A service of 89.3 WFPL News
and Louisville Public Media

2014 Annual Report
About Us / Mission

The Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting is a nonprofit, nonpartisan investigative newsroom within Louisville Public Media, a 501(c)3 corporation that operates three public radio stations, including 89.3 WFPL News, a full-time NPR affiliate. KyCIR works with 89.3 WFPL News and other news partners across the region to produce original investigative reporting in the public interest. A member of the Investigative News Network, we produce investigative journalism that affects you, your neighborhood and your Commonwealth.

Our mission is to protect society’s most vulnerable citizens, expose wrongdoing in the public and private sectors, increase transparency in government and hold leaders accountable, all in accordance with the highest standards of our trade.

We are unique but not alone in this changing media landscape. Many newsrooms today are facing difficult choices. Some are shrinking staff and cutting back on investigative journalism, which takes precious time and resources.

At KyCIR, we believe investigative reporting is not a luxury, but a necessity. We aim to produce these stories — deeply-reported journalism that may change public policy, pique public interest or provide key context to a civic matter.

We are members of the community. Our work is funded and supported by the community.
A Note From Our President

It wasn’t that long ago that an investigative reporting center at Louisville Public Media was just an idea on a piece of paper.

After reflecting on the state of journalism in our community, I formed a small team to help me put together a business plan to create the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting (KyCIR). I had no idea if our proposal would generate interest from the community, but it did — almost immediately.

It seems that we didn’t have to persuade folks that we have a serious problem in journalism today, particularly watchdog or accountability journalism, and we are fortunate to have numerous community leaders who have stepped forward to financially support this important work.

We conducted a national search to find the right person to lead this ambitious effort and found who we were looking for — a young newspaper and television reporter in New Orleans named Brendan McCarthy. Brendan has been recognized nationally for his achievements in investigative reporting, having been awarded the distinguished George Polk Award and a Pulitzer Prize finalist nod. He combines immediate journalistic credibility with a digital native’s understanding that journalism must find new ways to distribute and sustain itself.

We gave Brendan an empty room with electricity at Louisville Public Media and told him to build an investigative reporting center for our state, and he did so in short order. He hired a team of experienced reporters who quickly began to produce high-quality, high-impact journalism, beginning with a powerful expose of a culture of sexual harassment in the state capital. Their work has appeared both on radio and online, and has been amplified with partnerships with other news organizations such as the Lexington Herald-Leader, the Cincinnati Enquirer, the News and Tribune, and other Kentucky Public Radio Network stations.

After a highly successful first year, KyCIR is now ready to take the operation to the next level. With a full complement of reporters, and a growing reputation for quality work, our investigative reporting center will take on the issues of importance to all of us, and give citizens the critical information they need to make decisions about the future of our state. This is journalism in the service of democracy. It is journalism worth doing, and worth supporting.

Sincerely,

Donovan Reynolds
President and General Manager
Louisville Public Media
A Note From Our Editor

Our investigative newsroom was born in the summer of 2013 in a windowless, white-walled room. We had big plans for this operation. But, we didn’t yet have a name, a logo or much of a staff.

Over the last 18 months, KyCIR has grown into a full-fledged operation that produces high-impact journalism across several platforms.

The investigative team — R.G. Dunlop, Kristina Goetz and Jim McNair — has been widely honored for their first few projects. Dunlop’s “The Man With Many Chances” won a national Edward R. Murrow Award, one of the highest honors in broadcast journalism in this country. The team has been recognized with several other regional and state accolades. A story by summer intern Zoe Schaver won the annual Media Award from the Kentucky Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Today, it seems as if everything is new or a first for our newsroom. Whether it’s our approach to an investigation or the tools we use to tell a story, we are constantly evolving. And with each new investigation, we gain new readers and new partners, and reach new corners of the state and region.

We are proud of our first year and pleased with the foundation of a newsroom we’ve established. We look forward to building upon it, with a second year full of scoops and stories that affect you, your neighborhood and your Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Brendan McCarthy
Managing Editor
KY Center for Investigative Reporting
Brendan McCarthy – Managing Editor

McCarthy is a veteran newspaper and television investigative reporter. He previously worked as a criminal justice reporter in New Orleans.

