

## “American Rust” Canned

The cable television series "American Rust" has been cancelled by **ViacomCBS** pay network Showtime.



Produced in Pittsburgh, "American Rust" is an adaptation of a 2009 novel written by American author Phillip Meyer. It centers on a small town sheriff (portrayed by Jeff Daniels) who investigates a murder after his lover's son is accused of the crime.

The news was confirmed and reported on January 25 by TheWrap.com's Jolie Lash.

"We can confirm that 'American Rust' will not be moving forward," Lash quotes a statement by Showtime. "We would like to thank our partners at Boat Rocker, our talented showrunner Dan Futterman and the rest of the wonderful writers, and our amazing cast led by Jeff Daniels and Maura Tierney."

The series ends after a short first season of just nine episodes.

## Keaton Nominated

Nominations have been announced for the 2022 SAG Awards --- and Pittsburgh native is on the list of honorees.

The SAG Awards were first given in 1952 to recognize outstanding performances in movie and prime time television. They are bestowed annually by the **Screen Actors Guild American Federation of Television Arts & Sciences** (SAG-AFTRA). The union has hundreds of members in Western Pennsylvania and operates a full-time office in Downtown Pittsburgh.

Keaton has been nominated for his lead role in the television mini

-series "Dopesick." The eight-episode drama depicts one community's battle with opioid addiction.

Some observers are convinced that Keaton is all-but-certain to walk away with a statue. Marcus James Dixon recently commented forGoldDerby.com which you read by clicking [here](#).

Members of SAG-AFTRA must submit their completed ballots by February 27 with the awards show airing February 27 on the cable networks TBS and TNT. Visit the program's official web site at <https://www.sagawards.org/>

## GPAC'S COVID Portal

With confusion continuing over COVID-19, on January 16 the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) added a special page to its web site.

The page features links to various information sources to help people stay abreast of the ever-changing dynamics.



GPAC's Mitch Swain has written this message on the page: "Along with other national leaders, we are working to understand the long-term effect the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent quarantines may have on arts and culture activities, such as missed earned revenue from cancelled performances or lower attendance figures at museums, galleries and events." He encourages everyone who has a concern or news to contact him directly.

The page also alert members that the organization "is prepared to cancel our public events or programs in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak in Allegheny County. A formal notice will be sent to our members and partners if this occurs." You can access the page and its information by clicking [here](#).

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## Local Game Show Wraps Production Of Season One

The first eleven episodes of an interesting new game show has just wrapped production at **WQED Multimedia**. What's different about it? The game is centered around American Sign Language.

What is now known as American Sign Language (ASL) was developed in the 19th Century at the innovative **American School for the Deaf**.



The game show "SignTasTic!" has contestants using ASL gestures with the aim of winning \$5,000. It is hosted by Dan Cook, an ASL instructor at **Community College of Allegheny County** and certified interpreter Heather Gray. The show is based on a card game created years ago by Cook to help hearing people better communicate with deaf individuals.

*The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Joshua Axelrod reports that the series is now seeking a distributor, ideally a basic cable network. You can read [Axelrod's full article](#) and visit [Cook's web site](#) for more information.

## Hanks To Film Locally

Reported first by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and then by KDKA-TV, award winning actor Tom Hanks is returning to town to shoot a film adaptation of the Swedish novel *A Man Called Ove*.

Written by Fredrik Backman and published in 2012, *A Man Called Ove* is the heartwarming tale of an old curmudgeon who strikes up an unlikely friendship with his new neighbors. A Swedish-language film version was released in 2015.

Hanks will produce as well as star with Marc Forster ("Christopher Robin") directing. No further information was available at press time.

## NEP Group Embraces The Virtual

Barbara Ford Grant has been selected to lead **NEP Group's** newly created virtual production division.

Based in Pittsburgh, NEP Group provides a full-range of production and post-production services primarily for broadcast and live events.



