



ON STAGE: 2 PITTSBURGH GROUPS IN INTERNATIONAL FEST

Two Heinz Endowments grantees participated in this year's International Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company presented founder Mark Clayton Southers' "The Bluegrass Mile," and New Horizon Theater Inc.'s production for the event was the musical "Blues Is the Roots: The Willie Dixon Story." The festival, which ran from July 29 to Aug. 3, celebrated its 35th anniversary and was hosted by Pittsburgh native and award-winning actor and singer Tamara Tunie. Mr. Southers also was given the Larry Leon Hamlin Producer Award, which is named after the founder of the National Black Theatre Festival. The honor recognizes an individual who "accepts the challenge to sustain and enrich the vision of the founder of an established institution devoted to the development of Black culture."



TUNE INTO "WE CAN BE"

The first half of season five of The Heinz Endowments' "We Can Be" podcast has been released. The 10 episodes feature host and Endowments President Chris DeCardy welcoming regional and national social change leaders—listed in episode-release order below—and taking a deep dive into topics including voting rights, clean energy, living-wage workforce development and representation in the arts.

With the second half of this season set to begin releasing episodes early in the new year, now is the perfect time to catch up. "We Can Be" is available at heinz.org/podcast, as well as on all major podcasting platforms by searching "Heinz We Can Be."



Kilolo Luckett, a nationally renowned art curator and founding executive director of art collective ALMA | LEWIS, is committed to uplifting the beauty, depth and vision of Black artists and culture. Her work exemplifies both the joys and the challenges of overcoming the inequities of underrepresented voices in contemporary art.



Dr. George Thurston is an internationally respected scientist and professor whose pioneering work involves the study and communication of the effects of air pollution on human health, including his groundbreaking research on Pittsburgh's Shenango Coke Works.



Leah Penniman, "Farming While Black" author, co-founder of Soul Fire Farm and Heinz Award for the Economy honoree, is dedicated to expanding regenerative farming best practices and addressing racism and injustice in the food system.



Jen Flanagan is founder and executive director of Community Kitchen Pittsburgh, which empowers people through food service training and life skills mentoring and has an impressive 93% placement rate in professional kitchens for those completing the program.



Dr. Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew, Allegheny Health Network's first chief clinical diversity, equity and inclusion officer, is a trailblazer addressing racial inequities in infant and maternal health in a nation where the number of Black babies who die within one year of birth is 2.4 times higher than the death rate of white babies.



Lauren Kunis is CEO and executive director of VoteRiders, and her work focuses on reducing voter suppression and standing up to overly stringent voter ID laws that affect 35 million voting-age citizens—a majority of whom are first-time voters, low-income residents, people of color and/or differently abled.



Sharon Pillar, Pennsylvania Solar Center founder and executive director, is a leader in the clean-energy sector and part of a new generation of advocates working tirelessly to bring the health, financial and workforce development benefits of solar energy to light.



Colette Pichon Battle, a Heinz Award for the Environment honoree and the vision and initiatives partner for the climate justice nonprofit Taproot Earth, uses her personal experience to drive her commitment to addressing the inequities of climate change.



Marques Redd, acclaimed artist and co-founder of the multidisciplinary art collective Rainbow Serpent, is helping create the future of art by reviving ancient—and often erased—traditions, sparking important dialogue and reconsideration of our Western artistic canon.



Tammy Murphy has been on the front lines of the fight to protect families from the adverse environmental and health effects of fossil fuel extraction for over a decade. Her advocacy experience includes positions with Physicians for Social Responsibility and Make the Road Pennsylvania.

Rendering courtesy of Lab 8 designs

EXPANDED CENTER FOR EXPANDING POPULATION

Casa San Jose, a nonprofit Latino resource organization in the City of Pittsburgh, is moving forward with a \$6.3 million renovation of a building that had been vacant for a decade and will become a new community center for the region's growing immigrant population. The building is expected to open by early 2026 and will house services such as English as a Second Language classes, immigrant case management, and health care services that will include mental health support.

The new center will provide Casa San Jose with a larger headquarters in the Pittsburgh neighborhood of Beechview, where the current offices are in a smaller building a few blocks away. Among the funders are the Endowments and the Hillman and Pittsburgh foundations. The project also is supported with American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, which owns the property.

DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT

In October, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, along with other top state officials and Pittsburgh government, civic and community leaders, announced a 10-year, nearly \$600 million plan to revitalize the city's Downtown. The proposal calls for \$501.1 million to be spent on mixed-use development and housing projects, which would include affordable residential units for residents who have low-to-moderate incomes; \$30 million to convert underutilized parking and open space in the 8th Street block of the Cultural District into an entertainment, recreation and green space destination; \$30 million to renovate Market Square, home to various restaurants and shops, and upgrade nearby Liberty Avenue medians; and \$25 million for several improvements to Point State Park, including upgrades to pedestrian access and lighting at the fountain focal point.

