As NPT’s new president and CEO, it’s my privilege to continue the important work NPT does for the entire Middle Tennessee community. As we take a look back at NPT’s last fiscal year, I am proud of the impact NPT has had during those 12 months through insightful and eye-opening documentary projects, extensive community engagement and a robust online and social media presence.

While my role at NPT is new, I’m not new to NPT. For the last 10 years as vice president of content & technology, I’ve been executive producer of NPT’s local productions, including Aging Matters, Next Door Neighbors, Children’s Health Crisis and American Graduate. These projects have come to define NPT as a convener of important conversations about critical issues that affect all of us. Our hope is that through these projects and the increased awareness and conversation they encourage, we can help bring about real change for Middle Tennessee.

As a history buff, I’ve especially enjoyed working on NPT’s many historical documentaries, including our most recent series, The Citizenship Project. There are many untold stories that make up the fabric of local history — stories like the history of the early black press. By shining a light on this hidden history, we can build a better, more inclusive view of who we are as a community.

Finally, I’m grateful to Beth Curley, NPT’s president emerita, for the firm foundation she built for NPT, and I’m eager to continue the work NPT is known for both locally and nationally.

Our core values remain unchanged as all of us reaffirm our commitment to provide our community with programming that truly makes a difference — that opens hearts and minds about our world and provides educational and enlightening shows for viewers of all ages.

Sincerely,

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ON THE COVER
NPT’s Next Door Neighbors: Belonging

Aidan Turner as Ross Poldark in Poldark on MASTERPIECE. Credit: Courtesy of Robert Viglasky/Mammoth Screen for MASTERPIECE
After 18 years at NPT and 45 years in public television, Beth Curley retired as president and CEO at the end of June. She is now serving as NPT’s president emerita.

Thank you for the confidence you placed in me during my tenure at NPT. After almost two decades here, I can honestly say that this work has been the highpoint of my career in public television. It’s been a privilege to lead NPT into an inclusive, community-focused organization that’s committed to providing in-depth coverage of issues that matter to Middle Tennesseans, such as immigration, aging, children’s health, citizenship, and education.

I’m grateful to have had the chance to grow NPT into a strong, outward-looking, fiscally sound institution. We did face financial challenges during the Great Recession, but with careful oversight and the support of the Nashville community, NPT made it through with a consistently balanced budget, and today NPT is stronger than ever. I’m also gratified to have played a role in mentoring and developing a new generation of public television leaders who are committed to continuing NPT’s legacy of service to our city.

Although I retired in July, public television is in my blood, so I’m currently raising funds to produce a new documentary for NPT that will tell the story of women’s suffrage in Tennessee. The documentary will premiere locally and nationally in 2020 – the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment’s passage.

NPT is in good hands with my long-time colleague, Kevin Crane, who has the energy and experience to lead the station into a new and challenging future. I’m looking forward to what this next chapter in NPT’s evolution brings and will be helping in any way I can.

Warmly,

Beth Curley
President Emerita
NPT3 PBS Kids, NPT’s third broadcast channel, launched on June 30, 2017. The 24/7 children’s channel provides quality educational programming from PBS Kids and is also available for streaming via online platforms. Programming on NPT3 PBSKids includes “PBS Kids Family Night,” weekly family viewing events featuring movie specials or themed programming every Friday from 7 to 9 p.m., and repeating on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

NPT3 PBS Kids will build on NPT’s reach and impact in the community, where it provides essential services for kids, parents and teachers. These include NPT’s ongoing family literacy workshops, and Mobile Learning Lab activities focusing on literary, math and science for children ages 3 to 8.

NPT3 PBS Kids is being made possible through the generous support of The Dollar General Literacy Foundation and The Frist Foundation.
AGING MATTERS

The NPT Reports: Aging Matters series continued with two new documentaries and 12 short Aging Matters updates on related topics. The series is hosted by Grammy-winning singer and songwriter Kathy Mattea and explores issues affecting seniors in Middle Tennessee and the impact of an aging population on the community.

NPT Reports: Aging Matters: Abuse & Exploitation, premiered in November and presented surprising and thought-provoking facts about elder abuse. There are an estimated five million elder abuse victims in the United States; one in 10 adults over the age of 60 is believed to be subject to a form of abuse, be it emotional, financial or physical abuse or neglect. The documentary offers insight into risk factors that render seniors vulnerable to abuse and suggests ways to protect oneself and one’s loved ones. The broadcast premiere included a program in which experts presented two scenarios of abuse, physical and financial, along with measures to take if abuse is suspected.

