



Is A Post-COVID World Coming This Year?

There may be a light at the end of the long, dark pandemic tunnel: [Bloomberg](#) is reporting that more than 75 million doses of a COVID-19 vaccine (there are two vaccines) have been administered at the rate of 1.74 million doses a day. A third COVID-19 vaccine has just been approved. And more financial help --- including funds targeted to the creative community --- is on its way.

On February 5, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf signed into law a \$900 million package to aid the state's struggling hospitality businesses as well private schools and people having trouble paying their rent. Most of the funds come from a federal aid program passed by the U.S. Congress in December 2020. "That money will be available through counties in grants of up to \$50,000 for bars, restaurants and hotels," reports Mark Levy for the Associated Press.

Deadline's Ted Johnson reports that the \$1.9 trillion federal relief bill includes a total of \$270 million for the **National Endowment for the Arts** and the **National Endowment for the Humanities**. He explains that these funds are "for direct grants, and to state and regional organizations seeking to recover from funding shortfalls." He also writes that "the Biden administration also announced a separate effort that may boost relief to self-employed workers in entertainment and other industries. It is changing the way that it calculates how much sole proprietors, independent contractors and gig workers can receive in [payment protection plan] loans."

The **National Independent Venue Association** (NIVA) --- which had successfully lobbied for the Save Our Stages compo-

ment in the late 2020 relief package --- has established a dedicated email address for those wanting information on implementation: implementation@nivassoc.org

It's looking more and more likely that normality (or something close to normal) will return in summer or fall. As a result, additional local arts/entertainment are starting to make plans:

Cinemark Holdings CEO Mark Zoradi recently told Deadline's Dad Hayes that he hopes to reopen the company's theaters by the middle of the year. "We're optimistic that we're going to be able to light up these theaters again come this summer." *The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's* Brian C. Rittmeyer reports that Cinemark's four Pittsburgh locations are planning to reopen in July.

The **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust** is still planning for the Broadway Series resuming in September.

Row House Cinema has tentatively set September 25 as the date for "a big ol' red carpet gala to celebrate making it through a long pandemic and the joy of experiencing cinema in a crowd" once again. Presumably this will be a time when restrictions will no longer be needed.

The **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's** online calendar suggests that a return to in-person performances might begin in October with a Ben Folds concert.

James A. Richards, the publisher of *Pittsburgh Applause*, is determining when to start posting even information again to www.pghevents.net

**SCROLL DOWN
FOR TWO PAGES
OF INFO
REGARDING
STATE AID**

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.

COVID-19 RELIEF PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

GRANTS TO HELP BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY COVID-19



PURPOSE

The COVID-19 Relief Pennsylvania Statewide Small Business Assistance program provides grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 to small businesses economically impacted by COVID-19. The Pennsylvania CDFI Network will administer several rounds of funding to the best qualified applicants. **This is not a first-come, first-served program.**

Priority is given to small businesses that are:

- Owned and operated by low and moderate-income people
- Located in areas with incomes significantly below the median income level, high levels of poverty, higher than average unemployment rates, or significant population loss
- Types of businesses that were most impacted by the economic shutdown and experienced the greatest revenue losses
- At least 50% of grants will go to historically disadvantaged businesses that have traditionally experienced discrimination when seeking financial services and financial products. These businesses are at least 51% owned by persons who are Black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian American, or Pacific Islander

Additional considerations are made for:

- women-owned businesses
- communities targeted for business investment by state government programs like Main Street and Elm Street, and rural communities
- ensuring funds go to small businesses across Pennsylvania

ELIGIBILITY

To apply, a business must:

- Be physically located, certified to do business, and generate at least 51% of their revenues in Pennsylvania
- Have annual revenues of \$1 million or less (before the impact of COVID-19)
- Have 25 or fewer full-time equivalent employees prior to Feb. 15, 2020

Business cannot apply if they are:

- Not physically based in Pennsylvania
- In active default (not on a payment plan) with taxes or fees owed to the commonwealth or IRS
- Non-Profits, churches, and other religious institutions
- Government-owned entities or elected official offices
- Have NO revenue loss or additional costs due to COVID-19

COVID-19 RELIEF PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

FUNDING ROUNDS

This is not a first-come, first-served program. There will be multiple funding rounds.

- The first funding round opens on June 30, 2020 and will remain open for 10 business days
- Business can submit applications after an application window closes for consideration in future rounds of funding
- Dates for future rounds are to be determined

AWARD AMOUNTS

Businesses are eligible based on their annual revenues as documented in their most recent tax return.

