

The Thrill Fest is (Suddenly) Gone . . .

September will be a little less thrilling: the planned Sudden Little Thrills Festival has been suddenly cancelled.

The producing company, **C3 Presents**, posted on the [festival's web site](#) that "due to circumstances beyond our control, the Sudden Little Thrills Festival will not take place in 2024."

Organizers had hoped to sell 30,000 tickets for the two-day festival, [according to WESA-FM's Bill O'Driscoll](#), because they heard that the city

has "a great music scene" and that "Pittsburgh's really got it going on." The hot singer-songwriter SZA was among the announced headliners. "Considering all the big names they had on there, the publicity, the money, everything it was going to bring to Pittsburgh, it's very surprising," [one ticket buyer told WTAE-TV](#).

C3 Presents was founded by three Texas entertainment entrepreneurs in 2007. Event giant **Live Nation** acquired a majority stake in 2014. The company has pro-

duced multiple festivals, mostly in the southern United States but also in countries such as Brazil and France.

[Colin Williams reports](#) for *Pittsburgh City Paper* that the Sudden Little Thrills Festival was subject to online criticism "logistical challenges" and "a lack of local involvement." However, [Pollstar's Sarah Pittman](#) suggests that the decision "follows rumblings in the industry that the festival market in 2024 is soft."

. . . But the PSO Offers Thrilling News

Research conducted for the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO) has proven the orchestra's economic importance, the PSO has announced.

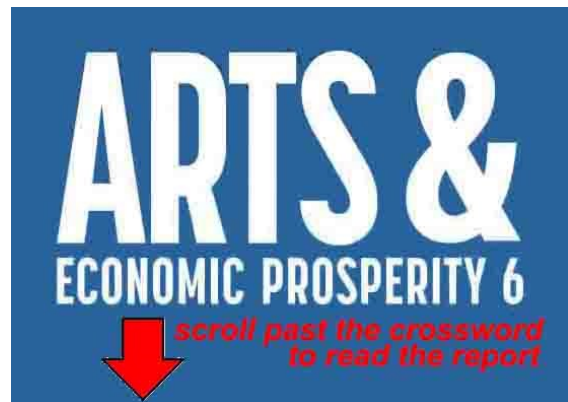
"[The study](#) reveals the PSO's impact beyond its rich history and legacy of artistic excellence and concludes that the Pittsburgh Symphony generates \$125 million in economic impact and sustains 1900 jobs annually."



The study also reveals:

- ◆ For every dollar spent by PSO, there is a \$4 return to the community.
- ◆ PSO's impact per dollar generated is higher than comparable metropolitan orchestras.
- ◆ PSO attracts more visitors to the Cultural District than all other arts producing organizations combined.
- ◆ PSO-affiliated musicians teaching in the region's education institutions contribute \$12 million in higher education spending impact.

Marty Bates, the orchestra's chief operating officer, is quoted as saying that the PSO provides "a powerful return on investment for our patrons, donors, business partners, and the community-at-large."



The Paramount See-Saw Continues

One potential buyer has scaled back its offer. Another is sweetening its proposal. The future of KDKA-TV's corporate parent remains in limbo.

First reported by the *Wall Street*

Journal and later by [Reuters](#),

production company

Skydance Media is offering "improved terms for both voting and non-voting [**Paramount Global**] shareholders and provides more cash."

Skydance was founded in 2006 by film producer David Ellison, who is the son of tech billionaire Larry Ellison. His compa-



ny is partnering with investment firms **RedBird Capital** and **Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.** (KKR) to acquire Paramount Global through majority shareholder **National Amusements** --- which, itself, is owned by the heirs of media magnate Sumner Redstone (1923-2020), primarily his daughter, Shari.

"The latest offer must be approved by Paramount's independent special committee," reports [Lucas Manfredi for TheWrap](#), "which let the exclusivity window on its discussions with Skydance expire with no deal last month." Manfredi adds that modified offer "comes as some of Paramount's class B shareholders have threatened to sue, arguing that David Ellison's media company is prioritizing con-

trolling shareholder Shari Redstone at the expense of the rest of the company's investors."

In the meantime, things are murky regarding a group led by **Sony Group Corporation**. [Deadline](#) quotes Tony Vinciguerra, head of Sony Pictures Entertainment, telling analysts and investors that "we will not make investments that don't complement our core strategy, and our strategy is to have more [intellectual property], more product, more library to sell. We're not going to get into other businesses."

Sony and Paramount are still talking. However, regulatory issues remain a complication: foreign entities are not allowed to hold U.S. broadcast licenses.

It's Now Block vs. Block @ PG Parent

Financial issues, strikes, bad press and now the tumult at **Block Communications Inc** (BCI) --- owner of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* --- has apparently taken on the form of a family feud.

The latest chapter in the BCI saga began in early May when [CEO Allen Block filed suit](#) to prevent what he alleges were plans to sell the company. The board responded by firing him. As the month came to a close, Block amended his suit with other claims including violation of his employment contract.

