PBS President Paula Kerger with honoree Newton N. Minow at Celebration 2015
Dear Donors and Members,

It has been a true honor to find myself at the helm of the WWCI Board of Trustees during a fiscal year in which WTTW celebrated its landmark Diamond Anniversary, and when WFMT, having reached that impressive milestone a few years back, continued to enrich the lives of audiences with classical and fine arts content of the highest quality.

On the WTTW side, we were delighted to welcome the production crew and appraisers of Antiques Roadshow to the city for the first time in 11 years (see pages 16-17), and actively participate in the taping of this national series. We were also proud to salute our friend, colleague, and public broadcasting pioneer Newton N. Minow at our annual gala in May (see pages 58-61). The tributes that poured in resulted in the most financially successful fundraising event in the organization’s history.

Again this year, WFMT brought an eclectic mix of Chicago’s music festivals, whether it be the Grant Park Music Festival, Rush Hour Concerts, Thirsty Ear Festival, and other live broadcasts (see page 13) to loyal audiences throughout our listening area and globally via online streaming. And speaking of online offerings, both stations have continued to engage with our audiences through web exclusives and video, podcasts, apps, social media platforms, blogs and web posts that expand upon our already extensive on-air content, and make all of it accessible to anyone, anytime and anywhere (see pages 8-11).

That WTTW and WFMT enjoyed a breakeven year is a testament to the steadfast commitment and hard work of our valued trustees and everyone at WTTW and WFMT, and also to the foundations, corporations, and individuals whose generous support has made it possible to fulfill our mission to educate, engage, and entertain our diverse community.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to you, our loyal supporters, who make everything we do possible, day in and day out.

With appreciation,

Jim Mabie
Chairman of the Board
Window to the World Communications, Inc.
We celebrate 60 years at 5400 North St. Louis Avenue. (left to right) Edward L. Ryerson, Mayor Richard J. Daley, Irving B. Harris, Seymour Simon, and Nathan J. Kaplan break ground on WTTW’s studios in October 1964.
Dear Donors and Members,

Sixty years ago this fall, in the same month that Bill Haley’s “Rock Around the Clock” was at the top of the Billboard charts and “Mr. Cub” Ernie Banks hit his fifth grand-slam home run of that season, an innovative “working exhibit” opened to the public in the east wing of Chicago's Museum of Science & Industry. And WTTW was on the air.

It seems commonplace today in this age of storefront digital broadcast studios, but in 1955, it was miraculous that for the nominal cost of a museum admission, people were able to see local live television being made, right in front of them. The first program that went out over the airwaves was Report to the Teachers, the first in a very long line of distinguished, award-winning WTTW programs that continues to this day. At that time, WFMT had been in existence for almost four years, broadcasting for eight hours each weekday, and had recently moved to its present place on the radio dial: 98.7FM.

Since those humble beginnings, WTTW and WFMT have jointly evolved into a distinguished multi-platform media organization. Our longtime broadcast facility, in 2014 dubbed the Renée Crown Public Media Center, is a vibrant hub for original program production. WTTW pioneered such technologies as stereo sound for television, and WFMT was the first U.S. radio station in the world to broadcast music from a CD.

In the grand scheme of things, sixty years might be considered a short span of time. When it comes to the ways in which content is created and distributed, however, it might as well be a millennium.

Today, both stations serve a wide and diverse audience online as an on-demand, anywhere-you-are public media service. A comprehensive video player with a full library of treasures is available at wttw.com, along with blogs, podcasts and other exclusive web content on our digital platforms. And WTTW and WFMT create more hours of original local content – television, radio, and digital – than almost any public media organization in America.

A few highlights:

In July, WTTW welcomed Antiques Roadshow back to Chicago for the first time in more than a decade. The new local documentary Old St. Patrick’s Church: A Chicago Renaissance Story premiered the following month, telling the story of the city’s oldest public building and the vibrant community that had grown up around it. Documentarian Ken Burns returned to town with his latest multi-part film, The Roosevelts: An Intimate History, a huge hit with our binge-watching audiences.

Chicago Tonight presented a variety of informative candidate forums in advance of the Presidential election, and two highly visible Mayoral forums. Check, Please! and its robust website continued to steer local foodies to new and exciting dining experiences, and the digital series FOODPHILES introduced us to the personalities who make the food we eat. Actor David Suchet reached the end of the road as Agatha Christie’s Poirot, and for the 29th consecutive year, the Golden Apple Awards...
honored outstanding local educators. Geoffrey Baer hosted his very first quiz show, Where in Chicago, and profiled the year’s winner of the Richard H. Driehaus Prize, Texas architect David M. Schwarz. Audiences were taken back in time to the very first Soundstage, a 1974 tribute to blues great Muddy Waters. Downton Abbey returned for a highly rated fifth season. Finally, a new incarnation of the popular series Poldark galloped onto our schedule, and Mayor Rahm Emanuel commenced a series of regular visits to Chicago Tonight.

WFMT commenced the fiscal year with its annual slate of live broadcasts from the Grant Park Music Festival and the Rush Hour Concerts, and in what has become an annual tradition, Relevant Tones host Seth Boustead hosted the live Thirsty Ear Festival broadcast from City Winery. Once again, WFMT brought audiences live opening night broadcasts from Lyric Opera of Chicago throughout the season, plus the annual Stars of Lyric Opera concert from Millennium Park and the Ryan Opera Center Recital Series. We also continued our ongoing series from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic. The station marked the 25th anniversary of Cedille Records, and Rich Warren celebrated four decades as the host of Folkstage; that series, along with Impromptu and Live from WFMT, welcomed numerous guests to Levin Studio throughout the year. In September, WFMT brought audiences four complete BBC Proms concerts from London’s Royal Albert Hall, and commenced a very ambitious and successful ten-concert series, The Bach Organ Project, which featured live performances of all of Bach’s organ works.

And speaking of marathons, in December WFMT celebrated the birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven with an impressive feat: broadcasts of all 32 of his piano concertos over two weeks. Opera star Eric Owens celebrated his move to Chicago with a new radio series, Eric on Opera, and audiences also enjoyed the stylish, interactive Signature Series with Paolo Pietropaolo. One more superstar arrived at WFMT as the fiscal year drew to a close: renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, whose live appearance entranced both the live audience in Levin Studio and many others hearing the performance on radio, via online streaming, and on their mobile devices.

Sadly, this year also saw the unexpected loss of longtime program host and WFMT’s critic-at-large, Andrew Patner. He is greatly missed – not just here, but by arts organizations all over the city for whom he was a larger-than-life presence.

