

## Trump Team Targets NEA, NEH & CPB

Mike Mulvaney, President Trump's director of the Office of Management & Budget, has made it clear that three cultural institutions --- the **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA), **National Endowment for the Humanities** (NEH) and the **Corporation for Public Broadcasting** (CPB) --- are "something [the federal government] cannot defend anymore."



For at least thirty years these three entities have been the target of conservatives' ire, often more for the projects they support (which they tend to see as too liberal) rather than cost (which is relatively modest).

But, for the first time in history, an administration is proposing shutting them down. (**The Institute of Museum & Library**

**Services** has also been target for closure).

The arts community has chosen to fight back aggressively. *Variety's* Ted Johnson explains that **Americans for the Arts** (AFA) has also done something for the first time: they've hired an outside counsel, **Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck**.

The AFA was founded in 1996 through the merger of two non-profit organizations to support arts on the local level. The Denver-based Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck was founded as a law firm in 1968 that expanded into lobbying in 1995 and has a large office in Washington, D.C.

Johnson reports that the AFA's Nina Ozlu Tunceli has been meeting with Republican leaders in both the House and Senate. Tunceli found that "there is really no appetite to eliminate these cultural agencies" which are seen, at least in part, as beneficial to local economies and communities.

"Federal dollars are used to leverage state, local and private funding," write Philip Kennicott and Peggy McGlone in the *Washington Post* "that supports a complex network of arts organizations, educational entities, museums, libraries and public broadcasting affiliates."

Locally-based efforts are being spearheaded by the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council**.

**Important News on  
Midtown Fire:  
Turn to Page 2**



## Pelley To Leave "Evening News" Anchor Chair

At press time, *Variety* reported that Scott Pelley is stepping down as anchor of the "CBS Evening News."



"Evening News" is the flagship program of the CBS television network. **CBS Corporation** owns broadcast stations in Pittsburgh, most notably KDKA.

*Variety's* Brian Steinberg posted the story online early on the morning of May 31. The winner of multiple awards, Pelley apparently wants to focus on his "60 Minutes" reporting full time. He has anchored "Evening News" since succeeding Katie Curic in 2011.

Later in the day, in a separate posting, Steinberg reported that Anthony Mason would at least temporarily assume the anchor chair.

# Midtown Towers Catches Fire; 100 Displaced

The following is a personal report written by *Pittsburgh Applause* publisher James A. Richards.

Early in the morning of Monday, May 15, a seven-alarm fire began in Apartment 606 of Midtown Towers, one of the iconic structures in the Pittsburgh Cultural District. That apartment's resident, 75-year-old Mary Robinson, perished. Much of the sixth, seventh and eighth floors were essentially swept away by the flames.

Midtown Towers was constructed in 1907 by newspaper owner Colonel Thomas J. Keenan (?-?) at the then-astounding cost of \$2 million. It was initially called the T. J. Keenan Building and was, for years, the tallest building in Pittsburgh. The facade is decorated with face carvings that range from George Washington (1732-1799) to Pittsburgh Mayor George Guthrie (1848-1917).

The T. J. Keenan Building was the headquarters for the *Penny Press* (a forerunner to the *Pittsburgh Press*) and the unique domed top floor was a luxury penthouse where Thomas Keenan lived. In the early 1970s it was repurposed as affordable housing (some of it subsidized) with retail on the first floor. The resulting apartments are small, but tasteful and comfortable and provide a convenient place to live for an eclectic collection of students (many of them artists), single professionals, retirees and the disabled.

For me, a professional with issues like spinal stenosis, Midtown has been an ideal location to continue my projects --- projects that each

of you benefits from --- while managing my health and life.

Midtown routinely passed its safety inspections, as Megan Guza confirmed in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. That help around 100 people to escape with little or no injury. (You can read her article at <http://triblive.com/local/allegheeny/12300584-74/fire-at-pittsburgh-apartment-building>).

The "bones" of the building (foundation, walls, roof, etc.) are strong but some of the infrastructure (such as wiring) has been compromised. We have been told to expect at least six months before the tenants can return to their homes.

I am among the most fortunate: all of my personal and professional belongings survived the fire.

As of this writing, around have of the residences are residing at a hotel in Monroeville (the rest are staying with friends or family). Midtown Towers' management hopes to arrange better temporary housing sometime in June. However, since most of us are urbanites who don't drive, we are pretty much isolated here.

