RAD 2016 BUDGET TO FUND 93 ASSETS

At a public meeting in November, the RAD Board approved a $97 million budget for 2016 that will provide grants to 93 organizations that enhance the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Included in the budget is $2.3 million in discretionary capital grants that will improve the operations and accessibility of 17 organizations across the county. Projects include: elevator upgrades at the Carnegie Museums in Oakland; a children’s garden at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden in Suters Cabin Park; a trail connector from the Montour Trail to Moon park; renovations to the studio space at the Kaufmann Center in the Hill District; and building renovations and equipment at Boyce Mayview Park in Upper St. Clair.

“Just a few weeks ago, more than 70,000 people participated in our annual RADical Days activities, demonstrating the importance the assets have in the region’s quality of life,” said Don Linzer, member of the Allegheny Regional Asset District. “We remain confident that the budget recognizes the public support for our regional assets and that we will meet many of their challenges and opportunities.

The budget will be funded by an estimated $93 million in news sales tax receipts, which will balance coming from the District’s grant stabilization fund and interest. In its report to the Board, the Allegheny Regional Asset District’s Advisory Committee did caution, however, that “there is no guarantee we will be able to continue to provide capital grants at this level in subsequent years.”

MEET RAD’S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After an extensive public search process, the RAD Board in June appointed Pittsburgh native Dusty Elias Kirk, RAD Board Chair. “He brings an enthusiastic and compelling interest in serving people and strengthening communities.”

Hudic’s most recent role was Executive Deputy Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development in Harrisburg, where he worked on a range of business financing and community affairs programs, and managed senior staff and a budget of more than $240 million. Prior to this he was the President and CEO of Team Pennsylvania Foundation, where he supervised the organization’s operations, finances, personnel and programs.

“It has been a pleasure to meet the truly committed leaders and shapers of our area who want nothing more than to see the region thrive and grow,” said Hudic. “We know that our libraries, parks, sports facilities and arts and culture programs will be central to keeping our region the exciting and vibrant place that it is today. Together with our volunteer Board of Directors, strong stewards of our tax dollars, I look forward to working with the community to make thoughtful decisions on investing RAD resources in a very transparent way.”

RAD BOARD NEWS

Board of Director Appointment

The Allegheny Regional Asset District is pleased to welcome Anthony J. Ross to the Board of Directors. Mr. Ross was appointed by Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. His term coincides with the term of office of the County Executive.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of Ross Development Company, Mr. Ross is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the company. He has acted in this current capacity with Ross Development Company for over 25 years.

Mr. Ross is an Officer and Shareholder of the Kenny Ross Automotive Group. He currently is a Member of the Board of Trustees of Shady Side Academy. Mr. Ross graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1978 (B.A. History, Magna Cum Laude) and received his law degree from Duquesne University in 1981. He resides in Pittsburgh with his wife Karen and their three children.

RAD BOARD Member Anthony Ross

Advisory Board Gets Together

Members of the District’s Citizen Advisory Board got together for a pizza lunch in December to meet RAD Executive Director Rich Hudic and to share ideas about RAD investments in the region. The meeting was held at the Society for Contemporary Craft in the Strip District where they also saw the exhibit Mindful: Exploring Mental Health through Art, which runs through March.

At the meeting, RAD welcomed new advisory board member Stephen Jackson who was appointed by the Board in November. Mr. Jackson is President of SMi Drive, a software company. The Advisory Board provides public input and comment on policies and procedures.

From left: Janet McCall, Executive Director, Society for Contemporary Craft; David Graffam, RAD Advisory Board; Jackie Dixon, RAD Board Director.
IT WAS A BANNER YEAR FOR RADICAL DAYS with many attendance records set, including a RADical Days record of more than 70,000 people visiting 47 events. Record-breaking RADical Days were also held at the Pittsburgh Zoo, Carnegie Science Center, Mattress Factory, Frick Art & Historical Center and Society for Contemporary Craft.

RADical Days is an annual event featuring free admissions and performances at the organizations funded by RAD. The regional assets and RAD thank you for your support!