

## The Strikes: One Over, One Continues

### WGA Ratifies SAG-AFTRA Still On Walkout

As expected, both the east and west branches of the **Writers Guild of America** (WGA) have ratified the new contract with the **Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers** (AMPTP).



The unions' report that only 1% of members who cast ballots voted against the deal.

"Through solidarity and determination, we have ratified a contract with meaningful gains and protections for writers in every sector of our combined membership," said WGAW President Meredith Stiehm in a joint press release. "Now it's time for the AMPTP to put the rest of the town back to work by negotiating a fair contract with our SAG-AFTRA siblings, who have supported writers throughout our negotiations," added WGAE President Lisa Takeuchi Cullen

Local WGA members and other interested parties can read [a summary of the pact](#).



A brief October 30 post on the **SAG-AFTRA** web site included the message: "While talks over the past week have been productive, we remain far apart on key issues."



In other words, sound stages from Hollywood to Pittsburgh remain dark as the actors' strike continues.

CNN's [Oliver Darcy reports](#) that artificial intelligence (AI) remains a key sticking point. "Ultimately, erecting guardrails around the emerging technology that the actors have decried as an 'existential threat' to their livelihoods has been one of the final items on the agenda during negotiations."

According to *Variety's* [Gene Maddaus](#), "the union is not seeking for forbid studios from using AI to create 'digital doubles,' but does want language guaranteeing consent and minimum compensation for such use. The union has also sought to restrict AI training on past work and has asked for a provision giving the union a veto over AI uses."

Meanwhile, the union is offering assistance to members who are having trouble paying their monthly dues. [More information is available here](#).



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## Report: Pennsylvania Arts Worth \$29B

Pennsylvania's non-profit arts and culture sphere produces nearly \$29 billion in economic activity. That's the bottom line of a recent report issued by the **Americans for the Arts** (AFA) in conjunction with organizations that include the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC).



The fifty-two-page report, titled *Arts & Economic Prosperity 6* [shortened to AEP6 -ed.], is described as “an economic and social impact study of the nation’s nonprofit arts and culture industry.”

In a [blog post](#), GPAC’s Morgan Kasprovicz writes that “despite low funding levels,” the economic impact of nonprofit arts is greater “than educational service, utility, and mining industries.” Despite this, “there remains a disconnect [in public perception] between value produced and value received (in the form of dollars).”

AEP6 points out that the economic impact goes well beyond ticket sales. “When people attend a cultural event, they often make an outing of it—dining at a restaurant, paying for parking or public transportation, enjoying dessert after the show, and returning

home to pay for child or pet care.” This amounts to just under \$40 per person per event.

Nevertheless, Kasprovicz explains that “artists, on average, were more likely to earn incomes in the lowest brackets (and below the federal poverty line) compared to the average Allegheny County resident.”

The detailed report [which is available by clicking the graphic below—ed] has identified a dozen specific “takeaways” about the benefits, economic and otherwise, of the arts.

In other GPAC news, the organization is [touting a report](#) issued by the **National Center for Arts Research** ranking Pittsburgh the 15<sup>th</sup> most vibrant arts community in the United States.

# ARTS & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY 6

The Economic  
& Social Impact  
Study of Nonprofit  
Arts & Culture  
Organizations &  
Their Audiences



Supporting **jobs**.  
Generating **revenue**.  
Building **community vibrancy**.

 Americans  
for the **Arts**

## Frick Pulls Islamic Art Exhibit

The bloody war between Israel and Hamas has caused divisions among creative people and arts institutions across the globe. These include the **Frick Pittsburgh**, which has postponed a traveling exhibit about Islamic art. The news was first reported by [Ryan Deto for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#).



In New York City, an event featuring the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist [Viet Thanh Nguyen](#) was cancelled after he signed an [open letter critical](#) of Israel. Other notable signers include Academy Award winning actress Susan Sarandon, poet Solmaz Sharif (a finalist for the National Book Award) and musician Jon Siebels (of the band Eve 6).

A more [balanced call for peace](#) has also been issued. This message calls for a cease-fire “to honor all of the lives in the Holy Land” adding that “we condemn the killing of Palestinian and Israeli civilians.” Signers include Tony Award winning actor Alan Cumming, playwright Eve Ensler (“The Vagina Monologues” and singer Jennifer Lopez/

The exhibit delayed by the Frick is called “Treasured Ornament” and it explores the development of Islamic art over the last one thousand years. Items range from glassware and paintings to metalwork and weaponry. “In its existing form, ‘Treasured Ornament’ lacked sufficient historical and cultural context,” explains the museum in a web posting.

