

NEWS & NOTES

from the ALLEGHENY REGIONAL ASSET DISTRICT

SPRING 2007

A Closer Look at Close-Out Reports

As part of its responsibility to provide credible and accountable management of the RAD grant program, the District requires Contractual and Annual assets to provide a detailed Close-Out report at the end of the calendar year. These reports not only prove that RAD funding was spent as promised, they provide excellent insight into the accomplishments of the organizations, and their fiscal and management health.

In advance of our year 2006 annual report (and some exciting news to come about our web site), we share with you some of the interesting close-out highlights from 2006, presented via RAD's major grant categories:

Libraries

In 2006, major building improvements and renovations took place throughout the county, including Clairton, Oakmont, Penn Hills, South Park Township and Woods Run. (Libraries may set aside up to 30% of their RAD grant for capital expenditures.) Bookmobiles made nearly 1500 stops to preschool classrooms, plus stops at senior centers and community events in 53 separate municipalities. The Carnegie Library celebrated the reopening of Woods Run and its East Liberty Branch began preparations for future renovation. There were 6.2 million external visits to the CLP web site and technology improvements include new wireless visitor counters. The eNetwork (see related story in this newsletter) replaced and upgraded network servers at more than 45 sites and brought Upper St. Clair Township into the countywide system.



Since 1995, libraries have been the largest single RAD grant category. By the end of 2007, libraries will have received \$279.5 million in District funds.

Did you know that you need only one library card to use any public library in Allegheny County: You can borrow, reserve on line, return and have sent materials at any library in the county?

Parks, Trails and Green Spaces

In 2006, the regional parks, trails and other RAD-funded green spaces in Allegheny County were enjoyed by millions of visitors. Programming included numerous environmental (birding, nature photography, nature walks) and entertainment (concerts, movies) offerings, as well as recreational activities (swimming, golf, tennis and playgrounds). RAD funding supported every day maintenance like trail work, stump removal and tree trimming, in addition to major capital projects like improvements at the Schenley Park Oval and the first 3B Action Park at Boyce Park.

By the end of 2007, parks and trails will have received \$249.2 million in RAD grants.

Regional Facilities

The Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium completed the Polar Bear home, as part of the new Water's Edge exhibit, which drew record crowds. The Zoo also welcomed many new babies, including tiger cubs. The country's only free-standing indoor avian zoo, the National Aviary used web technology for Internet visitors to track two Golden Eagles, continued conservation efforts with partners around the world, and saw the births of endangered species. Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens opened its towering 12,000-



Photo courtesy of Paul Selvaggio.

square-foot Tropical Forest Conservatory (the most energy efficient conservatory in the world) and implemented "Guide by Cell" – in which visitors can get Conservatory tours via cell phone.

By the end of 2007, regional facilities will have received \$92 million in funds.

Arts and Culture

RAD grants support a widely diverse group of assets that presented a wide range of performances, exhibits, education and outreach programs, and worked on improving their management and financial stability. Many organizations collaborated, improved their facilities with renovations, developed new outreach and education programs, and premiered several performance pieces.

Collaborations: Carnegie Museum of Natural History collaborated with Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh to promote literacy and deeper understanding of natural history topics. Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra collaborated with Opera Theater of Pittsburgh on a production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. South Hills Chorale and River City Brass Band worked together for an exciting evening of music.

Major renovations: Carnegie Science Center's Buhl Digital Dome. Silver Eye: Gallery for Photography completed the renovation of its façade, greatly improved operating capacity; its rotating Member's exhibition gallery is now so popular that it has expanded online. The August Wilson Center for African American Culture broke ground for its new facility in the Cultural District. The Andy Warhol Museum and Children's Museum of Pittsburgh were key partners in the opening of the New Hazlett Theater.

(cont. on back page)



Placement of the new steeple at the Chapel Shelter, Riverview Park.

RAD NEWS IN BRIEF

Tax Revenue Update

Sales tax revenue received by the District in the first quarter of 2007 totaled \$19.7 million, the same as received in the first quarter of 2006. The county government and municipalities divided an additional \$19.7 million.

Although tax receipts from auto sales continue to fall behind last year, tax receipts from general sales made up the difference. Auto sales are an important component of the total revenue accounting from around 16% annually.

The first quarter receipt put the district on pace to achieve its projected 2007 tax revenue of

\$76 million. As a result and in order to assist assets during the winter months, the District advanced its annual grant payments by one month. The District is also improving service to its monthly grant recipients by implementing an electronic payment system.

RAD on line

Links to funded assets, information about District meetings and activities and even a place to sign up for information about Radical Days can be found at radworkshere.org.

No computer? No problem! Visit your local library member of the Allegheny County Library Association and use the eNetwork to link to radworkshere.org and the world.

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



(A Closer Look continued)

Education and Outreach: Sen. John Heinz History Center and Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum wrote new state teacher curriculum based on the French-Indian War. Manchester Craftsmen's Guild/MCG Jazz re-introduced Third Grade Jazz, a national collaborative to bring resources and programming to the region. RAD funding provided 15 free school performances of *Arriba Arriba The Roberto Clemente Story* by the Pittsburgh CLO, and thousands of free tickets to its Benedum season performances.

