

Trump Ups His Anti-Arts Campaign

Donald Trump's actions against the nation's creative community are being felt in Pittsburgh and across the country. On March 14, [an executive order](#) essentially shuttered national assets such as the **United States Agency for Global Media** (which includes Voice of America) and the **Institute of Museum & Library Services**.

"The ground has quickly shifted," consultant Scott Curran told [The Hollywood Reporter's Gary Baum](#). "The higher profile you are, the bigger the target you are, especially in this environment. The goal isn't always to stop the work. It's to create a chilling effect so that the people doing it stop the work themselves." Curran works with entertainment-oriented nonprofits.

Several local organizations benefit from the support of the Institute of Museum & Library Services, [as identified](#) by the **Greater Pitts-**

burgh Arts Alliance (GPAC). These include the **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** and the **Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens**.

This unsettling situation has led the **National Council of Non-profits** to posting an online "[checklist](#)" for what an organization should do if it suddenly faces the cancellation of a federal grant or contract.

[WESA-FM's Bill O'Driscoll](#) reports that both the **Pittsburgh Public Theater** and **Pittsburgh City Theatre** have separately advised supporters that their respective commitments to diversity and creative freedom.

Nevertheless, [writers at ArtNet](#) point out, the administration's actions may force artists and institutions to "rethink how they operate".

The entertainment unions are stepping up, at least rhetorically. "Entertainment workers know what it means to fight for a voice on the job," **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees** (IATSE) [announced in light of different executive order](#) that, like March 14, is seen as an "unfounded and politically motivated attack on workers and freedom of speech."

Yet another [executive order](#) targets "revisionist" history.

Professional consultant Felix Schein, who works mostly with foundations, [tells The Hollywood Reporter's Gary Baum](#) that there is "a palpable concern about the government being weaponized against them for political purpose."

GPAC Releases Biannual Report

In mid-March, the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) released its first biannual report highlighting its work.

"As you read through our first impact report," says GPAC's Patrick Fisher in a blog post, "I hope you'll find inspiration in the work we're doing --- and, more importantly, in the individuals and organizations we have the privilege of serving."

Read the report by clicking the graphic at right.



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PG Strike Progress

A partial resolution has been reached between union employees and **Block Communications** in the long running *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* labor dispute.



[MediaPost's Ray Shultz](#) reports that production and advertising staff have accepted a buyout package that includes 26 weeks of severance pay. The resolution leaves union representatives with mixed feelings.

"We are obviously disappointed by this outcome," Shultz quotes

Kitsy Higgins of the **Communication Workers of America** (CWA) with CWA's Mike Davis adding "we have stood together to negotiate the best possible severance package" even though the company has "not bargained in good faith."

Meanwhile, the unions ended March declaring a victory after an [appeals court decision](#). Issued by Judge Cindy K. Chung, the decision ordered "[the newspaper to restore the health care it illegally took from its employees and return to the bargaining table](#)." It is part of a series of legal rulings that Block has lost.

Union leadership is expected to meet in early April to discuss options.

Kennywood Gets New Owner

The Spanish owners of Pittsburgh's iconic Kennywood has sold the beloved amusement park as part of a major divestiture.



Based in Madrid, **Parques Reunidos** is selling its U.S. assets to **Herschend Family Entertainment** (HFE) as part of a plan to focus on its core European businesses.

The family-owned HFE was founded in 1950 when door-to-door vacuum cleaner salesman Hugo Herschend (1899-1955) obtained a 99-year lease to manage the popular [Marvel Cave](#) in rural Missouri (which is co-owned by the College of the Ozarks). The company has grown to include dozens of attractions. It most notably co-owns Dollywood with entertainer Dolly Parton.

"Being a family business for 75 years has given us a deep understanding of what makes properties [like Kennywood and Sandcastle] special ---- not just the rides and attractions, but the people who pour their hearts into them every day," said Herschend's Board Chair, Chris

PGH Opera's Hahn Set To Retire

Christopher Hahn has announced that he is retiring as General Director of the **Pittsburgh Opera**.

