Covering the critical issues that affect the Nashville community has always been at the heart of NPT’s mission. In our last fiscal year we continued that commitment – looking beneath the surface and providing in-depth coverage of issues that included aging, the immigrant experience, education, and the local history and culture that defines who we are as citizens.

Our largest and most important project, Aging Matters, continued to explore what it means to be an older adult in today’s world through two new documentaries. The first, Aging Matters: Healthy Aging, takes an enlightening look at how we can all benefit from good health habits as we age. Aging Matters: Living with Alzheimer’s and Dementia, which premiered in June, took an unflinching look at a difficult subject that will affect more and more individuals in the years to come. The documentary is already proving to be one of NPT’s most popular original productions, underscoring the critical educational role of Aging Matters.

NPT launched a new history series this year called The Citizenship Project which will focus on the struggles for rights associated with American citizenship. The debut film in this series, First Black Statesmen, premiered in February, and tells the little-known history of Tennessee’s first African-American legislators. Through this new series we hope to bring to light many more unknown stories in the fight for equality over the years.

In addition, NPT continued to be your source for signature national programs such as Masterpiece, Frontline, NOVA, American Masters and Antiques Roadshow. But for many of our viewers, 2016 will be remembered as the year Downton Abbey came to its conclusion. Viewers across the region and at our finale screening event shared in the heart-warming end of this popular series.

As a new fiscal year begins, NPT reaffirms our commitment to always provide our viewers with the very best programming available. We are hard at work on new original productions and we’re also planning events to keep our viewers and the larger Middle Tennessee community inspired, informed and engaged with their public television station and the world at large.

Sincerely,

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ON THE COVER
Mary Laura Philpott and J.T. Ellison, hosts of A Word on Words
AGING MATTERS

Hosted by Grammy-winning singer and song-writer Kathy Mattea, the NPT Reports: Aging Matters series explores the issues affecting senior Americans and their quality of life. This fiscal year we completed two Aging Matters documentaries and created 26 short Aging Matters updates on related topics.

NPT Reports: Aging Matters: Healthy Aging, the sixth documentary in the series, explores the pursuit of health and well-being as we age. The program highlights Middle Tennesseans who are trying to stay fit, manage chronic conditions and remain socially engaged in their senior years. In the film, medical and other experts discuss the challenges of managing one’s health as the effects of a lifetime of habits and circumstances start to compound with age. One of the most uplifting of the Aging Matters documentaries, Healthy Aging stresses the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle at any age.

NPT Reports: Aging Matters: Living with Alzheimer’s and Dementia examines the impact dementia – of which Alzheimer’s is perhaps the best known form – is having on individuals, families and communities. The film also addresses the coming crisis regarding dementia care needs. Living with Alzheimer’s and Dementia looks at care options, new treatments, and platforms for learning more about dementia and how it changes the body and brain.

Aging Matters is made possible by the generous support of Cigna-HealthSpring, The West End Home Foundation, The HCA Foundation, Jeannette Travis Foundation, The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee and Jackson National Life Insurance Company.
TENNESSEE CROSSROADS

In its 29th season, Tennessee Crossroads remains the most watched locally produced PBS show in the nation. Tennessee Crossroads continues to find positive, entertaining stories that highlight people and places that make Tennessee unique; 32 new programs with 45 new stories were produced this year.

The sixth annual Tennessee Crossroads Thanksgiving Day Marathon presented viewers with 15 hours of favorites in November 2015, airing from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on NPT2 then moving to NPT from 7 to 10 p.m. Tennessee Crossroads is also popular with online viewers: 575 stories are available on the show’s YouTube channel, which currently has more than 3,000 subscribers and 1.7 million views.

Longtime Tennessee Crossroads executive producer Ken Simington (1952-2016) died shortly after the conclusion of FY16. He will be missed, but his commitment to Crossroads will never be forgotten.

“Ken was a brother, a friend, a partner.”
– Joe Elmore, Tennessee Crossroads host

Ken Simington
THE CITIZENSHIP PROJECT

First Black Statesmen: Tennessee’s Self-Made Men is the first documentary in NPT’s new Citizenship Project, which picks up where the Tennessee Civil War 150 series ended. The film tells the story of 14 men, 11 of whom had been born into slavery, who defied the odds to become elected representatives in the Tennessee State Legislature between 1873 and 1896. First Black Statesmen premiered in February 2016 as part of NPT’s Black History Month programming and also had screenings and panel discussions at Baker Donelson and Nissan. Additionally, an online screening and discussion of the documentary was presented via the OVEE platform in March 2016.

