

Artists Across USA Organize Against Trump

The nation's artistic community is coalescing in its resistance to Donald Trump, the **Heritage Foundation** and their allies.

"Trump may be the most consequential arts president" in U.S. history, writes [art consultant Brett Egan in an opinion piece for Artsnet](#). "It's time for a unified response."

While unity may not yet exist, efforts to fight back are growing. Among the most prominent organizations, [reports Helen Stoilas for The Art Newspaper](#), is the newly formed **The People vs. Project 2025** (PVP). The group plans to hold demonstrations "in the lead-up to the 2026 midterm elections, which will decide which political party controls congress."

PVP takes its name from "Project 2025," the title to the policy proposals put forth last year by a group of far-right entities led by Heritage. Much of these policies have been enacted by the Trump Administration.

The [organization's web site](#) describes its mission is "to connect, amplify, and mobilize artists and cultural workers that are confronting --- or are ready to confront --- Project 2025, a coordinated authoritarian agenda threatening democracy, civil rights, and cultural freedom in the United States."

And, locally, the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) has joined hundreds of organizations in formally rejecting Trump's attacks on nonprofits. [Read it here](#).

Egan's op-ed goes into fascinating and troubling details about Donald Trump's affects on the nation's arts and culture. He identifies "three sleeves" in the policies being enacted: aesthetic (such as the new White Hall ballroom); ideological (eliminating funds for diversity programs) and economic (pushing to dismantle agencies such as the **National Endowment for the Arts**). "The administration's swift appointment of loyalists to key positions," Egan adds, "illustrates a level of priority on arts and culture unprecedented in the modern era."

Interestingly, Egan is the founder and president of the nonprofit **DeVos Institute of Arts & Non-profit Management** --- whose name comes from an early funder, the DeVos family, who are major supporters of Donald Trump.

Paramount Cuts Come To Pittsburgh

Two local television stations are among the casualties of David Ellison's cuts as the new chief of **Paramount**.

Job losses are occurring at all levels in all divisions of the media and entertainment giant as a result of its recent merger. Some are high-ranking. Senior executives such as [Lisa Kramer, Jennifer Weingroff and Tony Augi](#) have been let go. Some are high-profile. These include familiar journalists like [Lisa Ling and Nikki Battiste](#).

A dozen positions are being eliminated at Paramount's local stations, KDKA-TV and WPKD-TV, reports [Rob Owen for the Pittsburgh Tribune Review](#). Most of the cuts are behind-the-scenes. However, at least three on-air personalities are losing

their jobs: Katie O'Malley, Kelly Dzanaj and Lisa Smith.

But the part of the company experiencing the most turmoil appears to be CBS News. Most of this surrounds the Ellison family's close ties to Donald Trump and the recent addition of controversial online media host/producer Bari Weiss.

The most high-profile result of Weiss' arrival is the departure of "CBS Evening News" co-anchor John Dickerson. There are even rumors that popular morning show host Gayle King may leave. "King would be the latest in a parade of top CBS talent to leave their current roles," [reports Matt Donnelly and Brian Steinberg for Variety](#). "If audiences feel King

was pushed out for no good reason, they could be ripe for the picking by rivals" ABC and NBC.

Deadline's Ted Johnson recently obtained and posted memos written by Ellison and Weiss that were distributed to CBS News staff. They memos talk about "constructive, respectful, and bipartisan dialogue" and "core journalistic values." You can read them by [clicking here](#).

It's not just journalists who are leaving. In a commentary, [Adam Buckman writing for MediaPost](#), says that David Ellison has driven away one of top producers for Paramount+ --- Taylor Sheridan, the driving force behind hit series such as "Mayor of Kingstown."



