

## SBA Is Asked: Where Is The Money?

**The Small Business Administration** (SBA) continues to struggle to help struggling entertainment entities, reports Jem Asward for *Variety*. According to Asward, not one cent has been distributed as of May 24. "Considering the speed with which [Payment Protection Plan] loans were sent out," he writes, the delay is confounding."

On May 26, *Pittsburgh Applause* sent an email to dozens of companies and organizations regarding their grant status. Many didn't even apply. These include **Three Rivers Studios** (TRS) where Sam Sandora explains that "the studio is working at full throttle at the moment with a television series with Sony Pictures, which will continue in October." (TRS has responded to the pandemic with an onsite lab and regular testing).

Alyssa Falarski of **North River Company** (owner of 31st Street Studios) also says that hadn't submitted an application. "We never technically closed our doors for business, but we also had no tenants after March 2020. We were fortunate enough to secure a new production ('Rust') at the beginning of this year, so we've been busy enough since January. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to get another production in since then."

However, Brian Drusky of **Drusky Entertainment** stated simply: "applied, nothing has been awarded yet." His company, nevertheless is booking shows again and that "everything opening fully."

Asward says that "the SBA's failures are stunning" and documents them in his [article](#).

Other COVID news:

**The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) will begin accepting applications on June 14 for the recently created Audience Safety Fund grants. The program provides up to \$500 for safety costs related to the pandemic. [Details are available here.](#)

**The Heinz Endowments** is providing \$3 million to help arts organizations to recover from the pandemic. This includes more than \$1.75 million to upgrade the historic New Granada Theater in the Hill District.

Greg Eide, founder and owner of **Eide's Entertainment**, as died from COVID-related complications. He was 69. The future of his legendary retail shop remains uncertain at press time.

The pandemic has prompted **Row House Theater** to expand into film distribution as *Pittsburgh City Paper's* Amanda Waltz reports [here](#).

David Haddad of **Haddad's Inc.** recently told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (the article was picked up by the Associated Press) that he's "urging everyone to get that vaccine and get that immunity. If everything stays on course, we hope we will be very busy into next year. But it's all about the virus potentially shutting us down, us being the whole economy."

Starting in July, **Cinemark Theaters** is reopening their local movie houses (except for Pittsburgh Mills, which is permanently closed).

**Allegheny Health Network** (AHN) has partnered with Marvel Entertainment (part of the **Walt Disney Company**) to produce a comic book titled *The Vitals: True EMS Stories* about emergency medical services professionals during the pandemic. It can be read anytime at [www.marvel.com](http://www.marvel.com).

United States Senator Charles "Chuck" Schumer recently discussed with **SAG-AFTRA** the reopening of the entertainment industry. Read it [here](#).

## Haddad Speaks

David Haddad of **Haddad's Inc.** recently gave an interview to the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (which was picked up by the Associated Press). In it, he discusses the unexpected evolution of his family's gas station into a media transportation company and how the firm has dealt with the pandemic. Read the article by clicking [here](#)

## Libeskin Chosen For Synagogue

One of the world's leading architects, Daniel Libeskin has been selected to redesign the **Tree of Life Synagogue** campus in Pittsburgh.

A gunman entered the synagogue on October 27, 2018, shouting anti-Semitic statements and shooting at the congregation during services. Eleven people were killed and six wounded. It is regarded as the deadliest attack ever on Jewish Americans.

The 75-year-old Libeskind was born in Lodz, Poland to Holocaust survivors. He originally considered a career in music before emigrating first to Israel and later the United States. Libeskind studied

architecture in New York City and has been designing buildings (many high-profile) since the 1970's. His most famous work is drafting the master plan for the former World Trade Center site.

Libeskind's combined personal and professional legacy appealed to the search committee. Or, as Rabbi Jeffrey Myers told *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Peter Smith, "he gets it."

The Tree of Life's congregation dates back to 1864 and has been in its present building since 1953. The modernist structure's cornerstone comes from a limestone quarry in Jerusalem. Libeskind will be working in concert with a

local architectural firm. Smith's article, which was picked up by the [Associate Press](#), explains that the section where the murders occurred is to be demolished and the local Holocaust center will be relocated to the site.

