

# pittsburgh applause!

arts & entertainment newsletter

## AWC's Legal Bills To Top \$1 Million

The latest chapter in the saga involving the troubled **August Wilson Center for African American Culture** was addressed by Natasha Lindstrom in the July 14 issue of the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.

Opened in 2009, the August Wilson Center is museum, education and performance institution to celebrate African-Americans in the Pittsburgh region. It is named in honor of Pulitzer Prize winning Pittsburgh playwright August Wilson (1945-2005). The center

has had financial issues since before its opening and owes the **Dollar Bank** more than \$7 million.



In her article, Lindstrom reports that the tax payers are facing a legal bill over \$1 million. A big part of the cost is the \$350 an hour that is charged by court-appointed receiver Judith K. Fitzgerald. "The fees are what they

are, and the court's going to determine what's reasonable," Lindstrom quotes Fitzgerald explaining. "We're filing fee applications with a lot of detail on what services we're providing." Her fees alone are nearing \$700,000.

Read Lindstrom's full article by clicking <http://triblive.com/news/adminpage/6443379-74/center-ura-fees#axzz37RaWfKrT>

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## "Odd Squad" To Debut

A debut date has been set for "Odd Squad," a co-production of the **Fred Rogers Company**, reports Rob Owen of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.



Earlier this year, TheWrap.com's Tim Molly explained in an article that the series is designed to teach children ages 5 to 8 about math. Each episode features two mysteries that the cast uses math to solve. It will air both on television and online.

The clever, special-effects heavy series is the first live-action production of the Fred Rogers Company since their signature show, "Mr. Rogers Neighborhood," went off the air in 2001. Owen reports that the first of 40 episodes will begin November 26 on the **Public Broadcasting System** (PBS).

More information is available online at <http://pbskids.org/oddsquad>



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## CBS Corporation Buys Events Web Site

The local media division of **CBS Corporation** has agreed to purchase Eventful, Inc.



In Pittsburgh, CBS Corporation owns and operates two television and three radio stations. Eventful is a web service launched in 2004 by tech entrepreneur Brian Dear to help users search for and share information about events. The system strives to be very local and it is expected that KDKA-TV and other CBS stations in the area will be utilizing it in various marketing.

“The large volume of content available to consumers has created an environment where they are looking for credible brands to aid in the discovery process,” said CBS’ Ezra Kucharz in a press release. “Eventful’s talented and veteran team has created a best-in-class product that users have grown to trust. In combination with CBS Local Media’s assets and under the division’s leadership, we look forward to satisfying the increasing demand for customized event information regardless of how someone chooses to access it.” The buy-out’s terms have not been disclosed.

Locally, KDKA-TV has hired Rich Walsh as a sports reporter. He is a native of the region who graduated from the University of Pittsburgh. In addition, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*’s Rob Owen reports that popular, long-time on-air personality Stoney Richards will no longer be a daily presence on CBS’ country radio station WDSY. He’ll continue with the station on a recurring basis.

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## New Site To Help Nonprofits Locate Office

Local foundation **The Forbes Funds** has launched a free web service designed to help Pittsburgh nonprofits seek real estate or to market real estate called Nonprofit Spaces.



Founded in 1982, The Forbes Funds strengthens the management and policy-making capacity of the nonprofit sector by providing the support, resources, and knowledge required for high-performing nonprofits.

Nonprofit Spaces is designed to reduce the time it takes nonprofit organizations to sublease or sell properties, find appropriate space and promote short-term or daily meeting spaces. Commercial businesses, entrepreneurs, start-ups and real estate agencies can also post listings. The program “cuts down on the time spent on the initial search, so we connect nonprofits expediently to the appropriate property, and nonprofits who have property or meeting spaces can connect to a motivated customer base more quickly,” explains Kate Dewey of The Forbes Funds in a press release.

