

With More Freedom on Podcasts, Pubmedia Producers Seek Middle Ground on Commercial Tone

Current

FCC laws limit commercialism on public media airwaves. But it's less clear what compels stations to maintain a noncommercial vibe on digital platforms.

Matt Martin, former GM of KALW in San Francisco, got to wondering about that. He submitted the question "Other than FCC rules, which don't apply to digital content, what is the limit on commercialism in public media?" as part of our Currently Curious series. [Read more](#)

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The True Story of Nonprofits and Taxes

Nonprofit Quarterly

From the outside, it can look like the nonprofit sector, because it is tax exempt, does not contribute to government tax bases at all. That one-sided view wildly misses how this part of the economy works even at the most basic level.

It is true that in 2015, U.S. nonprofit organizations benefited from somewhere in the neighborhood of \$137 billion in tax preferences from exemptions and deductions—but at the same time, they sent approximately \$243 billion to various government entities in the form of taxes, tax withholding for others, and fees. [Read more](#)



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Courting Future Business Models: Are Public Media and Scrappy Startups the Next Trend for Mergers?

The Neiman Lab

In these potential pre-recession days, everyone is watching consolidations and combinations (and private equity purchases). But what about mergers—between public media and scrappy startups that keep the teams intact and the mission of impactful journalism alive?

Colorado Public Radio's scooping up Denverite from the promising Spirited Media flashed extra bright on much of Twitter's radar, as it also signaled the end of Spirited Media's media. Philadelphia's WHYY announced its acquisition of Billy Penn, formerly of Spirited Media, the very morning this piece published. [Read more](#)

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