The company is expanding its virtual production capabilities with the creation of NEP Prysm Stages unit. A press release explains that the division's capabilities "enable directors and creative teams to see

an entire scene complete with visual effects and [computer generated] enhancements live on set, and to restage, revise digital sets, make lighting changes, adjust camera angles and more on the spot. This ability to produce and manipulate shots interactively is transforming the way movies and [TV shows] are being made, speeding-up collaboration and production, and opening new creative options and solutions --- all while reducing costs and often the carbon footprint by cutting travel and physical set construction." The unit is rooted in the company's recent purchase of three firms: Lux Machina Consulting, Halon Entertainment and Prysm Collective.

NEP Prysm Stage's first facility is now open and operating in Atlanta. It features an 18,000-square-foot stage specifically built for virtual productions.

Barbara Ford Grant is a member of the **Visual Effects Society**, a non-profit professional organization dedicated to advancing the arts, sciences, and applications of visual effects. She comes to NEP from immersive entertainment company **Meow Wolf**.





## Craft's Lydon Retires

Kate Lydon is retiring from her post as Director of Exhibitions at **Contemporary Craft**, the organization formally announced January 4.

Lydon's tenure began 35 years ago when the institution was called the Society for Contemporary Craft. Through these years she organized over 100 exhibits and worked with thousands of artists.

"Throughout her 35-year career at Contemporary Craft, Kate Lydon has shaped the aesthetic of our organization, trained emerging administrators, and connected Pittsburgh to the field of craft. She has undoubtedly recognized and shown the talent of some of



craft's most esteemed artists - well before others woke up to their existence. On top of all of that, Kate has become one of my most trusted colleagues over the years - her absence will certainly be felt," said Executive Director Rachel Saul Rearick in a press release.

Yu-San Cheng is being promoted from Director of Operations and Finance to Associate Director where she will oversee exhibitions.

On the same day, Contemporary Craft announced the winners of its annual Lydon Emerging Artist Program (LEAP). The program began in 2007 to honor Lydon's 20th anniversary with the organization. Learn more by clicking [here](#).

## Local Poet's Fellowship

Pittsburgh-based poet, essayist and conceptual video artist Dawn Lundy Martin has been named a Fellow by **United States Artists**.

Martin is the author of four poetry books and has been honored with the Kingsley Tufts Award and the Lambda Literary Award. She currently holds the Toi Derricotte Endowed Chair of African American Poetry at the **University of Pittsburgh**.

Established in 2006 and based in Chicago, the non-profit United States Artists focuses on direct-to-artist grants. Martin is one of 63 artists from 23 states (and Puerto Rico) to each receives an unrestricted grant of \$50,000 as part of the Fellowship.

## Pitt Hosts Virtual Music Symposium

A virtual symposium was held last month by the jazz studies program at the **University of Pittsburgh**. The focus of the symposium was on musician's rights with special references to the legacy of pianist and composer Erroll Garner (1921-1977).



Erroll Garner's most famous work was the 1954 ballad "Misty," which has become the signature tune for singer Johnny Mathis. Garner wrote the music with lyrics added later by lyricist Johnny Burke

(1908-1964). He was born and raised in Pittsburgh. The university is home to the artist's archives.

Garner was also a long-time promoter of musicians' opportunities and rights, especially for artists of color. "Erroll Garner fought a magnificent battle against 'the man' and won," professor and moderator Aaron J. Johnson explained. "We want to celebrate that, and we want to extend upon that, and use that element of Garner's story to really examine some issues of rights, and in a larger sense justice for musicians."

The emergence of the non-fungible token (NFT) was also addressed. An NFT is a non-interchangeable unit of data (such as a photo or recording) stored on a digital ledger. A legitimate NFT comes with a certificate of authenticity and can be sold as a product or asset. However, there are complex issues concerning copyright protection, carbon footprint, actual value and fraud.

Student journalist Renee Dubaich wrote about the symposium for *The Pitt News*, which can be read by clicking [here](#).

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## Local Film To Be Shown

A locally made short film is scheduled to make its debut at a Sewickley theater on February 7.



