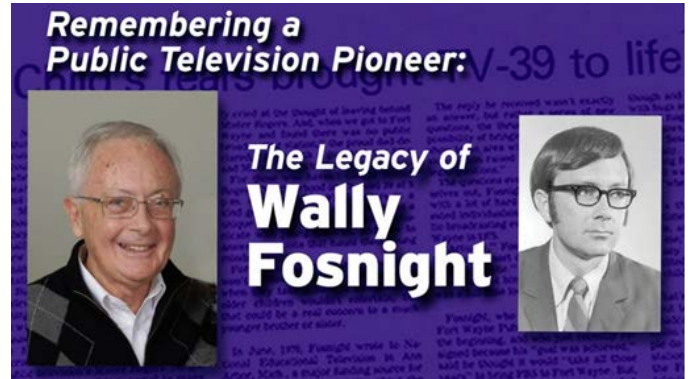
PBS FW educates, engages across northeast Indiana:

PBS FW reaches more than 800,000 persons in northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio with children's educational programming 24-hours a day on air, online and over the PBS FW mobile app - plus local and national arts, sciences, humanities, local public affairs, and national/international news.

For nearly 50 years, PBS FW remains the only public television station in northeast Indiana and the region's only locally owned and operated full-power television service.

As a trusted community partner, PBS FW is a primary focal point for the advancement of arts and culture, history, education, and quality of life in our community.

PBS Fort Wayne exists thanks to a visionary father's commitment to fulfill the educational needs of his little girl. When Wally Fosnight moved to Fort Wayne from Pittsburgh in 1969, he soon discovered that his young daughter's favorite program, *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*, could not be seen locally. Motivated to address this void, Mr. Fosnight networked, wrote letters, and made calls - and the more he researched, the more he was convinced that public television was not only possible here, but needed here. Mr. Fosnight and others guided the efforts and the engineering to bring public television to the region in 1975. Wally Fosnight would serve as the first chairman of the station's Board of Directors.



For nearly 50 years, PBS FW has been the only public television station in northeast Indiana and is today the only locally owned and operated full power (350 kW) television service in the region. PBS FW aligns its mission with programming over five channels:

- PBS Fort Wayne (39-1), our main channel
- PBS FW Kids (39-2), a 24-hour free service dedicated to quality, non-commercial, educational children's programming.
- PBS FW Create (39-3) offers a national schedule of "How To..." and travel programs.
- PBS FW Explore (39-4) airs local and Indiana-centric programs, international news, public affairs, and the best of PBS.
- PBS FW WX (39.5) provides 24/7 near real-time National Weather Service Doppler radar, weather alerts and NWS audio.