To learn more, visit <http://www.nonprofitspaces.org>

## Sean Jones Leaving Pittsburgh

At press time, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* announced that acclaimed local trumpeter Sean Jones is leaving town to chair a department at the **Berklee College of Music**.

Established in 1945, the Berklee College of Music is the largest contemporary music college in the world. The Boston institution is named after the founder and his son, composer/musician Lawrence Berk (1908-1995) and educator Lee Eliot Berk (born 1942).

Details are available in the article posted at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/music/2014/08/01/Sean-Jones-leaving-Pittsburgh-for-Boston/stories/201408010038>

## Union Mails Ballots

Nearly 140,000 members of **SAG-AFTRA** have been mailed voting informational cards as part of the ratification of a pair of major contracts.



Formed in 2012 through the merger of the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Radio Artists, SAG-AFTRA is a union representing over 160,000 film and television principal and background performers, journalists and radio personalities worldwide. The union maintains a full-time office in downtown Pittsburgh.

They are being asked to vote on two proposed pacts: the 2014 SAG-AFTRA Television Agree-

ment and the 2014 SAG-AFTRA Codified Basic Agreement, covering motion pictures, scripted primetime dramatic television and new media production. The union’s national board voted overwhelmingly on July 12 to approve the deals with the **Alliance of Motion Picture & Television Producers**.

The cards instruct members how to vote online or, if they prefer, how to request a paper ballot and provide them with a personal identification number. The deadline is August 22. More information is available online at <http://www.sagaftra.org/2014contracts>



## Remember



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## Steeltown Launches Teen Producer Program

Tomorrow's filmmakers are getting a boost from the **Steeltown Entertainment Project's** new Teen Producer program.



The Steeltown Entertainment Project seeks to strengthen Pittsburgh's entertainment industry connections, educate youth, discover talent and pioneer innovative models to incubate and invest in film and television projects.

Steeltown sees the Teen Producer program as a national model for training the entertainment industry's next generation. As part of

the inaugural year, the teens have been producing videos for non-profits such as the local branch of **Amachi**, which provides mentors to the children of prisoners.

Another project involves creating a video about Dr. Jonas Salk (1914-1995), who developed the first successful polio vaccine at the University of Pittsburgh in 1952. The project involves interviewing Dr. Salk's son, Dr. Peter Salk. "How incredible --- and meaningful --- that our Teen Producers are working directly with Dr. Salk to continue telling this important story," says Steeltown CEO Carl Kurlander in a web posting.

To learn more, visit <http://cam-paign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=c59404f5-ef76-4301-ac9b-19b479c81cc2&c=6ab95730-353f-11e3-87e4-d4ae52a82222&ch=6c5fdb40-353f-11e3-88b2-d4ae52a82222>



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## PSO Goes Warp Speed With Mr. Sulu

As July came to a close, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* posted the online news that acclaimed actor George Takei will be the special guest at a **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO) concert program in November.



Takei is best known for playing Hikaru Sulu on television's "Star Trek" (1966-1969) and several "Trek" films. He recently published a memoir that describes his experiences as a child during World War II living in an internment camp, breaking into acting and being gay.

The concert program will feature music from various science fiction films at Heinz Hall from November 14 to 16.



## The Oaks Undergoes Major Changes In Renovation

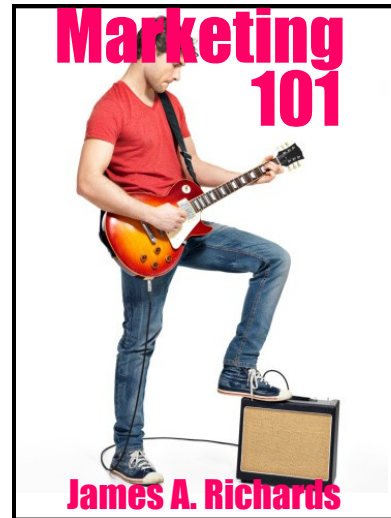
The historic, 75-year-old **Oaks Theater** has launched a major renovation, reports the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*'s Barbara Vancheri.