He was a 2009 Pulitzer Prize finalist and won a George Polk Award, a Mike Berger Award and an Emmy, among other honors. He has written for The Times-Picayune in New Orleans, the Chicago Tribune, Boston Globe and Philadelphia Inquirer.

R.G. Dunlop – Reporter

Dunlop is a veteran investigative reporter whose work has exposed government corruption and resulted in numerous reforms in Kentucky.

He worked 35 years at the Courier-Journal in a variety of positions, including Eastern Kentucky bureau chief, Legal Affairs reporter, City Editor, and State Enterprise Reporter. He is a three-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and was twice a member of teams that won George Polk Awards.

Kristina Goetz – Reporter

Goetz’s reporting has exposed drug pipelines, uncovered police corruption and targeted wasteful government spending.

A native of Owensboro, she has worked for The Cincinnati Enquirer, The Commercial-Appeal in Memphis and the Arizona Republic. She was also a researcher and first-draft editor for former Watergate reporter Carl Bernstein, working extensively on his biography of Hillary Clinton.

James McNair – Reporter

McNair is a veteran investigator who specializes in business and finance issues.

He has worked as a staff reporter for the Miami Herald and the Cincinnati Enquirer, among other newspapers.

His reporting has unearthed fraudulent schemes and unethical business practices, as well as numerous swindles and scams. He most recently worked as an independent researcher for a hedge fund.
KyCIR launched its website in March 2014. The newsroom has reached 1.74 million consumers through mid-November. This is a breakdown of our reach:

- 1.74 million impressions
- 68 KyCIR articles/posts
- 70 percent of articles have corresponding radio component/story
- 10 different news outlets have published our stories
- 600+ Facebook followers
- 600+ Twitter followers

Stats: Google Analytics, Arbitron, YouTube, partners audited circulation/readership © KyCIR 2014
Our Work

POLITICS

We broke the story of a sexual harassment scandal at the statehouse, the allegations of which later led to the resignation of longtime State Rep. John Arnold.

Our reporting examined U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield’s ethical missteps, as well as cozy ties and financial partnerships with his lobbyist wife and another powerful lobbyist.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

“The Man With Many Chances” series revealed flaws in the Indiana criminal justice system that allowed a violent, serial rapist to slip through the cracks and murder a teenager.

PUBLIC FUNDS

We uncovered arcane, opaque dealings in a troubled $15-billion pension system that affects state workers. This reporting prompted legislation.

GOVERNMENT

An investigation found that a troubled, exotic animal exhibit has skirted the law; that state and federal officials have done little to address complaints; and the lax handling of exotic animals has potentially put the public’s safety at risk.

EDUCATION

Our newsroom aggressively covered an audit that examined issues with the University of Louisville’s financial controls. We fought to make records public and won an attorney general decision for transparency.
“I was pleasantly surprised and supportive when WFPL launched the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting. This type of reporting is being lost all across the country, and I am quite proud that my own town has developed this asset to bring important issues into the light of day. I look forward to hearing their reports in the following months!”

— Michael Allen, Louisville Public Media member

Our Partners & Collaborators

| Lexington Herald-Leader                      | 89.3 WFPL News       |
| News & Tribune                              | WKYU                  |
| Cincinnati Enquirer                         | WKMS                  |
| Southern Investigative Reporting Foundation | WEKU                  |
| Investigative News Network                  |                       |
| River City News                             |                       |
| KY Forward                                  |                       |
Award-Winning Journalism

EDWARD R. MURROW AWARDS
Investigative reporting – 1st Place, National
Investigative reporting – 1st Place, Regional

ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS, INDIANA
Multimedia package – 1st Place, The Man With Many Chances, Associated Press Radio
Best Enterprise Story – 2nd Place, The Man With Many Chances

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
Investigative Reporting – 1st Place Online, The Man With Many Chances
Investigative Reporting – 2nd Place Online, John Arnold Ethics Case

KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS
Annual "Media Award"

“Really appreciate Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting, and all the local journalism you do.”
— Janet Gifford,
Louisville Public Media member
Accolades

“But, as R.G. Dunlop of the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting detailed in the Herald-Leader, when politics and good intentions replace economic analysis, the price can get steep.”

