

July 23, 2012

See below for information contacts.

WWNO 89.9 FM ANNOUNCES NEW LOCAL NEWS REPORTING COLLABORATION

With today's expansion of its radio news programs, WWNO-FM announces the creation of a community news-gathering collaboration that will increase local news coverage on broadcast and digital platforms. The news operation will distribute content from a trio of nonprofit news and information partners, bringing together experienced local journalists at a critical point in the renewal of our city, region and community.

The new collaboration is the fruit of more than eight months of discussion among WWNO and two local digital news and information partner organizations, **The Lens** and **NolaVie**. These three groups will share resources including stories and editorial input for broadcast on WWNO and for distribution on all three websites, making the new consortium the first of its kind in community-based, nonprofit news partnerships.

The Lens, founded in 2009, is the New Orleans area's first nonprofit public interest newsroom, dedicated to in-depth reporting projects as well as exclusive daily stories. Award-winning writer Karen Gadbois founded the website and continues to lead the organization along with Steve Beatty and Jed Horne, who direct news coverage. The Lens is a national 2012 Edward R. Murrow Award winner. (<http://TheLensNola.org>)

NolaVie was launched in February 2011 as the region's first nonprofit cultural and community website devoted to covering the lifestyles, people and events of the city and region. Founded by former Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra executive director Sharon Litwin and former Times-Picayune editor and columnist Renee Peck, NolaVie offers curated and edited content from an array of award-winning writers, published local authors, musicians, photographers and essayists. (<http://NolaVie.com>)

WWNO and its partners are joining together to offer credible news coverage, using community-based organizations with expertise and journalistic talent in core areas to bring authority and experience to on-air and digital content.

"For 40 years WWNO has been 'the source for NPR news and great classical music,'" said WWNO general manager Paul Maassen. "WWNO also aims to be a trusted source for local news and cultural information. By partnering with The Lens and NolaVie, WWNO will strengthen its reporting of local news stories, including arts and culture, education, government and other subjects important to our region."

WWNO is the listener-supported NPR radio station serving 1.6 million people in New Orleans southeast Louisiana—from the historic urban neighborhoods of New Orleans to small communities along bayous or amid pine forests.

WWNO's programs include news from NPR and other sources, classical music, jazz and other musical styles, lively entertainment, and local news and culture. WWNO aims to be a voice for trustworthy news, to enhance the region's musical and cultural life, and to promote our region's distinctive culture and economic vitality.

WWNO broadcasts on 89.9 FM, and on KTLN 90.5 FM in the Houma-Thibodaux area. Its programs can also be heard on two HD channels, WWNO2 (24-hour classical music) and WWNO3 (jazz all the time), and online at wwno.org. WWNO is licensed to and operated by the University of New Orleans as a public service.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Ronald Biava
Development/Marketing Manager, WWNO 280-7001, rbiava@uno.edu

Steve Beatty
Managing Editor, The Lens 655-2375, sbeatty@thelensnola.org

Sharon Litwin
Co-founder, NolaVie 481-4713, sharon@nolavie.com

Adam Norris
UNO Director of Public Relations 280-6939, amnorris@uno.edu