A NEW CHAPTER
2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Front Cover:
Reporter Nathaniel Miro, Denverite reporter Donna Bryson and classical host Ray White // photos by Hart Van Denburg.

Back Cover:
Denverite reporter Esteban Hernandez // photo by Kevin Beaty. Indie 102.3 host Bruce Trujillo, classical host David Ginder // photos by Hart Van Denburg.
As my first year at Colorado Public Radio comes to a close, I’m more honored than ever to be leading CPR – an organization that plays a critical role in the lives of Coloradans all across the state.

This year we’ve built on our commitment to deliver essential news and music, knowing that communities need impartial news they can trust, and music that both excites and soothes the soul.

From expanding our newsroom and broadening our news programming to live broadcasts, local performances and partnerships - we’ve made investments in our services to further inform and inspire Coloradans - from Fort Collins to the Four Corners.

This has been a year of growth and opportunity for Colorado Public Radio, and we have YOU to thank. Your belief and support allows CPR not just to survive, but thrive and become an even more vital resource for our state. Thank you for your continued support. You make what we do possible.

Thank you,
Stewart Vanderwilt
President & CEO

Dear friends,

Looking back on CPR’s 2019 fiscal year, there’s a lot to be celebrated. It’s been a year of new beginnings, changes and growth, and a time of re-doubled focus on our primary goal: to be an essential news source and public service to the communities in Colorado who make public radio part of their daily lives.

This report captures just a slice of all that has been made possible this year by those who believe in the value of public radio. I hope you take pride in counting yourself among them; I know I do.

I look forward to our future knowing that CPR is backed by an expert team of journalists, staff and supporters committed to advancing our shared mission to create a more informed and enriched public. But first, I’m pleased to share a look back at the last year and all that we accomplished together.

Best Regards,

Virginia Berkeley

A Letter from Virginia Berkeley,
Chair of the Board of Directors

Our Mission
To deliver meaningful news, music and cultural experiences to everyone in Colorado using the power of the human voice in all its forms.

Our Vision
To inform, entertain, and inspire all Coloradans.

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An informed public is essential to any democracy.

Trusted news has never been more important given the changes in the media landscape in Colorado and nationally. With unprecedented community support CPR rose to the challenge and produced more Colorado-focused news. Together you helped CPR expand the depth and breadth of our newsroom, provide a broader range of stories across the state and bring Colorado more frequent news updates throughout the day.

Some of the year’s accomplishments:

Twelve new reporters were welcomed to the CPR news team, helping Colorado communities stay up-to-date and informed. More reporters enabled CPR to produce more than 200 election stories, including a voter’s guide that more than 300,000 users accessed to help inform their decisions. Additionally, CPR was live on the ground tracking the ‘bomb cyclone’ that hit the state in March and closed much of Denver. The newsroom also produced the Since Columbine podcast and special reports, an exploration of the impact of the shooting at Columbine High School 20 years later.

Of the 12 new reporters hired, two are regional reporters, Stina Sieg and Dan Boyce, who report from the Western Slope and southern Colorado. The newsroom also welcomed its first Washington, DC-based reporter, Caitlyn Kim, who expands CPR's political coverage and provides a much-needed resource for Colorado news originating from the nation's capital. Kim is currently the only Colorado reporter based in Washington, DC for a Colorado news organization.

In January, CPR added 17 national programs to its schedule, including 1A, The Daily, Marketplace and Latino USA. As a result, listeners can hear the most important news while being exposed to a diversity of new voices and innovative storytelling.

With a $300,000 family foundation gift, the CPR newsroom launched its first investigative team, led by the new investigative editor, Chuck Murphy. When fully staffed, this team will produce deeply researched, data-driven, robust journalism that provides critical resources for the Colorado community. CPR News announced the formation of a Climate Solutions reporting team with a $1.21 million grant from the Jacques M. Littlefield Foundation. This landmark investment is aimed at increasing CPR’s environmental reporting and creating a hub of information for solutions to climate-related issues.

CPR acquired Denverite with philanthropic support from Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, Colorado Media Project, Ellenoff Family Fund and Gates Family Foundation. As an online news source for the city, Denverite provides enhanced coverage of Metro-Denver’s politics and its vibrant arts and culture scene.

Colorado Public Radio received a $500,000 grant from the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation to support the expansion of CPR News. The transformational gift made the Foundation a lead investor in CPR’s mission to become the home institution for Colorado news.

CPR News announced a 70 person 9,000 square-foot news headquarters near the Colorado state Capitol. Establishing CPR News in close proximity to the Capitol and Denver’s newsmakers supports more timely production and delivery of meaningful news throughout the day.

In April, CPR received a one million dollar pledge for Audio Innovations from the Ned and Nathalie Fund.