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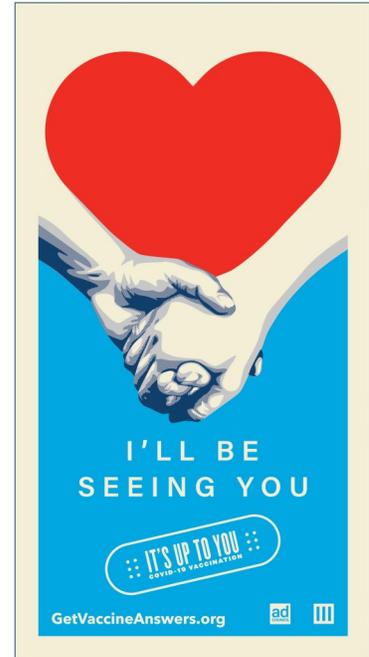
The announcement was made by Executive Editor Ali Trachta on October 15.

Pittsburgh City Paper is an alternative weekly newspaper that began in 1990 as a competitor to the long-standing *In Pittsburgh* (IP) weekly. *City Paper's* owner bought out *IP* in 2001. The paper was later acquired by the owner of *The Butler Eagle* and now the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

The paper will continue as an online outlet, following a continuing trend in media. [Both *Pittsburgh Applause* and *The Pittsburgh A&E Book* began as print products before becoming digital-only – ed.]

Trachta insisted that “print isn’t dead, and neither are we” adding that the print edition is being converted from a weekly to a quarterly. “In those editions, which will function as your ‘Bible’ for the season, you’ll find an essential collection of event listings, in-depth news coverage, and off-the-wall arts and entertainment stories you’re used to seeing from us year-round.”

Ali Trachta’s statement can be read by [clicking here](#).



Louvre Theft Increases Focus On Security

It took only a few minutes, and it happened in broad daylight. A group of apparently semi-professional thieves walked off with millions of dollars in jeweled items from the world-famous **Louvre Museum**.

This brazen act has caused renewed concerns at institutions across the globe.

“This robbery may rewrite museum security protocols,” says Nikos Passas, professor of criminology and criminal justice at **North-eastern University** [told a school newspaper](#). The historical and architectural importance of museums complicate the issue. “You’re not just preserving the crown jewels that are held in that room,” she adds. “You are also

preserving the facility. How do you balance what that space is for visitors while protecting it?”

Like the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**, whose core facility (containing art and natural history museums) was built in 1895. Or the **Frick Pittsburgh**, which is centered on a mansion constructed in the 1860’s.

Rusty Baker, executive director of **PA Museums**, told the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's* [Megan Trotter](#) that the heist might prompt institutions across the state to reexamine their security measures.

Some are criticizing the growing emphasis on cybersecurity. “In many cases, [writes Carmen Jorda](#)

[Sanz for The Independent](#), “attackers have little need to hack into sophisticated computer systems --- they can gain access through windows, service doors, roofs or false walls using rudimentary tools.”

The London-based professional organization **Museums Association** [reports a warning](#) by an insurance company representative: “[the] trend of smash and grab-style attacks is likely to continue, particularly with the economic downturn we’re experiencing”.

How local institutions are adapting remains unclear at press time.

GPAC's New Tool

A new tool has been introduced by the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) called ArtPulse.

Using software developed with Baltimore-based **EcoMap Technologies**, ArtPulse tracks the health and sustainability of Allegheny County's nonprofit arts sector.



GPAC's announcement explains that "ArtPulse analyzes and visualizes trends at both the organizational and sector levels. Data is compiled from public sources like IRS Form 990s, minimizing the need for manual entry."

ArtPulse is still in the pilot phase. For more information, [click here](#).

Actors Strike Avoided

A potential strike has been averted by **Actors' Equity Association** (AEA) against **The Broadway League**.

While a strike would not have affected local stages, many Pittsburgh actors are AEA members who frequently perform in Broadway productions.



