

pittsburgh applause!

arts & entertainment newsletter

Dollar Bank Forecloses On Wilson Center

Late on May 29, Mark Belko of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported that **Dollar Bank** has set a foreclosure date on the struggling **August Wilson Center for African-American Culture**.

Opened in 2009, the August Wilson Center is museum, education and performance institution to celebrate African-Americans in



August Wilson
Center for
African American
Culture

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 bank more than \$7 million.

Dollar Bank filed to foreclose on June 30 unless the court-appointed conservator finalizes a deal with a group of New York investors called **980 Liberty Partners** who want to build a hotel above the center. [See *Pittsburgh Applause*, May 2014, at <http://www.james-richards.com/pittsburghapplausemay2014.pdf> - Ed.].

The bank insists that “it was left no other choice” because of deed covenants involving the city’s Urban Redevelopment Authority limits how the building can be used. Belko’s full article, detailing these legal complexities, can be read at <http://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2014/05/29/Bank-wants-to-foreclose-on-August-Wilson-Center-if-hotel-deal-isn-t-done-by-June-30/stories/201405290266>



Inside This Issue

Comcast gets ready for Time Warner buy.	Page 2
Steeltown Film Factory names a fun winner.	Page 2
WIFM hosts Successful convention.	Page 4
Three schools dominate this year’s Kellys.	Page 4
Phipps’ wins prestigious eco award.	Page 6

Pittsburgh A&E Group
643 Liberty Avenue #401
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Ph (412) 325-7070
Fx (412) 325-7069

\$1 Million For Kelly-Strayhorn

More than \$1 million is being awarded to the **Kelly-Strayhorn Theater**, reports the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*’s Marylynn Pitz.



Originally opened in 1914 as a silent movie house called the Regent Theatre, the Kelly-Strayhorn reopened in 2003 as a neighborhood performing arts facility. The theater is named in honor of two of Pittsburgh’s favorite sons: dancer/actor/filmmaker Gene Kelly (1912-1996) and composer/musician Billy Strayhorn (1915-1967).

“It’s a great vote of confidence,” the Kelly-Strayhorn’s Janera Solomon told Mark Kanny of the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. “It’s something that’s really important for a community-based organization to get the kind of cultural capital that comes with being supported in this major way . . . It signals to our community that we’re doing something important, and that actually helps us do our work better.”

The grant, provided by the **Heinz Endowments**, will be used for audience development, establishing fellowships and other programs.

Comcast Preps For Merger

As regulators weigh in on the proposed buyout of **Time Warner Cable** by **Comcast**, the latter is already planning for the combination by hiring a new exec.



Comcast operates Pittsburgh's cable television franchise and owns entertainment company NBC-Universal. Time Warner Cable was formed in 1989 as part of the merger that created media conglomerate Time Warner Inc.

The division was spun off into its own company in 2009.

In preparation for the acquisition, Comcast plans to create a new company called SpinCo that will operate cable systems in seven states mostly around the Great Lakes. Michael S. Willner, a 40-year industry veteran, has agreed to be SpinCo's first president.

"I am excited to assemble and lead a new team of executives who will be exclusively focused on creating a great company with terrific products and excellent customer service," said Willner in a press release.

MOM Wins Telly Awards

Four prestigious Telly Awards have been given to **Mind Over Media**.

Established in 1978, the **Telly Award Organization** recognizes the best in local, regional and cable television commercials and programs. Mind Over Media is a local marketing strategy firm that also operates a video production division.



In the Institutional Image category, Mind Over Media's work for the University of Iowa on "The Hawkeye Way" commercial

won Silver and the University of Scranton commercial, "Expect More", won Bronze. For the Sports category, the company's work for Rutgers University won both Silver and Bronze for two television programs, "R Football" and "15 Days of Spring" respectively.

"The Telly Awards has a mission to honor the very best in film and video," explains Linda Day, Executive Director of the Telly Awards, in a press release. "Mind Over Media's accomplishment illustrates their creativity, skill and dedication to their craft and serves as a testament to great film and video production."



Steeltown Names Film Winner

This year's winner of **Steeltown Entertainment Project's** Film Factory is "Franksgiving" written by local visual artist Stephen Knezovich.



