THE MAGAZINE OF
THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS
Issue 2 2024



INFLATION REDUCTION ACT PROJECTS ARE INCREASING IN SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA, AND THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS IS SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO KEEP THE NUMBERS AND IMPACT GROWING.

inside h

ISSUE 2 2024

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The Heinz Endowments was formed from the Howard Heinz Endowment, established in 1941, and the Vira I. Heinz Endowment, established in 1986. It is the product of a deep family commitment to community 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 wherever necessary, including statewide and nationally, to fulfill our mission.

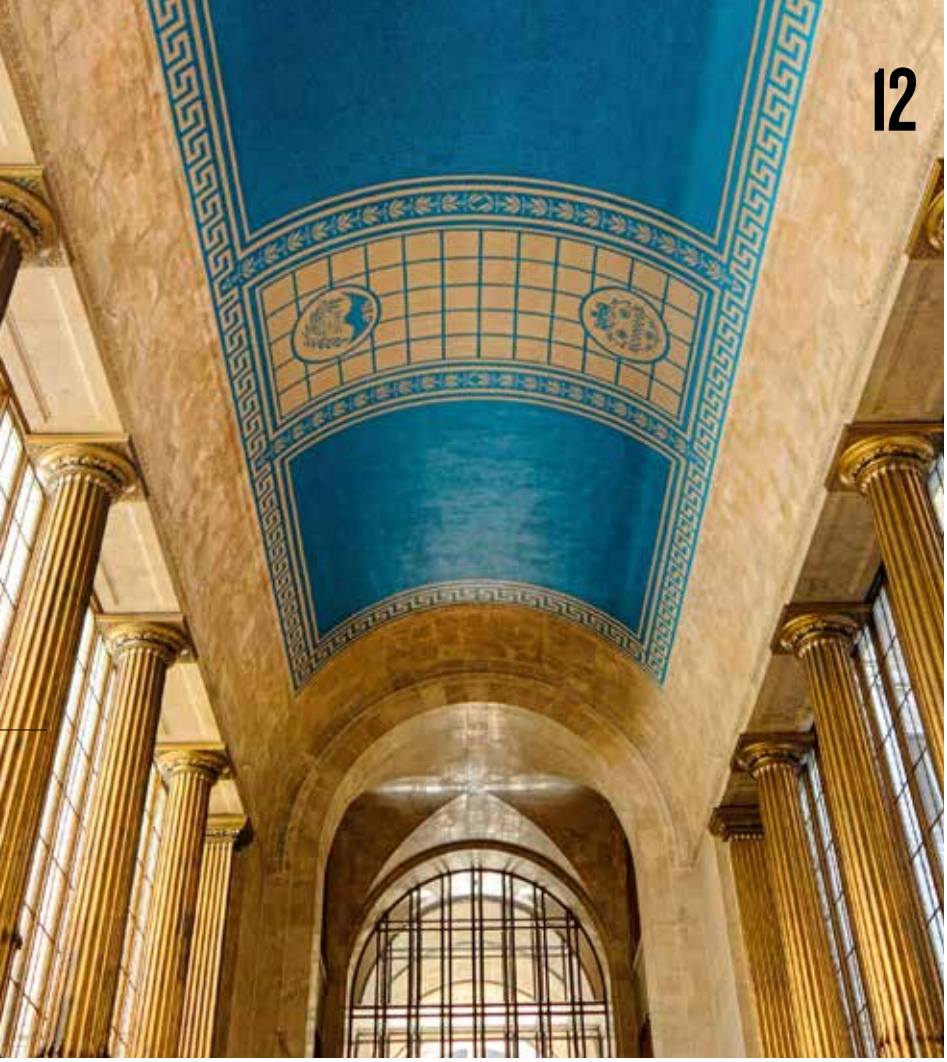
That mission is to help our region become a just and equitable community in which all of its citizens thrive economically, ecologically, educationally, socially and culturally. We also seek to advance knowledge and practice in the field of philanthropy through strategies that focus on our grantmaking programs of Creativity, Learning and Sustainability.

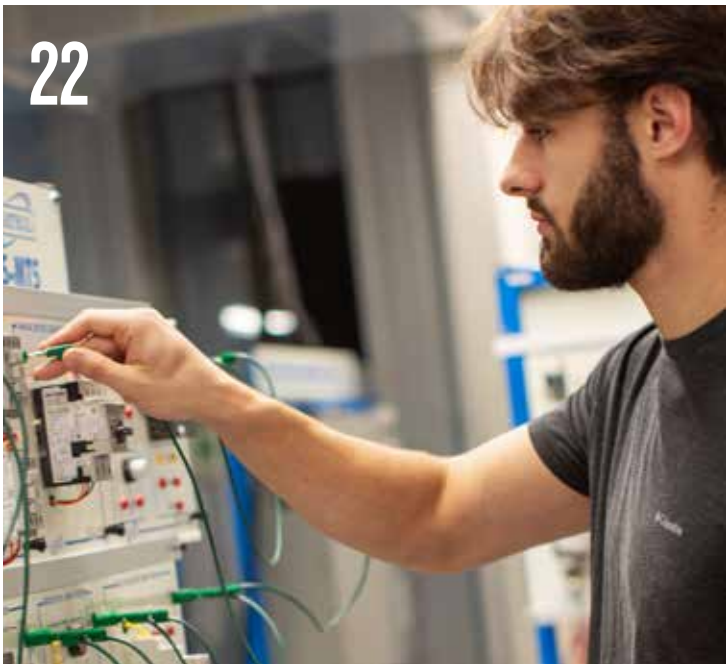
In life, Howard Heinz and Vira I. Heinz set high expectations for their philanthropy. Today, the Endowments is committed to doing the same. Our charge is to be diligent, thoughtful and creative in continually working to set new standards of philanthropic excellence. Recognizing that none of our work would be possible without a sound financial base, we also are committed to preserving and enhancing the Endowments' assets through prudent investment management.

