

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Layoffs hit San Francisco's KDFC as federal public broadcasting funds slashed

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San Francisco's [KDFC](#) and Los Angeles's KUSC, two of the nation's most prominent classical music stations, announced layoffs this week after its parent company [lost \\$1.1 million](#) in federal support.

The cuts stem directly from the collapse of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which is shutting down following President Donald Trump's decision to eliminate its funding.

Earlier this month, Trump signed a law cutting back [\\$1.1 billion in public media funds](#) through 2027 as part of a broader \$9 billion rescissions package.

CPB, which for nearly 60 years has funneled federal money to NPR and PBS stations across the country, confirmed Friday, Aug. 29 that it will wind down operations by Sept. 30, with a small staff staying on until January to handle remaining obligations.

"Despite the extraordinary efforts of millions of Americans who called, wrote, and petitioned Congress to preserve federal funding for CPB, we now face the difficult reality of closing our operations," Patricia Harrison, CPB's president and CEO, said in a statement.

For Classical California, which owns KDFC and KUSC, the loss of CPB support forced immediate staff reductions.

“Classical California has had to take the difficult but necessary step to reduce our workforce in order to ensure our ability to continue providing access to world-class classical music,” KDFC President Bill Lueth said in a [letter to listeners](#) Thursday, Aug. 28.

He did not specify how many positions were eliminated.

The layoffs are part of a nationwide wave hitting public broadcasters.

WQED in Pittsburgh announced plans to cut 35% of its staff, while stations in Nashville, Louisville and Seattle report both job losses and spikes in listener donations.

NPR President Katherine Maher said the ripple effects “will be felt across every public media organization and, more importantly, in every community across the country that relies on public broadcasting.”

KDFC and KUSC, which merged programming this year under the Classical California banner, remain the country’s largest nonprofit classical broadcaster. Leaders are now urging listeners to step up support as government funding disappears.

“As a listener-supported station, we need your support of KDFC, now more than ever,” Lueth said.



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