

For Immediate Release
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RAD RELEASES \$79.4 MILLION PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR 2010

*Public Hearing Scheduled for October 21, 2009
Board Asks ACLA to Revisit Library Funding Formula*

PITTSBURGH— The Allegheny Regional Asset District today released a 2010 preliminary budget that recommends grants totaling \$79.4 million to 89 assets. The proposal is 1% lower than the 2009 budget due to the impact of the ongoing recession on sales tax revenue—the only revenue source available to the District.

“While [the proposed budget] calls for modest changes in some allocations, it maintains current funding for libraries and city and county regional parks, places that are free to the public,” according to the Allocations Committee, which recommends the preliminary budget.

The distribution of grants among categories is consistent with the historic record of RAD spending. The largest category of support will go to libraries at 32% of the budget, parks will receive 31%, sports facilities will receive 19%, regional facilities like the Zoo, Phipps and Aviary with other arts and cultural organizations receiving 9%. Program administration remains at less than 1% of the budget.

According to the Allocations Committee, while the District was able to “hold the line” with the 2009 budget by using reserve funds, “The District must now adjust its spending to be more in line with the projected revenue level. We believe that this is a prudent course and will give assets a firm allocation for the coming year.”

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In producing the recommendation, the Allocations Committee evaluated several trends and factors. The committee reported that all but three months of 2009 have seen tax revenue lower than the prior year and that the last four months (May-September) have been down an average of 4.35%. The most recent month (the September report of August sales) showed a decline of 7% in general sales offset to some degree by an incentive-led gain in auto sales. Citing unemployment levels as a good indicator of sales tax revenue, the committee noted that county unemployment numbers were 7.1% in July, or 60% higher than the prior year with no improvement in sight.

The preliminary budget includes \$250,000 for the District's, Connection Grants announced in June, recognizing the District's commitment to provide project funding for assets that submit plans to lower overhead and administrative costs by sharing or even merging operations. Fourteen applications are currently under review. In that spirit, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania (Heinz History Center) which has agreed to merge the Ft. Pitt Museum into its operation at a substantially reduced cost, is recommended for an increase in funds.

The Allocations Committee acknowledged the recently announced plan by the state to eliminate the exemption on the sale of certain admission fees to cultural and entertainment venues, but stated that the District will evaluate the measure if and when it is adopted, and make any necessary adjustments in the final budget.

RAD Board Asks ACLA to Revisit Library Funding Formula

In other action today, the District Board did not accept a recommended change in the library grant distribution formula submitted by the Allegheny County Library Association (ACLA). The District's Library Committee has been studying the proposal and issued a report asking that ACLA reconsider the elimination of local support as a factor in determining the distribution of the \$5 million in RAD support provided each year. The report also asked ACLA to reexamine the distress factor in the formula and, in future proposals, to include a phase in to minimize the impact of major swings in funding.

Public Hearing on Preliminary Budget Scheduled for October 21

Under the District's governing act, a budget vote does not take place until after a period for public comment. Therefore, changes in the budget may be made prior to its adoption.

Additional information about the budget and library report is available by visiting the District's web page at radworkshere.org or by calling 412-227-1900. A public hearing in the proposed budget is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, 2009 from 3:30 to 5:30 PM at the 31st floor conference Center of the Regional Enterprise Tower, 425 Sixth Avenue in Pittsburgh. Persons wishing to speak at this meeting must register with the District at 412-227-1900 by no later than 4:00 PM on Monday, October 19, 2009.

Written comments may be sent to the District Office at 425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1610, Pittsburgh Pa. 15219 or may be e mailed to info@radworkshere.org.

2010 Preliminary Budget Summary

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Estimate 9/29/09</u>	<u>Preliminary Budget</u>
Sales Tax	\$76,600,000	\$76,600,000	\$76,600,000
Interest Earnings	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$85,000
Reserve, refunds, lapses	\$3,369,300	\$3,519,300	\$2,762,286
<u>Total Revenues</u>	\$80,269,300	\$80,269,300	\$79,447,286
<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Estimate 9/29/09</u>	<u>Preliminary Budget</u>
Operating Grants	\$77,800,300	\$77,800,300	\$76,427,386
Connections Grant			\$250,000
Capital Grants	\$1,880,000	\$1,880,000	\$2,142,400
Administration	\$627,500	\$627,500	\$627,500
Less Admin Reserve	(\$38,500)	(\$38,500)	
<u>Total Expenditures</u>	\$80,269,300	\$80,269,300	\$79,447,286

Asset Category	Operating	Capital	Total	% of Total
Contractual	\$56,895,656	\$1,585,400	\$58,481,056	74%
Annual	\$5,166,730	\$557,000	\$5,723,730	7%
Multi Year	\$14,365,000		\$14,365,000	18%
Connection Grants			\$250,000	.3%
Administration	\$627,500		\$627,500	.7%
Total	\$77,054,886	\$2,142,400	\$79,447,286	100%

