



AN INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE

58

The 58th Carnegie International opened on Sept. 24 and will run through April 2, 2023, with the theme “Is it morning for you yet?” Established in 1896, the Carnegie International is organized every three to four years by the Carnegie Museum of Art, below. The longest-running North American exhibition of international art was last held in Pittsburgh from Oct. 13, 2018, to March 25, 2019.

The current exhibition features more than 100 international artists and collectives and is spread across several galleries at the Carnegie Museum of Art and at offsite locations. Multi-media artist and native of Braddock, Pennsylvania, LaToya Ruby Frazier won the event’s highest award, the Carnegie Prize. Her photo installation “More Than Conquerors: A Monument for Community Health Workers of Baltimore, Maryland 2021-2022” highlights the efforts of Baltimore health workers and community leaders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

HEINZ AWARDS WINNERS

The Heinz Family Foundation recognized winners of the 27th annual Heinz Awards in October. The seven recipients of an unrestricted cash prize of \$250,000 each were:

vanessa l. german, a visual artist and founder of ARThouse whose assemblage sculptures, installations, spoken word poetry and community-based work address racism, violence, homophobia and hate while expressing hope.

Cauleen Smith, an interdisciplinary artist and educator whose experimental films, installations and multimedia works explore history and the future.

Rhett Ayers Butler, founder of Mongabay, a global nonprofit environmental science and conservation news platform.

Anne C. Evens, CEO of Elevate, which works to ensure equal access to clean and affordable heat, power, and water in communities and to promote energy efficiency improvements.

Chrystel A. Cornelius, president and CEO of Oweesta Corporation, which works to return wealth and financial independence to Native people and lands.

Hilary A. Abell and **Alison Lingane**, co-founders of Project Equity, a movement to create better jobs and a fairer economy by advancing employee ownership.

The Heinz Awards were established in 1993 to honor the memory of Sen. John Heinz, who was killed in a plane crash in 1991. They recognize individuals for their achievements in finding solutions to critical issues in areas that were important to Sen. Heinz, including the arts, the economy and the environment.



Courtesy of the artist and Carnegie Museum of Art; photo: Sean Eaton



Photo by Emma Folts/PublicSource

SCHOOL DISTRICT VETERAN ELEVATED

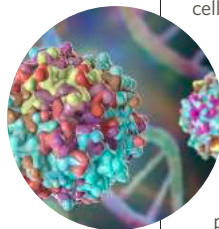
The Pittsburgh Public Schools began the school year with a new superintendent after Dr. Wayne Walters, left, who had been serving as interim superintendent since October 2021, was unanimously appointed by the school board to the top position in the summer after a national search. Dr. Walters is a more than 30-year veteran of the district, having served in the city schools as a teacher, assistant principal, assistant superintendent, and now superintendent.

Originally from St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, Dr. Walters came to Pittsburgh at age 16 to attend Carnegie Mellon University, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in music performance/music education. His first teaching position was at King Elementary on Pittsburgh’s North Side, and he later received master’s and doctorate degrees at Duquesne University and Indiana University of Pennsylvania, respectively.

The district’s previous superintendent, Dr. Anthony Hamlet, resigned in October 2021 after the Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission released a report detailing a series of ethical lapses by him that also had received news coverage.

ANCHORING DEVELOPMENT

ElevateBio, a Massachusetts-based biotechnology firm focusing on gene and cell therapies, has been announced as the anchor for the Pitt BioForge at Hazelwood Green. The purpose of University of Pittsburgh’s biomanufacturing center is to bring new gene and cell therapies and other treatments to patients and the market. Hazelwood Green, a 178-acre former steel mill site purchased by the Endowments and three other foundations 20 years ago, is becoming Pittsburgh’s latest hub of technological innovation. The property also is a high-profile demonstration of new brownfield development standards committed to raising the housing prospects of local residents instead of displacing them.





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AN AUGUST CELEBRATION

Constanza Romero, the widow of playwright August Wilson; August Wilson House CEO Denise Turner; and actor Denzel Washington, all shown above, spoke to an audience from the top of the back steps of the August Wilson House during its grand opening in August — appropriately.

The event attracted well-known celebrities such as Mr. Washington and actor Russell Hornsby along with many local luminaries and fans of the Pulitzer-winning playwright and his work. Located in Pittsburgh's Hill District, Mr. Wilson's modest and previously blighted childhood home has been renovated into an inspirational community center and theatrical venue for showcasing the creativity and resilience of the region's Black community through artist residencies, gathering spaces, fellowships and other programming for artists and scholars.

The celebration included an evening outdoor performance of Mr. Wilson's play "Jitney" followed the next day by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, music, food, dancing and tours of the property. The restoration was spearheaded by Paul Ellis, Mr. Wilson's nephew, and received considerable funding from philanthropies, including the Endowments, and celebrities. The latter's support was boosted by the involvement of Mr. Washington, who has produced two of Mr. Wilson's plays into films.

Also in August, the University of Pittsburgh library system received \$1 million from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation to prepare Mr. Wilson's archives for public use and outreach programming. In addition, the support allows the library system to hire a specifically designated August Wilson archive curator for two years. The Heinz Endowments was among the funders of the effort to develop and process the archives.



MAJOR SUPPORT FOR BLACK ARTS

Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh (ABAP), a joint program of The Heinz Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation, recently announced a slate of 49 grant awards totaling \$1.61 million. The funding — the largest annual distribution in the 12-year history of the program — will support the work of individual artists, collectives and projects and will provide planning and operating support for Black-led arts organizations and those serving a substantial or primarily Black audience.

ABAP received a \$2 million gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott in June 2021, and this group of grants through the program is the first to include a portion of that money. Visit www.heinz.org for a complete list of artists and organizations receiving funding.