

## Artists To Get \$2M From City's COVID Relief Funds

Mayor Bill Peduto announced on June 28 the city's plans for its share of federal relief funds --- and local artists are among the beneficiaries.

Signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden Jr., the American Recovery Act of 2021 is intended to speed-up the nation's economic revival as the COVID-19 pandemic ebbs. Pittsburgh is to receive \$332 million with \$2 million of that "to support local artists who experienced financial hardship during COVID and to bring music and art into public events and facilities across Pittsburgh."

Artists may also benefit indirectly through other initiatives being funded by the Recovery Act such as affordable housing programs.

Read the official announcement by clicking [here](#).



## Court Releases Bill Cosby

In a decision that stunned many actor and comedian Bill Cosby has been released from prison.

**The Pennsylvania State Supreme Court** ruled on June 30 that Cosby's 2018 prosecution should not have occurred and has vacated his sexual assault conviction. ABC News reports that the Court cited "a deal the comedian cut with former Montgomery County prosecutor Bruce Castor, who agreed not to criminally prosecute Cosby if he agreed to give a deposition in a civil case brought against him by [accuser Andrea Constand]."

*Variety's* Jordan Moreau and Kate Aurthur have penned [a recap of the Cosby saga](#) and you can [read the Court's decision](#).

The ruling was made on a point of procedure and not of the facts themselves. The Court essentially that, guilty or not, that Cosby didn't receive a fair trial. The decision was not unanimous. Three of the Court's seven members dissented. Two agreed with the majority that due process had not been followed but that it shouldn't result in vacating the conviction. The remaining justice felt that Castor's promise was non-binding.

## Dueling Music Industry Bills Hit Congress

On June 24, Representatives Ted Deutch (D-FL) and Darrell Issa (R-CA) introduced a proposed law called the American Music Fairness Act (AMFA).

Most of nation's 8,000+ traditional radio stations do pay royalties through licensing programs offered primarily through the **American Society of Composers and Publishers** (ASCAP). But performers and the copyright owners of recorded music have no such resource nor are broadcasters required to compensate them. The proposed legislation aims to change that.

The act, reports *Variety's* Jem Aswad, is partially in response to another proposed law: "the Local Radio Freedom Act that Steve Womack (R-AR) and Kathy Castor (D-FL) introduced last month, which is championed by the **National Association of Broadcasters**. That act aims to continue terrestrial radio's royalty-free status, stating that Congress should not impose any new performance royalty or other charges that might create economic hardship for locally owned radio sta-

*Continues on Page 2*

## PA Bill Would Ban Non-Compete Clauses

State Senator Camera Bartolotta (R-Washington County), chair of the The Senate Labor & Industry Committee, held a virtual hearing on June 10 on Senate Bill 320.

Bill 320 is a proposed law to ban non-compete clauses in the contracts of broadcast employees. Senator Bartolotta is the bill's sponsor. In a press release, she explains that "This issue hits close to home as my daughter is a tele-

vision anchor with CBS in New Orleans and has shared concerns with me about limitations she has faced."

That same press release explains that the law "would allow individuals to seek the best opportunities locally, rather than being forced out of their geographic area to further their career. The legislation would not alter the agreed to, contractual require-

ments between employers and broadcast employees while the contract is in effect. It also would not prohibit contractual requirements to protect confidential information or trade secrets should the employee take a job with a new employer."

Read Senate Bill 320 by clicking [here](#).

Click the link below for a video about Senate Bill 320



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## Dueling Music Bills

### *Continues from Page 1*

tions. Some 138 Representatives and 18 Senators have signed that non-binding resolution; Senators Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and John Barrasso (R-WY) are championing similar legislation in the Senate."

Several organizations have come out in public support for the AMFA, **including The Recording Academy, SAG-AFTRA and the Music First Coalition**. Meanwhile, a vigorous opposition is being led by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB). The association's president issued a statement that they "strongly opposes the American Music Fairness Act or any imposition of a performance royalty on America's local radio stations. For decades, broadcast radio has enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship with the music industry, launching and sustaining the careers of countless artists, promoting album sales and

streams, and helping to foster a robust music-creation environment that is the envy of the world."

