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# Annual 2023 Report



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# A Message from our Founders:



As Dave and I prepare to step down from leadership, we are so excited about what the future holds for **WSLR+Fogartyville**. We have an incredible team of staff and volunteers that are committed to continuing to make **WSLR** a beacon for democracy and justice in *OUR Community*.

**WSLR+Fogartyville** have both enriched our lives - and we hope they have enriched your life too. **WSLR Community Radio** is the friend that keeps us company, shares important information, celebrates life's important moments, and provides a soundtrack for our day-to-day activities. **Fogartyville** is a safe space where we come together to enjoy music, art, conversation, and each other. **Your support has made it all possible.**

**WSLR's** biggest achievement in 2023 was the expansion of our local **News Department**. We committed resources to hiring our first ever *News Director* and were incredibly fortunate to have **Johannes Werner** step up to fill the role. Having a **full-time person** in this role has allowed us to transform our ability to provide information to our community. **Fogartyville** also expanded it's programming and in 2024 you will see the launch of several **new initiatives** to increase community engagement and celebrate the creative work of musicians in our community.

Joe Strummer of the Clash said "*the future is unwritten*" and he was right. We hope that you will help to write it and keep **WSLR +Fogartyville** a vital part of our community.

Radioactively yours,

DAVE



# Mission & Vision

## 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.



Melanie  
Lavendar



Gary "Ho-dad"  
Saunders



# 2022-2023 Board of Directors



**Ed Subkis**, Chair

**Dru Greene**, Vice Chair

**Jennifer Rippel**, Treasurer

**David Brain**, Secretary

**Sophia Brown**

**Sharon Folta**

**Brian Jones**

**Paul Scire**

**Stan Zimmerman**



In October 2023, we welcomed **Dale Anderson**,  
**Jane Grandbouche**, **Tom Matrullo**, and **Sebastien Wegeng**  
to the Board.

## A Word from our Incoming Board Chairman:

**WSLR + Fogartyville**, via news and public information

programming, community events and performance experiences is an invaluable element of the entire Sarasota community. The scope of our collective programming efforts informs and creates opportunities where diverse elements of our community may interact, engage, listen and learn from each other. In 2024, as our Founders leave the daily operation of our organization, we have the exciting challenge of continuing their vision and elevating the impact our organization has throughout Sarasota. We are the messengers of the change we seek. I look forward to a great year of engagement where the tangible fruits of our labor will be evident in our organizational successes: increased funding from community partners, expanded, diverse Evergreen membership, exciting, new radio and performance programming and joyous, collective, onsite fun.

*- Brian V. Jones*



# 2023 Highlights

1

## WSLR Hires Our First Full-Time News Director

Making the commitment to bring **Johannes Werner** on as our Full-time **News Director** was a *game-changer* for us and has really allowed us to expand and improve on our local news service.

2

## Media Recognition

Founder **Arlene Sweeting** was recognized with **Sarasota Magazine's** Unity Award, **Alecia Harper & Arlene** were highlighted in **ABC's Beautiful People** segment, **WEDU** featured **Fogartyville** in their Greater Sarasota segment, **WSLR** programmers **Gary "Ho-dad" Saunders** and **Juan Montenegro** were profiled in local publications, and **Jesse Coleman** appeared on **SNN**.

Photo:  
Barbara Banks

3

## New Programming

**Fogartyville** was excited to launch several new programs to promote community engagement - a singer/songwriter series, a roots music jam, and a community conversation series focussed on end-of-life transition.

4

## Bye-Bye Kumquat Kitchen

We were sad to bid farewell to our **Chef Richard Lewis** and his **Kumquat Kitchen**. Richard was an integral part of our **Fogartyville** team for many years and he will be sorely missed.

We wish him well in North Carolina!