[multipurpose-center/stories/201407110019](http://multipurpose-center/stories/201407110019)

Once complete, the renovations will turn the Oaks into a multipurpose entertainment center that will not only screen films, but stage concerts, cabaret shows and stand-up comedians.

Classic and cult movie fans are advised not to worry. "We will still be the Oaks Theater. We want to continue to maintain the integrity of this longstanding tradition," Vancheri quotes the theater's new manager, Joe Wichryk.

Read her full article by clicking <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/movies/2014/07/12/Oaks-renovating-to-become->



[amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

## Images

Celebrate Pittsburgh's  
arts & entertainment  
history and community.



*A pair of Broadway classics — "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "My Fair Lady" are among the Pittsburgh Public Theater's new season, which also features the world debut of the star-studded comedy "L'Hotel."*

To have an image considered contact Jim Richards at [jim@james-richards.com](mailto:jim@james-richards.com)



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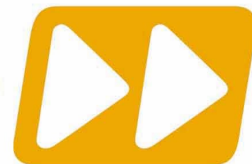
## End-to-End Post & More

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## Brendan Mullan Named New Director Of The CSC's Buhl Planetarium

Brendan Mullan has been named as Director of the Carnegie Science Center's Buhl Planetarium & Observatory.

CARNEGIE MUSEUMS  
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Opened in 1991, the Carnegie Science Center (CSC) is one of the four **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** and is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. As the director, Mullen will be in charge of the planetarium's day-to-day operations including the development of new educational programs.

Mullan is a native of Buffalo, New York, with a PhD in astronomy and physics from **Pennsylvania State University** and was named a National Geographic Emerging Explorer in 2013.

"I want to inspire the next generation of scientific thinkers," Mullan said in a press release. "I hope to engage students with that spark of excitement inherent to the planetarium experience --- not just encouraging those who want to be astronomers, but everyone who will use science thinking to build the foundations of the 21st Century."

In other news, the CSC has named intellectual property attorney Charles H. Dougherty Jr. to its board.

The [click here for](#)  
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## Show Jim That You Support Him!

Jim Richards does many things for Pittsburgh arts community --- most for free --- despite limiting health issues. So show your support in one or more of the following ways:

- \* Purchase an ad in *Pittsburgh Applause*
- \* Sponsor a project
- \* Hire Jim to do your marketing
- \* Give him free tickets to your show
- \* Make a monetary donation

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# National/World A&E News Round-Up

## Metropolitan Opera's Labor Woes

At press time, it looked like **The Metropolitan Opera** (Met) may be able to salvage its contract negotiations with their orchestra and chorus unions.

Founded in 1880, the Met is the largest classical music organization in North America and is based in New York City's prestigious Lincoln Center.

"At the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service's request, we've agreed to extend the deadline for 72 hours so we can have a chance to see if we can reach an agreement," the Met's Peter Gelb told the *New York Times*' Michael Cooper in a phone interview on July 31.

Gelb told Jennifer Maloney of the *Wall Street Journal* that the Met needs to cut labor costs by at least 16% as the organization faces lower ticket sales, rising costs and a depleted endowment. The unions, understandably, do not feel that such steep salary cuts are necessary.

Maloney has a detailed account of the situation online at <http://online.wsj.com/articles/a-metropolitan-opera-lockout-could-cause-long-term-damage-1406848562>

### Murdoch's Last Hurrah?

In a move that has generated both interest and concern, Australian-American media mogul Rupert Murdoch's **21<sup>st</sup> Century Fox** has made an offer to buy media giant **Time-Warner**.

A July 16 article in the British newspaper *The Guardian* reports that his offer is seen as the "final mega-deal before handing the

reins of his conglomerate to the next generation of his family." (Murdoch is 83 years old).