That film is "Child Warfare" and was financed by a **Heinz Endowment** grant and will be shown with other shorts in a program sponsored by **Steeltown** and **Tull Family Theater**. Other films on the slate are "Pit Viper," "Tics," "Slate Please," and the world pre-

miere of The Reel Teens of Pittsburgh's documentary on the making of "Child Warfare" called "In the Trenches."

Following the screening of the films, Steeltown will host its "Crew Connect" networking event for local Pittsburgh filmmakers to connect and pitch ideas.

This event is free to the public and a cash bar will be provided along with a food truck. Doors open at 6:30p.m. The Tull Family Theater is located at 418 Walnut St, Sewickley, PA 15143. Register by clicking [here](#).

## NEA Grants

Several local organizations have recently received **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA) grants, reports Tia Bailey for *Pittsburgh City Paper*.



Recipients range from large entities such as **Pittsburgh Opera** and **City Theatre** to smaller groups including **Film Pittsburgh** and **Autumn House Press**.

Read Bailey's full article by clicking [here](#).

## First Arts Fellows Named

Addressing systemic racism is the goal of a new fellowship operated by the **Pittsburgh Foundation**, which has announced its first recipients.



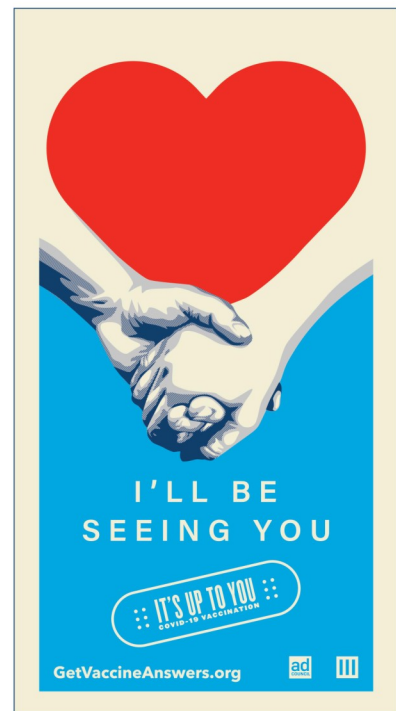
The three initial members of the Exposure Artist Fellowship are filmmaker Chris Ivey and multidisciplinary artists Ana Armengod and Shikeith. "Each of the fellows is no stranger to the Pittsburgh arts scene," writes *Pittsburgh City Paper's* Amanda Waltz, "and each offers their own unique styles and perspectives."

Ivey has been documenting the gentrification of various Pittsburgh neighborhoods. WESA-FM's Bill O'Driscoll reports that some of the funds will be used for programs centered on the particular issues faced by African-American women. This includes a March trip to Louisville for Ivey where he to mark "the anniversary of the police killing of Breonna Taylor, accompanying a group of Black women from Pittsburgh to meet Black women leaders there."

You can read [Waltz's article](#) and [O'Driscoll's article](#) for details.



**Channel  
Pittsburgh**



## Frick Adds Trustees

Five people have been added to the **Frick Pittsburgh's** board of trustees. The decision was made in December but not formally announced until January 13.



These people are investment expert Bernard E. Carter of **Hanpanowicz & Associates**; investment consultant William Donovan; Bart Griffin, president of **Shady Side Academy**; Kelly Miller of **Thermo Fisher Scientific** and **Binder Dijker Otte's** (a.k.a. BDO) Michael Ruck.

## A Reporter's Near Miss

The newest hire at Hearst Television's station in Pittsburgh almost missed her first day on the job --- thanks to an errant car.



Hearst Television is the broadcast division of **Hearst Communications** that owns 34 television stations including WTAE-TV in Pittsburgh.

Tori Yorgey was doing a live on-location report for **Gray Television's** WSAZ-TV when a car suddenly blindsided her. "Oh my God! I just got hit by a car, but I'm okay," she told the anchor back in the studio. "I just got hit by a car, but I'm okay." The camera was knocked over but Yorgey kept reporting.

