

Protests & Violence In Cultural District

It was supposed to be a peaceful protest outside the police substation in the Pittsburgh Cultural District. But it didn't end that way.

Anger over the shocking May 25 death of Minneapolis man George Floyd due to the actions of a police officer has spread across the country. The official protests have been largely peaceful. But bad actors from both the far left and far right (along with some opportunists) prodded violence and looting in various cities.

The May 30 afternoon protest was coordinated by the **Steel City Autonomous Movement**

(SCAM). According to their Facebook profile, SCAM says that it "is not an organization, just a platform for communication and coordinating solidarity between autonomous crews and organizations in Pittsburgh." Part of that communication included posting a guide for dealing with tear gas.

Nevertheless, a small group separated themselves from the official protest to begin breaking windows, overturning garbage cans and looting. A white man dressed in black with his face covered by a bandanna trashed a police car. *The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's* Jamie Martines reports that 46 people were arrested, but only 16

of them are from the city. Both Mayor Bill Peduto and Police Chief Chris Schubert used the word "high-jacking" to describe the roughly 100 individuals committing the acts. In her article, Martines says the police are describing them as "white male anarchists."

At least sixty downtown businesses and properties were affected according to the city's Department of Public Safety. WTAE-TV obtained security footage of a jewelry store being robbed which

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Pittsburgh To Start COVID "Green Phase"

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf announced on May 29 that Allegheny County and its surroundings (except Beaver) will transition to the "green phase" starting June 5. But reopening the region during the COVID pandemic is a complicated manner, especially in the art & entertainment world.

Any event involving 250 or more people is prohibited. These include concerts, plays, festivals and most sports (professional games may be held, but without a stadium audience). All official Pittsburgh events for Independence Day have been cancelled. The county's public pools remain closed for the season.

The announcement has raised some hopes. "I really miss my band and the fans," legendary rocker Donnie Iris told *Applause* via LinkedIn. "Not being able to perform is just awful." Musicians do seem to be having the hardest time. "The pandemic has affected me in the obvious sense by canceling or postponing all scheduled concerts for any of my five different performing groups," Joshua Carnes emailed *Applause*. "The financial toll of that is very burdensome. In addition the college where I teach music is closed and the online transition for education has been difficult.

Still, doors are not opening soon and the pandemic continues to pose serious challenges.

Contemporary Craft (formerly the Society for Contemporary Craft) has had to post-pone the grand opening of its new Lawrenceville home. In an email to *Pittsburgh Applause*, Stephanie Sun explained that the delay has impacted both the organization's programming and finances. These include Craft's annual gala fundraiser, an exhibit "featuring internationally renowned artist Swoon, and several community events for local residents, students and educators. Our organization's artist-led workshops from May to July, free summer youth art apprenticeship program working with under-

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Protests & Violence In Cultural District

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can be seen at <https://www.wtae.com/article/looters-break-into-several-jewelry-stores-in-downtown-pittsburgh/32724064>

The Zone 2 Police Substation across from Heinz Hall was hit particularly hard. This is ironic since local African-American leaders have been pleased with how the city's police department addressed the Floyd killing. On May 29, Schubert wrote an open letter to his officers. In it he said emphatically that "a person in handcuffs and face down on the ground should not lose their life due to the actions or inactions of the involved officers." He added that the department will be re-

evaluating its procedures and training to prevent such a terrible incident from occurring in Pittsburgh.

"As an African-American and as a guy who has been a civil rights activist for five decades plus," Tim Stevens of the community group **Black Political Empowerment Group** (B-PEP) told KDKA-TV's Chris Hoffman, "I was very moved by that."

Protests in both Philadelphia and Harrisburg also turned violent. In response, Governor Tom Wolf declared a disaster declaration.

Dozens of civilian volunteers came to Downtown on May 31 to

help city employees and business owners clear away the damage. Maria Sciallo wrote a hopeful piece about them for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* which can be read by clicking <https://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2020/05/31/Pittsburgh-George-Floyd-killing-protests-cleanup-volunteers-Downtown/stories/202005310109>



Early in the evening of May 31, the Pittsburgh Police department issued a list of those arrested during the previous day's protests. Most have been charged with disorderly conduct and failure to disperse.