Major funding for The Citizenship Project is provided by the Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area and The First Tennessee Foundation.

VOLUNTEER GARDENER

Perennial favorite Volunteer Gardener is not only popular with viewers on-air, people also enjoy accessing segments and shows online. The Volunteer Gardener YouTube channel has more than 8,000 subscribers and 1.2 million views; a tutorial on leaf casting is the most viewed video with 1.3 million views. Home garden tours are also popular, as viewers appreciate seeing what’s possible in their own backyard. Watching Volunteer Gardener has also been recommended by county extension agents as a way for master gardeners to receive required continuing education credits each year.
VETERANS COMING HOME

In April, NPT hosted Bridging the Civilian/Military Divide, an ambitious Veterans Coming Home town-hall event that was streamed live via Facebook and the OVEE platform. Bridging the Civilian/Military Divide premiered on NPT during Memorial Day Weekend.

We hosted two screenings and discussions of MAKERS: Women in War; partnering with Operation Stand Down Tennessee and Scarritt Bennett Center in July 2015, and with the Tennessee State Museum in May 2016 for an event that included the Veterans Administration's Mobile Vet Center. In October, we teamed up with the Rolling Thunder/Chapter One TN veterans group and the Veterans Administration’s Mobile Vet Center for an Indie Lens Pop-Up screening of Stray Dog, a documentary about a Vietnam veteran.

In June 2016, NPT launched a new round of participation in the Veterans Coming Home public media initiative by producing a video about Writer Corps., a literary program for veterans at Middle Tennessee State University.

ARTS BREAK

NPT produced 15 new Arts Break segments this year, giving viewers behind-the-scenes access to exhibitions and performances across artistic genres. The Arts Break season began with a preview of the Jaume Plensa: Human Landscape exhibition at Cheekwood and concluded with Bellissima! The Italian Automotive Renaissance 1945-1975 at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. Other segments featured Nashville Ballet, Nashville Opera, Nashville Symphony and the Tennessee State Museum.

Major funding for Arts Break is provided by the Ingram Charitable Fund and Ingram Industries.

CHRISTMAS AT BELMONT

NPT’s 2015 production of Christmas at Belmont included nearly 700 student musicians and the Belmont School of Music faculty in performance at Nashville’s Schermerhorn Symphony Center. Grammy Award-winning country recording artist Kathy Mattea hosted the concert of traditional carols, classical masterworks, world music and light-hearted seasonal favorites. Christmas at Belmont premiered on NPT and nationwide on PBS on December 21.
A new incarnation of NPT’s long-running A Word on Words series premiered in October 2015, after a sneak preview during the Southern Festival of Books and a reception at NPT. The series was reimagined with modern audiences in mind and consists of fresh, contemporary two- to three-minute programs that are easy to watch online as well as on-air. Hosted by Nashville authors J.T. Ellison and Mary Laura Philpott, the 13 episodes created in FY16 discuss books and literary topics, while also introducing viewers to locations around Nashville. Book lovers are encouraged to share the episodes through social media and to continue the conversations using the hashtag #keepreading, an homage to longtime host John Seigenthaler’s familiar closing line.

Generous support for A Word on Words is provided by Judy and Steve Turner.
Since its inception, Next Door Neighbors has shared the authentic stories of Middle Tennessee’s immigrant population. By highlighting the many ways that immigrants are contributing to our area’s growing economy and vibrant cultural life, the series has helped to foster a growing embrace of diversity. This year NPT produced Next Door Neighbors: Becoming American, the ninth documentary in the series, about four individuals who resettled in the U.S. to escape the atrocities of war and the burden of poverty in Burma, El Salvador, Iraq and Laos. The documentary examines how age, education, family and culture affect one’s ability to succeed in the United States. In addition to the 30-minute film, NPT produced seven short Next Door Neighbors videos.

Next Door Neighbors is made possible by the support of The Nissan Foundation.

NPT produced 21 American Graduate Champions spots highlighting Middle Tennesseans who use their time, skills and resources to improve educational outcomes for students. We also produced 13 American Graduate Student Voices shorts featuring local students.

