KSMQ Public Television inspires the viewer to discover local connections, build strong communities and become better informed. KSMQ offers four distinct broadcast channels to viewers in southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa.

KSMQ is a valuable part of southern Minnesota’s and northern Iowa’s advancement. KSMQ is a trusted, community-based catalyst and initiator for public dialogue regarding local and far-reaching issues and stories through its programming that reaches its viewing audience through broadcast (4 free over-the-air channels) and web-based shows.

In 2022, KSMQ provided these vital local services:

- A showcase for the arts.
- A purveyor of history.
- A study of local culture.
- Sharing information and important trends regarding agriculture.
- An investigation into local current events.
- A platform for political debates.
- An examination and reporting of important Legislative proceedings.

KSMQ’s broadcast signal currently reaches approximately 709,000 individuals over an estimated 24,806 square miles, with the potential to reach thousands more over cable and satellite TV. Viewers throughout our region were presented with programs that had strong local interest.
KSMQ serves the community with its locally produced continuing programming in many valuable ways:

**Off 90:** *Off 90* is KSMQ’s showcase for area art, history, and culture. It’s an ongoing magazine-style program that features several short videos within its episodic runtime of 30 minutes. Each story presents an unsung or underpublicized subject from our region.

**Farm Connections:** On some level, everyone is connected to agriculture. That simple fact is at the heart of KSMQ's continuing local series, *Farm Connections*. Join KSMQ to explore the world of agriculture in our region with host Dan Hoffman. You'll learn about current issues, future trends, and our agricultural heritage. It's informative, enlightening, and sometimes, just plain fun!

**R-Town:** KSMQ sets its sights on Rochester with its weekly program, *R-Town*. As one of the economic engines of the KSMQ viewing area, Rochester is brimming with business, cultural and historical significance. And, of course, there is also great change proposed as a result of the Destination Medical Center project. What is Rochester talking about? Join Nicole Nfonoyim-Hara each week as we take a trip to *R-Town*.

**On Q:** Featuring essential conversations with movers and shakers in our region. By engaging you in the conversation, you will discover why current events and trends matter to you, and how you can help shape them.

**Legislative Rundown:** KSMQ produces a series of short videos that are played in between broadcast programming and are also available online that cover the Minnesota Legislative session. KSMQ correspondent Michael Wojcik reviews the activities and decisions made by the Legislature each week during the session and reports on the actions taken by the Legislature he feels are most relevant to southeastern Minnesota.
KSMQ serves the community with its locally produced special programming:

**Music Specials:** KSMQ promoted local musicians in a number of specials.

Nearly a decade ago, KSMQ partnered with the Rochester Choral Arts Ensemble to share their Christmas performance with KSMQ viewers. KSMQ has kept that partnership alive most years since that first broadcast.

KSMQ annually produces a program called *An Austin Christmas* that features several local music groups performing Christmas songs.

*In Our Midst* was a series of short videos that were played in between broadcast programming and are also available online. They featured unheralded talent in the Austin area. We showcased six songs performed by Kathryn Bisanti, a mezzo-soprano and an instructor at MacPhail Center for Music in Austin.
Racial Inequality and COVID-19

In order to shed light on the large divide in COVID hospitalizations and deaths between the white and minority communities, KSMQ hosted two live-stream discussions under the title COVID Gap: Addressing the Pandemic Racial Divide with area doctors. One conversation focused on Black communities, and one focused on Asian communities in Minnesota.

The Rise of Gun Violence in America

KSMQ recorded a talk with experts to present this powerful conversation about how schools can respond to shooting threats. Featured speakers were Drs. Jillian Peterson and James Densley of the Violence Project, an online comprehensive mass shooter database. The discussed the causes and prevention of school shootings.

Comparing the Cost of Living Between Rural and Metro Areas

The Case for Rural Living was a live-streamed and recorded discussion featuring Southern Minnesotans Tim Penny from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, Benya Kraus from Lead for MN, and John Garry from the Development Corporation of Austin. This discussion highlighted why living rural is a viable option for people of all demographics.
Reading for Life

*Reading for Life* is a continuing program created by the Austin Public Library centered around four book lectures annually and focused on the act of reading. The experience is structured like a book group, but one skilfully facilitated to maintain the richest possible dialogue among the participants and the source text. The core idea is that works of literature offer precious resources of energy and vision for the creation and sustenance of healthy communities.

*Reading For Life* leverages this unique resource to grow community from the inside out to link imaginations to imaginations in an ongoing conversation about the concerns we share and aspirations we harbor. It is educational and entertaining in the richest sense of both terms, a living classroom as wide and deep as our collective spirit can imagine.

KSMQ partnered with the Austin Public Library to lengthen the reach of the Reading for Life project. Originally, each presentation was offered though web conferencing. KSMQ live-streamed these presentations over social media outlets controlled by the station. The presentations were also recorded and later broadcast by KSMQ.

*Reading for Life* presenter: Michael Verde

Michael is the enthusiastic presenter who facilitates the *Reading for Life* discussions. Along with an engaging personality, Michael brings to the table unique literary insights and brilliant observations.

Austin Public Library Director Julie Clinefelter and Michael Verde attended a Minnesota Library Association Conference. Here’s what Julie had to say about the conference: “The presentation was very well attended with a full house. There were many questions, and one retired media specialist commented she thought this was an amazing idea and asked how we came up with it. Others wanted to know how they could use what we had done to replicate discussion at their libraries, including if their local PBS stations could show the Reading for Life lectures.”
“KSMQ provides quality programming I can’t find anywhere else, and Passport makes it mobile - love it!”  
– Stephanie Passingham from Alden

Our viewers have the last word:

“Great show variety and content, no commercials or violence.”  
— James Keely

“Quality TV and local. It’s our go-to channel.”  
— Heidi Dybing

“We love to support local tv. KSMQ represents Austin and always is so supportive of our community. We are proud to be members!”  
— Emerson Garbisch

During the 2022 fiscal year, KSMQ broke ground on the construction of a new studio and headquarters, The Broadcast Center, in downtown Austin, MN.

In 2022, KSMQ, the smallest PBS affiliate in the country, provided locally produced content to viewers in southeastern Minnesota that caught the interest of citizens statewide.