It wasn't the first such incident as she also survived a car accident at college. It has also raised concerns about the growing use of one-person remotes, where the reporter also functions as the camera operator.

In other news: Michael Hayes, a former general manager at WTAE-TV has been named by Hearst Television to the newly created position of Deputy Group Head. He joins fellow executives Ashley Gold and Eric Meyrowitz in overseeing the company's television and radio stations.

A press release praises his time at WTAE where "he led a rejuvenation of the station, returning one of the company's heritage properties to first place in morning and late news."

## iHeart Promotes De Angelis

Joe De Angelis has been upped to Senior Vice President of Promotions for the iHeartMedia Markets Group.



In Pittsburgh, **iHeartMedia** owns seven radio stations.

De Angelis is now the "point person" for clients and advertisers. He'll be helping to create and develop promotional projects for company properties, including its radio stations.

"I'm thrilled to promote Joe to Senior Vice President of Promo-

tions," said iHeart's Scott Hopeck in a press release. "During his time with iHeartMedia New York, Joe has proven that he is more than qualified for this role. He has extensive experience overseeing all marketing and promotions initiatives for our New York City stations, as well as our national tentpole events. Joe is a natural leader and an exceptional collaborator. I'm confident that he will effectively evolve how we develop and execute promotions for our brands and our partners."

De Angelis began his new position effective with the company's January 18 announcement.





## CMU Alum To Be At Whitney

Pittsburgh native and **Carnegie Mellon University** (CMU) alum Cy Gavin is among the artists selected to be featured in the next Whitney Biennial.

### Carnegie Mellon University

The Whitney Biennial is a program of the **Whitney Museum of American Art** dating to 1932 that showcases contemporary art, especially those of young and little-known artists.

Gavin grew up in Donora where both of his parents worked at local glass factories. After graduating from CMU, he relocated to San Francisco where he worked at an avant-garde opera company. Gavin also served as archivist for the legacy of performance artist Vito Acconci (1940-2017). His work explores issues surrounding identity, history and colonialism.

Cy Gavin currently lives and works in New York City. The biennial is scheduled to begin in April.



## Point Park Grad To Make Broadway Debut

Jaquel Spivey, a recent graduate of **Point Park University** is about to make his Broadway debut in the Pulitzer Prize winning musical "A Strange Loop."



"A Strange Loop" is the story of a theater usher (portrayed by Spivey) at the New York production of the hit musical "The Lion King." The character (also named Usher) is an overweight, gay Afri-

can-American trying to write his own play while dealing with a world dominated by straight white people.

The musical has been staged Off-Broadway and in Washington DC but this April it will bow on Broadway for the first time.



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## Images



*The films of Wes Anderson are being screened this month as a special program at Row House Cinema.*



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## CBS Carriage Deal; CW Future In Doubt

A new carriage agreement has been reached between **ViacomCBS** and **Comcast**.



ViacomCBS owns two television stations in Pittsburgh. Comcast operates the city's cable television franchise.

The multi-year pact includes CBS-owned stations (like KDKA-TV) and cable networks such as MTV, Showtime and BET. The deal also embraces the company's streaming assets like Paramount+ and Pluto TV.

"We are pleased to have reached new agreements that strengthen our long-valued partnership with Comcast," said CBS' Ray Hopkins in a press release.

"ViacomCBS is a cornerstone content provider, and we look

forward to serving millions of Xfinity customers with greater access to their favorite channels and programming from our leading brands."

Meanwhile, the company is re-branding the news division's streaming service. Now called CBS News Streaming Network, it will showcase the division's biggest on-screen names. These include Norah O'Donnell, Gayle King and Tony Dokoupil.

The streaming network will also introduce a slate of weekly series that includes a revival of the classic interview series "Person to Person" (1953-1961) most famously hosted by legendary broadcast journalist Edward R. Murrow (1908-1965).

These and other changes may not bode well for the CW network that the company own in partnership with **AT&T's** Warner Media. The two firms are seeking a third company to purchase a majority stake in exchange for the money they need to continue developing their streaming properties. Last

month, *The Hollywood Reporter* broke the news that **Nexstar Media Group** is the lead bidder.

