



THE ENGAGEMENT

Program: The Engagement

Station: WYPR 88.1 FM, Maryland's NPR News Station

Produced by: Baltimore Public Media, home of WYPR and WTMD

Premiere: Monday, October 19, 2026

Schedule: Monday–Thursday at 11 a.m.

Host: D. Watkins, New York Times bestselling author and award-winning journalist

Format: Locally produced, news-driven public affairs program

Logo:



About the Program

The Engagement explores the news, issues and conversations shaping Baltimore, Maryland and the broader region, with subject matter spanning news, politics, community, arts and culture.

Built around the idea that engagement means listening as much as talking, the program brings different voices and perspectives into the conversation to ask tough questions, challenge assumptions and consider what comes next. Conversations will move between

the studio, newsroom and community, connecting the issues of the day with the people, places and experiences behind them.

Beyond the Broadcast

The Engagement is designed as a multiplatform program, with opportunities to extend conversations beyond the radio broadcast through digital and social content and ongoing audience engagement.

About D. Watkins *(full bio below)*

A Baltimore native, Watkins is a New York Times bestselling author and award-winning journalist whose career spans journalism, literature, television, film and education. He was a writer on HBO's *We Own This City* and host of its companion podcast, is executive producer of Hulu's *Hoops, Hopes and Dreams*, and is a professor at the University of Baltimore.

WYPR Weekday Public Affairs

Beginning October 19, *The Engagement* will air Monday through Thursday at 11 a.m. On Fridays, *WYPR News Roundup*, hosted by News Director Matt Bush, will move to 11 a.m., creating a consistent hour of locally produced, news-focused public affairs programming on WYPR each weekday.

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D. Watkins Bio



D. Watkins is a New York Times bestselling author, award-winning journalist, producer and educator. He is the author of *The Beast Side*, *The Cook Up*, *Where Tomorrows Aren't Promised*, *Black Boy Smile* and other books. His book *We Speak for Ourselves* was Enoch Pratt Free Library's 2020 One Book Baltimore selection.

Watkins' honors include the James Beard Media Award, Los Angeles Press Club Award, Gordon Parks Fellowship, Pratt Library Hackerman Writer Fellowship, Vernon Jarrett Medal of Journalistic Excellence, Society of Professional Journalists Dateline Award for Commentary, Gold Signal Award, Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars and Distinguished Alumnus Award, CityLit Dambach Award for Service to the Literary Arts, and the Maryland Library Association's William Wilson Maryland Author Award.

Watkins is executive producer of the Hulu film *Hoops, Hopes and Dreams*. He was a writer on the HBO miniseries *We Own This City* and host of the show's companion podcast and was featured in the HBO documentary *The Slow Hustle*. His work has been published in *The New York Times*, *Esquire*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Guardian*, *Rolling Stone* and other publications.

Watkins is a professor at the University of Baltimore, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing. He also holds a Master of Education degree from Johns Hopkins University.

Beginning October 19, Watkins will host *The Engagement*, WYPR's locally produced, news-driven public affairs program exploring the news, ideas, and conversations shaping Baltimore, Maryland, and the broader region.

Connect with D. Watkins

Instagram: **@dwatkinsworld**

Website: **D-Watkins.com**