NPT Reports: Aging Matters: Aging & the Workplace spotlights two aspects of seniors in the workforce: how people adapt their approach to work as they age; and how the coming exodus of boomers from the workforce will leave some industries scrambling to replace employees and institutional knowledge. The broadcast premiere of this documentary was also followed by a panel discussion on related topics.

Aging Matters is made possible by the generous support of the West End Home Foundation, the Jeanette Travis Foundation, The HCA Foundation and Cigna-HealthSpring. Additional support provided by Lisle Parham Wealth Management of UBS Financial Services Inc., Jackson National Life Insurance Company, The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee and AARP Tennessee.
TENNESSEE CROSSROADS

Tennessee Crossroads marked its 30th season with flashback segments in the weekly broadcasts and a Facebook campaign featuring vintage Crossroads stories. Commemorative mugs and letterpress posters were offered as thank-you gifts for supporters throughout the fiscal year.

NPT’s senior producer Ed Jones became the show’s executive producer following the untimely death of longtime Tennessee Crossroads executive producer Ken Simington at the beginning of this fiscal year. Danielle Colburn Allen joined the team as a segment producer this spring. Allen is a familiar face to NPT viewers, hosting documentaries such as Next Door Neighbors: Becoming American as well as live pledge nights.

There were 44 new Crossroads shows with 56 new stories produced this year, including features on Nashville’s Eighth Avenue Reservoir and the Fisk Jubilee Singers. In FY17, Crossroads also experimented with Facebook Live tie-ins to episode broadcasts.

Major support for Tennessee Crossroads is provided by The Tennessee Credit Union and Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund.
THE CITIZENSHIP PROJECT

NPT’s Citizenship Project explores how different groups have fought for, obtained and maintained the rights and access we commonly associate with American citizenship. These documentaries cover Tennessee history from the end of the Civil War through the 1960s, exploring civil rights and women’s suffrage among other topics. The Early Black Press: Tennessee Voices Lifted, the second documentary in the series, examines the rise of black-owned newspapers in the decades following the Civil War. These periodicals were launched in Tennessee’s most populous cities – Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga and Memphis – places where large populations of blacks were eager to capitalize on their freedom and later to counteract the setbacks of the Reconstruction era.

A Facebook Live screening event was held during the documentary’s broadcast premiere that allowed viewers to have a real-time conversation about the program with the producers and a media expert. Copies of The Early Black Press DVD were distributed to attendees at the 2017 National Newspaper Publishers Association/Black Press of America conference by The Nissan Foundation.

ONE ON ONE

Nashville Mayor Megan Barry and Dr. Shawn Joseph, director of schools for Metro Nashville, sat down for one-on-one interviews with NPT’s LaTonya Turner during Fiscal Year 2017. Mayor Barry, the first woman to hold the job, was interviewed in October 2016 as she completed her first year in the role. Dr. Joseph was only three months into his position when interviewed in November 2016; he spoke about his goals in developing a strategic plan for the district. The 30-minute programs were made available for online viewing following their broadcast premieres.
Next Door Neighbors: Belonging, the 10th documentary in NPT’s series chronicling the stories of Middle Tennessee’s immigrant population, was produced this year. The program examines the lives of several Middle Tennesseans who grapple with what it means to belong, to be foreign-born and still fit into American culture. From Syrian Americans living in Murfreesboro to a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipient originally from Mexico, Belonging shares the experiences of immigrants in a world where rules and attitudes are constantly changing. NPT also produced seven short Next Door Neighbors features this year. The documentary and features are available at wnpt.org.

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

NPT continued its involvement with the American Graduate: Let’s Make It Happen public media initiative this year. We produced three new American Graduate Champions features highlighting Middle Tennesseans who help students remain in school and achieve academic and personal success. The spots premiered in a special block of programming on American Graduate Day in fall 2016.
A WORD ON WORDS

Hosts J.T. Ellison and Mary Laura Philpott interviewed 15 authors in the second season of NPT’s Emmy Award-winning A Word on Words series. Alan Furst, Emma Straub and Yaa Gyasi were among the writers interviewed in locations around Nashville over the course of this fiscal year. A Word on Words was broadcast on-air, made available online and shared via social media using the #keepreading hashtag, a nod to legendary journalist John Seigenthaler’s familiar catchphrase.

Generous support for A Word on Words is provided by Judy and Steve Turner.

ARTS BREAK

NPT produced 15 new Arts Break segments this year, providing an in-depth look at the Centennial Youth Ballet, the Nashville Repertory Theatre’s production of A Raisin in the Sun, and the Nashville Symphony’s Accelerando mentoring program for music students. Other area organizations featured on the series include OZ Arts Nashville, Nashville Opera and the New Dialect dance collective.

