

Champion Newsletter

Summer 2021



Welcome from Jennifer Ferro, President of KCRW



I know that if you're reading this, you're a valued member of the KCRW family and you've stuck **with KCRW** through tough times. I cannot thank you enough for being there for us, whether you've been a Champion for 15 years or joined sometime in the last 15 months, your support is integral to this work and you matter to **so much** to me.

To say the past year has been challenging is an understatement, but there are a few triumphs I want to call out: the impact we made on our city during the Spring Drive, the cutting edge stories our content teams have been turning out, and our station-wide commitment to prioritizing diversity, equity, and inclusion in everything we do. For more on all of this, please keep reading the newsletter and go to our website.

While I am thrilled about what we have been able to accomplish together, I am even more excited about what is to come. At KCRW we always believe there is something for everyone with our programming, and when it comes to this summer's events, our mantra rings especially true. **Safety is always top of mind for us** - and from small private concerts, medium-sized cocktail parties, to large public dance parties and live shows across the city, we've got it all for you. Plus the continuation of our Zoom events and screenings to stay connected virtually if you prefer!

My plan for these warm months is to indulge in the many things I've missed so dearly: music, art, food, drink, in-person conversation. **As we learn to live with COVID, safely**, in Los Angeles, I hope you'll join me in savoring this long awaited and well deserved moment of celebration.

Jennifer Ferro

P.S. I also hope you'll join me in congratulating Jeremy Weinstein in a life changing move he will be making that you will be reading below. We are so lucky to have had him and we will also miss him dearly!

Message from Jeremy Weinstein, Head of Development



Dear Champions,

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." - Coretta Scott King

KCRW is without a doubt a great community. In the four years that I have had the honor and privilege to be here, I have been constantly in awe of its genuine compassion by all of its members, donors, funders, sponsors, listeners, staff and most certainly all of you — its Champions. You have built community through everything you do to ensure the best programming is available to all. Moreover, your commitment to KCRW has inspired me every single day.

Because you are like family, I wanted you to know that I have accepted a new opportunity with a strategic financial management firm to establish their development practice. **While my full-time pursuits will be with this new venture, I will still be connected to KCRW until we make a seamless transition to a new Head of Development.**

Our impressive, professional and dependable Development Team includes Ani Ohanessian (Donor Relations Manager) and Anna Chang (Individual Giving Associate) **are totally available to you**, while Austin Frank (Institutional Giving Manager) and Michelle Pantoja (Institutional Giving Associate) can be counted on for all grant partnership questions. Jennifer Ferro (President) and Jill Smayo (Chief Operating Officer and former Head of Development) will be a resource for any other development needs.

So, while my time as a staff member may be concluding, I will forever be grateful for this extraordinary community. Most importantly, I have no doubt KCRW is a community for all of Los Angeles and beyond. I look forward to continuing to be an advocate, listener, member and Champion of KCRW and **hope to see you soon at a KCRW event.**



Champion Events & Programs

KCRW Champions are invited to year round, behind the scenes programming and special events that highlight KCRW as a tastemaker in music, food, art, news, and culture. Over the last year we have been engaging with you virtually through cooking classes with Evan Kleiman, conversations with Steve Chiotakis, and flower therapy sessions, to name a few! Now as we go full force into the summer months, we are thrilled to announce the return of in-person events - both station- and city-wide, and Champion specific. Check out a few photos from this month's Champion gatherings and add save the date for all the upcoming events!:



July
16

Mia Doi Todd Private Concert
Hollywood
Friday, July 16 at
6:30 PM PDT
*Invitation to the following
Champion levels: DJ, Luminary,
and President's Circle*



Aug
2021

Artist Gallery Hop
Downtown Los Angeles
August 2021
Invitation to all Champion levels



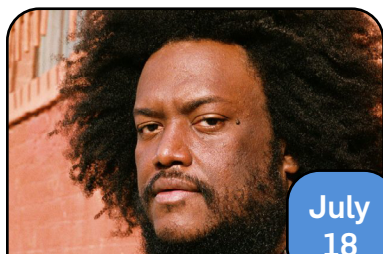
Aug
14

Champion Cocktail Party
Santa Barbara
Saturday, August 14
Invitation to all Champion levels

