



COVID Update

With the newly installed Biden Administration doing something that its predecessor didn't --- namely a COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan --- arts & entertainment entities are making plans of their own.

"I think [the plan is] very promising," local concert promoter Brian Drusky told *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Scott Mervis. "I also think it's going to depend on numbers starting to decline and the roll out of vaccinations faster than they are happening right now. The industry as a whole is already starting to plan in that direction."

Concerts are being booked at PPG Paints Arena, Heinz Field and other venues.

"We're focused on preparing for the re-starting of live, in-person events in 2021," says **Patron Technology's** Marc Jenkins in a press release. Patron's assets include Pittsburgh-based ShowClix ticketing service. "With that said, nobody knows exactly when that will be, so it's just as important that we continue to support our clients with our virtual technology solution and timed entry tools to simplify social distancing measures."

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is aiming for a September return of the Pittsburgh Broadway Series. "We are proud to have preserved most of the originally scheduled 2020-2021 PNC Broadway in Pittsburgh season shows," the Trust's Marc Fleming is quoted by the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's* Shirley McMarlin. The season (if it happens as planned) will begin September 7 with "Hometown."

Film and television production is also starting to resume. On January 28, **SAG-AFTRA** reached an agreement with producers to lift the recommendation to pause production in Southern California effective February 1 following advice from state

public health officials. Local production is slowly coming back, too. The **Netflix** series "Archive 81" is currently shooting on the city's North Side.

Some area museums have already reopened for limited operations.

James Richards, publisher of *Pittsburgh Applause*, is also preparing his projects for the return of business activity. These include PGHevents: The Pittsburgh Events Web Site (www.pghevents.net) --- which hasn't posted any events in nearly a year --- the online version of *The Pittsburgh A&E Book* (www.pittsburghaebook.com) and Channel Pittsburgh (www.channelpittsburgh.org).

However, not everyone is convinced the rollout will happen as planned. On January 21, **Actors' Equity Association** released a statement of concern: "The theatre industry has been closed for over 10 months now, and it has no hope of fully returning, and bringing back jobs, if we don't hit critical mass with vaccines."

SOS News

The Small Business Administration (SBA) continues to develop its execution of the Save Our Stages federal grant program which is now being called the Shuttered Venue Operators (SVO) Grant.

\$2 billion is reserved for eligible applications with 50 full-time employees or less. Eligible applicants may qualify for grants equal to 45% of their gross earned revenue. The maximum amount available for a single grant award of \$10 million. Meanwhile, local coffee shop chain **Black Forge Coffee** has created a special blend with 20% of the proceeds benefitting a relief fund established by the **National Independent Venue Association**. Place an order by [clicking here](#).

SVO application information is available at <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/shuttered-venue-operators-grant>



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SPECIAL POST-RIOT COVERAGE

Union To Punish Trump

Republicans in the U.S. Senate may be unlikely to convict Donald Trump in this month's impeachment trial --- but **SAG-AFTRA** has no compunction in holding him accountable.

SAG-AFTRA

The union has hundreds of members in the Pittsburgh area and maintains a full-time office downtown.

On January 6, a group of far-right supporters violently stormed the United States Capitol Building after a fiery speech given by Trump. He was quickly impeached (for the second time) by the House of Representatives.

Trump became a union member years ago as part of his appearances in movies such as "The Associate" and especially for the television series "The Apprentice."

SAG-AFTRA's National Board voted overwhelmingly on January 19 --- the day before Joseph R. Biden's inauguration --- that Trump's actions on January 6 may have violated the union's constitution and referred the matter to the SAG-AFTRA Disciplinary Committee.

"Donald Trump attacked the values that this union holds most sacred ---- democracy, truth, respect for our fellow Americans of all races and faiths, and the sanctity of the free press," said President Gabrielle Carteris in a press release. The same release specifically mentioned how Trump's actions endangered other SAG-AFTRA members, specifically journalist members.

No date for the hearing was set at press time. But if Donald Trump is found guilty, the penalties could range from a mere reprimand to expulsion. The latter would significantly hamper any attempt by Trump to resume a show business career.

Riot Adds To PG Turmoil

The internal tumult at the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* continues, according to several outlets.



TheWrap.com's Lindsey Ellefson writes that reporters at the *Post-Gazette* and its sister paper, *The Toledo Blade*, worry "that the right-wing views of the papers' owners are hindering their ability to accurately cover political and cultural stories, from last summer's unrest over systemic racism to President Donald Trump and Wednesday's Capitol riot." Among the instructions the staff was given include "not to describe the rioters as Trump supporters."

