



# 20 YEARS of MAKING CONTACT

ACTIVISM + MEDIA MAKING

## Our History Defines Our Present

In 1994 a group of progressive radio producers and media critics gathered in an Oakland, California café to build a powerful national media outlet for our voices.

Radio producers including David Barsamian, media critic Norman Solomon, and “roll-up-yer-sleeves” community organizers Peggy and John Law, were joined by hundreds of others from across the country who shared their vision:

To produce media that analyzes critical issues and showcases grassroots solutions, in order to inform and inspire audiences to take action. To fill a need for high quality journalism that tells stories in our own words and connects us to one another.

They were determined to build an organization driven and fueled by community support and not by corporate underwriting or a commercial bottom-line.

These founding principles remain firmly in place today. What started out as a 13-week experiment highlighting progressive community perspectives is now a multimedia digital destination for information, analysis, activism and hope.





## Fast Forward

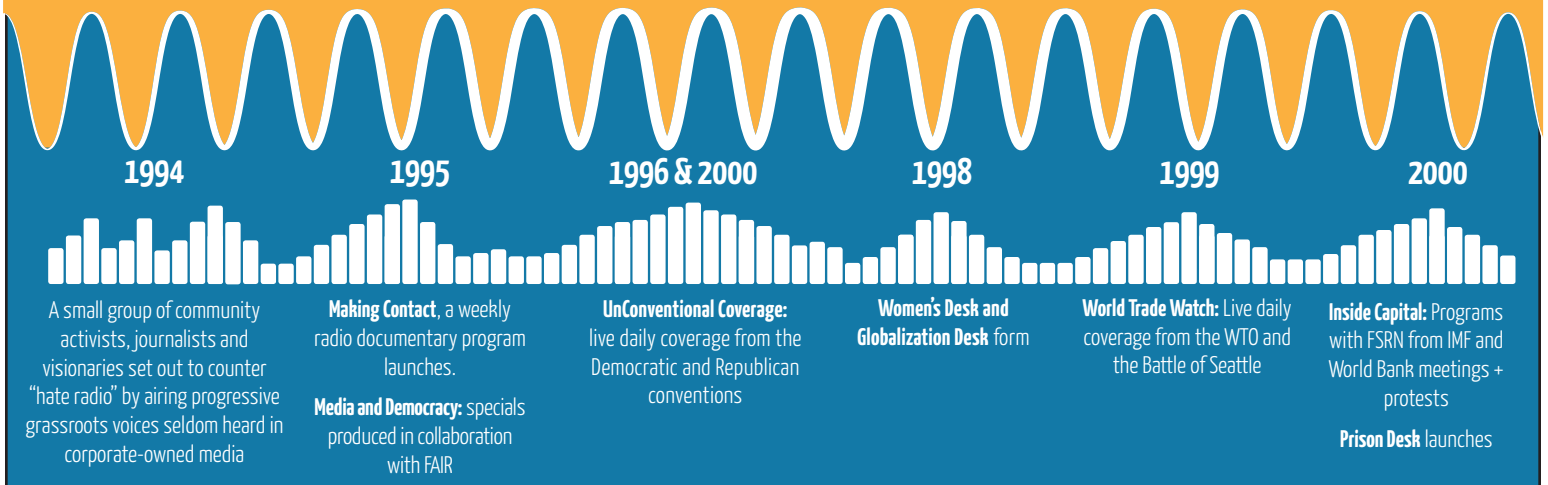
For twenty years, after more than a thousand shows, we continue to keep our sound fresh and bring you news, insight and activism opportunities on the issues you care about.

**Making Contact** continues to explore history in order to counter societal amnesia. We go behind the breaking news with feature-length stories and we highlight progressive solutions. Our carefully investigated and edited programs combined with new distribution technologies make sure our programs are heard “beyond the choir.”

We also believe the people most affected by issues should be the ones being heard. We put the microphone in their hands, and through our Women’s Desk and Prison Desk we have trained countless progressive activists in media making. Our production intern program has evolved this year into our **Community Storytelling Fellowships**, providing training and stipends for new community leaders. Lateef McLeod, Aqueila Lewis, and Rochelle Robinson, our first “fellas” have already made this initiative a big success!

## Your Role at Making Contact

While your financial support is imperative, so are your ideas, expertise and energies. What do you think we should be covering more – less? Volunteer to help us promote the series. Give us feedback on a recent program. Explore other ways to get involved with our expanding advisory circles. We need you to be a part of **Making Contact**: [ludman@radioproject.org](mailto:ludman@radioproject.org) or 510-459-8558.



# Today's Core Team

Core producers **Andrew Stelzer, George Lavender, Laura Flynn and Jasmín López** work with a fleet of freelance reporters to bring you voices from communities across the globe.

We're proud that their efforts continue to win awards, and that your generous financial support enables them to continue to use their talents.

**Kwan Booth**, our Manager of Digital Content and Community Engagement, wants to work with you to further distribute our work and help gather community responses, voices and stories. So sign up for our newsletter, forward it widely and meet up with Kwan on Facebook, Twitter or our blog.

Our Executive Director, **Lisa Rudman** inspires us to reach higher. She keeps our editorial and operational focus true to our roots. Lisa forges new partnerships, coaches and develops our staff, keeps the fundraising going and the financial reports flowing. She keeps it real while not forgetting our ideals.