KCRW at Large Events

KCRW World Festival

We're coming to you this historic season with four eclectic shows kicking off in July and running through September. Tickets for the Hollywood Bowl 2021 summer season are available online at [HollywoodBowl.com](https://www.hollywoodbowl.com) or via phone at (323) 850-2000. Please let our team know if you're coming to any of the shows below, we would love to say hi and give out something you'll enjoy! (hint it's a great tool for a picnic at the Bowl)



July
18

Sunday, July 18, 2021, 7PM

Anne Litt, host:

Kamasi Washington

Earl Sweatshirt

Kamasi Washington brings ambitious scale to bear on jazz history, and Earl Sweatshirt gets personal.



Aug
1

Sunday, August 1, 2021, 7PM

Travis Holcombe, host:

Reggae Night XIX

Ziggy Marley

Wailing Souls

Ziggy Marley and Wailing Souls turn the Bowl red, gold, and green for Reggae Night.



Sept
18

Sunday, September 18, 2021, 7PM

Novena Carmel, host:

Brittany Howard

Jamila Woods

Georgia Anne Muldrow

The Alabama Shakes singer

steps out with definitively

modern soul, while Jamila

Woods and Georgia Anne

Muldrow show off their visions for R&B.



Sept.
25

Sunday, September 25, 2021, 7PM

Anthony Valadez, host:

James Blake

Hollywood Bowl Orchestra

Thomas Wilkins, Conductor

Singer and producer James

Blake expands his unique

– and emotionally bracing

– electronic music with the

Hollywood Bowl Orchestra

conducted by Thomas Wilkins.

Also join us for:



July
20

Sound Bites 4

Tuesday, July 20, 2021, 7 PM

This time KCRW's Anne Litt and Evan Kleiman will be joined by punk legends Corin Tucker and Carrie Brownstein of Sleater-Kinney, and drummer, author, and owner of Superiority Burger in NYC, Brooks Headley.

Institutional Giving Spotlight

The KCRW Development Department is made up of Individual Giving and Institutional Giving. For this newsletter we want to give a special shoutout to our other half: Austin Frank, Institutional Giving Manager, and Michelle Pantoja Institutional Giving Associate, and spotlight the powerful projects they have been cooking up.

City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs

We're thrilled to have received renewal funding from the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs to support two of our favorite events of the year. The first, which is coming up on July 30 is our Summer Nights event held in collaboration with the California African American Museum. The grant will also support KCRW & Gustavo's Great Tortilla Tournament in its fourth year this fall - we hope to see you at both events!



Austin



Michelle

Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture Interns

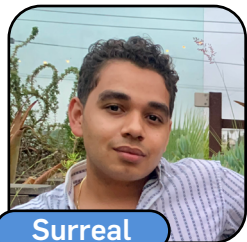
This year, KCRW received funding from the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture to hire two fantastic interns. Back in June, we welcomed Lucas Chen as the Development Intern and Surreal Lewis as the Music Intern. We're so excited to have these talented individuals join our team for the summer!



Lucas

Hi there!

My name's Lucas, and I'm the Development Intern at KCRW this summer! I recently finished my first year at UCLA, and have really been enjoying the community both inside and surrounding KCRW. I'm doing work on both the institutional and individual sides of development—from grant applications to planned giving—and I'm hopeful that I'll get to meet many of you before the summer is out!



Surreal

I'm Surreal, the Music Intern at KCRW. I'm a rising junior at Columbia University, and I love all things music! From artist submissions and writing articles, to admin work and helping plan events, throughout my whole internship I've been constantly surrounded by new music of all genres, and I couldn't be happier.

Report LA Fellowship

The Institutional Giving team has recently been hard at work fundraising for the second cohort of our Report LA Fellowship, which seeks to bring two early-career journalists into our organization with a focus on recruiting individuals with diverse backgrounds who have historically been underrepresented in the public media industry. Recruitment for this fellowship is currently ongoing and we look forward to the new fellows joining the KCRW team this fall.

Did You Know!?



KCRW is on the [app store](#)! From your favorite news shows, to [Today's Top Tune](#), it's all available on the app. Last month, we introduced compatibility with Apple CarPlay and added features to let KCRW DJs save songs directly to your Apple Music and Spotify accounts.



