



MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

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KCPT Adjusts Schedule to Continue the Conversation on Racial Justice in America

Updates Are a Concerted Response to Local and National Protests

Kansas City, MO, June 4, 2020--Kansas City PBS has updated the June broadcast schedule to include films and specials focusing on race in America. This change comes as Kansas City enters another day of protests in reaction not only to the murder of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, but the systemic injustices suffered by the black community at the hands of police nationwide.

“It is a point of pride that Kansas City PBS can pivot so quickly to include poignant and timely programming in our broadcast schedule in response to recent events,” said Kliff Kuehl, President and CEO of KCPT. “This update, in addition to the localized content on Flatland, *Kansas City Week In Review* and 90.9 The Bridge, and the ongoing work we do with our diversity task force helps us to remain in the conversation and committed to encouraging meaningful discourse through our reporting.”





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Changes to the schedule, initiated by PBS at a national level, include new additions and some re-broadcasts of material. *Race Matters-America in Crisis: a PBS Newshour Special* airs on Tuesday, June 9 at 7 p.m., and covers America's deep systemic racial disparities in the economy, education, criminal justice system and health care. An updated *America in Black & Blue 2020* will premiere Monday, June 15 at 8 p.m. and offer interviews with key leaders and participants in the struggle for racial justice, accountability and equity, as well as voices from law enforcement. A second look at the documentary, *The Talk: Race in America*, will air on June 10th at 8 p.m. and tells six stories of struggle between people of color and law enforcement in America and how families of color attempt to protect their children with "The Talk" — about what to do and how to react if they are stopped by police.

"As a media system that serves every person in America, we stand with the Black community, and we stand against racism and hate," said Paula Kerger, President & CEO of PBS. "In the coming days and weeks, we will use our national reach and community presence to deepen understanding, foster conversation and enable meaningful change. And we will continue to stand behind our courageous journalists, whose unwavering commitment to speak truth to power is essential to the strength of our democracy."

Additional localized content from Flatland, KCPT's digital news source, covers the Kansas City protests in-depth and includes reporting of personal experiences from journalists on-staff. An [article](#) on the weekend protests gives a detailed written and visual account of interactions between protestors and police and a second piece offers a [firsthand commentary](#) from one of Flatland's regular contributors.

90.9 The Bridge, KCPT's AAA radio station, participated in [Blackout Tuesday](#) and continues to feature past interviews with local black artists. On Friday, June 5, *Freeform Friday*, a weekly segment featuring listener requests, will highlight essential voices from black artists themed to focus on social injustice, inclusion and solidarity.



These efforts run parallel to the comprehensive framework KCPT and a diversity taskforce has built over several years to elevate initiatives and construct a process designed to emphasize equitable representation of diverse voices, views and perspectives from the community and to better reflect today's complex media landscape. Additional Content produced along these lines in recent months, which highlights history and current issues include:

[A Visual History on Racial Distribution in the Metro](#)

[Winning Access to Fairyland Park](#)

[Age of Coronavirus: Civil Rights Legend in Nursing Home Where First Kansas Fatality Lived](#)

[Kansas City's Clash of the Titans](#)

[Unearthing the Truth About Slave Burial Sites at KCI](#)

[How One Kansas City Hospital Treated Segregation in the '50s](#)

[Spoken Word in Black Community](#)

[A Look Back at the Deadly '68 Riots](#)

[Land of Opportunity](#)

[A Century of Change: Negro League Centennial Celebration](#)

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KCPT is a non-profit multimedia organization located in midtown Kansas City. Founded in 1961, KCPT operates four television channels, as well as working with sister brands Flatland, a digital news and culture magazine, and 90.9 The Bridge, an NPR music discovery public radio station.