# New Technology for Greater Reach

**Making Contact** continues to embody our mission, expand our reach and increase our impact using new tools. The core program remains a social-justice broadcast on airwaves that people listen to in their cars and kitchens across the country.

Our website combines sound with print and video sidebars, photos and infographics. And as always, we augment the podcasts with links to resources and organizations active on the topic so people can connect and take action. We use social media to engage people and we're experimenting with new technology for greater impact.

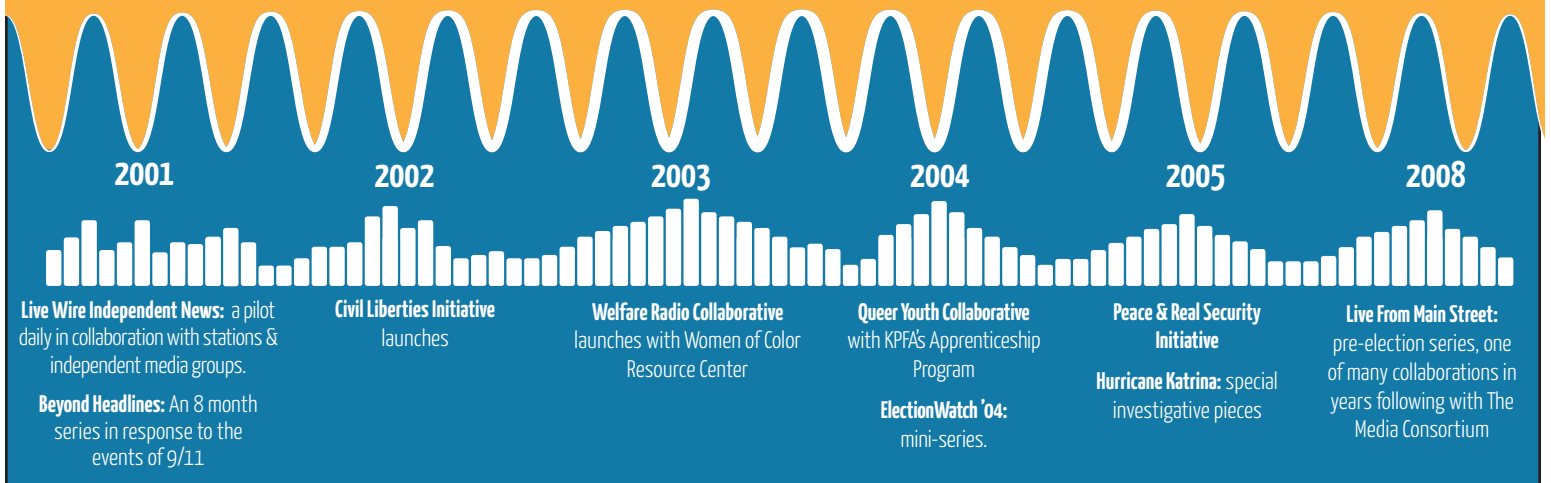
Meanwhile, radio and storytelling is having a renaissance. Sound-rich radio storytelling is being rediscovered by younger listeners. This is our chance to tell our truths and help spark the imaginations of millions of new listeners. We like to say, "If programs like Democracy Now! and This American Life had a love-child, it would sound like **Making Contact**."



Jasmin Lopez, George Lavender, Laura Flynn, Andrew Stelzer, Lateef McLeod, Aqueila Lewis, Lisa Rudman ...

Kwan Booth

130 stations across the U.S. Canada and Australia broadcast **Making Contact** each week, and we've become a digital destination for people using smartphones and tablets.





## Our Future is Written with YOU

The need for our independent media voice has only grown since **Making Contact** started.

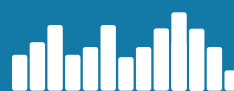
Our sense of urgency and hopefulness remain, but we need your financial support to make sure progressive communities have their voices heard.

We receive no corporate or government support. A few progressive foundations have stepped up, but the majority of our funding has always come from people like you, and we rely on you now.

**Please make a special anniversary donation today to keep us going strong for years to come!**

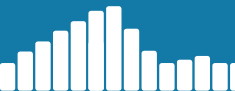
Tax-deductible donations can be made securely online at [www.radioproject.org](http://www.radioproject.org) or mail a check made out to International Media Project, 1714 Franklin St. #100-251 Oakland, CA 94612.

2009



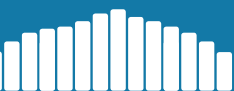
**How We Survive:** mini-series beginning after the economic crash of 2008.

2011



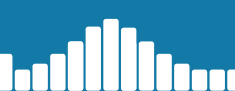
**Environmental Justice:** mini-series focusing on green jobs, climate change, big oil and food justice

2012



**Next Stop: Justice - Race and Environment at the Center of Transit:** a collaboration with People Organized to Win Employment Rights and the Center for Political Education

2013



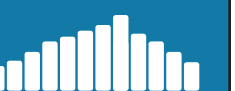
**Community Storytelling Fellowships** launched

2014



**23 Awards!** including two this year from Northern California chapter of Society of Professional Journalists.

2015



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