

Stephen Foster Statue To Be Moved

A statue of composer Stephen Foster is to be removed from its long-term site, reports the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Dan Majors.

Born in Pittsburgh, songwriter Stephen Collins Foster (1826-1864) is known as "the father of American music." His more than 200 songs include what are now classics, such as "Camptown Races." A biography is available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Foster Some of his songs helped many white people better understand the cruel realities of slavery and present his subjects with dignity while others tunes depict African-Americans as buffoonish characters.

The 10-foot-tall sculpture was created in 1900 by artist Giuseppe Moretti (1857-1935) and features Foster with an African-American banjo player. Some see the depiction of an offensive Black stereotype while others see it as reflective of a community that inspired Foster's music. A history can be read by clicking https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Foster_sculpture

On October 25, the Pittsburgh Art Commission voted unanimously to recommend Mayor Peduto relocate the statue to a new, "properly contextualized" location. The recommendation came amid a national conversation regarding racially controversial symbols across the country. Majors' article is available at <http://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2017/10/25/Pittsburgh-art-commission-recommends-removal-controversial-Stephen-Foster-statue/stories/201710250193>

In an editorial, the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* describes the result a challenging and "nuanced" adding that "simply putting the statue in storage might quiet the controversy, but that would send a message of its own: Pittsburgh sequesters such issues rather than resolving them."

The **University of Pittsburgh's** Deane L. Root is among those applauding the decision. But others feel differently. "I'm outraged," a Beaver County resident told Colin Deppen of *TheIncline.com*. "Stephen Foster is a great composer and songwriter. He wrote hundreds of songs. Now a small group of people are approaching the mayor because they want the statue removed because one percent of his songs were supposedly racist." Deppen's full article can be read at <https://theincline.com/2017/08/16/will-pittsburghs-stephen-foster-statue-be-the-next-racist-symbol-to-go/>

Ideas for a new location include the inside the Stephen Foster Memorial.

Unions Step Up Amid Weinstein Allegations

With the revelations that film producer Harvey Weinstein has been accused of sexual assault, several actresses and actors have come forward with their own experiences. As a result, the entertainment unions have been offering public support for the alleged victims.

Mary McCall of **Actors' Equity** posted the following message online: "The allegations that have become public this week about Harvey Weinstein are unconscionable and reprehensible in any context and in any workplace. Thankfully, some incredibly courageous women have begun to share

their stories, and Equity commends them for stepping forward. Everyone should be able to go to work free from the fear of sexual harassment. Equity expects all employers to provide a workplace where our members can do their work free of harassment. That's the law. Any Equity member who experiences something that makes them feel uncomfortable and that they believe constitutes harassment can report it to their Equity Business Rep."

IATSE is encouraging members with concerns, complaints or incidents to report to call their Safety Hotline at (844) 422-9273. The union also reposted online their July 2017 resolution about harassment and abuse. It states, in part, "IATSE leaders and members must be vigilant in working, both with each other and with our employers, to promote an equal and

Continues on Page 4

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PDP, City, WYEP Commission Music Study

A new initiative to nurture Pittsburgh's music scene is being launched by the city, the **Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership** and **Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting Corporation's** WYEP-FM.

The Austin, Texas-based consulting firm **Sound Music Cit-**

ies (SMC) has been hired "to conduct an in-depth assessment of Pittsburgh's musical ecosystem."

"A healthy music scene representing a broad range of genres serves



as an economic driver benefiting artists, businesses and neighborhoods," says Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto in a press release. "We envision Pittsburgh as a city where artists can more easily earn a living wage, musical programming is profitable for venues, residents are respected, and neighborhoods hosting musical venues are safe and clean."

SMC'S Don Pitts explains in the same press release that his firm "will work with diverse local stakeholders to address the needs of the music community, venues, the City and its neighborhoods. Our goal is to generate recom-

mendations for a balanced music ecosystem which will likely draw upon best-practices from other music cities."

Funding is being provided primarily by the **Heinz Endowments**.



Mattress Factory Releases Economic Study

As part of their 40th anniversary, the **Mattress Factory** has released a **Carnegie Mellon University** (CMU) study on the museum's economic impact.



This is the second study by CMU's Center for

Economic Development (CED); the first was conducted in 2007. That report described the Mattress Factory as "a Swiss Army knife of economic development for the area: improving property; enhancing quality of life; attracting workers and cultural tourists; educating youth, and injecting spending into local businesses."