"This was a lengthy negotiation, and a thorough one that resulted in progress across all of Equity's priority areas: safe staffing, hu-

mane scheduling, sustainable working conditions and stabilizing the Equity-League Health Fund," said AEA's Al Vincent, Jr. in press release. "We are proud of the deal we achieved together, and we know it will make the lives of actors and stage managers better over the next three years. With the new Production Contract ratified, Equity and the League can now continue working together to bring audiences the best Broadway season yet!"

For more information, [click here](#).



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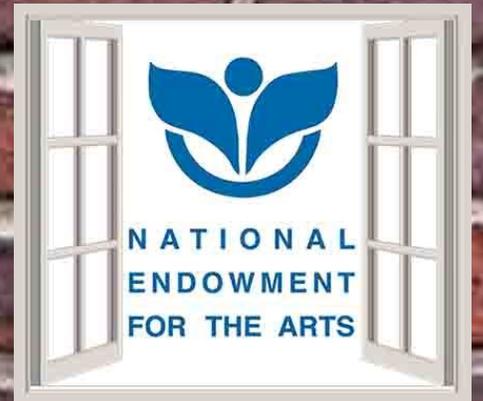
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PITTSBURGH APPLAUSE
DOGE WATCH



Keaton & Typo At Walk Dedication

One of Pittsburgh's favorite sons, actor Michael Keaton, was in town to see his star unveiled at the inaugural Pittsburgh Walk of Fame ceremony.

"This is ridiculously nice," the [Pittsburgh Tribune Review's Megan Swift](#) quotes Keaton of the ceremony. "There's nothing like being recognized by your hometown."

"Honestly, this is one of the greatest days of my life," he is further quoted by the [Hollywood Reporter's Chris Gardner](#). "I love places

like this but I especially love this, my hometown. I love these immigrant cities. The entire country is a country of immigrants and my own family looks like the [United Nations] and I'm so proud of."

Unfortunately, there was one flaw to Keaton's honor: his first name is misspelled in the text underneath his star on the honorary plaque. Nancy Polinsky Johnson, the Walk of Fame's founder and executive director, [told Swift that she was "mortified"](#) at the discovery. Johnson is an experienced writer, editor and publisher. "I would

proof 130 pages of copy on a regular basis, so that this got past me on nine lines of type was just more embarrassing than I can say."

The other nine honorees are jazz musician George Benson, journalist Nellie Bly, industrialist Andrew Carnegie, conservationist Rachel Carson, athlete Roberto Clemente, children's television star Fred Rogers, medical researcher Dr. Jonas Salk, artist Andy Warhol and playwright August Wilson.

To learn more, [click here](#).

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Rogers' New Project

A new multiplatform content initiative is being launched this month by **Fred Rogers Production (FRP)**, [the nonprofit company has announced](#).



Titled "More Ways to Show You Care," the initiative focuses on caregiving as a natural part of family life. It includes documentary shorts, educator lesson plan and family activities appropriate for children ages 2 to 6. Material will be available on the PBS Kids website, app and YouTube chan-

nel. It was inspired by the Fred Rogers' song "There Are Many Ways to Say I Love You."

The initiative is "an opportunity for children to both see themselves and to learn more about the ways caregiving can be a part of a loving family," explains FRP's Ellen Doherty,

November 7 has been selected as the launch date.



Fest Wins Awards

The producers of the **Pittsburgh Irish Festival** have received multiple honors by a leading professional organization.

Founded in 1956, **International Festivals and Events Association**



(IFEA) is a not-for-profit association for producers, suppliers and managers of festivals and events, IFEA recognizes excellence in the event industry through its Pinnacle Awards program.

This year, the Irish Festival was honored in an impressive fifteen categories. You can see the full list by [clicking here](#).

**GIL SNYDER
(1953 - 2025)**

Date Set For NPR Lawsuit

In a decision that may have repercussions in Pittsburgh and across the country, a federal judge has ordered the **Corporation of Public Broadcasting** (CPB) to set aside funds promised to **National Public Radio** (NPR).