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. The Film Factory program awards funds to area screenwriters to shoot their short film script.

Steeltown's Tim Colbert described the script to Patricia Sabatini of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*: "It's Thanksgiving and bowler Frank Oitchovic has two things on this mind, throwing strikes and feeding half the neighborhood." Mr. Colbert added that "the crowd loved it. There were a lot of laughs in the house."

For more information, visit <http://www.steeltown.org/film-factory>

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

WIFM Cheers Convention

In an email sent out on May 30, the local chapter of **Women in Film & Media** (WIFM) announced that their national convention in Pittsburgh was a huge success.



Also known as Women in Film & Television International (WIFTI), this global organization is dedicated to advancing professional development and achievement for women working in all areas of screen-based media. WIFM also welcomes male members.

“Nearly 200 people attended the three day summit,” the email

crowds, “which included the Opal Awards where Dawn Keezer from the Pittsburgh Film Office, Deb Acklin from WQED and Eleanor Schano, local television pioneer were given awards. [Filmmaker] Catherine Hardwicke was given a Woman of Impact Award by WIFTI Board Chair Kimberly Skyrme for her trailblazing work in the industry.”

The casting director for the popular online series “House of Cards” was also at the convention meeting with local talent for the upcoming season.

WIFM has posted images and related information at <http://www.wifmpit.org>

Kelly Awards

Some of the finest in teen talent were given their due at the CLO’s 24th annual Gene Kelly Awards at the Benedum Center on May 24.

Established in 1946, the **Pittsburgh Civic Light Orchestra** (CLO) specializes in producing classic stage musicals. Named in honor of Pittsburgh native actor/dancer/director Gene Kelly (1912-1996), the awards recognize the best in local high school theater.

Three high schools --- West Allegheny, Hampton and Pittsburgh Obama 6-12 --- were the big winners. *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*’s Marylynne Pitz has detailed information online at <http://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2014/05/24/Teen-talent-hailed-with-Gene-Kelly-Awards/stories/201405240158>

Free Calendar Listing for Downtown Events

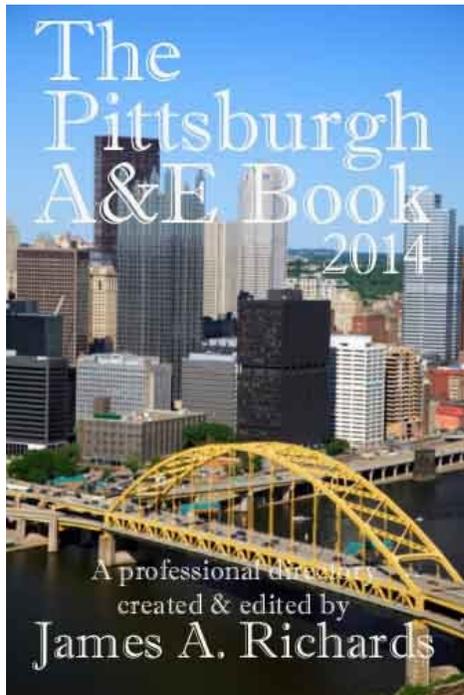
Make patron experiences easier with Parking, Dining and Events all in one place



Submit your event at:

www.DowntownPittsburgh.com/events/suggest

The Pittsburgh A&E Book



**Pittsburgh's
ONLY arts and entertainment
professional directory is back!**

Find resources for -

- **Shooting a film or TV show**
- **Recording a CD or booking a band**
- **Casting a play**
- **Art supplies**

and so much more!

www.pittsburghaebook.com



***Also available for
your ereader!***

“Southpaw” To Start

Extras casting has begun for the film “Southpaw,” which will start shooting in the area sometime this month.

Jake Gyllenhaal and Rachel McAdams star in the drama about a boxer whose world collapses after a tragic event,

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette’s Barbara Vancheri reports that the state’s tax credits were a big lure. She also quotes a studio executive that “the production team loves the look of the city and thinks it’s an all-around great place to film a movie.”

Limited information about the film is available on the Internet Movie Database at http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1798684/?ref=fn_tt_1

Remember



Nonprofit Arts
Groups
+
Commercial
Entertainment
Companies
=
One Industry!