“When violence broke out, the conflict in the Middle East, we recognized that the exhibition needed more context and local intentionality,” the Frick’s Elizabeth Barker told [WESA-FM](#).

In response, the local chapter of the **Council on American-Islamic Relations** (CAIR) posted a response on their web site that says the decision “perpetuates the harmful stereotype that Muslims or Islamic art are synonymous with terrorism or antisemitism. This false perspective not only disregards the vast and diverse Islamic world that extends far beyond the Middle East but also undermines the essence of cultural diversity and appreciation that art represents.” CAIR points out that the exhibit has no connection to the war.

The local Jewish community may not be as appreciative of the postponement as the Frick appears to believe.

“Equating Islamic art and Muslims in general with Hamas is certainly bias and is certainly something we’re against,” a spokesperson for the **Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh** told WESA-FM’s Bill O’Driscoll. “I believe that few people in the Jewish community would have been concerned about an exhibit on Islamic art because we understand that has nothing to do with Hamas, which is a terrorist organization.”

You can read the [Frick’s full statement here](#) and the [response by CAIR here](#).

## Tree Of Life Doc News

The 2022 documentary film “A Tree of Life: The Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting” has been nominated for an HPA Award.

A review in *Variety* describes the documentary as “both powerfully profound and deeply disturbing.”

The **Hollywood Professional Association** (HPA) is an association established in 2002 for post-production/editing professionals. The film examines the fallout of the 2018 attack. Eric Schuman has been nominated in the Outstanding Editing – Documentary category. Schuman’s other credits include the 2021 TV mini-series “The

Crime of the Century.” Although he shares editing credits for “A Tree of Life” with Lorena Luciano, only Schuman has been nominated from the film.

The award ceremony will be held on November 28 in Los Angeles. [Click here for more information.](#)



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## Carnegie Museums News

Big happenings are happening at all four **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** (CMP).



The Carnegie Museum of Art has surrendered ownership of a 1917 drawing by Austrian artist Egon Schiele (1890-1918). As reported in the [October 2023 issue of Pittsburgh Applause](#), it is among the works taken from the collection of actor/singer Franz "Fritz" Grunbaum (1880- 1941). The surrender document was signed on October 4, [writes Jonathan D. Silver for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#).

Next door, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History Museum is changing its policy regarding dioramas. From now on, [reports WESA-FM's Bill O'Driscoll](#), the museum will "display human remains only with the consent of the subject or the subject's descendant communities." Other museums are making similar policy changes, [explains The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's Justin Vellucci](#).

The city's planning commission was briefed on the Andy Warhol Museum's planned \$45 million expansion. "The new building will be a significant component of The Pop District," explains Patch.com's Eric Heyl, "which is both a cultural and economic development project spearheaded by the Warhol Museum." A con-

struction schedule has yet to be proposed.

Finally, the Carnegie Science Center (CSC) has been honored by the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC). The association is comprised of over 600 science museums worldwide. The CSC was especially noted for its "Mars: The Next Giant Leap" exhibition.

"This award is a testament to the dedication of our team members, partners, and the community," said the CSC's Jason Brown in a press release. "It signifies our commitment to inspire and engage our community, especially our young minds, in the wonders of space exploration."

**Roku**

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**Thursday, November 23**

**9:00am - 2:00am**

**One Turkey of a Day!**

## Trust Drops Bldg Plans

Plans to transform a movie theater-turned-gym back into a cinema have been scrapped, reports Eric Heyl for Patch.com.



The building in question began life as the Gateway Theater until it was shuttered in 1980. It was later converted to a health club initially called City Club before being absorbed into the Bally Total Fitness chain (which went bankrupt in 2016).

It is currently owned by the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust**, which has apparently found the renovation costs to be prohibitive. The building's future now remains unclear.

## Mag Honors Leap Tech

*Inc.* magazine has selected **Leap Event Technology** (the parent company of Pittsburgh-based ShowClix) for an Inc. Power Award.

The magazine was launched in 1979 and is owned by billionaire Joe Mansueto's investment firm. It has an estimated circulation of 650,000.

Leap is among the companies selected for the magazine's directory of business-to-business (B2B) firms that "provide top-notch products and services for your business" designating them as Power Partners.



## IATSE Meets With Congress

Efforts to protect film and television visual effects (VFX) workers took a step forward last month when members of Congress met with representatives from **The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees** (IATSE).



The IATSE team spoke before the Congressional Labor Caucus, a group of elected representatives that seeks to address the needs of working families. A union press release shares the stories of IATSE members such as Anna George of Marvel Studios (owned by the **Walt Disney Company**). She emphasized

"the grave disparities in wages, working conditions, and benefits between VFX workers and their unionized counterparts in other departments."