Nextar is best known for the cable network NewsNation (formerly WGN America) and the digital network Antenna TV.

Observers suggest that CW may be rebranded a news network by Nextar. "The CW has eight owned-and-operated TV stations," the January 12 article explains, "including stations in critical swing state markets, like Detroit, Michigan; Tampa, Florida; Atlanta, Georgia; and Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as well as major markets like Seattle, Washington and the San Francisco Bay Area. For a company that long has leaned on political advertising, acquiring those stations could mean election-year advertising bounties."

**JERRY WEBER**  
**(1948-2022)**



**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**



**MON  
14**



**TUE  
1**



**MON  
14**



**WED  
2**



**FRI  
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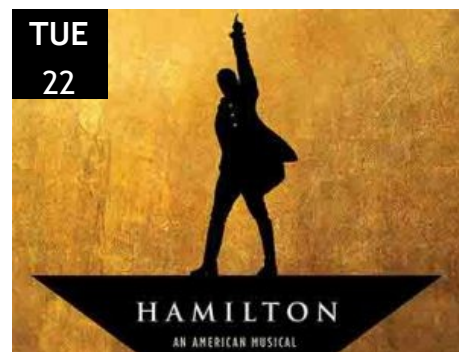
**THU  
17**



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**THU  
10**



**TUE  
22**



**FRI  
11**



**FRI  
25**



**FRI  
25**



# Opportunities

Several full-time positions are open at the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** with the full list available [here](#).

Animal lovers need to check out [this list](#) of opportunities at the **National Aviary**.

Full-time and freelance jobs are available at **ViacomCBS'** KDKA-TV and [here is the list](#).

Artist-educators are being sought by the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** for the institution's summer programs. [Click here to learn more](#).

Submissions are being accepted by **Film Pittsburgh** for this year's Three Rivers Film Festival. Click [here](#) to submit.

Those interested in this year's Three Rivers Arts Festival should contact the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust** by clicking [here](#)/

Education, retail and event positions are available at the **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh**. [Click here](#).

Applications are still being accepted by the **Pennsylvania Council on the Arts** (PCA) for its Entry to Program Stream grant program. [Click here](#).



## History Center Expands

One of the core exhibits at the **Senator John Heinz History Center** has completed its expansion.



The permanent exhibition "Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation" documents how Pittsburgh transformed from an industrial center to a hub for technology, education and medicine.

"Western Pennsylvanians have changed the world through hard work, ingenuity, and a 'We Can Do It' spirit that defines our region," said Andy Masich, president, and CEO of the History Center in a press release. "From the polio vaccine to liver trans-

plants and from robots to self-driving cars, the expansion of the Innovation exhibition includes much-needed updates to the ever-changing Pittsburgh story."

Additions include a lunar rover designed by **Carnegie Mellon University** students; a vial of the famous polio vaccine developed in Pittsburgh by Dr. Jonas Salk; and an entire section on a trail-blazing agency that trained Black men and women as paramedics to deliver desperately needed emergency medical care to the Hill District.

Material related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the region's response are also on display.

## Two New PSO Musicians

Young musicians Sean Juhl and Aaron Mossburg have been selected by the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO) for the orchestra's viola section.

A New York City native, Sean Juhl is currently completing his Bachelor of Music degree at **The Juilliard School**.

Aaron Mossburg performed with the PSO during the 2018-2019 season. He is currently with the **Rochester Philharmonic**.



"It is a pleasure to welcome Sean Juhl and Aaron Mossburg to the Pittsburgh Symphony family," said Melia Tourangeau, president and CEO of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, in a press release. "Both are outstanding young musicians with impressive backgrounds whose passion for music is an excellent match for the orchestra."

Mossburg will appear with the PSO again in April while Juhl will make his PSA debut in June.