Mattress Factory issued a press release on October 24 highlighting the results of the 2017 study:

- The Mattress Factory currently receives more than 28,400 walk-in visitors per year and serves a total of 47,700 patrons per year through memberships, tours, educational programs and community events.
- Visitors from across the country and beyond come to the museum.
- Fifty-seven percent of respondents to the intercept survey resided or attended school outside of the seven-county Pittsburgh region.
- The museum helps the region attract and retain talent by enhancing quality of life through its presence, programs, and community events
- Mattress Factory contributes to academic achievement by serving thousands of students and teachers from preschool to high school, nearby and across the Commonwealth, through its educational programs, tours, partnerships and professional development training;
- The institution serves as a builder and attractor for regional cultural tourism
- Mattress Factory advances development of the Central North Side neighborhood by drawing patron spending and potential residents, by increasing the neighborhood's attractiveness

The report also reveals that "for every two dollars the Mattress Factory spends, about five to six dollars is invested in its community."

Tribune Approves Sinclair Merger

The controversial acquisition of **Tribune Media Company** by the **Sinclair Broadcast Group** has cleared another hurdle.



Sinclair owns two television stations in Pittsburgh. The company has faced claims of bias in its news coverage and on-air commentary (See *Pittsburgh Applause*, September 2017 at <http://>

www.pittsburghapplause.com/pittsburghapplauseseptember2017.pdf)

At a special meeting on October 19, Tribune's stockholders officially approved the deal.

"Today's vote is an important milestone in the merger process and confirms that Tribune stockholders strongly support this transaction and the value it delivers," said Tribune's Peter Kern, in a press release. "We look forward

to continuing our work with Sinclair toward the closing of this deal."

The merger still needs approval by the Federal Communications Commission.

New Special Acting Waiver

A new agreement reached between **SAG-AFTRA** and producers that help union members --- including those in Pittsburgh --- to more easily secure roles in low-budget projects.

Called the *Commercials Low*

Budget Digital Waiver, it provides members with a tool to allow them to accept work on productions with less pay than the standard union agreements would not otherwise allow. These productions must have a budget below \$50,000 and for "new media" (i.e. internet) projects only. It opens all principal extra rates to negotiation.

Producers must apply for the waivers. SAG-AFTRA has posted a helpful Q&A online at <http://www.sagaftra.org/sag-aftra-and-jpc-release-faqs-low-budget-digital-waiver>



Unions Step Up

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welcoming environment for all people, through our actions, attitude, and language."

Actress and president of **SAG-AFTRA** Gabrielle Carteris published an open letter to all members commending "the courage and candor of all those who speak out" adding that everyone "has a fundamental right to be treated with dignity and respect at work."

The **Directors Guild of America** adopted and released a statement condemning sexual harassment. "There must be no tolerance for

such deplorable abuses of power. This isn't about one person. We must recognize sexual harassment is endemic in our society, and painfully, in our industry."

In their own statement, the **Writers Guild of America East** assured members that they "are undertaking a thorough review of the tools we currently possess and of additional steps the union can take to facilitate prevention, reporting, review, counseling and protection. As part of that work we will ask members for input on their experiences and how they think the union should tackle this issue."

Comcast Buys Tickets Site

Online movie ticket firm Fandango --- a subsidiary of **Comcast NBCUniversal** (CNU) --- has announced the purchase of competitor MovieTickets.com.



Comcast operates Pittsburgh's cable television franchise. MovieTickets.com was founded in 2000 by a trio of companies that included KDKA-TV's parent company, **CBS Corporation**.

"The addition of MovieTickets.com will further Fandango's goal of full national coverage," explains a press release, "ensuring that moviegoers can purchase

advance tickets to their favorite local theaters anytime, anywhere and on any device."

CNU has also been named a Best Companies for Women to **Work by Women in Cable Telecommunications** (WICT).

Formed in 1979, WICT is the largest and most renowned organization representing women in the cable arena. CNU says that, as of 2016, "women represented 35% of Comcast NBCUniversal full-time U.S. employees, 37% of leaders at the vice president level and above, and 40% at the director level." More information is available at <https://www.wict.org/news/pr/Pages/2017-PAR-Best-Companies.aspx>

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ACA Blasts Comcast Over Policy

The Pittsburgh-based **American Cable Association** is charging **Comcast-NBC** of "harming adoption of broadband and online TV programming combos."



