

Congress Surprises NEA With Budget Boost

After months of worries that there will be cuts, the \$1.3 trillion budget signed into law on March 23 actually adds funds to the **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA).

The law funds the federal government through September 30. Both the NEA and the **National Endowment for the Humanities** (NEH) each receive a \$3 million boost while the **Corporation for Public Broadcasting** sees its budget remain stable.



Americans for the Arts (AFA) and the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) were among the organizations lobbying to save arts funding. Originally, the Trump Administration proposed eliminating all funding.

"This increase could not have happened without the unified, tireless, persistent work of the arts community and grassroots advocates nationwide," says AFA's Robert L. Lynch in a press release. "From hundreds of thousands of calls and emails from every state and Congressional district, to op-eds and ads placed in local newspapers across the country, to office visits on Capitol Hill, strong activism was ever present in making a case for increased funds."

GPAC's delegation included Len Ayers of **Carnegie Mellon University** and Kaitlyn Zurcher of the **Westmoreland Museum of American Art**.

Thomas Phippen reports on TheDailyCaller.com that the law "sets priorities for the NEA, specifying that the endowment will prioritize arts grants to underserved populations, 'including urban minorities, who have historically been outside the purview of arts and humanities programs' due to high poverty or geographic isolation."

However, the White House still supports defunding. Lynch urges AFA members and supporters to continue the "unified effort to ensure that the latest termination proposal from the Trump Administration for [fiscal year 2019] is again defeated this coming year."

News Scandal Hits Sinclair Broadcasting

Executives at the **Sinclair Broadcast Group** (SBG) --- which owns two Pittsburgh television stations --- is demanding that its news anchors read anti-media messages on the air, reports Cable News Network's Brian Stelter.



Sinclair's leading Pittsburgh station has no news operation and instead airs a local newscast produced by **Cox Enterprises'** WPXI. The company is controlled by the family of Julian Sinclair Smith (1921-1993), which has faced repeated criticism for allegedly using their stations to promote questionable right-wing ideas. These

include "must run" stories and sensational "Terrorism Alert Desk" segments.

Much of this history can be read at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinclair_Broadcast_Group

The statement in question effectively endorses President Trump's claims of "fake news." Stelter explains that anchors are given specific instructions (See <http://money.cnn.com/2018/03/07/media/sinclair-broadcasting-promos-media-bashing/index.html>).

Understandably, local anchors are resisting the directive and media observers are raising red flags.

"If Sinclair senior executives have problems with current national TV journalism," writes MediaPost's Wayne Friedman, "here's a suggestion: Do better journalism on your local TV stations . . . But putting one's own on-air anchors/journalists in uncomfortable positions -- reading copy that attacks TV news competitors, *without any proof* -- takes on an Orwellian feel."

Continues on page 4

Carnegie Library Theft

More than 300 valuable items have been stolen from the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh**, reports Marylynne Pitz in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

The thefts actually occurred a year ago from the library's rare books room, which has been closed ever since. Officials are hoping that greater publicity will open up some leads.

Missing are books, atlases, maps and other items that are difficult or impossible to replace. Local rare book dealer Michael Vinson tells Pitz that "the value would easily be \$5 million."

The newspaper has posted a list of stolen material online at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/books/2018/03/19/Carnegie-Library-rare-atlases-maps-books-Japanese-prints-stolen-Oliver-Room/stories/201803190007>



iHeart Media Bankruptcy

Once known as Clear Channel Communications, the giant radio station owner **iHeart Media** has filed under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. This allows iHeart to continue functioning while being protected from creditors.

iHeart owns six radio stations in Pittsburgh.

The company hopes to restructure the massive \$20 billion in debt that occurred primarily from a 2008 leveraged buyout. "The bankruptcy is the culmination of iHeart Media's yearslong dance with its creditors," writes Ben Sisario in the *New York Times*.

Read his full article at <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/15/business/media/iheartmedia-bankruptcy.html>

The Pittsburgh A&E Book

A new edition is currently in development!

Steel City Bankruptcy

The former owner of *Pittsburgh City Paper* has filed for bankruptcy protection.

The firm has filed under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. This allows **Steel City** to continue functioning while being protected from creditors.

