

COAP's Reese Hurt In Rushdie Attack

Henry Reese, the co-founder of **City of Asylum Pittsburgh** (COAP) is recovering from injuries sustained during a surprising attack on acclaimed author Salman Rushdie.

Rushdie is known around the world for the arbitrary death sentence handed down by Ruhollah Khomeini (1900-1989), an ayatollah (senior Islamic cleric) and first head of state for the Islamic Republic of Iran. The sentence was in response to Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses*, which many religious extremists feel blasphemes Islam.

The assault happened on August 12 at the respected education non-profit **Chautauqua Institution** in New York State. Reese was about to interview Rushdie's for a program that was part of Chautauqua's annual festival. A young man rushed the stage with a knife stabbing Rushdie 10 times (injuring Reese in the process) until he could be restrained.

Two officers were present and immediately arrested Hadi Matar, the 22-year-old American son of Lebanese immigrants. The Iranian government has denied having any involvement. Matar has pleaded not guilty and remains in jail without bail.

Reese told the **British Broadcasting Company** (BBC) that "to see Salman Rushdie assaulted for his life is unimaginably . . . it's hard to describe what it is to see that happen in front of you." In multiple interviews, the 73-year-old underscored COAP's commitment to protecting and supporting writers facing persecution and violence.

Part of this is an event scheduled for September 10 at COAP. According to an online posting, "fiction writers Amitava Kumar, Kiran Desai, and Suketu Mehta . . . reflect on Salman's legacy from his imaginative use of language

and joyousness in [Rushdie's] fiction, to his belief that writing allows us to cross borders and learn from one another, to his commitment to promoting literature that allows our society to safely grapple with social injustices."



Click the graphic above to see a local interview with Reese.

WESA/WYEP Moves To Unionize

Staff members at **Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting Corporation** (PCBC) have submitted a petition to unionize through **SAG-AFTRA**.



The nonprofit PCBC is the parent organization for public radio stations WYEP and WESA. The union, which maintains a full-time office in Pittsburgh, made the announcement in an August 30, 2022.

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GPAC's Swain Announces Retirement

Mitch Swain has announced his retirement as head of the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC)

Swain was GPAC's inaugural CEO after it was created in 2005 through the merger of two existing organizations., ProArts and the



Greater Pittsburgh Arts Alliance. Until then, Swain led the shared services department at the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust**.

GPAC has posted a full review of his tenure which can be read by clicking [here](#). Swain will depart in March 2023. A search committee has been formed to find his successor.

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PSO & Union Contract

An agreement has been reached between the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO) and the **Pittsburgh Musicians Union** to extend the union's current contract another year.



"This new labor agreement represents the continuation of a collaborative approach between the Pittsburgh Symphony and its musicians as we emerge from the pandemic not just to survive, but to thrive.," the PSO's Marty Bates

in a press release. "We are united in working together on key strategic priorities focused on innovations to deepen our connections in the community, and to re-engaging patrons and to growing revenues."

Adjustments created in the extension allow for using smaller ensembles in more community performances and modest increases in pay for both in-person and digital concerts. The contract now expires at the end of the 2023-2024 season.

GPAC Launches Campaign

A new campaign has been launched by the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) to encourage locals to explore their city's rich arts scene in a post-pandemic environment.

The campaign will use ads, logo items (primarily stickers), social media and other tools.

"The pandemic has disproportionately affected the arts industry nationwide and Pittsburgh's artistic community is in need of a spotlight," GPAC's Mitch Swain told *Pittsburgh City Paper* reporter Amanda Waltz.

More information is available in Waltz's article by clicking [here](#).

WYEP Cans Two Shows

WYEP-FM, part of **Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting Corporation**, has cancelled two of its longest-running shows. Paul Gugenheimer reported the news in the August 31 issue of the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.

The non-profit organization also owns news station WESA-FM. These programs are "The Soul Show" and "An American Sampler."

For more information, read the article by clicking [here](#)

WESA/WYEP Moves To Unionize

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The organizing committee is quoted saying "as a union town, Pittsburgh's public radio stations should be union shops."