CPR expanded on-demand audio production with two new podcasts - Purplish and On Something. Purplish explores Colorado’s unique approach to democracy, while On Something discusses the impacts of marijuana legalization five years after recreational marijuana was legalized in Colorado.

Colorado Matters also continued its highly successful live events series, which included shows at the Newman Center at the University of Denver and the Avalon Theater in Grand Junction, with subjects ranging from climate change to a retro holiday show designed to celebrate community and the power of music.
A Good Year to Invest in Colorado Music

Music stirs the imagination to match the soul. This year we sought to feed the souls of our communities with music discovery and cultural experiences through live broadcasts, local performances and partnerships with organizations across the state. From the Aspen Music Festival to Red Rocks, we were on site bringing the very best classical and new music to Coloradans, and we have our donors to thank for making it possible. Thank you.

CPR Classical broadcast world renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma live from Red Rocks Amphitheatre in a sold-out show. This was the first time CPR Classical broadcast live from Red Rocks, and it kicked off a two-year global tour of Yo-Yo Ma, who played all six solo cello suites by Bach.

CPR Classical expanded to Fort Collins at 88.3 FM, making CPR’s extensive range of classical music - from masterworks to contemporary - more accessible for listeners in northern Colorado. This marked the first time CPR Classical has been heard in Fort Collins since 2008.

In the second series of CPR Classical’s The Great Composers podcast, conductor and lecturer Scott O’Neil explored the life and music of Sergei Rachmaninoff with host Karla Walker.

In the summer, CPR’s OpenAir became Indie 102.3, the organization’s revamped independent music discovery station with a more focused library, tightened spotlight on local artists and a new schedule of programs.

Leading the charge is music industry expert and radio veteran Willobee Carlan, Indie 102.3’s program director. With nearly four decades of experience in programming and operations, Carlan will continue the station’s growth and focus on building awareness and trial among new music enthusiasts.
Throughout the year, CPR News strove to present an in-depth view of issues that are critical to the Colorado community through its partnerships with other organizations, both national and local.

Partnering With Our Community

This included joining American Homefront, a collaboration of public radio stations and NPR focusing on the experiences of active duty military and veterans. CPR strengthens the project with substantial presence of military and VA services along the Front Range.

CPR News teamed up with local outlets the Grand Junction Sentinel and the Durango Herald to follow Governor John Hickenlooper on the campaign trail soon after he announced his bid for president.

CPR partnered with WNYC to develop and co-host a three-hour national call-in show - Ask a Legal State - that explored marijuana legalization in Colorado and across the country. CPR’s On Something host and producer, Ann Marie Awad, co-hosted the show, which aired on 4/20.

In collaboration with organizations across the state, CPR Classical and Indie 102.3 connected the Colorado community to the power of music through live broadcasts, local performances and instrument drives.

CPR Classical brought live performances to listeners in Denver and statewide through SummerFest, which features the best classical performances from around Colorado, including Bravo! Vail, Colorado Music Festival and the Aspen Music Festival.

Indie 102.3 was live at the Underground Music Showcase in Denver’s Baker Neighborhood where it broadcast three bands live from the main stage and shared stage performances and green room acoustics sessions through Facebook Live.

CPR Classical continued its partnership with the nonprofit Bringing Music to Life to encourage Coloradans statewide to donate gently used instruments, which were refurbished and distributed to schools in need. This year more than 900 instruments were donated.
The Highlights of 2019

July
Stewart Vanderbilt began his new position as President and CEO of Colorado Public Radio.

Colorado Matters took its show on the road to Grand Junction. Host Ryan Warner interviewed Colorado author Craig Childs on stage at the Avalon Theatre.

August
CPR Classical broadcast world renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma live from Red Rocks in a sold out show.

September
Ahead of the 2018 midterm elections, CPR’s Purplish podcast kept voters better informed about local politics.

October
The CPR newsroom published its 2018 Midterm Election Guide, which provided Colorado voters with in-depth answers to their questions about the ballot.

November
CPR Classical expanded into northern Colorado at 88.3 FM.

December
CPR Classical released Comfort and Joy, its first ever holiday music compilation, with 17 tracks recorded in the CPR Performance Studio.

January
CPR News launched its new schedule, which included 17 new national programs.

February
Colorado Matters host Ryan Warner sat down for his first interview with newly elected Governor Jared Polis.

March
Online news organization Denverite joined the CPR family.

April
CPR produced Since Columbine to explore the 20th anniversary of the shooting at Columbine High School.
CPR News received a $500,000 grant from the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation, dedicated to accelerate the expansion of the newsroom.

May
Host Ann Marie Awad presented the podcast On Something at a live showcase in Boston.

June
CPR News launched On Something, its first national podcast produced in collaboration with PRX that explores the impacts of marijuana legalization in Colorado and nationally.
Donor Support during the fiscal year, July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. Names featured with donor permission.

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