Yes, we have come a long way from that long-ago museum exhibit, and that small, struggling radio station. Needless to say, so has the media landscape. It seems light years away from the time when audiences received their television and radio content via a box plugged into a wall, hooked to an antenna, and only for a limited number of hours a day. Now, it is anywhere and everywhere you are, whenever you want it, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

WTTW and WFMT have continued to innovate, grow, and evolve through all of these transitions. But our mission, sixty years ago and today, has remained the same: to inspire, educate, and entertain, encouraging audiences throughout our diverse community to imagine more.

Sincerely,

Dan Schmidt
President and CEO
Window to the World Communications, Inc.
WTTW

Broadcast

WTTW is one of Chicago’s premier public media organizations, dedicated to bringing Chicago and the world together to explore the arts, sciences, humanities, and public affairs. WTTW is composed of WTTW11, WTTW Prime, WTTW Create, WTTW WORLD, WTTW Vme, and wttw.com.

WTTW11 reaches an audience of 1.8 million over a four-state area each week, making it one of the most-watched public television stations in America. WTTW11 can be viewed with a free TV, over-the-air antenna setup in high definition by tuning to channel 11-1. Cable and satellite viewers can locate WTTW11 in high definition on their on-screen menu. The full schedule is available online at wttw.com/schedule.

WTTW PRIME is our “prime time all the time” channel. Free TV, over-the-air antenna viewers can tune to channel 11-2 to find WTTW Prime. WTTW Prime is on Comcast digital cable channel 370 and on RCN channel 37. The full schedule is available online at wttw.com/schedule.

WTTW CREATE is our how-to and lifestyle programming channel. Free TV, over-the-air antenna viewers can tune to channel 11-3. WTTW Create is on Comcast digital cable channel 369 and on RCN channel 38. WTTW Create programming airs from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. The full schedule is available online at wttw.com/schedule.

WTTW WORLD features public television’s signature documentary, science, and news programming complemented by original content from emerging producers. Free TV, over-the-air antenna viewers can tune to channel 11-3. WTTW WORLD is on Comcast digital cable channel 369 and on RCN channel 38. WTTW WORLD airs from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am. The full schedule is available online at wttw.com/schedule.

WTTW VME is our Spanish language channel. Free TV, over-the-air antenna viewers can tune to channel 11-4. WTTW Vme is on Comcast digital channels 368 and 629, Dish Network channels 846 and 9414, DirecTV channel 440, and RCN channel 39. The full schedule is available online at wttw.com/schedule.

ON DEMAND You can find WTTW on Demand on Comcast.
Digital

In an on-demand and ever-advancing media world, WTTW content can now be accessed anytime and anywhere – on desktop, mobile, and streaming television devices via our IOS and Android apps and online at wttw.com.

With original content spanning local, national, and international interests including arts and entertainment, news and public affairs, nature and science, technology, history, how-to, kids, and more, wttw.com visitors can connect with others in the community and access a full library of local and national video content for kids and adults, interactive features, event and membership opportunities, and robust sites and blogs dedicated to WTTW and PBS series and specials including sites for the Geoffrey Baer specials Where in Chicago? and Street Smarts: Architect David M. Schwarz; and for Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and the annual Viewer’s Choice Bowl.

WTTW’s news and public affairs digital content grew exponentially this year. Politics coverage included the November Illinois gubernatorial contest, the February mayoral forum and its subsequent April runoff, and Governor Rauner’s budget issues. We reported on Francis Cardinal George’s final manuscript before his death; Geoffrey Baer’s “Ask Geoffrey” posts were more popular than ever; the world of arts and culture found a home on wttw.com; and there were feature stories about Chicago history, including some newly discovered footage of the 1915 Eastland Disaster on its centenary.

This year, WTTW also maintained its reputation as the resource for Chicago area foodies and restaurant enthusiasts with new content on the Check, Please! website including Talk & Eat and Foodie in Residence blogs, extensive video archive, our searchable restaurant database, social media integration, and more.

In April, we premiered our second original digital series, FOODPHILES. Over 13 mouthwatering mobile-optimized webisodes that were released simultaneously, audiences journeyed into the kitchen, behind the bar, and into the field to meet a diverse group of local restaurateurs, chefs, baristas, gin enthusiasts, and others to hear their personal stories and insights about the meaning of their work, how they got into the hospitality business, and why they have such a passion for what they do. The eateries featured in FOODPHILES reflect Chicago’s rich and diverse culinary palette, and reinforce the city’s reputation as a go-to destination for adventures in world-class dining. Included were Bob Chinn’s Crab House in Wheeling, Bridgeport Coffee, the Devon Avenue Indian restaurant scene, Birrieria Zaragoza in Archer Heights, the Logan Square gin bar Scofflaw, Maracas in Bronzeville, Arun’s, and others.
Another original short-form digital series, *The Good Stuff*, hosted by YouTube star Craig Benzine, made its debut on wttw.com in May 2015. This lively and fun series covered a wide range of topics in a never-ending quest for “the good stuff.” Each month, new webisodes were posted exploring different aspects of a common theme, ranging from how to get a good night’s sleep to how robots affect our daily lives.

**APPs**

WTTW apps are another way to access and engage with WTTW content. In addition to watching WTTW and PBS programming via our mobile video portal at wttw.com/video, viewers can also access local and national video content via the PBS mobile app. Visit wttw.com/mobile to learn more and to download our apps.

**Over-The-Top Content Streaming**

PBS and WTTW programming are available through a variety of over-the-top hardware, software, and video streaming solutions including Roku, Chromecast, XBox 360, PlayStation 3, Apple TV/iTunes, Amazon Instant Video, Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, and more.

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**Chicago Tonight**

**Social Media**

**WTTW Facebook**  
facebook.com/wttw11

**Central Standard Facebook**  
facebook.com/centralstandard

**Check, Please! Facebook**  
facebook.com/checkpleaseWTTW

**My Chicago Twitter**  
twitter.com/mychicagoWTTW

**WTTW YouTube**  
youtube.com/wttwchicago

**Central Standard YouTube**  
youtube.com/centralstandardWTTW

**WTTW Flickr**  
flickr.com/photos/wttwchannel11

**WTTW Pinterest**  
pinterest.com/wttw
WFMT

Broadcast

98.7WFMT is Chicago’s classical radio station, committed to providing the best and broadest selection of classical, fine arts, and folk music content to a local audience via 98.7WFMT and wfmt.com, and to a global audience via the WFMT Radio Network and online at wfmt.com. A classical music force for more than 60 years, WFMT presents live concerts and performances, and special broadcasts and interviews with renowned artists from venues around the world.

