



pittsburgh
applause!
arts & entertainment newsletter

**Welcome to Our
150th Digital Issue!**



SCROLL DOWN



Comedian May Buy KDKA Parent Firm

Pros from Hollywood to Wall Street have been stunned by the proposal of **Allen Media Group** to combine with **Paramount Global**.

Paramount's assets include two major Pittsburgh television stations, primarily KDKA-TV. Allen Media Group (formerly called Entertainment Studios) is the privately held firm founded by comedian Byron Allen in 1993. As a performer, Allen is best known for his stint as a co-host of the television series "Real People" (1979-1984). The company initially just produced talk and courtroom shows for syndication. But the ambitious and astute Allen grew the firm to now include premier assets such as The Weather Channel. This has made Byran Allen part of the small echelon of African American media tycoons that include Oprah Winfrey and Tyler Perry.

"Mr. Byron Allen did submit a bid on behalf of Allen Media Group and its strategic partners to purchase all of Paramount Global's out-



standing shares," [The Hollywood Reporter's](#) Alex Weprin quote an official statement. "We believe this \$30 billion offer, which includes debt and equity, is the best solution for all of the Paramount Global shareholders, and the bid should be taken seriously and pursued." The "strategic partners" were not identified.

According to a report written by Jill Goldsmith for [Deadline](#), the proposal would have Allen Media

Group (AMG) assuming Paramount Global's (PG) massive debt "bringing the value of the deal to \$30 billion."

Paramount Global is controlled by **National Amusements**, the holding company of the late billionaire Sumner Redstone's (1923-2020) family. There has been speculation for some time that PGL is in play [See [Pittsburgh Applause January 2024](#) – ed.] No deal will be possible without the approval of Redstone's primary heir, his daughter Shari.

At press time, there had been no official response from either Paramount Global or National Amusements. [The Wrap's](#) Lucas Manfredi reported that PG's shares jumped over 8% after the offer was announced.

Carnegie Museums Gets \$65 Million Gift

Commercial real estate mogul Daniel Kamin, and his wife Carole, have made an astounding \$65 million gift to the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** (CMP). The funds are specifically designated for the Carnegie Science Center, which will be officially renamed the Daniel G. and Carole L. Kamin Science Center.

"This is the largest monetary gift in the history of Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh—the largest, that is, since the original contribution of our founder Andrew Carnegie," said CMP's Steven Knapp in a press release. "It's extraordinary generosity," Knapp

told the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's](#) Joshua Axelrod. "They also share a vision that we are very much a part of. We're just honored to be part of their vision for how they want to build up the city that we all love."



Daniel Kamin runs **Kamin Realty Company**. The firm was founded in 1916 by his ancestor, Herman Kamin Sr. The company's web site claims that Kamin

manages "over 400 properties across 44 states and Puerto Rico, comprising a gross leasable area of over 15 million square feet."

The full press release can be [read here](#).



Channel
Pittsburgh

Renner Back On “Mayor”

Jeremy Renner is back in Pittsburgh to shoot a new season of “Mayor of Kingstown,” reports several outlets.

“Mayor of Kingstown” is set in a fictional prison town struggling with issues of family, crime, corruption and systemic racism.

Renner was seriously injured in a snowplow accident on New Year’s Day 2023. He suffered 30 broken bones and needed to have both his ribcage and face rebuilt. After more than two weeks in intensive care, Renner began a challenging recuperation. The actor kept fans up to date on his progress through social media posts. [See his post on the first day back on set by [clicking here](#) – ed.]

The Hollywood Reporter’s Zoe G. Phillips quotes the actor describing the workload as “arduous” mostly due to the extremely cold weather.

Meanwhile, Denise Petski reports for [Deadline](#) that Richard Brake, Denny Love and Paula Malcomson have been added to the cast.

“Mayor of Kingstown” is produced by **101 Studios** for Paramount+ (part of **Paramount Global**). The showrunners are Hugh Dillon and Taylor Sheridan.

101 Studios
335 North Maple Drive #340
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
(424) 388-0900
www.101studiosco.com

Stolen Art Returned

A ceremony was held in Manhattan on January 19 to officially return stolen art --- including one that had been in the Carnegie Museum of Art collection for years.



The piece in question is a 1917 pencil drawing by Austrian artist Egon Schiele (1890-1918). It was part of an impressive collection of works assembled by Austrian cabaret artist Franz “Fritz” Grunbaum (1880-1941). Grunbaum, a Jew, lost his collection to the Nazis and then his life in a concentration camp.

