



**Radio
Skid Row**
88.9Fm

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

1 JULY 2024 – 30 JUNE 2025



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Radio Skid Row could not be what it is without the ongoing resilience, dedication, and heart of the people who make this station what it is. Community radio has its ups and downs, and this year was no exception. But just like in nature, our grassroots spirit grounds us. We continue to stand strong in our resistance, in our values, and in the power of our collective voices.

One of the biggest highlights this year has been our new governance, board, and station management. The new Board is incredibly hardworking, deeply committed, and diplomatic. Most importantly, it reflects the diversity of Skid Row and the community we serve. I look forward to maintaining this energy, collaboration, and momentum in the years to come.

We also welcomed new programs onto the grid, including Fresh Air, a queer show that just celebrated its first anniversary. Anything Goes, our long-standing disability program, received the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (ACMA) Award for Excellence in Disability Content and Engagement. And Gang Gang 2.0 is officially back—bringing Black, Indigenous and people of colour (BIPOC) youth voices to the forefront.

As an old Skid Rower, it's been powerful to watch our community evolve, uplift one another, and support the next generation of storytellers.

We're excited for the year ahead: for new energy, fresh programs, and the return of familiar faces who continue to shape who we are as a station.

Lima Peni





WHO WE ARE



Radio Skid Row is an independent, community-owned broadcaster operating on Gadigal and Wangal Country in Sydney.

Since 1983, it has been a loud, unwavering platform for the voices that mainstream media often overlooks: First Nations peoples, migrants, refugees, artists, activists and grassroots movements.

Our mission is to democratise media access and ensure that every community, regardless of background, language or circumstance, has a voice on the airwaves. We do this by providing hands-on media training, mentorship and production opportunities that build long-term skills and leadership within the community.

Today, Radio Skid Row broadcasts more than 40 programs in 17 community languages and supports over 80 volunteer broadcasters and cultural producers. Our programming covers music, politics, and culture alongside First Nations content, disability and LGBTQ+ issues, reflecting the diversity of the communities we serve. The station also works closely with local collectives, youth centres, and community organisations, creating opportunities for emerging musicians and young storytellers through workshops, live performances, and outside broadcasts that strengthen participation and visibility.





OUR BOARD



Lima Peni
President

Michael Zewdie
Vice President

Bella Forti
Secretary

Rekha Sanghi
Director

Simeon Georgievski
Director

Jamal Abdulrahim
Director

Massiray Amodu
Director

Claire Nemorin
Director

The Radio Skid Row Board oversees governance, policy, and strategic direction, while the Station Manager leads day-to-day operations and supports staff and volunteers. With a small but dedicated team, Radio Skid Row continues to rely on community passion and collaboration to sustain our work.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024–2025



Supporter Drive



Our annual Supporter Drive filled the airwaves with music, energy and community. Every Sunday, from May to July, we broadcasted from outdoor events that featured local artists performing original music, engaging listeners and new supporters alike. The campaign raised essential funds and culminated in a festive bike raffle, reminding us that the real prize is always connection between community, music and purpose. These live and outdoor broadcasts helped showcase local talent and strengthened relationships with listeners, reinforcing our role as a community hub.



Volunteer Training



From August to September, we trained 11 new broadcasters, each bringing fresh energy and perspectives. Three new programs were born from this initiative: a Spanish-language show celebrating Latinx identity and culture; an LGBTQ+ program dedicated to queer visibility and inclusion, and an environmental show focused on sustainability, recycling and local action.

New Programming

We expanded and diversified our line-up with the addition of new shows, including:

- Art Loud
- The Nyabinghi Breakfast Show
- The Sound of Solidarity
- Braindance
- Twinnies
- Early Morning Reggae Show
- Fresh Air
- LT Breakfast Show
- Pulse of Palestine.



Twinnies Talanoa



The Early Morning Reggae Show





Outside Broadcasts



We successfully delivered several live outside broadcasts across key community events, strengthening our presence and connection with local audiences. These included:

- Africultures Festival
- Niue Independence Day
- Marrickville Markets
- Pacifika Festival
- NAIDOC

These broadcasts showcased the voices and stories of Sydney's vibrant multicultural communities while highlighting the station's commitment to grassroots engagement.





Radiothon



Our Radiothon campaign combined live outdoor events, special on-air programming, giveaways and traditional street collections. Musicians, presenters and community members united to keep the station thriving – proving once again that Radio Skid Row is powered by people, not profit.



Anything Goes



Anything Goes has established itself as a vital platform amplifying the voices of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people with disability. Hosted by Lima 'Listic' Peni, Jamal Abdulrahim and Ellie Violet, the program creates an authentic space for real conversations, lived experiences, and community stories that are largely absent from mainstream media.

True to its name, Anything Goes explores a diverse range of topics, from music and interviews to politics and pop culture. Lima, Jamal and Ellie's chemistry and lived experience bring authenticity and warmth to every episode, creating content that resonates deeply with audiences while challenging perceptions and breaking down barriers.



The program's impact was recognised nationally when Anything Goes won the Excellence in Disability Content & Engagement award at the 2025 Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBA) Awards. This prestigious recognition acknowledges the program's outstanding contribution to disability representation in Australian media.

Through the generous support of the Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF), Anything Goes continues to demonstrate the power of community radio to provide platforms for underrepresented voices and foster genuine inclusion.





Key Operational Challenges and Improvements

During the reporting period, the station addressed a dispute involving a former volunteer. This matter was reviewed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), and the station fully accepted its findings. In response to ACMA's recommendations, significant steps were taken to enhance the understanding of, and adherence to, our policies and procedures. These improvements included comprehensive training for staff and the Board, along with a thorough update of the station's policy framework.

A number of serious transmission problems were experienced during the year, including faults with the antenna and reliability issues with both the primary and backup transmitters. These incidents highlighted that our current transmission equipment has reached its end-of-life stage.

Crucially, the station secured a grant from the CBF to resolve this. We submitted a detailed transmission renewal proposal in our grant application. This funding ensures a complete overhaul of our transmission infrastructure will commence early in the new year, guaranteeing a high-quality and reliable service into the future.





Merchandise



In 2024 we expanded our merchandise line to include tote bags and hats, alongside our signature hoodies and t-shirts. Every piece represents pride, identity and the collective spirit that keeps community radio on air.





Communications and Digital Growth

This year, Radio Skid Row strengthened its communications strategy to build a more cohesive visual identity, enhance our online presence and foster organic community growth.

- Visual consistency was established across all digital platforms, creating a unified and recognisable style that reflects the station's creative, diverse and community-driven spirit.
 - Website and content updates followed Search Engine Optimisation best practices, improving visibility and enabling more listeners to discover Radio Skid Row online.
 - In line with Meta's engagement recommendations, content strategies were refined to prioritise authentic storytelling, dynamic visual material and meaningful interaction with audiences.
 - Efforts focused on expanding the community organically, reaching younger audiences and inviting emerging and local musicians to share their work and connect with listeners.
- 



THANK YOU

To our listeners, broadcasters, volunteers and supporters, thank you for being the heartbeat of Radio Skid Row. Your energy fuels every broadcast, every event and every story shared on our airwaves.

Special thanks to the CBF for its continued support of our development, operational, content, training and community outreach initiatives.

Together, we'll keep building what we do best – amplifying voices, building community, broadcasting resistance.

Still loud. Still here. Still for community.