The American Cable Association (ACA) is a trade organization representing nearly 750 smaller and medium-sized, independent cable companies who provide broadband services for nearly 7 million cable subscribers primarily located in rural and smaller suburban markets across America. Comcast-NBC operates Pittsburgh's cable television franchise.

ACA chief Matthew M. Polka insists in a press release that the media/entertainment giant "is standing in the way of ACA members that want to help their customers escape the burdens of the big and expensive expanded basic bundle of channels, while at the same time aggressively marketing a bundle of networks very similar to the broadcast basic tier to its own customers through its new 'Instant TV' service."

On October 10, the ACA addressed these concerns to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that highlighted the association's opposition to vertical integration, saying these tactics undermine the small operators they represent.

Comcast-NBC responded with a statement insisting that the "company negotiates in good faith with all of its distribution partners with the goal of making programming available to as many viewers as possible on fair market terms that are consistent with what other programmers offer."



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Diamond Debuts Film

The family-owned **Diamond Theatre** in the little rural town of Ligonier is hosting an usually big regional debut: the internationally acclaimed "Loving Vincent."

"Loving Vincent" is an animated 2017 biographical film about Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890).

One of the most prolific and influential figures in the history of art, Vincent van Gogh created more than 2,000 works --- nearly half of them oil paintings --- in just over a decade. Born in comfortable surroundings, van Gogh often suffered serious mental health issues that included episodes of rage (in one incident, he cut off part of his ear). He created a new approach to still lifes and local landscapes. Van Gogh later died of a self-inflicted gun shot wound.

What makes "Loving Vincent" unique is how the animation was created: each of the 65,000 frames is a genuine oil painting on canvas using van Gogh's technique. The paints were made by classically trained artists rather than professional animators. Each painting was then photographed as a cell.

The film will be screen at the Diamond Theatre for the weekend of November 3. Learn more at www.diamondtheatre.com

Donora Shines Online

The local band **Donora** offers a good example of how artists can make active use of social media, writes the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review's* Rege Behe.

"Donora is releasing the album with a livestream on Facebook because of its global fan base," Behe explains. "The band has supporters in Russia, India the United Kingdom, and especially in South America due to the use of the song 'I Think I Like You' in a commercial for a Chilean department store."

Ironically, a band that uses new technology to share its music creates its music with vintage equipment like old world Radio Shack speakers.

Read Behe's full article at <http://triblive.com/aande/music/12853461-74/donora-taking-new-songs-to-the-people-via-facebook-live>

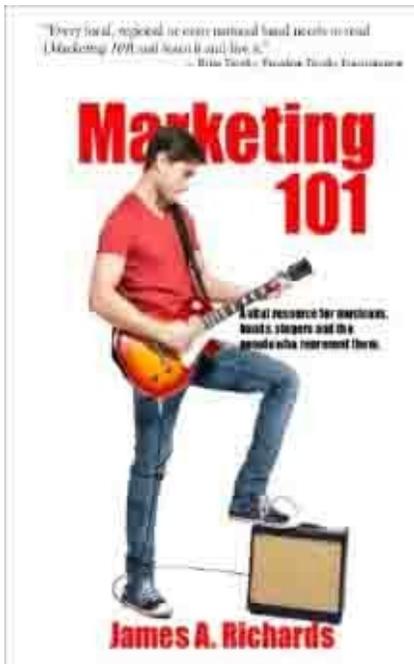


Images



Controversy again surrounds the Stephen Foster statue.

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— Andy Mulkerin, *Pittsburgh City Paper*

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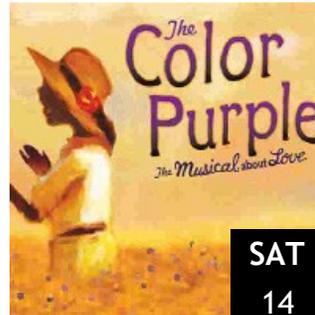
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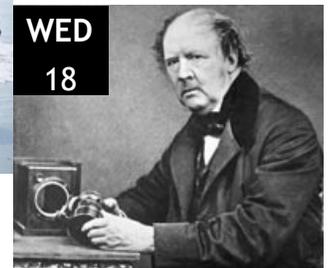
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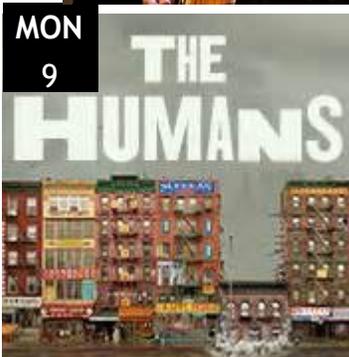
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Opportunities

