

New Federal Budget Ups Arts Money

Signed into law on December 29, the \$1.7 trillion Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023 includes budget increases for the arts.

A fact sheet published by the U.S. House Appropriations Committee says that the act has “the highest-ever level of funding for the arts and humanities.”

“The Democratic-controlled House passed the bill 225-201, mostly along party lines, just before Christmas,” reports Darlene Superville for the Associated Press. “The House vote came a day after the Senate, also led by Democrats, voted 68-29 to pass the bill with significantly more Republican support.”

Provisions (per the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee) include the following:

- ◆ \$207,000,000 for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to continue the important work of the Endowment.
- ◆ \$3,661,000 for the Commission of Fine Arts
- ◆ \$5,000,000 for the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program
- ◆ \$8,585,000 for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.
- ◆ \$1,144,500,000 for all Smithsonian Institution accounts, of which \$892,855,000 is provided for salaries and expenses, which includes fixed costs

President Joe Biden signed the bill into law in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where he was vacationing with his family. The massive funding legislation (more than 4,000 pages) can be read in full by clicking [here](#).



FRANCO HARRIS
(1950- 2022)

City's Art Commission Plans

A plan to replace the city's art commission has received preliminary approval, reports WESA-FM. This comes after Mayor Ed Gainey abruptly dismissed the commission's members [See [Pittsburgh Applause, December 2022, page 3](#) – ed.]

The plan calls for replacing it with two separate committees, each with a specific focus: “one would

oversee public art in the city, reviewing submissions by artists. The other committee would review vivid design, what city buildings look like when renovated or landscaped.”

Mayor Gainey needs submit nominees to city council, which could happen sometime this month.

Proposal A Dud

A proposal to build a new concert venue has received a lukewarm response, reports Mark Belko for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

The proposal is to construct a new facility where part of the Civic Arena stood from 1961 to 2012. Created by **Desmone Architects**, the facility will include a parking garage and retail space. But the design is considered uninspiring to many members of the Pittsburgh Planning Commission. Belko quotes chairwoman Christine Mondor describing the design as something that “doesn't seem particularly welcoming” and seems “a little bit like an afterthought.”

Owners of the development rights, the **Pittsburgh Penguins**, is working with developer **Bucini/Pollin Group**. It is expected that **Live Nation** will operate the performance space. Read Belko's full article by clicking [here](#).

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Carnegie Library Sets Fundraising Record

In early December, the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** (CLP) and the **Allegheny County Library Association** (ACLA) announced that their recent “Love Your Library” campaign set a fundraising record.

The September program “raised a record-breaking \$1.26 million in charitable contributions, more than any previous year,” a CLP press release explains. The effort also qualified for Jack Buncher Foundation matching grant of \$200,000.



Separately, the CLP has named Dr. Deborah J. Rogers as the institution’s first Director of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility (IDEA). Her primary responsibility will be to ensure equal access to library resources.

“Deborah’s roots as a dynamic leader in efforts toward inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility (IDEA) are right here in Pittsburgh,” said CLP’s Andrew Medlar in a separate press release. “As a proud graduate of [former local public school] Schenley High School she is no stranger to our Main Library in Oakland. We are delighted to welcome her home and very fortunate to have an edu-

cator of her caliber join our team. I’m looking forward to working with Deborah as we work toward our next strategic plan.”

Dr. Rogers assumes her new post on February 20.



Actors Union Oks Pact

The members of **Actors' Equity Association** (AEA) have ratified a new three-year agreement with **The Broadway League**.

AEA has hundreds of members in the Pittsburgh area, some of whom appear on Broadway stages as well as local ones.



“The Broadway League is the largest group of employers for Equity members and coming to our first agreement after the pandemic shutdown and subsequent reopening is a major step,” said

AEA Lead Negotiator Al Vincent, Jr. in a press release. “This was not an easy negotiation, and over 21 bargaining sessions everyone on both sides of the table had to make difficult choices. I am proud of the work the Equity team did to achieve a contract that makes significant strides on a number of issues that have been on our agenda for decades. And this agreement also lays important foundations that we will build on in negotiations to come.” And improved paid sick time benefits.

Key elements include annual raises in minimum salary, a decrease in weekly rehearsal hours. The new agreement will be in effect through September 28, 2025.



PHILIP PEARLSTEIN
(1924-2022)

“Dance Moms” Studio Sold

The controversial dance instructor, choreographer and reality television star Abby Lee Miller has sold her former studio, reports Eric Heyl for Patch.

Miller had been dancing since childhood and first choreographed at age 14. She was certified by **Dance Masters of America** in 1986. Miller began operating her own studio in 1995. She became a national celebrity thanks to the cable television series “Dance Moms” (2011-2019). Miller began having serious legal problems which culminated in a con-

viction for bankruptcy fraud. She served a year and a day in federal prison.

Heyl reports that the owner of school bus company **Krise Transportation** purchased the property in early December for \$300,000.

Miller is currently experiencing a type of cancer that affects the lymphatic system and resides in Florida.

Images



Mike Faix of the National Aviary won an honorable mention in the Association of Zoos & Aquariums' annual photo contest with this image of a Victoria Crowned Pigeon and chick.





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Paramount Backs Away From Upfronts

It's a custom that dates back to the early 1960's. Now, KDKA-TV's parent company has announced upfront that the traditional upfront is no more.

An "upfront" is a type of conference held by a television network each

spring to preview the coming season's new programming for advertisers. The first was held by ABC (now part of the **Walt Disney Company**) in 1961. Over time, they have become elaborate affairs with celebrity appearances and special performances. CBS has often held their



annual upfront in May at Carnegie Hall.

That is changing reports Deadline's Dade Hayes. **Paramount Global's** John Halley issued a memo last month that "new realities call for new approaches."