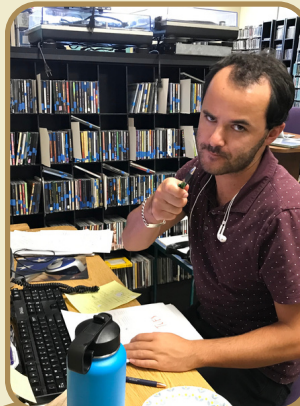
# Our Team



**Jesse Coleman**  
Station Manager



**Johannes Werner**  
News Director



**Jeff Kurnick**  
Office & Volunteer Coordinator  
(March-May)



**Kathleen Murray**  
Communications Director



**Lisa Bohn**  
Bar Manager



**Robin Russell**  
Community Education  
& Engagement



**Diana Bregman**  
Office & Volunteer Coordinator



**Brigette Dunbar**  
Bookkeeper

# WSLR + Fogartyville by the Numbers

**10,000**  
weekly listeners

**18**  
**YEARS**  
on the air!

**1,138!**  
Member/  
supporters

**10,000+**  
VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

**65**  
Music  
& Public  
Affairs  
shows  
produced  
**LOCALLY**  
at WSLR

**67**  
**Fogartyville**  
concerts

**1**  
Banned Book  
Fair &  
Read-In

365 DAYS OF  
**WSLR**  
PROGRAMMING



# Programming

In 2023, WSLR's local programming expanded significantly, bringing a diverse range of sounds, voices, and perspectives to our airwaves. The WSLR Radio Programming Committee and Station Manager Jesse Coleman dedicated their efforts to enhance Local Public Affairs, continue the growth of Locally-produced Music Programming, and to strengthen community outreach.

## The Progressive



Page Turner



Five new Local Public Affairs programs were introduced highlighting issues central to WSLR's mission by providing a platform for community members, artists, activist groups, and non-profit organizations to amplify their voices.



Locally-produced Music Programming also saw strong additions with nine new shows from all genres spanning sci-fi/fantasy gaming music, synth-filled retro dreamscapes, classic and new vinyl cuts across the generations, and experimental amalgams of grime, hip-hop and thrash.

**WSLR CELEBRATES DIVERSE SOUNDS HEARD NOWHERE ELSE ON THE RADIO DIAL!**



Louisiana Gumbo



## Special Programming

WSLR strengthened community outreach and celebrated the histories and perspectives of underrepresented peoples with Special Programming in 2023 that included a Black History Month Day of Resistance, PRIDE Month Minutes, and Hispanic Heritage Month Minutes featuring over 50 community volunteer voices!







The **WSLR Family Band** entertained at the Volunteer Holiday Party. Thanks to **Art Siegel** for organizing!

# PROGRAMMERS KNOW HOW TO HAVE FUN!

Our volunteer programmers make it possible for us to bring you outstanding radio programming all year long. They are the heart and soul of our organization. ...and help to spread love through the airwaves.





# Local News

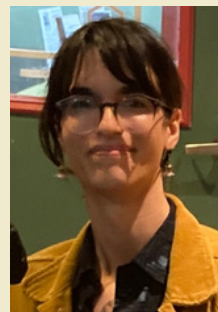
If you've been tuning in to WSLR News: Grassroots Reporting From Southwest Florida, you know we came a long way in 2023!

## ***HOW HAVE WE GROWN? WE'VE ...***

- invested in funding our first ever full-time News Director, who oversees our coverage and mentors our New College journalism interns and volunteer citizen reporters.
- expanded WSLR News from one half-hour weekly broadcast to two half-hour weekly broadcasts and a Week in Review half-hour segment on Saturdays.
- prominently featured local news on our website homepage with [links](#) to transcriptions of all stories.
- podcasted each edition, with an opportunity to subscribe; individual stories are also podcasted and shared on social media.
- sent out a weekly e-newsletter highlighting our top stories and linking to the podcast. You can subscribe [here](#).
- partnered with The Bradenton Times, which is now sharing its weekly podcast every Sunday to keep listeners up-to-date with what's happening in Manatee County.
- participated in the Community News Collaborative funded by the Barancik Foundation, which provides us with additional local content for our listeners.