Major funding for Arts Break is provided by The Martha Rivers Ingram Advised Fund of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Tennessee Arts Commission and the Metro Nashville Arts Commission.
VOLUNTEER GARDENER

A new season of Volunteer Gardener blossomed this spring with a mini marathon and a live pledge night on which seven of the program’s hosts staffed the phone bank during NPT’s March 2017 Membership Campaign. The 21 new programs produced in Fiscal Year 2017 spotlighted environmentally-conscious gardening practices, growing edibles, and recipes for enjoying the fruits (and vegetables) of the garden. Among the show’s most popular YouTube videos are segments on healthy soil practices, the Del Webb Community garden and the Urban Farm summer camp at Trevecca University.

CHEEKWOOD

Cheekwood has been a part of Nashville’s cultural landscape for nearly 60 years, but even before that it held a special place in the city as a private estate. To coincide with the relaunch of the institution following extensive renovations, NPT produced Cheekwood: A Masterpiece by Man & Nature, a 30-minute historical and architectural tour of the mansion and grounds. Featuring sweeping aerial views of the estate as well as original sketches by Bryant Fleming, Cheekwood’s architect, the program highlights Cheekwood’s place as an example of the American Country Place Era architectural movement that sought to blend European-inspired homes with expansive gardens.

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 24 screenings and discussions with more than 1,000 attendees. NPT participated in and distributed Aging Matters DVDs at the Nashville Caregiver’s Conference, Cigna-HealthSpring’s Senior Days at the Nashville Zoo, Alive Hospice’s Faith and Spirituality Symposium, and screenings hosted by the Intentional Older Adult Ministries Network. Once again NPT hosted and took part in the Alzheimer’s Association Advocacy Town Hall.

In addition, we held Facebook Live events that allowed viewers to interact with experts and the programs’ producers while watching the premieres of the Abuse & Exploitation and Aging & the Workplace documentaries produced in Fiscal Year 2017.

NPT REPORTS: HOUSING TOWN HALL

In February, NPT recorded Housing: NPT Reports Town Hall, a community discussion about how Nashville’s rapid growth is affecting Middle Tennessee’s neighborhoods. Factors such as property tax increases, short-term rentals and affordability were addressed in the forum that had its broadcast premiere a week after the taping. The town hall is available for online viewing at wnpt.org/town-hall.

NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORS

The Gordon Jewish Community Center hosted two screenings of NPT’s Next Door Neighbors Becoming American and Belonging documentaries, during this fiscal year. NPT also took part in the Nissan Hispanic Heritage Fair.
FAMILY LITERACY WORKSHOPS

NPT’s Family Literacy Workshops are designed to help raise the literacy levels of children and their parents, while encouraging daily reading habits and helping to build home libraries. In Fiscal Year 2017, NPT conducted 35 family literacy workshops using our Mobile Learning Lab, focusing on at-risk families, particularly those from immigrant and refugee communities. NPT distributed 1,500 books and reached 1,967 children and 2,035 parents through workshops at 17 schools.

VETERANS COMING HOME

In July, NPT hosted an evening of readings by participants in Middle Tennessee State University’s Writers Corps program. Writers Corps is a community literacy project that encourages veterans to share their experiences and perspectives through prose, poetry and spoken word. The event was streamed live via the OVEE platform, allowing viewers around the country to watch and take part in the discussion.

In October, NPT was invited by PBS to host a preview screening of USO For the Troops, a new documentary about the military support institution. We partnered with the Clarksville and Nashville USO chapters for the event, which also included a reception and panel discussion.

AMERICAN GRADUATE

In September, NPT held a reception honoring 26 people designated as American Graduate Champions who were featured in videos highlighting their efforts to improve educational outcomes for Middle Tennessee students.
PROGRAMMING TIE-IN EVENTS

Over the course of Fiscal Year 2017, NPT worked with several Nashville organizations to host screenings of our programs. In September, our preview screening of the *Poldark on Masterpiece* Season 2 opener at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts was popular with fans. In October, we offered an advance screening of the *Soundbreaking* music series at the Belcourt Theatre that included a Q&A with a Nashville-based music supervisor of the series. In March, we hosted a screening at Nashville’s Looby Theater that featured the Henry Louis Gates Jr. *Africa's Great Civilizations* series and a discussion led by a Tennessee State University professor of Africana studies.

In April, NPT partnered with the Gordon Jewish Community Center for a well-attended presentation of *Violins of Hope*, a film about the restoration of violins belonging to Jewish prisoners in concentration camps. This event featured speakers from the Jewish Federation of Middle Tennessee and the Nashville Symphony. NPT also joined with Conexión Américas for a timely screening and panel discussion of *120 Days: Undocumented in America*, about the precarious nature of living in the U.S. as an undocumented immigrant.