NPT is a partner station in the American Graduate: Let’s Make It Happen public media initiative to help communities across the country address the dropout crisis. This fiscal year, NPT produced NPT Reports: Choice or Chance?, a new documentary that looks at what school choice in Nashville means to students, parents and the larger community. The film grew out of conversations held with parents, teachers, Metro Nashville Public Schools officials, education researchers and other stakeholders.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

NPT REPORTS: Aging Matters
NPT hosted a number of Aging Matters screenings this year, including preview events with panel discussions at FiftyForward for our two documentary premieres. We partnered with numerous other community organizations to host 22 screenings and discussions reaching a total of 1,243 participants. We distributed copies of the Aging Matters DVDs at the Alive Hospice Faith Leaders Conference and at an Indie Lens Pop-Up screening. NPT also participated in Cigna-HealthSpring’s Senior Day at the Nashville Zoo. A January 2016 online screening and discussion of Aging Matters: Healthy Aging was presented via the OVEE platform with a corresponding event at FiftyForward Knowles.

Family Literacy Workshops
NPT’s Family Literacy Workshops are designed to help raise the literacy levels of child and adult participants, along with encouraging daily reading habits and helping to build home libraries. In FY16, NPT conducted 33 family literacy workshops focusing on at-risk families, particularly those of immigrant and refugee communities. Through these activities we reached 2,471 children and 2,387 adults and distributed 2,968 books.

NPT Reports: Transportation Town Hall
In April, NPT hosted Transportation: NPT Reports Town Hall, a discussion about Nashville’s transportation concerns as its population grows. Attendees weighed in about the proposed plans to address the area’s traffic woes. The event was recorded and premiered on NPT in April.
PBS Programming Tie-In Events

NPT’s events relating to PBS programming were popular with our viewers and the larger community. For the September 2015 American Masters documentary Pedro E. Guerrero: A Photographer’s Journey, we teamed up with Conexión Américas and Watkins College of Art, Design & Film to present a screening and discussion, as well as a photography workshop.

We partnered with the Tennessee State Museum in November for an advance screening and panel discussion of Ric Burns’ Debt of Honor, a documentary about disabled veterans in American history.

In April, NPT welcomed longtime Ken Burns collaborator and author Dayton Duncan to our studio for an evening celebrating the national PBS rebroadcast of The National Parks: America’s Best Idea series in conjunction with the centennial of the National Park Service. Duncan showed clips from the documentaries, discussed Ken Burns’ country music project, and took questions from the eager audience. Singer-songwriter Kathy Mattea also addressed the attendees.

American Graduate Discussions and Screenings

In preparation for the NPT Reports: Choice or Chance? documentary, NPT held 30 discussions with a cross section of groups, including parents, teachers, conference attendees, online screening participants and members of educational organizations. We also hosted a town-hall discussion of school choice options that was recorded and broadcast following the premiere of the documentary. Screenings of NPT Reports: Choice or Chance? were held with various groups and as online viewing events in November 2015 and January 2016 via OVEE. Additionally, there was an OVEE screening of NPT’s Student Voices videos. NPT also participated in the Tennessee Department of Education’s LEAD Conference, the Metro Nashville Public Schools Family Engagement Summit and the America’s Promise Alliance’s Grad Nation Summit.
Big Yellow Bird Bash
NPT’s fifth annual Big Yellow Bird Bash took place on April Fool’s Day. The brightly-hued party returned to Houston Station and included food, a signature cocktail, dancing and photo opportunities on the yellow carpet. Guests included Mayor Megan Barry, who joined a new generation of NPT supporters to celebrate public television’s role in their lives. This year’s guests also had the opportunity to try out the PBS app in the PBS Anywhere Lounge, a pop-up media installation available for PBS station events.

Indie Lens Pop-Up
The Community Cinema series of free screenings and discussions was rebranded as Indie Lens Pop-Up this season. Once again NPT’s events were held at Nashville Public Library’s main branch and offered audiences free advance screenings of upcoming Independent Lens documentaries. The February 2016 screening of Stanley Nelson’s acclaimed The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution was especially well-attended and featured Fisk University’s Dr. Reavis Mitchell and Linda T. Wynn as panelists.

NPT also partnered with Autism Tennessee for the Autism in Love Indie Lens Pop-Up event and hosted a special screening of Mimi and Dona with The Arc Tennessee at Watkins College of Art, Design & Film. In April, NPT and Moms Demand Action hosted a screening of The Armor of Light that included a panel discussion featuring Lucy McBath, the group’s national spokeswoman, who appeared in the film.
NPT’s Antiques & Fine Arts Appraisal Day
At this year’s Antiques & Fine Arts Appraisal Day, 20 appraisers were on hand at The Factory at Franklin to provide verbal assessments of furniture, silver, weaponry, musical instruments and other items. Treasures evaluated at the event included paintings by Texas artist Everett Spruce and a 19th-century Polynesian carving.

