Beginning a tour of the new Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, Heinz Endowments Chairman Teresa Heinz, fellow board members and staff are treated to the modern design, bold colors and whimsical mobile art feature in the shape of candy that define the main lobby. The design elements are repeated throughout the $625 million campus — just one facet among many in an architectural and work-practices plan to make the hospital setting more attractive to young patients and more conducive to high-quality health care for staff. Hospital CEO and Children’s Hospital Foundation President Roger Oxendale, left in foreground, supervised the building project and the move out of the smaller hospital in Oakland.

Endowments grants to the hospital include a two-year, $5 million contribution in 2007 to support the creation of the Pediatric Environmental Medicine Center. The center promotes the use of an interdisciplinary, community-based approach to understanding environmental factors that lead to major health problems in children.

AWARDS
The Green Building Alliance, an Endowments grantee, is one of 15 Pennsylvania organizations or businesses selected this year to receive the Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence. The alliance was recognized in April for launching and leading the Pittsburgh Climate Initiative, a collaboration of organizations, institutions, businesses and individuals responsible for guiding completion of the Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan. The plan’s goal is to reduce the city’s greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2023.

In May, the alliance welcomed Holly Childs as its new executive director. She had been director of economic development for Cincinnati’s city government. Childs is the Green Building Alliance’s second executive director, replacing Rebecca Flora, who left earlier this year to take a senior vice president position with the U.S. Green Building Council in Washington, D.C.

The Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters has named Endowments-funded “The Allegheny Front” this year’s Outstanding Public Affairs Program in the organization’s Excellence in Broadcasting Competition. The 18-year-old environmental radio program airs on WYEP-FM, an independent public station also supported by the Endowments. Through lively and timely stories, interviews, news and commentaries, “The Allegheny Front” explores environmental issues affecting southwestern Pennsylvania.
The Heinz Endowments was formed from the Howard Heinz Endowment, established in 1941, and the Vira I. Heinz Endowment, established in 1988. It is the product of a deep family commitment to communities and the common good that began with H.J. Heinz, and that continues to this day. The Endowments is based in Pittsburgh, where we use our region as a laboratory for the development of solutions to challenges that are national in scope. Although the majority of our giving is concentrated within southwestern Pennsylvania, we work whenever necessary, including statewide and nationally, to fulfill our mission.

That mission is to help our region thrive as a whole community—economically, ecologically, educationally and culturally—while advancing the state of knowledge and practice in the fields in which we work. Our fields of emphasis include philanthropy in general and the disciplines represented by our five grant-making programs: Arts & Culture; Children, Youth & Families; Education, Environment, and Innovation; Economy. In life, Howard Heinz and Vira I. Heinz set high expectations for their philanthropy. Today, the Endowments is committed to doing the same. Our charge is to be diligent, thoughtful and creative in continually working to set new standards of philanthropic excellence. Recognizing that none of our work would be possible without a sound financial base, we also are committed to preserving and enhancing the Endowments’ assets through prudent investment management.

AUGUST WILSON OPEN HOUSE

Despite its light promotion, a May 30 open house showing off the August Wilson Center for African American Culture for the first time brought more than 6,000 people to the downtown Pittsburgh site. The “soft” opening introduced the community to the $35.9 million multidisciplinary facility, which is scheduled to open officially Sept. 19. Attractions included speakers, outdoor entertainment and windows, and tours of the 65,000-square-foot building, which contains a 486-seat theater, exhibition galleries, an education center, a café, a gift shop, and multipurpose spaces for community programs and events. The Endowments was an early supporter of the building project, awarding a total of nearly $7.5 million.

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Endowments board member and former Pittsburgh Steeler Franco Harris, far right, and Buhl Foundation President Fred Thieman, second from left, a former United States attorney who stepped down from the Endowments board in 2007, were among those recently honored with Community College of Allegheny County’s Leaders in Leadership awards. Both were recognized for their leadership in promoting educational opportunities.

Also receiving awards during the May 7 celebration at the Heinz Field Club East Lounge were from left: Candi Castleberry-Singleton of the UPMC Diversity and Inclusion Initiative; David Morehouse, president of the Pittsburgh Penguins hockey team; Mary Beth Johnson, a CCAC court reporting professor; Karen Farmer White, vice president of education for WQED-TV; and Sharon McGinnis Young, co-owner of McGinnis Sisters Specialty Food Store and a CCAC graduate.

CITY

Valentino Castellani, below left, former mayor of Turin, Italy, and Allen Kukovich, below right, a former Pennsylvania state senator, share a commitment to reinvigorate urban areas. Both men drew on their experience and expertise during the May 20 cityLIVE! panel discussion, “Your Region, Your Vision,” at the New Hazlett Theater on Pittsburgh’s North Side. Castellani recalled his strategies for reinventing Turin, one of which included successfully lobbying for his city to host the 2006 Winter Olympics. Kukovich, the new executive director of the Regional Visioning Project, talked about the work of that organization, which has been charged with guiding the process of developing a broad-based vision for southwestern Pennsylvania. The Endowments, a supporter of the cityLIVE discussion series, is one of several foundations funding the visioning project.

Well-written

Adding to its long record of awards received in publication competitions, a magazine took several honors in this year’s Press Club of Western Pennsylvania’s Golden Quill event and the Robert L. Vann Awards program, both mainstream journalism competitions. Writers Jeffrey Fraser, a regular contributor to the magazine, and Monica Haynes, a first-time writer and former Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reporter, each received top awards in the Golden Quills’ magazine writing category. Fraser’s “ ‘Bond Shelter,’ reported on efforts to help minority- and women-owned firms obtain the bonding needed to bid on construction projects. The story also took the top honor in the same division of the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation’s Vann contest, which recognizes outstanding coverage of western Pennsylvania’s African American communities. Haynes won for “Individual Investment,” which reported on the challenges individual artists face trying to find program funding. Endowments Communications Department intern Andrew Peters had a third-place honor in the Vann contest for “Community Building,” a story on The Pittsburgh Project’s community revitalization and youth-development work on the city’s North Side.