Local Content & Service Report to the Community 2018

“We appreciate your NPR coverage and especially the classical music with Steven Turpin.”

– Alisa Clapp-Itnyre

*The Facing Project* is a monthly, 23-minute long program that is “StoryCorps meets *This American Life*” and airs the third Thursday of each month, immediately following *All Things Considered*. The first episode aired on Sept. 20.

Founded in 2012 in Muncie by J.R. Jamison and Kelsey Timmerman, *The Facing Project* began as a one-off response to debates about the poverty statistic in Delaware County — to bring a human story to the numbers — but quickly grew into a program model and then into its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has now spread across the country to over 100 communities. While the original project took on the subject of poverty, *The Facing Project* has now collected over 1,500 stories on topics ranging from racism to disabilities.

Each episode of the IPR program hosted by Jamison and Timmerman, who introduce the month’s theme followed by performances of two *Facing Project* stories from different points-of-view but related to the month’s theme. Every story is produced by two people who took the time to listen and share and collaborate on a monologue told from one of their lived experiences. Each episode ends with commentary on the theme between the hosts, leaving listeners with the courage to share their own stories and the empathy to listen to others.

Themes have included Unity, Seeing Yourself Reflected in the World, Giving Thanks, and Connecting across Differences.

Subthemes include but are not limited to: poverty, Immigration, LGBTQ, racism, mental health, disabilities, and more.

The Facing Project was co-founded by J.R. Jamison and Kelsey Timmerman, writers and active citizens who are passionate about helping communities tell their stories. Together they host *The Facing Project* on IPR.
An Evening with NPR host David Greene

In April, IPR hosted David Greene, co-host of NPR’s Morning Edition for an EXCLUSIVE evening of engaging conversation and fine wine tasting.

Greene captivated the audience speaking about his travels and career reporting for public radio, then took several questions from the audience. Nearly 250 attended the fundraising event at Minnetrista Cultural Center in Muncie, which featured a private reception for major donors and special guests, conversation with the host, and wine tasting.

During the wine tasting, guests could participate in an optional wine pull where they chose a wrapped bottle of wine from a selection of cheap, moderate and expensive wines.

“I want to thank everyone at IPR for all their hard work on the David Green visit. It was amazing and they were amazing! My friends very much enjoyed the wine I received in return for my contribution.”

– Rita Faulkner

“IPR provides complete local news coverage and carries a well-rounded catalog of NPR programming. IPR is an indispensible community resource.”

– Deb and Matt Miller

“IPR and NPR are my key sources of information and entertainment. The world is a better place because of IPR.”

– William Cowling
IPR News wins AP Awards

IPR’s news team came home with five awards this year from the Indiana Associated Press Broadcasters Association. Awards were given for stories and newscasts broadcast in 2017.

Stan Sollars won Best Long-Form Newscast for local radio. It’s his 37th best newscast award in many competitions since 1995.

Stephanie Wiechmann was awarded Best Reporter for the fourth time in her 10 years with the station.

Tony Sandleben was named Best Radio Student Reporter. A recent graduate of Ball State University, he is currently a reporter at WANE TV in Fort Wayne.

A series from a Ball State immersive learning class taught by IPR News Director Terry Heifetz was awarded Best Community Impact. Unmasked: The Stigma of Meth covered the methamphetamine crisis in Delaware County. The group produced a radio series for IPR, a documentary for WIPB-TV, a magazine, and a website. The reporting was praised by local organizations and received a commendation from lawmakers in the Indiana General Assembly.

Stephanie Wiechmann and Tony Sandleben also received a second place award in the Best Continuing Coverage category for stories they did on the experimental partial state takeover of Muncie Community Schools.

This contest is judged by journalists in other states. They called IPR’s stories in-depth with a nice selection of interviews and IPR reporters and anchors “bright, well-spoken, and professional.”
Local Music and Stories

BlueNotes Jazz

BlueNotes began as a quarterly jazz digest in 2014 with an eclectic blend of classic and contemporary jazz and an occasional focus on specific genres and styles of jazz. Beginning with the June 2018 broadcast, BlueNotes joined the IPR program lineup as a regular monthly program offering. Larry Beck hosts the program, east central Indiana’s only jazz radio broadcast offering great music, news of local jazz events, and features with local jazz musicians. Guests in 2018 included Mark Buselli, Director of Jazz Studies Program; Ball State University; Paula Monsalve, local singer/recording artist; Amy Edmonds, Music Librarian, Ball State University; Dr. John Peterson, physician and jazz musician; James Rhinehart, pianist/member of Ball State University School of Music faculty; and David Reece, local jazz enthusiast.

Community Connection

In 2018, IPR continued to offer Community Connection, an IPR original program that tells the stories of nonprofit organizations in our region. Each month we focus on one organization and what its volunteers and staff are doing to make our community a better place. We’re here to tell their story: what impact they have on our community, how they do what they do, and how our listeners can help. Organizations featured in 2018 included Home Savers of Delaware County; Muncie’s Food Not Bombs; Habitat for Humanity of Madison County; Raise the Bar Indiana; Cornfed Derby Dames; Children's Bureau, Inc.; Boys & Girls Clubs of Muncie; Back to School Teachers Store; Wildlife Warriors; Tips for Turkey; and the Madison County Local Food Network.

Morning Musicale

Classical music guru Steven Turpin broadcast hours of classical music with information on local music performances, information about area musicians and more. Turpin welcomed to the studios the following guests in 2018: Douglas Droste, Muncie Symphony Orchestra Music Director and Conductor; Kerry Glann, Masterworks Chorale Artistic Director; and Jon Truitt, Director of Opera, Ball State University.