Downton Abbey – Preview Events
To kick off the sixth and final season of Downton Abbey on Masterpiece, NPT hosted a Screening & Soirée at the Franklin Theatre in December. Guests dressed in period costume, posed with Downton Abbey character cutouts, listened to a jazz trio and enjoyed food and beverages.

A Finale Affair
NPT hosted a final Downton Abbey event March 2016 at the Noah Liff Opera Center. Guests pulled on their 1920s finery one last time to watch an advance screening of the series finale, enjoy hors d’oeuvres and cocktails, listen to a jazz duo and shop a trunk show. The wildly successful event also included an auction of Downton Abbey character cutouts, a Highclere Castle backdrop and a 12-day European cruise.
Linda Wei, NGL Fellow
NPT producer/manager of digital strategies Linda Wei was named a Next Generation Leadership fellow in December 2015. Linda was among eight Senior Editorial Fellows selected from a pool of 90 applicants for the inaugural group in this initiative supported by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The year-long program began in January 2016, and includes professional enrichment, leadership training and mentoring. Over the course of her fellowship year Linda meets with the other NGL fellows and also has four weeklong embeds at WGBH Boston’s Frontline series to focus on digital and long-form journalism. In May of this year, two Frontline digital leaders came to NPT to give a two-day workshop on audience engagement.

NPT received six nominations and three Emmy® Awards for outstanding programs from the Midsouth Chapter of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences in FY16.

NPT Reports: Aging Matters: Aging in Place won in the Documentary/Topical category, with awards going to producer Will Pedigo and editor Matthew Emigh. NPT Reports: Aging Matters: Caregiving won in the Public Affairs category, with producer LaTonya Turner and editor Suzy Hence receiving statuettes.

Tennessee Crossroads: Eyes on LaFollette won in the Magazine Segment category, with producer Will Pedigo and editor Matthew Emigh receiving awards.

NPT’s Wessyngton Plantation: A Family’s Road to Freedom, part of the Tennessee Civil War 150 series, was recognized by the National Educational Telecommunications Association. The program won a NETA Award for Best Documentary.
The Corporation for Public Broadcasting’s Board of Directors held its quarterly meeting in Nashville in late June. Gov. Bill Haslam and first lady Crissy Haslam welcomed the CPB board and staff, representatives from Tennessee’s 12 public media stations and other guests to a reception at Tennessee’s Executive Residence. The evening included remarks by NPT’s president and CEO Beth Curley; the Corporation for Public Broadcasting’s president and CEO Patricia de Stacy Harrison; and CPB board chair Elizabeth Sembler. NPT board chair Mike Koban introduced Gov. Haslam.

Later, recording artist Kathy Mattea performed two songs and the CPB board issued a proclamation expressing its deep appreciation to the public media stations of Tennessee for their service to the people of the state.

The following day in Studio A, NPT led a town-hall presentation with community partners about our Aging Matters, American Graduate, Children’s Health Crisis, Citizenship, Next Door Neighbors, Tennessee Civil War 150, and Veterans Coming Home projects.
This year, community funding continued to be NPT’s single largest and most important source of funding for programming and operations. Gifts from individuals, corporations and foundations – along with foundation and corporate support for specific projects such as Aging Matters, Next Door Neighbors, A Word on Words and Arts Break – totaled $3,339,347 (62%), our largest source of revenue. By far the greatest portion of that support, however, was gifts from individuals, which totaled 42% of NPT’s revenue at $2,253,412. Government funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting totaled $1,025,739 (19%), while funding from the State of Tennessee made up $430,793 (8%). The remaining 11% or $590,651 of NPT’s revenue was generated by a variety of earned income streams.
NPT thanks these supporters for their generosity during fiscal year 2015-2016.

NPT Reports: Aging Matters was made possible by the following funders in FY16:
- Cigna-HealthSpring
- The West End Home Foundation
- Jeanette Travis Foundation
- The HCA Foundation
- The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
- Jackson National Life Insurance Company

NPT gratefully acknowledges these funders for their support in FY16:

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Left: Big Yellow Bird Bash 2016  
Right: Beth Curley and Mayor Megan Barry at the 2016 Big Yellow Bird Bash
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Nancy See
Nancy S. Seely
Ralph Shivers
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