Block Communications, Inc. was founded in 1900 by German-

Jewish immigrant Paul Block (1875-1941). Today, Allen Block and his twin brother John each own 25% of BCI. The other half of the company is owned by trusts to benefit other family members. BCI also owns the *Toledo Blade* as well as television stations and cable systems.

Ray Schultz, of [MediaPost.com](#), quotes a statement from Allen Block asserting that he is "trying to stop self-interested family members from pursuing a fire sale of Block Communications that could lead to hundreds of job losses in the local Toledo and Pittsburgh communities, as well as the potential shutdown of

the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and *Toledo Blade*."

"The Blocks are no strangers to infighting," Zack Tanner of the **Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh** told the web site [Pittsburgh Union Progress](#). "If you worked at the paper for a minute or for 50 years, you know the Blocks like to fight with each other. No big news there." The guild is part of a multi-union walkout against the *Post-Gazette*. "But our fight is our fight. They can fight internally, but we're still committed to winning the strike."

A final settlement pre-trial hearing has been scheduled for July 8, with a jury trial planned for October 15.

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Roberto Clemente Bio Film Lawsuit

The legacy of Pittsburgh Pirate legend Roberto Clemente risks tarnishing with a lawsuit filed against the ballplayer's sons.

[Deadline.com's Ted Johnson](#) reports that small production outfit **Inside the Park LLC** is accusing Roberto Clemente Jr. and Luis Clemente of selling them the film rights to the ballplayer's life story under false pretenses. Johnson explains that, after announcing the rights deal last year, Inside the Park that "the Clemente family had a previous option agreement with Legendary Pictures Productions that had not expired."

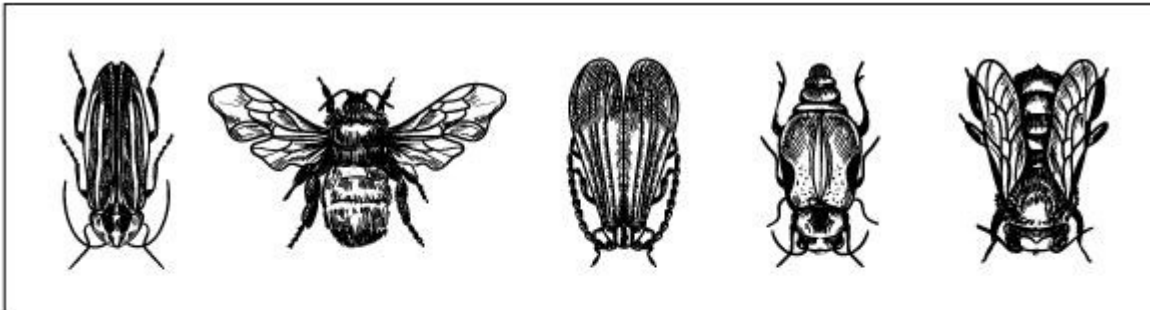
Legendary Pictures Productions is a division of **Legendary Enter-**

tainment LLC, which itself is primarily owned by the Chinese multinational conglomerate **Wanda Group**. [Wanda's partner in owning Legendary is **Apollo Global Management** which has the controlling interest in WPXI-TV's parent company – ed.]

"Inside the Park claims it reached out to several talent agencies . . . to begin finding talent for a Clemente biopic," [writes Jeremy Fuster for The-Wrap.com](#). "[Later] the company discovered that a previous rights deal negotiated between the Clementes and Legendary Pictures in 2015 had not expired and had been optioned to independ-

ent production studio **Teton Ridge Entertainment**."

The company claims to have lost \$5 million as a result of the situation and their lawsuit asserts breach of contract and fraud.



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June 1 to June 29, 2024

Gallery Hours:
Wed : 11 am to 7 pm
Thurs to Sat : 11 am to 4 pm
(Open House on Thurs, June 13 : 5 to 8 pm)

Opening Reception:
Sat, June 8, 2024 : 3 to 6:00 pm

Closing Reception:
Sat, June 29, 2024 : 3 to 6:00 pm

PITTSBURGH Society of Artists

Diversity Exhibition

The more diverse our lived experiences, backgrounds and points of view, the more creative we can be.

diversity (də`versədə, dī`versədə) n

1. the condition of having or being composed of differing elements
2. an instance of being composed of differing elements or qualities

Pop City Enters Phase Two

The ambitious Pop City project of the Andy Warhol Museum is entering Phase II, [the museum has officially announced](#).



Pop City reimagines the six blocks around the Warhol “into a thriving hub for expansive cultural programming, creative workforce development, and ultimately a new and enhanced cultural tourism destination.”

The vast project has its critics. Earlier this year, [WESA-FM’s Bill O’Driscoll](#) reported that “a number of high-level staffers who

all left the museum . . . say the District threatens the 30-year-old museum’s mission as a keeper of Andy Warhol’s artistic legacy and promoter of cutting-edge art.”

Museum associate director Dan Law recently told [ArtNet.com’s Adam Schrader](#) that “he wished that WESA had spoken to him rather than citing a slew of anonymous ex-staffers.” He added: “I don’t think it’s a controversial statement that the art world is categorically conservative, and its core behavior is conservative and risk averse. This [Pop City] pushes directly against that.”