Help of almost any kind is very welcome. You can reach me on my simple cell phone (voice and text only) at 412-606-1572. We are currently at the address below.

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Thanks!  
Jim



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## Gene Kelly Awards

Local high school productions were honored at this year's Gene Kelly Awards.



Named in honor of Pittsburgh native actor, dancer and filmmaker Gene Kelly (1912-1996), the program recognizes excellence in high school musical theater. It is a joint effort of the **Pittsburgh CLO** and the **University of Pittsburgh**. The year's awards were presented at the Benedum Center on May 27.

Productions of "Sister Act", "Big Fish" and "Zorro: The Musical" won in their respective budget levels. Jake Pedersen of Pine-Richland was named Best Actor for his lead role in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Chloe Rae Kehm of West Allegheny won Best Actress for her lead performance in "Thoroughly Modern Millie."

Sharon Eberson of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* has posted the entire list of winners at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/high-school-musicals/2017/05/27/Hampton-Baldwin-Pittsburgh-Obama-win-best-musical-2017-Gene-Kelly-Awards-high-schools/stories/201705270104>

## The Pittsburgh A&E Book

**A new edition is currently in development!**

## Press Club Awards: Chris Moore Honored

WQED's Chris Moore and the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*'s Marylynne Pitz were among the honorees at the Press Club's annual Golden Quill Awards.



**The Press Club of Western Pennsylvania** is a nonprofit organization of journalists and other communications professionals from a 29-county area of Western Pennsylvania. The Golden Quills competition recognizes professional excellence in print, broadcast, photography, videography and digital journalism in the region.

Marylynne Pitz and Jonathan Silver share a Golden Quill for their *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* article titled "How Film Nonprofit Lost Focus: Merger of Arts Groups Led to Fiscal Problems for Filmmakers" which explored what happened after Pittsburgh Center for the Arts and Pittsburgh Filmmaker merged.

Chris Moore received a special honor for his contributions to local journalism through both **WQED Multimedia** and the **Pittsburgh Black Media Federation**.

The awards were presented May 25 at the Sheridan Station Square. A posting can be read at <http://www.westernpapressclub.org/>

[g\\_quill.html](http://g_quill.html) with the full list of honorees at [http://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/prnewswire/press\\_releases/Pennsylvania/2017/05/25/DC98546](http://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/prnewswire/press_releases/Pennsylvania/2017/05/25/DC98546)



## Pittsburgh Artist Gets Premier Residency

Pittsburgh native Nate Lewis has been chosen to spend a four-week residence on Martha's Vineyard to create work for this year's Art on the Vine exhibition.

Art on the Vine (AOV) is a non-profit subsidiary of **The Agora Culture**, a national online multi-cultural arts platform that connects new and seasoned art collectors with contemporary visual artists. AOV seeks to educate and showcase a diverse array of artists through a four-week residency program and annual art exhibition in Martha's Vineyard.

Nate Lewis is a former critical care nurse now living in Washing-

ton, DC. He specializes in intricate 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional sculptures made from sheets of paper. Each work combines elements of etching, textiles and embroidery.

"This residency will give me more freedom to try new techniques that typically take longer to achieve," Nate explains in a press release. "I'm really looking forward to spending time on the Vineyard, getting to know the community, and working on my practice."

Martha's Vineyard is an island off the Massachusetts coast that is considered a prime summer vacation spot for about 100,000 people

each year. Its believed to have been named by English explorer Bartholomew Gosnold (1571-1607) after his daughter. The Art on the Vine's annual festival is scheduled for August 13 through 15.

## AFI Welcomes Pittsburgh Filmmaker To Festival

A new documentary film about an interesting period in modern Pittsburgh history will be screened at this year's AFI Docs Festival.



Founded in 1967, the **American Film Institute** (AFI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the heritage of the motion picture. The AFI Docs festival has been showcasing recent documentary films since 2003.

Writing for *Variety*, Ted Johnson reports that "Tough Guys" looks at the early days of mixed martial arts competitions as they happened in 1980s Pittsburgh. More on the film is available at [http://www.imdb.com/title/tt5023566/?ref=fn\\_tt\\_tt\\_3](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt5023566/?ref=fn_tt_tt_3)

The festival is scheduled for June 14 to 18 in the Washington, DC, area.

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## Warhol Changes

Important personnel changes have been made at the Andy Warhol Museum, one of the four **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**.



A press release dated May 10 explains that the changes "strengthen The Warhol's ability to accomplish its mission and achieve its goals."

