**WETA TV 26 *Washington in the ’80s,* a New Local Documentary, Examines the Cultural, Social and Political Changes of the Decade**

— *Program features footage of the decade’s great events and interviews with those who shaped them. Premiers Monday, November 17 at 8:00 PM* —

Washington, D.C. — *Washington in the ’80s,* a new documentary from WETA TV 26, examines the tumultuous decade from a uniquely local point of view. The one-hour WETA production premieres Monday, November 17 at 8:00 p.m. on WETA TV 26 and repeats on Saturday, November 22 at 9:30 p.m. and Wednesday, November 26 at 8:00 p.m.

*Washington in the ’80s* is the latest in a series of WETA TV 26 documentaries exploring changes in Greater Washington decade by decade. Following in the footsteps of *Washington in the ’60s* and *Washington in the ’70s*, the program chronicles the decade’s events through the recollections of those who saw and shaped them. *Washington in the ’80s* discusses the successes and failures of Marion Barry’s time as mayor, upheaval in the news media, local sports triumphs and the area’s vibrant cultural scene, among other topics.

 “WETA is proud to present this next chapter in our series on D.C.’s history,” said Kevin Harris, vice president and television station manager of WETA. “For viewers who lived through the ’80s the decade may not feel like history yet, but they will be reminded that the ’80s were full of memorable events and big changes in Washington.”

*Washington in the ’80s* features the firsthand accounts of notable Washingtonians such as politicians Marion Barry and Carol Schwartz, television journalists Maureen Bunyan and Tom Sherwood, radio journalist Kojo Nnamdi, political commentator Pat Buchanan, entertainment reporter Arch Campbell, former Redskins coach Joe Gibbs, musician Kato Hammond, and former police chief Isaac Fulwood — offering a diversity of perspective and experience. The program is narrated by Gordon Peterson, WJLA anchor and former host of *Inside Washington.*

In exploring local politics *Washington in the ’80s* features former D.C. Mayor Barry, who was reelected twice over the course of the decade. It follows his efforts to increase minority participation in government and business, and his missteps as the ’80s came to a close. The program chronicles changes in the way Washingtonians got their news with the closing of the *Washington Star*, emergence of the *Washington Times* and the growth in TV news. Commentators discuss Reagan’s role in Washington and the devastating effect of drugs on local neighborhoods. The program also highlights advances in the gay community and the reaction to the AIDS crisis.

On the cultural scene, *Washington in the ’80s* explores go-go music and DC punk, both of which flourished in the ’80s as the city took pride in its distinct local styles. The local theater scene expanded with the abundance of inexpensive downtown space. The Vietnam War Memorial was built amid criticism and received with acclaim, and the Old Post Office and Union Station were restored to their former glory. The ’80s were a golden era for the region’s sports teams with the Redskins’ Super Bowl wins and Georgetown basketball’s NCAA championship.

WETA Washington, D.C., is one of the largest producing stations of new content for public television, serving Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, with educational initiatives and with high-quality programming. As the leading PBS station in the nation’s capital, WETA Television broadcasts on four channels: WETA TV 26, WETA HD, WETA Kids and WETA UK. WETA produces a variety of programming focused on the local community, including series the *WETA Guide, WETA All Access* and *WETA Around Town* and specials such as *Arlington National Cemetery*. National WETA productions and co-productions include *PBS NewsHour*, *Washington Week with Gwen Ifill*, *The Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize* and documentaries by filmmaker Ken Burns, including the upcoming *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies* airing Spring 2015. Embracing the educational mission of public broadcasting, WETA creates leading public service websites such as [*ReadingRockets.org*](http://www.readingrockets.org), [*LDOnline.org*](http://www.LDOnline.org) and [*BrainLine.org*](http://brainline.org/) and develops community outreach programs to engage people of all ages in the joy of lifelong learning. WETA’s headquarters are located in Arlington, Virginia. Sharon Percy Rockefeller is president and CEO. More information on WETA and its programs and services is available at[*weta.org*](http://www.weta.org)*.*

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