

1. Describe your overall goals and approach to address identified community issues, needs, and interests through your station's vital local services, such as multiplatform long and short-form content, digital and in-person engagement, education services, community information, partnership support, and other activities, and audiences you reached or new audiences you engaged.

WMNF participated in numerous community events, outreach, and live music, events in 2022. Some of these include the Tampa Bay Veg Fest, the St. Petersburg Science Fest, the Tour de Clay – an open studio, multi-day event in four different cities in our listening area. The station and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee have continued and expanded our Mission Calendar, highlighting specific community issues (for example, homelessness or mental health) and non-profits doing work surrounding those topics to address on-air each month. WMNF also works with local non-profits to inform our listeners of essential services and deadlines for things like Affordable Care Act open enrollment periods. 88.5FM continues to use technology to provide content on platforms where listeners want to receive it: terrestrial radio for those in our broadcast range, our website, wmnf.org, phone apps, and through social media platforms for those who interact with us digitally. Our HD2 channel is now fully programmed by people of color providing locally produced, wide-ranging, culturally relevant, and diverse music and public affairs programming. We continue to employ a professional to manage social media across the wide-ranging landscape of options.

WMNF's Community Advisory Board, as well as our Diversity and Volunteer Committees, help us define important local issues for our listeners, so we can better inform our programming choices. Members and guests to those committee meetings are encouraged to turn the station's attention to subjects of interest within the local community. As of October 2022, we have been holding our meetings hybrid (face to face and via Zoom) which allows for more participation by stakeholders. For more than 43 years, WMNF has maintained a strong mandate to open our doors and airways to community members who do not have access or voices in mainstream media. With the exception of our news department, all of the WMNF programmers are volunteers from the community, with more than 125 individuals on the air weekly.

WMNF has approximately 10 – 12 hours of programming, both midday and weekend, with open phone lines and e-mail access to the hosts, which allow community members to engage publicly through our airwaves. Our news and music departments have developed an internship program with two area universities, one community college, and several high school participants. Many of them have begun producing original content for broadcast and online posting. Interns assist with music, news, live broadcast TV programs.

Our website posts community information and our staff and volunteers continue to strengthen and build relationships with a variety of organizations throughout the Tampa Bay area. We continue our partnerships with the University Area Community Development Corporation and other local non-profits. New alliances include local arts organizations, the Morean Arts Center - St. Petersburg and the Dunedin Fine Arts Center. We continue to strengthen relationships with the University of Tampa, University of South Florida, Hillsborough Community College, AARP, Gasparilla Music Foundation, and multiple other organizations. Some of the objectives of these partnerships include active high school and college intern programs; support and access for local musicians; training for retired and/or senior volunteers; training for high school and college students to build audio technology and multimedia skills.

2. Describe key initiatives and the variety of partners with whom you collaborated, including other public media outlets, community nonprofits, government agencies, educational institutions, the business community, teachers and parents, etc. This will illustrate the many ways you're connected across the community and engaged with other important organizations in the area.

WMNF enjoys a strong and lengthy partnership with the Tampa Bay Black Heritage organization, assisting in programming, publicity, and planning their annual events. WMNF also works with the Tampa Organization of Black Affairs by supporting their various initiatives. WMNF has been participating in the Annual Tampa Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade on MLK Day for decades and we continued this support in 2023. We are long-time sponsors of the neighborhood Belmont Heights Little League, annually paying \$500 to purchase their uniforms. We have also planned and are now delivering a podcast training class at the Boys & Girls Club of Tampa, which will lead to the production of a 30-minute radio show to be aired locally and distributed nationally.

WMNF participated in a University of Tampa Intern Resource Fair, on campus, highlighting opportunities in radio and broadcasting. We also hosted a group of students from Camp Fire Sunshine, a Florida non-profit where high school students visited the radio station to learn about careers in broadcasting and volunteer time.

WMNF has established collaborations with the River Tower Festival, to raise awareness to save the Sulphur Springs Water Tower and plans to participate in the Tampa 2023 Eco-Fest, and the St Pete Pride Parade. WMNF has recently welcomed Mi Gente, Mi Pueblo, a Latino community non-profit arts group to use our facilities for meetings and writing workshops. We provided music and an emcee for a recent art exhibit and festival they held in Pinellas County. The station was a media sponsor for the Shruti Foundation Music and Dance Festival and provided a stage announcer and outreach for this community event, featuring vendors and multi-cultural performers.

3. What impact did your key initiatives and partnerships have in your community? Describe any known measurable impact, such as increased awareness, learning or understanding about particular issues. Describe indicators of success, such as connecting people to needed resources or strengthening conversational ties across diverse neighborhoods. Did a partner see an increase in requests for related resources? Please include direct feedback from a partner(s) or from a person(s) served.

WMNF's partnership with the University Area Community Development Corporation has a long-standing and successful collaboration. The UACDC is located in an area in Tampa, and 95% of those in their service area live below poverty levels. The UACDC works to improve the economic, educational, and social levels of the community through youth programs, adult education, and resource assistance. WMNF's strong relationship with the organization has allowed the UACDC to expand its services to youth to include collaborations with the station. The station has participated in a Health Fair and multi-cultural Hispanic Recipe event and looks forward to participating in the 2023 Uptown Music Festival, a fundraiser for the UACDC, to further its growth. WMNF is currently partnering with Blanketing Tampa Bay, a group that provides food, material aid, and shelter to our neighbors in need, collecting items for distribution within our community.

