

Profile

Award-winning journalist who most recently led editorial content for an education foundation within the Emerson Collective. Thought leader whose innovative ideas shape a narrative with a strong storytelling voice. Expertise in mapping out a story (in text and audio), fitting complicated parts together, discovering the human context, and elevating from the personal to universal. Recognized especially for education and immigration reporting on WNYC and NPR through news reports, investigations, multi-part series, and web articles. Also scripted, produced, and edited audio interviews by WNYC hosts, filled in for mid-day and other talk show hosts on occasion, and moderated panels on immigration and education. Vast experience delivering significant, compelling stories on tight deadlines, staying on top of breaking news, editing audio reports, web articles, social media posts, internal reports, and collaborating in partnership with other media organizations including The New York Times, Telemundo 47 and The 74.

Experience

XQ Institute, 2021 to July, 2024

Senior Editorial Director

Writing and editing content for all public-facing and internal reports explaining what it means to rethink the high school experience and why. Content included the XQ website; partnerships with the education news site The 74, PBS NewsHour, and the podcast This Teenage Life; social media; newsletters; and annual board books. A collaborative leader responsible for translating and sharing the insights of XQ's educators for larger audiences. As a member of the marketing and communications team, this work also involved contributing to a multi-media campaign for "The First Class," a documentary about Crosstown High in Memphis, and gaining national recognition for a KT Studios podcast ("Murder 101") about the students and teacher at an XQ school who helped solve a cold case involving a serial killer.

WNYC Radio and its website Gothamist, 1995 to 2021

Senior Reporter, Economic Recovery, 2020 to 2021

Identified cutting-edge stories and sources illuminating pandemic recovery attempts and lessons about economic survival. Recruited to launch this beat based on a successful track record of newsroom leadership. Focused on restaurant, real estate, hospitality and housing.

Senior Reporter, Criminal Justice & Immigration Reform, 2017 to 2020

Identified and reported stories showing the impact of President Trump's vast changes to immigration policy, while also covering New York's sweeping new bail reform. Developed sources in different immigrant communities and advocacy groups as a trusted reporter with sensitive information.

- Collaborated with Telemundo 47 investigative reporter, significantly broadening the listening audience. Exposed a Bronx man who was defrauding immigrants. He was shut down as a result.
- Broke story of an H.I.V. positive woman at the border separated from her H.I.V. positive daughter. Ground-breaking story was published on The New York Times Metro section's front page while airing as a 3-part series on WNYC and a feature on NPR.
- Broke story about ICE seeking to arrest someone at a human trafficking intervention court, leading to a change in state policy prohibiting such arrests.

Senior Reporter Politics, Transportation, & Contributing Editor, Education, 2002 to 2016

- Reported duPont-Columbia award-winning investigative series on the city's attempt to privatize five failing schools. Also exposed numerous breakdowns in the education of special needs pupils.
- Award-winning reporting exposing inequities of the city's cell phone ban on low-income students.
- Co-created, edited and reported multimedia series "Being 12" about the challenges and joys of adolescence. Also co-hosted, co-wrote, co-produced a 45 minute on-demand version of the series.
- Reported and shaped a series exploring complex attempts to desegregate public schools.
- Collaborated with The New York Times on creating "Schoolbook," an online education section.
- Launched transportation and infrastructure beat, winning Edward R. Murrow Award for investigating a subway fire.
- Reported mini-doc for "All Things Considered" about a firehouse that lost 9 men on 9/11.

Reporter, Politics & Education

- Developed "On the Trail," a weekly political show with Andrea Bernstein featuring original music from singer-songwriter Oscar Brand.
- Exposed Mayor Giuliani's lack of shelter beds for homeless youth, winning Sigma Delta Chi award.

Other Achievements

- Sent by NPR to KRVS in Lafayette, LA for a month to cover aftermath of Hurricane Katrina
- Frequent panelist on political news shows and candidate debates on NY1 and local TV affiliates.
- Adjunct professor CUNY Graduate School of Journalism (2007-08). Frequent guest teacher at the CUNY Graduate School and at Columbia Journalism School.
- Author of "Why cant U teach me 2 read? Three Students and a Mayor Put Our Schools to the Test" (FSG Books) based on a radio series about students with special needs.
- Contributed chapters and interviews for books and documentaries about reporting on 9/11 (including "Running Toward Danger" and "[Reporting 9/11 and Why it Still Matters](#)").
- Mentor for Radio Rookies program at WNYC and NYC Youth Journalism Collaborative.
- Board Member, ETHEL Foundation for the Arts.

Highlights of Awards & Honors

- Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, Edward R. Murrow, and Sigma Delta Chi-Society of Professional Journalists.
- Additional awards: National Headliner, Radio and Television Digital News Association, Public Media Journalists Association, Gracies, Deadline Club (NYC Chapter of SPJ), New York Press Club, Newswomen's Club of New York, New York City Bar Association, New York State Associated Press Association, International Dyslexia Association – New York Chapter.
- Kiplinger Digital Media Fellowship 2019.

Freelance

NPR, The New York Times, The Boston Globe, NPR, WBGO, "The World," "Marketplace," "Monitor Radio"

Education

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, Master of Arts, Social Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, Ann Arbor, Bachelor of Arts, English

Links to Noteworthy Reports and Series

[XQ's Media page](#) (all articles written by or edited by Beth Fertig)

[Listen: Tennessee High Schoolers Solved a Nearly 40 year-old Serial Murder Mystery](#) (XQ sponsored content with The 74)

[A Mother and Daughter Both Have H.I.V. The U.S. Lets in Only One](#) (The New York Times, plus versions for [WNYC](#) and [NPR](#))

[Felon Has Federal Approval to Represent Immigrants. Now He's Selling This](#) (WNYC and [NPR version](#))

[Immigration Lawyers Call For More Oversight Of U.S. Representation Program](#) (NPR)

["The Hole in the System": What Tiffany Harris's Case Really Says About Bail Reform](#) (WNYC & Gothamist)

[How One Brooklyn Charter School Integrates with Intention](#) (WNYC)

Downloadable Version of ["Being 12: The Year Everything Changes"](#)

[Disabling Diplomas series](#) (WNYC) which led to the book [Why cant U teach me 2 read?](#)