Phipps Wins Eco Award

Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens has been given a Sustainability Excellence Award by the **American Alliance of Museums**.

Located inside Schenley Park, the gardens were established in 1893 by local businessman Henry Phipps (1839-1930) as a gift to the people of Pittsburgh. Phipps operates elaborate gardens within thirteen room as well as the surrounding grounds. Founded in 1906, the American Alliance of Museums promotes good standards and practices in museums across the United States.

The award recognizes Phipps’ successes being an environmentally friendly institution.

“Museums are in a unique position to create change, a role that we take to heart at Phipps in everything we do --- from our operations and guest services to the sustainable ways we build and manage our gardens,” says Rich-

ard V. Piacentini, executive director of Phipps in a press release. “With our mission to promote the well-being of people and the planet, Let’s Move Pittsburgh and Homegrown initiatives for families, and green, healthy living education programs, we are deeply committed to bettering our community and the world. We are very honored to be recognized for these efforts by” the alliance.

This is the award’s inaugural year.



Images

Celebrate Pittsburgh’s arts & entertainment history and community.



This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Andy Warhol Museum.
Source: Wikipedia.

To have an image considered contact Jim Richards at jim@james-richards.com

Showtime Programs To Air On HBO

A deal has been announced that not only crosses national boundaries, but business ones between **CBS Corporation** and **Time-Warner's** Home Box Office (HBO) for their HBO Nordic network.



In Pittsburgh, CBS Corporation owns two television and three radio stations. HBO Nordic provides programming to subscribers in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland.

CBS's Showtime --- an HBO competitor in the US --- will provide first-run episodes of the series "Penny Dreadful," "Ray Donovan" and "The Affair." The package also includes past episodes of shows like "Dexter" and "Nurse Jackie."

"We're excited that HBO audiences across the Nordics now have the opportunity to see the growing portfolio of acclaimed Showtime programming," CBS' Armando Nuñez said in a press release. "This deal with HBO Nordic highlights the increasing appeal and distribution of Show-

time content in the international marketplace."

New episodes of "Penny Dreadful" and other shows will air 24 hours after being shown in the United States.

Call For Artists

For the second year in a row, **Steel City Media's Pittsburgh City Paper** is calling for artists for their public art project.



STEEL CITY MEDIA

Steel City Media is a local, family-owned company that publishes the alternative weekly newspaper *City Paper* and operates two radio stations.

The project is called ArtBox, during which artists turn ten ordinary *City Paper* honor boxes into original works of art.

City Paper's editors will select ten artists from all entries to decorate a box. Details are available online at <http://posting.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/2014ArtboxProject/Page>

Children's Museum Gets Maker Grant

In early May at a conference in the nation's capital, the **Institute of Museum & Library Services** (IMLS) announced the launch of an initiative with the **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** to build the capacity of libraries and museums to develop effective maker-spaces and programs.

Founded in 1983, the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh (CMP) provides a variety of fun educational programs for pre-school and school age children. The IMLS is an independent government agency established in 1996 that seeks to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. They provide leadership through research, policy development and grant making.

A makerspace is a hands-on, mentor-led program that encourages

creativity and learning among kids. The CMP is considered one of the premier institutions offering maker programs. The IMLS is providing the museum over \$400,000 to develop and distribute a suite of tools to museums and libraries in conjunction with other organizations.

IMLS Director Susan H. Hildreth explains in a press release, "It is exciting to know that this IMLS investment will enable museums and libraries to bring their unique spaces, expertise, and collections to the makers movement. This grant positions libraries and museums as innovation hubs and reinforces their roles as anchor learning institutions in their communities."