The NAB insists that its members "remain open to working with the record labels to reach a comprehensive and reasonable solution to this issue that reflects the incredible value provided by local radio to musicians, labels and our millions of listeners over-the-air and online. It is unfortunate that the record industry refuses to have those discussions."

The future of each bill remains uncertain. But if the AMFA does become law, there may be an unintended consequence, writes Bobby Owsinski for *Forbes*, who suggests that "more stations will give up the music ghost and turn to talk radio, especially the few independent stations that are living on the financial edge."

More about the AMFA can be read by clicking [here](#).

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## International Dates Set

The Carnegie Museum of Art (CMA) has announced the dates for the next Carnegie International. CMA is part of the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**.



First held in 1896, the Carnegie International is the oldest exhibition of contemporary art in North America. Fifty-seven exhibitions have been held over the last 125 years. The next International will be held from September 24, 2022 and run through April 2, 2023

Sohrab Mohebbi, curator-at-large at New York City's respected **SculptureCenter**, has been selected to lead the 58th installment. His team includes Ryan Inouye (most recently from the **Sharjah Art Foundation** in the United

Arab Emirates) and Talia Heiman (formerly of the **Center for Contemporary Art & Arts** in Israel).

"I am honored and excited to have the opportunity to work on the Carnegie International with this dream team. We came together in a historical moment that we are still to process," says Mohebbi in a press release. "The pandemic has set in motion practices of solitude and solidarity; perhaps we can think of these practices as the way of the artist and the struggle of the activist. Never before have these two positions been more aligned on such a planetary scale. The artist's primary material is the use of their time, while an activist shares their time with others and distributes it. In the making of this exhibition, our hope is to sync our clocks with both."

## New Carnegie Chair

Geovette E. Washington has been selected to chair the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** (CMP) Board of Trustees, the institution announced on June 15.



Washington is senior vice chancellor and chief legal officer of the **University of Pittsburgh**. She succeeds William E. Hunt, who has chaired the trustees for the past seven years, and has been on the board since 2017.

"I'm incredibly honored to have this opportunity to be an integral part of the Carnegie Museums story," Washington said in a press release. "The four museums play such a vital role in our lives --- in the education and inspiration of our children and the cultural vitality of our community. Now more than ever, we need the expansive view of the world that these world-class museums have to offer. I am excited to continue and build upon the good work and leadership of Bill Hunt."

## \$1M Grant For Museum

With an impressive \$1 million grant from the Arconic Foundation, new five-year learning program is to begin at the **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** (CMP).



The foundation is the philanthropic arm of the **Arconic Corporation**, which was formed last year after the iconic Pittsburgh firm **ALCOA Corporation** reorganized. The money is financing educational opportunities tying arts and making to STEM (science, technology, engineering, math).

A press release explains that the grant "will provide free field trips, summer camps and scholarships, workshops and the establishment of a new metalworking shop inside the new museum for youth ages 10 and older at Children's Museum of Pittsburgh's Museum-Lab."

For additional details, [read the full press release](#).

Geovette E. Washington's impressive background includes serving as general counsel and senior policy advisor in the White House Office of Management & Budget and as deputy general counsel for the U.S. Department of Commerce.



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## A Secret Ransomware Attack?

Has the corporate owner of WPXI-TV been the target of ransomware? **Cox Media Group** (CMG) isn't talking, but there is plenty of speculation.



CMG (which is owned by **Apollo Global Management** and **Cox Enterprises**) has 65 radio stations and 33 television stations, including Channel 11 in Pittsburgh. On June 4, *Inside Radio* reported that "computers were hacked, impacting internal networks and other operations. While station websites and most programming remained intact, the incident caused some live programming to be scrubbed . . . and some TV stations had to cancel newscasts." Read the report [here](#).

WPXI was among those hit, according to NBC News' Kevin Collier, who explains that 'the event appeared to be the latest U.S. incident of ransomware, where hackers will infect a network and hold its files hostage while demanding payment.'