There are several part-time jobs available at the Carnegie Science Center, from visitor services to program presenters. Information at <http://www.carnegiemuseums.org/interior.php?pageID=12>

A new grant program has been announced by the **Randall Frank Contemporary Art Collection** to support artists living and working on the East Coast and Midwest. Download a PDF with details by clicking https://randallfrankcontemporaryartcollection.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/rfcac_artist_grant_program_20182.pdf

Local teen filmmakers have until November 10 to submit their short film (2 to 5 minutes) to **Steeltown Entertainment Project's** Teen Film Contest Series. Rules and application are available at http://www.steeltown.org/stfc/?mc_cid=005d54bb83&mc_eid=

The 5th annual **ScreenCraft** Screenwriting Fellowship is now open for applications from emerging TV and film screenwriters who are seeking career mentorship and unparalleled industry access and introductions. Details at <https://screencraft.org/fellowship/>

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!



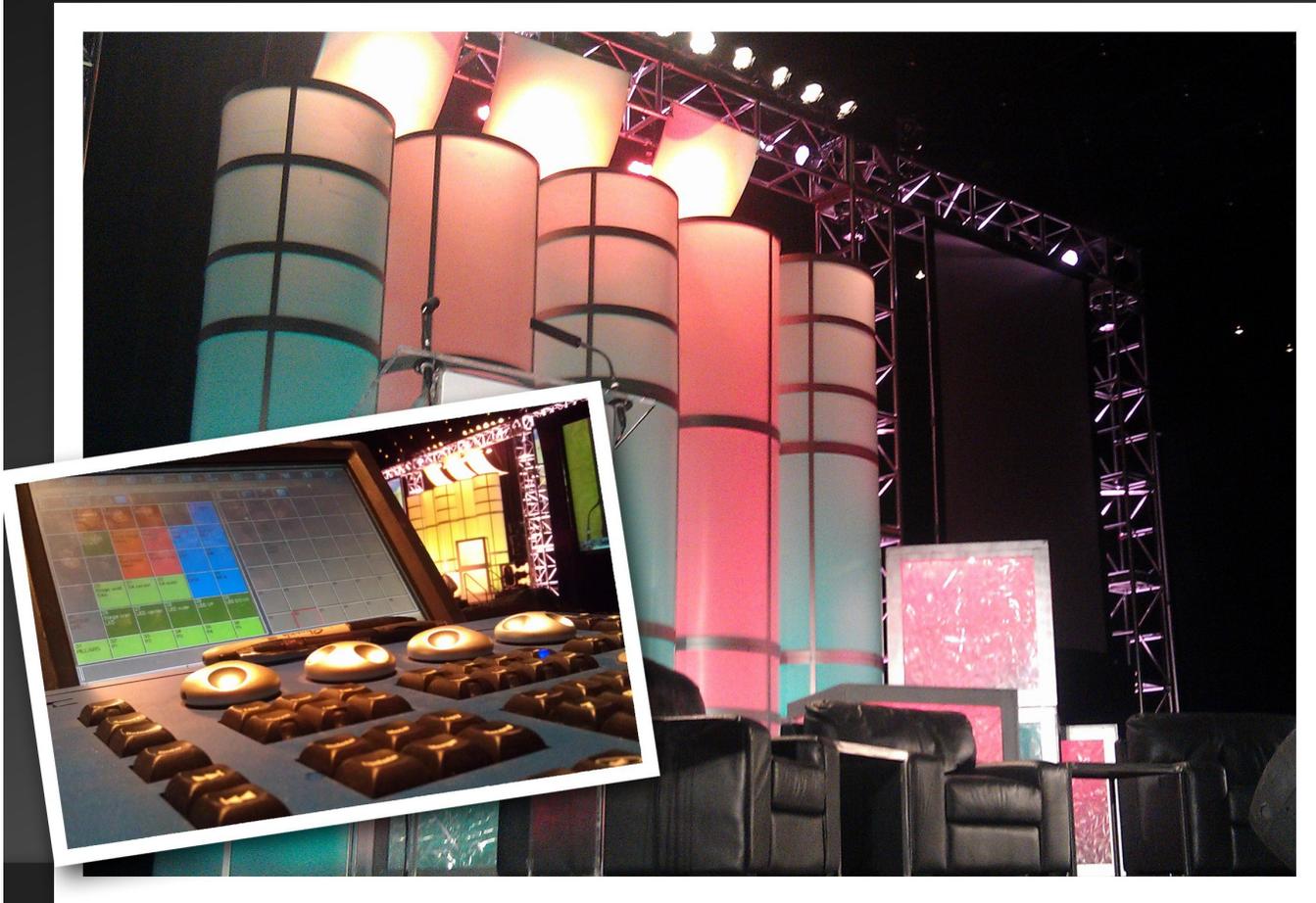
More than 90 people were displaced when a Pittsburgh Cultural District fire hit the historic apartment building Midtown Towers. Please help the survivors by donating to a special United Way campaign.