Another piece by Schiele, a 1911 watercolor, was also retrieved from a museum at **Oberlin College**.

Carlie Porterfield, writing for *The Art Newspaper*, explains that “the Grünbaum collection was inventoried by Franz Kieslinger, an art historian who impounded the works into a Nazi-controlled warehouse in 1938. Schiele’s work had been declared “degenerate” during the Nazi Party’s campaign against Modern art, and much of it was sold abroad in a programme overseen by Joseph Goebbels, the party’s head propagandist.”

Shiftworks Launched

What was the Pittsburgh Office of Public Art has become its own independent organization, christened as **Shiftworks Community +Public Arts**.

SHIFTWORKS

The office began in 2005 as a joint project of the city and the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) to provide assistance to public art projects. But its mission needed reviewing as the mayor’s office redesigned the city’s public art role [See these *Pittsburgh Applause* issues: [January 2023 pg 2](#) / [February 2023 pg 3](#) / [March 2023 pg 3](#) / [April 2023 pg 4](#) – ed.]

These and other changes, writes *Pittsburgh City Paper’s* Kahmeela Adams-Friedson, led the office to “to serve additional clients and offer specific services.” Spinning off the office was a natural next move. However, executive director Sallyann Kluz told Adams-Friedson, they “needed to have a name and a presence that was more reflective of” the organization’s mission.

“We aim to impact not only physical landscapes and cityscapes, but also shift perspectives and expectations for what is possible when artists, communities and organizations work together,” Kluz told [WESA-FM’s](#) Bill O’Driscoll.

To learn more about Shiftworks, visit the [organization’s web site](#).

See your vision.



Take your project from
IMAGINATION to **Reality**

From writing to wrap. With over 30 years of experience, The Videohouse has a full menu of production services. Whether it's à la carte or the full course production, The Videohouse works with customers to bring their vision to screens small and large.

4K and beyond. No matter how many K's there are tomorrow, we're always exploring the latest technology and newest media. But we know it's more than just fancy tech that makes a great product – that's why you'll find creative, hard-working people dedicated to exceeding your expectations.

End-to-End Post & More

Editing	Sound Mixing
Animation	Color Grading
Design	Conforming
Motion Graphics	Compression
Website/Interactive	Archiving
Mobile	Streaming
Social Media	Duplication

All Industries Served

Ad Agencies	Motion Pictures
Broadcast	Government
Corporate	Higher Ed
Small Business	Manufacturing
Non-Profit	Medical
Entrepreneurs	Entertainment
Music	Museums

the **Videohouse**



See your vision.

412.921.7577
www.thevideohouse.com

Pittsburgh Named Great City For Filmmakers

A recent issue of *Movie Maker* magazine has named Pittsburgh as one of the best places for a filmmaker to live and work.

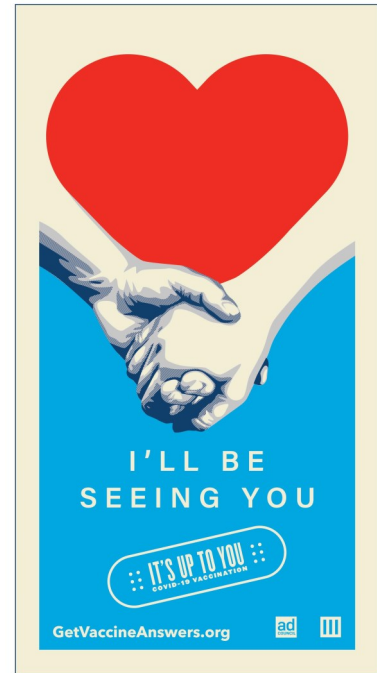
The assessment, expressed in an article written by Deirdre McCarrick, Tim Molloy and Margeaux Sippell, deliberately excludes Los Angeles and New York City.

Pittsburgh ranked thirteenth out of 25 cities (Toronto topped the list). "The Steel City has a modern sheen it's hard to replicate elsewhere, but with its historic buildings, three rivers, sweeping bridges, and nearby mountains, it can stand in for a wide range of other cities and time periods."

The full article is available by [clicking here](#).



Channel
Pittsburgh



Save
the
Date!

*Speed
Networking*

Thursday, February 29

This is Red Agency

605 East Ninth Avenue/ Munhall

Going to a networking event can be fun --- but did you meet the person you need to talk to?

WIFM's speed networking event will guarantee that you meet every person in the room!