— Herald-Leader editorial (March 2014)

“Nonprofit investigative journalism outfits like KCIR, still in its first year, have been popping up all over the country. As media evolves through a digital revolution, the addition of these voices are augmenting those of traditional media, which still has plenty to offer. When it comes to participating in a democracy, the more fact-based journalism, the better.”

— Courier-Journal editorial (March 2014)

“The Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting, well-known for its stories on the connection between money, politics and ethics, has come out with a long piece focusing on the business ties among Whitfield, a Hopkinsville Republican, his lobbyist wife and another well-known lobbyist ... The story is detailed and well-documented. To this old reporter, the story seems to have legs — apparently long legs.”

— AFL-CIO blog (July 2014)

“CHEERS to R.G. Dunlop and the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting for the fine work on an exposé published in the Friday edition of the News and Tribune.

If you missed the story titled “The man with many chances,” stop and read it. It is a frightening and frustrating account of missteps in the Indiana justice system.”

— News & Tribune editorial (Dec. 2013)

“… The clause was brought to public attention last week by the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting.”

— Herald-Leader editorial (May 2014)
KyCIR Advisory Council

The Advisory Council serves to provide ongoing feedback on the work produced by the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting. The purpose of the council is to represent the diverse interests of the public in regular meetings with KyCIR, and to serve as ambassadors in the community.

The Advisory Council meets quarterly and reviews the program goals and significant decisions of KyCIR and advises management on whether the newsroom is meeting the needs of the communities it serves. The role of the council is solely advisory in nature.

The first meeting is scheduled for April 2015.

MEMBERS:
Molly Bingham               Ed Manassah
Chuck Clark                Caroline Pieroni
Jason Falls                Stacie Shain
Bennie L. Ivory            James St. Clair
Stanley K. Macdonald      Kay Stewart

Our Supporters

We aim to have a diverse set of financial backers and supporters, including community members, philanthropists and local and national foundations.

Donors have no control over our newsroom, our work or our editorial decisions. We do not accept money from political parties, political action committees, politicians or others whose donation may affect our independence or public perception of our operations.

Two substantial grants to LPM, earmarked for an investigative newsroom, helped establish KyCIR in mid-2013. Local businessman Ed Hart donated $250,000 and the Louisville-based C.E. & S. Foundation provided a grant of $190,000.

“I really appreciate the exceptional programming Louisville Public Media provides our region, which is not the case not for many other NPR stations around the country. The WFPL team, including the KY Center for Investigative Reporting, does an outstanding job. Thank you!”

— Marianne Ratledge, Louisville Public Media member
“Thank you to WFPL for your journalistic integrity. We appreciate your commitment to bringing interesting interviews and investigative reporting to our home every day.”

— Niki Kleier-Terry, Louisville Public Media member

### 2013-2014 Supporters

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<td>Robert Adams</td>
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<td>Barbara Atkinson</td>
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<td>John Beechem</td>
<td>University of Louisville*</td>
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<td>Edward and Cornelia Bonnie</td>
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<td>Ramona Bush</td>
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<td>Ed Hart &amp; Gaylee Gillim</td>
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*In October 2014, the University of Louisville, which has donated to Louisville Public Media for many years, earmarked $10,000 to KyCIR as part of a larger LPM donation. Our newsroom has previously reported on the institution and will continue to report on it. Articles on UofL from October 2014 forward contain a disclosure noting the donation.
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Support our work, become a member
www.louisvillepublicmedia.org/support and click on KyCIR
502-814-6565
membership@kycir.org

Send us tips
502-814-6500
investigate@kycir.org
619 S. 4th Street
Louisville, KY 40202

Visit us online at kycir.org and sign up for our newsletter.
Let us know what you think and how we can serve you better.