Time-Warner's board rejected Murdoch's \$85-a-share offer. Presumably to help finance another bid, Fox has sold its share of a European firm to the **British Sky Broadcasting Group** (BSkyB).

Media consolidation and the future of the Cable News Network (CNN) are the primary concerns of industry and observers. The Associated Press' Ryan Nakashima explains that "further consolidation puts more media voices under the control of one entity" even making the chances of regulatory approval uncertain. Some also wonder if a spun-off CNN could survive financially.

### Singer's Sex Suit

Filmmaker Bryan Singer's efforts to get a sexual harassment suit dismissed may have been helped by his alleged accuser, writes Austin Siegemund-Broka in the *Hollywood Reporter*.

The suit was filed in April claiming that the openly bisexual Singer drugged and raped actor/model Michael Egan in the late 1990s in Hawaii when he was just 15. However, when news that Egan refused to sign a \$100,000 settlement agreement had leaked out, his attorney resigned.

Singer insists that he was not in Hawaii during the time the alleged abuse is said to have occurred.

"As Mr. Egan and his now ex-lawyers know, a legitimate claim in this type of case can run into the millions of dollars, so their

willingness to resolve it for such a relatively low figure demonstrates their total lack of confidence in their chances for success," Singer's lawyer told Siegemund-Broka.

A separate lawsuit filed by an anonymous British actor has already been dismissed. Read Siegemund-Broka's full story at <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/thr-esq/bryan-singer-sex-abuse-accuser-722102>

### Museums Lose Accreditation

Two museums in the United Kingdom have been stripped of their accreditation status, reports TheArtNewspaper.com's Gareth Harris.

**Arts Council England** (ACE), the government-funded professional arts organization, has sanctioned two municipal museums in the central British city of Northampton after selling an ancient Egyptian statue.

The statute is a 4,500-year-old painted limestone piece was donated in 1870 to the museums by a member of one of the kingdom's most noble families. It shows the famous Egyptian scribe Sekhemka with his wife. The piece's interesting history is available at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sekhemka>

A private collector bought it at auction for nearly £16 million. The municipal government says that the funds will be used for improving the museums.

## Local Docu @ Indie Film Festival

An award-winning Pittsburgh documentary film will be screened at the International Indie Gathering Film Festival, which occurs in Ohio August 15 to 17.

“House of Oddities: The Story of the Atrocity Exhibition” tells the story of the little known annual Atrocity Exhibition, a collaborative art show on Pittsburgh’s south side. Filmed over the course of 2013, “House of Oddities” takes a behind the scenes look at the various performance artists,

burlesque entertainers, side show artists and local fine artists who participate. It’s being screened at select theaters this summer and will be released on DVD this fall. For more information, visit

[www.houseofodditiesmovie.com](http://www.houseofodditiesmovie.com).

Staged by **World Entertainment**, the film festival also functions as a networking forum for independent filmmakers. To learn more about the festival, log on to

[www.theindiegathering.com](http://www.theindiegathering.com).

## Mac Miller’s TV Show Returns To MTV2

The second season of Pittsburgh native rapper Malcolm “Mac Miller” McCormick’s cable television reality show has bowed on MTV2.

“Mack Miller & the Most Dope Family” centers on Miller’s adjustment to life in California with four Pittsburgh friends and his work in the music industry. The second season began July 23.

Season 1 focused on the antics of Miller and his posse. But this new season is more about creating music. “You know, I’ve kind of been living in this stay inside of a

room and work [mode],” the 22-year-old rapper said in a phone interview with the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*’s Scott Mervis, “and I’ve just kind of lived inside of creation and just making music and experimental music. This show was one of the only things I left the room to do.”