"The company remains very profitable and expects to be able to generate sufficient cash from operations to meet the expenses of running our business during the Chapter 11 proceedings," said Michael Frischling, Steel City's vice president in a press release. "Despite having paid down our senior lender by more than \$20 million, or more than 35%, since 2014, softness in our markets has resulted in non-compliance with certain technical covenants. We believe that Chapter 11 is the appropriate venue to seek to resolve these issues. We look forward to emerging from Chapter 11 as an independently owned strong player in our markets and with a reset capital structure in place for the long term."

Steel City continues to operate two Pittsburgh radio stations along with media outlets in Kansas City. The company sold *City Paper* in 2016 to **Eagle Media**, the publisher of rural Butler County's only daily newspaper.

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
Animation
Design
Motion Graphics
Website/Interactive
Mobile
Social Media

Sound Mixing
Color Grading
Conforming
Compression
Archiving
Streaming
Duplication

All Industries Served

Ad Agencies
Broadcast
Corporate
Small Business
Non-Profit
Entrepreneurs
Music

Motion Pictures
Government
Higher Ed
Manufacturing
Medical
Entertainment
Museums

the **Videohouse**



See your vision.

412.921.7577
www.thevideohouse.com

Channel Pittsburgh To Start Streaming

After years of effort, Channel Pittsburgh will start regular streaming on April 9 at 7:00 a.m.



Channel Pittsburgh is a project of author and arts entrepreneur James A. Richards, the publisher of *Pittsburgh Applause*. The goal of the station is to provide media students and media artists opportunities in a semi-professional environment.

It is not the first time Richards ventured into online media: in 1999, he launched the original PGHevents web site which continued well into 2006. It was among the first events-only sites on the internet. PGHevents was resurrected in 2015.

Channel Pittsburgh will eventually mix locally produced shows with classic movies, television shows and even radio programs. Among the innovations is the "custom made" program: original series created from public domain material. For example, the series "On the Job" incorporates episodes of three sitcoms from the 1950s.

Signature series include the history program "Moments in Time" (Wednesdays, 9:00 p.m.) which uses vintage media to tell the story of an event, person or innovation without a narrator.

Richards is hoping to spin Channel Pittsburgh off into its own non-profit organization, or partner it with a local college.

The station is essentially using YouTube (a unit of **Google**) as its content delivery network (CDN) and has received a discount from the media platform **Strimm**. It will stream 19 hours per day at www.channelpittsburgh.org.

Price Moves

One of Pittsburgh's leading music stars, Billy Price, is leaving Pittsburgh.

The news was made public in a March 15 article written by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Scott Mervis.

Although a New Jersey native, Price has been a Pittsburgh fixture since the 1970s. A combination of personal issues as well as business. "My partner Mary and I have been talking about moving to Baltimore for a while," he tells Mervis. "She has a daughter in school there and a sister in Alexandria [Virginia], and she is a painter and wants to be closer" to the markets in and near New York City.

Price intends to return often to Pittsburgh for concerts.

Sinclair News Scandal

Continued from page 1

At press time, the company had not posted a response to the critics on its web site.

In the meantime, Sinclair is waiting for regulatory approval for its planned purchase of **Tribune Media**. Adding a new wrinkle in this effort is the company's fourth version of the merger plan has been filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The Department of Justice (DOJ) is also reviewing the deal.

"Sinclair has said it will spin off Tribune stations in New York and Chicago, leaving it with no ownership in the top two markets, as a way to address concerns about the

size and power of the combined company," writes John Eggerton in *Broadcasting & Cable*. "But it has also struck services agreements with the new potential owners to help run both stations, which some deal critics see as a way for Sinclair to eat their cake and have it too."



CBS Preps To Re-Wed Viacom

A proposal is nearly ready to re-merge **CBS Corporation** with its former partner **Viacom**, reports Michael Farrell in *Broadcasting & Cable*.

CBS Corporation owns television and radio stations in Pittsburgh, notably KDKA. CBS and Viacom were one company until 2005. Both firms are controlled by media mogul Sumner Redstone, whose **National Amusements** own large stakes in both.

"Analysts have expected that CBS chairman and CEO Les Moonves

would run the combined company," explains Farrell. "But there are questions still about who would run other aspects of the business, and what role [Viacom CEO Bob Bakish] would play."

Meanwhile, the news divisions of CBS Corporation and the **British Broadcasting Corporation** (BBC) plan to open a joint bureau in South Africa, reports Brian Steinberg in *Variety*.

