

here&there

URBAN ATTRACTION

Pittsburgh's progress in its ongoing transformation into a premier medical research and high-tech hub attracted two major national conferences to the city in the fall. In October, hundreds of scientists and researchers joined then-President Barack Obama for the White House-organized Frontiers Conference at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh. The gathering, which received support from several local foundations, including the Endowments, focused on "frontiers" deemed critical for social and economic advancement in the nation that Pittsburgh already has been advancing, such as medical innovations, computer technology and Smart Cities sustainable development. In November, the National League of Cities, a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy group, met in Pittsburgh for its annual summit. More than 3,000 representatives from cities across the country attended the event, which included site visits to city neighborhoods and the Downtown Cultural District, with particular attention paid to the city's revitalized riverfronts.



Official White House Photo by Pete Souza

FAREWELL TO THE CHIEF

Cameron McLay, who came to Pittsburgh two years ago with a reform agenda for the city's police department, stepped down as chief in November. During the public announcement of his departure, he said that he believed he had done everything he could in the position, such as improve police accountability, data-driven policing and community relations. He also made inroads in upgrading police leadership training with help from a \$100,000 Heinz Endowments grant to his department. Mr. McLay returned to Wisconsin where his family lives without definite plans for his next career move. He has been replaced by Scott Schubert,

a 23-year veteran of the force who has vowed continue Mr. McLay's reform efforts.



STATE OF THE GIRLS

A summary of a State of the Girls Report was released last fall during the first Equity Summit convened by Gwen's Girls, a nonprofit after-school and support program for girls founded by the late Gwendolyn Elliot, Pittsburgh's first African American female police commander. The overview provided a snapshot of some of the study's findings, which showed African American girls experiencing significantly more personal challenges than their white counterparts. Among them were that black girls in the City of Pittsburgh are more than three times as likely as white girls to be suspended from school. In Allegheny County, African American girls are 11 times more likely to be referred to juvenile court than their white peers, while, nationally, black girls are three times as likely as white girls to be referred to juvenile court. The study was funded by The Heinz Endowments and the FISA Foundation.

KUDOS

Several Heinz Endowments staff members recently received promotions in recognition of the expanded roles that they will be playing at the foundation. Michele Sullenger has moved from manager of accounting and financial reporting to foundation controller. Wayne Jones, formerly the Endowments' senior impact officer, is now director of organizational learning and development. And Carmen Anderson has been promoted from senior Children, Youth & Families program officer to director of Equity and Social Justice.

Ms. Anderson also was honored in the fall for her community and social justice work. The nonprofit Gwen's Girls recognized her and three others during its Equity Summit, which was presented by the Gwendolyn Elliot Institute and the University of Pittsburgh. In addition, Ms. Anderson was one of 25 women celebrated for their contributions to the region by the Onyx Women's Networks during its 25th-anniversary event.

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COOL SPACES

Perking Up the Neighborhood

Efforts to revitalize Pittsburgh's Homewood neighborhood received a boost in November with the opening of Everyday Café. The coffee shop provides a community meeting space with free internet service as well as hot and cold beverages, sandwiches, soups and salads. Owned and operated by the nearby Bible Center Church, the project has received support from the Endowments, the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Bridgeway Capital and the church congregation. And there's no "paper or plastic" option at the shop. The cafe only accepts debit and credit cards or payment through an online service.

Certified Sustainable

Millvale recently became Pennsylvania's fourth municipality and the first at the borough level to receive "platinum certification"—the highest achievement—from the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification program. It was recognized for having multiple policies and practices regarded as defining a sustainable community. These included creating shared roadways for bicycles; promoting community engagement; advancing equity and inclusion; and demonstrating significant achievements in environmental stewardship in areas such as land and energy use, conservation and green construction. The borough also maintains a community garden while the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities' Mount Alvernia campus in Millvale has plant-filled bioswales, shown below, that reduce storm-water runoff. The Heinz Endowments has supported Millvale's sustainability efforts through providing funding for community improvements that have included installing solar panels atop the library, building a greenhouse, securing strategic property to develop a food hub-based town square, and building an incubator for food entrepreneurs.



GREEN PLACES