Read Mervis’ full article at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/tv-radio/2014/07/30/Mac-Miller-finds-adventure-in-reality-show/stories/201407300004>



## Artists Receive Funds From New Grant Program

Local artists Barbara Luderowski and Alexis Gideon have each received a \$35,000 grant, reports Mackenzie Carpenter of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

The funds are being provided by the Investing in Professional Artists Grants Program, a joint initiative of the **Pittsburgh Foundation** and the **Heinz Endowments**.

Luderowski, who heads the **Mattress Factory** contemporary art museum, will use her grant to adapt an award winning novel for the stage. Gideon is a video artist and composer who will use her grant to produce new work.

Carpenter’s full article is available online at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/theater-dance/2014/07/15/2-Pittsburgh-artists-to-get-35-000-grants/stories/201407150024>





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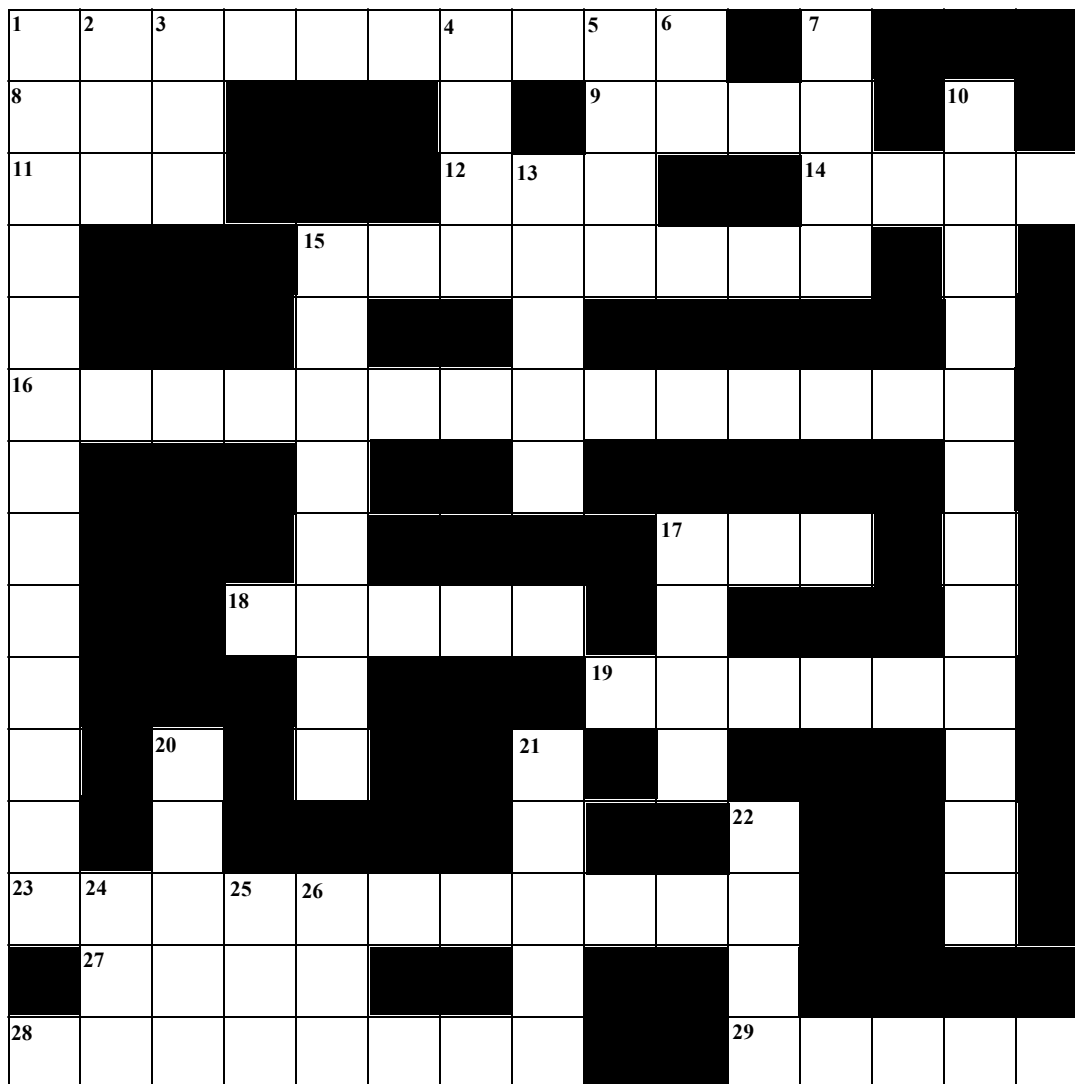