At press time, there was no mention of the incident on CMG's web site.

## PSO Violinist Honored

Lorien Benet Hart, a violinist with the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO), is one of five musicians from across the country to receive a Ford Musician Award for Excellence in Community Service.

The program is operated by the nonprofit **League of American Orchestras** and is financed by the philanthropic arm of the **Ford Motor Company**. It recognizes the community impact that professional musicians make outside the concert hall.



Hart has been honored for her support of Pittsburgh's underfed. "Lorien is a true advocate for food rescue, and dedicated to doing good," said Leah Lizarondo, co-founder and CEO, **412 Food Rescue**, said in a PSO press release. "In addition to being one of our most active food rescue drivers, Lorien has also brought so many others onto the team in new and creative ways. We are incredibly thankful to Lorien for her generosity and leadership as a 412 Food Rescue volunteer and are proud that she is being recognized by the League of American Orchestras for her work."

## Images



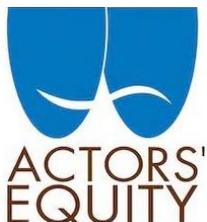
*The Pittsburgh Public Theater is among the entities returning to in-person programming this fall.*

## McColl Leaving AEA

Performers union **Actor' Equity Association** (AEA) has announced that Mary McColl is stepping down as executive director.

An AEA press releases praises McColl for having "helped modernize the operations of the organization, leading the union to engage more directly with the labor movement by overseeing the receipt of a direct charter from the **AFL-CIO** and implementing changes to the union's constitution that created the first-ever national convention. She stabilized the union's finances after years of deficits by modernizing their business systems and working with union leaders on a successful referendum to change the union's dues structure."

McColl joined the union in 2011. Her contract expires in January 2022.



## SAG-AFTRA Warning

The local chapter of **SAG-AFTRA** is warning members not to accept work through the **CAM Talent**.



CAM Talent is a Columbus-based model and talent agency that launched in 1985 but may have gone out of business: its phone line and web site are not functioning and its Facebook profile hasn't had a new posting since 2013. The company and SAG-AFTRA officially ended their relationship on June 4.

With the company's operating status uncertain, the union's local chapter is advising members that any contracts they may have with CAM are terminated although the agency "may retain and collect any commissions earned" before June 4.

## Zoo's Baker Retires

Dr. Barbara Baker, the long-time leader of the **Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium**, is retiring. The institution made the formal announcement on June 24.

The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium is one of only six major zoo and aquarium



combinations in the United States with more than 8,000 animals representing over 600 species.

A veterinarian by training, Dr. Baker has been president and CEO for an impressive 31 years and guided the zoo from being a city service to a stable, independent organization. In a press release, board chair Donna Hudson said: "Barbara Baker has been a ground breaker from the outset, as she came to Pittsburgh as the youngest executive in the zoo industry and one of the few women executives at that time. She has accomplished a great deal in educating people of all ages about animal and habitat welfare and conservation through the quality and variety of the Zoo's many exhibits and programs."

A formal search committee has been formed. Dr. Baker will continue as president until a successor is named and remain a consultant through 2022.

**GPAC Responds to the COVID-19 Crises**

Click here to read how the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council is trying to help local artists and groups.



MON  
12



The WIZARD of OZ

THU  
8



FRI  
9



WED  
21

FRI  
30



# Opportunities

**Fred Rogers Productions** is seeking an associate producer for the non-profit's popular "Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood" series. [Click here.](#)

The BIPOC ArtistMicro-Grant program, created by the **Pittsburgh Foundation** and funded by the **Mac Miller Fund**, will award 75 micro-grants of \$1,000 to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) artists to assist them in their work. [Details and application.](#)

Several positions are available at the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** in areas as diverse as development, programming, technology and maintenance. [Click here.](#)

KDKA-TV, owned by **Viacom CBS**, is still looking for a producer for "Pittsburgh Today Live" to succeed the retired Jill Neely. [Click here.](#)