And in 2024, we will be presenting a series of Citizen Journalism Workshops (led by our in-house team) and Public Newsroom panels featuring experts and veteran journalists! Of course, we continue to produce [The Critical Times](#), our quarterly publication focused on issues of civil liberties, civil rights, labor, environmental issues, local and state politics, and activism.

## News Contributors





# **volunteers**

**Community volunteers are also an essential part of our organization - serving as citizen journalists, helping to staff Fogartyville, assisting in the office, recording promos and PSAs, helping with building maintenance.**

**Ken Serafin** is diagramming our entire I T network.



**Chris Rouse** is indispensable with maintenance and recycling.



**L-R: Richard Lewis, Rickie Tamayo, Jill Crabtree, Lisa Bohn & JFK** keeping things running smoothly at Fogartyville.

**Ryan Stanley** is our "Utility Player" helping in many areas - news, promos, + training volunteers.



**Dan Gulliford** works on website updates.



**Ben & Jerry's Free Cone Day** is an annual highlight for volunteers.



# FY 2022–23 Finances

**TOTAL  
RAISED:  
\$541,225**

**41% - Membership  
40% - Fogartyville  
19% - Grants**

**15%  
OF MEMBERSHIPS  
ARE EVERGREEN MONTHLY  
SUSTAINING DONORS.**



**Staff share their excitement after exceeding  
the Spring Membership Drive goal!**

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The key to a successful transition in 2024 has been growing our income to support additional paid staff. Individual memberships are still vital to sustaining **WSLR+Fogartyville**.

**Fogartyville** is now back from Covid with a full schedule of events allowing us to grow our earned income. Grant support for our cultural programming from **the state of Florida, Sarasota County**, and local foundations is also an important part of our funding equation.



# LIVE FROM *Fogartyville*

COMMUNITY MEDIA AND ARTS CENTER

Between concerts, films, art exhibits, spoken word events, and community events, we hosted over 100 events at Fogartyville in 2023.



The Manatee-Sarasota Anti-Racism Coalition's Banned Book Event was one of our favorite community events of the year.

6 time IBMA Fiddle player of the year Jason Carter and Friends delighted bluegrass fans.



We sold out two nights with Blues Legends Marcia Ball and Tinsley Ellis.

Oceans 11 Big Band closed out the year with songs you could sing along to with vocalist John Rinell.





# 2022-23 Grants



**Florida  
Department of  
Cultural Affairs:**  
\$30,000 for  
Fogartyville Season



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

**Sarasota County  
Tourist Development:**  
\$42,000 for  
Fogartyville Season

**Community  
Foundation  
of Sarasota:**  
\$8250  
for website  
upgrade



**New College News Interns**

**Olson Family  
Foundation:**  
\$10,000 for  
Internship  
Support

**Wilson  
Foundation:**  
\$3000 for  
Solar Panel  
Repair



**The Exchange:**  
\$4000  
Spoken Word  
Series



**Mellon  
Foundation:**  
\$1800  
Community  
News Intern



# Testimonials



Fogartyville is a spirited, lively place run by very good people who find a tremendous variety of worthwhile music, current events speakers, films, and more to generate the kind of community that many towns/cities used to have but are now not so prevalent.

-Tom M.

This entire center is a gem, a wonderful resource for our community and Sarasota! - Gale M.

The music is out of this world! You play what no one else is playing. Thank you for the diverse selection.

-David H.

A great place to come together as a community for fun and important issues - for entertainment and education. -

Rhonda P.

Great community space and wonderful intimate concert space. So glad we have it in our community! -

Ellen I.

The best overall cultural venue Sarasota has to offer! Independent films, great music, relevant speakers and discussions, and beautiful art. - Karen B.

I love the intimate concert setting of Fogartyville, and appreciate the quality of concert acts being booked. - Marty J.

Amazing venue PLUS attached radio station!

One of the rare places in Sarasota to catch amazing touring artists and also works hard on benefiting our amazing community.

- Justin A.

This place is AWESOME - a great listening room, full of great people! Also, THE best live music anywhere in FL! World, Folk, Bluegrass, Jazz, Rock, movies, art PLUS Peace activism. Seriously, go to a show! - Rob D.