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8. Mr. Linkletter, to friends
9. Spanish house
11. Actress Tamara Mowry's twin
12. Fire residue
14. Natural satellite
15. What talk show hosts do with their guests
16. The “Top Ten List” dude
17. Mr. Leno, to pals
18. Kimmel or Fallon
19. She had a late-night “Canteen”
23. The premier late-night program
27. UNIX text editing software
28. Emotional late-night king
29. Ten Down's most divine guest

### DOWN

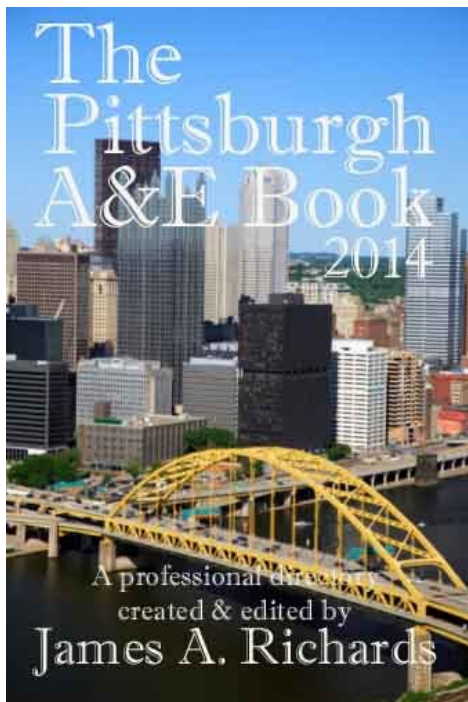
1. Chevy Chase's old show
2. Three prefix
3. Airport info
4. Biblical matriarch
5. Heard again
6. South America's neighbor (abbr)
7. Alike
10. The ultimate king of late-night
13. Actor Will \_\_\_\_
15. Every host needs one
17. Ms. Rivers, to fans
20. Gin's partner
21. TV's “Biggest \_\_\_\_”
22. Q-Tip, e.g.
24. Solomon Islands language
25. Type or kind
26. Swedish drummer \_\_\_\_ Casino

### Last Month's Solution

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# Pittsburgh Applause Editorial

## Do You Know That Person?

By James A. Richards

Have you seen someone lately? I mean, *really* seen someone?

This recently came to my attention when I ran into a colleague that I communicate with often but literally haven't seen in years. Why? Simple: the internet. We email each other.

Granted, I have some limitations: my spinal stenosis forces me to work from home and, like most non-drinkers, I avoid events like happy hours.

Still, there seems to be dearth of good networking efforts in Pittsburgh's arts & entertainment community/industry. It hasn't always been this way. There was

a time when networking on committees and at exhibit openings etc were far more common than they are today. However, just as technology has made us all more efficient it has also made us a little less of a community.

A good example is the reception I held a few months ago for *The Pittsburgh A&E Book 2014*. For the last edition, in 2009, well over 100 people came to the publication party. This year only a fraction came.

This situation is reinforcing cliques at the price of genuine connecting. To strengthen Pittsburgh's A&E world new people and us old fogies need to be able to meet in person. And meet often.

I propose a monthly networking event at a central location where both the non-commercial and commercial members of the community can meet. This location should also be welcoming to non-drinkers (who comprise about one-third of all adults) as well as drinkers.

Any thoughts?



# Linked



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