Goals described in the press release include equitable wages, improving diversity and a more supportive work environment.

"I am a public radio lifer," the release quotes host Kevin Gavin, "because I believe so deeply in the mission, the goals, the responsibility of public radio journalism . . . a union will provide us with professional security to help accomplish our mission." Kevin Gavin has worked in public broadcasting for about 45 years and currently hosts WESA's "The Confluence."

The organizing committee includes editors and producers as well as on-air personalities.

In other news, the SAG-AFTRA National Board has voted to approve a new agreement with Netflix, which produces some of its programming in Pittsburgh. Details are available by clicking [here](#).



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HBC Football Coming

Starting this month, Pittsburgh football fans will have more teams and players to cheer-on thanks to a new deal involving KDKA-TV.



KDKA is owned and operated by CBS, a division of **Paramount Global** that has a partnership with Allen Media Group to broadcast college games. Allen Media Group is another name for **Entertainment Studios**, the multimedia company formed in 1993 by comedian and television

host Byron Allen. The firm is best known subsidiary is The Weather Channel.

What makes this agreement special is that it involves teams from Historically Black Colleges (HBCs).

“As a Louisiana native and football fan,” CBS’ Wendy McMahon is quoted by Deadline.com reporter Erik Pedersen. “I am personally and professionally proud to play a role in having our stations shine a light on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the student athletes who are living out their dreams both on the field and in the classroom.”

The first game is scheduled for September 24.

Teen Media Awards

Winners have been named by the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** (CLP) in the annual Teen Media Awards.

The program serves as a platform for celebrating teens and their original content. More than 100 young people participated. Media involved include film/video, musicians, writing and visual arts. First place winners in each category receive \$250 and second place winners \$100.

The list of winners is available by clicking [here](#).



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Pittsburgh Opera Names Resident Artists

Eight people have been named Resident Artists for the 2022-2023 season by the **Pittsburgh Opera**. Six are vocalists and two are in management.

PITTSBURGH OPERA

The vocalists include baritone Brandon Bell; soprano Julia Swan Laird, bass-baritone Evan Lazdowski, tenor Daniel O’Hearn,

mezzo-soprano Jazmine Olwalia and soprano Emily Richter. The others are stage director Haley Stamats and administrator Darius Gillard.

A press release explains that over “500 applicants from around the world vie for just a handful of openings. After completing advanced education such as graduate degrees, Pittsburgh Opera’s Resident Artists further their careers under the guidance of the opera world’s leaders and innova-

tors, including master classes with opera legends. They study languages, diction, movement, and acting, while developing their vocal skills, expanding their repertoire, and performing on stage in Pittsburgh Opera productions.”



Percent For Art News

Some arts supporters are advocating changes in the city’s method of funding public art, reports Bill O’Driscoll for WESA-FM.

The city currently funds public art through a law commonly called Percent for Art. This law designates 1% of the funds used to erect or renovate a city-owned building to create art on the relevant site.

O’Driscoll explains that “the funds generated on any given project are often quite small” and not enough for a permanent installation.

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

Images



Melissa Aldana is among the artists performing at this year’s Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival.

Glass Center Gets Grant

Three local institutions are among the beneficiaries of a new grant program operated by the **Helen Frankenthaler Foundation**.



Founded by noted abstract expressionist painter Helen Frankenthaler (1928-2011), the foundation protects the artist's legacy and

promotes the work of others. These grants are part of a new initiative was created to help museums and art schools make their facilities more eco-friendly.

Perhaps the most notable local recipient is the **Pittsburgh Glass Center**. The center's grant will be used to construct a new thermal envelope by using super high-efficiency glass. Details are available by clicking [here](#).

Museum Sets Date

An official opening date has been set for the new **Moonshot Museum**. That date is October 15.

The museum's web site describes its mission is "to inspire a diverse community to find their place in the future of human space exploration through innovative exhibitions and programs fueled by science, technology, engineering, and the arts."

Moonshot shares the same building as robotics company **Astrobotic Technology, Inc.**

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Opportunities

Applications are available on a continuing basis at the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** for their Access Microfund program. Recipients receive up to \$500 to help make their facility or event more accessible for people with disabilities. Click [here](#).