Hosts [Steve Chiotakis](#) and [Mike Schlitt](#) dissected the etymology of LA street names in the 7- part *GLA* series *What's in a Street Name?* As we return to the streets and our pre-pandemic commutes, this series explores the histories of Hollywood-famous [Roslyndale Ave](#), the philanthropist behind [Wilshire Blvd](#), the divisiveness of [George Crenshaw](#), and more!



Not ready to brave LAX just yet? No worries. Last month, the *MBE* team took us to Australia for a [Global Beats session](#). They've kept new music playing this summer with world premiers from [Los Lobos](#) and [Helado Negro](#).



Elvis Mitchell continues to pull fabulous guests to [The Treatment](#) from the recording studio and film set. Recently, he was joined by [Michael B. Jordan](#), [Kenan Thompson](#), and [Natalie Morales](#)!



Even as we return to in-person events, KCRW has continued one of our signature pandemic events, Behind the Screens, airing advanced screenings of Questlove's [Summer of Soul](#), talking politics and philanthropy with [Mark Cuban](#), and discussing the soundtrack of *Bridgerton* with music supervisor [Alexandra Pastevas](#).



Evan Kleiman and *Good Food* [celebrated Juneteenth](#) by discussing the role of African Americans in shaping America's food culture. Plus, this episode includes the [hottest restaurants for Angelinos](#) (now that dining restrictions are lifted) and [the return of summer berries to the Santa Monica Farmers Market](#).

These are just a few highlights from the last few months, for more news, music, and culture covered by KCRW visit the [website](#) or [download](#) the app.

Champion Community Impact

Spring Drive 2021/End of FY21

During our Spring Drive, in addition to raising money, we provided our community partners, Inner City Law Center, Kedren Health Community Center, and Heart of Los Angeles, with over 10M impressions and over \$1M in free promotion.

We also sent 35,000 meals to our food bank partners in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara.

Fun fact: 22% of our donations came from outside KCRW's terrestrial signal!

- 457 came from 41 states outside CA
- 55 were international (18 countries include Canada, UK, Australia, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Spain, Poland, New Zealand, Netherlands, Japan, Uruguay, Singapore, Norway, Mexico, Italy, Ireland, Germany)

Just last month, we were able to unlock a \$10,000 challenge grant from Entertainment Law Firm McKuin Frankel Whitehead, thanks to the generosity of KCRW Champion Joel McKuin.

What a way to close out the fiscal year! Your support truly makes an impact on our station and communities at large.

A Few Quotes

"I have always wanted to be a member!!! I love everything about this station. You have made me laugh, cry and everything in between. Thank you for reminding me that I'm human. It's been a hard year"

- Sandra (Torrance, CA)

"KCRW keeps us connected with Los Angeles and Southern California here in Switzerland. We enjoy the good programming; particularly of MBE which accompanies us regularly during dinner time over here :-)"

- Rene (Switzerland)

"I recently found out that there are other radio stations. That's nice to know, but it seems unnecessary. Love to Anthony & Novena!"

- Pablo (Echo Park, CA)

Sonic Society

Are you interested in ensuring that the next generation of KCRW listeners receives the same comprehensive coverage of local news issues, enjoys new music, and has the same access to quality events around Southern California? We're currently updating our planned giving program, the Sonic Society, to actualize these goals through your foresight and generosity.

Our Sonic Society members leave a legacy of giving for KCRW listeners, and will enjoy access to curated programs year round. If you're interested in planned giving and the Sonic Society, please contact our Head of Development, Jeremy Weinstein, via email at jeremy.weinstein@kcrw.org. Stay tuned for more details to come!

Thank You!

We are beyond grateful for our KCRW Champions especially in these uncertain times. You make so much possible and ensure that KCRW is there for our community and beyond - each and every day.

Do you have a friend or family member who you think would make a great KCRW Champion? Forward this email!

If you received this email from a friend or family and want to become a Champion or learn more, [click here](#).

Questions about your support or want to know more? Email us at champions@kcrw.org.

Interested in deepening your engagement with KCRW? Consider joining our Sonic Society (Planned Giving), find out more [here](#).

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).