

WPBT & WXEL Milestones

1955: WPBT2 begins broadcasting and becomes the seventh educational station operating in the United States.

1957: WPBT receives a grant from the Advancement of Adult Education Fund of the Ford Foundation to participate as one of 14 stations in an experiment to determine if children could learn as well as, or better, through television than through traditional classroom methods.

1967: Hagen Ranch Elementary School requests an FM radio license for an innovative approach to educating migrant families. The station goes on-the-air in 1969 as WHRS, later to become WXEL-FM, as the nation's first radio station designed to bridge the community gap, including the language gap, of migrant workers.

1967: "Pagliacci" is the first local color production aired on WPBT. It is produced in cooperation with the Miami Opera Guild and is the first time a complete opera is produced in Florida and recorded for television.

1972: WXEL-FM becomes an NPR affiliate and receives national recognition from NASA for the nation's first Spanish-language coverage of a space launch.

1974: WXEL-FM changes emphasis to classical music and fine arts but maintains its Spanish language and bilingual programs in the early morning hours.

1976: "Que Pasa, USA," a bi-lingual sitcom premieres on WPBT.

1977: First time a trial is broadcast live from a Florida courtroom.

1979: The Nightly Business Report premieres locally as a 15-minute summary of national and local business news. In 1981 the program goes national and is transmitted via satellite uplink to 260 stations across America. The audience grows to 5.5 million viewers on a weekly basis. In 1990 the series inaugurates a line of home videotapes under the PBS Home Video label.

1985: WPBT inaugurates the first South Florida broadcast in stereophonic sound with the movie, *Music Man*.

1992: WPBT completes the installation of a KU band satellite uplink system.

1992: KIDVISION, WPBT's children's programming platform is created. In 2001, WPBT wins a third PBS Advertising & Promotion Award for the series.

1995: WXEL & WLRN create the Southeastern Regional Ready to Learn Service – the nation's largest community-based program geared towards getting children ready for education.

2001: WPBT is the first public television station to broadcast digitally in South Florida

2003: WPBT becomes the first broadcaster in South Florida to multicast on its digital signal.

2003: WPBT receives a PBS Development Award Planned Giving Special Achievement.

2004: WXEL begins digital transmission on July 4, 2004. In 2009 WXEL turns off its analog signal and goes all digital.

2007: uVu is launched - a community online video initiative featuring user-generated content.

2007: V-Me launched – a Spanish-language service on WPBT digital multicast channel.

2010: KidVision VPK begins the online professional development program for pre-k teachers to learn and teach Florida's Early Learning & Developmental Standards for 4-year olds and earn state required CEUs.

2013: "art loft" series premieres showcasing local and national artists, openings, installations, performances, and art organizations that have positioned South Florida as a leader in the world of art.

2015: WPBT and WXEL merged to form South Florida PBS, which serves the entire South Florida area from Key West to the Sebastian Inlet and from the Atlantic Ocean west to Lake Okeechobee.

And finally, on localism, the most fundamental measure of community engagement, South Florida PBS broadcast 226 hours of locally-produced programming in fiscal 2018 covering a wide range of issues and community interest .

This list barely touches upon the awards both stations have received from both national and regional industry leaders. Individually and collectively they present South Florida PBS' qualifications in the context of tangible work product and achievement.