"For myriad reasons," explains Hayes, "the upfronts have been getting an overall rethink, particularly as companies scrutinize their expenses in a time of economic uncertainty." Halley's memo informs his ad sales team that "we will be hosting a series of high-impact, intimate gather-

ings in April for each of our major agency partners and their clients in lieu of our traditional presence at Carnegie Hall."

You can read Hayes' article and Halley's memo by clicking [here](#). At press time, **Comcast's** NBC was still planning to hold its traditional upfront at Radio City Music Hall.

Hearst Grant

Pittsburgh's **Manchester Craftsmen's Guild** is among the recipients of a **Heart Foundation** grant program.

The Hearst Foundation is an institution run in part by the descendants of media entrepreneur William Randolph Hearst (1863-1951) and occupies the same building as the **Heart Corporation**. The company's assets include Pittsburgh TV station WTAE.

Funds (the actual amount was not in the press release) is to support the organization's arts education and youth development programs.

CSC Gets Grant

The Carnegie Science Center, part of the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**, has received a \$75,000 grant from the Bayer Fund. The fund is the philanthropic arm of German pharmaceutical giant **Bayer AG**.



The grant is to support the center's Exploration Bundles program. It provides teaching training to thousands of students and teachers in low-income school districts in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math).

"As our region's hub for [STEM] education, we know that many school districts face a myriad of barriers to accessing our programming, including difficulty scheduling, transportation costs, and limited teacher capacity," said Jason Brown of Carnegie Science Center in a press release. "With this grant from the Bayer Fund, we can help schools overcome these barriers, advance equity of access to STEM, and improve our region's STEM ecosystem."

Read the [full press release](#).



Channel
Pittsburgh





Opportunities

Nonprofit organization **Working Films** is accepting applications for its Rural Cinema program. Rural Cinema is a training institute and community engagement program aimed at supporting leaders from rural areas and small towns across the US in using film screenings as a resource in their work for environmental justice and protection. Click [here](#) for more information.

A temporary exhibitions installer is being sought by the **Mattress Factory** to work now through early March. Download the [PDF](#) for details.

Anyone interested in radio promotion should check out the part-time position available locally at **iHeartMedia** by clicking [here](#).

Opportunities on the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust** website include positions in [ticket sales, curation and other areas](#).

Various positions across the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** portfolio can be [checked out here](#).



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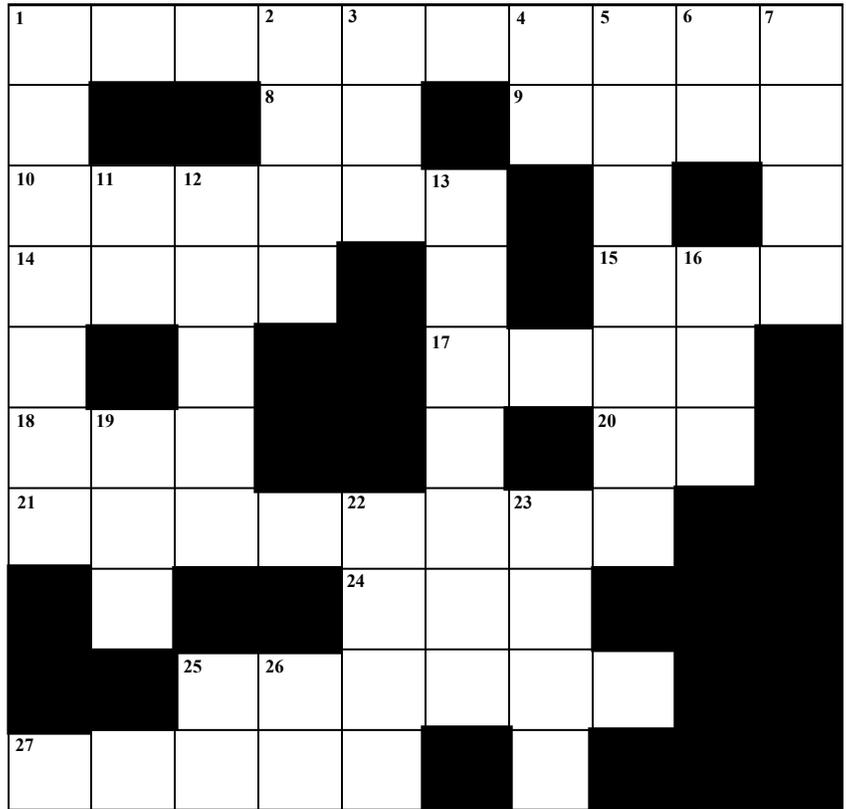
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Across

1. Beloved TV icon portrayed by 21-Across in a 2019 film.
8. Fiction word invented by H. P. Lovecraft
9. Money study, in brief
10. Stolen
14. Belonging to Japanese athlete Yasunaga
15. 1988 film starring 21-Across.
17. Grad, by another name
18. Rox lead-in?
20. Sitter in House of Commons, commonly
21. Award winning actor and subject of this puzzle.
24. First half of TV “Haw.”
25. Riot criminal, often
27. See 19-Down



Down

1. First name of title role portrayed by 21-Across in 1994.
2. Kelsea Ballerini song title.
3. Actress Charlotte
4. Popular appliance brand, initially
5. Lazy environmentalists?
6. Bajoran on TV’s “STNG”
7. Sweater problem
11. Diagraph found in some words
12. Type of TV buddy portrayed by 21-Across
13. 1987 cop comedy co-starring 21-Across
16. Naughty one
19. Computer animated 1995 featuring 21-Across’ voice (with 27-Across)
22. Ship’s greeting
23. Actor Howard
25. Lead-in to mein
26. Hospital cutting space, initially

Last Month’s Solution

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