The state will be investing \$62.6 million into the project while the City of Pittsburgh is committing \$22.1 million through the Urban Redevelopment Authority. A coalition of businesses, professional sports teams and foundations, including The Heinz Endowments, has pledged a total of \$40 million to the effort so far. Other contributions are expected to come from private investment, including real estate development.

10-YEAR \$600M



FUNDING BOOST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM

"The Allegheny Front," a public radio program covering environmental issues in western Pennsylvania and an Endowments grantee, has been awarded a grant of \$100,000 over two years from Press Forward, a national coalition of funders that together are investing more than \$500 million to strengthen local journalism and newsrooms. The Pittsburgh chapter of Press Forward is led by Point Park University's Center for Media Innovation in partnership with The Heinz Endowments and the Benter, Henry L. Hillman and Pittsburgh foundations.

Press Forward awarded a total of \$20 million in October to 205 small local news outlets across the country, with at least one grant recipient in every state. The grantees were selected from 931 proposals submitted by newsrooms with annual budgets of less than \$1 million. Most of the recipients received \$100,000 in general operating support.



ANTI-HATE SUMMIT DURING ELECTION SEASON

About 1,000 people attended the fourth annual Eradicate Hate Global Summit held in October at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Downtown Pittsburgh. Individuals participated both in person and virtually for the event, which had political violence as a top focus. The conference occurred just three months after one of two assassination attempts against President-elect Donald Trump during his campaign this year occurred less than 40 miles away from Pittsburgh at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

The annual summit began in 2021 in response to the 2018 synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood in which 11 people were killed. This year's event included 60 sessions with about 280 speakers.



RAND REPORTS: NONPROFITS BETTER IN HELPING VETERANS' JOB SEARCH

Two Endowments-funded RAND reports released this year have highlighted the value of nonprofits in assisting veterans as they reintegrate into civilian life while pointing out the shortcomings of federal efforts. In June, the first report revealed that few federally supported programs were dedicated to helping veterans connect with civilian employers or apprenticeships that fully used their skills. The study determined that there was limited evidence of the programs' effectiveness and little to no oversight and numerous redundancies.

The assessment also found that in many instances, nonprofit organizations are the primary source of guidance for service members leaving the military and entering the civilian workforce.

The second report, released in October, showed that service members seeking help in finding civilian jobs often turned to nonprofits due to the lack of assistance provided by the federal government. Despite their critical role, little is known about which nonprofit organizations and employment models are most effective in supporting veterans' efforts to attain civilian jobs.

Among the study's recommendations was increased collaboration between government and the nonprofit sector in supporting veteran employment, while also acknowledging and addressing the challenges.

STATE-OF-THE-ART HEALTH CARE

In October, the community-based health nonprofit Primary Care Health Services broke ground on a new state-of-the-art medical center and office building in Pittsburgh's Homewood neighborhood. Also, the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority awarded \$2 million to the Wilford A. Payne Medical Center to provide broadband access at the facility.

The 44,112-square-foot medical complex is expected to be the Homewood community's largest development and will be built on a parking lot next to the smaller, existing Alma Illery Medical Center. The Wilford A. Payne Medical Center is named after one of the founders of Primary Care Health Services. Mr. Payne, right, also served as executive director of it and the Alma Illery Medical Center, which was named after another community health care leader and civil rights advocate. The Heinz Endowments awarded \$1 million toward the construction of the new medical center in 2022.



Courtesy of Primary Care Health Services

BLACK ARTS AWARDS

Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh, a program that celebrates and advances the region's Black arts sector, recently awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants to 24 individual artists, collectives and arts organizations. Since 2010, Advancing Black Arts, which is funded by The Heinz Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation, has distributed more than \$13 million. This is the second year that most of the awards have been two-year grants for project-specific support.

Aboveground Railroad grant, given to emerging Black arts administrators, \$10,000 for one year:

James Manning to support education in pursuit of a career in arts administration.

Project-support grants totaling \$933,610 over two years:

Barrel & Flow Fest founder **Day Bracey** (\$40,000) to provide artist support and national promotion for regional Black artists through its festival and events.

Gavin Benjamin (\$49,900) for a photography residency culminating in a photobook and short documentary film with themes of migration, colonialization and identity.

Kaila Carter (\$50,000) to support choreography, documentation, workshops, and the creation and premiere of new works performed by a cohort of Black dancers.

