

Pittsburgh A&E Bracing For Delta

Flu season is fast approaching, just as the variant of the COVID-19 virus called Delta is spreading across the country.

SPECIAL REPORT

Eric Heyl reports for Patch Pittsburgh that two new **University of Pittsburgh** studies "indicate the 2021-22 flu season likely will be more severe than average and affect young children particularly hard. That's because immunity levels are down from the near-total lack of a flu season during last winter's coronavirus surge." This means two highly contagious illnesses could be hitting us at the same time.

As a result, more and more arts & entertainment entities are setting relevant policies. These include the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC), which has officially added its voice to the calls for broad vaccination and other COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

"We all need to work together to combat the spread of this pervasive virus while also ensuring our arts community continues to thrive," said GPAC's Mitch Swain in the August 19 announcement. GPAC states that "Pittsburgh's arts and culture industry has experienced more than \$48.5 Million in total financial loss as of February 2021." Swain adds that "Our arts community cannot provide the world-class, vibrant arts experiences that we've come to

know and love without taking into account the safety of its frontline workers, artists, production teams, volunteers, staff and their families, alongside that of audiences who help keep our doors open."

One of the studies suggest that the 2021-2022 flu season could see 20% more cases of illnesses. (Read the article [here](#)). Being vaccinated against both influenza and COVID-19 can reduce both the number of people infected as well as the severity of those infections. But millions of people remain reluctant to embrace proven methods of protection. Evan Comen of 247wallst.com writes that "87.4% of allocated vaccines have been administered to [Pennsylvania] residents as of August 25, greater than the national average of 84.8%" but that "50.2% of [Pennsylvania] adults who have not yet received the vaccine report that they will probably not or definitely not get a vaccine in the future." Comen has published [a relevant chart with his article](#).

The general consensus is that the low levels of COVID vaccinations and high levels of mask resistance (primarily, but not exclusively, in rural counties) is due to disinformation and politicization.

In other COVID-related news:

Mr. Smalls announced on August 31 that it is requiring proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test for concert-goers, per the request of its artists.

From September 17 through at least November 3, the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust** is requiring all guests ages 12 and older to be fully vaccinated with the Moderna, Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson vaccine. They must also show proof of vaccination at their time of entry into the relevant theater with their valid ticket. Specifics are available [here](#).

The web site for **The Allegheny Wine Mixer** is advising patrons that "masks are welcome but not required for our vaccinated customers."

On August 25, pop star Harry Styles posted on Instagram that "for the health and safety of everyone attending" his tour, all ticket holders will be required to show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or of a negative COVID-19 test. This includes his [October 14 concert in Pittsburgh](#).

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is requiring all staff and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks "until further notice."

The rock band KISS had to shelve its August 26 concert near Pittsburgh because lead singer Paul Stanley tested positive for COVID-19. The announcement was made via Twitter "Everyone on the entire tour, both band and crew, are fully vaccinated" and

Continues on Page 7

See your vision.



Take your project from
IMAGINATION to **Reality**

From writing to wrap. With over 30 years of experience, The Videohouse has a full menu of production services. Whether it's à la carte or the full course production, The Videohouse works with customers to bring their vision to screens small and large.

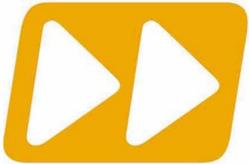
4K and beyond. No matter how many K's there are tomorrow, we're always exploring the latest technology and newest media. But we know it's more than just fancy tech that makes a great product – that's why you'll find creative, hard-working people dedicated to exceeding your expectations.

End-to-End Post & More

Editing	Sound Mixing
Animation	Color Grading
Design	Conforming
Motion Graphics	Compression
Website/Interactive	Archiving
Mobile	Streaming
Social Media	Duplication

All Industries Served

Ad Agencies	Motion Pictures
Broadcast	Government
Corporate	Higher Ed
Small Business	Manufacturing
Non-Profit	Medical
Entrepreneurs	Entertainment
Music	Museums

the **Videohouse** 

See your vision.

412.921.7577
www.thevideohouse.com

City's New Structure

Coming out of the pandemic (hopefully), **City Theatre** has announced an interesting reorganization of artistic leadership structure.

That structure is called Shared Artistic Director and it essentially creates a three-person committee resulting in the promotion of current staff members Clare Drobot and Monteze Freeland work alongside continuing artistic director Marc Masterson. George Hoover writes for PittsburghintheRound.com that this decision reflects a trend. "Across the field, there are ongo-



ing discussions around 'flattening' top-down artistic decision-making. Especially as it relates to what voices are presented on stage and which artists receive institutional resources." The trio will make decisions by consensus.

"I deeply believe in the power of group creativity. That is the power of theatre as an art form," Hoover quotes Masterson. "I am excited by the opportunity to collaborate with these excellent artists in realizing an exciting vision for City Theatre."