Another VFX worker asked bluntly: "Why is everyone else union besides VFX?"

Other IATSE members testifying included Political/Legislative Director Tyler McIntosh, Political/Legislative Assistant Director Jackson Rees, International Representative and organizer Mark Patch. For more information, read the [full press release](#).

## NEP Honored

Pittsburgh-based media technology company **NEP Group** has been honored by the Asian media trade publication *Digital Studio India*. The publication's annual awards recognize inventive and pioneering tech companies.

NEP Group received the Special Award - Excellence in Live Sports Production.



"We're honored to support and partner with some of the very best broadcasters and content creators throughout India," says NEP's Saeed Izadi in a press release, "and I'd like to congratulate our entire team of engineering, technical, operations and commercial experts across the NEP worldwide network who are serving our clients every day as they bring their amazing content to life."

The award was presented at a ceremony in Mumbai on October 9.

## State Considers Ticket Bills

A trio of bills have passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives that aim to address deceptive event ticket sales practices --- but may have very



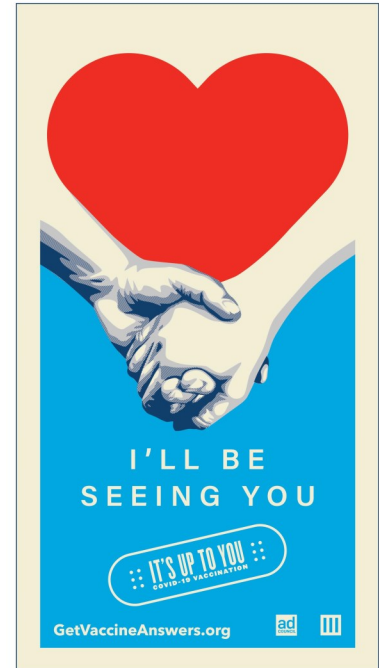
different consequences.

[WESA-FM's Stephen Caruso reports](#) that the sponsors want "to ban the use of bots to purchase tickets or other products, while another representative has introduced legislation that would restrict speculative ticketing, which is when a reseller markets tickets that they do not own at the time of sale but hope to acquire before the event."

Dave Clark, writing for the industry [trade blog TicketNews](#) calls the proposed laws "high on the wish list" of **Live Nation** (owner of Ticketmaster) "in the entertainment giant's plans to rewrite ticketing regulations across the company to better serve its business interests."

"Unfortunately," Clark quotes John Breyault of the **National Consumers League**, "many of the remedies proposed would curtail the rights of consumers to buy and sell tickets on an open and competitive secondary marketplace, leading to ever more control by the dominant player in the industry."

As of the end of October, the bills have been sent to the state senate.



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## Images



*Legendary singer/songwriter Joni Mitchell is being honored at an event by a group of local artists. To learn more, click [here](#).*





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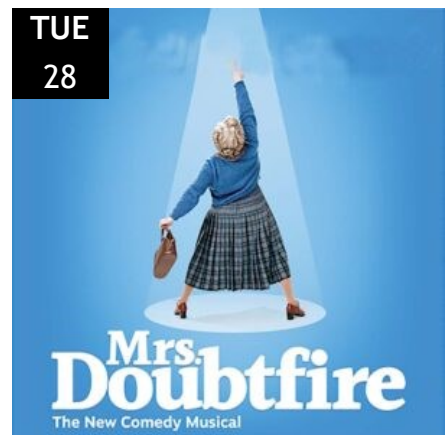
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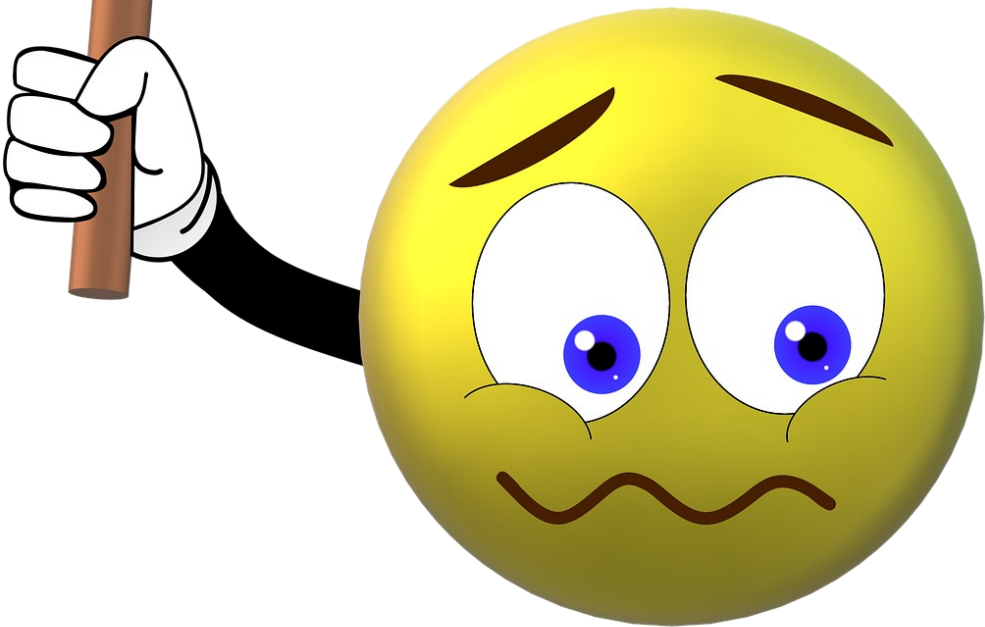


