



## The Paley Center for Media History

### Important Dates in the Life of the Institution:

- **1975:** An organization is founded by William S. Paley to collect, preserve, and interpret television and radio programming and to make these programs available to the public. Mr. Paley serves as its first chairman.
- **November 9, 1976:** The Museum of Broadcasting opens to the public on three floors of a converted office building at 1 East 53 Street in New York City, with 718 publicly available broadcasts in the collection. It is the first public institution to offer this history of broadcasting to the general public.
- **February 6, 1991:** Frank A. Bennack, Jr. is appointed chairman of the board of trustees.
- **March 26, 1991:** The Museum's board of trustees renames the institution The Museum of Television & Radio (MTR) to more accurately reflect the addition of programs beyond those broadcast to those transmitted by cable and satellite.
- **September 12, 1991:** The Museum moves into the William S. Paley Building (located at 25 West 52 Street, New York City), named after its founder and designed by architect Philip Johnson.
- **September 17 to 19, 1995:** MTR hosts the first International Council in Rome, an unprecedented gathering of the world's media leaders.
- **March 18, 1996:** MTR in Los Angeles opens to the public. Both locations house identical collections of television and radio programming, making the resources and programs available to the public and creative community in both cities. Named the Leonard H. Goldenson Building, the Los Angeles Museum was designed by architect Richard Meier.
- **September 2002:** MTR launches the Media Center (now Media Council), a membership organization that brings together senior media executives for off-the-record discussions of critical issues impacting all aspects of media.
- **June 5, 2007:** MTR is renamed The Paley Center for Media to better reflect the institution's evolution to a center that illuminates the immense and growing impact of media on our lives, culture, and society.

## **The Collection**

- The Paley Center for Media has an international collection of more than 140,000 programs covering almost 100 years of television and radio history, including news, public affairs programs and documentaries, performing arts programs, children’s programming, sports, comedy and variety shows, and commercial advertising. Programming from more than seventy countries is represented in the collection.
- “Lost” radio and television programs recovered by the Paley Center and preserved in the collection include Super Bowl III, a Rat Pack benefit variety show, and James Dean performances.

## **Public Programs**

- **Events, New York and Los Angeles**  
Throughout the year, the Paley Center hosts discussions with influential newsmakers, journalists, and world leaders on today’s important issues. The Paley Center also celebrates excellence in drama, comedy, and documentary film with a range of events that examine the creative process behind great entertainment.
- **The William S. Paley Television Festival, Los Angeles**  
The annual William S. Paley Television Festival is now in its 25th year. This Festival, named for William S. Paley, founder of CBS and The Paley Center for Media, celebrates television’s rich and diverse programming and the creative process behind it.
- **DocFest, New York**  
The annual DocFest celebrates the art and craft of the documentary form with a variety of premieres, special screenings, and workshops. The majority of screenings are followed by Q&A sessions with the filmmakers and special guests, which have become a hallmark of the Festival.

## **Programs for Industry Professionals**

- **The Media Council in New York**  
The Paley Center’s Media Council (formerly the Media Center) is a membership organization composed of top-level executives that serves as an intellectual center for the media industry and a forum for discussing major issues facing the world’s media, communications, and technology industries.
- **The International Council**  
The International Council is composed of the chief executives of the world’s leading media and communications companies. The International Council fosters partnerships around the world and tackles media issues on a global scale.

**The Paley Center for Media: Locations/Hours**

**New York:** 25 West 52 Street, New York, New York 10019, between 5th and 6th Avenues.  
Open Tuesdays through Sundays from noon to 6:00 p.m. and until 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays.  
Phone: 212-621-6800.

**Los Angeles:** 465 North Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90210, at the intersection of North Beverly Drive and Little Santa Monica Boulevard. Open Wednesdays through Sundays from noon to 5:00 p.m. Phone: 310-786-1000.

Both are closed on New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The public areas in both are accessible to wheelchairs and assisted listening devices are available. Programs are subject to change. The Paley Center's website can be accessed at [paleycenter.org](http://paleycenter.org).

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