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 reports 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.

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 aviary 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-square-foot Tropical Forest Conservatory (the most),(and some exciting news to come about our web site) 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 $299.5 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?

By the end of 2007, regional facilities will have received $92.2 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.

RAD NEWS IN BRIEF

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 $49.7 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 for 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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Baseball’s All-Star Game.

The region saw many performance premieres including: *Fibonacci, What a Notion!* Was presented by the Children’s Festival Chorus. City Theatre created 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.

**New Year, New Assets**

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.jcpgh.org/museum

**American Jewish Museum of the JCC**

*American Jewish Museum of the JCC* 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

**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 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 Pietrucha (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 Citizens Advisory Board returning members Richard Betters, Judy Bookhamer, John Denny, Kenny Clark, John DeWiler, Pam Golden, David Graffam, Susan Golomb, Marlene Hogan, and Mark Lynch, and new members David S. Huddleston, Vice President of Human Resources, PNC; Dr. Phil Gioche, 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!