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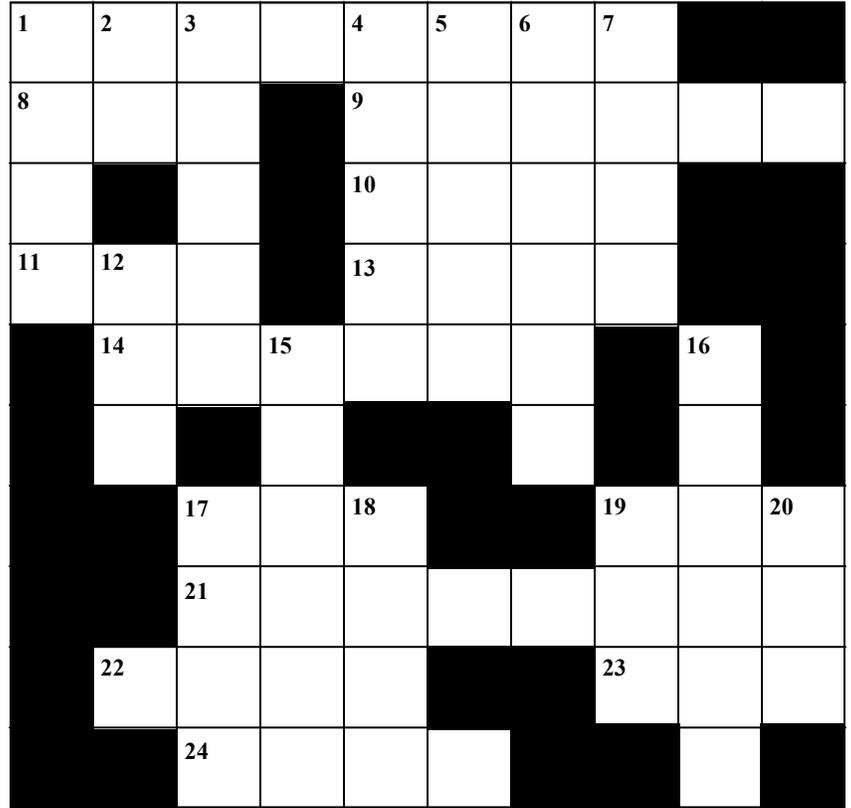


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Across

1. See 1-Down
8. Driller's initials?
9. Former students
10. Traditional belief
11. One-time party need for 9-Across
13. Michigan or Superior
14. Common element in a series of films
being screened at Row House
Cinema this month
17. Big time phone initials, once
19. Miner's quest
21. Common accompaniment 6-Down
23. Security for 5-Down
23. Lower limb
24. 51 is a famous one



Down

1. Local singer who just celebrated his
20th annual holiday concert
(with 1-Across)
2. Card initials?
3. Are you living it?
4. The Four Seasons' Frankie
5. What a borrower needs? (two words)
6. Main Thanksgiving meal course
7. Hooks' right hand man?
12. Its between Eee and Gee
15. One of 26 in the alphabet
16. Original sponsor of what is now the
Unity Tree
17. Biggest continent
18. Dancer Tommy
19. Fortune source for the Ewings and
the Carringtons
20. It came before the chicken?

Last Month's Solution

R	E	X			T	O	M	O	F
O	R	B	I	T		M	A		I
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