Through the dedicated sales tax fund, RAD is investing in the programs and facilities of our libraries, parks, sports and civic facilities, and arts and cultural programs.

In 2012, the investment of $83.6 million of RAD funds helped 89 assets to entertain and to enlighten through programs and performances, and to maintain, improve and upgrade their facilities.

Operating grants continue to be the hallmark of District funds. RAD funds can be used for all of the basics, like staff, utilities and maintenance — services which are critical to keeping the assets stable and healthy.

At RAD, it all comes down to investing in the quality of life in the region, now and in the future.
By investing in its regional assets, our region continues to be a cultural and recreational leader in the county. The following are some of the highlights of regional assets funded in 2012. To learn more, visit radworkshere.org for links to all of the assets.

**Regional Assets 2012 Highlights**

**Regional Facilities**

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens continued its campus-wide “green” expansion, setting standards for design with its Center for Sustainable Landscapes, all the while creating new seasonal shows. The National Aviary staff innovated veterinary practices and participated in global conservation efforts to save threatened or endangered species, including Guam Rails, African Penguins and the Brown Kiwi. The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium welcomed a baby rhino and completed the expansion of the Animal Care Center to 11 times its original size, which elevated the Zoo’s veterinary medicine to the highest level possible in caring for its animal collection.

**Libraries**

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh made digital improvements system-wide including significantly increasing the number of titles available in electronic formats. A new conservation lab was designed and created to provide better access to restricted collections through preservation and digitization. CLP purchased the Zinio service for the whole county, making more than 300 free magazine titles available to all library cardholders. CLP also unveiled the Pittsburgh Iron and Steel Heritage Collection, making it possible for Internet users worldwide to view more than a half million pages of historical documents about the city’s iron and steel heritage.

RAD funding supported the Allegheny County Library Association’s Bookmobile service, bringing tens of thousands of items to senior and preschool communities. ACLA also coordinated dozens of hours of continuing education for library staff and trustees throughout the County.

The eNetwork (the information technology infrastructure for RAD-funded libraries in Allegheny County) built a new high-speed fiber network to library sites throughout the county — 60 library sites were connected in 2012. The EIN also developed a new online catalog that will launch this year.

With growth in sales tax exceeding targets in 2012, the district was able to reopen its discretionary capital grants program, providing $3.6 million in capital grants. While many of these projects are “behind the scenes,” each is an investment in the ability of the asset to provide a safe and memorable visitor experience for years to come. Some of the projects funded in 2012 were:

- Updated HVAC systems at the homes of the Pittsburgh Opera and the Pittsburgh Ballet
- New exhibit at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall
- A new boiler system at the Children’s Museum
- Life safety improvements at the Carnegie Museum
- New glass seating at Phipps Conservatory
- Exhibit and renovation upgrades at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium
- Roof replacement at the National Aviary
- Athletic field and pool repairs at regional parks.

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RADical Days 2012

More than 50 regional assets came together in the fall to offer free admission and performances for the 11th annual RADical Days event. This event brought the asset organizations together under the RAD banner to thank the public for its support, to give the public an opportunity to explore the assets’ diverse offerings, and to open the doors to people who otherwise might not be able to attend. More than 45,000 people attended, with record crowds at a number of sites, including the Frick Art Center (pictured at right), the Mattress Factory and Children’s Museum.

SPORTS AND CIVIC FACILITIES

Heinz Field and PNC Park hosted 4.5 million visitors in 2012, welcoming visitors for sporting contests by the Pittsburgh Steelers, Pittsburgh Pirates, University of Pittsburgh Panthers, and WPIAL championships, and concerts by leading entertainers like Kenny Chesney, Boys II Men and Daughtry.

Arts And culture

Several assets committed significant funds to improve and to create new spaces, including: The Carnegie Science Center which installed a new SpacePlace astronomy exhibit featuring Zero-G experience, and The Studio at the Children’s Museum, which underwent a significant renovation to create an outstanding space for children to explore art making.