Sharon Ebersson, in a separate article, offers some interesting observations which can be read [here](#).

WYEP's New PD

Liz Felix, the new program director at WYEP-FM, recently shared her thoughts about the station's post-pandemic plans with Amanda Waltz of *Pittsburgh City Paper*. Felix began at the station in 2019 as an on-air personality.

"I think [this is] a new chapter because we're coming out of a really strange period of time," she tells Waltz. "I don't think any of us could have foreseen the way that things were gonna go last year." For more than a year, most of the station's employees have been working remotely.

The article covers subjects like the image challenges facing public broadcasters, the re-emergence of live music and Felix's interesting tenure with a Seattle station. Read the full article by clicking [here](#).

Lawsuit Update

Alexis D. Johnson has won a victory against his former employer, *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, reports MediaPost.com's Ray Schultz.



Johnson asserts that she and other African-American journalists were barred from covering protests related to the murder of a Black man in Minneapolis after posting comments and photos about looting on social media.

The paper tried to block the suit, but a judge has ruled that the case may move forward.



ACA's New Board Named

Six people have been elected to **ACA Connects'** board, with **Block Communications'** Diana Block among the members stepping aside.

ACA Connects is a trade organization based in Pittsburgh that represents more than 600 smaller and medium-sized, independent companies that provide broadband, phone and video services to nearly 8 million customers (primarily located in rural and smaller suburban markets).



Elected to three-year terms are Marie Censoplano of **Vyve Broadband** [Shawnee, Oklahoma]; Matt Dosch of **Comporium** [Rock Hill, South Carolina]; John Gdovin of **RCN Corporation** [Princeton, New Jersey]; Jim Gleason of **Vexus Fiber** [Lubbock, Texas]; Dave Hymas of **GCI Communications Corp.** [Anchorage, Alaska] and Kristin Johnson of **Hotwire Communications** [Fort Lauderdale, Florida].

Their term runs from 2021 to 2024.



New B'Way Pres Named

Lauren Reid has been named president of **The John Gore Organization**.

The John Gore Organization (originally called Key Brand Entertainment) is the parent company of Broadway Across America, which brings Broadway shows to Pittsburgh and other major cities. The company is owned by British entertainment producer John Gore.

Reid also chairs the board of **The Broadway League**, the trade organization representing Broadway stages and producer.

New Netflix Obama Pic

Pittsburgh seems to have become a second home for **Netflix**, as yet another film is set to shoot here.



Joshua Axelrod reports for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* that the film will be a biopic of civil and gay rights leader Bayard Rustin (1912-1987). Born in suburban Philadelphia, Rustin helped organize the Freedom Rides of the early 1960's and also was a driving force behind **the Southern Christian Leadership Conference**. The film is being produced by the production company founded by former President

New GPAC Chair Named

Dr. Veronica Morgan-Lee, director of fund development at **Hill Dance Academy Theatre** (HDAT), has been named the new chairperson of the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC).

GREATER PITTSBURGH
ARTS COUNCIL



HDAT trains students ages 3 to 18 in various styles of

concert dance, fitness, nutrition and leadership skills. Dr. Morgan-Lee has been with HDAT since 2005. Her professional experience also includes nonprofit consulting experience with expertise in racial equity, mission and vision development.

"As chair, I am looking forward to working with an extraordinary board of professional leaders who represent the arts, businesses, education and Pittsburgh's local communities as we lift up the work of so many talented and diverse artists in the greater Pittsburgh region," said Dr. Morgan-Lee in a press release.

Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle.

Shooting is scheduled to begin at the end of this month. Read the full article [here](#).



VINCENT
LIGHTING SYSTEMS

When your show matters, choose the company that professionals trust. Choose Vincent Lighting Systems.



Shows • Parties • Meetings • Weddings • Theater • Film & Video Shoots

Production Services • Rentals • Sales • Service

"Vincent Lighting outdid themselves by creating this jaw-dropping lighting design ... the lighting just completely transforms the space."

"I am truly thankful for Vincent Lighting Systems and their wonderful customer service team!"

"I have received tons of compliments on how cool the stage looked. Your crew was extremely easy to work with, and they were very professional and got the job done!"



412.788.5250  vls.com

  [vincentlighting](http://vincentlighting.com)

Film Furnace?

With more film and television production coming to Pittsburgh, the idea of creating more sound stages has been floated. One of the potential locations is the former Carrie Furnace.

Carrie Furnace was a blast furnace and a key component of the vast Homestead Steel Works once owned by **United States Steel Corporation**. Constructed in 1881, the furnace produced more than 1,000 tons of iron during its peak years. It was shut down in 1978. The property is currently managed by the nonprofit **Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area**.