The WFMT Radio Network creates and distributes radio programs on arts and culture to hundreds of radio stations throughout the world – including, most recently, China. Its arts partners include the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, Poetry Foundation, Salzburg Festival, Shanghai Spring International Music Festival, New York Philharmonic, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Symphony and more than two dozen others. The WFMT Radio Network also produces original programs such as Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin, Fiesta!, Relevant Tones and The Midnight Special, and oversees the creation of the Studs Terkel Radio Archive.

Digital

- WFMT reaches larger online audiences around the world than ever before. wfmt.com hosts a vast library of original streaming audio and podcasts, and has expanded to include more engaging content such as:
  - interactive polls and quizzes;
  - accessible listicles and infographics that make learning about classical music fun;
  - original video featuring such notables as Kronos Quartet and mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade;
  - exclusive interviews with artists such as countertenor David Daniels and composer Anna Thorvaldsdottir;
  - arts news in Chicago and beyond, including discoveries of long-lost scores, winners of major prizes, and new appointments at institutions across the globe.

Visitors to wfmt.com can also explore program information, participate in discussions, and interact with hosts to enhance their listening experience. WFMT has also significantly expanded its presence on social media.
Two of the most popular stories on wfmt.com this year were an exclusive interview with the world-renowned pianist Lang Lang, who discussed his love of Tchaikovsky and Chopin, and what it’s like to play Bach on the piano instead of the harpsichord; and a story about a real head injury that took place during a performance of Lucia di Lammermoor (famous for its bloody mad scene) at the Metropolitan Opera. wfmt.com is also home to the successful Exploring Music subscription-based website, where fans of the weeknight series can gain access to more than 850 hours of programming produced by series host Bill McLaughlin.

**APP**

The WFMT app is the online equivalent of the WFMT on-air broadcast, and can be accessed anywhere, anytime. Visit wfmt.com/mobile to learn more, and to download the Apple and Android apps.

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**Social Media**

- **WFMT Facebook**
  facebook.com/98.7wfmt

- **WFMT Twitter**
  twitter.com/wfmtclassical

- **WFMT Playlist Twitter**
  twitter.com/wfmtmusic

- **WFMT YouTube**
  youtube.com/WFMTChicago
As always in the summer months, WTTW and WFMT were out in the community, engaging with audiences of all ages. The WTTW Great Food Fan Van and WTTW Readers Are Leaders Tour promoted good nutrition, active lifestyles, and childhood literacy in a wide variety of indoor and outdoor venues, many of which were located in underserved areas of the city and suburbs. WFMT once again offered live broadcasts of the Grant Park Music Festival from Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, and the weekly Rush Hour Concert Series from St. James Cathedral in downtown Chicago. In addition, in what has become an annual tradition, this month Relevant Tones host Seth Boustead hosted a live WFMT broadcast from the Thirsty Ear Festival, live from City Winery, with Fonema Consort, Gaudete Brass, and Graham Reynolds.

Programming highlights on WTTW included the new three-part series *Time Scanners*, focusing on historical building techniques, with episodes on the Egyptian pyramids, St. Paul’s Cathedral, and Petra, Jordan. Once again, the nation celebrated *A Capitol Fourth* with an inspiring concert followed by a dazzling fireworks display from Washington, D.C. Two new British drama series premiered: *Mr. & Mrs. Murder* and *Frankie*, and another, *Death in Paradise*, returned with a new central character. *Masterpiece Mystery!* presented a new Endeavour Morse season and more stories featuring the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot (David Suchet), and *Frontline* examined issues surrounding the war in Iraq. *Chicago Tonight* created an innovative web initiative surrounding Homegrown, an organic garden that staffers planted right outside their office windows. The website, wttw.com/homegrown, features invaluable tips from local organic gardener Jeanne Nolan how to create your own garden, even if you have limited space; a question-and-answer forum; popular solutions to common gardening problems; an interactive map of other urban and community gardens and a place to share your own; a glossary of common gardening terms; recipes incorporating the food you’ve grown; and much more.

WFMT brought audiences two works by Mozart: *La Clemenza di Tito* from Lyric Opera of Chicago and *The Magic Flute* from LA Opera. Hershey Felder added to his repertoire of musical luminary portrayals with *Maestro Bernstein: A Play with Music*, and renowned Montenegro guitarist Miloš Karadaglic paid WFMT a visit for a special installment of *Impromptu*. 
Jeanne Nolan and Phil Ponce work in Chicago Tonight's organic garden, Homegrown

Hershey Felder as Leonard Bernstein

Guitarist Miloš Karadaglic
A fan with a cherished family heirloom

WTTW cameraman Dave Moyer taping Antiques Roadshow

WTTW’s Bruce Rehberger on set for Antiques Roadshow

Candace Jordan on Antiques Roadshow with her Playboy memorabilia
Fiscal 2015 kicked off with a momentous event: the enduring national series *Antiques Roadshow* rolled into the Windy City for the first time in 11 years to tape three episodes for the program’s 19th season. A random ticket lottery had been held earlier in the year attracting almost 19,000 applicants, and on taping day, July 26, 6,000 lucky winners descended upon McCormick Place toting their antiques, collectables, and fascinating oddities. They were greeted by more than 70 *Antiques Roadshow* appraisers spanning 20 different categories, who had a great time chatting with them about the items they brought and highlighting some amazing finds. These included: a 1976 *Playboy* Bunny collection presented by the Bunny herself, local journalist Candace Jordan; graffiti art by Keith Haring; and a Walt Whitman Civil War letter, among many others. WTTW’s crew helped to record the event, taping interstitials and behind-the-scenes features, and several hundred volunteers – WTTW staff and others – ensured that this logistically complicated event ran smoothly.

Chicago joined Bismarck, Santa Clara, Birmingham, Austin, Albuquerque, Charleston (WV), and New York City on the 2014 schedule. The three Chicago episodes were scheduled to premiere nationwide in October 2015.
August 2014

One of WTTW’s important priorities is telling local stories and showcasing the work of area filmmakers. Both were true of the documentary *Old St. Patrick’s Church: A Chicago Renaissance Story*, a deeply personal film by Emmy-winner Mike Leonard. In it, he traces the history of this oldest public building in Chicago, and introduces audiences to the people who transformed it from an empty house of worship into the vibrant heart of its West Loop community, home to a popular and widely-attended annual event, “The World’s Largest Block Party.”

WFMT celebrated a local entity as well, the Chicago classical record label Cedille Records, founded by Jim Ginsburg, which marked its 25th anniversary this month with a day of Ginsburg and his artists. Rich Warren observed his 40th anniversary as host of *Folkstage* with a special two-hour live broadcast from Fox Valley with some of his favorite guests.

