



What's happening at **KPFA** and **Pacifica**?

After years of mismanagement, a new majority on the Pacifica National Board is making changes to rebuild the network's programming, finances and infrastructure. One of their actions was to end the employment of interim executive director Summer Reese on March 13.

Four days later, **Reese broke into the Pacifica National office next door to KPFA and has refused to leave**, blocking the chair of Pacifica's board from the premises and access to the financial records it contains. Reese has been sleeping there with a small cadre of supporters, and making wild allegations against KPFA that she never raised in any venue before her termination.

Why did the Pacifica National Board fire Summer Reese?

National members say they're bound by confidentiality on this question. But here is some publicly available information about Reese's tenure:

- ❖ During the year that Reese was in control of Pacifica, it ran a **\$1.5 million dollar deficit**, with the largest cost overruns at the unit Reese directly supervises, the Pacifica National Office.
- ❖ During her tenure, **Reese was a strong promoter of programming critics describe as "snake oil"**: she pushed stations to carry fundraising specials by HIV denialist Gary Null, and to use their fund drives to market questionable health products in a manner so transparently commercial it drew criticism from the Ombudsman of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.
- ❖ **Reese drove out managers and staff around the network**, including Andrew Phillips, the popular manager responsible for bringing *UpFront* to KPFA's airwaves.
- ❖ Pacifica's bylaws give KPFA's elected Local Station Board the power to create a pool of candidates for the General Manager position, but **Reese failed to hire from a pool KPFA's board unanimously agreed on** in November 2013, effectively leaving her with unilateral control of the manager position at KPFA.
- ❖ Reese **unilaterally cancelled the board elections** that Pacifica's bylaws required to be held last year (later, she sought board approval for calling them off).
- ❖ Reese has a **history of involvement with right-wing anti-tax groups**. She has publicly admitted that she doesn't have a Social Security number, and refused to tell a reporter whether or not she pays income tax.

Did Reese have an enforceable contract?

The employment contract that Reese's supporters are circulating portions of was **never approved** by her employer, the Pacifica National Board – it was signed by only two board members, without the rest of the board's knowledge or authorization.

Why can't Pacifica just send the police in to arrest Reese?

It can, but it hasn't yet. Pacifica's chair, Margy Wilkinson, says she has been trying to first exhaust all other means of re-establishing control of the Pacifica National Office.

How did Summer Reese become Pacifica's executive?

Reese came up through Pacifica's system of elected boards. She was chair of the Pacifica National Board that supported Pacifica's move to purge the *Morning Show* from KPFA's airwaves. When the hired executive responsible for that action departed, authority defaulted to Reese as board chair under California law.

What's happening with KPFA's books?

Local control over finances is something that KPFA's listeners and staff fought for and won 15 years ago. For several months, Pacifica, the corporation that owns KPFA, has been repeatedly borrowing money from KPFA's accounts on short notice, and given no reconciled accounting of the outstanding balance owed to KPFA.

Last month, **Pacifica asked to take away control of KPFA's financial records from KPFA's business manager.** With the support of KPFA's elected treasurer, she declined. *To clarify:* Pacifica's accountants have free access to KPFA's financial records – but they are not permitted to remove them from the building. Because Reese has barricaded herself in her former office at Pacifica, KPFA's staff and national elected board members do not have free access to financial records in Pacifica's offices.

What's happening with Pacifica's audit?

All five Pacifica stations are behind schedule on reconciling their books from fiscal year 2013. This has delayed progress on getting an independent audit for that year. Reese's lockout of some staff and board members from the Pacifica National Office has made it **more difficult** to correct this situation.

How can I support the new board majority at Pacifica?

- **SUBSCRIBE** to our newsletter at www.SaveKPFA.org and watch for action alerts.
- **ADD YOUR NAME** to this **Open Letter to Summer Reese from Listeners & Staff:**

"The Pacifica Radio network is as fragile as it is important — it cannot afford this protracted disruption. Please respect the decision by the majority of the elected Pacifica National Board, stop blocking elected board members' access to financial records, leave Pacifica's offices peacefully, and help make Pacifica's leadership transition a smooth one."

Sincerely, Aileen Alfandary, KPFA News co-director | Rodrigo Argueta, KPFA Local Station Board | Tina Bachemin, KPFA programmer; member, KPFA Local Station Board | David Bacon, KPFA's *UpFront* | Bob Baldock, KPFA author events producer | Jim Bennett, former KPFA GM & Operations Director, former PNB member | Larry Bensky, former Pacifica National correspondent | Blase Bonpane, Director, Office of the Americas, Los Angeles | Peter Byrne, investigative reporter | Barbara Dane, musician | Brian Edwards-Tiekert, KPFA's *UpFront*; member, KPFA LSB | Jan Etre, KPFA Crafts Fair director | Sasha Futran, former member, KPFA LSB | David Gans, KPFA's *Dead to the World*; member, KPFA LSB | Sherry Gendelman, former member, KPFA LSB; former chair, PNB | Sherna Berger Gluck, KPFA LSB member | Frances Goff, KPFA listener/supporter | Donald Goldmacher, KPFA LSB, producer, *Heist: Who Stole the American Dream?* | John Hurst, Professor emeritus UCB | Sheila Jordan, Alameda County Schools superintendent | Perrine Kelly, KPFA outreach committee | Jim Lafferty, KPFA programmer, *Lawyer's Guild Show* | Ying Lee, community activist | Sasha Lilly, co-host, KPFA's *Against the Grain* | Philip Maldari, host, KPFA's *Sunday Show* | Ian Masters, KPFA's *Background Briefing* | Sandy Miranda, KPFA's *Music of the World* | Andrew Leslie Phillips, former manager KPFA | Derk Richardson, KPFA music programmer | Lynne Hollander Savio, listener & Mario Savio Young Activist Award | Lewis O. Sawyer Jr., KPFA programmer; member, KPFA local station board | Judith Scherr, KPFA programmer | Dan Siegel, civil rights attorney, former PNB member | Mary Tilson, KPFA's *America's Back 40* | Carole Travis, KPFA Local Station Board chair | Kay Trimberger, professor emerita of Women's & Gender Studies at Sonoma State Univ. | Kris Welch, KPFA's Living Room | **AND OVER 700 MORE!** **SIGN ON at www.SaveKPFA.org**

SaveKPFA is a coalition of listeners and staff (both unpaid and paid) working to rally progressive support the nation's first listener-sponsored radio station, KPFA 94.1FM. We stand for **LOCAL CONTROL** of management, finances and programming; **HIGH-QUALITY, PROGRESSIVE PROGRAMMING**, and **TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY** from Pacifica, the corporation that owns KPFA.