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SPECIAL POST-RIOT COVERAGE

Writers React To Riot

In a pair of formal statements, the **Writers Guild of America East** (WGAE) condemned the January 6 riot in Washington and its support for the union's reporter members.



"Incited by the outgoing President," a January 8 statement explains, "an angry mob of far-right extremists invaded our nation's Capitol this week with the express purpose of preventing Congress from certifying the results of the Presidential election. Many WGAE members have written about the dangers of hateful rhetoric and of vilifying people because of their race or gender, religion or political philosophy. Our members' warnings proved true with this violent insurrection."

Three days later came another statement: "We urge everyone who might be working in the field to equip yourself with protective gear and to keep in close contact with colleagues who can assist. And please be very mindful of the risks of working alone. If you encounter any resistance from

Riot Adds To PG Turmoil

Continued from Page 3

Noted columnist Diana Nelson Jones announced her resignation on January 7, the day after the riot. "I feel like we're living in 'Opposite World,'" Jones told NextPittsburgh.com's Tracy Certo. "Everything is the opposite of what it should be." [She is currently writing for Public-Source.org - ed.] **Toledo Newspaper Guild** president Nolan Rosenkrans also tweeted his concerns the same day Jones quit. "There was a systemic effort by management at *The Blade* to downplay the forces at work yesterday for political purposes," he wrote.

The Post-Gazette's embrace of a conservative viewpoint began in 2018 when its editorial pages were consolidated with *The Blade*. However, the paper's tone quickly moved from merely conservative to far right. Jones specifically pointed to editor Keith Burris' odd editorial of that same year titled "Reason as Racism."

Meanwhile, the paper's move to being a digital-only publication. Fern Siegel reports for MediaPost.com that the *Post-Gazette* will cease printing a Friday edition after February 26. This leaves the paper with just two print editions each week: Thursday and Sunday.

The following was posted on January 7 by Susan Allen Block, the wife of company co-owner Allan Block, to her Facebook page:

NO PEACE! NO UNITY! NO CONCESSION! NO LEGITIMACY TO A STOLEN ELECTION! THERE ARE 70 MILLION TRUMP SUPPORTERS WHO WILL NOT FALL IN LINE. THERE WILL BE NO "HEALING". WE WILL DRAG THIS ILLEGITIMATE PRESIDENT, HIS WHORE VP & ALL OF THE DEMOCRATS [THROUGH] THE SAME SHIT THEY DRAGGED PRESIDENT TRUMP & HIS SUPPORTERS THROUGH FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS!

Mrs. Block's post was in all caps (as seen here) although the word in brackets is our correction of a misspelling. A statement from Block Communications insisted that the post "represent her individual views as a private citizen" and "do not represent those of Block Communications, Inc. or any of its affiliates."

The post has since been deleted and the page has been taken down.

your employer, let your WGAE representative know immediately."

Other related unions, including **IATSE**, also released a formal condemnation. WGAE has also posted a series of resource links by clicking [here](#).





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CBS Faces More Harassment Claims

Once again, **ViacomCBS** finds itself enmeshed in a harassment scandal.



Peter Dunn, the president of CBS television stations, and David Friend, the senior vice president of news for TV stations, were placed on administrative leave. Their future depends on the results of a third-party investigation into allegations that the two men

had created hostile work environments for women and African-Americans at Philadelphia station KYW-TV.

The allegations were first made public by the *Los Angeles Times*. TheWrap.com's J. Clara Chan reports that CBS has hired the law firm **Proskauer Rose** to conduct the investigation.

In other news, the company is rebranding its first-run distribution division with the new name CBS Media Ventures and the new streaming service Paramount+ will launch on March 4.

PSO's Anniversary Album

As part of its 125th anniversary celebration, the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO) is releasing a new recording on February 12.



The album is part of the PSO's acclaimed "Pittsburgh Live!" series which has earned the symphony five Grammy Award nominations (a 2018 Shostakovich recording did win a Grammy). This latest installment features

German composer Ludwig van Beethoven's (1770-1827) Ninth Symphony. Composed between 1822 and 1824, the symphony is considered by scholars as Beethoven's greatest work and the first example of a major composer using voices in a symphony.