Jacob Barney, 29, of 15211
Andrea Berry, 31, of 15224
Jordan Carl, 32, of 15202
Jamere Carter, 20, of 15108
John Connors, 33,
of McKees Rocks
Timothy Curton, 28,
of New Kensington
Cit Debreuce, 47, of Latrobe*
Katie Demi, 22, of Claysville
3 "John Does"
(i.e., real names unknown)
Shelly Duberry, 35,
no address listed
Colin Ewing, 22,
of South Park
Wesley Griswald, 41, of 15211
Miles Guy, 24, of Penn Hills
William Henry, 30, of 15208
Zoe Johnson, 21, of 15226
Heather Kilvington, 32,
of Ambridge

Madison Kress, 27, of 15206
Brian Longwill, 31,
of Turtle Creek
Peyton Mack, 27,
of Waynesburg
Harmony McDonald, 19,
of 15206
Cruize Mosley, 29,
of Penn Hills
Mohammed Nasir, 31,
of 15211
James Osbourne, 35, of 15220
Haley Patterson, 25,
of Ellwood City
Nakiesha Pick, 22, of Verona
Devin Pingree, 29, of Monaca
Christopher Pugh, 31,
of 15216
Andrew Putnam, 21,
of New Castle
Dayionna Randolph, 21,
of 15212

Isabella Ruzzo, 19,
of New Castle
Peyton Sabala, 24,
no address given
Dustin Schrader, 25, of 15232
Douglas Smith, 29, of 15235
Abbey Sporio, 21,
of Elizabeth
Dustin Stresky, 40, of 15212
Thomas Talley, 24,
of New Castle
Chad Thrush, 40, of 15219
Kayla Turner, 25,
of Pittsburgh
Jennie Wansor, 21,
of New Castle
Jerome Williams, 27, of 15212
Debra Wooley, 54, of 15222
Khallid Young, 26, of 15206

*This man was also charged with carrying a firearm without a license and was still in jail as *Pittsburgh Applause* went to press.

Pittsburgh To Start COVID “Green Phase”

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served youth, outreach program in Pittsburgh Public Schools, and educational collaborations with Phipps Conservatory and Ton Pottery were also cancelled."

Row House Cinema has been developing ways to offset their losses. This now includes a "Movie Concession Pack" that movie lovers can order online. The pack includes popcorn, candy, logo merchandise and beverages.

On May 13, the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** announced that the suspension of in-person programs, outreach efforts and meeting room use has been extended to August 31. "Opening up our system's physical spaces will be slow, deliberate and will occur in stages in accordance with the Commonwealth's guidelines in order to limit exposure and spread of the virus." (All four **Carnegie**

Museums of Pittsburgh remain closed.)

Two days later the city announced what activities are permitted (and those that aren't) during the first phase. Allowed are drive-in movies, farmers markets, skate parks and certain outdoor sports. Prohibited for the interim are July 4 fireworks, summer camps and foot races. Details are available at <https://pittsburghpa.gov/press-releases/press-releases/3956>

The Pittsburgh Public Theater is moving its production of the play "The Cake" online. The comedy was written by Bekah Brunstetter, best known as a writer/producer for the hit TV series "This Is Us." The play will stream for ticket holders on June 4 and June 5.

The owner of the Kennywood and Sandcastle amusement parks is extending 2020 passes into 2021 for those who have bought them.

However, the folks over at **Cor-tron Media** have kept busy. The company operates the Pittsburgh Video Tech Center whose studio is regularly used by national media to interview local personalities and experts. These include infectious disease and biosecurity specialist Dr. Amesh Adalja. The firm also produced a Memorial Day television special at **Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum**.

Some people are nervous about the nation's scatter-shot reopening. "I don't know what to think," says Iris. "I do know that I'd be a little paranoid being around people I don't know so I try to be as cautious as I can."

And Carnes admits that he's "not convinced re-opening now is the best idea until we know more about how to stop the spread of COVID-19. Public health should be all of our collective number one concern."

The nation's re-opening has raised safety concerns in the workplace. This is especially true of those working in close quarters --- such as performers.

On May 26, **Actors' Equity Association** (AEA) released a memo drafted for union head Mary McCall. It was written by Dr. David Michaels, who was head of the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) during in Obama Administration. The memo outlines and details what an ACA press release calls "the four core principals needed to support safe and healthy theater production."