Other assets invested in premieres and other “firsts” which are important ways of keeping arts organizations fresh and exciting for audiences. This included: City Theatre’s world premiere of Sam Bendrix at the Bon Soir; Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre’s world premiere of Chromatic (in a new partnership with the August Wilson Center); and Quantum Theatres regional premiere of The Golden Dragon. In a similar vein, Renaissance City Chois commissioned and performed the premiere of a holiday show, and Artists Image Resource presented its first annual exhibition project, Printwork 2012.

An important component of asset activity is investing in innovative programming and expanding ways to reach new audiences. These included: MCG Jazz unveiled live streaming of its performances; The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust invested in multiple accessibility projects including adding Open Captions at Broadway series performances and upgrading its website to allow wheelchair users to select their seats online; and a RAD Connections Grant made it possible for artists to create a new piece of art by using the resources of the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts and Pittsburgh Glass Center. The Frick Art Center collaborated with the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind to make its collections accessible, including manipulative materials designed to mimic textures seen in the paintings.

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PARKS AND TRAILS

RAD funds help maintain more than 14,000 acres of passive and active land which provide excellent recreational opportunities for Allegheny County residents and visitors, without regard to age or physical abilities. In addition to using RAD funds for everyday maintenance, the parks systems invested in dozens of capital improvement projects. Allegheny County Parks completed installation of accessible playgrounds at Settlers Cabin and Round Hill Parks, and accessible restrooms at the White Oak Park. Naturalists at the County parks provided more than 100 scheduled programs at no cost to the public. The City of Pittsburgh Regional Parks renovated the Frick Park Golf Course clubhouse, and used RAD funds on site preparation and landscaping for the Riverview Park Athletic Field, which will include a new soccer field. Hildreths-Bensons Park completed the Sylphur Springs baseball Fields with ease concession stand.

REGIONAL ASSETS 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

Allegheny County Parks completed installation of two more accessible playgrounds.

Allegheny Regional Asset District Annual Report 2012
The 2012 asset grants of $83.6 million were distributed as follows:

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FINANCES & ACCOUNTABILITY

The District Board administers revenue from one-half of the proceeds from the 1% Allegheny County Sales and Use Tax and interest earned on investments. The tax proceeds are collected by the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue that retained $1.1 million for costs from the District’s share of the county tax. All tax receipts are deposited into and grants paid from the Sales Tax Revenue Fund.

All administration expenses are paid from the General Fund. The law permits the District not more than 1% of its net tax revenue for administrative purposes. In 2012, the amount transferred to the General Fund for administrative costs was 0.76% of total new revenue received.

The District utilizes the State Treasurer’s INVEST fund, local government pools, and bank/municipal market funds and certificates for invested funds. Rates on permitted investments were at record lows during 2012.

In addition to written applications and contracts, the District requires audits and close-out reports, conducts its own public hearings and reviews, and attends asset meetings and performances. In 2012, the District conducted 129 such reviews and visits not including the 130 public application review sessions. Reports on all these matters are available for public inspection.

The following chart outlines the activity in the District’s two operating funds on a cash basis during 2012 along with a projection of reserve funds that will be needed to sustain and moderately increase grants to assets. Independently audited financial statements on actual 2012 results along with budgets and monthly updates are posted at www.radworkshere.org and available from the District offices.

MUNICIPAL DISTRIBUTION

RAD sales tax revenue provided for Allegheny County and the municipal distribution allowed the elimination of the personal property tax and resulted in real property taxes and other taxes in every municipality in Allegheny County. By the end of 2012, this was just over $1.24 billion since the program began. To participate in the sales tax revenue, the Legislature required the County and local governments to shift costs away from property local personal property tax, and a reduction of the City of Pittsburgh amusement tax by at least 50%. Visit the RAD web site for a complete list by municipality.

Our mission is to support and finance regional assets in the areas of libraries, parks, cultural, sports and civic facilities and programs.
For Radical Days email alerts, visit the Radical Days page on the RAD web site radworkshere.org for registration instructions. Got RAD on your mobile device? Text RAD to 76274 (SHARP) for weekly arts and culture information about the assets, and Radical Days events.