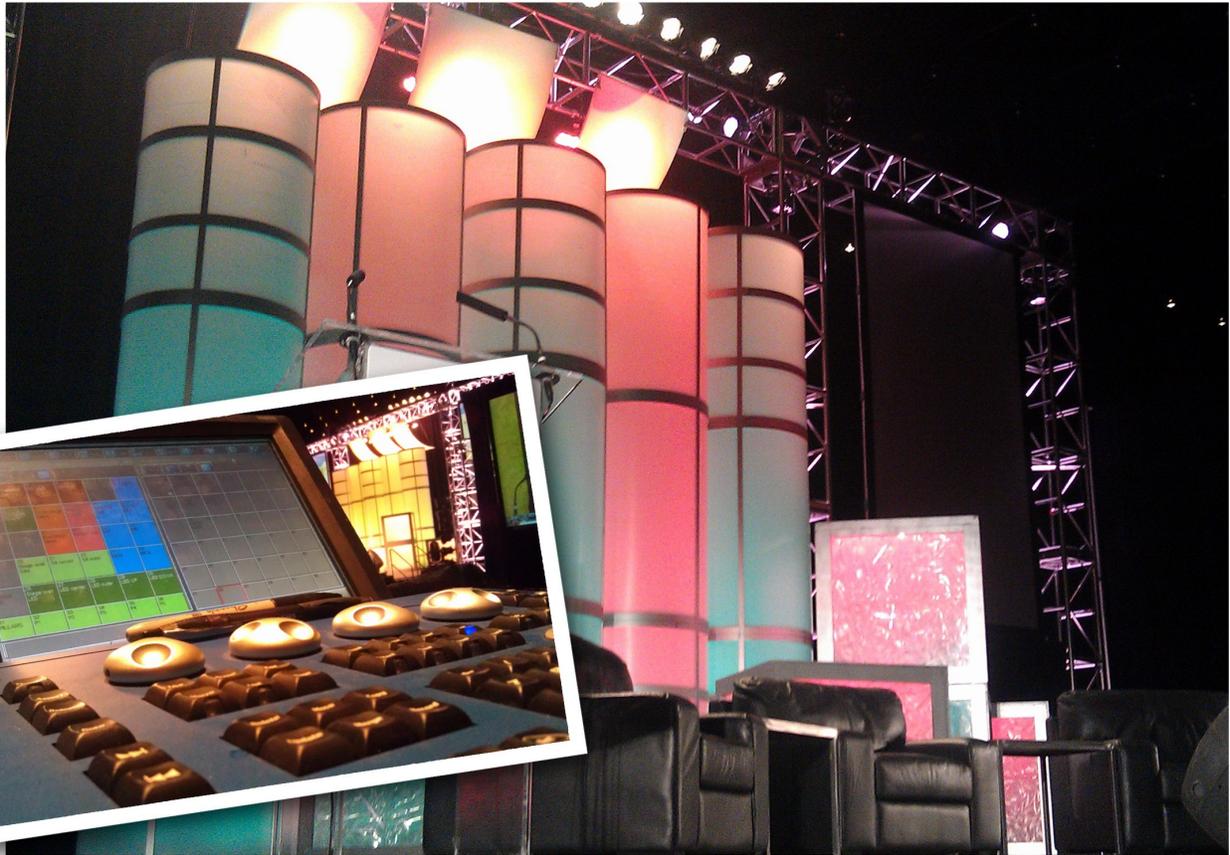
Libraries and museums are encouraged to follow the effort's progress at learningandmaking.org

The click here for
Pittsburgh
A&E Book



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)



I can help with your purchase or refinance!
I work seven days a week for my clients!

FEDERATED MORTGAGE CORP.

JOHN MAGGIO

Mortgage Consultant

1301 Grandview Avenue
Suite 100
Pittsburgh, PA 15211
www.fedmc.com

Phone: 412-390-3530 x 116
Cell: 412-523-4745
Jmaggio@fedmc.com
PA License # 26784

Licensed by the PA Department of Banking LICENSE #21198

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

James A. Richards
Pittsburgh A&E Group
643 Liberty Avenue #401
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
www.james-richards.com

Loh Leaves

Lawrence Loh is leaving the Pittsburgh Symphony, reports Mark Kanny of the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.

Dating to 1895, the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** is considered one of the world's premier symphonies and has performed globally. Loh is currently the resident conductor.

Loh is to become music director of **Symphoria**, an upstate New York symphony comprised of members of the defunct **Syracuse Symphony Orchestra** (1961-2011) which went bankrupt. He begins his new position with the 2015-16 season.

Playhouse Costumer Retires

Don DiFonso, the long-time costume designer at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, is resigning, reports the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's* Alice T. Carter.

The Pittsburgh Playhouse is a performance arts center located in the city's Oakland neighborhood and owned by **Point Park University**.

