

WRFG89.3 FM Milestones

Since 1973, WRFG has been a much-needed outlet for the diversity of people, ideas, and cultural expressions that exist throughout our local community, the nation, and the world. We are unique in the breadth and depth of our programming, airing the music, news, and information that you just can't find elsewhere on the dial. In this age of media consolidation, WRFG stands firm as a beacon of hope for free and independent media.

For 40 years, listeners have told us that they rely on WRFG for:

- **MUSIC PROGRAMS** that span the cultural heritage of America and the globe – Zydeco, Blues, Jazz, Celtic, Caribbean, Indian, R&B, Americana, Latin, Bluegrass, Neo Soul, Hip Hop, African
- **PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMING** that gives news, information, and progressive perspectives on health and nutrition, the environment, peace and justice, gender issues, the economy and the workplace
- **NEWS** from around the world and around the city that tends to get ignored or shortchanged in the mainstream media

The mission of WRFG is to provide a media outlet for those progressive voices that are traditionally denied access to the public airwaves. We support efforts that advance the dignity and well-being of all people, especially those who suffer oppression or exploitation based on class, race, sex, age, creed, sexual orientation, national origin, or gender identification. We are opposed to forces that dehumanize and oppress people, such as economic exploitation, racism, sexism, ableism, militarism, and anti-foreign/anti-immigrant chauvinism.

WRFG is your community radio station for progressive information and hand-picked music, and we take great pride in receiving the bulk of our operating revenue from thousands of loyal supporters. That support keeps us independent and “untouched by the sweaty little hand of commercial greed” – as our signature poster proudly proclaims!

Selected Highlights of our First 40 Years

1973 • From the start, WRFG's unique programming filled a void in local broadcasting. We were the first Atlanta radio station since the 1950s to feature regional musical forms like blues, bluegrass,

and jazz. Reflecting Atlanta's emergence as an "international city," we pioneered programming oriented toward the area's growing Latin, African, Asian, and Caribbean communities.

- 1977-1980 • WRFG produced the 50-part "Living Atlanta!" series on Atlanta's history. "Living Atlanta!" won national awards and established a tradition of documentary excellence at WRFG.
- 1987 • Won two Golden Reel awards for Media Excellence. It was the first time in history that one radio station had won two of these awards in a single year.
- 1988 • Received a Georgia Governor's Award in the Humanities for enhancing the quality of life in Georgia.
- 1989 • The University of Georgia Press published a book based on our award-winning "Living Atlanta!" series.
- 1995 • WRFG was granted the right to broadcast at 100,000 watts of power, the highest power level allowed by law.
- 1996 • WRFG began the World Party Tours, broadcasting live from various locations around the world. The first World Party Tour took WRFG to Ocho Rios in Jamaica.
- 1998 • WRFG went to Dublin, Ireland, to broadcast the legendary St. Patrick's Day Parade. In July, WRFG celebrated 25 years of service to the community.
- 1999 • World Party Tour '99 went to Bridgetown, Barbados, to broadcast live the "Paint It Jazz" Festival.
- 2003 • WRFG hosted the last FCC public hearing in the country on Media Deregulation. The event was broadcast nationally on Pacifica and NPR stations.
- 2004 • Creative Loafing honored WRFG's Peachblossom Bluegrass Festival for its excellent programming.
- 2004 • WRFG's blues programming won the "Keeping the Blues Alive Award" from the National Blues Foundation.
- 2007 • After a successful fundraising campaign, WRFG moved its transmitter to a new tower location, increasing signal reach and clarity.
- 2011 • Airshifter DJ Tabone was named "Best Progressive Radio Personality" by Creative Loafing.
- 2012 • WRFG received a Community Service Award in the category "Innovation for Change" from Emory University. Later that year, we were given the "Faithful Servant Award" by Georgia WAND.