WTAE-TV, part of **Hearst Communications**, is seeking someone who “will work with internal and external production groups on content development and production for the streaming platform Very Local.” Click [here](#).

Among the opportunities at the **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre** is a full-time Media Relations Manager. Click [here](#).

Ethan Cohen is shooting an (as yet) untitled comedy film in the area. His team is looking for actors, stand-ins and period specific vehicles. **The Pittsburgh Film Office** has posted the details [here](#).

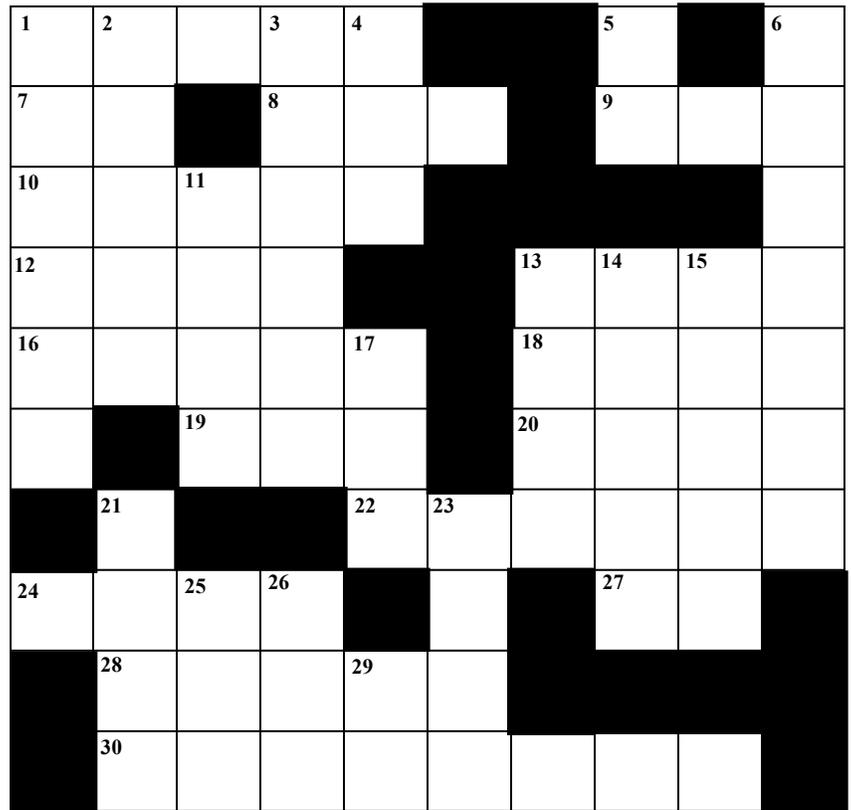
Two full-time marketing positions and several part-time positions are available at the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust**, including the art galleries. Click [here](#).

Musicians interested in auditioning for the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** have until September 12 to apply. The symphony is seeking an oboist. Click [here](#).



Across

1. Terrific 1979 movie about aging the right way (with 6-Down)
7. UFO CEO?
8. Paddle
9. Beach goal, for many
10. Funny 1977 movie about an imperfect deity
12. Consume words
13. Raise the temperature
16. Outdoor cooker
18. Daring
19. Keanu movie character
20. Iranian currency
22. Comedic actress Allen, to pals
24. S.W. Randall sells these
27. Home to Nashville, initially
28. Possessive form of 25-Down
30. Classic 1975 movie about former vaudevillians (with 21-Down)



Down

1. The star of the four movies in this puzzle (and husband of 22-Across), to pals
2. This, that or the _____
3. Slang for your brain
4. Israeli singer Elbaz, to pals
5. It comes after OT in the Bible
6. See 1-Across
11. No loss
13. Ancient female deity
14. Decree
15. Fun 1988 movie: "18 ____"
17. Captain's record
21. See 30-Across
23. Big mouthed Limbaugh, to pals
25. Not me
26. Needed to achieve a 9-Across
29. Exercise guru of 1980's TV, initially

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