Read more by [clicking here](#).

Phipps Buys Irish Centre

It had been the location for educational programs and vibrant dance competitions for decades. But soon, the former home of the **Irish Centre of Pittsburgh** (ICP) will be a place for fresh produce.

This is because the facility is being acquired by **Phipps Conservancy & Botanical Garden** as a

satellite site for the organization’s community greening projects. It follows a failed attempt by a development firm to build a housing complex at the location.



[Julia Felton of the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) reports that “the conservatory will pay \$760,000 for the property and is assessing the costs of redevelopment, which will include transforming it into a green building.”

The ICP continues to offer cultural programs, according to its [web-site](#), even as it searches for a more modern and affordable facility.

Venus & CMA

Professional tennis legend Venus Williams is hosting a new podcast for the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh (CMP), reports [Torey Akers for The Art Newspaper](#).



The podcast is part of “a suite of projects” associated with the [exhibition “Widening the Lens: Photography, Ecology & The Contemporary Landscape”](#) on display through early 2025.

“The [exhibit] explicitly looks at how the camera can act as a tool to question inherited narratives about people and ecology, and foreground stories that are often overlooked or excluded,” Akers quotes Dan Leers, the CMA’s curator of photography.

Akers explains that Williams’ podcast “will feature the voices of guest scholars, writers and artists” with an emphasis on people of color.



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Billy Porter To Get Special Tony

Pittsburgh native and **Carnegie Mellon University** alumnus Billy Porter is to receive the 2024 Isabelle Stevenson Tony Award, announced the **American Theatre Wing** (ATW).

The recognition is named in honor of Isabelle Lubow Stevenson (1913-2003), a professional dancer who led the ATW for decades. The prestigious Tony Awards are presented annually by the ATW and the **Broadway League**.

“Billy Porter has made extraordinary contributions as an activist for the LGBTQ+ community and we are truly honored to present him with this year’s Isabelle Stevenson Award,” the two organizations announced in a joint statement. “He has lent tremendous time, effort and support to a variety of organizations including The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, the Entertainment Community Fund, and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, all while becoming an unstoppable force on stage, screen and beyond.”

Porter will receive his special Tony during the June 16 telecast. Learn more by [clicking here](#).



Museum Still Grapples With Remains Issue

The international issues surrounding human remains and museums continues to reverberate for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH).

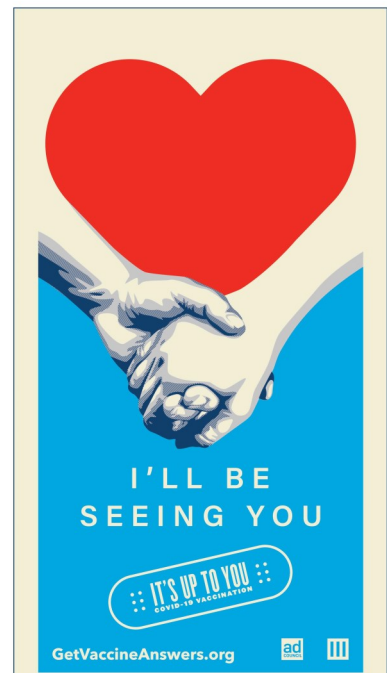


Last year, [ProPublica reported](#) that the CMNH holds “the remains of at least 600 Native Americans that it has not made available for return to tribes.” They are mostly that of indigenous people from Western Pennsylvania, but some come as far away as California and Florida.

ProPublica and others have criticized the museum for being slow in repatriating human remains. However, CMNH’s archaeology collection manager, Amy Covell-

Murthy, recently explained to [Punya Bhasin of Pittsburgh City Paper](#) that “the repatriation process takes years and oftentimes is not accessible for indigenous tribes themselves.”

“Because most of these people [the remains] came from this area, there aren’t any federally recognized tribes. who claim direct descendency from those particular people,” Covell-Murthy is quoted by Bhasin. “And the way that the [Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990] works or worked until they made new regulations a few years ago, was that in order to repatriate the museum lineage a cultural connection between that descendant community and this ancestral community. The new regs allow us to geographically affiliate all of those people.”



Playhouse Honored

A production at the Pittsburgh Playhouse has been honored, reports the blog [OnStagePittsburgh](#).

The theater, part of **Point Park University** (PPU), staged a production of “[Almost Equal To],” was presented as part of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. The unusually titled play is a comedy-drama about economic inequity.

PPU was lauded in thirteen categories, most notably receiving the Citizen Artist Award for promoting “long-term societal impact in artistic terms.”

Bricolage Relocates

Inventive theater company **Bricolage Productions** has a new home, reports the blog [OnStagePittsburgh](#).

For several years, Bricolage had been staging shows in a vacant Cultural District retail space while using the basement for offices. They have now moved into a former Wilkinsburg elementary school that has been renovated into a creative hub called **Community Forge**.

Bricolage’s new facilities include an audio studio available for rent. The company will still be staging select productions in the Cultural District, primarily with **Arcade Comedy Theater**.