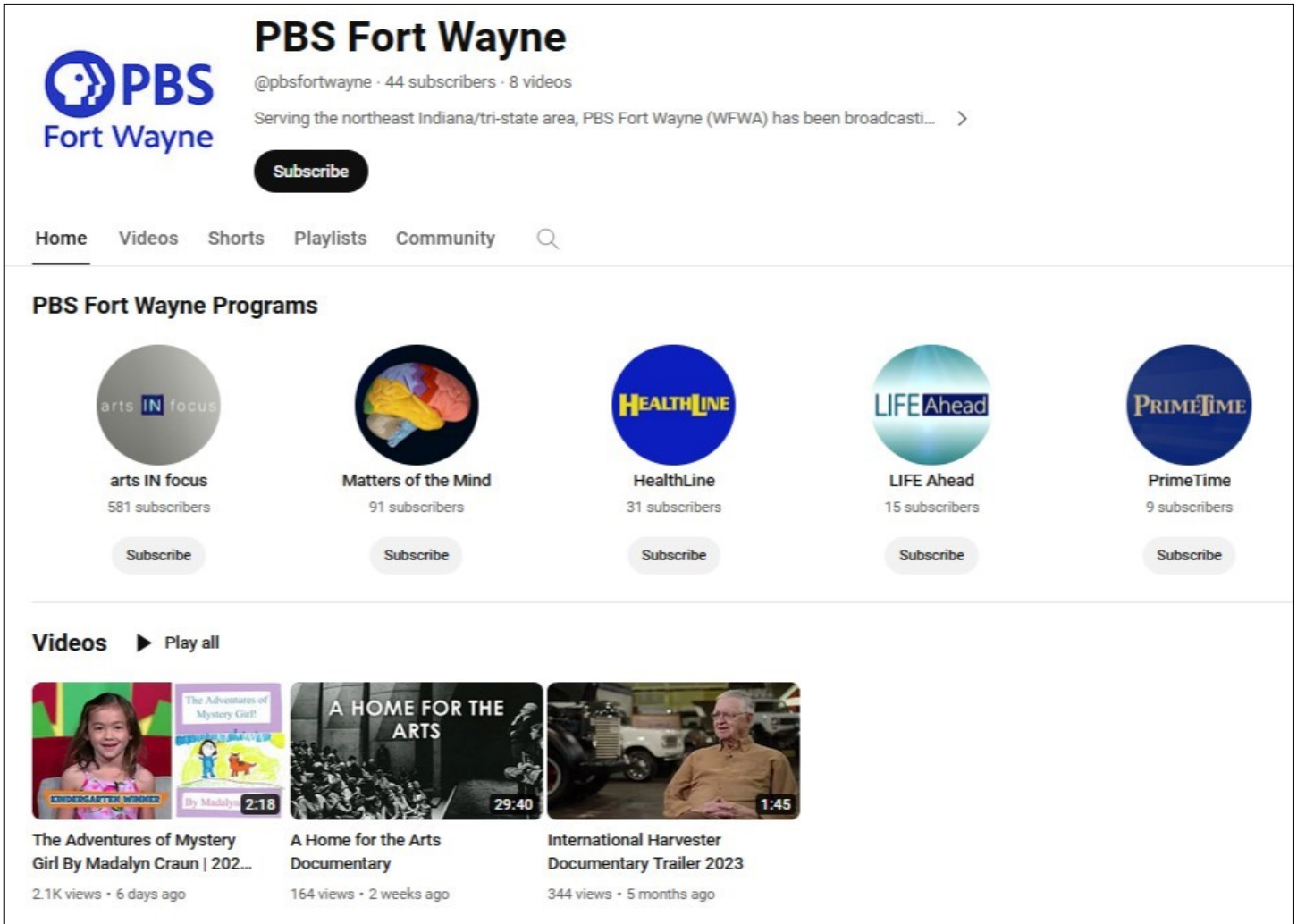
Did you know? PBS FW Kids streams live on a variety of devices over our free PBS Fort Wayne mobile app!

Fort Wayne Public Television, Inc. (PBS Fort Wayne) is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization chartered by the state of Indiana and licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to operate as a non-commercial, educational, public television station. The station is a community licensee and is governed by a 23-member board of directors. A 12-member community advisory board meets quarterly. PBS FW is staffed by 18 full time and 15 part-time employees. PBS FW is a member of the Public Broadcasting Service, the Indiana Broadcasters Association, Greater Fort Wayne, and Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations.



Did you know? Dr. Jay Fawver has been the only host of *Matters of the Mind* since its debut in 1997!

Meeting the broad range of needs and interests of the community is the heart of PBS FW's mission - *enriching community through engaging content*. The organization's vision statement carries that mission to an anticipated future: *a curious, inspired, and engaged community*. PBS FW provides a schedule of locally produced public affairs, health, cultural, and community information programs Monday-Friday at 7:30 pm. All but one of these shows are live studio broadcasts allowing viewers to call in with questions for the guests. ("arts IN focus" is recorded on location.)



In 2023, PBS Fort Wayne began expanding the reach and impact of its weekly public affairs shows. With almost half of YouTube viewership on TV screens, a PBS Fort Wayne YouTube channel was launched to house documentaries and specials, and an individual channel for "arts IN focus" was created as a test bed. Workflows and best practices were developed, as well as a social media campaign, and the remaining weeknight program channels began in Jan of 2024. View the channels here: youtube.com/@pbsfortwayne. Locally produced weekly programs include:

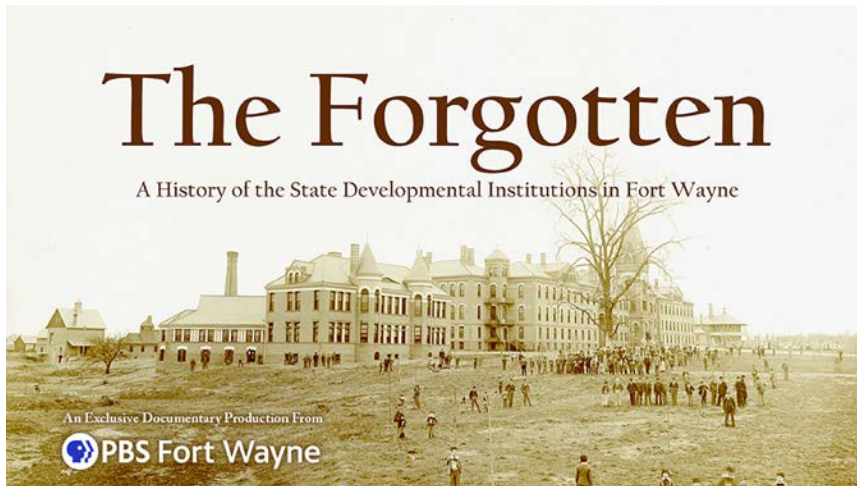
- **Matters of the Mind** - hosted by Dr. Jay Fawver, Mondays at 7:30pm, offers viewers the chance to interact with one of this area's most respected mental health experts.
- **HealthLine** - since January 1996, this informative half-hour has featured local experts who keep viewers informed of the latest developments in the worlds of medicine, health and wellness.
- **LIFE Ahead** - on Wednesdays at 7:30pm, serves as a weekly call-in resource devoted to offering an interactive news and discussion forum for adults. Hosted by veteran broadcaster Sandy Thomson.
- **arts IN focus** - the region's only locally produced weekly arts magazine airs Thursdays at 7:30 pm. The program introduces viewers to area artists, and cultural organizations. The show is one of the most watched offerings online.
- **PrimeTime** - a live weekly news, analysis, and cultural update forum, *PrimeTime* airs Fridays at 7:30pm. The show provides viewers access to the region's state lawmakers during sessions of the Indiana General Assembly.

Did you know? Find program and station information, access to a free mobile streaming app, and more at pbsfortwayne.org!

PBS FW Receives Three National Awards for Productions Sharing Regional Stories, Preserving Local History

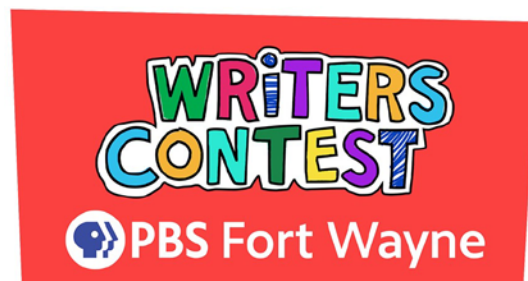
***The Forgotten: A History of the State Developmental Institutions in Fort Wayne* won a Gold Telly in the Television, Documentary, Long Form category at The Telly Awards in June 2023.**

PBS Fort Wayne acquired more than 2,000 images from various sources, most of which have never been published or publicly viewed. The station transferred and reviewed over 150 video tapes from the State Developmental Center. These resources, as well as interviews, newspaper accounts, and archival material from the facilities tell the story of these forgotten places and those that inhabited them. Congratulations to COO Todd Grimes, and Producer Jonathon Nuthals for receiving the Telly's top honor!



PBS Fort Wayne's local weekly arts magazine, [arts IN focus](#), earned a Bronze Telly in the category Television/Series/Education and Discovery. The entire production team at PBS FW has a part in the success of this program, now in its 13th season!

The station also earned a Bronze Telly in the Television/General/Children category for the short video, [The Exciting Adventures of Corbin the Scientist](#). The story was written by Corbin Howard in 2022 and was the first-place winner in the kindergarten category of PBS FW's annual Writers Contest. The story was animated by PBS FW Producer Jeff Blossom and was also nominated for a regional EMMY award. Congratulations Jeff!



The Telly Awards were founded in 1979 to honor excellence in local, regional, and national video productions.

Receiving over 12,000 entries from all 50 states and 5 continents, Telly Award winners represent work from some of the most respected advertising agencies, television stations, production companies and publishers from around the world.

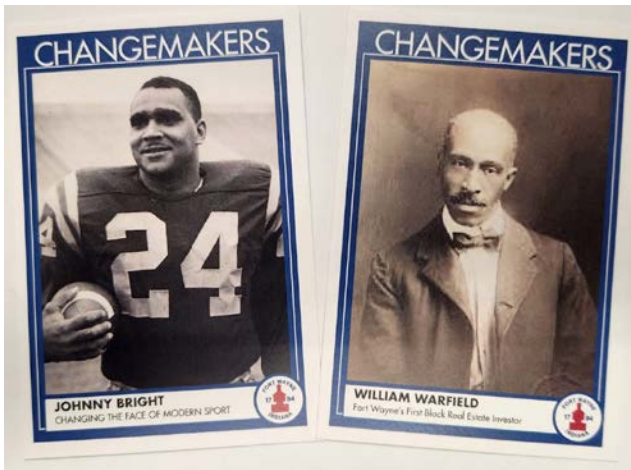
Did you know? Since its inception, PBS FW has produced nearly 50 documentaries, historical and biographical. All these programs have been uploaded recently to the station's Passport service for viewer access.