More details coming soon to www.wifmit.org

Audacy Restructures Debt

The parent company of six Pittsburgh radio stations, **Audacy**, has announced a successful deal to restructure the firm's sizable debt.

What is now Audacy began in 1968 as Entercom Communications Corporation.



Starting in the late 1990's, the company began acquiring other radio station owners. In 2014, Audacy acquired another set of stations for over \$100 million and, in 2017, it merged with CBS' radio division. The company now owns 235 radio stations. But building this media giant came with building a giant debt.

According to a company press release: Through the restructuring, Audacy and its debtholders will undertake a deleveraging transaction to equitize approximately \$1.6 billion of funded debt, a reduction of 80% from approximately \$1.9 billion to approximately \$350 million. The Company does not expect any operational impact from the restructuring, and trade and other unsecured creditors will not be impaired."

Locally, on-air personality Chris Mack has moved from Audacy's KDKA-FM to the company's WDSY-FM, as reported by Eric Heyl for [Patch Pittsburgh](#).

THE PAPER CEILING:

(noun): The invisible barrier that comes at every turn for workers without a bachelor's degree. See also: no alumni network, biased algorithms, degree screens, stereotypes, and misperceptions.

Millions of qualified STARS – workers Skilled Through Alternative Routes – with experience, skills and diverse perspectives are being held back by this silent barrier.

Learn more at [ThePaperCeiling.org](#)



AWARD SEASON: KEEPING UP



“Royal Wedding”

Featuring Exclusive Trivia Pop-Ups!

Wednesday, February 14
8:00pm



Channel
Pittsburgh

ROKU

New WQED CEO Ponders Org's Future

Will the beloved public media organization **WQED Multimedia** move out of its historic home? That's one of the big decisions facing new CEO Jason Jedlinski, reports Joshua Axelrod for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.



Also facing Jedlinski is figuring out where WQED fits in a changing media landscape. "We don't have to tinker with or tear down TV and radio," he tells Axel-

rod, but people should "expect WQED to show up in more ways."

The station has also been facing technology issues affecting everything from its signal strength to program payout.

But it's the possibility of a move that raises eyebrows. **Carnegie Mellon University** (CMU) actually owns the land under the station's aging facility. "It's not modern," Jedlinski explains "It's not really conducive to teamwork and collaboration."

Axelrod's full article can be read by [clicking here](#).

High School Awards

On Monday, January 30, the best teenage thespians were honored at **Prime Stage Theatre's** annual High School Drama Awards.

"Awards in 16 categories were given to students featured in roles onstage and behind the scenes" writes Sharon Eberson for the blog On Stage Pittsburgh.

The top prize, Best Overall Production was awarded to Shady Side Academy Senior School for its staging of William Shakespeare's classic tragedy, "Macbeth."

Eberson has the complete list of winners in [her article posted here](#).

Silver Eye Names Fellows

The honorees have been by **Silver Eye Center of Photography** for the organization's annual fellowship program.

The Fellowship 24 International Award recognizes rising talents or established photographers. Nearly 200 artists from across the globe applied for the handful of slots available. See the full list by [clicking here](#).



Channel Pittsburgh

AFM Preps For Talks

Members of the **American Federation of Musicians** (AFM) may follow the same path as the writers and actors did last year --- and for essentially the same reason.

AFM does have several hundred members in the Pittsburgh area, although it is unclear how much a walkout will affect them.



"It's just devastating," violinist and union leader Marc Sazer told the *Los Angeles Times'* Christi Carras. "More and more of our work is new media --- instead of theatrical motion pictures or TV/film --- and people can't make a living at it." There is also artificial intelligence (AI) to consider.

"When you remove the human aspect of a performance, what does that say about society?" Carras quotes AFM chief Tino Gagliardi. "We've got to figure out a way to complement the art form rather than replace it."

The union posted a rundown of the issues in early January, which can be [read here](#).



IATSE Board

Six new members have been elected to the executive board of the **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees** (IATSE), in what IATSE describes as “a significant transition in the union’s leadership.”



In a formal announcement, IATSE chief Matthew D. Loeb calls the new members “arguably the most accomplished, forward-thinking, experienced, diverse, respected, and qualified labor leaders this union has to serve behind the scenes entertainment workers across this alliance.”

Details and the background of each new board member is available by [clicking here](#).

Trust Names New Admin.

Hayley Haldeman has been named the new Chief Administrative Officer of the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust**, reports the blog On Stage Pittsburgh.