Extras are being hired by **Nancy Mosser Casting** for the new TV series "What If?" [Click here.](#)

**The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** is seeking to fill various openings in education, facility management and human resources. [Click here.](#)

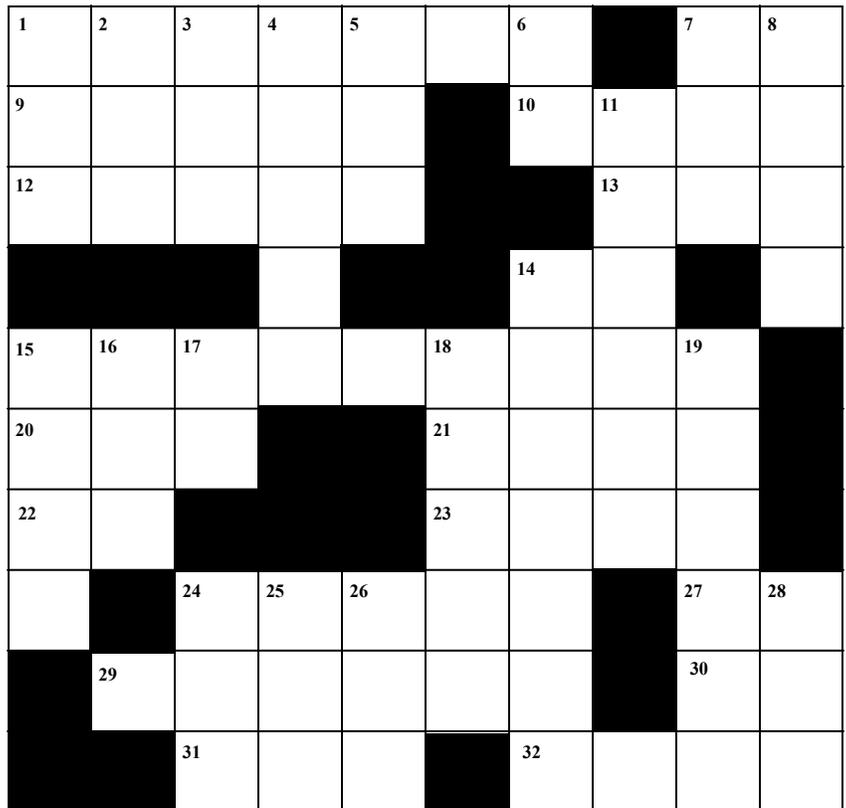
Teaching artists and a technical director are being sought by **City Theatre**. [Click here.](#)

WTAE-TV, part of **Hearst Communications**, needs a post-production coordinator. [Click here.](#)



## Across

1. 15-Across' wife
7. "The Devil Wears Prada"  
co-star, initially
9. Popular beer brand since 1873
10. Not near
12. Printer substance
13. Top fighter pilot
14. Today's Personnel Department,  
in brief
15. One of the nation's Founding Fathers  
and the subject of this puzzle
20. Eco letters?
21. Model and blogger Wilkes, to pals
22. He wanted to phone home in 1982
23. An artist's body of work (variation)
24. R. D. Blackmore's 1869 novel  
(with 18-Down)
27. Group of 27 nations, briefly
29. One of 15-Across' two  
main professions
30. Top lead-in?
31. "Golly \_\_\_!"
32. One plus two (in Berlin)



## Down

1. 15-Across fought against the Stamp \_\_\_
2. Halloween comment
3. Charged particle
4. What 20-Across would like us to "go"
5. Islam's daily afternoon prayer
6. CA city
7. Anatomical bag
8. Sci-fi franchise "Star \_\_\_"
11. One of 15-Across' two  
main professions
14. 15-Across' alma mater
15. Traditional military vehicle
16. Choose
17. Half a laugh
18. See 24-Across
19. Involuntary reaction
24. Fall behind
25. In debt
26. A common grain
28. Israeli submachine gun

### Last Month's Solution

	T	H	E	T	R	U	S	T	
K	A	E	L		E	L	U	D	E
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