Notable WTTW programs in August included the national premiere of a local series by Terry Spencer Hesser, *Islands Without Cars*; an *American Masters* film on photojournalist Dorothea Lange; a behind-the-scenes look at actor David Suchet in *Being Poirot*; *NOVA: Vaccines: Calling the Shots*; and *Masterpiece Mystery!: Breathless*. Comedian Robin Williams, who passed away on August 11, was fondly remembered on *Chicago Tonight* in a panel discussion, and with some informative web extras. Other digital highlights included the Foodie in Residence and Talk & Eat blogs on the content-packed *Check, Please!* site, where restaurant enthusiasts/guest bloggers shared their favorite dining experiences and tips for making the most of what Chicago’s culinary scene has to offer.

On the WFMT side, Andrew Patner also weighed in on the loss of Robin Williams and shared some thoughts about mental health issues. Opera lovers in August enjoyed *Billy Budd*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and *Thais* from LA Opera, and San Francisco Opera’s productions of *Mefistofele* and *Tosca*.

Fr. Jack Wall at Old St. Patrick’s Church

Billy Budd, LA Opera
August 2014

Thais, LA Opera

Host Kira Hesser, Islands Without Cars

Mark & Mindy, Robin Williams Remembered
Dorothea Lange, American Masters

Foodie in Residence is a new space for some of our favorite Chicago foodies to share tips, trends, and news around town for all things food and drink in Chicago.

Ramenfest 2015

From chili festivals to doughnut fests, every food has its day. This most definitely includes ramen, which is gearing up to once again take the spotlight as the second annual Ramenfest takes place November 7. It all goes down at urbana belly, an apt locale considering the Asian restaurant was one of the first in Chicago to legitimize the dish.

Foodie in Residence website
Filmmaker Ken Burns speaks at a screening event for The Roosevelts: An Intimate History at Frances W. Parker School.
This month, WTTW was excited to welcome to its schedule, for seven consecutive nights, the latest in Ken Burns’ epic miniseries: *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History* – a compelling and addictive 14-hour film that traced the lives of Theodore, Franklin, and Eleanor Roosevelt, three icons who influenced 20th century American history more than perhaps any other family, voiced by Paul Giamatti, Edward Hermann, and Meryl Streep. The national premiere was preceded by a visit from Ken Burns himself, who presided over two events on September 9 in connection with the film: a luncheon at the Union League Club, and a packed screening at Frances W. Parker School. He even found time that day to pay WFMT’s Kerry Frumkin a visit on *Impromptu*.

Also in September, WFMT launched an ambitious five-week, 10-concert series, *The Bach Organ Project*, during which attendees heard live performances of all Johann Sebastian Bach’s organ works. Top-flight organists, including Nathan Laube, David Schrader, Stephen Alltop, Bruce Barber, Michael Costello, performed more than 900 minutes of music on magnificent organs across the Chicago and suburban area.

Billed as “the greatest classical music festival on earth,” the annual BBC Proms was represented on WFMT in the form of four full-length concerts on Sundays at 5:00 pm throughout September. In addition, audiences heard the annual *Stars of Lyric Opera* broadcast from Millennium Park, and Lyric Opera of Chicago's production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*; and Wagner’s *Flying Dutchman* and Britten's *Peter Grimes* from San Francisco Opera.

This month, WTTW’s digital series *Central Standard: On Education* came to television; Agatha Christie’s Miss Marple solved new mysteries; *American Masters* presented its *Master List*; *Nature* introduced audiences to *Penguins: Spy in the Huddle*; and a new group of accomplished American women were profiled in a second season of the six-part documentary series *MAKERS*. 

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BBC Proms 2014

Marina Rebeka in *Don Giovanni*
Masterpiece Mystery! Miss Marple

Nature: Penguins – Spy in the Huddle

The Roosevelts: An Intimate History
Chicago Tonight's extensive, thoughtful, and balanced political coverage is second to none in Illinois. Throughout this fall's election cycle, the program executed a true full-court press on a vital part of WTTW's mission: educating the public about the candidates and issues to ensure that voters can make informed decisions when heading to the polls. In the run-up to November's midterm elections, the program did just that – presenting moderated candidate forums with contenders for state and federal offices while providing top-flight reporting, exclusive video, and live web streaming. The month culminated in two events in partnership with the City Club of Chicago: a lively forum with the candidates for U.S. Senate, Richard Durbin and Jim Oberweis; and a Q&A with Illinois Gubernatorial candidate (and incumbent) Pat Quinn. On both nights, thanks to a new partnership with Twitter, the program used new technology to engage with audiences by displaying many of their reactions and questions in real time.

In other WTTW news, Catherine De Orio began her sophomore season of Check, Please! (the series' 14th); the venerable music program Austin City Limits celebrated its 40th anniversary; Frontline traced The Rise of ISIS; Masterpiece brought audiences a second season of The Paradise and, in a three-part miniseries, fans of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice discovered what happens when Death Comes to Pemberley. Also, the new science series How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson made its debut; theatre and music fans were given a front-row seat to Gershwin's Porgy & Bess from San Francisco Opera, The Nance with Nathan Lane on Live from Lincoln Center, and Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga in their tour de force Cheek to Cheek Live. And here in town, Masterpiece Mystery! host Alan Cumming headlined a luncheon and booksigning at the Union League Club.

WFMT brought listeners the 60th anniversary gala from Lyric Opera of Chicago and also aired two of their opening night performances, of Strauss' Capriccio and Verdi's Il Trovatore. Opera fans also heard Dolores Claiborne from the San Francisco Opera. The young men of the Danish String Quartet paid WFMT a visit, as did the Atrium Quartet, Old Man Luedecke, and Tom Chapin, and audiences enjoyed tributes to Artur Rodzinski and Andrzej Panufnik. And in an all-day Immersion event, Henry Fogel saluted Maria Callas.
October 2014

Emmylou Harris and Willie Nelson in the Austin City Limits 40th Anniversary Celebration

Renée Fleming in Lyric Opera of Chicago’s Capriccio

Actor, author, and Masterpiece Mystery! host Alan Cumming at an event at the Union League Club
David Suchet as Hercule Poirot
This month marked the culmination of an actor’s 25-year journey in a single role: David Suchet as Agatha Christie’s wily Belgian detective, Inspector Hercule Poirot, who had been identified with this part through 67 of Christie’s 70 Poirot mysteries. In November, WTTW audiences were treated to the final three, bidding a poignant farewell to him on Thanksgiving night. Suchet also allowed cameras behind the scenes to follow his process in the documentary Being Poirot.

