MISSION

WSLR+Fogartyville is a center for creative expression and community engagement that amplifies the voices of our diverse community, and promotes peace, sustainability, democracy, and economic and social justice.

VISION

To ensure a just, inclusive community through media and arts.

OVERVIEW

2022 was an exciting year for WSLR. For starters we hired our first full-time Station Manager, we celebrated the completion of our patio renovations, and we got back to a full season of events at Fogartyville!

2022 Board of Directors

- Ed Subkis, Chair
- Dru Greene, Vice Chair
- Jennifer Rippel, Treasurer
- Brian Jones, Secretary
- Sophia Brown
- David Brain
- Alecia Harper
- Ethan Massa
- Stan Zimmerman

In 2023 we welcome
NEW BOARD MEMBERS
Sharon Folta & Paul Scire

Board Member Brian Jones welcomes audience members to Fogartyville.
Friends,

2022 was a year of **significant change and growth** for WSLR. We hired our **first full-time Station Manager**, brought on a **new office manager and news coordinator**, celebrated the **completion** of our **patio renovations**, and got back to a **full season** of events at Fogartyville.

Over the past 12 months, our team has worked hard to bring you **the local information you need** to stay informed, to **inspire you with music and arts**, and to give you a deeper look into some of the issues of concern right here in Sarasota in the way only public media can. We stayed on the air throughout Hurricane Ian, **providing essential information** to our listeners. We joined the **Community News Collaborative** (CNC) funded by the Barancik Foundation to help increase local coverage of important topics that affect our community. (We should start to see the fruits of this partnership in 2023.) WSLR also partnered with **New College of Florida** and **Solmart Media** to expand the community journalism internship opportunities we offer to local college students.

Fogartyville presented over **50 live music concerts**, hosted local art exhibits, kicked off our first **Spoken Word series**, and partnered with numerous community groups to sponsor events. WSLR was a screening partner for the **South Arts Southern Tour of Independent Filmmakers** hosting screenings and conversations with US-based documentary filmmakers around important stories and the art of filmmaking.

Whether it is local journalism, live events, music discovery, or grassroots activism, WSLR+Fogartyville provide a space where people can come together and **engage in the life of our community**. We are thrilled to be part of an organization that enriches civic life, lifts spirits, and values the participation of everyone who cares enough to be part of it.

Thank you to all of the individuals, local businesses and foundations that have supported our work and have helped to build this organization. As my partner often says, “The most important word in ‘community radio’ isn’t radio, it’s community” and you all are what makes this place so special.

Your in community,

Arlene Sweeting
Founder & General Manager
WSLR by the Numbers:

1031
Active members (as of 12/31/22)

219
Sustaining Members (as of 12/31/22)

38,975
Unique users at WSLR.org (1/1/22-12/31/22)

5776
Followers on WSLR Facebook

10,000
Weekly listeners (Nielsen Spring 2022)

3169
Active e-newsletter subscribers (as of 12/31/22)

$334,392
Mortage Balance (as of 12/31/22)
In June, we were very excited to welcome Jesse Coleman as our first full-time Station Manager.

Management Team Member Annie Murphy helped train Jesse, then left WSLR to focus more on her Yoga and Massage Therapy business. Annie served on the Management Team for 7+ years and was also a host on From the Mountains and Beyond.

In August, we bid farewell to Office Manager Lev Siegel as he travelled to Scotland to attend graduate school in Theater.

To take his place we welcomed the talented Kathleen Murray to our Team.

Onyx Hadwen, our part-time News Coordinator, graduated from New College and took a position with our friends at the MultiCultural Health Institute while continuing to assist the News Team with training, and updates to the website and social media. Onyx started with WSLR as an intern, was promoted to News Coordinator, and did a great job leading our News Team through Covid virtually.

Peter Gentile, an experienced newspaper writer and editor, assumed the position of News Coordinator in August and has done a great job working with the interns to produce our local news show the Critical Times.
WSLR brings a host of diverse viewpoints and musical styles with our 100 Watt transmitter, reaching an audience of 10,000 listeners per week. Showcasing a range of musical content and engaging public affairs, WSLR aims to represent the voices in our community that commercial radio ignores.

- 80 Hours of LOCAL Programming Every Week
- 55 Volunteer Programmers on the WSLR Roster
- 7 Locally-Produced Public Affairs Programs
- 44 Locally-Produced Music Programs
- 3 WSLR-Produced programs are syndicated nationally on the Pacifica Network

NEW SHOWS IN 2022

Old Folk and American Festival
Tom Dooley

Community Conversations with Mel
Melanie Lavender

Discovery Road
Louise Coogan

Corduroy
Sebatien Wegeng

The In Between
Jay Ackerman

ArtBeat
Kathleen Murray

Longboat Luau
The Ho-dad
We renewed our relationship with Pine View High School hosting a student for a full-year externship that began in the Fall. During the year, Simon Valek will get to experience a 360 degree view of our organization.

Through grant funding provided by the Mellon Foundation’s Higher Education and Scholarship in the Humanities Program and with the sponsorship of Dr. Sarah Hernandez, WSLR was able to provide 5 News internships in 2022. Students participating in the Radio News Tutorial were Basil Pursley, Rhiannon Hanlon, Joshua Epstein, Nickolas Steinig and Jesus Arenas.

