

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2009

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ARAD BOARD TO HEAR PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS FOR 2010 REQUESTS

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny Regional Asset District reminds the public that presentations of year 2010 budget requests begin on August 25. A partial schedule is listed below, and the full schedule can be found on the RAD web site, in the *Board Meetings* section.

There are 101 eligible applicants for funding next year, comprised of nine contractual assets, two multi-year assets, and 90 annual applicants. The total of these requests is \$86,000,149. Of that amount, requests for operating funds total \$83,588,669 and requests for capital funds total \$2,411,480.

Last year, the Board reviewed 107 eligible applications for grant requests totaling \$99,564,897 and adopted a 2009 grant budget of \$80,269,300. The Board is currently withholding 10% of 2009 operating grants as it monitors economic trends. It is expected to make a final decision in September.

The hearings will open with presentations from contractual assets, organizations with minimum funding guarantees. While their contracts go through 2014, they are required to submit applications to the Board each year. Following completion of those sessions, annual grant requests will be heard. All of the sessions will be held at 3:30PM on the 31st Floor of the Regional Enterprise Tower, 425 Sixth Avenue in downtown Pittsburgh.

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Several grants have multi-year authorizations and do not require new applications. These are grants to the Sports & Exhibition Authority for debt service support of the Mellon (Civic) Arena and the Regional Destination Financing Plan (Plan B).

The full public presentation schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, August 25

3:30PM Contractual Asset presentations by:
Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, City of Pittsburgh Regional Parks,
National Aviary, Allegheny County Regional Parks,
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Thursday, August 27

3:30PM Contractual Asset presentations by:
City of McKeesport - Renziehausen Regional Park, Carnegie Museums of
Pittsburgh, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens,
Allegheny County Library Association

Monday, August 31; Wednesday, September 2; Tuesday, September 8;

Thursday, September 10

Annual Grant Requests: All sessions begin at 3:30PM. Visit
www.radworkshere.org, and click under What's Happening/Board
Meetings, then click on a hearing date to download a schedule.

On or around October 1, the Board will release a preliminary budget that will be open for public comment for nearly two months. The Board will then hold a special hearing later in October to hear public comment on the preliminary budget before meeting to adopt the final budget on or around December 1.

Since 1995, the District has allocated more than \$1 billion from one-half of the county sales tax for the preservation and enhancement of libraries, regional parks, and regional cultural and sports facilities. The other half of the tax goes directly from the state to the county government and the municipalities for continuing tax reform, tax relief for eligible seniors and government operations.

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