Also on the mystery front on WTTW, British actor Bill Nighy reprised his role as MI-5 spy Johnny Worricker, in a follow-up to last season’s acclaimed Page Eight. Jay Leno was the 17th recipient of the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor; the musical CATS came to Great Performances; NOVA focused on Killer Landslides; several programs were presented in observance of Veteran’s Day; and young singing phenom Jackie Evancho captivated audiences in Awakening: Live in Concert. Finally, the Golden Apple Awards recognized 10 outstanding 4th-8th grade teachers in the Chicago area.

WFMT remembered one of its earliest and most influential employees, the late director Mike Nichols, with a digital feature which included his notorious difficult Announcer Audition, still torturing hopefuls today. Rich Warren welcomed Michael Johnson to Folkstage. Audiences heard Eric Owens and Adina Aaron in Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Gustavo Dudamel conducting the Los Angeles Philharmonic in works by Tchaikovsky; the CSO and its Chorus, conducted by Riccardo Muti, presented Verdi’s Macbeth; and the Rossini Opera Festival’s production of Armida.

All of this emanated from a more energy-efficient facility, as the Renée Crown Public Media Center was outfitted, inside and out, with “green” LED lighting, which significantly reduced energy costs while helping to promote a far healthier work environment.
Comedian Jay Leno received this year’s Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.
November 2014

Golden Apple winners 2014

Gustavo Dudamel, LA Philharmonic

Jackie Evancho: Awakening – Live in Concert

Salute to the Troops
December 2014

WTTW kicked off December with the premiere of a very different kind of Geoffrey Baer tour special: a quiz show. In Where in Chicago?, Geoffrey and his crew took to the streets to pose some challenging Chicago history and trivia questions to a lively and diverse group of passersby all over the city – in Lincoln Park, Daley Plaza, Chinatown, Navy Pier, Hyde Park, and other locales – and reveal the often-surprising answers.

Audiences also took a journey back in time with a rebroadcast of the very first episode of the groundbreaking music series Soundstage – a tribute to the iconic blues great Muddy Waters, taped in WTTW’s studios in 1974. Music legends Johnny Winter, Willie Dixon, Junior Wells, Dr. John, and Koko Taylor performed with Waters.

Other notable programs included a NOVA installment on Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon; an American Masters profile of Bing Crosby, and a variety of holiday programs, including a new special from Call the Midwife. In advance of the premiere of season five of Downton Abbey, WTTW hosted a special screening event at the Chicago History Museum. And on the digital front, Chicago Tonight provided extensive coverage of the controversy over the use of lakefront parkland for the proposed Lucas Museum of Narrative Art.

WFMT celebrated the birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven with an impressive feat: broadcasts of all 32 of the composer’s piano concertos, over two weeks. Audiences also heard a Carnegie Hall recital from Daniil Trifonov, co-hosted by actor David Hyde Pierce; Anna Bolena from Lyric Opera of Chicago; and several operas in the Live from the Met series.

The station also aired a rich and eclectic collection of holiday content, and, in an annual tradition, fans of WFMT’s The Midnight Special rang in the New Year with longtime host Rich Warren and a live broadcast featuring folk music stars Jim Bizer and Jan Krist, Mark Dvorak, Connie Kaldor, and James Lee Stanley. A great time was had by all.
December 2014

The proposed Lucas Museum of Narrative Art on Chicago Tonight.

Attendees enjoying the *Downton Abbey* screening event at Chicago History Museum.

Muddy Waters on the first *Soundstage*, 1974.
Performers who joined host Rich Warren for *The Midnight Special* on New Year’s Eve
Chicago Symphony Orchestra Music Director Riccardo Muti

Photo: Todd Rosenberg Photography
January 2015

On WTTW, for the fifth consecutive year, January commenced with the eagerly anticipated season premiere of the enduring favorite Masterpiece Classic: Downton Abbey, once again attracting audiences across a wide demographic. The program, truly a game changer for public media, consistently came in second with tough competition from the Super Bowl, the Oscars, the Golden Globes, and the Grammys. And nationally, it came out ahead of such popular drama series as Game of Thrones, Mad Men, American Horror Story, and others. There were between 850,000 and one million online streams of each episode, and constant chatter on social media. Yes, the Downton juggernaut was still going strong.

In other January news, as always WTTW rang in the New Year with Great Performances, Julie Andrews and the Vienna Philharmonic; home bakers were celebrated on The Great British Baking Show; Billy Joel received the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize; fans of the old Wild Chicago series enjoyed a new six-part series, Wild Travels, hosted by Will Clinger, and Nature took us to Wild France; David Tennant and Emily Watson starred in The Politician’s Husband; local correspondent and filmmaker Mike Leonard returned with the new series inCommon, and Rick Bayless continued his trek through MEXICO – One Plate at a Time; renowned musicians were spotlighted on Speakeasy; audiences gained a new perspective on the Bard of Avon in Shakespeare Uncovered; and the three-part series A Path Appears focused on human rights violations across the globe. Finally, audiences voted online in the Viewer’s Choice Bowl, and Phil Ponce was named the first Alexandra and John Nichols Correspondent and Host.

WFMT saluted the acclaimed music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with Riccardo Muti Day on January 30, and presented birthday tributes to composers Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Franz Schubert. Audiences had a front-row seat to Lyric Opera of Chicago’s Tosca, and the Saturday afternoon Met operas continued; enjoyed two new series: The Piano in France with David Dubal and The Sopranos with Debbie Voigt; and attended an all-day Immersion in our studios as John C. Tibbets hosted Classical Music Goes to the Movies.
Lyric Opera of Chicago: Tosca

The Politician’s Husband

Mike Leonard, inCommon
Great British Baking Show hosts Mel and Sue

Billy Joel received the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize

Deborah Voigt, The Sopranos
As always, WTTW marked Black History Month with its usual eclectic slate of programming, including Antiques Roadshow: Celebrating Black Americana, an American Masters focusing on the distinguished playwright August Wilson, an Independent Lens that explored American denial of racial injustice, and Mr. Civil Rights: Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP. A dedicated website listed all the relevant content on WTTW11 and on WTTW Prime 11.2.

Chicago Tonight partnered with the City Club of Chicago on a mayoral candidate forum in advance of the February 24 election which would later result in a runoff. A new local documentary, produced by WTTW, highlighted the work of Illinois Artists at Work. The new five-part series EARTH A New Wild weighed the relationship between humans, animals, and natural history events. American Experience recalled the devastating tuberculosis epidemic and its repercussions today; NOVA marveled at Istanbul’s Hagia Sophia, one of the world’s Building Wonders; Frontline delved into end-of-life issues in Being Mortal; audiences heard the story of America’s Italian Americans; and Motown 25 marked the anniversary of the first time television audiences thrilled to the sight of Michael Jackson’s legendary moonwalk.

