

**NEWS RELEASE
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**Eighth Annual "RADical Days" Event Offers
The Ultimate "Stay-cation"
Free Admissions, Performances at 37 Cultural Sites
*Plus, Special Programs at County Libraries***

PITTSBURGH – *RADical Days* returns to Pittsburgh on September 12 with 37 participating free admission sites, including new performances and theater experiences. Just some of the things you can do on *RADical Days* are:

- see the homes of two world champion sports teams, the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Pittsburgh Penguins (plus skating)– *for free!*
- immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of a real penguin colony at the National Aviary- *for free!*
- be among the first to see the brand new August Wilson Center exhibits and watch performances at the theater(new this year!) – *for free!*
- create art with MCG Youth & Arts and swing to the sounds of jazz with GRAMMY®-winning MCG Jazz (new this year!) – *for free!*
- check out the baby boom at the Pittsburgh Zoo – *for free!*
- enjoy playwriting and create theater with City Theatre (new this year!) – *for free!*
- delight in dinosaurs at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History – *for free!*
- play air hockey against a robot at the Carnegie Science Center – *for free!*
- explore the many sparkling gems, like the Children's Museum, that link the North Side "Charm Bracelet" – *for free!*
- listen to and watch more than a dozen exciting performances, from symphonic soloists to swingin' jazz to beautiful ballet, and more – *all for free!*
- kayak the riverways with Venture Outdoors – *for free!*
- find out what brings dance and opera together with Attack Theatre and Pittsburgh Opera – *for free!*
- enjoy a glorious fall outing at Hartwood Acres – *for free!*

For the eighth year, the public will enjoy *RADical Days*, an annual event featuring free admissions, musical and dance performances, and family activities offered by dozens of arts and culture organizations that are funded by the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD). In addition, throughout the event, many Allegheny County public libraries will host special *RADical Days* activities.

"Since 2002, nearly 250,000 visitors have enjoyed the annual *RADical Days* celebration," said David L. Donahoe, Executive Director of the Allegheny Regional Asset District. "The assets are opening their doors for free admissions and performances as a 'thank you' to the public for its support of the region's parks, libraries, sports and civic venues, and arts and culture organizations. We're pleased to have 37 organizations offering free admission days this year, including exciting new offerings."

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Festivities will begin on September 12 with two events at the Pittsburgh Opera. The full schedule resumes on September 27 with free admission to the Carnegie Science Center and tours of RiverQuest's *Explorer* (the world's first green education vessel; docked for tours that day). It concludes on October 11 with free admission to the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, an open rehearsal with Prime Stage Theater at the New Hazlett Theater, and a performance by *Joy Toujours and the Toys du Jour* at the Carnegie Library–Main in Oakland.

This year, new locations for *RADical Days* are: Brown Bag Lunch with Pittsburgh Opera (Sept. 12 and Oct. 10); a celebration at the new Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-Allegheny branch (Oct. 3); workshops with City Theatre as part of the 10th Annual Young Playwrights Festival (Oct. 3 and 4); tours and performances at the new August Wilson Center (Oct. 4); a full schedule of nature activities at the Boyce Mayview Park's Regional Environment Education Center (Oct. 10); an open house at Manchester Craftsmen's Guild with demonstrations, take-home art and a special "School of Swing" performance by MCG Jazz (Oct. 10); an afternoon with Attack Theatre and Pittsburgh Opera (Oct. 10); and an open rehearsal of *Our Town* by Prime Stage Theatre at the New Hazlett Theater (Oct. 11). *RADical Days* also welcomes back the Silver Eye Center for photography, which was undergoing renovation last year.

The full event schedule follows and can also be found at www.radworkshere.org. **Please note special restrictions, and that all locations are first-come, first served. Free admission is limited to the day indicated, only. Participating assets are NOT free admission on every day. Check listings for each asset's free date, times and limitations. No rain checks. Parking charges may apply.** For additional site information, details and restrictions, visit www.radworkshere.org and click on *RADical Days* in the "What's Happening" section. For an electronic version of the schedule, please email Julie Goetz, RAD Communications Manager, at jg@radworkshere.org.

The Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD) provides grants from half of the proceeds of the 1% Allegheny County Sales and Use Tax, supporting regional assets in the areas of libraries, parks and recreation, cultural, sports and civic facilities and programs. Since 1995, the 1% County Sales tax paid by residents of and visitors to Allegheny County has resulted in a more than \$2 billion investment in the region.

RADical Days 2009 Schedule

September 12

Pittsburgh Opera Brown Bag Concert: free admission 12noon-1 PM

Pittsburgh Opera Rising Stars concert: Free admission, 6:00pm doors open and check-in begins; 6:30pm check-in closes; 7:00pm Performance

Reservations are required. Call 412-281-0912, ext. 216 or email tickets@pittsburghopera.org.

September 27

Carnegie Science Center: free admission 10AM-5PM

RiverQuest EXPLORER: free admission 11AM-3PM; tours of docked boat

September 30

Heinz Field: free admission 10AM-3PM (tours only)

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum: free admission 10AM-4PM

October 2

Pittsburgh Glass Center: free admission 10AM-9PM

Glassblowing demonstrations, plus, the opening of *The Return*.