High school drop-out and truck driver Robert Gregory Bowers was arrested and is awaiting trial in both state and federal courts. A full account of the tragedy and its immediate aftermath is available on [Wikipedia](#).

## Parks Artists Picked

On May 21, the Public Art & Civic Design (PACD) division of the city's **Department of Planning** announced that eight local, national and international artists and artist teams for the 2021 expansion of the Art in Parks program.

The announcement states that each artist will create "high-impact permanent public art installations" in five parks supported by the **Allegheny Regional Asset District** (ARAD). The works are expected to be "bold, forward-looking, creative projects that will have a radical impact on the region."

Details are available at <https://pittsburghpa.gov/press-releases/press-releases/4962>

## Rearick Chosen For Craft

Rachel Saul Rearick, has been named the new executive director of the 50-year-old visual arts organization **Contemporary Craft**. The announcement was made on May 14.

A print artist, Rearick's work has been on display in galleries across the region. She was recently working at the Pittsburgh International Airport (PIA), which is owned by the **Allegheny County Airport Authority**. She was PIA's first full-time arts and culture manager where she was responsible for ongoing art programs at the airport. This includes the upcoming public art installations.



"Contemporary Craft has played a vital role in my development," Rearick explains in the formal announcement. "I am honored to be charged with assuming the helm of one of the preeminent craft organizations in the nation. I look forward to working with the board and staff in extending Contemporary Craft's creative excellence and craft art thought-leadership in our region and across the country,"

Rachel Saul Rearick and her wife, Katie Rearick, live in the city's Stanton Heights neighborhood where the couple is expecting their first child. Rearick begins her new post on June 1.

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## Steeltown Partners With WQED

During this year's virtual Elly Awards, the **Steeltown Entertainment Project** and **WQED Multimedia** announced a new partnership.

The primary goal is to advance accessibility to filmmaking as a medium.

This includes expanding access to training opportunities for young people in the area.

"We are so excited to embark upon this partnership with WQED," said Wendy Burtner, President & CEO of Steeltown in a press release. "Because of this new partnership, Steeltown can



commit to training and supporting more women, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ and filmmakers with disabilities."

In the same release, WQED's Deborah L. Acklin adds that the station's teams "are excited to explore how we build on successful, existing, diverse programs that continue to meet our mission: to change lives by creating and sharing outstanding public media that educates, entertains and inspires."

To facilitate the partnership, Steeltown is moving its offices from the city's South Side to WQED's facility in Oakland.

### "The Chair" Date Set

A premiere date has been set by **Netflix** for the Pittsburgh-produced series "The Chair," reports the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's* Rob Owen.

Sandra Oh stars in the six-episode comedy as the chairwoman of a university's English department who faces "trials and tribulations" (according to IMDB).

"The Chair" debuts August 27.

### Local Series Picked Up

IMBDTV, part of **Amazon**, has green-lit a new Pittsburgh-set series, reports Deadline.com's Peter White.

Writer and producer Vijal Patel (TV's "Blackish") has tapped into his own life experience to create "The Pradeeps of Pittsburgh, PA." Described as a "comedic mystery" it follows a family of Indian immigrants making a new life in Pittsburgh. It is being produced by a division of **Sony Entertainment** and will be presumably shot locally.

However, no specifics were known at press time.

### Elly Award Winners

**Legacy Award: George Jaber.** Professional set builder for film and theater as well as an educator for 40 years at the Community College of Allegheny County.

**Impact Award: "Mulligan."** This locally made television pilot (available on Amazon Prime) had a nearly total Pittsburgh cast and crew.

Graduating High School Seniors from Steeltown's Teen Film Crew, producers of "The Reel Teens Pittsburgh" were also recognized.

### Gabby Wins BMA

Pittsburgh native Gabby Barrett won three honors at this year's Billboard Music Awards, reports Mesfin Fekadu for the Associated Press.

"Oh my gosh. Thank y'all so much. This means so much to me," Fekadu quotes a tearful Barrett. "I've been performing for 10 years really hard." The full list of winners is available at [here](#).