PITTSBURGH OPERA

"No single person is more responsible for Pittsburgh Opera's many successes these past two and a half decades than Christopher Hahn," [says Pittsburgh Opera Board Chair Michele Fabrizi in a press release](#). "His vision and dedication are truly second to none."

Hahn is credited with expanding the company's repertoire, built its resident artist program and kept it steady during the tumultuous COVID pandemic. He will step down at the end of the 2025-2026 season.

Herschend, in a [press release](#). "These historic and beloved properties have been family traditions for generations, and we are honored to help carry that legacy forward."

Meanwhile, Kennywood has been nominated in two categories in a *USA Today* readers' poll, [reports Eric Heyl for Patch Pittsburgh](#).

PSO Hires Beale

Monica Meyer Beale has been named as the next Senior Vice President and Chief Development Officer for the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO).

Although currently with the **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra**, she has ties to Pittsburgh as Beale's mother worked at the PSO in the 1970's.

"Returning to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra is more than a professional milestone; it's a homecoming," [said Beale in a press release](#). "Pittsburgh is where my heart has always been, and my passion for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra runs deep. Returning to the city where my musical journey began, I'm thrilled to bring my experience and dedication to contribute to the PSO's legacy of excellence"

Beale assumes the post on April 15.



Audacy Staff Changes

Changes at both the corporate and local level are happening at **Audacy, Inc.**



The company has announced the appointment of Kelli Turner as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chris Oliviero as Chief Business Officer (CBO) and Bob Phillips as Chief Revenue Officer (CRO).

Kelli Turner has been Audacy's acting CEO since former leader

David Field left in January. The decision solidifies her position. "[Kelli] will ensure we continue to invest in high-quality content to engage our audiences and provide best-in-class solutions to our partners," company chairman Michael Del Nin says in a press release.

Oliverio and Phillips have long histories with CBS Radio, a predecessor to Audacy.

Locally, long-time WBZZ-FM personality Elista Hathaway announced on [social media](#) that she has left the station after more than a decade. It is part of a company-wide staff shrinkage affecting about 300 people across all levels.

SpinCo Gets YUM Founder

David Novak, the co-founder of **YUM! Brands, Inc.** has been tapped by **Comcast Corporation** to lead its forthcoming spinoff firm to be tentatively called SpinCo.



Comcast operates Pittsburgh's cable television franchise and owns major entertainment assets such as the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) and Universal Studios.

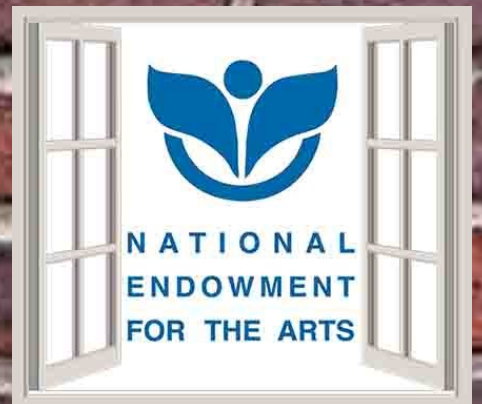
Novak is an interesting choice to chair the new company's board. Yum is itself, a spinoff that was initially created by

PepsiCo to house brands such as Pizza Hut and Taco Bell. He has had a stint in advertising and is a respected philanthropist. But, [according to Wikipedia](#), Novak's experience is primarily in food service. SpinCo will be the parent company of cable networks and digital media assets. (Novak has been a Comcast board member since 2016).

Prospective SpinCo CEO Mark Lazarus praised Novak in a [press release](#), calling him a "highly regarded as a strategic leader with a unique skillset" along with decades of experience,

The spin-off is expected to be completed before the end of this year.

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Carnegie Facing Deficit

More of the public is enjoying the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** (CLP), reports [WESA-FM's Bill O'Driscoll](#). But a projected deficit may put a serious dent in CLP services.

O'Driscoll credits the additional evening hours introduced last year for the increased attendance. "For the calendar year," he writes, "about 250,000



more visitors came to one branch or another for a total of some 1.68 million visitors to the branch locations. March through December, the rise was about 20%."