Eberson Honored

Sharon Eberson, a local journalist and contributor to the blog [OnStagePittsburgh](#) has been awarded a Golden Quill by the **Press Club of Western Pennsylvania**.

Founded in 1991 as the Press Club of Pittsburgh, the nonprofit organization aims to celebrate and encourage quality journalism while helping educate the community about journalism’s importance. The club’s annual Golden Quills honors outstanding work by local journalists and news organizations.

The full list of 2024 honorees is [available here](#).

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.

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Images



Spend some time getting to know Maestro Manfred Honeck at the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra’s black tie gala at the prestigious Duquesne Club. [Click here to learn more.](#)



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Feds Restart Warhol Case

An eight-year-old art crime is getting renewed interest by the **Federal Bureau of Investigation** (FBI), reports Eric Heyl of [Patch Pittsburgh](#).

On Thursday, April 7, 2016, thieves broke into the **Springfield Art Museum** (SAM) in Missouri and [stole seven prints](#) of Andy Warhol's popular soup can series of paintings. They were part of a set of ten that had been part of the museum's collection since 1985 and are valued at \$500,000.

The FBI posted on May 24 that it was once again actively seeking information on the theft. A \$25,000 reward was offered at the time of the crime. Meanwhile, the municipal museum has received a [hefty insurance settlement](#).



Channel
Pittsburgh



Holocaust Digitized

A new digital archive has been launched by the **Senator John Heinz History Center** offering new insight to the Holocaust.

Between 1941 and 1945, fascist Germany led a systematic program to exterminate the Jewish population in what is called the Holocaust. The new digital archive includes over 500 letters from local attorney and politician [Henry Ellenbogen \(1900-1985\)](#) and his efforts to rescue Jews from Europe.

“As a result of his prominence

during the late 1930s and early 1940s,” explains a museum press release, “Ellenbogen received correspondence from many Jewish people who were trying to escape from Central Europe during the early years of Nazi rule. The American government required anyone immigrating into the U.S. during those years to obtain an affidavit from an American citizen.” The senator made it a personal goal to aid as many individuals as he could.

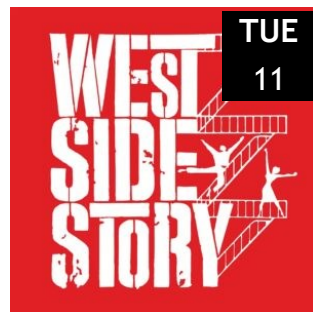
Anyone can access this fascinating trove by [clicking here](#).



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- ~ Fundraisers
- ~ Free Show Tickets
- ~ Transportation

jim@james-richards.com



Opportunities

A free Zoom seminar has been scheduled by the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** on June 12. The seminar will describe how to apply for an Artist Income Recovery (AIR) grant. For more information, [click here](#).

The Pittsburgh Film Office is seeking a manager to develop their workforce training program. [Details here](#).

A pair of part-time jobs are open at local **iHeart Media** radio stations. [Click here](#).

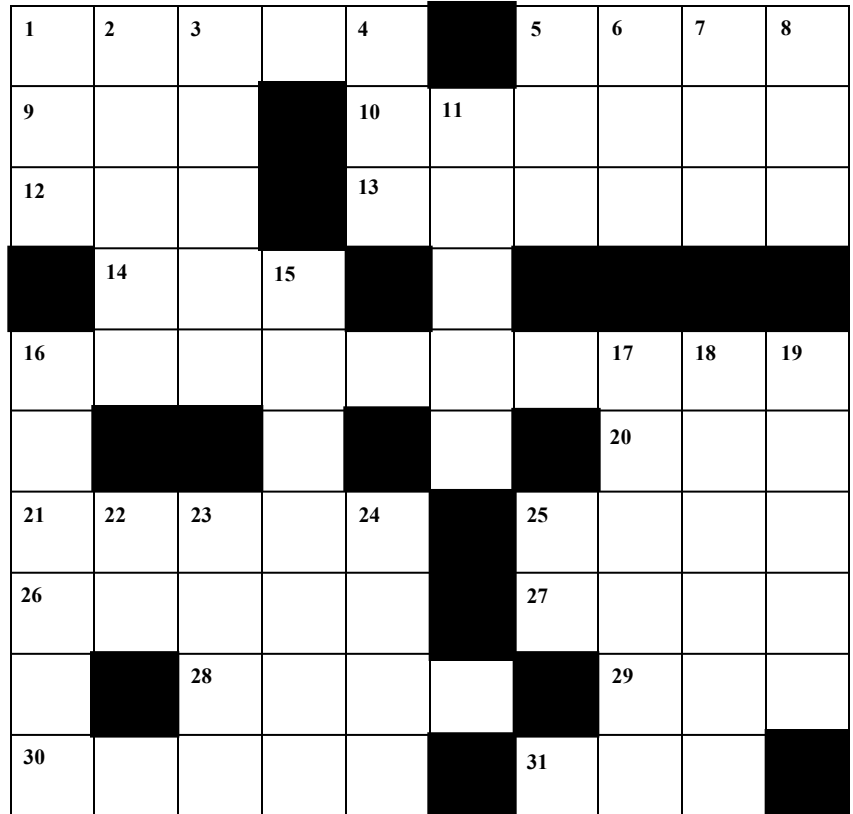
One full-time and two part-time positions are open at the **Pittsburgh Opera**. [Click here](#).