This cost-saving move involves sharing resources such as video and editorial content without sacrificing quality. Steinberg quotes an internal memo as saying "the BBC News relationship allowed us to deliver the first report from

Barbuda after Hurricane Irma and other key areas during hurricane season in North America. Throughout Europe, we have bolstered coverage of terrorist attacks, jointly covering the Barcelona and London attacks. During the fall of Raqqa our teams worked very closely as they have done throughout the coverage of the Syrian civil war. And, as the Royal Wedding approaches, we expect our BBC News partnership will continue to be a significant resource to us,"

Museum & Migrants

With immigration and border walls still hot in the news, the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** is dedicated April to the subject of migration.



The program is called "Becoming Migrant . . . What Moves You" and is presented in partnership with the **City of Asylum/Pittsburgh**. The multi-disciplinary series explores the topic of migration through the work of innovators across the arts and sciences.

"All of us are marked by our own border passages and the passages of others," explains the Carnegie's Edith Doron, in a press release. "It's exciting, then, to be driving meaningful discussions about migration --- of both the natural and unnatural kind . . . [the] goal is to reach across boundaries and, ultimately, inspire people to join us in asking questions and thinking critically."

The program will run April 5 to 27/ The schedule is available at <https://mailchi.mp/carnegiemuseums.org/becoming-migrant-event-series?e=UNIQID>

Faraway Hill

Order your copy of James Richards' sizzling trilogy of novels!

www.farawayhill.net





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)

ACA & Net Neutrality

The chairman of the House Energy & Commerce Committee, Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR), used the **American Cable Association's** annual meeting to call for Congress to settle the issue of net neutrality.



Based in Pittsburgh, the American Cable Association (ACA) represents cable systems in medium and small markets. The phrase "net neutrality" refers to making certain that all internet service providers (ISPs) to treat all data as the same rather than charge different rates for different uses.

The Trump Administration is reversing rules set in place by the Obama Administration, which changed rules put in place by the Bush Administration. "That's the tragedy of all this ping-ponging back and forth from administration to administration and court challenge to court challenge. We should legislate this space," he is quoted in an ACA press release. "We should give certainty in this space, because there's a lot of money available to invest if there is certainty."

Walden blames politics for the situation. Read the full press release at <http://www.americancable.org/rep-walden-at-aca-summit-we-need-to-legislate-net-neutrality/>

The Pittsburgh A&E Book

A new edition is currently in development!

Faraway Hill

Order your copy of James Richards' sizzling trilogy of novels!

www.farawayhill.net

SAG-AFTRA News

Veteran music industry executive Stefanie Taub has been named by **SAG-AFTRA** as the new CEO of the **Intellectual Property Rights Distribution Fund**.



The performers' union has hundreds of members in the Pittsburgh area and maintains a full-time office in Downtown Pittsburgh. The fund --- a shared initiative with the **American Federation of Musicians** (AFM) --- distributes more than \$45 million annually in royalties to non-featured musicians and vocalists.

"[Stephanie] brings the management experience and industry expertise to not only hit the ground running but also to take on the immense challenges brought on by the volatility in the music world," says Fund co-chair Duncan Crabtree-Ireland in a press release.

Taub assumes her new position on April 15.



Make Music Day 2018

Pittsburgh will be among the 800 cities around the world to participate in Make Music Day 2018.

The program is supported by the foundation arm of the **National Association of Music Merchants** (NAMM), which is best known for its music industry trade shows. The NAMM Foundation works to advance active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving and public service programs.

Make Music Day began in 1982 at the behest of France's Ministry of Culture which wanted to create a music holiday where anyone and everyone would be invited to

join and play music, or host performances. The non-profit organization **Make Music Alliance** was born out of the effort and produces the program with the support of the NAMM Foundation.

Each year's festival is held on the summer solstice, when Earth's axis tilts closest to the sun resulting in the longest day of the year. This year the solstice falls on June 21. For more information, visit <http://www.makemusicday.org/>

The Pittsburgh A&E Book

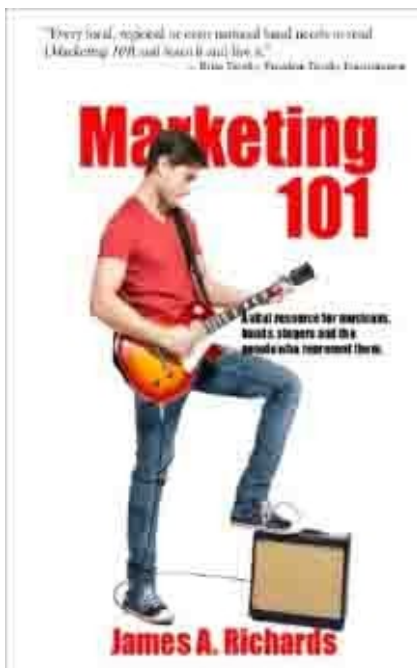
A new edition is currently in development!



