

# NEWS & NOTES

from the ALLEGHENY REGIONAL ASSET DISTRICT

FALL 2007

## RADical Days'07 Sets New Records

Featuring an all-time high 33 locations, and a record-setting 18,000+ visitors to the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, RADical Days roared through the region for the sixth time in late September and early October. With one event still to take place at press time, RADical Days'07 is also expected to have the largest ever RADical Days attendance.

As a "thank you" to the public for its support of the county sales tax, regional assets opened their doors to the public with free admissions and performances as the hallmark of the annual celebration.

New sites that participated this year included WQED-fm's Cultural District studio, the Allegheny-Kiski Valley Museum, the American Jewish Museum at the JCC, Attack Theater, the New Hazlett Theater, and Artists Image Resource.

To receive email notices about future RADical Days, send an email to [jg@radworkshere.org](mailto:jg@radworkshere.org) and put RADical Days in the subject line.



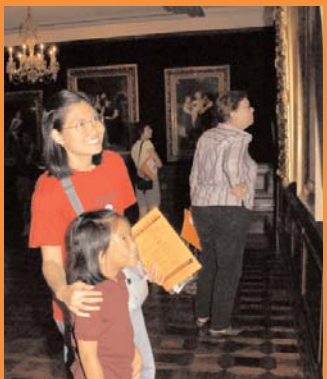
The South Hills Chorale performed a modern medley at the RADical Dance and Music evening at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater.



(Upper left): WQED-fm drew fans from Carnegie Mellon University eager to meet Marvin Hamlisch at the downtown studio. (Upper right): An interactive and engaging performance by the Gemini Theater at the Children's Museum.



Amazing and exciting exhibits were discovered at the Carnegie Science Center.



(Upper left): Admiring the fine art collection at the Frick Art Museum. Photo by Mary Jane Bent. (Upper right): Voyagers on RiverQuest tours explored the three rivers from boat decks and through scientific discovery.



Hay Day at Allegheny County's Hartwood Acres (one of 15 RAD-funded regional parks) featured hay rides, a petting zoo, crafts and many other activities.

## 2008 PRELIMINARY GRANT BUDGET RELEASED

The District has released a 2008 Preliminary Grant Budget that recommends 100 operating and capital grants totaling \$83 million to 88 assets. The recommendation is the largest in the District's fourteen year history. The plan is \$4.8 million or 6.1% higher than the adopted 2007 budget.

The preliminary 2008 budget is in the form of a report from the Board's Allocations Committee. Under the District's governing act, a budget vote does not take place until after a period for public comment. Therefore, changes in the size and scope of the budget may be made before its

adoption.

The plan emphasizes support of regional parks, trails and libraries. These areas would receive 62% of the proposed funding. In addition to \$79.3 million in operating grants, the plan calls for \$3.8 million in capital grants for specific projects ranging from trail acquisition, library and park renovations and repairs to facility and equipment upgrades at the Zoo, Aviary, and Phipps.

A public hearing requiring advance registration is scheduled for October 29, 2007 at 5:00 PM at One Smithfield Street. Written comments may be sent to the District Office at One Smithfield Street, Suite 310, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, or e-mail at [info@radworkshere.org](mailto:info@radworkshere.org). The Board is expected to vote on the budget in late November, so comments are welcome until that time.

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Contact RAD:  
One Smithfield Street  
Suite 310  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
412-227-1900  
[info@radworkshere.org](mailto:info@radworkshere.org)



## FUTURE RAD APPLICATIONS TO GO THROUGH PACDP

To improve the efficiency and accuracy of RAD's grant application system, the RAD Board of Directors has approved becoming a member of the Pennsylvania Cultural Data Project (PACDP) and requiring applicants to begin using the system with the 2009 applications. RAD's Governance Committee recommended it as "an important step forward given the use of this system by major funders and assets."

The PACDP is a project of several major Pennsylvania foundations including the Heinz and Pittsburgh Foundations along with the Pew Charitable Trusts in Philadelphia. The goal of the project is to standardize the statistical reporting that cultural assets provide to funders reducing duplicative reporting and administrative costs. Applying organizations provide this data once a year on line and then print out a funder's customized report when it is due.

In addition to the improvements in productivity, applicants are able to secure reports about their organization and comparative reports for similar organizations. Applicants are not charged for registering with the system or filing the annual report. They are also provided a free help desk to assist them with the process. The system can serve as an important management and oversight tool for applicants.

The sponsoring foundations now require cultural assets to utilize the system and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and Pennsylvania Museum Council both require use of the system. Many of the assets the District currently funds are already registered with the PCDP, which provides training as a part of the system set up.

RAD will provide applicants with specific direction early next year. In the meantime, the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council will hold a PACDP training workshop on December 12 at the Benedum Center. For information, contact the GPAC at (412) 391-2060.