Several positions are open at the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** across departments. [Click here](#).



Across

1. *Nickname of a notable fop*
5. Shipboard greeting
9. Buchwald or Carney
10. *Play about a royal seductress*
12. Notorious Chinese, to pals
13. Ancient Celtic bards
14. Untruth
- 16. The answers to the italicized clues provide clues to this answer**
20. "You've Got Mail" letters
21. Toss
25. Mary Beth or John
26. Former name of the NFL's Titans
27. More than a duo
28. Isaac's boy
29. Fleming or McKellen
30. Like Robert De Niro's "Grandpa"?
31. *Lady Windemere's object?*



Down

1. Pebbles' boyfriend, for short
2. Type of tests or exams
3. Follower of a certain philosopher
4. 1990's Christian rock band ____ -Charis
5. State north of FLA
6. Title of a hit 1987 Buster Poindexter song (at least, one-third of it)
7. Bora Bora resort island
8. "Owner of a Lonely Heart" band
11. Asserts
15. *The "importance" of an 1895 play*
16. *Famed UK university*
17. "The Wonder Years" Dan
18. *Title character of a famous novel (with 24-Down)*
19. Singer John, to pals
22. State south of WI
23. Actor Robert
24. *See 18-Down*
25. President between FR and DE

Last Month's Solution

G	R	E	A	T		I	D	A	
A	U	X		O		N	I	C	K
T	E	L	L	E	R		C	A	
S		A	I			C	A	R	R
B	A	X	T	E	R		P	E	E
Y	O				E	R	R	E	D
	L	B	J			C	I	R	F
I		L	A	D	D		O	P	O
D	O	O	Z	I	E			A	R
F	I	T	Z	G	E	R	A	L	D

ARTS & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY 6 ALLEGHENY COUNTY FINDINGS



GREATER PITTSBURGH ARTS COUNCIL
Arts loud and clear

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ABOUT THIS STUDY

Arts and Economic Prosperity 6 is the largest and most inclusive study of its kind. It documents the economic and social contributions of arts and culture in 373 diverse communities and regions representing all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The study areas range in population from 4,000 to 4 million and represent rural, suburban, and urban communities (130 cities and 126 counties, 78 multi-city or multi-county regions, 18 individual arts districts, and 21 entire states/territories).

Using the IMPLAN economic modeling platform, input-output analysis models were customized for each study region to provide specific and reliable economic impact data for each. IMPLAN relies on region-specific and industry-specific data to customize input-output models for different areas and sectors, allowing for more accurate analysis. This is a highly regarded type of economic analysis that has been the basis for multiple Nobel Prizes in economics. The models are systems of mathematical equations that combine statistical methods and economic theory in an area of study called econometrics.

These findings have been prepared for Allegheny County by Americans for the Arts, in collaboration with the Allegheny County community research partner, the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council. This report has been led by Director of Research and Cultural Policy, Morgan Kasprówicz, with support from Research Intern, Ana-Alicia Feng.

Read more about these findings, the methodology behind them, and who responded in Allegheny County in the full report.



FULL ALLEGHENY COUNTY REPORT

“

Through AEP6, we reconfirm what our region has known for decades: **The arts significantly contribute both directly and indirectly to Allegheny County's economy, quality of life, and a sense of pride in our local community.**

This study also allows us to benchmark ourselves against other communities in the nation, and the data tells a clear story that the sum of our sector achieves a multiplier effect that we cannot afford to ignore. When you combine Allegheny County's arts and culture organizations and events with our sports and recreation offerings, you can see that the region provides a democracy of choice for both our residents and visitors.”

— Patrick Fisher, CEO
Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council

WHO RESPONDED

169

NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS

768

AUDIENCE MEMBERS
(815 SUBMITTED; OUTLIERS REMOVED)

28%

SURVEYS COLLECTED FROM AUDIENCES OF BIPOC/ALAANA ORGANIZATIONS
(SEE FULL REPORT FOR AFTA DEFINITION)

ALLEGHENY COUNTY OVERALL FINDINGS

During fiscal year 2022, spending by both Allegheny County's nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences

TOTALED \$1.3 BILLION

**\$544.4
MILLION**

IN SPENDING BY
ARTS AND CULTURE
ORGANIZATIONS

**\$711.3
MILLION**

IN EVENT-RELATED
AUDIENCE
EXPENDITURES

29%

PROPORTION
OF AUDIENCE
FROM OUTSIDE
ALLEGHENY COUNTY

\$267 MILLION IN LOCAL, STATE, AND
FEDERAL ANNUAL TAX INCOME

**\$167
MILLION**

IN FEDERAL
TAX INCOME

**\$58
MILLION**

IN STATE
TAX INCOME

**\$42
MILLION**

IN LOCAL
TAX INCOME

\$953 MILLION IN PERSONAL INCOME

**\$39
PER PERSON**

AVERAGE SPENDING
PER EVENT:
LOCAL AUDIENCES

**\$91
PER PERSON**

AVERAGE SPENDING
PER EVENT:
NON-LOCAL AUDIENCES

**\$54
PER PERSON**

AVERAGE SPENDING
PER EVENT:
ALL AUDIENCES

An increase of \$5.36 from AEP5 if adjusted for inflation

An increase of \$15.93 from AEP5 if adjusted for inflation

See full report for how these items were defined and calculated.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY ARTS & CULTURE IS PUNCHING ABOVE ITS WEIGHT



Americans for the Arts organized the 373 study regions into cohorts based on region type and stratified by estimated 2022 population. Allegheny County was compared to other city or county regions with estimated populations greater than one million.