The blog explains that Haldeman will be “working on high-level strategy and helping to drive the Cultural Trust forward as it implements strategic priorities. She will influence the Cultural Trust’s daily operations, build more robust cross-departmental collaboration, and support the President & CEO in translating



strategy into actionable goals.” Haldeman was once a litigator for the law firm **Jones Day** and later led the **Mattress Factory** for nearly three years.

Read the full blog post by [clicking here](#).



Stage 62 Board

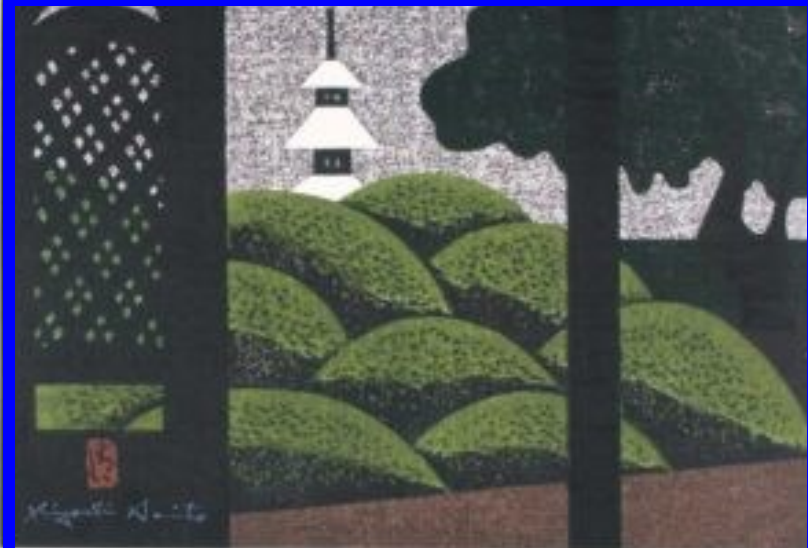
The small but respected theater company **Stage 62** has announced the new members of its board of directors. This year marks the 62nd season for Stage 62.

STAGE 62

“It’s an honor to be leading this brilliant group of people through this extra special season,” President Stephanie Ottey told the blog On Stage Pittsburgh. “I’m hopeful it’ll give us a foundation to keep going and growing for another 62 years.”

Read more by [clicking here](#).

Images



An interesting exhibit opens this month at the Carnegie Museum of Art explores the history and future of Japanese printing.



VINCENT
LIGHTING SYSTEMS

When your show matters, choose the company that professionals trust. Choose Vincent Lighting Systems.



Shows • Parties • Meetings • Weddings • Theater • Film & Video Shoots

Production Services • Rentals • Sales • Service

"Vincent Lighting outdid themselves by creating this jaw-dropping lighting design ... the lighting just completely transforms the space."

"I am truly thankful for Vincent Lighting Systems and their wonderful customer service team!"

"I have received tons of compliments on how cool the stage looked. Your crew was extremely easy to work with, and they were very professional and got the job done!"



412.788.5250  vls.com

  [vincentlighting](http://vincentlighting.com)

GPAC Hires Consultants

The consulting firm **Workhorse Collaborative** has been selected by the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) to help craft the organization's strategic plan for the next three to five years.

GREATER PITTSBURGH
ARTS COUNCIL



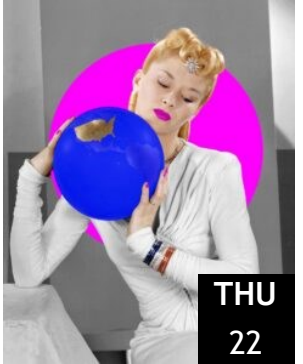
Workhorse's web site describes the firm as a "boutique agency that helps arts organizations, nonprofits, and creative entrepreneurs keep moving forward despite tight budgets and scrappy teams." The agency will work in tandem with management consultant Shannon Parris.

GPAC is also forming a special committee of board and staff members.

GPAC's Patrick Fisher explains in a [blog post](#) that "75 percent of our team is new to the organization since 2023. Building upon the work of those who came before us, we have the opportunity to evolve the Arts Council to be an organization that responds to the needs of our local arts ecosystem, while also supporting and positioning the ecosystem to be both globally recognized and competitive."



DAVID EMGE
(1946 - 2024)



Opportunities

Applications are still being accepted to the Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator grant program. For details [click here](#). The deadline is February 16.

The part-time job of Visitor Experience Associate is open at the **Mattress Factory**. The position pays \$13.80 per hour. [Details here](#).

Several positions are available at the **Frick Pittsburgh**, most notably someone to join the institution's philanthropic team. [See the full list](#).