February began for WFMT with a very sad loss: program host and critic-at-large Andrew Patner passed away suddenly after a brief illness; more on page 45.

Two productions from Lyric Opera of Chicago had opening-night broadcasts on WFMT: Richard Wagner’s Tannhäuser and Mieczysław Weinberg’s The Passenger. Pianist Leif Ove Andsnes played Beethoven on Carnegie Hall Live; Live from the Met featured operas by Verdi, Tchaikovsky, and Bartók starring Anna Netrebko, and two by Mozart: Don Giovanni and The Magic Flute. Canadian pianist Winston Choi and mandolin artist Avi Avital stopped by Improvise; Villa Palagonia performed on Folkstage; and pianist Wu Han and Lyric Opera’s music director and principal conductor Sir Andrew Davis each joined Kerry Frumkin in the announcer booth as Guest Host to share some of their favorite music with audiences.
February 2015

Lyric Opera of Chicago: The Passenger

EARTH: A New Wild

Photo: Michael Brosilow

Photo: Michael Brosilow
Andrew Patner: 1959-2015

Longtime WFMT program host and Chicago classical music critic Andrew Patner passed away suddenly on February 3. A longtime member of the WFMT family, Andrew Patner served as WFMT’s Critic-At-Large and hosted for a number of years the station’s weekly programs Critic’s Choice and Critical Thinking, while concurrently serving as an arts and classical music critic for the Chicago Sun-Times.

A third-generation Chicagoan and Hyde Park native who attended the University of Chicago, Andrew previously served as a staff writer and editor for Chicago Magazine; a staff writer for The Wall Street Journal, and spent eight years as a program host, critic, and producer at WBEZ. His work appeared in such publications as The New Yorker, The Nation, The Progressive, the Financial Times, Art & Antiques, German GEO, London’s The Art Newspaper, Gramophone, and Opernwelt, among others, and on the national broadcasting services of Britain, Norway, Poland, Japan, and Israel. He taught and lectured all over the world, and won the Peter Lisagor Award for his coverage of race and politics on the eve of Harold Washington’s election as Chicago’s first black mayor.

On March 18, family, friends, and fans gathered at Orchestra Hall in Symphony Center to celebrate his life and accomplishments. Online, WFMT offered a podcast of the memorial, along with a rundown of the evening’s events and participants. It was a fitting tribute to a man who was a treasured mainstay and steadfast supporter of WFMT, and of the city’s vibrant arts scene.
In an annual tradition, WTTW once again produced a new 30-minute documentary, hosted by Geoffrey Baer, focusing on the year’s winner of the Richard H. Driehaus Prize at the University of Notre Dame. In 2015, the resulting program was *Street Smarts: Architect David M. Schwarz*, about the visionary who transformed the downtown area of Fort Worth, Texas. As always, the special’s companion website went far beyond the program, to tell the complete story with a career timeline, images, video, web exclusives, and more.

One week before the runoff election for Chicago mayor, WTTW nightly newsmagazine *Chicago Tonight* hosted a well-attended candidate forum with the two contenders, Jesús “Chuy” García and Rahm Emanuel, once again in partnership with the City Club of Chicago.

Also in March, WTTW presented the Ken Burns miniseries *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies*, and premiered new seasons of *Call the Midwife* and *Mr. Selfridge on Masterpiece*, starring Chicago’s Jeremy Piven. Other programs included *Great Performances: L’allegro with the Mark Morris Dance Company*, *Frontline: The Vaccine War*, *Trains Around North America*, and *Independent Lens: Little White Lie*.

WFMT welcomed renowned bass-baritone Eric Owens for a new weekly series, *Eric on Opera*, in which the singer focused on opera and its interpreters from a variety of unexpected angles. Audiences had great fun with another new program, *The Signature Series with Paolo Pietropaolo*, which likened music’s key signatures to signs of the Zodiac. Each day, WFMT played an hour of music in the signature key of the day, a website feature invited audiences to take an online quiz to find out which key best matched their personalities, and podcasts were available for each.

Numerous special guests paid a visit to WFMT, including The Silk Road Ensemble, The Kronos Quartet (which included a web interview and podcast), and pianist Orion Weiss to *Impromptu*, and The Young Novelists, Jeni & Billy, and Danny Schmidt and Carrie Elkin to *Folkstage*. Fans of *Live from the Met* heard Bizet’s *Carmen*, Rossini’s *La Donna del Lago*, Massenet’s *Manon*, and Donizetti’s *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Finally, the Ryan Opera Center singers presented their annual *Rising Stars* concert, and the Chicago Symphony celebrated the 90th birthday of composer Pierre Boulez with a broadcast on WFMT.
Contenders Rahm Emanuel and Jesús “Chuy” García join moderator Phil Ponce for a mayoral forum on Chicago Tonight.

Great Performances: L’allegro with the Mark Morris Dance Company

The Signature Series with Paolo Pietropaolo on WFMT
Frontline: The Vaccine War

Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies
Lyric Opera of Chicago: Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Carousel*
In addition to the debut of the mouthwatering new digital series **FOODPHILES**, WTTW’s groundbreaking **Soundstage** series returned with **Brian Wilson and Friends: A Soundstage Special Event**. WTTW was also the national presenting station for **Rx: The Quiet Revolution** and **Rx: Doctors of Tomorrow**, which spotlighted healthcare professionals placing the patient at the center of their practices, and first-year medical students being trained to follow in their footsteps. The award-winning **Masterpiece** series **Wolf Hall** premiered, along with **Independent Lens: The Homestretch**, a moving documentary focusing on three homeless Chicago teens and their struggle to stay in school and build a future. Immediately after, **Chicago Tonight** convened a town hall to discuss these issues with principals from the film. Finally, **American Experience: Last Days in Vietnam** marked the 40th anniversary of the controversial end of that conflict.

Events included a **Sesame Street** Play Zone in Grainger Studio for children and families; President and CEO Dan Schmidt’s participation in a panel discussion at the Union League Club focusing on Abraham Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address; a School Project screening, **Unchartered Territory**, at the Chicago Cultural Center; and a WFMT **Warsaw Comes to Chicago** event at the Copernicus Center.