	2010 Operating Recommendation	2010 Capital Recommendation	Notes
Contractual Asset			
Allegheny County Library Assn.	\$5,600,000		
National Aviary in Pittsburgh	\$1,031,355		
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh	\$17,600,000		
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - EIN Grant	\$2,452,000		
Carnegie Museums	\$2,691,000		
City of McKeesport Regional Park	\$600,126	\$53,400	Capital for trail upgrade, tree replacement program, ball field renovations
City of Pittsburgh Regional Parks	\$4,702,000	\$766,000	Capital for sidewalk, wall, fence and step repairs, park road paving
Allegheny County Regional Parks	\$17,000,000	\$766,000	Capital for new playgrounds, new pavilions, pool upgrades
Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens	\$2,027,610		
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium	\$3,191,565		
Total	\$56,895,656	\$1,585,400	
Multi Year Agreements			
SEA-Regional Destination Financing Plan	\$13,400,000		
SEA- Arena Debt Service	\$965,000		
Total	\$14,365,000		

Annual Grants			
Afro American Music Institute	\$22,500		
Allegheny Land Trust	\$7,500	\$57,000	Capital for Montour Trail Extension to airport
Alle-Kiski Valley Historical Society	\$2,500		
American Jewish Museum of the JCC	\$2,250		
Artists Image Resource	\$2,250		
Associated Artists	\$2,250		
Attack Theater	\$9,000		
Audubon Society of Western PA	\$10,000		
August Wilson Ctr. for African American Culture	\$247,500		
Avonworth Municipal Authority	\$27,000		
Bach Choir of Pittsburgh	\$4,500		
Bulgarian Nat. Educ.& Cult. Ctr.	\$4,500		
Calliope	\$6,750		
Chatham Baroque	\$10,800		
Children's Festival Chorus	\$8,100		
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh	\$180,000		
City Theatre Company	\$72,000		
Community Theater Project Corp.	\$15,750		

	2010 Operating Recommendation	2010 Capital Recommendation	Notes
Dance Alloy	\$22,500		
Edgewood Symphony	\$2,880		
Frick Art & Historical Center	\$45,000		
FOR-The Father Ryan Arts Center	\$2,250		
Gateway to the Arts	\$27,000		
Gemini Theater Company	\$2,250		
Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council	\$54,000		
Historical Society of Western PA	\$460,000		
Jazz Workshop	\$4,500		
Kuntu Repertory Theatre	\$25,000		
Manchester Craftsmen's Guild	\$180,000		
Mattress Factory	\$36,000		
McKeesport Symphony Society	\$7,650		
Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh	\$9,000		
New Hazlett Theater Ctr. For the Performing Arts	\$7,200		
New Horizon Theater	\$13,500		
North Hills Art Center	\$2,250		
North Suburban Symphonic Band	\$1,800		
Opera Theater of Pittsburgh	\$8,100		
Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre	\$108,000		
Pittsburgh Camerata	\$2,250		
Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society	\$7,200		
Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera	\$103,500		
Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra	\$2,250		
Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting-WYEP	\$22,500		
Pittsburgh Concert Chorale	\$3,600		
Pittsburgh Cultural Trust	\$693,000		
Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pgh. Center for the Arts	\$180,000		
Pittsburgh Glass Center	\$27,000		
Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theater	\$27,000		
Pittsburgh Musical Theater	\$36,000		
Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble	\$4,500		
Pittsburgh Opera, Inc.	\$117,000		
Pittsburgh Philharmonic	\$2,250		
Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre	\$2,250		
Pittsburgh Public Theatre	\$117,000		
Pittsburgh Symphony Society	\$900,000		
Pittsburgh Youth Ballet	\$4,500		
Pittsburgh Youth Symphony	\$8,100		
Prime Stage	\$8,100		
Quantum Theatre	\$8,100		
Renaissance & Baroque Society	\$7,200		
Renaissance City Choirs	\$3,600		
Renaissance City Wind Society	\$3,150		

	2010 Operating Recommendation	2010 Capital Recommendation	Notes
River City Brass Band	\$81,000		
RiverQuest (Pittsburgh Voyager)	\$7,500		
Saltworks Theatre Company	\$18,000		
Silver Eye Center for Photography	\$9,000		
Society for Contemporary Craft	\$45,000		
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall	\$202,500		
South Hills Chorale	\$4,050		
South Park Theatre	\$ 6,750		
Sports & Exhibition Authority	\$500,000	\$250,000	Maximum operating grant for debt service; capital grant requires match from Visit Pittsburgh hotel tax proceeds.
Sprout Fund	\$2,250		
Sweetwater Center for the Arts	\$31,500		
Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra	\$9,000		
Tuesday Musical Club	\$3,600		
Upper St. Clair Township Regional Park	\$135,000	\$250,000	Capital for signage, park equipment, perimeter trail extension, erosion control project
Venture Outdoors	\$17,500		
Western PA. Conservancy	\$50,000		
WQED Multi-Media	\$90,000		
Access and Opportunity Grants	\$10,000		
Total	\$5,166,730	\$557,000	