ANOTHER FOND FAREWELL

James Walton, who retired as vice chairman emeritus of The Heinz Endowments in October 2020, passed away on Jan. 2 of this year. His tenure with Heinz foundations spanned more than 37 years and included serving as chairman of the Vira I. Heinz Endowment, which merged with the Howard Heinz Endowment in 2007 to form The Heinz Endowments.

Mr. Walton’s professional career included serving as an executive with Gulf Oil and president of the Carnegie Institute, today the Carnegie Museums and the Carnegie Library. Through his passion for the arts, he developed deep and personal friendships with the late H.J. “Jack” Heinz II and Vira I. Heinz. Because of her commitment to philanthropic and civic work, Vira Heinz asked that Mr. Walton help establish and lead her charitable foundation after her death, which occurred in 1983. A foundation was created in her name that year, and Mr. Walton joined as trustee, subsequently becoming board chairman. He was appointed vice chairman of The Heinz Endowments in 2007, supporting Teresa Heinz as board chairman. When her son André was elected chairman of the Endowments in 2016, Mr. Walton became vice chairman emeritus.

At Mr. Walton’s passing, Mr. Heinz said that he “leaves our community and beyond a legacy of extraordinary achievements... Especially, we reflect on Jim’s human qualities that have distinguished his success as a senior corporate executive, as a philanthropic leader, as a husband, father and grandfather, as a friend and counselor, and as a man whose humor, wisdom and elegance illuminated our progress throughout his leadership with the Endowments and its predecessor organizations.”

STAFF NEWS

Heinz Endowments’ Vice President for Equity & Research Carmen Anderson was honored by the media outlet City & State Pennsylvania as one of this year’s Pittsburgh Power 100. The listing recognizes the city’s leaders in a variety of arenas, including politics, organized labor, business, health care, education and philanthropy. Ms. Anderson was honored for her leadership in the foundation’s efforts to promote diversity, inclusion and equity in the region.

Endowments Creative Learning Program Officer Mac Howison contributed a chapter to the recently published book “It Takes an Ecosystem: Understanding the People, Places and Possibilities of Learning and Development Across Settings,” which examines the systems in which adults engage young people and how those systems can be changed to strengthen the learning and development of youth. The chapter that Mr. Howison wrote looks at the progress and impact of efforts in Pittsburgh to use arts and culture and the work of teaching artists to create transformative learning experiences for young people.

NEW SCHOLAR HOUSE LEADER

Diamonte Walker, formerly deputy executive director of Pittsburgh’s Urban Redevelopment Authority, stepped down from that position this spring to become the inaugural CEO of the Pittsburgh Scholar House, an affiliate of the Family Scholar House based in Louisville, Kentucky. Bringing the Scholar House program to Pittsburgh was an effort of The Heinz Endowments’ Learning Strategic Area, and received support from the Henry L. Hillman and PNC foundations. The Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education joined the foundations in launching the local affiliate.

The Scholar House program is designed to provide a comprehensive, holistic continuum of care for families experiencing poverty, unstable housing and often domestic violence, and to empower them to achieve their educational, career and family goals.

ADDRESSING VETERANS’ HEALTH DECLINES

he Heinz Endowments was among several funders of a national study that found that the proportion of veterans reporting good health and well-being decreased rather than increased during the first three years after their discharge. The project, which was managed by the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, studied a sample of 3,733 women and men who left the military in the fall of 2016.

“Changes in the health and broader well-being of U.S. veterans in the first three years after leaving military service: Overall trends and group differences” found that while declines in the proportion of veterans reporting positive well-being were not large, several were noteworthy because they included areas that might have been expected to improve after entering civilian life. Among these were an increasing proportion of veterans who reported mental health concerns, which was greater for women than men, and the declining proportion of veterans reporting higher levels of community involvement, which decreased most among male veterans. The study also showed that female veterans experienced declines in more aspects of health and well-being than male veterans, which suggested that female veterans face unique challenges transitioning from military service.

Researchers concluded the findings revealed the need for enhanced prevention and early intervention efforts to reduce these declines and for special measures to address the unique readjustment concerns of female veterans and other vulnerable groups.
The Advanced Leadership Institute (TALI), established to cultivate corporations and foundations, began operations in April this year at the 1,500-square-foot office at the Carnegie Mellon Center. The office space includes four workstations, a conference room, and a reception area. BNY Mellon is underwriting the office space, and the lease, which was finalized last year, runs through December 30, 2027.

At the beginning of this year, TALI and Carnegie Mellon University announced the 2022 cohort of the institute’s Executive Leadership Academy. Twenty-five individuals, who hold top-level positions in for-profit corporations and nonprofit organizations, participated in a seven-month executive education program through Carnegie Mellon’s Tepper School of Business. TALI has received support from several Pittsburgh corporations and foundations, including the Endowments, with Carnegie Mellon serving as its academic partner.