The additional hours were made possible by a boost in funding from the **Allegheny Regional Asset District** (RAD). "But projected rising expenses and flat revenue point toward a . . . deficit of \$2 million in 2026, and even larger deficits thereafter."

Union's New Game Rules

At the end of March, **SAG-AFTRA** announced the introduction of two new types of agreements for video game developers.

SAG-AFTRA

The first, the Student Interactive Waiver Agreement, is designed for students taking video game courses and want to work with SAG-AFTRA performers to satisfy course requirements. The other, the Game Jam Waiver Agreement, is designed for de-

velopers creating video games at events where designers and programmers work together as a team.

"With these new agreements, SAG-AFTRA can help support game developers at all levels who want to work with union talent and who want to learn more about producing video games under a union contract," explains the union's Duncan Crabtree-Ireland in a press release.

For details, [click here](#).



Schell Open House

Anyone interested in exploring the video game production field is welcome to an open house at **Schell Games** next month.

The open house is being presented as part of an international learning program for youth and families. However, everyone is welcome. The event is scheduled to include opportunities to meet with Schell Games' creative team, tours of their facility and demonstrations.

Details are available by [clicking here](#).



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Ukraine Folk Art Event

As war continues to rage in Ukraine, community-fueled theater company **RealTime Arts** (in partnership with **DTCare**) is launching a series of programs connecting Pittsburghers with Ukrainians.

Pittsburgh is home to one of the nation's largest populations of Ukrainian Americans.

Founded in 2015, RealTime Arts create unique theatrical works that emphasize the interconnectedness of all human beings. DTCare was established in 2019 with the aim to assist conflict-ridden and underserved regions worldwide.

The first program is called "[Build Me a Voice: The Grit and Soul of Ukrainian Folklore](#)," a performance fundraiser featuring Eastern European folk tales and music. It is being held at a coffee shop in Carnegie.



Asylum's Planned Summit

Pittsburgh will be buzzing this May with a four-day program hosted by **City of Asylum Pittsburgh (CAP)**.

The program is titled "Bridges – City of Asylum Pittsburgh Creative Summit" and aims to explore issues surrounding global creative expression and solidarity.

"'Bridges' comes at a critically important moment," explains CAP's Kevin McKeegan in a press release. "It's a crucial time to remind ourselves that free speech and expression are a cornerstone of democracy and human rights."

The summit is being staged in partnership with the **International Cities of Refuge Net-**

work (ICORN), a non-governmental organization based in Norway which enables cities around the world to provide safe havens for persecuted writers and artists, working together to advance freedom of expression, defend democratic values and promote international solidarity.

Award winning journalist George Packer of *The Atlantic* is among the scheduled speakers. The magazine made global headlines recently editor [Jeffrey Goldberg](#) was accidentally included a group message about US military plans.

Complete festival details are available at cityofasylum.org/bridges. All programs are free and open to the public, but advance registration is required.

Images



Afro-Latina soprano Zuly Inirio performs at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater this month.



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AFM Addresses Safety

The entertainment world's increasing focus on workplace safety has moved from sound stages and theaters to concert halls.

This, thanks to a new code and app introduced by the

American Federation of Musicians (AFM).



Through that [Code of Conduct](#), AFM members [are expected](#) "to refrain from engaging in discriminatory or harassing conduct toward

each other and to support efforts to eradicate the scourge of discrimination and harassment from our workplaces."

Supplementing the new code is the NotMe app, which [the union describes](#) as 'a secure and confidential platform designed to empower our members to report workplace misconduct such as contract violations, corruption, harassment, discrimination, bullying, ethics and compliance issues, and safety concerns.'

For details, [click here](#).

Frick Colors Restoration

What is old is new at **The Frick Pittsburgh**, the museum has announced.



The museum is centered on Clayton, the former mansion of industrialist and art patron Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919). The house is undergoing restoration efforts to more accurately present Clayton at its peak in the late 1800's. This



raised an interesting question: just what was the exterior's original color?