The changes are promotions: financial chief Rachel Baron-Horn is now deputy director; Jose Carlos Diaz has been upped to chief curator; associate curator Jessica Beck is now the Milton Fine Curator of Art; and education curator Danielle Linzer has been named director of learning and public engagement.

## Cosby Jury Selected

A jury of Pittsburghers has been selected for comedy legend Bill Cosby's Philadelphia trial.

For decades Cosby has been a beloved comedian and actor. From his early days on the stand-up circuit to hit TV shows that include "I Spy" (1965-1968) and "The Cosby Show" (1984-1992) as well as the best-selling book, *Fatherhood* (1986), Billy Cosby has been referred to as "America's Dad".

But dogging him during his long career have been rumors of drug-assisted sexual abuse of women. This began to change in 2014 when the first of a series of public accusations began. On December

30, 2016, was charged in Philadelphia with sexual assault. It was decided that the jury would be drawn from the Pittsburgh-area because of the intense media coverage in Philadelphia.

Two African-Americans are among the 12 that will be seated for the trial, as are two of the six alternates. While this sounds like too few, the Associate Press reports that the "jury's racial makeup of 17% black is higher than the 13% black population" of Allegheny County.

The trial is set to begin June 5. The 79-year-old Cosby is not expected to testify.

## Abby Miller Sentenced

Abby Lee Miller --- the former star of the Pittsburgh-based reality show "Dance Moms" has been sentenced to a year in jail after being convicted of money laundering and bankruptcy fraud.

She has also been fined \$40,000 and been assessed a judgment of

\$120,000. Once released from jail, Miller will be on probation for two years.

Miller formally resigned from the show in March, which is now produced in California.

## Local Priest's Papal Pictures

Pittsburgh-based priest, Father James P. Colligan, has just published a visual document of a historic visit by the late Pope John Paul II.

Colligan has been a Catholic priest for some six decades and spent much of his career in Japan. He is also a professional writer and journalist with a love of the photographic arts. In 1981, Pope

Saint John Paul II (1920-2005) made a historic visit to Tokyo and two other cities --- Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which were hit by the first atomic bombs toward the end of World War II (1939-1945).

*The Visit of Pope John Paul II to Japan in Photographs 1981* provides an detailed visual record of this pilgrimage. "I have always admired Pope John Paul II and

was honored to be able to follow him through Japan and listen to his plea for peace," Father Colligan says in a press release. "With all the hate attacks around the country and the world, I believe the Pope's plea for peace speaks louder than ever."

More information is available at <http://www.frjimcolligan.com/>



## Biting The Middle Man With Bitcoin

Musicians and singers seeking ways to connect directly with (and especially make money from ) their audiences may have a new tool, writes Terry Brock in the *Pittsburgh Business Times*: Bitcoin.

Bitcoin is a virtual currency system introduced in 2009 by a group of anonymous computer programmers using the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto. However, the value of Bitcoin is highly dependent on what users decide since the currency is not backed by any government's central bank. Nevertheless, major companies like **Microsoft** and **Overstock.com** have embraced it as well as some nonprofits such as **Greenpeace**.

Digital currencies are being used by an increasing number of artists, reports Brock, "to process financial transactions faster and at much lower transaction fees" --- and, if necessary, without a label, distributor or agent.

At the core of his story, Brock videotaped an interview with a singer/songwriter using Bitcoin. You can see the interview by clicking: <http://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/how-to/growth-strategies/2017/05/how-musicians-and-other-artists-are-using-bitcoin.html>

## Filmmaker's Penthouse Sale

The former owner of Legendary Entertainment, billionaire Thomas Tull, is putting his Pittsburgh penthouse up for sale. The news was first reported by Mark David in *Variety*.

Located inside the modernist Three PNC Plaza (completed in 2009 and home to a Fairmont Hotel), Tull created the 13,000-square-foot home by buying condos in multiple transactions between 2012 and 2013. The result is what David describes as "a sumptuous and audaciously opulent neoclassical fantasia with

seven bedrooms and nine full and two half bathrooms."

The asking price is just under \$11 million. A slide show with images of the penthouse have been posted online at <http://variety.com/gallery/thomas-tull-lists-palatial-pittsburgh-penthouse/#!2/undefined/>

Tull is also a minority owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers and will continue to reside in the Pittsburgh-area.