"I always said I would [continue] as long as it was fun," the 66-year-old tells Carter. "It became work

... It's been fun, but I'm tired of being on deadline." This month production of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" will be his 150th and last production.

DiFonso and his associates reflect on a rich career in Carter's article, which can be read in full at <http://triblive.com/aande/theaterarts/6048031-74/playhouse-difonso-production>



What a great place for your web site!

**RedOak
Hosting.com**

1-877-777-6961

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

Exec Issues & Changes In France & Elsewhere

A crisis has erupted at one of Europe's most famous arts schools, reports Jean-Christophe Castelain and Victoria Stapley-Brown on *The Art Newspaper.com*.

Founded in 1648 by painter Charles Le Brun (1619-1690), the **École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts** is France's most prestigious art school. The alumni include painter Claude Monet (1840-1926), architect Lucien Weissenburger (1860-1929) and sculptor Paul Ahyi (1930-2010).

The seed was the school's decision to close 14 studios for three days last October to host an event honoring fashion designer Ralph Lauren, who is a major donor. The decision led to student protests. It is among the issues surrounding director Nicolas Bourriaud whose stormy tenure reached a peak at a May 20 meeting where Bourriaud said "he is unable to continue working at the school unless Frédéric Jousset, the chairman of the school's board, Gaïta Leboissetier, the director of studies, and Thierry Jopeck, the deputy director, leave their positions."

A few days after the meeting, 14 of the school's professors sent a formal letter to the Culture Minister in which they described Bourriaud's demand "absurd and counter-productive."

It remains to be seen how the situation will be resolved.

Changes At Sony

Nicole Seligman has been named by the **Sony Corporation** to head the company's American entertainment business.

The Hollywood Reporter's Patrick Brzeski reports that this is a newly created position that "follows some leadership changes at Sony's Tokyo headquarters, as the conglomerate struggles to return to profitability."

Academy Gets New Prez

Maury McIntyre has been named president and chief operating officer (COO) of the **Academy of Television Arts & Sciences**.

Founded in 1946, the Academy is devoted to the fostering creative leadership to television and telecommunications. The organization is best known for the annual Emmy Awards. The post has been vacant since president Lucy Hood (1958 - 2014) lost her battle with cancer in April.

"As President and COO, McIntyre will oversee Academy staff along with the day-to-day activities of the organization," a press release explains. "Reporting to Television Academy Chairman Bruce Rosenblum and Foundation Chairman Jerry Petry, he will work closely with each of them and their respective boards as they strategize continued Academy growth and industry leadership, member services and expanded philanthropic outreach."

Fox's Reilly Out

After seven years on the job, Kevin Reilly is leaving as chairman of **News Corporation's** Fox Entertainment, which includes the Fox Television Network.

The last two seasons have been particularly tough for Fox TV. Wayne Friedman of *The-*

Wrap.com reports that the network's ratings have essentially remained the same for the last two seasons.

"Reilly presided over a major run for Fox --- benefitting greatly from 'American Idol'--- where the network was No. 1 in the key 18-49 viewer demographic for eight straight seasons," Friedman writes. But the shows he stewarded, including "Glee," are either off the air or in ratings decline.

The Hollywood Reporter has an amusing look at Reilly's "questionable choices" online at <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/gallery/kevin-reillys-11-questionable-choices-707942>

Hoping To Read Again

Actor LeVar Burton is working to revive his acclaimed children's book series, "Reading Rainbow."

"Reading Rainbow" ran on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) from 1983 to 2006, winning 26 Emmy Awards and one Peabody Award.

Andrea Seikaly of *Variety* reports that Burton is using the popular crowd funding web site **Kickstarter** to raise at least \$1 million to re-launch the show as an online series. The campaign can be seen at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/readingrainbow/bring-reading-rainbow-back-for-every-child-everywh>