Openings at local **Audacy** radio stations include a morning host for WDSY and a producer for KDKA. [Check them out](#).



C'mon Over, Neighbor!



The Pittsburgh Banjo Club is proud to be part of the North Side

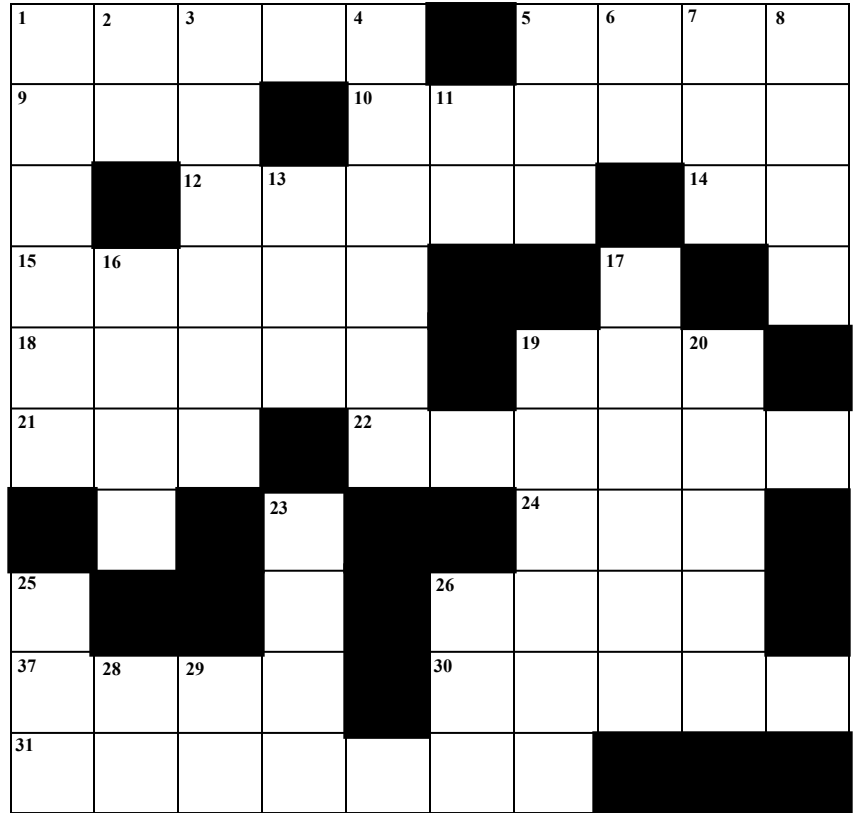
Join us at our weekly rehearsal.
The admission is free and the atmosphere is lively as the audience sings along.

400 Cedar Avenue
(Next to Giant Eagle)
Call 412-321-1834
for Group Reservations

Every Wednesday
8 PM
ThePittsburghBanjoClub.com

Across

1. See 25-Down
5. Like a nap
9. A third of three
10. Prim partner?
12. Character portrayed by 25-Down in 4-Down
14. State north of IL
15. The brightest star in a southern constellation (or maybe a local restaurant chain)
18. Garb for holy people
19. Comedic actor Caesar, to pals
21. Doris or Dennis
22. See 20-Down
24. Poetic contraction
26. Stage name of British rapper
Derek Safo
27. Current owner of the
William Penn Hotel
30. Milton
31. Type of creature portrayed by 20-Down in 4-Down



Down

1. See 5-Down
2. A common indefinite article
3. Not far away
4. Waterlogged 1984 romantic film
(and the subject of this
Valentine puzzle)
5. The film's director (with 1-Down)
6. TV series big boss, initially
7. Use thread
8. It precedes a fall?
11. Memo abbreviation
13. Not true
16. Frog relative
17. Tone deaf
19. Conned during winter?
20. She portrayed the female lead in
4-Down (with 22-Across)
23. Pool activity
25. He portrayed the male lead in
4-Down (with 1-Across)
26. "The Boys" superhero, briefly
28. Egotist's focus
29. Conservative magazine, initially

Last Month's Solution

S	M	O	T	H	E	R	S		P
T	A	B	O	O		O	K	R	A
E	D	O	M			D	I	E	T
V		E		C			M	A	P
E	R		D	R	A	B			A
		L	I	E		A	C	L	U
	T	A	C	T		A	R	A	L
A		I	K	E		L	E	N	S
B	A	R			A		S	E	E
C	B	S		M	A	R	T	I	N