## Images



*Marcus Stevens stars as the Almighty in "An Act of God," a comedy being staged at the O'Reilly Theater. The play was written by Emmy Award winning writer of "The Daily Show" David Javerbaum.*





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## CAPA Student Gets Comcast Scholarship

A student from the Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) is among the recipients across Pennsylvania of a **Comcast** scholarship.



Comcast operates Pittsburgh's cable television franchise and owns entertainment giant NBC-Universal. About \$188,000 in scholarships have been awarded to 178 Pennsylvania students in what a press release describes as a program that "recognizes the best

and brightest high school seniors for their community service, academic performance and leadership skills."

Zainab Adisa is a CAPA senior and an aspiring journalist. She praised CAPA's curriculum, telling the *New Pittsburgh Courier's* Rob Taylor Jr. that "I feel like my writing has definitely come a long way."

Adisa graduates from CAPA on June 11. She plans on taking a double major (journalism and international studies) but hasn't chosen a college yet. For a complete list of recipients, click [http://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/prnewswire/press\\_releases/Pennsylvania/2017/05/24/](http://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/prnewswire/press_releases/Pennsylvania/2017/05/24/)

## Former AIP Building To Be Renovated

The former home of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh (AIP) will undergo a complete renovation, reports Tim Schooley in the *Pittsburgh Business Times*.

AIP recently moved to a new location in the Strip District.

The nine-story, 178,000-square-foot Gothic Revival structure was completed in 1925 as an office building (AIP didn't move in until decades later). Schooley explains that the developer will be adding amenities such as fitness centers,

a first-floor restaurant and a rooftop deck, giving it modern accoutrements combined with the classic building features

The developer has created a web site for the building at <http://www.blvd420.com/>



**Channel  
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## AI Expands Program

The Art Institutes has announced plans to expand their College Bound program.

Formerly a key division of the beleaguered **Education Management Corporation**, the Pitts-



burgh-based chain of schools is now owned by the nonprofit religious organization **Dream Center Foundation** [See *Pittsburgh Applause*, May 2017, page 4 at <http://www.pittsburghapplause.com/pittsburghapplausemay2017.pdf>ed.]

A press release explains that high school students "can learn in a summer express or a traditional 11-week online format to gain college-level experience in design, media arts, fashion or culinary." Two dozen campuses, including Pittsburgh are participating.

More information, including registration is available at <http://www.event.com/events/college-bound-express/event-summary-93f671c53d2d4e8197ac9ead9c4019db.aspx>





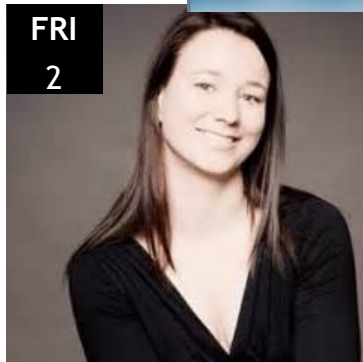
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THU  
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THU  
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FRI  
2



FRI  
16



SAT  
17



WED  
7



SUN  
18



SUN  
25



SAT  
10



TUE  
27

# Opportunities

**The Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** has a position open in their development department. This full-time job involves managing supporter solicitation and follow-up. Details are online at <https://www1.apply2jobs.com/CMP/ProfExt/index.cfm?fuseaction=mExternal.showJob&RID=1421&CurrentPage=1>

A new, start-up production company called **Six Foot Twelve** is looking for a professional videographer. To learn more, call Wyatt at (412) 855-3016.

Ligonier-based **Diamond Theatre** has scheduled an opening casting call for their original play "The Poisoned Apple." It's a comedic sequel to the classic "Cinderella" fairytale. The company is looking for males and females ages 14 and older. Dates are June 13 and June 19 with performances in late July. To learn more, contact [diamontheatre@hotmail.com](mailto:diamontheatre@hotmail.com)

The local branch of retailer **Artists & Craftsman** is seeking a new clerk to work their East End store. Knowledge of arts and arts supplies as well as the ability to lift heavy objects is important. For more information, call (412) 421-3002.

Production company **Kaino Entertainment** is casting for a new web series. They are seeking two actors in their 20s, one male and one female. The subject of the series is a young couple seeking a new apartment in hopes that a new environment will save their relationship. These unpaid roles. Contact the producers at [kainoentertainment.com](http://kainoentertainment.com)

Local nonprofit cultural organization **Young Men and Women's African Heritage Association** is seeking music and art teachers for their programs geared toward school-age children. A teaching certificate is not required. For more information, call (412) 322-4008.

