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BLACK PUBLIC MEDIA GRIEVES THE LOSS OF FOUNDING PRESIDENT MABLE HADDOCK

NEW YORK (July 27, 2022) — **Mable Haddock**, pioneering public media figure and champion of Black television and film, has died. The founding president and first CEO of the National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) — now [Black Public Media](#) (BPM) — died on Saturday, July 23, 2022, in New York City at the age of 74 of kidney disease after a brief hospitalization. BPM is the Harlem-based national media arts nonprofit dedicated to creating and producing media content about the Black experience.

“Mable exemplified what it meant to be authentically Black and female in a professional space. She wasn’t afraid to speak truth to power, both verbally and in her writings,” said BPM Executive Director Leslie Fields-Cruz. “A true trailblazer, she was a warrior in the fight for equity in public media, and a friend to all.”

Haddock dedicated her life to bringing diverse voices to public media and beyond. In 1979, she helped found NBPC in Columbus, Ohio, to support Black stories and storytellers in film and television, helping the nonprofit for a quarter of a century and overseeing its transition to its eventual home in Harlem. During her tenure, more than \$6 million in funding was dispersed to hundreds of film and television producers, and scores of documentaries and programs were aired on public television through series she produced, including *Matters of Race*, *Unnatural Causes*, *Mandela*, *The Fannie Lou Hamer Story*, *The State of Black America* (I and II) and other programs. Under her leadership, the organization joined forces with other like-minded organizations, forming the National Minority Consortia — now the National Multicultural Alliance, which continues to bring increasingly diverse content and talent to public media.

Haddock was also a television programmer, film curator and producer. A founding director of the Firelight Media Documentary Lab — an intensive fellowship for emerging producers of color — she was also a panelist/reader for ITVS, POV, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Ohio Arts Council, Pennsylvania Council for the Arts, the Jerome Foundation and an emeritus board member of BPM. Haddock served on the Columbus Cable Advisory Board, the Pittsburgh and Columbus Public Access Boards, the PBS Programming Board, the National Minority Consortia and the Ohio Arts Council multicultural advisory board. A contributing writer for Dialogue Magazine, she lectured across the U.S. and around the world about the aesthetics, politics and role of Black film.

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Haddock was the recipient of numerous film, television, and media industry awards during her more than 30 years of public media service. Among the awards she received were: The Founders Awards from the Black Women's Preservation Project, three Communications Excellence to Black Audiences (CEBA) Awards, the Leo Award from the Flaherty International Film Seminars, a New York Women in Film & Television Award, Women of Achievement Award from the Columbus YWCA, a Trailblazer Award from Blackfilm.com and a leadership award from the National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture (NAMAC), now known as The Alliance.

A graduate of Mercy College and a certificate holder in public broadcast management from the Wharton School of Business, she was bestowed Columbia University's Revson Fellowship.

A GoFundMe has been set up for Haddock at <https://gofund.me/3513b5de>. A private funeral will be held in Clover, Virginia, on Thursday, August 4. Public memorials in New York City and Columbus, Ohio, will be announced later. For more information, visit blackpublicmedia.org. Follow BPM on social media at @blackpublicmedia on Instagram and Facebook and @BLKPublicMedia on Twitter.

ABOUT BPM:

Black Public Media (BPM), www.blackpublicmedia.org, supports the development of visionary content creators and distributes stories about the global Black experience to inspire a more equitable and inclusive future. For more information, visit blackpublicmedia.org.

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