Channel
Pittsburgh



TAKE YOUR MUSIC CAREER SERIOUSLY!



“[This is a] booklet that could teach a thing or two to musicians of any level.”

— Andy Mulkerin, *Pittsburgh City Paper*

[READ THE FULL REVIEW](#)

ORDER BY CLICKING YOUR PREFERRED STORE BELOW

amazon
BARNES & NOBLE

KS Grants

A pair of grants totaling \$200,000 have been awarded to the **Kelly Strayhorn Theater**, reports the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Sharon Eberson.

The biggest is a \$150,000 programming grant from the **Pittsburgh Foundation**. The remainder is a capital improvement grant from the Allegheny Regional Asset District.

Elly Awards

Local philanthropist Audrey Hillman Fisher is among the honorees at this year's Elly Awards.

The Elly Awards are presented annually by the **Steeltown Entertainment Project** to

honor those who contribute to the region's entertainment industry. It is named in honor of co-founder Ellen Weiss-Kander (1961-2012).

Other honorees include actor/director James Widdoes and television producer Kim Moses.

The awards will be presented April 12 at the Twentieth Century Club. Information and how to order tickets is available at <https://ellyawards.steeltown.org/>



Poet Prize

Pittsburgh-based poet Rickey Laurentiis has received a \$50,000 grant, writes Marylynne Pitz in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

The prize is a program of the **Whiting Foundation**, a creation of New York investor and art collector Flora Ettlinger Whiting (1876-1971). The Whiting Awards have been presented since 1985 and are used to benefit ten emerging writers.

Learn more by clicking <http://www.post-gazette.com/a/books/2018/03/22/Rickey-Laurentiis-Whiting-Award-University-of-Pittsburgh-Press/stories/201803220133>

Terbolic Show Returns

Local magician, comedian and actor Lee Terbolic returns his popular "52 Close-Up" performance series to the Hotel Monaco.

"Using a pack of playing cards, your mind and Lee's ten fingers, you will witness a display of fantastic magic, mind-reading and sleight of hand at the closest level possible," a web posting describes the show.

The show's title refers to the number of cards in a standard deck. For more information, visit <http://www.52upclose.com/>

Images



Pittsburgh's beloved Fred Rogers has been honored with a United States Postal Service postage stamp.

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



**Volunteers Are Working
To Fix The Site!**

Stay Tuned!

Opportunities

A call for artist-educators has been issued by the **Mattress Factory** for their summer Tean Art Cooperative. Workshops are one to three hours long between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays during July and should focus on a specific idea, skill, project or technique. The deadline is May 25. Download the PDF by clicking https://www.mattress.org/sites/default/files/summerTAC2018_RFP.pdf

Submissions are being accepted by the **National Aviary** for their annual Wings & Wildlife Art Show, which will be staged in November. About 40 artists will be selected. The deadline is April 30. Click aviary.org/call-for-artists

A webinar by the **Pennsylvania Council on the Arts** (PCA) will be held on Wednesday, April 4, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. During this webinar PCA Program Director, Dana Payne, will share details about the Resident Artist Program (RAP), a new long-term residency program in development. Teaching artists, artists who have experience or are interested in working with underserved communities on long-term artistic projects as well as interested community members are welcome to participate and provide feedback on the RAP program. For registration information and/or additional details, please contact Dana Payne at danpayne@pa.gov

The **Writers Guild of America East's** popular "TV Pilots Resurrected" competition is back. The winners of one comedy and one drama (each a previously unproduced television pilot) will receive staged readings. The readings will be cast, directed and performed by experienced industry professionals and a Q&A with the writer(s) will follow each reading. The submission deadline is April 23 and details are available at <https://www.wgaeast.org/2018/03/call-for-submissions-tv-pilots-resurrected-2/>

South Side arts retailer **Fireborn Studios** is seeking a manager who can also assist in the creation of new works. Read the posting at <https://pittsburgh.craigslist.org/med/d/office-manager-and-studio/6548114493.html>

For local casting news, visit <https://setreel.com/>

Positions are open at the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's** branches in Downtown and East Liberty. Visit <https://www.carnegielibrary.org/careers-at-clp/current-opportunities/>