Eligible businesses with annual revenues of	Max. grant amount
Up to \$50,00	\$5,000
\$50,001 to \$75,000	\$10,000
\$75,001 to \$100,000	\$15,000
\$100,001 to \$250,000	\$20,000
\$250,001 to \$500,000	\$25,000
\$500,001 to \$750,000	\$35,000
\$750,001 to \$850,000	\$40,000
\$850,001 to \$1,000,000	\$50,000

ITEMS FOR APPLICATIONS

At a minimum, the program requires the following list of items to apply.

1. Government Issued Photo ID (such as a Driver's License or Passport)
2. Business financial information
 - Revenue from March 1st to May 31st for 2019 and 2020
 - Most recently submitted Federal Tax Return. 2018 or 2019 business and personal tax returns including Schedule C
 - If startup between January 1-February 15, 2020, Internal Profit & Loss Statement
3. Proof of Business Registration with PA Department of State (as applicable)
 - Articles of Incorporation (for corporations and LLCs)
 - Fictitious Name Registration or "Doing Business As" (for sole proprietors)
 - or Business License (if applicable)
4. Bank Account Information

MORE INFORMATION

DCED partners with a network of community development financial institutions (Pennsylvania CDFI Network) to administer this grant program. The network will support small businesses accessing the grant funds. For more information, links to participating CDFIs, and to sign-up to receive program updates, visit pabusinessgrants.com.

This Project is financed by a grant from the federal Department of U.S. Treasury, under the administration of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania CDFI Network.



06/26/2020

Social Media Scandal Hits SAG-AFTRA

The combustible meeting of politics, race and social media has been playing out at the Philadelphia local of **SAG-AFTRA** where a board member has resigned.

SAG-AFTRA

In late January, actor John R. Mitchell posted a message online depicting President Biden with stereotypically Asian characteristics accompanied by the words "Introducing Our 46th President: Sum Dum Fuk." He initially defended it as "satire."

Mitchell's listing on [IMDB](#) cites mostly small and often uncredited roles in films such as 2018's

"Blackkkklansman" and television series like "Gotham." Over the next few weeks anger over the post was matched by that of many members over the union's lagging response. *The Philadelphia Inquirer's* Julia Feliciano Reyes quotes local Japanese-American journalist Denise Nakano as asking "At a time when Asian Americans face an increase in hate crimes, how is this board member still allowed to serve on the board of a union that supposedly holds sacred — democracy, truth, respect for our fellow Americans of ALL races and faiths?"

SAG-AFTRA Philadelphia president and radio reporter Sam Clover finally sent a message to

members on February 9 denouncing the meme. It didn't reference Mitchell directly nor said how the local board would respond. The national office finally released a statement on February 18 --- nearly a month after the post --- condemning Mitchell without naming Mitchell.

The Philadelphia board has selected Asian-American actor Lyman Chen to replace Mitchell.



NETFLIX

**Info Sources Re
"The Chair"
Now Shooting
In Pittsburgh**

[IMDB Listing](#)

[Deadline \(January 14, 2021 article\)](#)

[Variety \(February 1, 2021 article\)](#)

[What's On Netflix \(February 1, 2021 article\)](#)

[Project Casting information page](#)

[Lead Casting Call information page](#)

Savage's Oscar Possibility

Could James Pastorius and his Pittsburgh firm **Savage VFX** be up for an Academy Award?



Savage VFX is among the team of companies and individuals to create visual effects for the acclaimed 2020 film "Manx." The film relates the story behind the creation of the legendary film "Citizen Kane" with an emphasis on the relationship between screenwriting Herman "Mank" Mankiewicz and director/star Orson Welles. Clayton Davis, writing for Variety, [predicts that "Mank" will be nominated in the Best Visual Effects category.](#)

The company provided critical digital elements to help create the film noir atmosphere in "Mank."

Nominations will be announced on March 15. The ceremony will be broadcast by **Walt Disney Company's** ABC-TV on April 25.

Click the link below for a relevant video on "Manx" and Savage.



See "Lost" Romero Film

A rarely seen film by legendary director George Romero will soon be available to a wide audience, reports *The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's* Rob Owen.

The 1973 film "Amusement Park" was originally commissioned as a public service announcement regarding the elderly. It was shot at West View Park, which was demolished in 1980. It was last screened publically in 2019. Now, a restored version will be available on **AMC Networks'** streaming service Shudder.

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

VIRTUAL

March 8 6:00 p.m.

#IWD2021



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crew connect



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Jason Fitterer

Ethel...

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Entercom Embraces More Diversity

Big changes at the top of **Entercom** includes an additional effort at diversity.



Entercom owns KDKA-AM and three other local radio stations. The company is primarily owned by **ViacomCBS**.

The firm is restructuring its central programming team. It will continue to be lead by Pat Paxon, the Chief Programming Officer, and Jeff Sottolano, the Executive Vice President of Programming. Joining them are Dave Richards, who is being promoted Entercom's Seattle station KISW-FM; and a current vice president, Michael Martin. Select members of the company's executive committee will also be collaborating with them.