NPT presented its annual Human Spirit Award during the Nashville Film Festival in April. The 2017 award went to *Swim Team*, a documentary about a team of autistic athletes.

In conjunction with PBS’s summer broadcast of *Rare: Creatures from the Photo Ark*, NPT created two *NPT Snapshot* features about conservation efforts at the Nashville Zoo. These spots were shown at “Zoovie” screening events in May and June, shared online and then shown on air during *Rare’s* summer 2017 broadcast.
NPT received four nominations and one Emmy Award for outstanding programs from the Midsouth Chapter of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences this year. During the January 2017 ceremony, NPT producer Ken Simington was posthumously inducted into the Silver Circle with a video tribute and an acceptance speech by Tennessee Crossroads host Joe Elmore. The Silver Circle honors those with at least 25 years of service to the television industry and who have made a significant contribution to the community and to Midsouth television.

A Word on Words, NPT’s reboot of the long-running John Seigenthaler series, won an Emmy in the Interstitial category. Producer Linda Wei; photographer Will Pedigo; editor Matthew Emigh; hosts J.T. Ellison and Mary Laura Philpott; and executive producer Beth Curley all received Emmy statuettes.

Our Do Your Part for NPT promotional campaign received a National Educational Telecommunications Association award at NETA’s annual conference in Baltimore. The humorous spots were designed to encourage viewers to get involved with their public television station and featured Karl Dean, then Nashville’s outgoing mayor, in one spot; and Americana musician Jim Lauderdale in the other.

NPT’s Media Update blog received a Special Recognition Award at the Tennessee Association of Museums conference in May. The award commended a partnership between NPT and the Tennessee State Museum in which curator Rob DeHart wrote posts tying PBS’ Mercy Street Civil War drama to Middle Tennessee history and items in the museum’s collection.
VICTORIA ON MASTERPIECE EVENT

With *Downtown Abbey* over, we turned our attention to a new drama, *Victoria on Masterpiece*, a series about the early days in Queen Victoria’s reign. In December, guests at NPT’s *Victoria Preview Screening and Victorian Celebration* at the Franklin Theatre dressed in Victorian attire, posed in front of a palatial backdrop and dined on food inspired by the Victorian era.

LIDIA BASTIANICH EVENING

NPT hosted a special evening with public television culinary personality Lidia Bastianich at Mangia Nashville in October. The event included a five-course meal inspired by Bastianich’s most recent cookbook and prepared by Mangia’s Nick Pellegrino, along with dancing and singing.

INDIE LENS POP-UP

NPT hosted two *Indie Lens Pop-Up* events during this fiscal year. In September, we presented *Best of Enemies* at the John Seigenthaler Center at Vanderbilt University. First Amendment Center president Ken Paulson led an audience discussion after the film. In March, NPT hosted a screening of *Newtown* at Nashville’s Downtown Public Library. That event included a reception and a panel discussion about dealing with grief.
BIG YELLOW BIRD BASH

In the spring, it was time for NPT’s sixth annual Big Yellow Bird Bash, held on April Fool’s Day at Houston Station. The party included hors d’oeuvres, a signature cocktail, dancing, and photo opportunities on the yellow carpet. Popular items in the silent auction included Nashville Predators tickets and memorabilia and a life-size cutout of Ross Poldark from the popular Masterpiece series.

NPT’S ANTIQUES & FINE ARTS APPRAISAL DAY

NPT’s 2017 Antiques & Fine Arts Appraisal Day, was held at The Factory at Franklin in June with more than 20 appraisers on hand. This year’s treasures included an early-20th-century diamond ring, a still life by Pacific Northwest artist Morris Graves, and a Carnegie Medal and accompanying documentation of the heroic act that led to it.
Community funding (individual, corporate and foundation gifts) was the largest source of revenue for NPT this year, making up 66% ($3,586,182) of the Fiscal Year 2017 budget. Gifts from individuals were the most significant area of contributed funding, accounting for 47% ($2,554,960) of the overall budget. Corporate and foundation funding for NPT’s major projects such as Aging Matters, Next Door Neighbors and A Word on Words accounted for 11% ($613,600) of revenue. Federal funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting totaled 18% ($985,956), and funding from the State of Tennessee totaled 8% ($430,793). Rounding out NPT’s Fiscal Year 2017 budget was earned revenue from a variety of income streams that generated 8% ($426,866) of the total budget.
NPT thanks these supporters for their generosity during fiscal year 2016-2017.
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