[Austin Fuller of Current](#) reports that District Judge Randolph D. Moss has ordered CPB to set aside \$36 million promised to NPR in preparation for a December trial. NPR claims that CPB unlawfully canceled a three-year contract to provide NPR with satellite and distribution services at the order of Donald Trump.

"I am not sure I have received an answer at all to the question of what changed from April 2nd to April 4th, other than the fact that CPB was looking for ways to try and ingratiate itself with the administration and perhaps folks on the Hill in a desire to survive," Fuller quotes Moss, "and that it was perceived that the votes and the support that CPB needed would come from those who were hostile to the content of NPR's speech."

CPB was established in 1967 by the US Congress to distribute

money to local public radios and television stations, as well as networks such as NPR and **Public Broadcasting Service** (PBS). The nonprofit corporation has been defunded by Trump and the Republican-controlled legislature. Only a skeleton staff remains to wind down the organization.

In a [press release](#), NPR declared the judge's decision "a significant milestone in our case to protect First Amendment rights for the public media system." The trial is scheduled to begin December 1.

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Foundation CEO To Retire

Lisa Schroeder, president and chief executive officer of **The Pittsburgh Foundation**, will retire by March 2026. The foundation made the decision public on October 3.

“Lisa’s legacy is both powerful and enduring,” said foundation chair Jack McGinley in a press release.

“She has advanced the Foundation’s mission with unshakeable integrity, bold vision and a deep sense of responsibility to all communities in the Pittsburgh region”

The same release credits Schroeder with increasing the foundation’s assets by nearly \$500 million and distributing more than \$350 million in grants.

Shroeder has been leading the Pittsburgh Foundation since 2019.



Audacy Wins Marconi

Local radio station KDKA-FM has won an NAB Marconi Radio Award, station owner **Audacy**, has announced.



The awards are a program of the **National Association of Broadcasters** (NAB), a trade organization formed in 1923 and represents over 8,300 radio and television stations. The program began in 1989 to recognize excellence in radio. It is named after Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937), credited with inventing radio.

KDKA-FM is branded as "93.7 The Fan" and specializes in sports coverage. The company’s press release can be read [here](#).

PPT’s New Faces

Actor, director and educator [Kyle Haden](#) has been named artistic consultant at the **Pittsburgh Public Theater** (PPT), reports [Sharon Ebersson for the blog On Stage Pittsburgh](#). Haden is also an acting professor at **Carnegie Mellon University**.



The theater made the announcement on stage at the opening night performance of “Noises Off”.

“Originally from Pittsburgh, Kyle Haden brings a nationally recognized portfolio of artistic excellence” to the PPT writes [Chloe Rabinowitz for Broadway World](#).

In addition, Adil Mansoor has been named PPT Resident Director. “Mansoor will work in partnership with Haden to deepen the artistic initiatives” at the company, explains Rabinowitz. “Mansoor is a theater director centering the stories of queer folks and people of color.”

PSO Extends Stripling Contract

Jazz trumpeter Byron Stripling and the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO) have agreed to extend his contract through 2029.

The 64-year-old musician and vocalist first made a name for himself, fresh out of college, by performing with the legendary Count Basie Orchestra. He later made his Carnegie Hall debut with composer/conductor Lyle

“Skitch” Henderson (1918-2005). Stripling became only the second principal pops conductor of the PSO in 2020.

“Byron has an extraordinary gift for connecting with audiences of all ages,” said orchestra CE/o Melia Tourangeau in a press release. “His impact goes far beyond the PNC Pops series. Whether he’s leading Fiddle-

sticks, a Pops concert, or inspiring students at rehearsals and in local classrooms, Byron embodies the PSO’s mission to share music as a transformative force. I am thrilled to continue this partnership with him.”

Stripling will continue to lead the pops in its subscription series as well as special concerts.



