

Appalshop

2016: A YEAR IN PRESS

APPALSHOP, INC • 91 MADISON AVE WHITESBURG, KY 41858 •
INFO@APPALSHOP.ORG • (606) 633-0108

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[“The Radio Show That Reunited Inmates and Families.”](#) The Marshall Project,
March 13, 2016

“Shout outs” on the air led to van rides to the supermax.

[“How a new reporting collaborative is building a newsroom that crosses state lines.”](#) *Columbia Journalism Review*, March 16, 2016

Spanning Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia, the Ohio River Network consists of seven public media partner stations—led by Louisville Public Media—tasked with producing “hard-hitting, high-quality multimedia journalism that examines the region’s economy, energy, environment, agriculture, infrastructure, and health.”

[“Calls From Home: the radio show that connects inmates and their loved ones.”](#)
The Guardian, March 23, 2016

Based in Whitesburg, Kentucky, WMMT airs the show that came about as a way to bridge the divide between area residents and the local prison population: ‘These are members of our community. It’s the least we can do’

[“How a unique community radio station serves listeners in Appalachia.”](#)
Columbia Journalism Review, April 11, 2016

In its approach to news coverage. . . WMMT aims “to interview people that typically don’t get talked to.”

[“From Coal to Craft: Eastern Kentucky’s Changing Economy,”](#) *Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland*, April 18, 2016

Swiftly changing economic conditions, highly competitive trade growth, and a future relying on evolving technology, a transition is taking place in eastern Kentucky.

[“Podcast: A View From Appalachia: Living Below The Poverty Line,”](#) NPR *Morning Edition*, April 21, 2016

Whitesburg, Kentucky, was an area once known for coal mining but most of those jobs have dried up. Limited opportunities force many residents to leave, but some are able to find their way back.

[Podcast: “Restorative Radio Project Transports Prisoners Home,”](#) WNYC’s *The Takeaway*, May 16, 2016

On Monday nights, listening to community radio station WMMT 88.7 in Whitesburg, Kentucky has become routine for inmates at several nearby prisons. For more than a decade, the station has been airing the program “Calls from Home,” which broadcasts messages that families have left for incarcerated loved ones.

[Review: “To Change the Face and Heart of America: Selected Writings on the Arts and Communities, 1949–1992,”](#) *Grantmakers in the Arts Reader*, Summer 2016

[“Seeing Appalachia Through the Eyes of Appalachians,”](#) *The Nation*, June 25, 2016

Several new media projects are re-envisioning a region long stereotyped as backward and ignorant.

[“In Pursuit of an Art With Consequences: Panel Discussion With Five ROOTS Founders,”](#) *Alternate ROOTS*, July 29, 2016

Dudley Cocke, Donna Porterfield, and Ron Short of Appalshop’s Roadside Theater discuss the intersection of social justice and art-making with Carlton Turner and Kierra Sims of the Highlander Center and Alternate ROOTS.

[“The Community Radio Station Connecting Prisoners with Family,”](#) *Great Big Story*, August 1, 2016

Prisoners in an Appalachian super-max prison have found an unlikely ally: a radio show. While telecom companies charge higher-than-normal fees for prisoners to make and receive phone calls, WMMT—a local community radio

station in Whitesburg, Kentucky—is broadcasting phone calls from loved ones over the air and into the prisons for free.

[“Beyond Coal: Imagining Appalachia’s Future,”](#) *The New York Times*, August 17, 2016

To offset lost mining jobs, officials, business leaders and environmentalists are setting aside political feuds to try to create an entrepreneurial economy.

[“The Intensely Local Roots of ROOTS,”](#) *American Theatre*, September 1, 2016

After four decades of Southern playmaking, Roadside artistic director Dudley Cocks looks back—and forward—at theatre’s place on and off the grid.

[“Podcast: Breaking Down Distress in Coal Country with Adam Davidson and Sheryl Gay Stolberg,”](#) *Grapple Podcast*, September 23, 2016

“A lot of the work here in thinking about the future is in a way, psychological ... It’s getting people in the region to believe that their region can be something more than the coal industry.”

[“Youth Voices Rise Up 2016,”](#) *NAMAC Blog*, November 1, 2016

“I’m very adamant about subverting the narrative that has been bestowed upon the Appalachian region and my hope is to be part of those that are working to replace the one that exists outside of the mountains with the true narrative—the reality—of living in and loving these mountains.” – filmmaker Brandon Jent

[“Communities Need More Than ‘Outreach,’”](#) *The Daily Yonder*, November 18, 2016

Rural communities need more than “bridges” to progressive urban institutions. They need their own people-powered organizations.

[“Youth Storytellers Discover New Narratives at the Museum of Art,”](#) *Carnegie Museum of Art Blog*, November 24, 2016

The youth interns analyzed their own identities as postindustrial Appalachians in both Pennsylvania and Kentucky, and looked to the museum galleries as a living classroom. For many of the students from Kentucky this was particularly meaningful, since it was their first experience at an art museum and in a city as large as Pittsburgh.

[“Two Theatres, Both Home,”](#) *American Theatre*, November 29, 2016

Founded a decade apart and now merged, [Roadside collaborator] Pregones and Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre keep the cart rolling.

[Video: “Prison Profiteering,”](#) *National Geographic Explorer*, December 2016

Prisons have become big businesses, but at what cost to the prisoners and their families?

[Video: “Richard Runs Through It: Prison Radio,”](#) *National Geographic Explorer*, December 2016

In America, 2.2 million people are behind bars. The U.S. has less than five percent of the world's population, but 22 percent of the world's prisoners. Richard Bacon examines the for-profit prison industry.

[“Free Spaces Can Help Us Fight Trumpism,”](#) *The Nation*, December 5, 2016

In free spaces citizens learn political skills, develop public confidence, and build civic relationships across race, class, faith, and partisanship.

[“Building Economy and Community with Cultural Assets,”](#) *NEA Art Works Blog*, excerpt from *How to Do Creative Placemaking: An Action-Oriented Guide to Arts in Community Development*. December 6, 2016

Appalshop’s biggest economic role may be in creating the conditions for creating jobs. A national leader in grassroots arts, Appalshop has pioneered the practice of “first voice/authentic voice,” creating culture of and by the people of Appalachia, not about them.

[“The Globalization of Local Radio,”](#) *New York Magazine*, December 15, 2016

If you ask someone what makes their city unique. . .[r]arely would they mention their local radio station, and yet listening to one is a surprisingly good way to get a read on a culture, even if you don’t speak the language.

[“WMMT Nominated for Bluegrass Station of the Year,”](#) *Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America*, December 15, 2016

The winners will be announced and trophies awarded during the Society’s National Convention which runs February 2-5, 2017 at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville.

[“KY County Crosses Political Divide Through Arts, Culture,”](#) WUKY, December 30, 2016

[Culture Hub manager Ben Fink] said divisions are "never absolute," and can be bridged through culture on two levels. "One is art and music, and theater and film, and all that stuff," he said, "and then there's also culture on a deeper level - the shared values and the shared stories that we tell about each other, about ourselves, about our community." The Culture Hub brings diverse groups together, from artists and musicians to volunteer fire departments and business associations.