As shown here, **Allegheny County arts and culture continues to drive greater economic activity** than the median of all regions in its cohort.

Total Economic Impacts of Spending by Allegheny County Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations During Fiscal Year 2022

	ALLEGHENY COUNTY	Median of Population Cohort (1,000,000 or More)
Direct Expenses	\$544,351,618	\$183,207,530
Household Income Paid	\$525,766,766	\$157,476,429
Local Government Revenue	\$20,291,055	\$4,531,638
State Government Revenue	\$27,900,556	\$5,978,552
Federal Tax Revenue	\$94,652,470	\$32,806,972

Total Economic Impacts of Spending by Allegheny County Nonprofit Arts and Culture Audiences During Fiscal Year 2022

	ALLEGHENY COUNTY	Median of Population Cohort (1,000,000 or More)
Direct Expenses	\$711,333,528	\$235,934,800
Household Income Paid	\$427,700,806	\$117,119,459
Local Government Revenue	\$21,772,369	\$6,771,884
State Government Revenue	\$29,801,977	\$7,266,914
Federal Tax Revenue	\$73,017,668	\$21,582,049

OUR BENCHMARKS

Allegheny County continues to punch above its weight when compared to peers in the same population cohort.

	Estimated 2022 Population	Economic Activity	Audience Spend	Annual In-person Attendance	Tax Revenue Generated
ALLEGHENY COUNTY	1,250,578	\$1,255,685,146	\$711,333,528	13,127,151	\$267,436,095
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OH	1,235,072	\$533,156,171	\$143,316,139	3,839,957	\$104,232,078
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA	1,147,532	\$260,256,948	\$80,059,065	3,611,351	\$43,656,277
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD	1,050,688	\$183,815,220	\$59,348,157	2,574,105	\$143,316,139
CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA	1,584,064	\$1,322,324,114	\$472,647,034	9,368,114	\$265,204,284
CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CA	1,425,976	\$1,185,912,007	\$528,236,404	16,317,687	\$275,740,071

“

As a supporter of the arts and an even bigger supporter of artists who do the work as creatives that allow for the vibrancy of the arts in our local economy, I want to say thank you and challenge us to do more by supporting and advocating for art in the city and county that transcends differences and unites people and communities through a genuine and authentic sense of belonging, inclusion, and equity. Accepting this challenge will grow the arts economy and *champion* a more vibrant and inclusive arts scene.

”

— DR. VERONICA MORGAN-LEE

Board Chair, Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council
Director of Fund Development, Hill Dance Academy Theatre

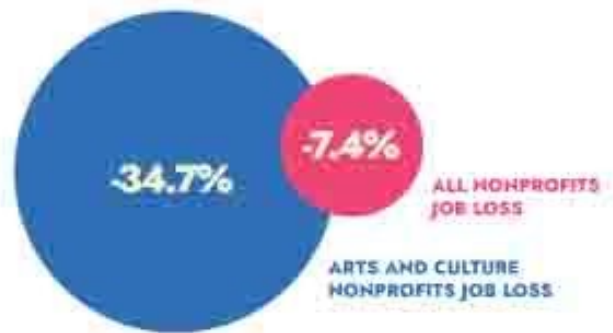
ALLEGHENY COUNTY ARTS & CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS ARE DOING MORE WITH LESS

AEP6 was conducted in 2022-23 as the nation continued its emergence from the COVID-19 pandemic. **By every measure, the arts and culture industry was among the most devastated economic sectors.**

"In year one of the COVID-19 pandemic, few areas of the U.S. economy were harder hit than the performing arts. Performing arts presenters and companies joined oil drilling/exploration and air transportation as the steepest declining areas of the U.S. economy in 2020. After adjusting for inflation, the value added by performing arts presenters (including festivals) fell by nearly 73% between 2019 and 2020."

