

QUARTERLY PROGRAM TOPIC REPORT

WNEO/WEAO

January — March 2024

1. Arts
2. Education
3. Government
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PBS Western Reserve is committed to presenting outstanding programs that teach, illuminate and inspire Northeast Ohio viewers. Following is a review of community issues addressed during the first quarter of 2024. All programs aired on PBS Western Reserve (WNEO 45.1 / WEO 49.1) unless otherwise indicated.

Arts

American Masters, Hopper: An American Love Story

Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 9 PM (60 min.)

Edward Hopper's work is the most recognizable art in America — popular, praised and mysterious. Countless painters, photographers, filmmakers and musicians have been influenced by his art, but who was he and how did a struggling illustrator create such a bounty of notable work? This new film takes a deep look into Hopper's art, his life and his relationships.

Around Akron with Blue Green

Saturday, Feb. 3, at 10:30 PM (30 min.)

Hear about former Soap Box Derby general manager and hall-of-famer Jeff Iula's personal history with the sport before getting in touch with your artistic side at Tuesday Musical, the historic organization bringing exceptional performers to Northeast Ohio. Then, learn about the Highland Square Film Festival and glimpse into host Blue Green's past on the festival circuit with his short film "Blimp."

Forum 360, Dance Akron

Monday, March 4, at 5:30 PM (30 min.)

Host Ardith Keck interviews Christy Bolingbroke, the executive artistic director of the National Center for Choreography in Akron, to learn more about the center's work and how it was founded. Topics include "dance church," community partnerships and how the center serves University of Akron students and its resident dancers.

Education

Forum 360, Achieving Dreams Through Project GRAD

Monday, Jan. 8, at 5:30 PM (30 min.)

Jacqueline Silas-Butler, executive director of Project GRAD Akron, talks to host Stephanie York about the organization's mission and services. Established in 2002, this educational reform program partners with Akron Public Schools to better provide students with the tools to live a successful life, from mentoring to scholarships and beyond.

POV, Brief Tender Light

Sunday, Jan. 21, at 11 PM (90 min.)

At elite MIT, a Ghanaian alum follows four African students striving to become agents of positive change back home. Even as their dreams are anchored in the societies they left, their daily realities are defined by America. Each must refine their ideas about the world and themselves, and ultimately, how to transform youthful ideals into action as adults.

Girl Talk: A Local, USA Special

Saturday, March 23, at 1:30 PM on Fusion (WNEO 45.2 / WEO 49.2) (90 min.)

Set in the cutthroat, boy-dominated world of high school debate, GIRL TALK tells the timely story of five girls on a diverse, top-ranked Massachusetts high school debate team. The girls are often talked over, underrepresented and judged differently than their male counterparts, but each girl faces these challenges and shows us the value of speaking up and finding your true voice.

Government

A Citizen's Guide to Preserving Democracy

Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 10 PM (60 min.)

This documentary is based on Richard Haass' best-selling book "The Bill of Obligations: The Ten Habits of Good Citizens." Through interviews and real-life examples of tenets including "Be Informed," "Reject Violence" and "Stay Open to Compromise," host Hari Sreenivasan and Dr. Haass explore how Americans are working towards strengthening democracy and renewing engaged citizenry.

Frontline, Democracy on Trial

Tuesday, Jan. 30, at 9 PM (150 min.)

This documentary investigates the roots of the criminal cases against former President Trump stemming from his 2020 election loss. With the presidential race for 2024 underway, veteran political filmmaker Michael Kirk and his team examine the House Jan. 6 committee's evidence, the historic charges against Trump and the threat to democracy.

Firing Line with Margaret Hoover

Saturday, Feb. 24, at 5:30 PM on Fusion (WNEO 45.2 / WEAO 49.2) (30 min.)

Actor Liev Schreiber, co-founder of BlueCheck Ukraine, discusses the need for humanitarian aid and international support to Ukraine. He weighs in on Zelensky's leadership and explains why he thinks Russia will lose and why Americans should care.

Health / Health Care

Forum 360, Mental Health Through the Art of Theater

Monday, Feb. 5, at 5 PM (30 min.)

Howard Pippin Jr., executive director of Akron's Genesis Theatre, shares how his organization integrates mental wellness and faith into the theater in various ways. Host Leia' Love asks Pippin, who is also a pastor, for ways parents, teachers and other theater directors can apply Genesis Theatre's techniques to their lives to support community mental health.

Forum 360, Protecting Patient Health or Protecting the Medical Industry

Monday, Feb. 5, at 5:30 PM (30 min.)

Host Sally Henning is joined by two accomplished local lawyers, Christopher Huryn and Lee Plakas, to discuss the legal and ethical debate surrounding the medical peer review process. Topics include patient-provider confidentiality and the costly litigious culture of the health care industry.

Forum 360, The Buzz on Marijuana

Monday, March 4, at 5 PM (30 min.)

Host Stephanie York sits down with Pete Nischt, the vice president of compliance and communications for the Akron-based Klutch Cannabis, to discuss the medicinal benefits and potential of cannabis in the wake of Issue 2's passage in November of 2023.

Minorities / Civil Rights

Training for Freedom

Saturday, Feb. 3, at 10 PM (30 min.)

This documentary captures the transformational story of how idealistic college students and Black activists came together in 1964 in Oxford, Ohio, to find their humanity and the common ground to fight as one in the freedom struggle that would define a nation and alter the course of history. Premiering exclusively on PBS Western Reserve, TRAINING FOR FREEDOM weaves intimate personal stories from participants and residents with critical historical analysis from noted historians and scholars.

Standing Bear's Footsteps

Friday, Feb. 9, at 8 AM on FNX (WNEO 45.3 / WEAO 49.3) (60 min.)

An Indian chief went to court to prove he was a person ... and in the process redefined what it means to be an American. Standing Bear's odyssey began in 1877 when the Ponca tribe was exiled from the Niobrara valley to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma, a place they called Death Country. As Standing Bear's son was dying, he begged his father to take his body home and bury him with his ancestors. In January of 1879, Standing Bear began the long walk north to keep his promise. Before he and his small band could make it home, they were arrested and imprisoned at Fort Omaha. With the secret support of a famous Army general, Standing Bear sued the U.S. government for his freedom.

Gospel

Monday, Feb. 12, and Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 9 PM (120 min.)

This four-hour docuseries explores the rich history of Black spirituality through sermon and song from executive producer, host and writer Henry Louis Gates Jr. From blues to hip-hop, African Americans have been the driving force of sonic innovation for over a century. Musical styles come and go, but there is one sound that has been a constant source of strength, courage and wisdom from the pulpit to the choir lofts on any given Sunday: the gospel.