The region saw many performance premieres including: *Fibonacci*, *What a Notion!* Was presented by the Children's Festival Chorus. City Theatre create the world premiere *Hearts Are Wild* and *Opus*. Opera Theater of Pittsburgh presented the Pittsburgh premiere of *Noye's Fludde*, a one-act parable opera for young people. Quantum Theatre staged both the American premiere of *After Mrs. Rochester* and the regional premiere of *El Paso Blues*. Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre danced through the Pittsburgh premiere of *Swingin' It*. And the McKeesport Symphony debuted the Mon Valley Youth Orchestra.

By the end of 2007, cultural and arts organizations will have received \$90 million in funds. District grants increased from \$3.4 million in 1995 to \$708 million in 2007, a 129% increase.

Sports Facilities

The District supports the debt service associated with the publicly owned Mellon Arena, PNC Park and Heinz Field. All three welcomed millions of visitors in 2006 and PNC brought national attention as the site of Major League Baseball's All-Star Game.



Visitors enjoy the dug-outs at PNC Park during free tours offered as a part of "RADical Days 2006," the District's annual celebration of the assets featuring free admissions and performances with scores of assets.

New Year, New Assets

Get to know six organizations that are receiving first time funding from RAD. In recommending these organizations last Fall to the District's Board, the District's Allocations Committee cited the goal of "recognizing quality organizations that appeal to a broad spectrum of interests, particularly young adults."

American Jewish Museum of the JCC

American Jewish Museum of the JCC is dedicated to presenting exhibitions that challenge and excite viewers. Through community outreach and inclusion, the AJM offers cultural experiences outside of traditional venues for all citizens of the Western Pennsylvania region, promoting tolerance, acceptance and multiculturalism. All AJM exhibitions and related programs are free and open to people of all backgrounds and faiths. Through May 31, *The Forgotten Photographs: The Work of Paul Goldman from 1943-1961*. From the collection of Spencer M. Partrich, this exhibit displays over 100 historic images documenting Eretz-Israel during the final years of the British Mandate and Israel's struggle for survival during its first thirteen years. www.jccpgh.org/museum

Attack Theatre

Attack Theatre makes art to "entertain and inspire." It seeks to demystify dance and its creation for audiences of all types, and offers dance residencies and performances that are a creative and kinetic experience. Attack Theatre collaborates with artists from many disciplines to create performances and events featuring elements from many art forms. Their work has been seen in Pittsburgh and throughout the United States and the world. Coming in May, *Red Dust*, a world premiere opera in collaboration with Opera Theater of Pittsburgh. www.attacktheatre.com

LABCO Dance Company

LABCO is a contemporary dance company committed to advancing the daring art of movement. It has a regular offering of performances, classes and guest artist workshops. It is known for its innovative Black Box Series, an initiative that offers local artists of all disciplines the opportunity to present works-in-progress in an informal showing. www.labcodance.net

New Hazlett Theater

The New Hazlett Theater provides a functional stage and auditorium to support presentation of live theatrical productions, dance performances, and music events for audiences of 300-500 attendees. Located in the North Side near neighbors the Children's Museum, Andy Warhol Museum, National Aviary and others, it seeks to

serve as a stable, affordable home for Pittsburgh's diverse small arts groups and restore the theater as a productive urban arts destination. www.newhazletttheater.org

Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting (WYEP)

WYEP is "where the music matters." WYEP- Pittsburgh is an independent and innovative, listener-supported public media organization. It gives voice to quality music and provocative ideas, fostering an increasingly more vibrant, artistic, diverse and caring community. On its web site, you'll find an extensive arts and events calendar. www.wyep.org

The Sprout Fund

The Sprout Fund launched in September 2001 as a network of support for young people in the Pittsburgh region. Through its program and activities, Sprout supports the innovative ideas of young people (18-40 years of age), thereby developing their leadership potential and increasing their level of investment in the Pittsburgh community. Its signature program, Sprout Public Art improves the image of the region and enhances the visual landscape of neighborhoods in Pittsburgh and the surrounding communities of Allegheny County by creating high quality public art. In the summer of 2007, Sprout Public Art will again create murals in diverse neighborhoods within Pittsburgh and the surrounding communities throughout the region. www.sproutfund.org

Board News

At its annual organization meeting, the Board of Directors elected the following members as its officers:

- Chair: Rick Pierchalski (re-elected)
- Vice Chair: Rob Jones (re-elected)
- Secretary: Daniel J. Griffin
- Treasurer: Stanley Parker (re-elected)

The Board is also pleased to welcome to its Citizen Advisory Board returning members Richard Betteres, Judy Bookhamer, John Denny, Renny Clark, John Detwiler, Pam Golden, David Graffam, Susan Golomb, Marlene Hogan, and Mark Lynch, and new members David S. Huddleston, Vice President of Human Resources, PNC; Dr. Gail Edwards, CEO and Principal, Urban League Charter School; Winford Craig, IT Director; and Jonathan Cox, Vice President, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership. Members serve four year terms and advise the RAD Board on a variety of issues. Thank you for your service!

One Smithfield Street
Suite 310
Pittsburgh, PA 15222