Various volunteer opportunities currently exist with the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust**. For details, click [https://www.trustarts.org/pct\\_home/about/volunteering/](https://www.trustarts.org/pct_home/about/volunteering/)

Applications are still being accepted for the **Pittsburgh Black Media Federation's** annual Frank Bolden Urban Journalism Workshop. This free program for teens aims to inspire them to a career in journalism while increasing diversity in newsrooms. To learn more, click <http://pbmf.org/programs/frank-bolden-urban-journalism-workshop/>

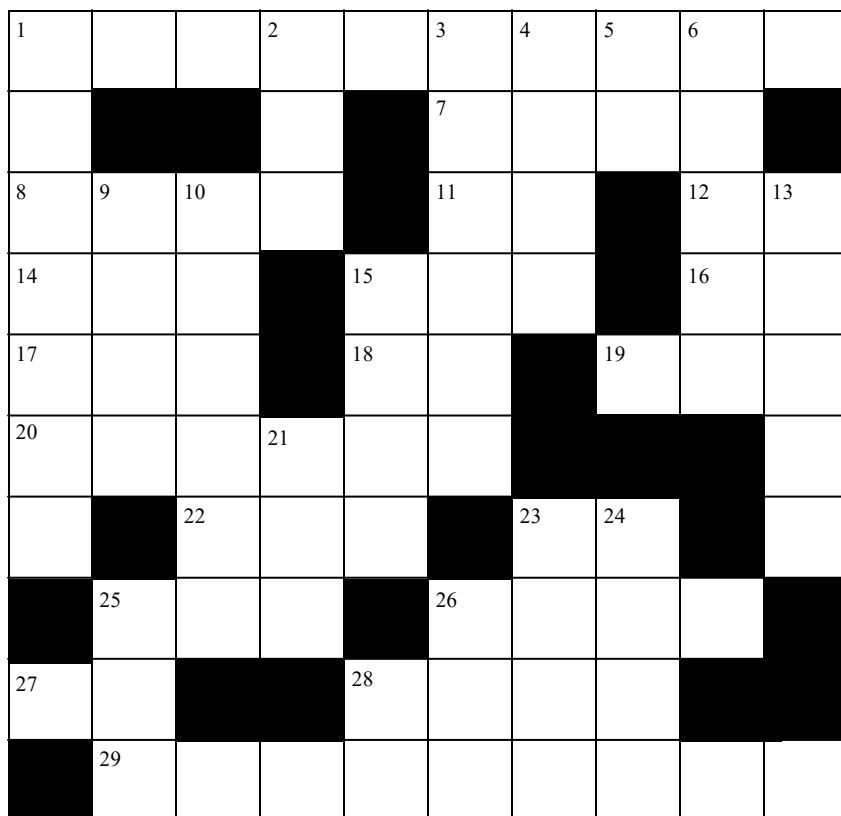


[www.pittsburghapplause.com](http://www.pittsburghapplause.com)    [www.pittsburghaebook.com](http://www.pittsburghaebook.com)



## Across

1. Home to shattering exhibits  
(with 6-Down and 10-Down)
7. Sea between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
8. Killer whale, by another name
11. State above SD
12. Stevie Wonder song of 1976
14. Observe
15. Wildebeest, by another name
16. Stage name for Hungarian rapper Eder
17. A glycoprotein, briefly
18. Double nothing?
19. Nation north of MX
20. Spoil
22. Frankel family's local  
entertainment firm
23. Tatarstan river
25. Dude, by another name



26. Mr. Warhol, to pals
27. Continent above SA
28. Pittsburgh-born landscape painter  
Augustus Vincent
29. Sixth Street concert palace


## Last Month's Solution

A	R	T	F	L	E	M	I	N	G		K	E	G	
D	A	R		U	T	A		O		T		L	O	B
E	V	E		C	H	R	I	S	C	O	L	F	E	R
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E	P	I	C			M	A	M	E		E	W	E	R
R	I	C	K	Y		I		J	A	C	K			

## Down

1. Local poetry radio show
2. La-La lead-in
3. The man behind Trump?
4. Hindi language
5. College dorm helper, briefly
6. See 1-Across
9. Take back, as a lender
10. See 1-Across
13. Roomy Liberty Avenue art gallery
15. Mistake
21. "Eldorado" band, briefly
23. One-twelfth of a foot
24. One Gateway Center television station
26. The alphabet's first letter twice,  
followed by its last letter
28. State west of NC

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