"We intend to build out protocols that can be used by our employers and all of our colleagues to insure that everyone who works in the theatre has the safest workplace possible," announced McCall. The memo

can be read at <https://members.actorsguild.org/newsandevents/equitynews/news/CoronavirusUpdate/ensuring-the-safety-and-health-of-equity-members>

AEA continues to urge the United States Senate to follow the House's lead in passing the proposed Health & Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (commonly called the HEROES Act). The \$3 trillion spending package includes a 100% health insurance subsidy for displaced workers. Senator Mitch McConnell has described the bill as "dead on arrival."

Meanwhile, a joint statement was released on May 27 by the **Director's Guild of America** (DGA), **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees** (IATSE) and **Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television & Radio Artists** (SAG-AFTRA). It says: "We all want folks to get back to work as soon as possible, but we need to do it right. At this time, no final draft of the *Industry Task Force White Paper* exists, and it would be premature to agree to or comment on standards that have not even been finalized."

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KDKA Layoffs

As May came to a close and America planned to reopen, hundreds of **ViacomCBS** employees learned that they no longer have a job.



Jon Lafayette reports in *Broadcasting+Cable* that the restructuring is a result of both the re-merger of Viacom with CBS and COVID-19 crises. Nearly every segment is affected, including local stations like KDKA which is losing evening anchor Susan Koeppen and morning anchor Rick Dayton.

Separately, award winning journalist Brenda Waters is retiring after more than three decades with the station.

Lafayette quotes from a memo issued by CEO George Cheeks that "these moves are in response to the ongoing and transformative changes happening in the media business, as well as circumstances from the unprecedented pandemic that we continue to navigate."

The network news division cut loose 75 professionals. In an internal email (leaked to The-Wrap.com) CBS News President Susan Zirinsky explained to her staff that "These decisions are particularly painful for our entire organization, which has performed at the highest level during the Covid-19 pandemic, overcoming so many obstacles."

Among the stations hardest hit is WBBM-TV in Chicago which let go a dozen staffers including respected investigative journalist Pam Zekman.

Sokolowski Dies

The former director of the Andy Warhol Museum has died. Thomas Sokolowski was 70. At his death, Sokolowski was director of the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum at **Rutgers University**.



University chancellor Christopher J. Molloy announced his passing on May 7. "Tom was a dynamic thinker whose intellect and knowledge of art history inspired

the Zimmerli board and the associated Rutgers community. Under his ambitious leadership, the museum acquired many significant works of art."

Sokolowski moved on to the Zimmerli after an impressive 14-year stint helming the Warhol. While there, he expanded the museum's focus from Warhol himself to the global impact of art (as inspired by artists such as Warhol).

But it may be Sokolowski's contributions during the height of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In 1988, he

CBS Comcast Deal

KDKA-TV's owner, **ViacomCBS**, has taken an ownership stake in a **Comcast** service reports John Lafayette for *Broadcasting+Cable*.



That service is called Blockgraph and it was launched in 2007 by a Comcast unit called FreeWheel. The service operates a data security platform for media companies and marketers. **Charter Communications** is also an investor.

"The value that Blockgraph brings to the industry has never been more important," Lafayette quotes Blockgraph CEO Jason Manningham. "Together with Comcast, Charter and ViacomCBS, we have the opportunity to reshape data driven advertising in a way that's better and more sustainable for brands, publishers, content distributors and above all else – audiences."

co-founded **Visual AIDS** to support the careers and legacies of artist infected with HIV.

Alex Greenberger has written a detailed obituary for *ArtNews* which can be read by clicking <https://www.artnews.com/art-news/news/thomas-sokolowski-dead-1202686266/>



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CMG's New CEO

Dan York has been named the new president of **Cox Media Group** (CMG), the corporate owner of WPXI-TV.



CMG was partially spun-off from **Cox Enterprises** in December 2019 when investment firm **Apollo Global Management** (APG) acquired a 70.9% stake.

In a press release, APG's David Sambur praised York for his "outstanding record of leadership in this industry, and of operating efficiently, creating strategic vision, and inspiring organizations to innovate and grow." York's resume includes stints with HBO and AT&T.

PBT's New AD

Susan Jaffe has been named the new artistic director for the **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre** (PBT). She succeeds the retiring Terrence S. Orr.

 Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre

Pittsburgh City Paper's Amanda Waltz quotes the PBT's Harris Ferris describing Jaffe as an "extremely impressive and a fabulous candidate who is up to the challenges that the world is currently facing." She is currently the dean of dance at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA).

Jaffe tells Waltz that she believes in making ballet more accessible. During her UNCSA tenure she launched an online portal show-

casing both past and present performances by students and faculty.