Addoley Dzegede (\$46,910) for research, studio space, a residency and continuing education for a Ghana Album series, new soft sculptures and new glass works.

Adrie Rose (\$30,000) to support "I Hate My Job," an anthology project aiming to amplify the voices of sex workers, particularly those from the Black community.

Jasmine Green, aka Black Girl Absolute, (\$20,000) for a residency and publishing of "A Field Guide for Blue Girls," a collection of visual art and poetry on the mental health needs of Black women and girls.

HEALING BY DEZIGNS founder and CEO **Dr. Ameela Boyd** (\$50,000) for the Holistic Barber Shop and Healing Her Story Therapy programs to assist Black men and women dealing with remnants of trauma.

TaMara Howard (\$50,000) to support quilt artists through The Quilt Empowerment Project.

Anyah Nancy (\$50,000) to support the debut album "Sounds like Honey."

KBK Foundation artists **Brandon R. Jennings** and **Marlon Gist**, (\$46,800) for the "Junior Art Expo Academy" course, titled "Black Art In America," to familiarize students ages 10 to 14 with the diverse art of renowned African American artists.

London Pierre Williams (\$50,000) to support the creation of a series of paintings to be featured in an exhibition and public artist talk in Pittsburgh.

Jessica Gaynelle Moss (\$50,000) to support the transformation of a four-story residence in the Hill District into a site-specific public artwork.

Mikael Owunna (\$50,000) to create "Blackstar Sanctuary," a virtual reality experience supporting the mental health and communal wellness of Black LGBTQ individuals.

Joy Priest (\$50,000) for a poetry anthology, "The Black Outside," on Black ecology, the Great Migration, Black desire, and Black addiction, and a collection of essays.

Marques Redd (\$50,000) for a feature-length dance film titled "The Four World Ages."

Ricardo Iamuuri Robinson (\$50,000) to support the creation of a new multimedia art piece, "And Who Told You That You Were Naked?"

Sibyls Shrine (\$50,000) for the programming of Sibyls Shrine, a collective of more than 100 Black artists who are "m/others."

Unshakeable Motherhood (\$50,000) to support "Her Dreams" documentary extension, pop-up community interactive arts simulation and film screening events.

Damon Young (\$50,000) for "Made in America," a literary conversation and salon series bringing nationally renowned authors to Pittsburgh and celebrating the craft of writing.

The YOUiversity (\$50,000) for multidisciplinary creative workshop series "The Basquiat Project: Where Have All the Wildflowers Gone?"

General operating support grants totaling \$300,000 over two years:

ALMA | LEWIS (\$100,000) to support its experimental contemporary art platform for critical thinking, constructive dialogue and creative expression of Black culture.

Alumni Theater Company (\$100,000) to create bold theatrical work on the experience of young Black artists and highlight their rich contribution to our community.

August Wilson House (\$100,000) to promote the literary and social legacy of August Wilson through the restoration of his Hill District boyhood home as an arts center.



NEW HEINZ ENDOWMENTS BOARD MEMBERS

Sameera Fazili, an economic policy expert who was deputy assistant to the president and deputy director of the White House's National Economic Council (NEC) in the Biden administration, and Patrick Gallagher, former chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh, have joined The Heinz Endowments' board of directors. The two were appointed in September and will each serve an initial three-year term.

Ms. Fazili has more than 20 years of experience in economic policy development, program execution and crisis management across the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Her expertise spans multiple industries including financial services, manufacturing, clean energy, housing, small business, transportation and logistics.

She is founder and CEO of Zoon Ventures, LLC, a firm offering advisory services to companies, philanthropies and nonprofits on energy transition, supply chain resiliency, industrial policy and inclusive economic development. She is also a senior fellow at the Roosevelt Institute and an advisor with Lafayette Advisors.

Dr. Gallagher was University of Pittsburgh chancellor from 2014 to 2023. After stepping down, he joined the faculty and currently is a professor in the university's department of physics and astronomy.

Before holding Pitt's top post, Dr. Gallagher served for 21 years in various roles at the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), including as director of the NIST Center for Neutron Research, NIST director, undersecretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology, and acting deputy secretary of Commerce.

In welcoming Ms. Fazili and Dr. Gallagher to the board, Endowments Chairman André Heinz said, "We are delighted that Sameera and Pat will bring their experience and perspective to our board, which blends deep family commitment with the issue expertise of non-family trustees."

Endowments staff additions

Diana Avart
benefits, compensation and human resources associate

Kelli Everett
finance and administration assistant

Diane Hughley
executive assistant to the president

Regina Jackson
receptionist and facilities assistant