"This enhanced leadership team will supplement our premium content offering throughout our portfolio and ensure we have the premier collection of personalities engaging deeply with our audiences nationwide," said Pat Paxton in a press release. "It will also allow us to best integrate the innovation of new products and content so we are continuously growing the impact and reach of our offering and super serving our 170 million listeners each month."

Perhaps the most notable move is the addition of Monique Nelson to Entercom's board of directors in a separate release. Nelson is the CEO of **UWG**, the country's longest-standing multicultural advertising

and marketing agency. She has a BS from **Vanderbilt University** and an MBA from **DePaul University**.

"During this transformative time for our company, we're excited to welcome Monique to Entercom's Board of Directors," said Entercom's David Field in a press release. "Her exten-

sive career in advertising and marketing leadership make her an outstanding addition to our board."

In addition, Matthew Volk has been named Vice President of Sports. He has been most with NBC Sports.

Concept Buys Regent

The long-quiet Regent Square Theater has been purchased by **Concept Art Gallery**, reports Amanda Waltz for *Pittsburgh City Paper*.



Concept Art Gallery opened in 1972 and specializes in contemporary art. The gallery is located adjacent to the theater, which has been closed since previous owner Pittsburgh Center for Arts & Media folded.

The sale is the final chapter for a facility that had been screening films since the 1930's. It will now be used for exhibitions, offices and store.

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

PFO Virtual Event

With the pandemic forcing its annual fundraiser into the virtual realm, the **Pittsburgh Film Office** is requesting the public to send in their own home-made videos.



An online posting explains: "The Pittsburgh Film Office is excited to invite you and your friends & family to create your own video reenacting your favorite movie lines to submit for a starring role in our virtual event. With your participation, your video submission has a chance to premiere for all attendees to watch at the Lights! Glamour! Action! virtual event being held on April 24, 2021. The virtual event allows all to be safe and socially distanced. Additionally, from the comfort of your own home you can "dress the part" and have props incorporated into your favorite scenes."

More information is available via [Google Docs](#).

Art House Catches Fire

A crowd funding campaign has been launched by artist Vanessa German to repair her Art House, which was damaged by a fire on February 14 --- and it has already exceeded its \$75,000 goal.

Located in the city's Homewood neighborhood, Art House became the focal point of German's life and art. It also became an unofficial community center. In an online posting, she explains: "My partner at the time and I would share art supplies, food, and space with a couple of kids in the neighborhood who'd always stop by after school to use our phone. These couple of kids turned into 15, sometimes 20, kids making art on the front porch with me as I'd work on sculpture or just play around and enjoy making art with them."

WESA-FM's Bill O'Driscoll reports that the fire "began in the early morning hours when an untended candle set a shower curtain on fire in a second-floor bathroom." No one was injured and German's stored artwork also survived undamaged.

More than \$110,000 had been raised by press time. Learn more by visiting [GoFundMe](#).

Fans Rally Around Local Band's Cancer Crises

A crowd funding campaign has been launched to help Eileen Hertweck, the wife of **Clarks** guitarist Rob Hertwick in her cancer battle. The news was reported on Patch Pittsburgh by Eric Heyl.

The band began in 1986 by four friends from **Indiana University of Pennsylvania** and have sold more than half a million copies of

their albums. "Eileen Hertweck has been battling breast cancer for the past year and recently was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia," writes Heyl. "She currently is receiving treatment in Shadyside Hospital in Pittsburgh."

At press time, [the effort](#) had exceeded its \$100,000 goal.



Images



Popular local musician Slim Forsythe has announced the creation of a new act called The Mountain Gospel Band. He has formed it in partnership with the Snyder Sisters, Candy Mountain and Jennie Kay Snyder.

**Keep Your Eyes
On Us!**



**As venues finalize their new
schedules, we'll update
our event listings!**



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Opportunities

Steeltown --- in partnership with **Carnegie Screenwriters** and the local chapter of **Women in Film & Media** --- is holding virtual networking event on March 8 where independent filmmakers in the community can network and pitch ideas to each other via Zoom. [Click here to register.](#)

The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh is looking for a Creative Arts Manager. The selected individual will be responsible for developing and implement artistic programs. Click [here.](#)

Lighting and grip firm Cinelease, a division of **HerRentals**, is seeking someone to represent the company before various publics managing "front desk phone calls, mail and e-mail messages and any wide-range information dissemination." Details at [here.](#)

Various positions remain available at the four **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**. Click [here.](#)

Anybody with an acoustic string instrument is welcome to sit in and play along at the Old Time Mountain Gospel Jam Circle. This brunch ever has been tentatively scheduled (COVID allowing) on Mother's Day, May 9 at 1:00 p.m. The jam is being held at **Scratch Food and Bev** in the city's Troy Hill neighborhood (1720 Lowrie Street). To learn more contact Slim Forsythe at slimforsythe@hotmail.com