You can read Waltz's full article by clicking <https://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/susan-jaffe-to-guide-pittsburgh-ballet-theatre-as-new-artistic-director/Content?>



Images



A sign of reopening: Contemporary Craft shared this image taken May 14 of construction resuming at their new facility in Upper Lawrenceville.

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Opportunities

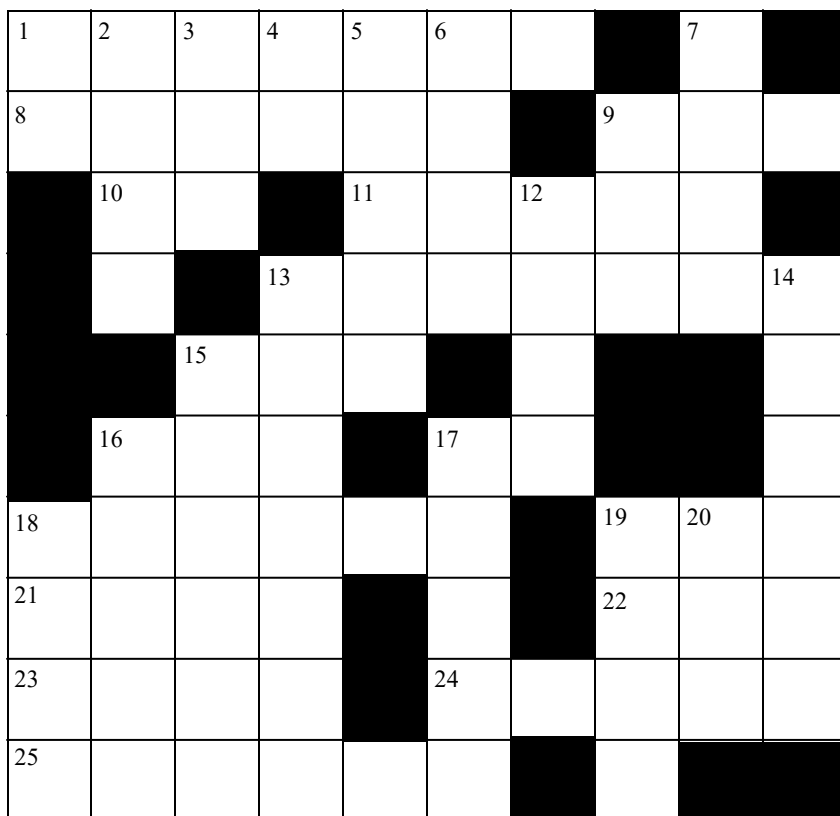
Local production company **White Ball Productions** is holding virtual auditions for its new project, "Grandpa and Shorty." The film centers on the challenges facing a war veteran as he tries adjusting to the civilian world. For more information, contact film@whiteballproductions.com

The Pittsburgh Film Office, Chatham University, Carnegie Mellon University, Community College of Allegheny County, Duquesne University, La Roche University, Point Park University, Robert Morris University and the **University of Pittsburgh** are inviting area film students to participate in "Pitch-Burgh: The Virtual Screening". Two minutes of your work will be showcased in this virtual event. An unlisted YouTube video upload will be required. The deadline for submissions is June 29. To submit your project, please fill out this Google form: <https://forms.gle/ShUrCwbYVp5LLtT9A>



Across

1. First part of brief celebrity
8. See 19-Down
9. Pen name or stage name letters
10. Possessive pronoun
11. Cher's first ex
13. Middle part of brief celebrity
15. Dakota's dad
16. Grass and soil
17. The initials of legendary comic who played Larry David's dad
18. See 13-Down
19. It joined 11-Across with Cher?
21. Woman of Irish folk lore
22. Pre-married name word
23. Natural satellite
24. Radioactive, tasteless noble gas
25. Last part of brief celebrity



Down

1. "Nosferatu" director Murnau
2. Popular dog food brand
3. Cook by burn
4. John Kerry's wife, initially
5. Acidic compound that leads to salt
6. Mr. Musk, to pals
7. "Say Anything" actress Iona
9. Tiny builder
12. Without feeling
13. Where 1-Across was first appeared (with 18-Across)
14. The location of 13-Across
15. Common phrase: "___ of reality"
16. Tom Clancy's "___ All Fears"
17. Look intently
18. Office communiqué
19. He inspired 1-Across (with 8-Across)
20. Keanu Reeve's "The Matrix" role

Last Month's Solution

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