"In our research, we consulted period guides, architectural handbooks and interior decoration style guides," [Chief Curator Dawn R. Brean said in a press release](#). "Tastes in the 1890s were typically more subdued. We looked at various grayish-olive shades to find a tone that would complement the sandstone decoration around the house. We ultimately settled on a rich gray with mossy undertones"

After reviewing samples taken from the house, it was determined that [Tavern Gray](#) was the building's original color. The museum has chosen [Cream Tan](#) as the accent color.

The colors were chosen as part of the recommendations made in a report created by a team of architects, structural engineers and professional conservators.

Unions Support PRO Act (Again)

The entertainment unions, including the **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees** (IATSE), are praising the introduction of the proposed Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize Act.



It is commonly known as the PRO Act and named in honor of labor leader [Richard L. Trumka](#) (1949-2021), who grew up near Pittsburgh. [The PRO Act](#) would amend three existing laws to prevent employees seeking to join a labor union from being fired, among other changes.

"Workers in the fast-paced, often freelance environment of the entertainment industry know firsthand that America's labor laws are designed to favor employers," [IATSE says in a press release](#), "making it difficult to organize and secure fair contracts."

This is the third Congress to which the bill has been introduced. Opponents claim that the PRO Act would hurt businesses and violate privacy rights.



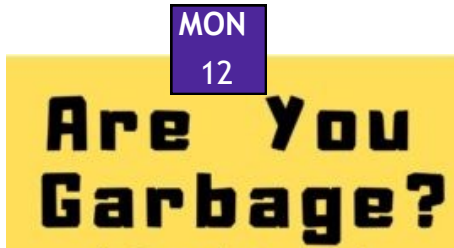
TUE
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THU
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MON
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SUN
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TUE
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FRI
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SAT
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MON
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SAT
26



Opportunities

Arts and cultural organizations have until April 15 to file an application with the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** for in-kind marketing support. [Click here for details.](#)

Applications for affordable artist housing at a Braddock building [are being accepted.](#)

A part-time Pilates instructor is being sought by the **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre** for the company's dancer fitness efforts. [Details and application here.](#)

Auditions have been scheduled by the **Pittsburgh Opera** for classically trained singers in all voice categories. The date is May 19. [Details here.](#)



CSC's Fab New Studio

The Carnegie Science Center (CSC) has introduced a new fabrication studio in its BNY Fab Lab facility.



Visitors of all skill levels will be able to access 3D printers, laser printers, vinyl cutters and computer-assisted woodworking tools. There will also be workshops.

“Unlike traditional [programs] that focus solely on the final product, said the CSC’s Jason Brown in a press release, “BNY Fab Lab emphasizes skill-building and confidence in the creative process for both visitors familiar with digital design tools and those new to but eager to explore new technology.”

More information is available by [clicking here](#).

Kids TV Good For Teens

A new study praises the long-term impact of “Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood,” writes Liz Regalia for *Parents* magazine.



The study, conducted by series producer **Fred Rogers Productions** (FRP) in conjunction with the **University of California Los Angeles** (UCLA), reveals that teens who grew up watching the series continue to rely on the social-emotional skills it taught them.

“Hearing how the teens really valued and had an affection for Daniel Tiger and his family and friends shows how children’s media can really matter to young children,” [Regalia quotes FRP’s Ellen Doherty](#). “Children learn from the media they consume,

whether it is designed for learning or not. Thinking about how kids might internalize the messages they learn from media is one of the guiding forces for how we create our series.”

The study’s full report is available by [clicking here](#).

Arts Landing Gets An OK

The city’s planning commission has approved the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust’s** (PCT) outdoor project, reports WESA-FM’s Bill O’Driscoll.



The four-acre space, called Arts Landing, is to be placed on a block near the O’Reilly Theater. It is budgeted at \$31 million and will

PearlArts’ New Home

Local dance troupe **PearlArts Movement & Sound** has settled into its new home, reports Bill O’Driscoll for WESA-FM.

They have taken up space in [Braddock](#), a small suburb trying to rebuild itself, in part, as an art center. At its peak as a steel production center, Braddock was home to over 20,000 people. The current population is less than a tenth of that.