-U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis on the pandemic's impact on the arts in 2022

John Hopkins University reported in 2021 that the percentage of COVID-19 job losses at nonprofit arts and culture organizations was nearly **5 times** worse than the average of all nonprofits



99%

OF PRODUCING AND PRESENTING ORGANIZATIONS CANCELED EVENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC WITH MANY SHUTTERING FOR ENTIRE SEASONS—A LOSS OF AN ESTIMATED 557 MILLION TICKETED ADMISSIONS (*Americans for the Arts, 2022*)

Allegheny County arts and culture attendance remains approximately

21% down
compared to pre-pandemic levels

16,629,848
AEP5 2017

13,127,151
AEP6 2022

Nationally, in 2020:

63% of artists experienced unemployment

95% of artists lost creative income

37% of artists were unable to access or afford food at some point during the pandemic

58% of artists did not visit a medical professional due to an inability to pay

*Comparison between AEP6 and AEP5 is not perfect because the group of participating organizations is slightly different; however, this approximately 20% drop is mirrored in other local sources of data, including PA Humanities and Philadelphia Cultural Alliance's 2023 CultureCheck survey

(*Americans for the Arts, 2022*)

And yet arts and culture in Allegheny County have continued to bring more to our region and its communities:



Allegheny nonlocal attendance up; national average down

Allegheny County drew a higher proportion of its audiences from places outside of Allegheny County in AEP6 compared to AEP5 (2016-2017). This is opposite the national trend, which saw non-local audiences dropping.



Allegheny average audience spend grew 77% and surpassed national average



A Note on Inequity in Pandemic Impact and Recovery

The pandemic's impact was not felt equally.

Organizations serving and representing BIPOC communities were more likely to report that they lacked the financial resources needed to return to in-person programming than non-BIPOC organizations:

55% vs. 38%

BIPOC artists had higher rates of unemployment than white artists in 2020:

69% vs. 60%

and lost a larger percentage of their creative income:

61% vs 56%

(Americans for the Arts, 2022)



70.7%
OF PARTICIPATING
ALLEGHENY COUNTY
ORGANIZATIONS

Addressed pay equity, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, through deliberate changes to policies or practices that were made for the benefit of paid staff, artists, and/or contractors.

42%
OF PARTICIPATING
ALLEGHENY COUNTY
ORGANIZATIONS

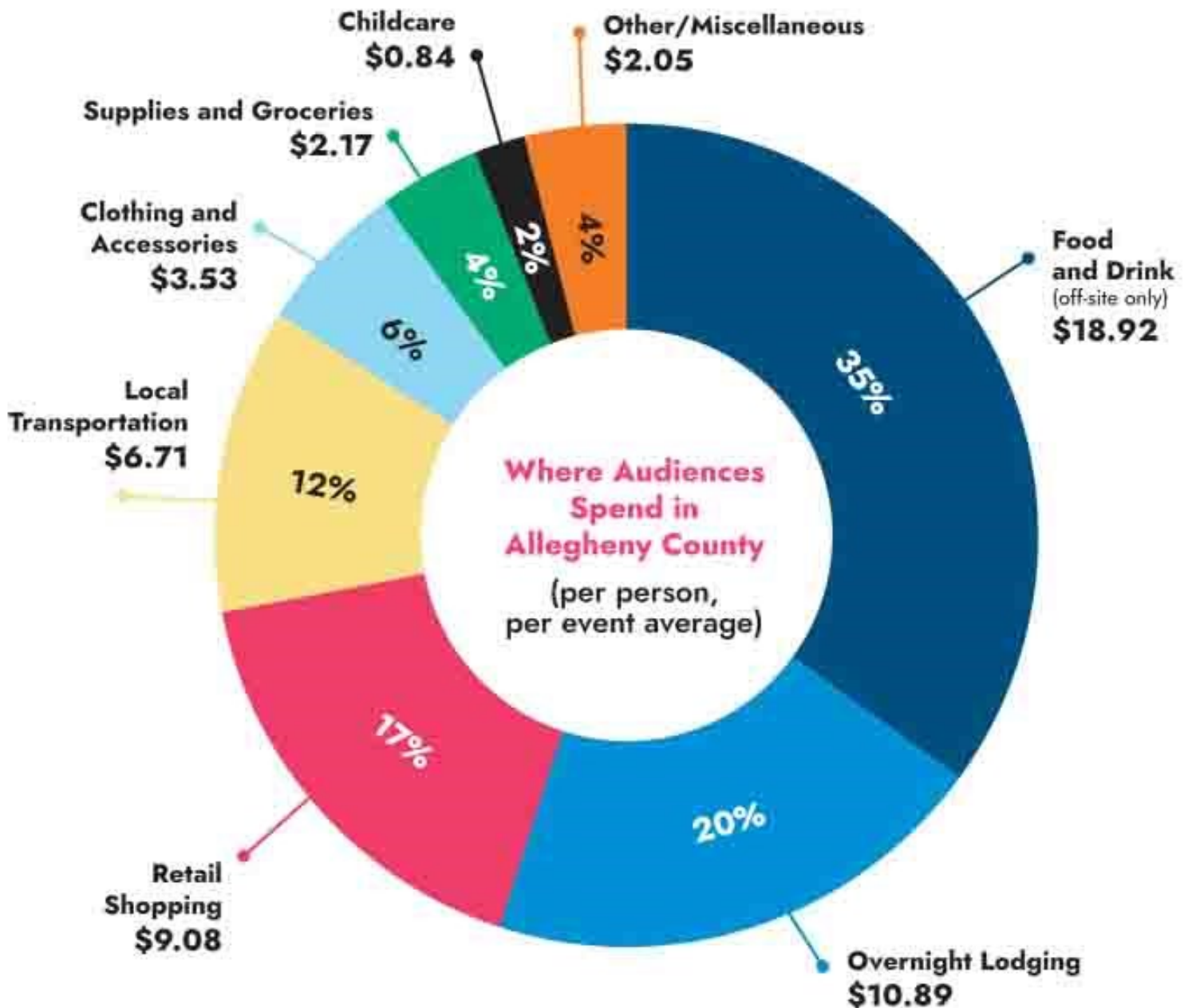
Expanded their services beyond arts and culture to address urgent community needs during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Examples could include collecting and donating food, masks, and cleaning materials to community members; donating facility space as a testing and/or vaccination site; and helping organizations and individuals apply for pandemic relief funds and unemployment benefits.