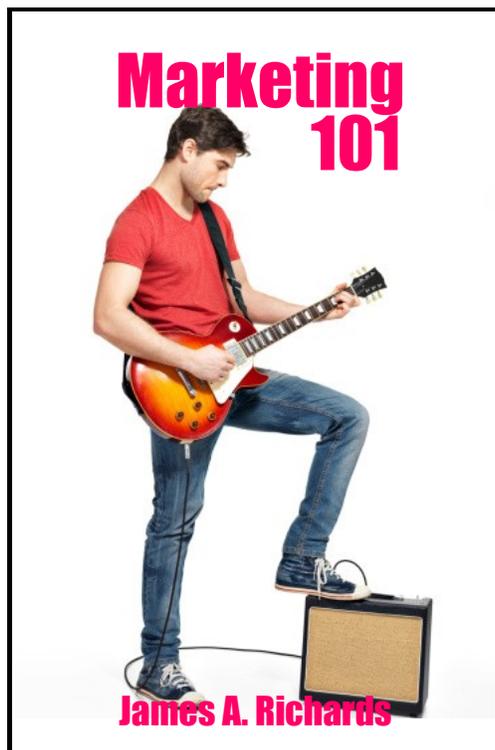
Frick Honors Teacher

At a ceremony held on May 22, local public school teacher Dr. Katy Carroll was honored for her achievements as an educator in a program created by the **Frick Art & Historical Center** and the **Roy A. Hunt Foundation**.

The Frick is an urban campus of museums and historic buildings centered on the mansion of Pittsburgh industrialist Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919). The Roy A. Hunt Foundation was established in 1966 through a bequest by Pittsburgh businessman Roy Arthur Hunt (1881-1966) that annually grants almost \$3 million in the United States to support organizations that strive to improve the quality of life.

In 1999, the two organizations collaborated to create the Roy A. Hunt Foundation Award for Commitment to Education in the Arts & Humanities to recognize teachers who have demonstrated a commitment to arts education, especially such programs at the Frick.

Dr. Carroll has been public school teacher for nearly a quarter century and is actively involved in the Frick's education initiatives.



amazon.com®

SAG-AFTRA Scholarships

Applications are being accepted by the local **SAG-AFTRA** chapter for their scholarship program.



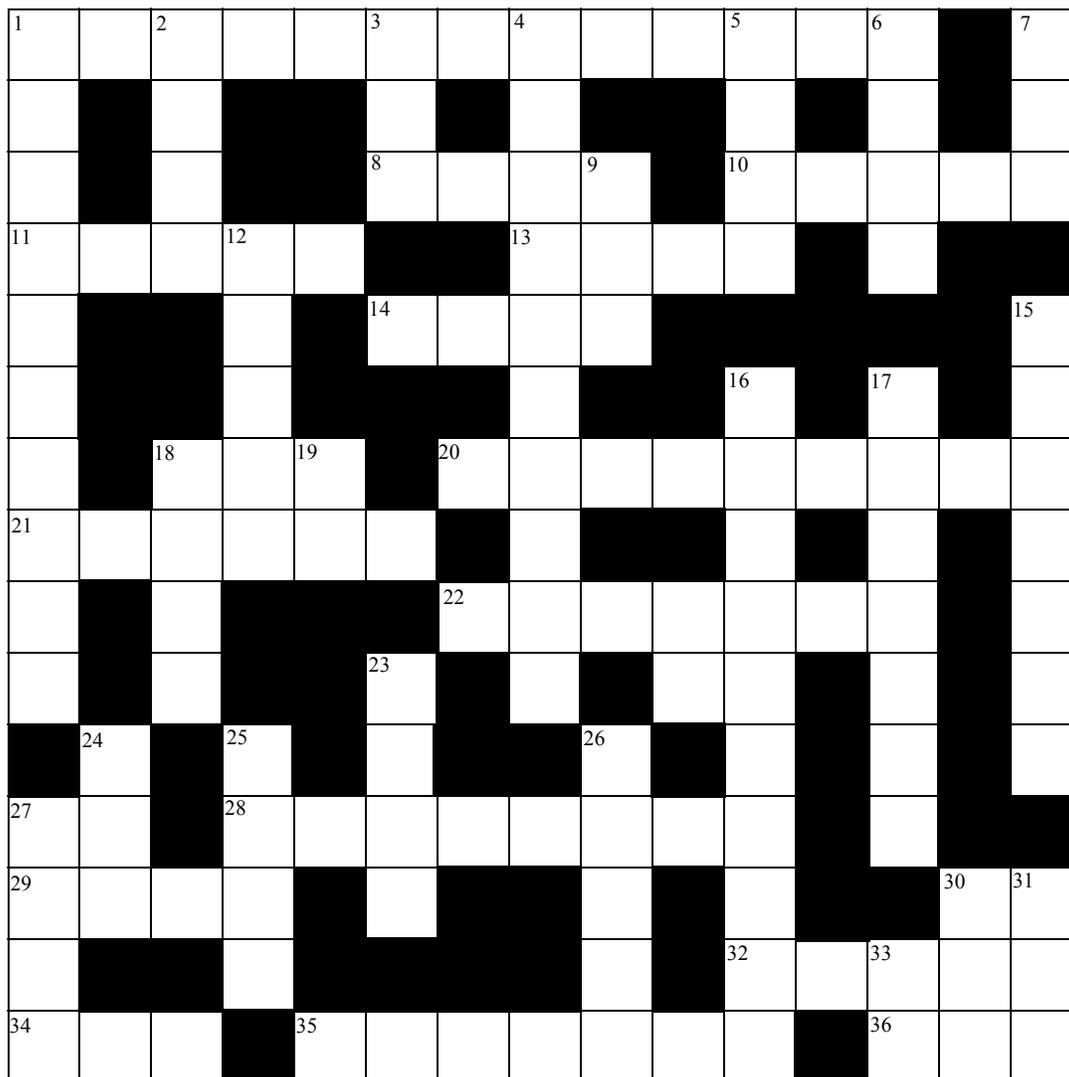
Formed in 2012 through the merger of the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Radio Artists, SAG-AFTRA is a union representing over 160,000 film and television principal and background performers, journalists and radio personalities worldwide. The union maintains a full-time office in downtown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