O’Driscoll describes PearlArts’ new home: “The high-ceilinged, 5,000-square-foot space, including two dance studios and two recording studios, occupies the third floor of a long-vacant building on Braddock Avenue near the historic Braddock Carnegie Library.”

For more information [read the full article](#).

public art, playgrounds and other facilities.

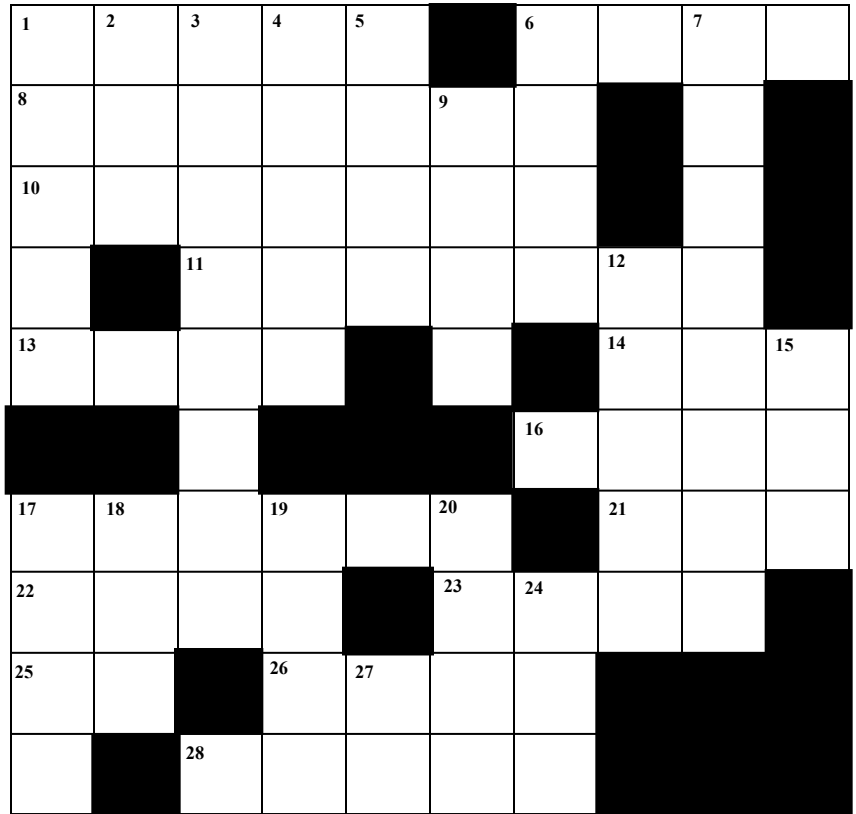
Read O’Driscoll’s [full article here](#).



Channel Pittsburgh

Across

1. *Dummy headwear?*
6. Meld together
8. Take back?
10. "That's a ___"
11. Business lesson, maybe
13. Footfall
14. *Wordplay*
16. Eliza's naughty word
17. *King's comic*
21. Follower suffix
22. Comply
23. 7-Down's airport
25. Australian lager
26. Part to play
28. Subjects of this month's puzzle
(as hinted by the italicized clues/answers)



Down

1. *High school kid prone to embarrassment*
2. Lead-in to verse?
3. *Common type of comment by 28-Across*
4. Lady's unwanted bar patron?
5. Ancient kingdom found in the Bible
6. Small, brown bird
7. *Homer's French clown?*
9. English children's writer Blyton, to pals
12. *The month for 28-Across*
15. Precede a maiden name
17. *What a 17-Across my offer*
18. Wane
19. Slang word for a novice or beginner
20. Homonym of 26-Down
24. Hi __ image
27. Zion T's 2017 EP

Last Month's Solution

M	O	D	E	R	N	I	S	T	
O	M	A	N	I		F	A	A	
T	O	P	D	O	G		I	P	
H	A	H			A	F	L		S
M			E	E	R	O		S	I
A	L	A	N		A	P			M
N	I	N	E		G		S	R	O
	O	T		M	E	L	L	O	N
	N	E	P	O		H	A	N	D
E	S	S	O		D	A	V	I	S