THE ARTS IMPACT ADJACENT SECTORS

Arts and culture drives commerce to local businesses.

In Allegheny County, attendees spend \$54.19 per person per event, beyond the cost of admission. These dollars represent vital income for local merchants and a value-add with which few industries can compete.



Based on the average audience spend levels in each category, arts and culture audiences are purchasing the equivalents of each of the following every year in Allegheny County:



3.3 MILLION

\$75 RESTAURANT DINNERS FOR TWO



1 MILLION

\$140 HOTEL ROOM STAYS PER YEAR



43.3 MILLION

\$2.75 PITTSBURGH RAPID TRANSIT SINGLE BUS PASSES

Based on annual in person attendance of 13,127,151

Cultural tourism strengthens the visitor economy.

56.2%

OF NONLOCAL ATTENDEES

Reported that the primary purpose of their visit was specifically to attend the performance, event, exhibit, venue, or facility where they were surveyed.

60.7%

OF NONLOCAL ATTENDEES

Indicated that it was the first time they had ever attended the specific activity or visited the specific venue where they were surveyed.

Allegheny County non-local arts and culture attendees outspend the national average



National average per-person, per event spend



Allegheny nonlocal attendee per-person, per event spend

“

On the first Friday of every month, we see two to three times the revenue that we would on a normal Friday. We see our usual neighbors, but also many new faces from other neighborhoods, pulled to this short strip of Penn Avenue because of Unblurred, the monthly arts crawl through Bloomfield, Garfield, and Friendship. The neighborhood arts scene is a big part of why we're here. We're not just a brewery — we want to participate in the experience created by the studios around us. We hang and rotate local art on our walls from local artists. We want to actively be a part of the neighborhood culture.

”

— MIKE ONOFRAY
Owner, Two Frays Brewery

IMPACT BEYOND DOLLARS: IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT ART



A vibrant arts and culture community keeps local residents—
and their discretionary dollars—in the community.

50%

OF LOCAL ATTENDEES TO BIPOC
AND ALAANA ORGANIZATIONS



48.9%

OF ALL LOCAL ATTENDEES

Said they would have “traveled to a different community to attend a similar arts or cultural activity” if the event they attended hadn’t been available locally.

“

Arts and culture can support quality of life. At RealTime Arts, our show Khūrākī (meaning “eat” or “meal” in the Afghan language Dari) was built around the desire of a group of female Afghan refugees to create Pittsburgh’s first Afghan food business. Through funding for each phase of our project from Shiftworks and others, we created a culinary-theatrical experience that challenged Americans’ assumptions about Afghanistan by introducing audiences to Afghan culture, music, flavors, and people. And with support from local immigrant-run restaurants, business training programs, and other partners, Khūrākī enabled the women to launch their own cooperatively-owned LLC, Zafaron, that continues to sustain their families today.

”

— MOLLY RICE AND RUSTY THELIN

Co-Artistic Directors, RealTime Arts



Arts and culture drive pride in Allegheny County communities, makes them more livable, and improves the well-being of our residents.

Percentage of nonprofit arts and culture attendees who agree with statements about the social impact of arts and culture in Allegheny County

ALL NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE ATTENDEES

(N=768)

ATTENDEES TO BIPOC AND ALAANA ORGANIZATIONS

(N=216)

"This venue or facility is an **important pillar** for me within my community."

86.5% **80.7%**

"This activity or venue is inspiring a sense of **pride** in this neighborhood or community."

92.3% **89.2%**

"I would feel a **great sense of loss** if this activity or venue were no longer available."

89.9% **86.9%**

"My attendance is my way of ensuring that this activity or venue is **preserved** for future generations."

89.8% **87.3%**

Feelings of social impact were even slightly greater for attendees of events and venues that primarily serve BIPOC/ALAANA communities.



GREATER PITTSBURGH ARTS COUNCIL
Arts loud and clear

The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council builds a more resourced and connected arts and culture sector, empowering artists and arts organizations throughout Southwestern PA. By sharing resources, fostering significant relationships, advocating for arts-centric policies, and increasing public awareness of arts and culture, the Arts Council cultivates a thriving, vibrant arts community for the Greater Pittsburgh region.

Learn more at pittsburghartscouncil.org

Presented as a Special Supplement of
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The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council is supported in part thanks to funding from the following organizations