## Revenue Update

Sales tax revenue for the year received by the District through October totaled \$66.7 million. This is a 3% increase from the same period last year and exceeds the original budget estimate by about \$3 million. Although October revenue fell behind last year, the first month to do so since January, a strong third quarter boosted the year to date number. An equal amount of funds was received by Allegheny County and the municipalities. Based on the returns to date, the District expects to meet its 2007 obligations from current revenue and is considering an increase in the 2008 budget (see related story on front). Monthly financial reports are posted on the RAD web site, [www.radworkshere.org](http://www.radworkshere.org).

## RAD ANNOUNCES FIRST RENAISSANCE GRANT NOMINEES

The Board of Directors of the Allegheny Regional Asset District has approved the nomination of 14 recipients for the District's first ever Renaissance Grant Program. If awarded, the grants would total \$256,670 and the projects would be implemented over the next two years.

"The nominated projects demonstrate the creativity and energy the region has to offer," said Rick Pierchalski, Chairman of the RAD Board. "Indeed, these organizations have imagined that 'what you can do here' is to honor our past and look to our future in exciting and memorable ways."

Created in the spring of this year, the Renaissance Grants are designed to showcase the work of assets on specific projects of value to them and the community. In this first edition, assets were asked to collaborate with students of any age and create projects in honor of the region's 250th birthday with the theme "Imagine What You Can Do Here."

Some 79 applications were received from many disciplines including libraries, arts and cultural organizations and regional facilities. Under the District's procedure, grants cannot be awarded until after a public hearing which will be held in conjunction with the District annual budget hearing on October 29, 2007 at 5:00 PM at One Smithfield Street in Pittsburgh. Persons who wish to speak at that hearing must register by 4:30 PM, Thursday, October 25, 2007. Written comments may also be sent to the District office by mail or to [info@radworkshere.org](mailto:info@radworkshere.org).

Following is a list of the organizations nominated for the awards:

1. **African American Jazz Preservation Society** - \$10,000 for a collaboration with the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater for a theatrical production focusing on the Musicians Club in the Hill District.
2. **August Wilson Center for African American Culture** - \$25,000 for the Pittsburgh Civil Rites oral history project that will record, interpret and share experiences of African Americans that came of age in Pittsburgh after World War II.
3. **Calliope: The Pittsburgh Folk Music Society** - \$24,430 for a project to produce a series of original songs. Students will serve as apprentices to teaching artists to produce a CD with the songs that will be distributed to schools and performed at future Calliope concerts.
4. **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** - \$15,000 to conduct a High School Photo Contest to solicit photographs that capturing the region in the new century. The photos will be exhibited, preserved in the CLP's Pittsburgh photographic Library, and included in the next phase of *A Pittsburgh Album: 1758-1958*.
5. **Children's Festival Chorus** - \$5,000 for commissioning a choral piece on Pittsburgh history, *Pittsburgh Portraits*, with lyrics by Chorus members and music composed by the Chorus' 2008 resident composer Dr. Jeffrey Nytych. *Pittsburgh Portraits* will premiere at the 2008 CFC Spring Concert.
6. **City Theater** - \$25,000 for middle and high school students to participate in a playwriting program resulting in the production of three plays for public performance and a student matinee that will premiere at the 2008 Young Playwrights Festival.
7. **Sen. John Heinz History Center** - \$25,000 to work with students from Carnegie Mellon University's Entertainment and Technology Center on the development of interactive exhibits for *Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation*, a new exhibit at the History Center.
8. **New Hazlett Theater** - \$12,500 to partner with *Antithesis*, CAPA High School's new music ensemble, with noted jazz artist Anthony Braxton resulting in a series of public concerts that highlight both Pittsburgh's contributions to jazz and the talents of emerging young artists.
9. **Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society** - \$7,000 to support the student portion of *Bridges: Celebrating String Quartets in Pittsburgh*, a project of music composition, new works and performance of chamber music.
10. **Pittsburgh Filmmakers** - \$25,000 to repurpose footage of a film first produced for the 1957 bicentennial but not widely shown. The footage will be remastered with new images, edited and shown at the 2008 Three Rivers Film Festival and made available the public.
11. **Renaissance and Baroque Society** - \$8,000 for a performance of a commissioned concert, *The Battle of Ft. Duquesne*, highlighting the rich history of an historic battle.
12. **Saltworks Theater** - \$25,000 for a collaboration between Saltworks' Young Actor Studio and Rogers Middle School for the Creative and Performing Arts to write, design, direct and perform one or more plays.
13. **Steel Industry Heritage Corp.** - \$24,740 for *Seeing Pittsburgh*, an oral history and photo-journalism project that will bring together diverse student photjournalists and adults to explore the uniqueness of greater Pittsburgh neighborhoods.
14. **WYEP 91.3fm** - \$25,000 for the multimedia *Pittsburgh Performance Project*, an on-air radio series that will profile 10 legendary Pittsburgh performance venues of the past and present. WYEP will partner with high school and college student radio journalists to produce this series; a visual exhibit will also be created.