

 **UR HOUR**

**A Gathering for BIPOC
in Public Media**

This space is for **us**.

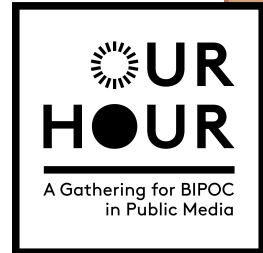
This space is for people who identify as BIPOC, biracial or multiracial.

If you do not identify as BIPOC, you may be compromising the sense of safety this town hall provides; we kindly ask that you exit this space.

Our Hour is a Camera On Environment



We ask that attendees keep cameras on when entering and for the first few minutes of this town hall as well as while in the breakout rooms.



Announcements

Share what's happening in your world.

See what was shared in our [Announcements Doc](#)



Spread joy and encouragement by sharing personal or professional achievements



Promote industry-wide job opportunities, networking events, and learning offerings



Show love for up-and-coming BIPOC creators and businesses



Submit Your Info to be a part of the Our Hour Community Directory!

With the help of [Public Media For All](#), we have launched this directory as a resource *solely* for the Our Hour Community as a means to strengthen the connection between BIPOC, Biracial, and multiracial individuals working in all areas of Public Media.

Individuals who submit their details will receive access to the directory.

Complete [this form](#) to submit your details. Questions can be directed to sway@greaterpublic.org.

OUR HOUR

A Gathering for BIPOC
in Public Media

By the Community
**FOR THE
COMMUNITY**



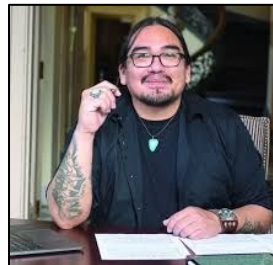
Tuesday, November 18
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. PT



Today's Presenters



Mary Lou Asicksik
Alaska Public Media



Michael Begay
KGHR



Keri Blackrock
KGHR

Paglagipsigi, welcome to you



Mary Lou Asicksik

- Baayin
- Banusaq - “Darling Daughter”
- Executive Assistant, Alaska Public Media



Aftermath

- Two confirmed deaths
- One person missing
- Over 1,600 people displaced

Communities were not ready or prepared for the devastation.

Kipnuk
Before and After
90% of structures destroyed





Village of Kipnuk

A storm surge from the remnants of Typhoon Halong carried houses off their foundations and scattered them throughout the village. The impacts forced the entire community to shelter in the local public school.



Evacuation of approximately 300 displaced Western Alaska residents following Typhoon Halong, Oct. 15, 2025, by Alaska Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster III aircrew, assigned to the 176th Wing.

They could only bring one small bag; pets were not allowed.



ALASKA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Your generosity is reaching Western Alaska

LEARN MORE

alaskacf.org/western-alaska-relief



Gabby Salgado - KTUK



Sharon Bell - KSKA



Eric Stone - Alaska Public Media

Alaska Community Foundation

- Community organizations and regional partners have come together to establish the Western Alaska Disaster Relief Fund, housed at the Alaska Community Foundation.
- The Western Alaska Disaster Relief Fund provides support to affected communities for immediate relief, recovery support, and long-term resilience, including disaster preparedness initiatives.

[Alaska Community Foundation - Western Disaster Relief Fund](http://alaskacf.org/western-alaska-relief)

Bethel Friends of Canines

- Nearly 200 dogs rescued
- Reunited with their owners, placed into foster care, or adopted

[Bethel Friends of Canines](#)



Ways to Help

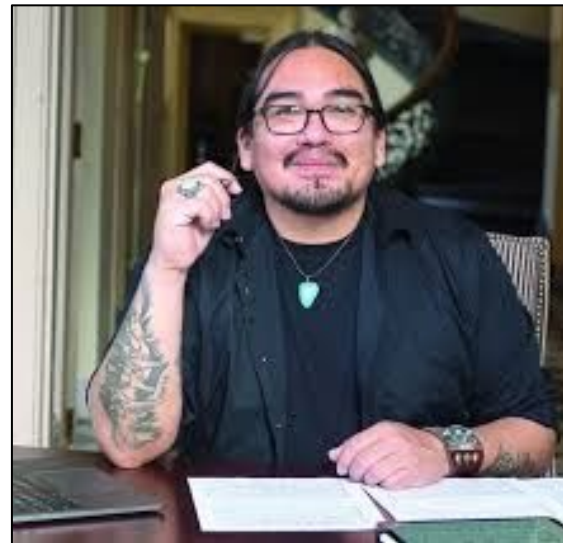
- Alaska Community Foundation
- Bethel Friends of Canines
- Red Cross



Evacuees arrive at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Oct. 15, 2025.