AWARDING THE ARTS
Several local artists have received awards from the Endowments and other Pittsburgh foundations that honor their achievements and support their ongoing work.

As part of the Carol R. Brown Creative Achievement Awards, choreographer and visual artist Stacyce R. Pearl, above left, was named Established Artist, and multifaceted musician Danielle “INEZ” Walker, above right, was named Emerging Artist. Chosen from a field of 170 public nominations, each was given an unrestricted award of $20,000. The Carol R. Brown Creative Achievement Awards is a shared initiative of The Heinz Endowments, The Pittsburgh Foundation and the Opportunity Fund. The program was created in recognition of the key role Ms. Brown, who was president of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust from 1986 to 2001, played in the revitalization of Pittsburgh’s downtown arts district.

The Endowments also has distributed the first funding for its new Creative Development Awards, an annual grantmaking program that celebrates the Pittsburgh region’s professional artists and has a special focus on those whose artistic achievements show great promise. Grants totaling $351,000 were awarded to 14 artists and organizations, representing a diverse range of artistic disciplines, including animation, photography, theater and metalsmithing.

The individual artists who received awards were visual artist N.E. Brown; musician Clara Kent; mosaic artist Rachel Sager; composer Timothy Stoddard; visual artist Imín Yeh; fiber artist LaVerne Kemp; photographer Ed Panar; and filmmaker James Duesing.

Organizations receiving awards were Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh to support an artist residency with Shohei Katayama; City Theatre Company to support an artist residency with musician and composer Theron Brown; Contemporary Craft to support a nine-month artist residency with Tereneh Idia; Fashion-AFRICANA for a residency with multimedia Rwandan artist Cedric Mizero; Pittsburgh Glass Center for a residency and culminating exhibition with photographer, engineer and glass artist Mikael Owunna; and Pittsburgh Public Theater for support of a residency with theatrical director, actor and teacher Justin Emeka.

The award recipients and their winning titles and categories were:

Illustration
“Clean Spaces,” Donna Grethen

Cover Design

Feature Photo
“Industry Ills–Bryan Latkanich,” Joshua Franzos

News Feature Story
“Child Care Ingenuity,” Cristina Rouvalis

Medical/Health Story
“Our Best Shot,” Julia Fraser

Science/Environment Story
“Fighting for Air” and “Air Sickness,” Jeffery Fraser

EXAMINING CITY GOVERNMENT
To support the new city administration of Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey, The Heinz Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation funded a review of city operations by the New Orleans–based Thomas Consulting Group. The process included documenting the status of about two dozen government entities, analyzing finances, researching best practices in department functions, and assisting transition committees in the public forums that would shape Mr. Gainey’s agenda.

The consultants produced a series of reports covering the range of city government functions. A public website also was developed to provide transparency in the transition work and serve as a reference guide for city residents.

HONORING A SCIENCE TRAILBLAZER
The Pennsylvania State University has renamed a building at its Innovation Park, a 118-acre office, manufacturing and research space, the Shirley M. Malcom Building. Dr. Shirley Malcom is a Heinz Endowments board member and a trailblazer in the scientific community who helped create a more inclusive environment for women of color in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields.

Dr. Malcom has served as head of Education and Human Resources Programs at the American Association for the Advancement of Science; a member of the National Science Board, the policymaking body of the National Science Foundation; and a member of former President Bill Clinton’s Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology. She currently serves as co-chair of the Gender Advisory Board of the U.N. Commission on Science & Technology for Development.

Dr. Malcom co-wrote a landmark 1976 report titled “The Double Bind: The Price of Being a Minority Woman in Science,” which examined ways to increase representation in the STEM fields. In 2003, she received the Public Welfare Medal of the National Academy of Sciences, the highest award given by the academy.

In May, the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania recognized work in h magazine with six awards as part of the organization’s annual Golden Quill contest spotlighting excellence in journalism in Western Pennsylvania and nearby counties in Ohio and West Virginia. All entries for h competed in Division 7, which included nonprofit and institutional magazines.

NEW LEADERSHIP OFFICE & TRAINING
The Advanced Leadership Institute (TALI), established to cultivate and promote Black executive talent, has opened a new office in Downtown Pittsburgh at One BNY Mellon Center. Within the nearly 2,000 square feet of space are four offices, four workstations, a conference room, break room and reception area. BNY Mellon is underwriting the office space, and the lease, which was finalized late last year, runs through December 30, 2027.

At the beginning of this year, TALI and Carnegie Mellon University announced the 2022 cohort of the institute’s Executive Leadership Academy. Twenty-five individuals, who hold top-level positions in for-profit corporations and nonprofit organizations, participated in a seven-month executive education program through Carnegie Mellon’s Tepper School of Business. TALI has received support from several Pittsburgh corporations and foundations, including the Endowments, with Carnegie Mellon serving as its academic partner.

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