Patch Pittsburgh's Eric Heyl reports that the **Regional Industrial Development Corporation** (RIDC) and the **Pittsburgh Film Office** (PFO) "and other unspecified parties on the possibility of creating The Film Furnace --- a studio campus with sound stages and other amenities."

If it happens, the complex would be constructed on vacant land adjacent to the historic structure. Read more [here](#).

Teen Media Awards

The winners have been announced by the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** for the institution's annual Teen Media Awards.

More than 200 creative teens --- writers, visual artists, musicians, filmographers and inventors -- from across Allegheny County participated. The program is divided into two parts: The Ralph Munn Creative Writing Awards and the Labsy Awards.



This year's judges were award-winning author Deesha Philyaw and Puerto Rican writer Paloma Sierra. Philyaw's debut short story collection, *The Secret Lives of Church Ladies*, focuses on African-American women, sex, and the Black church. Paloma has recently curated a virtual workshop for **City of Asylum/Pittsburgh** as part of her tenure as the Emerging Poet Laureate of Allegheny County.

Read the full list of winners by clicking [here](#).

Opera Building In Danger

Despite about \$600,000 in grants, time may run out to save the former home of the Negro Opera Company.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's Jesse Bunch wrote about the building's urgent situation in an article published last month. A porch has collapsed and a dam-

aged roof is allowing rain to seep in. This means stabilization needs to be addressed before any restoration or renovation can take place. The entire project could cost up to \$3 million.

Read the full article [here](#).

MARILYN EASTMAN
(1933 - 2021)

Pittsburgh A&E Bracing For Delta

Continues from Page 1

functioning in a protective bubble, explains the tweet. "More information about show dates will be made available ASAP."

SPECIAL REPORT

All four **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** continue to limit access and rely on timed entrances. They are also requiring all patron age 2 and older to be masked.

The Pittsburgh Opera is requiring face coverings (masks) for all guests attending indoor performances and events at their Strip District headquarters through November 30, 2021.

Effective October 18, the **Jewish Community Center (JCC)** is requiring all members and guests age 12 and older to show proof of vaccination for all indoor programming.

City Theatre is requiring all patrons to show proof of vaccination status and to wear masks.

According to its web site, **Carnegie Stage** is requiring all guests to be masked at all times with "no exceptions."

Contemporary Craft continues to recommend visitors wear a mask.

The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh is requiring all guests age 2 and older to wear masks and continues with timed admission.

Audience sizes at **City of Asylum/Pittsburgh** events are being limited to 60% of capacity with masks required. In addition, all artists, volunteers and staff are fully vaccinated and will be wearing masks (except when on stage).

Club Cafe has posted its policy online stating that "all patrons and touring parties must present proof of vaccination (with the last dose administered no less than 14 days prior to date of arrival) or a negative COVID test taken within 72 hours and a government-issued photo ID upon entry. A clear and legible copy, or photo of your vaccination card, will be accepted.

The Frick Pittsburgh is requiring all visitors age 2 and older to wear a mask.

Row House Cinema is requiring patrons to show proof of vaccination or of a recent negative COVID-19 test for admission.

Idlewild & Soak Zone is encouraging patrons to wear a mask.

AEG Presents is requiring proof of vaccination for entry into Stage AE.

The Islamic Center of Pittsburgh is discouraging children from attending center events

Continues on Page 8

Images



Pittsburgh native Michael Keaton recently gave an extensive interview to the Hollywood Reporter. To read it, click the photo above.

Pittsburgh's A&E Bracing For Delta

Continues from Page 7

unless they are fully vaccinated and recommends that all adults be masked.

SPECIAL REPORT

Robert Morris University is recommending that all visitors to the Island Sports Center wear a mask.

Due to the continuing changes in circumstance, the **Jimmy Stewart Museum** is advising all possible patrons to call ahead of their visit.

The Mattress Factory continues with timed admission and "is asking all visitors and staff, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks while inside Museum buildings."

The National Aviary has reinstated its mask requirement for all visitor over the age of two.

Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens has issued an extensive policy which can be read [here](#).

At press time, face coverings remain optional at the **Pittsburgh Glass Center**.

The Sweetwater Center for the Arts has announced that "all staff, instructors, students and visitors must continue to wear a mask or face shield when inside the building regardless of vaccination status."

White Whale Bookstore is requiring all patrons to be masked.

From **Point Park University**: all students must be vaccinated.

Guests ages 12 and older who are attending a public performances at the Pittsburgh Playhouse must be fully vaccinated with the Moderna, Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson vaccine and must show proof of vaccination with their valid ticket at the time of entry.

People who have not been fully vaccinated are being advised by the **Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium** to be masked.

The Senator John Heinz History Center "and its family of museums strongly encourage masks to be worn by all visitors, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, when indoors."

"All persons entering" **Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall** "are encouraged to wear a mask covering their nose and mouth."