## SAG-AFTRA's New Offices & Upcoming Election

The local office of **SAG-AFTRA** has moved from its long time home across from the former Horne's Department Store. They have settled into the 9th floor of The Bank Tower.



What is now called The Bank Tower was built in 1902 as the headquarters for People's Savings bank and is considered one of the city's first skyscrapers. The 72,000-square-foot structure is designated "Class B" commercial space and is represented by

**Beynan & Company**. According to LoopNet, rent is \$17.95 per square foot per year. The building has been updated but retains its original marble lobby complete crown moldings and spiral staircase.

The local chapter is also looking for candidates to "run for a Local Officer, Local Board or Convention Delegate position with the SAG-AFTRA Ohio-Pittsburgh Local." Nomination forms have been mailed to members, but information is also available [here](#).

## CLP's Cooper To Retire

Mary Frances Cooper has announced her pending retirement as President of the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** (CLP). The announcement was made on May 18.

Cooper is only the eleventh person to lead the 19-branch system in its 125-year history. She took over the top post in 2012. During her tenure, Cooper helped raise millions of dollars for the CLP and other local libraries; renovated ten branches and expanded the CLP's digital services.

She also oversaw the creation of the new Carrick branch, which

was the first certified "passive" library in North America. A "passive" structure that requires little energy for heating and cooling.

"I'm incredibly honored to have had the opportunity to work with so many creative and talented staff and am proud to have led Pittsburgh's Carnegie Library system," said Ms. Cooper in a press release. "The past ten years have been both exhilarating and challenging as we worked hard to diversify our funding streams, become more inclusive and equitable and bridge the digital divide that many in our community face."

## OPA TV

Environmentally-inspired artists will be featured on the **Office of Public Art's** (OPA) Instagram feed, reports *Pittsburgh City Paper's* Amanda Waltz.

Created jointly by the **City of Pittsburgh** and the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** in 2005, the OPA strives to support and advance the role of public art in the Pittsburgh region. Instagram is owned by **Facebook**.

The program, called "OPA Live" debuts June 8 and is designed to facilitate cooperation among like-minded artists. Unfortunately, anyone who hasn't got an Instagram account can't participate. (Only 26.7% of the internet's 4.3 billion global users are on Instagram).

Learn more by reading Waltz's article by clicking [here](#).

However, her tenure also saw the discover that over 300 rare material had been stolen from the CLP's collections and sold through a local book shop. The material is valued at over \$8 million and includes a a 1787 document signed by Thomas Jefferson

Mary Francis Cooper is expected to depart from her position at the end of the year. A search committee has been formed to seek her successor.





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## New Arts Diversity Group Forms

A trio of arts professionals have combined forces to create the **Pittsburgh Arts Administrators of Color** (PAAC) to promote diversity and opportunities for local Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC).

The PAAC's recently launched web site ([pghaac.com](http://pghaac.com)) describes it as "an accessible and welcoming environment for BIPOC arts administrators and cultural professionals in the Greater Pittsburgh Area to foster comradery, share resources and network with fellow professionals in our community."

Among the founders is Rebekah Diaz of the **Pittsburgh Opera**. "It's been really wonderful to see the support for the creation of this group; not only from those for whom the group was intended, but also from allies within our organizations," said the Bronx native and former opera singer in a press release. The other two arts professionals involved are Montez Freeland of **City Theatre** and the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's** Joanna Obuzor. Joining this threesome is Natalie Hatcher of **Carnegie Mellon University**.

Over time, PAAC plans to start a mentorship program and an online

registry. "Mentoring is crucial," Obuzor told *Pittsburgh City Paper's* Dani Janae, "because it fosters connections with others in the industry as both parties build life-long pathways; sustainable pipelines in Pittsburgh's artistic community."

Membership is free. The next virtual meeting is scheduled for June 24.



**Channel  
Pittsburgh**

**Charles Grodin  
(1935 - 2021)**

**Greg Eide  
(1951 - 2021)**

## Billy Porter: “I’ve Been HIV+ For 14 Years”

Pittsburgh native and award winning actor Billy Porter has revealed to the *Hollywood Reporter's* Lacey Rose that he is HIV+.

HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. There two such viruses (technically, they are retroviruses). Without proper treatment, HIV can lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) which undermines the human immune system. HIV is spread primarily through tainted blood, unprotected sex and intravenous drug use. AIDS often means a minor illness, such as flu, can be deadly.

Porter was diagnosed in 2007. "I was the generation that was supposed to know better," he told Rose, "and it happened anyway." He opens up about a challenging life that includes a sexually abu-

sive stepfather, bankruptcy and battling depression. Porter also talks about how medical progress has helped to give him a sense of hope. "This is what HIV-positive looks like now. I'm going to die from something else before I die from that. My T-cell levels are

twice [Lacey Rose's] because of this medication. I go to the doctor now — as a Black, 51-year-old man, I go to the doctor every three months."

Read the full article by clicking [here](#).

### Images



*This year marks the centennial of Lawrenceville's Doughboy Statute. It was created by noted sculptor Allen George Newman (1875-1940) and officially unveiled on Memorial Day, 1921.*



## Carnegie Museum News

There is news from two of the four **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** (CMP).



Jeroen Kwist and Cris Turner have joined the Andy Warhol Museum's advisory board. Kwist's professional background includes stints at **Computer Sciences Corporation** and **Bank of New York Mellon**. Turner is currently vice president & head of global government & public affairs at **Micron Technology**.

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History reopened its Hall of Botany on May 22. Visitors first en-

counter an immersive mural that transitions into an exhibition space featuring new lighting, graphics and other elements.

“The new Hall of Botany entry experience is designed to grab visitors’ attention utilizing light, motion, and color to draw them into this beautiful gallery,” said Sarah Crawford, Director of Exhibitions, in a press release. “The added entry video and labels show visitors that plants are integral to their own lives and to life on Earth, while showcasing the museum’s extensive and active herbarium collection.”

Part of the funding for these enhancements came from the **National Science Foundation**.

## Warhol In China

*The Art Newspaper's* Lisa Movius reports that the Andy Warhol museum is collaborating with a new museum in Shanghai. Read it by clicking [here](#).



**A**

### 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.



**FRI  
4**



**SUN  
6**



**SAT  
12**

**TUE  
22**



# Opportunities

**The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council (GPAC)** will begin accepting applications on June 14 for the recently created Audience Safety Fund grants. The program provides up to \$500 for safety costs related to the pandemic. [Details are available here.](#)

The television series "A League of Their Own" is casting athletic men and women to portray baseball players. [Details are available.](#)

Applications are being accepted for the **Kelly-Strayhorn Theater's** Fall 2021 Freshworks program. Freshworks supports interdisciplinary collaborations in contemporary dance, theater, music and multimedia and provides artists with financial resources, studio space, production support, lighting and sound design, professional development and encouragement for creative risk taking. For more information, [click here.](#)

KDKA-TV, part of **ViacomCBS**, has openings for a technician, editor and producer, among other positions. Click [here.](#)

**The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** is seeking a museum educator. Click [here.](#)

The local chapter of **Women in Film & Media (WIFM)** is accepting applications for its annual short film festival. The festival takes place in September and is open to all women directors and their crews and will feature the finalists of the submissions received. Awards in three different categories (with prizes of \$300 each) will be given. WIFM is also accepting submissions for the Amy Lamb Scholarship are now open. The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a student who is currently enrolled in a television or film program within a Pittsburgh area college or university. Information on both is available at [www.wifmpit.org](http://www.wifmpit.org).

**The Directors Guild of America (DGA)** has announced that the application period for the 27th Annual DGA Student Film Awards is now open. The awards are designed to honor, encourage and bring attention to exceptional direction by diverse student filmmakers in film schools and select universities across the country. Applications are being accepted through October 8. Information and application are available [here.](#)



## Museum Polls Well

A reader's poll has named the **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** as one of North America's best children's museums.



The survey was sponsored by two **Gannett Company's** assets: its flagship newspaper, *USA Today*, and one of its web sites, 10Best.com. Editors with the latter teamed with a panel of experts to identify an initial list with readers voting to create the top ten.