Generous support from the Olson Foundation allows us to retain interns when they have completed their semester as a Mellon intern. We have also been able to hire Communications Interns to work in the office (Lee Collings and Jude Zelznak).

Our community volunteer contributors allow us to expand our local coverage and produce daily news briefs. Thanks to Bernadette Nwokeji, Ivy Autman, Diana Dobos, Vana Prewitt, John Finnegan for their participation.

We bid farewell to Omar Guerrero this year. Omar started as an intern in the Fall of 2020 and transitioned to a part-time staff member in 2021. He accepted a full-time job in Miami in the Spring of 2022.
In addition to our volunteer programmers, we have numerous volunteers that help at **Fogartyville**, in the office, and with landscaping and maintenance tasks.

**Fogartyville** staff and volunteers - **Annie, Joya, Lisa, Ben and William** - show their support for ending gun violence by wearing orange in June.

**WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

**Beth Sullivan & Teri Rivera** staffing the bar at **Fogartyville**.

**Calvin and Juniper** help out during an outdoor workday.

You will frequently find **Juan & Claire Montenegro** at the **Farmers Market** helping to spread the word about **WSLR**.

**Mark Kracker** is indispensable, always lending a helping hand, and he puts on a pretty good fish fry too!

**Terry Binder, John Saraniero & Terri Schubel** help out during the Fall Membership Drive.
With the generous support of the Gulf Coast Community Foundation we were able to offer our first Spoken Word series hosted by local Spoken Word artist Melanie Lavender (now a WSLR programmer!).

We Hosted the UN Women's Film Festival Award Ceremony and celebrated the inclusion of Sharon Folta's film "Little Satchmo." After living for more than five decades with the secret of her paternity, Sharon shares what it was like to grow up as the 'secret' child of Louis Armstrong.

We continued our partnership with South Arts as a screening partner for the Southern Tour of Independent Filmmakers, screening 8 films in 2022.

Jonah Ray, host of the 'Saturday Morning Gospel Beat' moderated a discussion with Angela Kent following the screening of "Stay Prayed Up", part of the Southern Tour of Independent Filmmakers 2022-23 season.
With the generous support of the Selby Foundation and supporters that purchased engraved bricks, we were able to transform our patio into a more functional, aesthetically pleasing space.

Hundreds turned out for our Party on the Patio in October to help us celebrate!
Thanks to STRONG community support, we exceeded goals for our Spring & Fall Membership Drives!
We raised $37,848.50 from the community during the 24 hour GIVING CHALLENGE receiving second place for medium organizations and a MATCH of $33,268.50!

The Olson Family Foundation continued their generous support of our internship programs.

In partnership with New College of Florida, the Mellon Foundation funded community Journalism Internships for local students.

WSLR became a media partner in the Community Media Collaborative funded by the Barancik Foundation. You should see the results of this partnership in the coming year.

We received funding from the State of Florida and Sarasota County to support Music and Arts programming at Fogartyville.

Sarasota County
Tourist Development Tax
Paid for in part by Sarasota County

CULTURE BUILD FLORIDA
Florida Department of State
Division of Arts & Culture

New College of Florida
The Honors College
In partnership with New College of Florida, the Mellon Foundation funded community Journalism Internships for local students.
What Supporters are Saying...

My husband and I became snowbirds last year and couldn’t have been more thrilled to discover this wonderful community diamond just around the corner. You were my first radio pre-set in the car. The concerts we saw were amazing and the people, the vibe, the mission, all just the tribe we seek. - Chris S.

A hub of authentic culture in our rapidly changing/growing town.
- Michael S.

THE BEST listening room in the Bradenton/Sarasota area!
- Rolland S.

I appreciate how you are involving the community. I love the jazz events but community building is most important. - Lurline A.

Best institution in town! Simply indispensable. - Andy B.

Love local radio, love WSLR, love the events. Keep up the good work! - Chris B.

BEST venue for music, film, and great community. - Joe Z.

You are doing great work & are a true asset to the community. - Terry B.

WSLR is the heart of democracy, art and music in Sarasota County. I cherish this “island” of democratic ideals and freedom. - Rebecca L.

WSLR and Fogartyville are essential to a healthy, happy, connected, and well-informed community! - Sara S.

WSLR Rules! Best music and public affairs shows on a local station. - Sheila S.

I appreciate how you are involving the community. - Lurline A.

Love that it’s non-commercial, peace-loving, varied radio. - Andy S.

Thank you for years of community radio and awesome events! - Ronni B.

Thank you so much for presenting LOCAL news! - Christine J.

Been coming for years. Far and away my favorite music venue. - Donald B.

Tremendous asset for our community. - Lore K.

The shows at Fogartyville are tremendous! Please keep them coming & keep up the good work on peace education and social justice!! - Rus R.
In April we celebrated Birthdays with two of our stalwart supporters, WSLR Ambassador Francis Scheuer and George "Dadeeo" Pochos, host of Dadeeo's Collectors Corner.

Gone but not forgotten. We celebrate and remember
We miss Longtime programmer Sal ‘Whitehorse’ Serbin, host of Indigenous Sounds. Sal, an Assiniboine Sioux, was an activist for indigenous rights and brought many native voices to our airwaves.

our video and livestream engineer. NATHAN PAISIE - his creativity, his sense of humor, his genuine goodness. We miss you Nathan!

7/9/94 – 11/26/22