"Beethoven's Ninth Symphony is a monumental work about the revered human values of freedom, joy and brotherhood, and I believe that Beethoven's extraordinary musical expression of belief in humanity is something that seems needed right now," said Manfred Honeck, Music Director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, in a press release. "I am so proud to bring to life this iconic piece with my beloved Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra musicians and to

Pittsburgh Great City For Film

Pittsburgh has been named by *Movie Maker* magazine as one of the nation's best cities to be a filmmaker.

The January 26 article describes Pittsburgh as a place that "always emphasizes a friendly, folksy small-town feel that keeps visiting moviemakers from feeling homesick." It also praises the city's affordable housing and industry infrastructure by pointing out that "**Carnegie Mellon [University]** is one of several outstanding schools for aspiring moviemakers, and film festivals are in bountiful supply."

Read more about Pittsburgh's "endless source of inspiration" by clicking [here](#).

share it in this special 125th anniversary season. It is a clear statement of what we can do together."

The recording also features soloists Christina Landshamer, Jennifer Johnson Cano, Werner Güra and Shenyang as well as the **Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh**. The PSO will perform the work during a special digital concert on February 27 --- the 125th anniversary date of the orchestra's first concert.

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Janet McCall To Retire

The long-time director of **Contemporary Craft**, Janet L. McCall, has decided to retire. The announcement was made in a January 14 press release.



McCall has led the institution since 1995 (with a brief break between 2006 and 2009). During that time, she took what was originally called the Society for Contemporary Craft and built into a substantial member of Pittsburgh's arts community. This includes launching the international Raphael Prize, winning the national **American Craft Council's** Award of Distinction in 2018 and moving into its new facility.

"Janet has been not just remarkable, but peerless in her leadership of Contemporary Craft. Board chair Susan Golomb raved in the release. "Her understanding of artistry and artists, coupled with her keen management style and financial acumen, are not often found in a single nonprofit leader. We all have been fortunate to experience someone of her caliber. I

have enjoyed working along-side Janet over the years, as well as developing a personal friendship with her. She will be missed by many but we wish her continued creative experiences."

The board has formed a search committee to locate her replacement. McCall formally steps down in June.



Images



Fred Astaire shines in the 1951 film "Royal Wedding," which gets a special trivia-filled showing for Valentine's Day on Channel Pittsburgh.

Tony Mowod & Joanne Rogers Pass Away

Pittsburgh's arts and entertainment community has two of its most beloved members: Tony Mowod and Joanne Rogers.

Tony Mowod was a life-long champion of jazz in Pittsburgh, much of it as an on-air personality at WDUQ-FM (now WESA-FM). His colleagues at WZUM-FM posted a memorial online, which can be read by clicking [here](#). Tony Mowod was 85.

Joanne Byrd Rogers was the widow of children's television icon Fred Rogers (1928-2003) who was committed to continuing her husband's work. "The loving partner of Fred Rogers for more than 50 years, she continued their shared commitment to supporting children and families after his death as chair of the board of **Fred Rogers Productions**," the organization said in a January 14 statement. Joanne Rogers was 92.



Click the link above to view a KDKA-TV report on Tony Mowod's death.

Theater Building Sold

The building that houses the **Kelly-Strayhorn Theater** has been sold, the organization confirmed in a January 7 email.

The theater is part of a trio of buildings that were owned by the non-profit **East Liberty Development Inc.** and have been acquired by Pittsburgh-based **McKnight Realty Partners**.

Izzy Rudolph, an executive for McKnight Realty Partners, has assured the theater (according to the January 7 email) that he is "commitment to work with the current tenants, and his desire to preserve historical buildings and our cultural institution that has been a hub for the arts and community in our city since 1914."



**Keep Your Eyes
On Us!**



**As venues finalize their new
schedules, we'll update
our event listings!**

Opportunities

KDKA-TV is looking for a free-lancer to produce segments for its popular "Pittsburgh Today Live" program. The **ViacomCBS** station wants someone who can pitch ideas, manage location shoots and help book guests. [Apply here.](#)

Someone with a degree in engineering (or equivalent work experience) is being sought by **NEP Group** for their Pittsburgh operations. The successful candidate for this position will maintain electronics, computer and other various broadcast equipment through reverse engineering or finding replacement parts. <https://www.nepgroup.com/career/current-openings>

The Pittsburgh Opera has an immediate opening for a new Manager of Artistic Administration. Responsibilities range from payroll to traveling arrangements for visiting artists. [Learn more here.](#)