TUE  
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# Opportunities

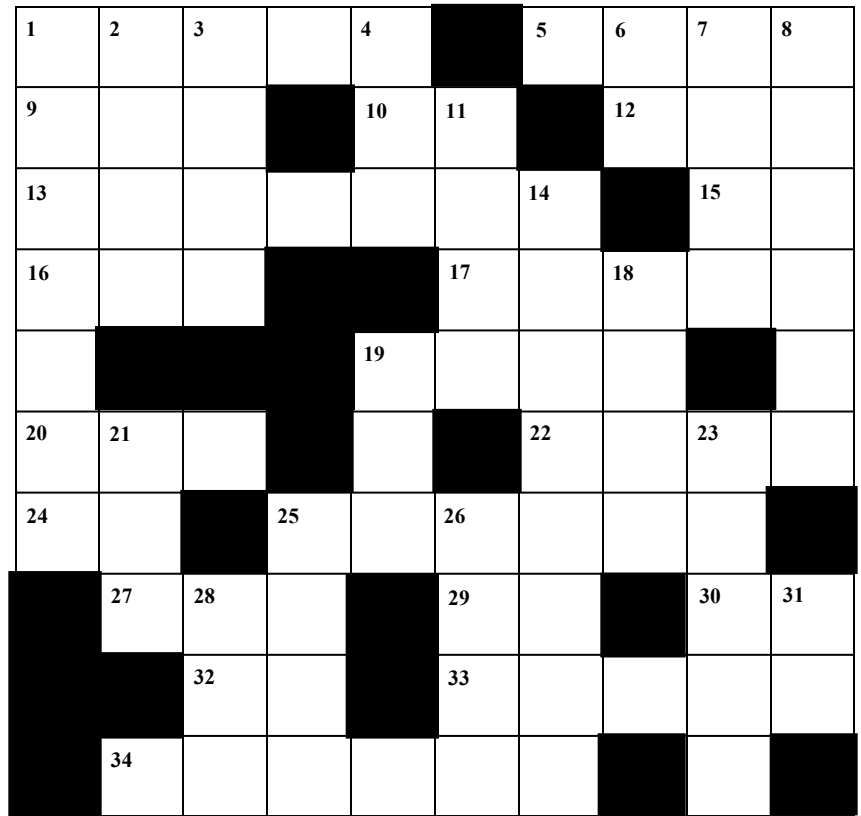


**Publisher/Editor Jim Richards ran out of time this month to create the usual list of available jobs, grants, auditions, etc.**



## Across

1. Classic sitcom starring 14-Down  
(with 1-Down)
5. A common seizure symptom
9. String instrument, familiarly
10. Online rules, initially
12. "Limit one \_\_\_ customer"
13. 1987 film spoofing a classic TV show  
starring 14-Down
15. Confucian concept of integrity
16. Hoover, for one
17. Famous function at the Friars Club
19. Best Actor role for 14-Down
20. Flow partner?
22. Another name for sub or hoagie
24. Madrid affirmative
25. Romantic 1984 film starring 14-Down
27. Card game or an alcoholic beverage  
that might be served at a card game
29. Hep, hip or cool
30. Dude's welcome
32. Comical college letters?
33. Belonging to character actor Tamiroff
34. Beloved Pittsburgher portrayed by  
14-Down



## Down

1. See 1-Across
2. Gumbo ingredient
3. Fabric line
4. 60 secs
6. Oakland neighborhood school, initially
7. Commies
8. Schoolyard retort
11. Lima's land
14. Beloved, award-winning actor
18. Mimics
19. Opening
21. Fun 1988 fantasy film starring  
14-Down
23. No reason partner?
25. Warmly close
26. Truth avoider
28. Wall Street initials
31. Computing initials

### Last Month's Solution

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