## Romero's Archives

Film scholars and aficionados will soon have access to legendary George Romero's archives, reports Joshua Axelrod for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

The archives are held by the Hillman Library at the **University of Pittsburgh**



where its being prepared by collection coordinator Ben Rubin. The library acquired Romero's archives in 2019 and obtained those of his associate, Bill Cardille, last November.

Axelrod explains that the material is part of a "big-picture plan to create a dedicated center for the study of horror" on the university's campus. They join items and works from other sources, such as author Gwendolyn Kiste.

For more information, read [Axelrod's article](#).





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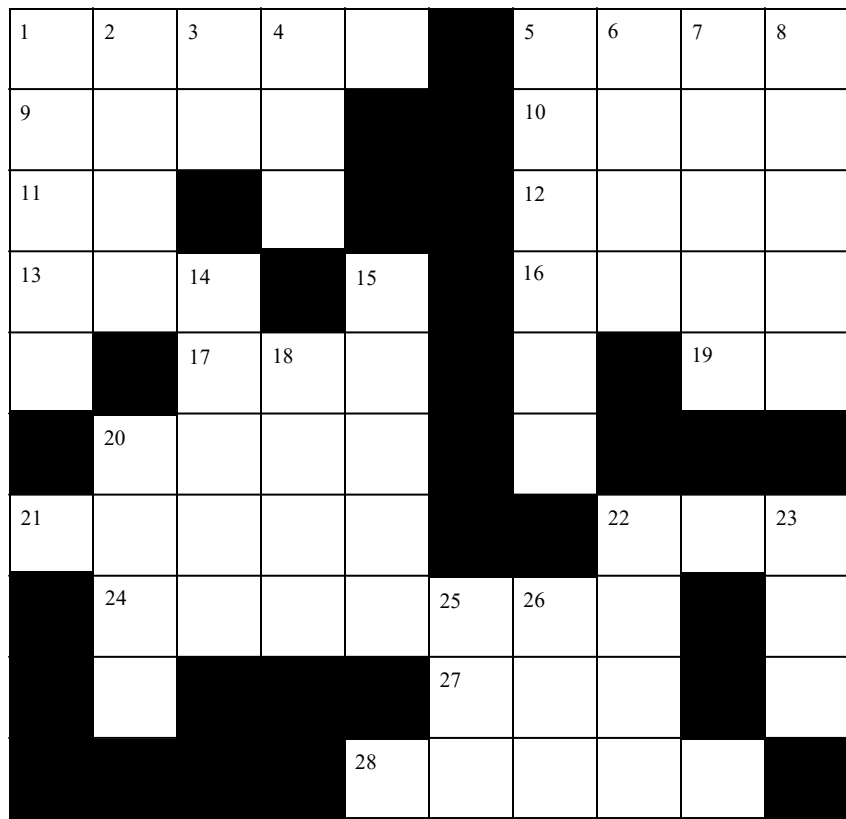
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## Across

1. Acerbic 5-Down waitress
5. One of the things your teeth do
9. Treat with a crème center
10. Sub by another name
11. @ in an email address
12. Note architect Saarinen, to pals
13. Actress and dancer Charisse, to pals
16. Magyar chieftain
17. PlayStation game introduced in 2001
19. Guitar legend Cooder, to pals
20. Slang term for an informant
21. Relating to a charged atom
22. Group of former Soviet states, initially
24. She became the manager of 5-Down
27. Be sick
28. Know-it-all regular at 5-Down



## Down

1. Beloved befuddle barman at 5-Down
2. Creative type
3. Aden Evans and Ian Ilavsky project
4. Lead-in to mein
5. Where everybody knows your name
6. Cad
7. Mistake
8. Sweet successor to 1-Down
14. Brainy waitress at 5-Down
15. Ancient ball game
18. Cool dude's abode
20. Full-bodied regular at 5-Down
22. Baby cow
23. Suave owner of 5-Down
25. President Coolidge, to pals
26. Caesar's 102

### Last Month's Solution

S	U	E	A	N	N			D	J
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K	E	L		S	P	A		R	
	N					R	O	S	E