Jobs available at the various **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** range from a director of development to gallery presenters. [Access the full list.](#)

WPXI-TV, part of the **Cox Media Group**, is seeking a promotion producer. Qualifications include experience with video and photo editing using Avid, Photoshop, Adobe Premiere or similar programs. [Apply here.](#)

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is looking for a creative and collaborative contributor to the development, support, and maintenance of the Trust's customer websites and internal web applications. Associate degree or bachelor's degree in web design, computer science, or digital media preferred. Bootcamp or similar schooling is also suitable. [Details here.](#)

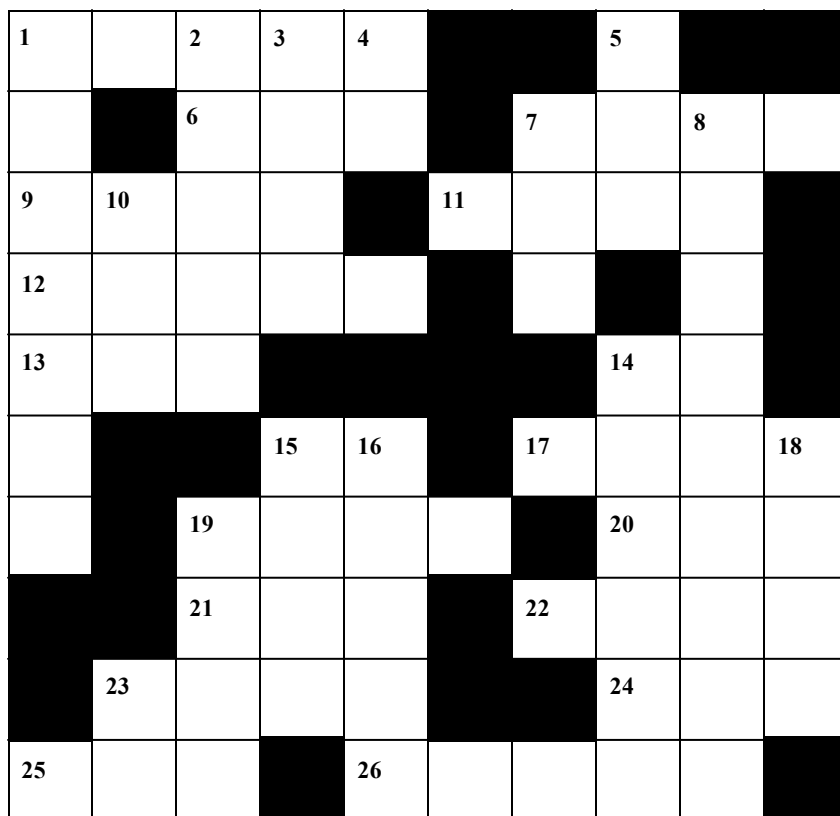
The owner of Fox53, **Sinclair Broadcast Group**, is hiring a late-night Master Control Operator. Applicants must be versatile and capable of learning specialized software applications and have an aptitude for operating electronic equipment. [Click here.](#)

The **Pittsburgh Ballet** has openings for an accompanist, instructor and at least two manager positions. [See the list.](#)



Across

1. Keenan, co-star of 26-Across and his famous dad, Ed
6. What one does at meal time
7. See 5-Down
9. Let go from on high
11. Director of the "Hostel" films
12. 26-Across director Stanley
13. Names
14. America's 26th president, initially
15. "Madea" man, initially
17. Ancient Roman architectural style
19. 26-Across co-star Astaire, to pals
20. Greek education institution, initially
21. Go bad
22. Good's counterpart
23. 26-Across co-star Powell, to pals
24. Type
25. Fancy vase
26. Title of 1951 film (with 1-Down)



Down

1. See 26-Across
2. A theater's bright lights, often
3. Back of the neck
4. "Prizzi's Honor" actor, initially
5. 19-Across famously dances with one in 26-Across (with 7-Across)
7. The same answer as 21-Across
8. 26-Across co-star Sarah or her famous dad Winston
10. Reel partner
14. Channel Pittsburgh special February 14 addition to 26-Across
15. Famous 1982 sci-fi movie
16. 26-Across co-star Lawford, to pals
18. Lou Ferrigno's famous role
19. Actress Drescher, to pals
23. "Dallas" baddie

Last Month's Solution

K	A	V	A	L	I	E	R		S
	V	I	L	E	S	T		P	H
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