Keri Blackrock



Michael Begay

Discussion Highlights

- KGHR operates a powerful 100,000 watt non-commercial FM station located in Tuba City, Arizona, at the western edge of the Navajo Nation.
- The station primarily serves the Navajo, Hopi, Jalapai, Havasupai and the Kai Bab band of Paiute tribes in Northern Arizona, as well as surrounding communities from Monument Valley to the Grand Canyon.
- The station has been operating since December 7, 1989 and is based at Greyhills Academy High School. Michael attended the high school and is a product of the communications program that introduced students to radio; he has been working at the station ever since.
- KGHR is modernizing its studio facilities, transitioning from analog to digital equipment, improving broadcast quality and workflow. They recently renovated studios and a 200-foot tower strategically placed to preserve landscape aesthetics enhance station capabilities ([see video](#))
- Despite losing federal funding, KGHR has big plans underway to diversify revenue streams and deepen community engagement
- Plans include hosting live concerts and events, creating underwriting packages, and exploring membership models to increase listener support.
- Keri is newer to radio, but has grown into her role as the voice of the station. As a team of two, the community relies on KGHR as an essential hub for news and information.



Discussion Highlights

- Tribal radio stations serve as critical channels for storytelling, music, and cultural education that reinforce community identity. KGHR's unique value lies in its ability to provide culturally relevant information, especially to rural areas lacking other media access. They have partnered with the Navajo Nation Museum for a cultural preservation series, integrating local heritage into broadcasts
- Digital initiatives like online streaming, podcasts, and social media are planned to extend reach and relevance among students.
- Keri has started leading family engagement programs to bring the school community and local parents together.
- **While the station has a strong connection and presence in the community, Keri & Michael are looking for ways to expand their knowledge, skills and abilities in order to strengthen KGHR's services. Michael is always looking for new programming that offers unique stories and perspectives for their listeners and their community. If you or your station have access to resources and learnings/trainings in the areas below, please reach out them at Keri.Blackrock@greyhillsacademy.org and michaelbegaymusic@gmail.com**
 - Corporate support
 - News reporting
 - Programming
 - Podcasting
 - Hosting live concerts
 - Setting up training programs for students/youth through schools
 - Developing a membership model

Our Hour 2025:

Honoring Cultural Heritage/History Months

“Our Histories Are Intertwined”

February - Black/African American History

April - Arab American History

May - Asian American/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander History

*August - Interrupting “BIPOC”

Sept./Oct - Latino/Hispanic Heritage History

November - Native American History

[Click here to review resources from
this year's Heritage Month
discussions.](#)





Taken at a concert in Washington, D.C. at the end of the Longest Walk, pictured from left to right: Muhammad Ali, Buffy St. Marie, Floyd Red Crow Westerman, Harold Smith, Stevie Wonder, Marlon Brando, Max Gail, Dick Gregory, Richie Havens, and David Amram. Source: tiyamiles.com



Palestinians join Standing Rock Sioux to protest Dakota Access Pipeline. Source: mondoweiss.net



During a town hall meeting in Luang Prabang Laos an Indigenous woman from Malaysia, Alice Mathew, asks President Obama about the Dakota Access pipeline. Source: YesMagazine



Representatives from the American Indian Movement-Oceti Sakowin Chapter, Black Lives Matter Global Network, The Indian Problem, The Brown Berets, and LA RED PICO gathered to stand with #NoDAPL water protectors. Source: YesMagazine

Resources

Supporting Alaska's Native Communities

[Alaska Community Foundation - Western Disaster Relief Fund](#)

[Bethel Friends of Canines](#)

Native American Public Media Resources

These rural radio stations are a lifeline for their communities. Trump's cuts threaten their future | The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/aug/14/rural-radio-stations-federal-funding-cuts>

[Alaska Federation of Natives 2025 Public Media Panel](#) (panel is from approx. 6:22 - 7:10)

Find additional resources and content at <https://visionmakermedia.org/>, <https://www.nativepublicmedia.org/> and <https://koahnic.org/>

Native American Heritage Month - BIPOC Unity with Native Communities

Native American Activism 1960s - Present | Zinn Education Project - Teaching People's History

<https://www.zinnedproject.org/materials/native-american-activism-1960s-to-present/>

Standing Rock Joins the World's Indigenous Fighting for Land and Life | Yes! Magazine

<https://www.yesmagazine.org/democracy/2016/09/30/standing-rock-joins-the-worlds-indigenous-fighting-for-land-and-life>

Palestinians join Standing Rock Sioux to protest Dakota Access Pipeline | Monodweiss

<https://mondoweiss.net/2016/10/palestinians-standing-pipeline/>

Indigenous Solidarity Across The Americas | Forum for Community Solutions, Aspen Institute

<https://www.aspencommunitysolutions.org/indigenous-solidarity-across-the-americas>

Indigenous Peoples' Day: Where African American and Native American Histories Meet | BET.com

<https://www.bet.com/article/04jkzh/indigenous-peoples-day-where-african-american-and-native-american-histories-meet>

Working paper on Black and Native historical intersections | Tiya Miles

<https://tiyamiles.com/working-paper-on-black-and-native-historical-intersections/>

American Muslims Express Solidarity with Indigenous People (+ Photos) | Tasnim News Agency

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2016/10/13/1211254/american-muslims-express-solidarity-with-indigenous-people-photos>