Landmark Artistic Performance Receives Statewide Premiere

Edward Stierle was a dancer of transcendent talent. A multiple gold medal winner at international ballet competitions, Stierle became the youngest dancer – at age 18 – to join the Joffrey Ballet where he rose to principal status. Edward Stierle created three critically-acclaimed ballets – *Concerto Con Brio*, *Lacrymosa*, and *Empyrean Dances*, the latter created in 1989, two years before his death at age 23. Fort Wayne Ballet worked with the trust of Edward Stierle to present the three works on one night in May 2023, the first time for such an event. Produced/recorded by PBS Fort Wayne, aired in September 2023 and distributed statewide.



Trading Cards Help Teach Northeast Indiana's Black History



PBS FW worked with Southside High School, Boys and Girls Club, Purdue Fort Wayne, and the African/African American Historical Society Museum of Fort Wayne on screeners/events around two documentaries from PBS profiling Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman. This project featured the distribution of “trading cards” profiling eight Fort Wayne area changemakers as examples to encourage children that they can make a difference. Persons featured were William Warfield (1st Black Real Estate Investor in FW), Johnny Bright (changed the face of football forever), Fort Wayne Colored Giants (1st Black Semi-Pro Baseball team in FW), Laura Jackson (1st Female Black Police Officer in FW), Heather Headley (Award-Winning Global Music star), Genois Wilson-Brabson (1st Female Black Firefighter in FW), Rod Woodson (local football player who played in NFL, hosts youth camps in FW), Richard Ridley, Jr. (1st Male Black Firefighter).

Local Events Engage the Fort Wayne Community with Its Iconic Heritage

Through the use of “soundwalks,” PBS FW gave attendees at two city events an opportunity to hear stories of two Fort Wayne neighborhoods' history and significance. One July 2023 event focused on Indian history at the city's Little Turtle Memorial (photo) with a Voices of Myaamiaki SoundWalk, the PBS *American Bald Eagle Iconic America* episode screening, and a panel discussion at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

Participants included History Professor Ann Livschiz of Purdue Fort Wayne, Kurt Roembke lead Producer Creator Developer of SoundWalk, Sayaka Ganz sculptural artist, Claudia Hedden local leader of the Myaamia tribe, and Dani Tippmann local leader of the Myaamia tribe.



A second July 2023 event featured a soundwalk of Fort Wayne's Pearl Street, and the *Hollywood Sign Iconic America* episode. That panel discussion explored ideas of permanence vs. impermanence, history, memory, and how the Hollywood Sign and the local icon of Pearl Street have changed meaning over time. They also discussed how Pearl Street was a local icon for the LGBTQIA+ community that has been all but erased from Fort Wayne's history.



PBS FW's Ninth Annual Explorer Day a Family Favorite

Explorer Day at Parkview Field is PBS Fort Wayne's annual event for kids and their parents/caregivers to enjoy a FREE day of fun and hands-on learning!

PBS FW provided PBS KIDS materials to parents and children to help bridge summer learning loss.

In 2023, more than 1,150 persons attended, and more than 30 local businesses and non-profits brought free educational activities.



Early Learning Connections with PBS FW and PBSKIDS

PBS FW's education outreach hosts events throughout the year, connecting families with PBSKIDS content in collaboration with area partners. Examples include March 2023 Daniel Tiger "Be My Neighbor" events (top right), working with young people as they planted seeds and learned about food, growing food, and making healthful food choices. Sites included Study Elementary, Timothy Johnson Academy, and Irwin Elementary.

Families enjoyed PBS FW's Alma's Way: Alma Goes to Puerto Rico Screening and Dance Class Fun (top left). The November 2023 event was held in association with Fort Wayne Dance Collective and celebrated PBS KIDS' Alma's Way and the social emotional learning in it, plus Puerto Rican heritage, Bomba dancing/skirts, and having fun!

Families also enjoyed a "Fall Fun Farm Festival" (bottom) that same month at the Joseph Decuis farm in nearby Roanoke, IN. The free event included a hayride tour, learning about the different types of plants, trees, and seasonal changes of Indiana...plus story time with Molly of Denali.