Notable WFMT broadcasts included the final production of the season from Lyric Opera of Chicago: Rodgers & Hammerstein’s **Carousel**, headlined by Broadway stars Laura Osnes, Stephen Pasquale, and Tony Roberts and opera diva Denyce Graves; two Metropolitan Opera productions by Verdi: **Ernani** and **Don Carlo**; the new series **PoetryNow** with the Poetry Foundation; and the premiere of a new season from the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. The WFMT Radio Network was awarded a MacArthur Foundation grant for a partnership with Radio New Zealand to create a new radio series. WFMT marked Passover with celebrated violinist Itzhak Perlman’s **A Musical Feast**, and as always, celebrated Easter Sunday in style with a variety of relevant content.
April 2015

Wolf Hall on Masterpiece, Mark Rylance

Rx: The Quiet Revolution

Last Days in Vietnam: American Experience
Phil Ponce with panelists for *The Homestretch*
To coincide with WTTW’s 60th Anniversary and annual gala paying tribute to a true public broadcasting pioneer, local filmmaker Mike Leonard brought audiences a new installment in his inCommon series: Newton Minow: An American Story. Also, WTTW’s upcoming national animated series Nature Cat, a co-production with Spiffy Pictures, was introduced to programmers at the PBS Showcase in Austin, Texas. The popular retro detective series Foyle’s War presented its final episodes; American Masters traced the history of American Ballet Theatre; Frontline revealed The Trouble with Chicken; and two new documentaries dealt with local activism against violence. Several representatives from both WTTW and WFMT participated in the citywide On the Table initiative, sharing a meal with diverse groups of local residents to brainstorm on way to improve local communities.

As always, May concluded on WTTW with hosts Joe Mantegna and Gary Sinise and an all-star lineup on the National Memorial Day Concert live from the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol, and some of America’s brightest elementary school students taking part in the annual National Geographic Bee, hosted by Soledad O’Brien.

WFMT experienced an exceptionally busy month. Included were A Celebration of Peace Through Music from Orchestra Hall and several theme initiatives – One-Hit Wonders on May 8, Favorite Symphonies during the last two weeks of the month, and The Sounds of Global Cities, in connection with the Chicago Forum on Global Cities taking place in the city during that week. Guests enjoyed another all-day Immersion at the studios – Latin American Rhapsody with Elbio Barilari.

The Ryan Opera Center’s monthly recital focused on Songs About Men, Live from the Met featured Verdi’s Un ballo in maschera and Stravinsky’s The Rake’s Progress. Broadcasts from The Salzburg Festival returned, and rebroadcasts of Lyric Opera of Chicago’s 2014-15 season commenced. Rich Warren welcomed Sparky & Rhonda Rucker, Claudia Schmidt and Sally Rogers, and Rebecca Folsom to Folkstage. WFMT’s Impromptu series featured performers from Chicago Shakespeare Theater’s production of Sense & Sensibility, mandolin virtuoso Dimitris Marinos, and Spektral Quartet.
May 2015

The National Memorial Day Concert

Live from the Met: Un Ballo in Maschera

Foyle’s War
A Celebration of Peace Through Music

On the Table initiative 2015

Spektral Quartet
Bernadette Peters performing on the piano at WTTW's Diamond Celebration
On Tuesday, May 5, the organization held its annual gala, a Diamond Celebration marking WTTW’s 60th anniversary. The evening’s special honoree was WTTW Trustee and former Board Chairman Newton N. Minow, who was recognized for his many contributions to public broadcasting on a local and national level.

The event’s 500 guests were greeted on arrival by Sesame Street’s Grover, who obligingly posed for photos. The evening commenced with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres under shimmering crystal chandeliers in Grainger Studio, while highlights from six decades of WTTW programming played. This was followed by a video that highlighted WTTW presentations in the areas of children’s programming, news and public affairs, history and heritage, science and nature, arts and culture, and travel and cooking. A series of tributes to Mr. Minow included Sesame Street’s Elmo and Cookie Monster, Ken Burns, President Obama, and the Minow family. Event Chairs Renée and Lester Crown spoke warmly about Mr. Minow, celebrating some of his many accomplishments. Mr. Minow then took to the stage to share stories about the early days of WTTW, highlighting the station’s founder, Ed Ryerson.

Immediately following, the guests moved outdoors to an elegant dinner under the stars in a large transparent tent with white accents. Jewell Events Catering provided the wonderful cuisine, accompanied by wine from Terlato Wines International. The dinner commenced with remarks by WTTW Chairman James W. Mabie and PBS President Paula Kerger. After guests enjoyed a cherry clafoutis inspired by Julia Child, President and CEO Dan Schmidt said a final goodnight, and the crowd departed with smiles and some special gifts, including delectable cake truffles from Swirlz Cupcakes.

Lead Sponsor for the Diamond Celebration was BMO Harris Bank. The event raised $1.5 million to support quality programming on WTTW and WFMT.
Celebration 2015

Newt and Jo Minow with Bernadette Peters

Mike and Pat Koldyke with Grover

Bernadette concluding her performance in style

WTTW and WFMT President and CEO Dan Schmidt speaking during dinner
As the fiscal year drew to a close and the warm weather arrived, WFMT’s live summer Chicago music broadcasts returned with the weekly Rush Hour Concerts from St. James Cathedral, and Grant Park Music Festival broadcasts from Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park. A very special Impromptu featured world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who performed live in Levin Studio with musicians from the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in front of an enthusiastic studio audience of fans.

In other news, composer Mason Bates served as Guest Host; The Ryan Opera Center Recital Series that month focused on songs from and about Scotland, and the monthly PianoForte Salon Series featured the Lincoln Trio; audiences enjoyed The North Shore Chamber Music Festival 2015; and Folkstage featured Small Potatoes and Ernest Troost.

On WTTW, audiences thrilled to Poldark on Masterpiece, a swashbuckling remake of the popular series from the 1970s. Also notable: the new series First Peoples and The Crimson Field; a third season of Last Tango in Halifax; two Andrew Goldberg documentaries focusing on Armenian heritage; a behind-the-scenes look at Claridge’s Hotel in London; and two British detective series, Father Brown and Death in Paradise. The station’s annual Pride Month programming initiative highlighted many aspects of LGBT history and culture with a variety of relevant content.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel began a series of regular visits to Chicago Tonight, for periodic in-depth interviews during which he also answered questions submitted from audience members.

On the digital side, a lively new web series, The Good Stuff, came to wttw.com as host and YouTube sensation Craig Benzine scoured the depths of the universe and the inner recesses of the mind in a quest for “the good stuff.”