Channel Pittsburgh



FRI
3



FRI
10



SUN
19



SUN
19



FRI
3



SAT
4



FRI
24



TUE
7



FRI
24

Opportunities

An open casting call has been issued by **Mosser Casting** and **Rose Locke Casting** for the upcoming film "Rustin." For more information, click [here](#).

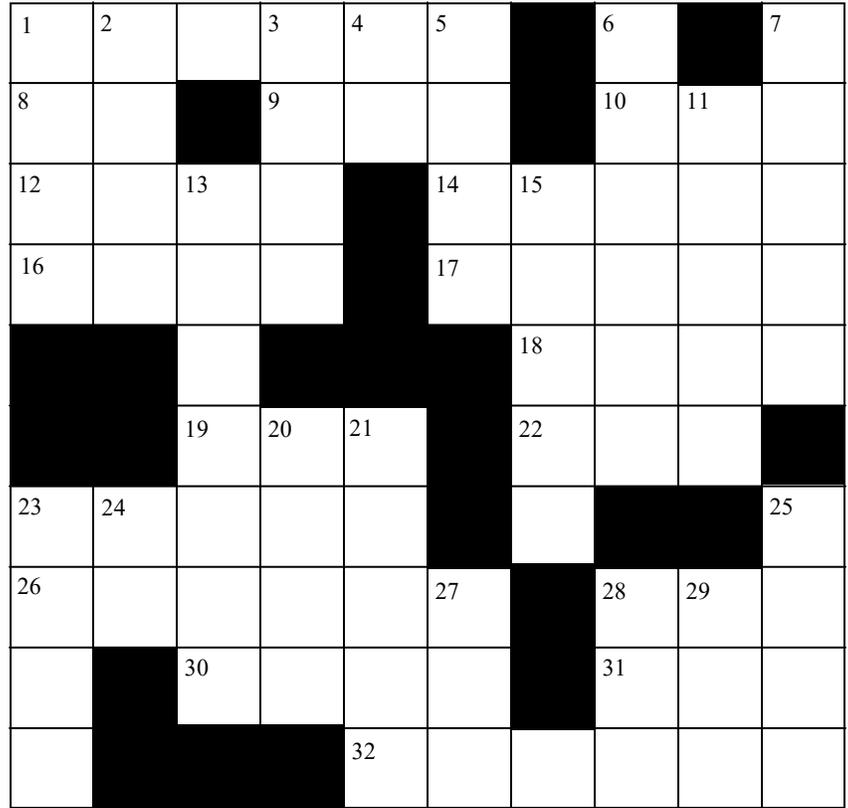
The City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning (DCP) and Department of Public Works (DPW) are seeking artists to submit their qualifications for an opportunity to create public art as part of the Homewood Park and Willie Stargell Field improvement project. Up to three artists or artist teams will be selected to work with the community to create public art inspired by Homewood's history, notable neighbors, organizations and events. To learn more about the project, find links to the information sessions and the application, visit the [Homewood Park Improvement Project EngagePGH Page](#).

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, part of **Block Communications**, is seeking someone to gather "information about newsworthy events, people and issues through face-to-face interviews, investigation, data searches and observation and uses that information to produce clear, accurate content for one of the company's platforms --- print, web, mobile, multimedia." Details are available by clicking [here](#).



Across

1. Setting for 26-Across
8. 1982 Killing Joke album title
9. Polloi lead-in
10. Old-time cable TV company
12. Spanish athlete Joaquim
14. 7-Down's co-worker
16. Regular patron of 26-Across
17. Fashion designer Calvin
18. Outdoor eatery
19. Owner of 26-Across
22. Global financial group, initially
23. Resigning vice president
26. Where everyone knows your name
28. Top pilot
30. Down Under military group, initially
31. 2000 Irish film comedy
32. 13-Down's ex-wife



Down

1. Common farm building
2. State adjacent to Pennsylvania
3. Classic 1954 science fiction film
4. Eyes emoticon
5. 14-Across' ex-husband
6. Almost a river
7. 14-Across' co-worker
11. Regular patron of 26-Across
13. 32-Across' ex-husband
15. Penguin-like bird
20. Code lead-in
21. Message in a fable
23. Git!
24. Common chemistry letters
25. Funny man Meyers, to pals
27. Bio or geo
28. Actress Meyers, to pals
29. Domestic feline

Last Month's Solution

M	E	R	M	A	I	D		A	
A	L	O	O	F		A	R	C	H
D	O	N	E		B	R	I	T	A
I	P					Y	A		N
S	E	T	S		A	L	L	E	N
O		I	P	O	D			G	A
N	U	L	L	E	D		B	A	H
	N	E	A	R	S		I	D	
O	D		S		O		D		
T	O	M	H	A	N	K	S		