Owsley Moment

IPR continued its weekly radio series, The Owsley Moment, in 2018. Created in 2017 by Ball State School of Art professor Lara Kuykendall, The Owsley Moment is a brief, informative program that describes one work on display at the David Owsley Museum of Art every week. The Owsley Moment is written by students of Kuykendall’s Art Museum Theory & Practice and Art in the United States classes at Ball State. They are produced in collaboration with the David Owsley Museum of Art and Indiana Public Radio and are voiced by Ball State students.

In November IPR’s Community Connection featured Tips for Turkey, a local nonprofit that provides Thanksgiving meals for deserving families.

The Scene

In 2018, IPR continued to offer the weekly, Ball State University student-produced public radio show The Scene. The program features music performances from all over Indiana. The goal is to promote the Indiana music scene by focusing on the music itself. It tells the stories of the music happening in our own backyards, gives listeners a bit of context about new and upcoming artists and often includes interviews with the musicians themselves.
I now look forward to IPR’s Nerd’s Trivia each month. As a huge IPR fan and listener, I look most forward to the current events questions, but also enjoy the other topics. This is a great idea and I hope it continues!!

Engaging the Community

Coffee with Stan
IPR continued its “Coffee with Stan” events in 2018. The monthly Coffee with Stan featured a tasting of delicious single origin coffees with light refreshments from The Caffinentry served by a professional barista, a look inside IPR studios and of course, a chance to meet the man, the legend, Stan Sollars, host of Morning Edition. The event is limited to the first 6 people who register and each month all spaces were full. Coffee with Stan is the first Friday of every month from 8 to 10 am.

IPR Nerds Trivia
Indiana Public Radio hosted its first IPR Nerds Trivia Night in January of 2018. Designed as a way IPR fans could gather with like minded listeners, it was offered the last Thursday of each month at Books & Brews in Muncie. IPR Nerds Trivia was hosted by All Things Considered host Stephanie Wiechmann and Community Connection host Michelle Kinsey. The trivia nights were free to attend and winners received prizes (primarily “vintage” IPR and NPR items from our storage closet). Each trivia night drew about four teams, comprised of four “nerds” each.

Tours
Indiana Public Radio led several educational tours of our studios, including a tour for 90 students, teachers and parents from Selma Elementary School. Students from Winchester High School and Northside Middle School (Muncie) also toured the studios. In all, about 140 students came through IPR in 2018. Tours were also conducted for Ball State University students, curious individuals and families of prospective BSU students.

Better Together/BSU Centennial Events
Indiana Public Radio participated in a Community Campus Experience on June 16. The free event, open to everyone, included tours of the IPR studios and a chance to meet their favorite hosts. Dozens of people came through the studios and, for most, it was their first time at IPR.
Considering All the Craft Beer

Indiana Public Radio’s annual celebration of local and regional craft beer, ALL BEERS CONSIDERED was hosted in Oct. 2018. The 12th annual event has become this area’s premiere craft beer tasting and featured the works of artisans from Muncie Makers Market, a fun photo booth, live music by The Oldfields, a variety of Cuban-inspired small plates by Harmony Café, a silent auction and of course, great craft beer hand selected by The Fickle Peach. Nearly 300 people attended the event and took home a keepsake beer tasting glass. Proceeds benefited IPR.

Public Radio Theatre

Indiana Public Radio presented its annual Radio Drama on Dec. 14, live on air from Sursa Performance Hall on the campus of Ball State University. The holiday tradition features community actors, authentic sound effects (produced by a foley artist on stage) and a live orchestra. The drama was "A Few Houses Down," an original show written by Michael Kleeberg, Associate Professor of English and Communication at Ivy Tech Community College and no stranger to the IPR Radio Drama (he has been a featured voice in several of them). Matthew Reeder, a Ball State University theater professor, returned to direct his second radio drama. The live broadcast aired from 8-9 p.m. and was taped for rebroadcast on IPR and videotaped to be shown on WIPB-TV that December. Those who attended the show in person were treated to a pre-show Foley demonstration; comments from the director, music director and writer, and a unique view of what is normally only heard.

Friends of IPR

Here are some of the arts and culture and non-profit organizations we partnered with last year:

- Anderson Symphony Orchestra
- Arts Place, Inc.
- Back to School Teachers Store
- Ball State Dept of Theatre Dance
- Ball State School of Music
- Ball State TCOM Dept
- Box! Box!
- Boys and Girls Clubs – Roy C. Buley Center
- Children's Bureau, Inc.
- Civic Hall Performing Arts Center
- Cornfed Derby Dames
- David Owsley Museum of Art
- Habitat for Humanity of Madison County
- Home Savers of Delaware County
- Honeywell Center
- Mainstage Theatre Anderson
- Marion Philharmonic Orchestra
- Masterworks Chorale
- Muncie Civic Theatre
- Muncie Makers Market
- Muncie Symphony Orchestra
- Muncie Three Trails Music Series
- Muncie’s Food Not Bombs
- Raise the Bar Indiana
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra
- Ross Community Center
- Tips for Turkey
- Wildlife Warriors

1,002 hours of local programming

- Arts & Cultural News & Public Affairs
- Music
"I am proud to support excellent journalism and reporting. NPR is not afraid to air tough conversations...and its reporters are not afraid to ask tough questions. A free press is essential to a functioning democracy. IPR keeps me informed and entertained."

- Liz Osisek, Greenfield