Also, WTTW organized an American Graduate free community “slow roll” bike ride, Celebration of Graduation: Rolling into the Future, designed to celebrate the achievements of Chicago’s young graduates and inspire them to “roll into their future” with solid goals to realize their full potential.
The Good Stuff is a show featuring videos on a variety of different themes. The stories are sometimes fictional, sometimes educational, and some are documentary in style. Join host and YouTube sensation Craig Benzine, a.k.a. Wheezy Water, as he scours the depths of the universe and the inner recesses of the mind in a never-ending quest for the good stuff and enjoy the themes coming up this year. The Good Stuff is produced by Craig Benzine, Ryan Wolff, Matt Weber, David Wolff, and Sam Grant.

Composer Mason Bates
Last Tango in Halifax

Small Potatoes on WFMT’s Folkstage

Mayor Rahm Emanuel on Chicago Tonight
**American Graduate: Let’s Make it Happen!**

WTTW’s American Graduate initiative has continued to raise awareness of the school dropout crisis in Chicago across a variety of platforms. PSAs produced in partnership with the youth production organization Free Spirit Media continued to broadcast in station breaks throughout the year, and *Chicago Tonight* provided coverage of the issues leading to low graduation rates and the programs in place to support students at risk. WTTW presented a free screening, discussion, and resource fair around the locally produced film *The Homestretch*, along with a *Chicago Tonight* special which aired after the program. WTTW participated in the all-day national American Graduate Day broadcast, providing 13 locally produced interviews and packages recognizing organizations and individuals who provide services and resources. In June, WTTW, in partnership with Slow Roll Chicago and the Chicago Park District, hosted a *Celebration of Graduation* neighborhood bike ride and party in the park on Chicago’s south side. This event was attended by more than 250 community residents.

**WTTW Kids Readers Are Leaders Tour**

This year, the WTTW Kids Readers are Leaders program continued to educate more children than ever and visited more venues than ever before. In the program’s seven-year history, the program has entertained and educated close to 40,000 children between the ages of 3 and 8, many of them in underserved areas of Chicago where educational materials are scarce. In 2014-15, math games and learning were added via the integration of UMIGO.com; children were provided with booklets, learning toys, and tools which provide an exciting link between the worlds of reading and math. Children, parents, and caregivers are guided to visit UMIGO.com where math adventures continue through interactive appisodes and online games. These UMIGO gifts accompany other special learning materials, resources for parents and caregivers, and gift certificates for complimentary fruits and vegetables from presenting partner ALDI, distributed to every child at the end of every event.

**WTTW Kids Great Food Fan Van**

This was the 7th anniversary season of the WTTW Kids Great Food Fan Van program, which educated and entertained thousands of children, parents, grandparents, and caregivers throughout seven Chicagoland counties at grocery stores.
Community Engagement

including Whole Foods Market, Jewel-Osco, Mariano’s, Brookhaven Marketplace, Sunset Foods, Ultra Foods, and Strack & Van Til. Every Great Food Fan Van event included healthy food education and sampling, stretching exercises, singing, dancing, educational games, and one-on-one health guidance. The goal of the WTTW Kids Great Food Fan Van program is to combat childhood obesity through fun and education, one family at a time. The nutritional guidance is reinforced by the healthy food samples that are provided by our generous partners.

The Grandparent Connection

2014 was year two for this outreach program that brings children between the ages of 7 and 9 from a nearby school or day-camp together with seniors during an hour-long program that integrates stretching and movement activities, collaborative storytelling, lessons about nutritious eating and healthy habits, interactive sing-alongs, and fun games that build and help rebuild literacy skills. These interactions reduce isolation, connect seniors to their community, and provide positive stimulation for those suffering from dementia and other cognitive impairments. Averaging more than 50 senior attendees per event, the program serves more than 300 seniors each year, alongside more than 450 students.

The Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching

For the 29th consecutive year, in November WTTW produced and aired this annual awards ceremony, honoring ten outstanding teachers from schools throughout the Chicago area. In addition to a trophy and valuable prizes (including an Apple computer and a sabbatical), each teacher was featured in an interstitial which included revealing footage shot at the school and heartwarming testimonials from students and parents. This year, the awards show, taped at WTTW’s Grainger Studio and hosted by Geoffrey Baer, featured the best 4th through 8th grade teachers from the city and surrounding suburbs.

Public Events

WTTW and WFMT hosted public events in connection with relevant content throughout the year. Among these were monthly Independent Lens community screenings at the Chicago Cultural Center, part of a partnership with ITVS; a Sesame Street Play Zone event in Grainger Studio; author luncheons at the Union League Club; several public screening events surrounding Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies and Rx: The Quiet Revolution; a meet-and-greet with the Chicago Tonight on-air hosts and correspondents; a screening for The Roosevelts: An Intimate History with Ken Burns at Frances W. Parker School, and a Downton Abbey preview screening and reception at the Chicago History Museum.

WFMT offered several all-day Immersion events designed to enhance the listening experience by providing in-depth seminars on a variety of genres of classical music. These included a tribute day to Maria Callas with Henry Fogel; a treatise on classical music in the movies with John C. Tibbets; an overview of early music from the Baroque period with Ellen Hargis; and Latin-American Rhapsody with Fiesta! host Elbio Barilari. In April, WTTW partnered with Access Contemporary Music on a celebration of Poland’s classical composers with a concert at the Copernicus Center, and welcomed guests to the Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio for a variety of live broadcasts in the Impromptu, Ryan Opera Center Recitals, Folkstage, and Live from WFMT series.
FISCAL 2015 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

(in thousands)

**Assets**
- Cash and investments: $47,009
- Accounts and pledges receivable, net: 4,555
- Property and equipment, net: 18,270
- Other assets: 2,054
- Total Assets: $71,888

**Liabilities and Net Assets**

**Liabilities:**
- Accounts payable and accrued expenses: $4,661
- Long-term bonds payable: 19,800
- Other liabilities: 3,714
- Total Liabilities: $28,175

**Net assets:**
- Unrestricted: $22,732
- Restricted: 20,981
- Total Net Assets: $43,713
- Total Liabilities and Net Assets: $71,888

**Revenue**
- Members and contributions: $25,473
- Ready-to-Learn and production sponsorship: 14,753
- Corporate underwriting and advertising: 4,551
- Federal and state grants: 3,923
- Other: 625
- Total Revenue: $49,325

**Expenses**
- Programming and production: $33,257
- Member services and marketing: 7,126
- Sales and underwriting: 2,440
- Fundraising: 2,138
- IT, building, administration, and finance: 4,277
- Total Expenses: $49,238

Increase in Net Assets from Operating Activities: 87

Statement of Activity* for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015

*Reflects $2.6 million in non-cash depreciation expense
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- Segal Family Foundation
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- Helen Brach Foundation
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- Chicago Title & Trust Company Foundation
- Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund
- The Grainger Foundation
- Irving Harris Foundation
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- Edmond and Alice Opler Foundation
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