Scholarships are offered by the Scholarship Committee to SAG-AFTRA members or their dependent children for academic study in any field --- including broadcast, journalism and labor relations --- or for professional training in the arts. For more information, visit <http://www.sagaftra.org/ohio-pittsburgh-local/scholarships>



THE APPLAUSE PUZZLE

“Embracing June”



ACROSS

1. Where you can buy paintings during 2 Down
8. He won an Oscar playing 23 Down
10. Barely wet
11. Nice
13. Eat
14. Ms. Angelou, to fans & friends
18. Type of plane
20. She's headlining Pride in the Street
21. (with 18 Down) Founding member of Wilco playing during 2 Down
22. Classic soap: “___ World”
27. Bible part before NT
28. Grammy winner Lucinda performing during 2 Down
29. Ms. Moore, to pals
30. New type of LP
32. Shawn had a famous movie dinner with him
34. Funding source (abbr)
35. Avenue for Pittsburgh Pride
36. Historical period

DOWN

1. Oscar winning 1931 film
2. Big ten-day event, briefly
3. All smartphones have at least one
4. Artist with installation during 2 Down
5. Famous newsmagazine
6. This often happens during 2 Down
7. A drill needs one
9. Ms. Peebles, to friends
12. Less than four
15. Her case made matrimonial history
16. It falls on June 15
17. Terrance McNally's 1975 play
18. See 21 Across
19. Steelers' goal (abbr)
23. LGBT rights hero
24. Consumed
25. Type of sibling
26. Bruce Wayne lives in one
27. Japanese winter dish
30. Mistake
31. Soup veggie
32. President after HS and before JK

Last Month's Solution

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

Maya Angelou (1928-2014)

Linked



Join the *Pittsburgh Applause* group on
www.linkedin.com.

As a member of this group, you'll be
better able to connect with your A&E
peers in Pittsburgh!

Membership is free, but you must have
a LinkedIn profile to participate.



www.james-richards.com

www.pittsburghaebook.com

pittsburgh
applause!
arts & entertainment newsletter

Keep the Applause Coming

Everyone in our line of work loves receiving applause, but to keep *Pittsburgh Applause* coming your way, its important to support the newsletter through ad buys and monetary gifts to Jim Richards.

Full-page (8" wide x 10" high): \$100

Half-page (8" wide x 5" high): \$75

All ads need to be built-to-size and provided in a low-res JPG file format. All ads must be pre-paid with the check made payable to the Pittsburgh A&E Group.

For more information, contact Jim at jim@james-richards.com



www.james-richards.com

www.pittsburghaebook.com