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum: free admission 10AM-4PM

Pittsburgh Cultural Trust: Gallery Crawl: free admission 5:30-9PM

Pittsburgh Filmmakers: free admission 7:30-11:30 pm

Short animation, documentary and experimental films from the prestigious Ann Arbor Film Festival. Screenings are on-going and visitors may come and go.

October 3

Frick Art & Historical Center: free Admission 10AM-5PM

Scavenger hunts for kids and take-home art activities!

Venture Outdoors: Free Admission 10AM-Dusk

Downtown/Clemente Bridge location. Must be at least 35 pounds. Other restrictions apply.

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum: free admission 10AM-4PM

Pittsburgh Center for the Arts: free admission 11:00 am and 2:00 pm

Take the stage and strike a pose while being documented in artist Sheila Klein's outdoor sculpture, *Bitmap Bonnet*.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-Allegheny: free admission for special activities 1-3PM

City Theatre 10th Annual Young Playwrights Festival: free Admission for Workshops 2:30-4:30PM

Hands-on theater productions workshop appropriate for ages 12-18. To register, call 412-431-4400 ext. 225, or email klink@citytheatrecompany.org

Pittsburgh Filmmakers: free admission 7:30-11:30 pm

Short animation, documentary and experimental films from the prestigious Ann Arbor Film Festival. Screenings are on-going and visitors may come and go.

October 4

August Wilson Center for African American Culture: free admission noon-5PM

Exhibits, tours and performances by Chatham Baroque and Jazz Workshop, Inc.

Carnegie Museum of Art and Carnegie Museum of Natural History: free admission noon-5PM

Performances by Bulgarian folk ensemble Otets Paissii and Children's Festival Chorus.

MCG Jazz Presents Jazz insights with Gary Burton: free Admission 1:45-2:30PM

City Theatre 10th annual Young Playwrights Festival: free Admission for Workshops 2:30-4:30PM

See details and registration requirements on October 3.

Also on October 4: North Side "Charm Bracelet": Get to know the sparkling charms that link Pittsburgh's North Side family district.

National Aviary: free admission 9AM-5PM

The Andy Warhol Museum: free admission 10AM-5PM

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh: free admission noon-5PM

10 Children's Way (North Side)

Performance by Saltworks Theatre.

Artists Image Resource: free admission noon-5PM

Mattress Factory: free admission 1PM-5PM

October 5

Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens: free admission 9:30AM-5PM

Mellon Arena Family Skate and Arena Tours: free Admission 5-8:30PM

Visit www.mellonarena.com for skating restrictions and special procedures this day.

October 6

PNC Park tours: free admission 10AM-2PM

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum: free admission 10AM-4PM

October 7

David L. Lawrence Convention Center: free admission for tours 10AM-3PM
Reserve your tour time at (412) 565-6000
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum: free admission 10AM-4PM

October 8

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum: free admission 10AM-4PM

October 9

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum: free admission 10AM-4PM

October 10

Bulgarian Cultural Center: free admission 9AM-3PM
Boyce Mayview Park- Regional Environment Education Center: free admission 9AM-3PM
Trained REEC naturalists will guide birding stroll, creek exploration, and nature scavenger hunts.
Senator John Heinz History Center and Western PA Sports Museum: free Admission 10AM-5PM
Performance by South Hills Chorale and Tuesday Musical Club.
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum: free admission 10AM-4PM
Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra: free concert at Heinz Hall 11AM-12noon
Visit the box office or call 412-392-4900 for advance tickets.
WQED-FM 89.3 Pittsburgh: free admission 11AM-2PM
Tours and live broadcast with Jim Sweeney and Jim Cunningham. Plus, Noon-1PM special visit by Marvin Hamlisch
Silver Eye Center for Photography: free admission 11am-5pm
Allegheny County Regional Parks: Hartwood Acres Hay Day: free Admission noon-4PM
Fun story-telling, slides, pony rides, an arts and crafts center, a petting zoo and more!
Attack Theatre and Pittsburgh Opera: free Admission noon-3PM
An afternoon of enchanting opera, engaging dance, and some good old-fashioned schoolyard fun and games.
Manchester Craftsmen's Guild Youth Arts Open House and MCG Jazz "School of Swing" concert: free admission 2-4PM
"Make It and Take It": Watch demonstrations and engage in fun projects in Ceramics, Photography and Design Arts. Plus, enjoy "School of Swing," an interactive jazz concert (best for primary school aged children and families).
Attack Theatre: free admission 8PM-11PM
The first Seven-Minute Dance Series of the season- enjoy games and dance in the new Attack Theatre Intergalactic Headquarters.

October 11

Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium: free admission 9AM-5PM; gates close at 4PM
Enjoy activities with regional assets and performances by Jazz Workshop, Inc., the Pittsburgh CLO's cast of *Forever Plaid*, and Pittsburgh Youth Ballet
Prime Stage Theatre & New Hazlett Theater: free admission 1:30-3:30PM
A family-appropriate open rehearsal of *Our Town*, produced by Prime State Theater.
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Presents *Joy Toujours* and the *Toys du Jour*: free admission 2-3PM

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