Auditions are being scheduled in April and June for viola and violin at the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**. More information is available at <https://www.pittsburghsymphony.org/psophome/web/about-landing/career-opportunities/auditions>

Submissions are still being accepted (through April 6) by **City Theater** for this June's "Their Own Voice" playwrights program and has posted on their web site for a part-time costumer. Details are available regarding both at <http://www.citytheatrecompany.org/inside-city/auditions-and-employment/>

Continued on Next Page

www.pittsburghapplause.com www.pittsburghaebook.com

Opportunities

A variety of event-related positions have been posted to the web site of the **Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh History Center** at <http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/about/work-with-us>

Part-time and seasonal positions at the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** have been posted to their web site at <https://carnegiemuseums.org/opportunities/search-careers/>

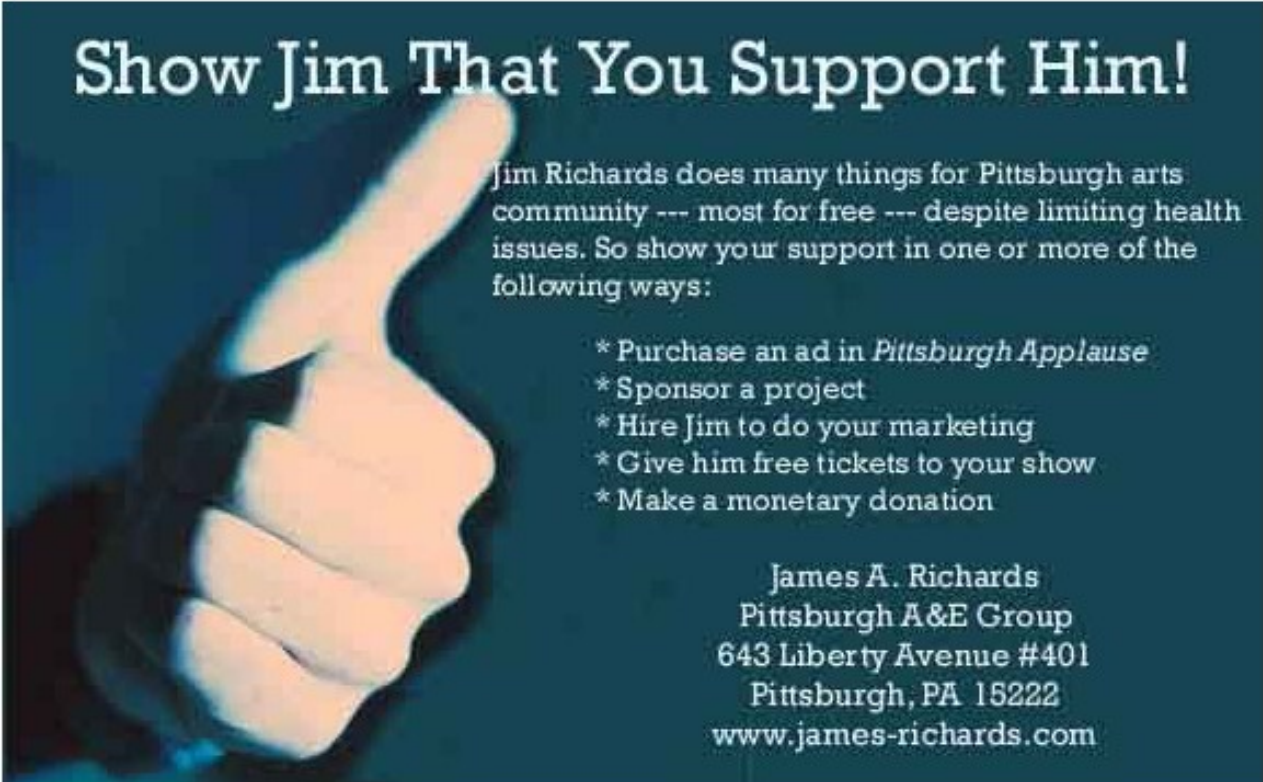
Local new media marketing agency **The Guider Group** is seeking a part-time writer with strong social media skills. See the posting at <https://pittsburgh.craigslist.org/wri/d/junior-digital-content/6541760061.html>

The **Kelly-Strayhorn Theater** has an opening for creative directory posted at <https://kelly-strayhorn.org/artist/employment/>

