

NEWS & NOTES

from the ALLEGHENY REGIONAL ASSET DISTRICT

Spring 2010

RAD BOARD NEWS

Board Elects New Officers for 2010

At the annual Board of Directors meeting of the Allegheny Regional Asset District in February, the Board, in accordance with its by-laws, elected officers for the year 2010. The following officers were elected: Chair, **Robert D. Jones**; Vice Chair, **Rick Pierchalski**; Secretary/Treasurer: **Stanley J. Parker**.

The Board also confirmed the nominations of four new members of the Citizen Advisory Board: **Christopher Cahillane**, **Dina Clark**, **Chaz Kellem** and **Anthony Macklin**.

Nominations Sought for At-Large Seat

The District will soon seek nominations from regional economic and community development organizations for a person to be elected to the seventh, or "at-large" seat on the District Board.

Under state law and the County charter, four members of the Board are appointed by the county chief Executive, two by the Mayor of Pittsburgh, and the at-large member is elected by the appointed members from a list of nominations secured from development organizations. The person selected from the nominees serves for a two-year term and may be re-elected, provided that he or she is renominated.

Organizations that are qualified may request information from the District office by writing to the District at 425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1610, Pittsburgh, PA 15219; by phoning 412-227-1900, or by email at info@radworkshere.org. Information about the District can be found at www.radworkshere.org. The nomination deadline is May 14, 2010.

Local Government Reminder

Local governments are reminded that participation in the distribution of the county sales tax requires the filing of the annual audit and financial report with the Pennsylvania Development of Community and Economic Development (www.newpa.com). The state uses information from the reports to calculate each municipality's share of the tax proceeds.

Funds may be used for general government uses such as public safety or public works functions. In order to continue to receive these funds, local governments are also required to provide a low income senior citizen property tax relief program.

A complete breakdown of sales tax receipts by municipality is available on the District's web site.

CONNECTIONS THAT WORK: The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust

The District is committed to fostering connections between and among regional assets.

To encourage these connections, the District has supported asset mergers in the past by combining and sustaining the operating grants of the two merging organizations. Often funders decrease support when a merger occurs. The only asset to receive an increase in RAD funding in 2010 was the **Heinz History Center** which has taken over operations of the Ft. Pitt Museum.

In 2009, the District launched a new funding program, Connections Grants, designed to fund the implementation of a range of new collaborative efforts (such as shared services and mergers) thereby sustaining and enhancing programming. Connection Grants are one time project grants.

The **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust**, a RAD-funded asset since 1995, has prioritized achieving such connections through multiple efforts, including the shared services, mergers and marketing assistance to other arts and culture organizations.

The Trust's Shared Services Initiative began in 2000 as an effort to improve the financial condition of the Cultural District organizations through collaborative sourcing of commodities, services, and joint marketing

efforts that lead to increased ticket sales.

The initiative is housed at the Trust utilizing its existing infrastructure. Cultural District organizations agreed on a single solution to ticketing and customer relationship management, known as Tessitura. The Tessitura Consortium now boasts 10 organizations, 400 users and processes over \$82 million worth of transactions annually.

"The Shared Services Initiative has been a great addition for the **Pittsburgh CLO**," said **Cindy Opatick**, Associate Producer at the CLO. "We have experienced a cost savings in almost all departments. For the marketing department, the shared database has added another level to our Customer Relationship Management system."

Since its inception, the Trust has also merged with four non-profits - the **Dance Council**, **First Night Pittsburgh**, **Pittsburgh International Children's Theater**, and the **Three Rivers Arts Festival**. While the Trust incurred additional costs during the initial integration period, over time, new efficiencies have been created. In addition, as a steward of the downtown Cultural District, the Trust assists (via direct subsidy, support and/or marketing assistance) over 1000 individual artists and arts organizations each year.

For more information about RAD's Connections Grant program, visit the District's web site.



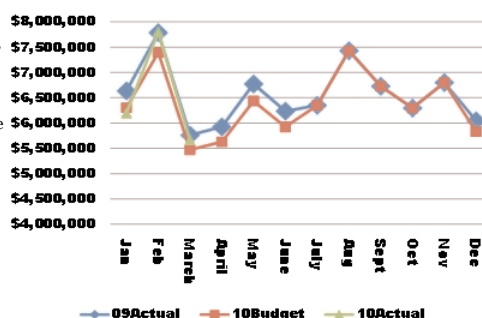
"Curtains" original Broadway cast; photo by Joan Marcus. "Curtains" will be presented by the Pittsburgh CLO this summer from June 22-27 at the Benedum Center. The Pittsburgh CLO is a founding member of the Cultural District's Shared Services Initiative, utilizing the Tessitura joint ticketing system.

Financial Update

The District ended 2009 with a 2.6% decrease in sales tax revenue from the prior year. Interest earnings, which had been \$730,000 the prior year, fell to \$179,000 as a result of a sharp decline in interest rates designed to deal with the impact of the recession.

The current year continues to be impacted by decreased economic activity. Revenue for the first quarter of the year was down another 2.6% from the same quarter in 2009. This is still within the District's budget assumptions, however. Monthly updates can be found on the RAD website.

Sales Tax Trends



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Contact RAD:
425 Sixth Avenue
Suite 1610
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-227-1900
info@radworkshere.org



Assets Spring Out of Winter



To find out about other happenings at the assets, visit radworkshere.org and click on “What’s Happening” to find the asset calendar. There you can find links by date to many asset performances and events, including free events and activities planned for the coming months. Check out your sales tax dollars at work and take advantage of the many offerings of the regional assets!



Clockwise from above: *Dancing their way* out of winter’s gloom are **Kimiko Tsuki** and **Christopher Budzynski**, Principal Dancers at the **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre**, rehearsing the PBT’s production of *Swan Lake* that opens April 16. *Wide ramps and shaded spaces* greet families at the new Universal Playground in **North Park**, one of nine RAD-funded parks in the Allegheny County regional parks system. Universal playgrounds are meant to meet the needs of children in mobility devices by providing wide ramps and access to the highest play components. All are welcome! *The Spring Flower Show* at **Phipps Conservatory** is dedicated to some of the world’s most famous operas and was designed in partnership with the **Pittsburgh Opera**.

Allegheny Regional Asset District
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
425 Sixth Avenue
Suite 1610