“We are thrilled to be honored with another international recognition for our work in sharing joy, kindness, creativity, and curiosity through the museum,” said Jane Werner, Executive Director, said in a press release. “We want to thank everyone who voted for us, and we can’t wait to welcome kids and families back to the museum.”

The museum plans to reopen June 12.



## Poll's Top Ten

1. Children's Museum of Indianapolis
2. The Magic House (St. Louis)
3. Children's Museum of Houston
4. Kohl Children's Museum (Chicago)
5. City Museum (St. Louis)
6. Museum of Discovery (Little Rock)
7. Please Touch Museum (Philadelphia)
8. Children's Museum of Pittsburgh
9. The Strong (Rochester)
10. Children's Museum of Denver

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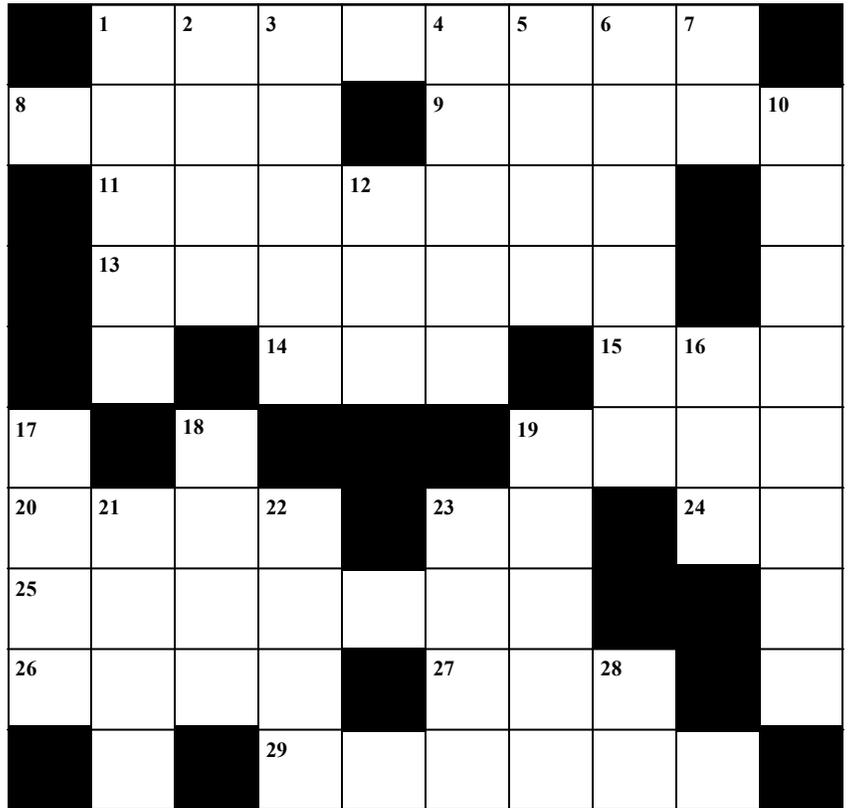
**KDKA's Jill Neely, Stacy Smith and Maria Simbra**

**Pittsburgh CLO's Van Kaplan**



**Across**

1. Producers of the Three Rivers Arts Festival, commonly
8. Critic Pauline
9. Not capture
11. Famous prediction (part one)
13. Thoroughly cheated
14. Scottish refusal
15. Dined
19. Common still-life subject
20. Mimics
23. Dorm VIP
24. Dr.'s colloque
25. Famous prediction (part two)
26. Cheat
27. Airport letters
29. Famous prediction (final)



**Down**

1. Sticky, twistable treat
2. Composer Reinhold
3. Japanese manga “ \_\_\_\_\_ Lied”
4. Legendary jazz trumpeter Dizzy
5. Peter’s 1997 Oscar nominated role
6. Cold treat for a hot June day
7. “Cheers” star, initially
10. Not inside
12. Afternoon beverage
16. Street substance?
17. Bad actors
18. Wrier and actress Dunham, to pals
19. Noodles
21. Printer’s measure
22. Japanese wrestler
23. Ridge of choral
28. Letters before Noon?

**Last Month’s Solution**

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