The Diversity and Inclusion Mission Calendar gives monthly focus to 12 or more important mission-driven topics, in both news coverage and musical recognition of the themes. Living

Mirror Playback Theater hosts a monthly Community Talk-Back and Improv Show in the WMNF Live Music Studio at 7pm on the 4th Friday of every month. The monthly subject of each event is to be based on our Mission Calendar, covering topics such as economic justice, environmental issues, and more. We are able to highlight and discuss often-overlooked subject matter in new ways. This new, interactive experience allows free expression and sharing of concerns.

4. Please describe any efforts (e.g. programming, production, engagement activities) you have made to investigate and/or meet the needs of minority and other diverse audiences (including, but not limited to, new immigrants, people for whom English is a second language and illiterate adults) during Fiscal Year 2022, and any plans you have made to meet the needs of these audiences during Fiscal Year 2023. If you regularly broadcast in a language other than English, please note the language broadcast.

WMNF systematically refines our efforts to engage with minority and diverse communities through our events, programming, and outreach. In programming, 31 of the 75 locally produced shows are presented by or co-hosted by people of color. WMNF has three HD channels: HD3 "The Source", dedicated to news and public affairs. We continue to develop original programming for our HD2 channel, "Urban Café" - our new streaming platform produced by people of color who highlight classic R&B, soul, reggae, and hip hop music as well as exclusive interviews and locally produced public affairs shows. WMNF's 3-hour morning drive show now has an African American host, one of five, who does their own programming for music and interview choices. HD4 - "New Sounds" plays music that is in WMNF's Hot Box (featured new releases) and other new music, plus we are adding original programming.

WMNF looks forward to the day we can again host in-person open houses, to which we will invite our area audience and community members to attend. We celebrated big in 2022 with a Juneteenth event featuring music, poetry and storytelling. WMNF has a popular midday show, True Talk, which focuses on issues centered around the Middle East and the US, and its hosts are from Egypt and Palestine. We also have a long-running Jewish music and culture program, Sunday Simcha. We have three Latino programs and those hosts are active within the LatinX community. They have plans to help us reach even deeper into underserved areas within our broadcast range and beyond, to help bring all voices to the table. The station continues to develop our LGBTQ+ show, which now features three hosts active in the local community. The Big Gay Radio Show recently won the Waves award from a local publication, Watermark. WMNF continues our collaboration with the Tampa Bay Refugee Task Force by supporting their "Welcoming Week" at the University of South Florida.

5. Please assess the impact that your CPB funding had on your ability to serve your community. What were you able to do with your grant that you wouldn't be able to do if you didn't receive it?

CPB funding is essential to WMNF's ability to serve our community. This Community Service Grant (CSG) is crucial to the station's financial and organizational stability. The CSG makes it possible for WMNF to provide news and information, public service, community outreach, and public engagement. The CSG is also critical in our ability to create culture. The CSG allows WMNF to pay for national programming services such as NPR, Pacifica, and Associated Press, as well as our tower rental. The CSG also provides funding for AP wire services, which provide local information related to weather events and weather emergencies. The funding also partially provides for our enhanced EAS (Emergency Alert System). The CSG is integral to delivering

locally-produced news. WMNF listeners and our News Department rely on Pacifica, in particular “Democracy Now!” hosted by journalist Amy Goodman. The News Department often uses pieces from “Democracy Now!” in parts of our programming to take an in-depth view into the top stories of the day. The News Department also relies daily on pieces and coverage from NPR and the AP to keep our audience informed and up to date on stories that directly affect their lives. CPB funding is necessary for WMNF’s ability to pay for NPR, Pacifica, the AP, our tower rent, and the utilities that provide access and support to these vital services. Loss of CPB funding would be perilous to the station’s on-air news and information, and severely diminish our capacity to serve the community. Such a huge loss would amount to nearly 20 percent of WMNF’s operating budget and immediately reduce our local news coverage. As a community-licensed station, not having CPB funding would reduce our capacity to serve and engage targeted local communities and force us to stridently cut back many of our community engagement events. If WMNF suddenly became much less valuable to our community as a source of news, music, community engagement, and culture that listeners depend on daily, then that would not only hurt our loyal audience but also create a major void in our region. The WMNF local listenership has grown post-pandemic as more people have relocated to our area, connecting them closely with WMNF’s human touch that provides cultural enrichment, relevant news, and a direct line to the station. Most of our news and music on-air personnel are live in the studio taking calls and engaging on social media. The elimination of CPB funding would irreparably damage a station that has served its community well for 43 years should we lose our capacity to continue to provide such service. Loss of CPB funding would likely endanger the community as well. WMNF has been consistent and reliable in its coverage of COVID-19 as well as live coverage of extreme weather events, even responding live on air with essential information requested by listeners, like when the top wind speeds will be arriving during Hurricane Ian. WMNF was also prepared to operate 24/7 when Hurricanes Ian and Nicole hit the west coast of Florida including our listening areas. Though we did not go off the air nor sustain damage, having the financial stability and infrastructure to keep the station operable further proves our value to the community. Because of the CSG funding WMNF receives, we are able to perform timely, essential maintenance in preparation for hurricanes so that we have never gone off air either our broadcast channels or streams. We are also able to stay connected to state-wide resources like the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network to provide listeners with essential information as dangerous storms move through our area. As the CPB grant helps fund NPR and Associated Press, and rental at our tower, WMNF was able to provide critical emergency coverage before, during, and after the storm. Not being able to afford such news services nor having the ability to pay for the tower would have rendered us ineffective during weather emergencies. In crisis and in better times, WMNF needs this important CSG to maintain the strong standard that makes us a beacon in our listening area and a model for other community and public radio stations. CPB funding helps WMNF fulfill that standard of grassroots locally-produced news, music, and community events which have now resumed since our last report.