An information technology specialist is being sought by the Pittsburgh office of **Entercom Communications** (the former CBS-owned radio station group). The full list of qualifications and related matters can be read at <https://entercom.avature.net/careers/JobDetail/IT-Specialist/12736>

Available position posted on the **National Aviary's** web site include an event coordinator. Click <https://www.aviary.org/jobs>

WTAE, the **Hearst Corporation's** station in Pittsburgh, as positions open in its news and sales department. Click <https://hearst.referrals.selectminds.com/television/jobs/search/480390>

The advertisement has a dark blue background. On the left side, there is a large, stylized image of a hand giving a thumbs up gesture, with the thumb pointing upwards and the other fingers curled. The hand is light-skinned. To the right of the hand, the text is white. At the top, it says 'Show Jim That You Support Him!' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, in a smaller font, it says '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:'. Then there is a bulleted list of five ways to support him, each preceded by an asterisk. At the bottom right, his name and contact information are listed in a white, sans-serif font.

Show Jim That You Support Him!

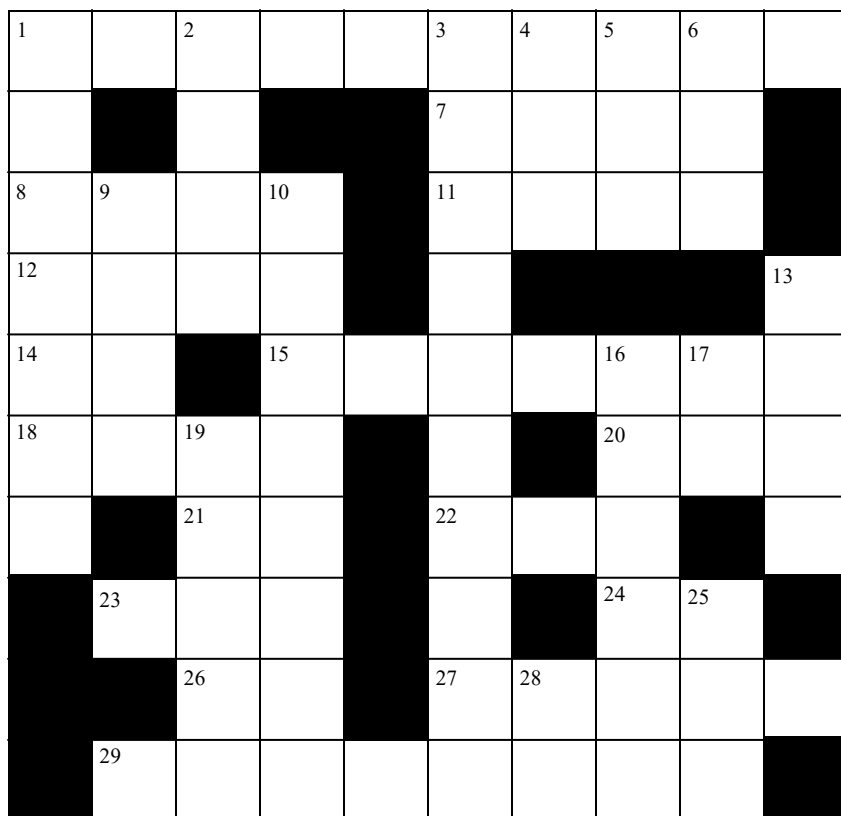
Jim Richards does many things for Pittsburgh arts community --- most for free --- despite limiting health issues. So show your support in one or more of the following ways:

- * 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

Across

1. It runs right through the Cultural District
7. Shock jock Don
8. International oil letters
11. Spoil, like a child
12. Coke or 7-Up
14. Surgeon's cutting letters
15. Co-habitant, as in an apartment
or a dorm
18. "Rebel" James
20. Adam's mate
21. Appliance maker letters
22. No longer "in the closet"
23. Cabin construction piece
24. LP successor
26. Army letters
27. He ran away with the dish
29. "Mister Rogers" musician



Down

1. Jan Beatty's poetic show
2. Require
3. Ron Bruno's company
4. Rock music genre
5. Pea or hazel follower
6. Take advantage
9. Skin opening
10. Big name in Pittsburgh libraries
13. Pittsburgh's October film fest
16. A shooting star, by another name
17. Dripping letters often found in
an 14-Across
19. Whiskey follower (extra clue: think of
a famous LA nightclub)
25. Luau cuisine
28. Common film rating

Last Month's Solution

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