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11





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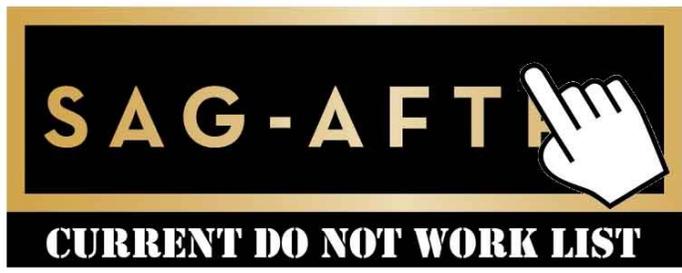
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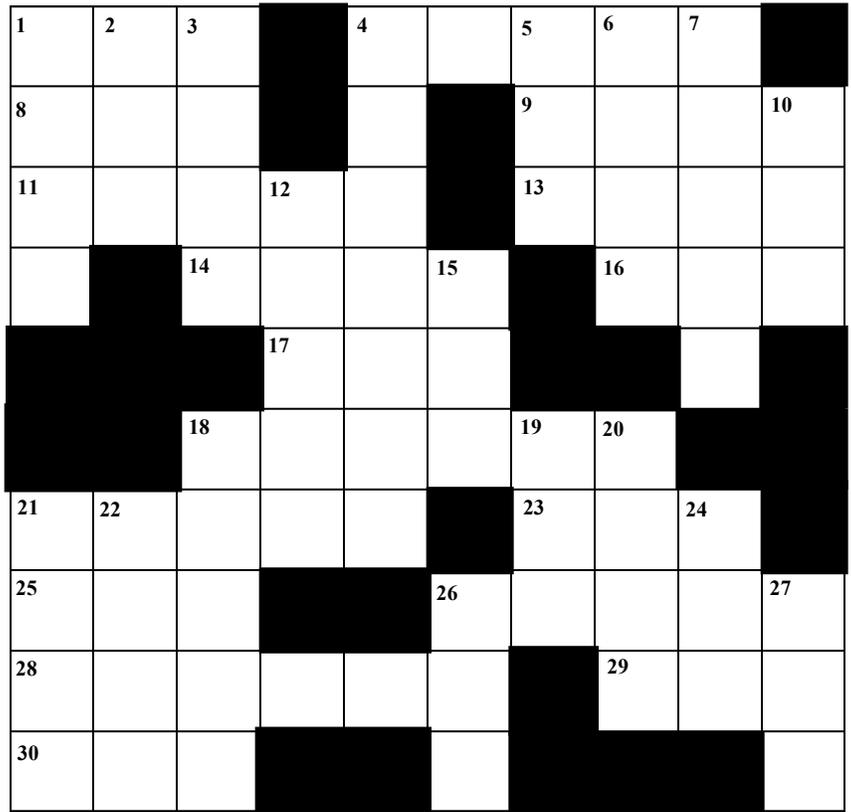


**Jim ran out of time
this month.**



Across

1. Car collecting comic Leno, to pals
4. Cuts slightly
8. Ripen
9. Facebook parent
11. "Simpsons" alum O'Brien, to pals
13. Get ready, in brief
14. Turn is circles really fast
16. The night before Christmas
17. Aberdeen school, initially
18. The "King of Late Night" Carson, to pals
21. Length of time
23. Snaky sea life
25. Sound made with a closed mouth
26. Blemish
28. Muslim empire founder
29. Agent, briefly
30. One of journalism's five basic questions



Down

1. Comic host Paar, to pals
2. Past
3. Tokyo dollars
4. Legendary TV series that ties together 1-Across, 1-Down, 7-Down, 11-Across, 18-Across and 18-Down (with 21-Down)
5. Slightly naughty kid
6. Least
7. Original 4-Down host, to pals
10. Hairy dude
12. Kitchen garb
15. Catholic lady
18. "SNL" alum Fallon, to pals
19. Fishing tool
20. Twelve months
21. See 4-Down
22. It can be cushy
24. Untruth
26. Clergyman's subject
27. PBS peer

Last Month's Solution

L	A	B		G		H	E	R	O
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