A shop manager is needed at the Pittsburgh office of **Vincent Lighting Systems**. The chosen candidate will "supervise all labor in the rental shop and are responsible for scheduling crew for productions and off-site needs." Details [here.](#)

Local web site **NEXTpittsburgh** is looking for a new managing editor "who has a good sense of our city and a good sense of humor. Someone with a track record of working with a variety of content creators on multiple formats, including website, newsletters, video and social media." Click [here.](#)

The Pittsburgh headquarters of **NEP Group** has an opening for "a full-time Systems Support Specialist to help us provide help desk systems support to clients within the company." Click [here.](#)

Cox Media Group's Pittsburgh TV station, WPXI, has various openings. These include a [promotion producer](#), a [digital content producer](#) and a [digital campaign specialist](#).

The Pittsburgh Opera is seeking a Manager of Artistic Administration to manage operations related to the company's orchestra and chorus. Click [here.](#)



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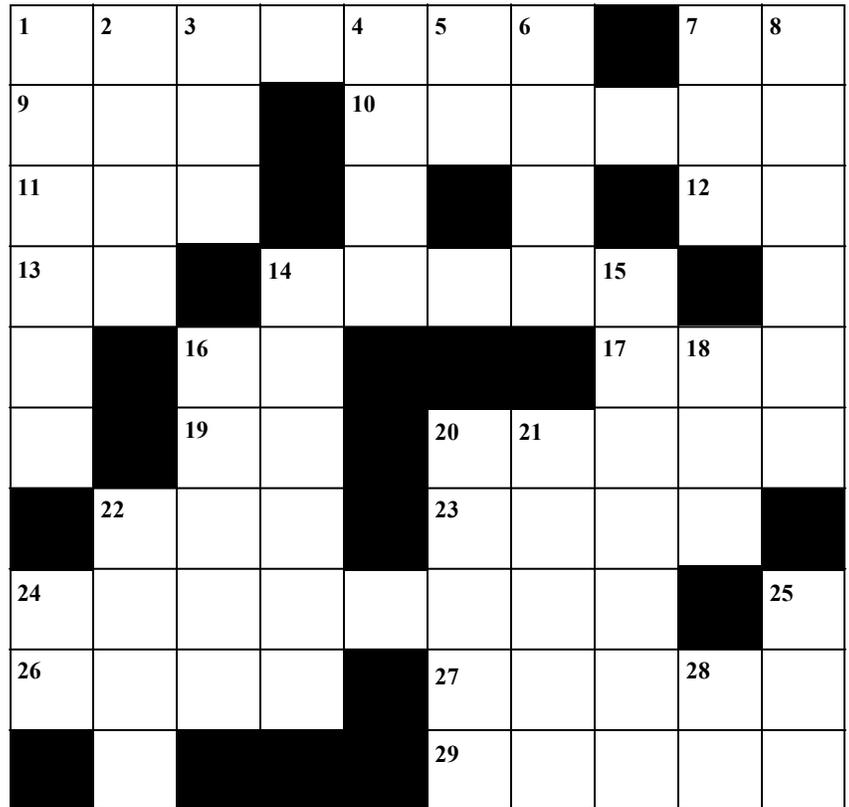
Every Wednesday
8 PM
ThePittsburghBanjoClub.com

Jimmy Sapienza
(1949-2021)

Bob Kudzma
(1940-2021)

Across

1. 24-Across played one in a 2009 film.
7. Surgeon's workplace, briefly.
9. Apply.
10. Popular celebrity magazine.
11. Golf ball stand.
12. "Cid" lead-in?
13. "Airplane" fictional airline, initially.
14. Ms. Davis (who gave 24-Across his big break), to pals.
16. State north of LA.
17. Journalist Rather, to pals.
19. Chinese string instrument.
20. Map.
22. Like 7 to 7 or 32 to 32 score.
23. Hit TV show about plane crash survivors.
24. The subject of this puzzle.
26. Big Broadway award.
27. Wild animal that used to be domesticated.
29. Side.



Down

1. Surname for 24-Across' role in an innovative 2008 film.
2. Lacking direction.
3. View.
4. Fencing implement.
5. Note between do and mi.
6. Type of pillow stuffing.
7. Spanish cheer.
8. Give in.
14. 1994 Michael J. Fox film.
15. 24-Across' 2019 sci-fi film.
16. Chinese or Japanese.
18. Painting or sculpture.
20. 24-Across' award winning role in 2019 film.
21. The William Penn, for example.
22. 24-Across' epic 2004 film.
24. "ESCM" musician.
25. Benevolent brotherhood member.
28. Sumerian deity.

Last Month's Solution

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