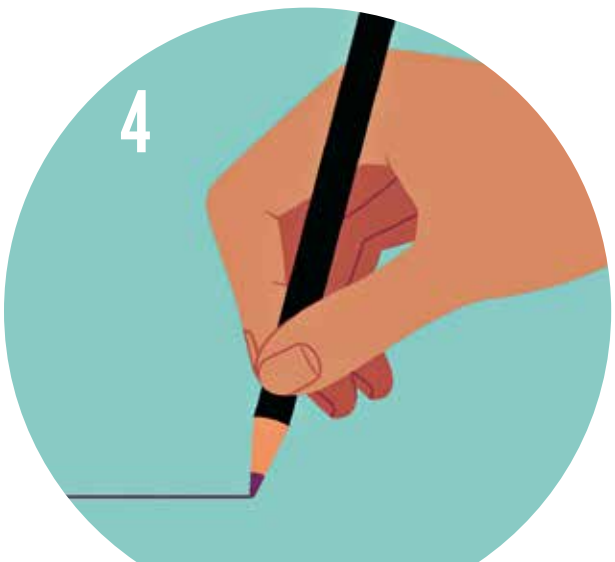
h magazine is a publication of The Heinz Endowments. At the Endowments, we are committed to promoting learning in philanthropy and in the specific fields represented by our grantmaking programs. As an expression of that commitment, this publication is intended to share information about significant lessons and insights we are deriving from our work.

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About the cover: A range of projects are being funded by the Inflation Reduction Act in southwestern Pennsylvania and elsewhere across the country. As shown in the cover illustration by Peter Grundini, they include environmental, housing, transportation and medical initiatives.







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The Heinz Endowments is increasing its investments in workforce development for youth and young adults who would benefit from additional support to help them thrive in the future.

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Pittsburgh foundations and nonprofits, including The Heinz Endowments, funded a series of reports that were compiled into guidebooks to help prepare incoming Pittsburgh and Allegheny County administrations for the challenges ahead.

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The number of southwestern Pennsylvania projects that have received funding through the Inflation Reduction Act is growing with some getting added support from $10 million The Heinz Endowments set aside to boost local IRA efforts.

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Maximum Preservation

Cynthia Fiorini is a conservator and a member of the painting conservation team working on the Maxo Vanka murals at the St. Nicholas Croatian Catholic Church in Millvale, Pennsylvania. Mr. Vanka was a renowned artist in Europe who immigrated from Zagreb, Croatia, to the United States in the mid-1930s and became a resident of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Within a few years of his arrival, he was commissioned to paint a series of murals at St. Nicholas Church. His work depicted Christian religious scenes, Croatian peasants who left their farmland to find a better life in post-industrial America and the impact of World War II on Yugoslav states.

In 2004, Hurricanes Frances and Ivan caused heavy rainfall and massive flooding in the Pittsburgh region, with Millvale among the hardest hit communities. The rain damaged the St. Nicholas Church roof, and, although it was repaired, moisture in the walls led to salt and other damage to the Vanka murals. The Society to Preserve the Millvale Murals of Maxo Vanka hired the conservation team to restore the paintings. The work continues today and has received support from a number of individuals, organizations and foundations, including The Heinz Endowments. Photo by Matt Dyak







illustrations by Joey Guidone

CREATING OPPORTUNITY

The Heinz Endowments is increasing investments to help 18- to 24-year-olds in the Pittsburgh region who would benefit from additional support to obtain living-wage careers and a chance at a promising future.

By Elwin Green

Elwin Green is a Pittsburgh-based freelance writer. His last stories for h ran in Issue 1, 2024. One examined the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's upgrades of its venues in Downtown Pittsburgh and impacts the improvements could have. The other summarized the history of the Trust and the city's Cultural District.

Young people in the 21st century have opportunities available to them that those of earlier times might never have imagined. Rather than going directly to work on a farm or in a factory, today's high school graduate can go to college, join the military or receive job training through a wide variety of vocational schools and programs.

And yet…



When The Heinz Endowments hired The Bridgespan Group last year to help foundation staff assess its Learning Strategic Area, the Boston-based consultancy's review found that about 5,000 young people in the Pittsburgh region graduate from high school each year with no plan for the next stage of their lives, whether it be employment, continuing education or some combination of the two.

Carmen Anderson, the Endowments' vice president of Equity & Learning, explained that the Endowments had wanted to learn from past giving and impact, build on existing assets, better understand challenges for children and families in the region, find gaps that could be addressed, and identify potential investment areas that could accelerate and deepen impact.

As part of the process, Bridgespan looked at post-secondary transition rates from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and information from The Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Data Center and determined that many high school graduates in the region did not follow a straightforward path to college, a career or the military.

Bridgespan also reviewed job openings in the Pittsburgh region that pay a living wage and do not require a bachelor's degree and determined that there were an estimated 29,000 unfilled jobs in southwestern Pennsylvania.

"These and other findings set the direction for Heinz Endowments leaders to develop a targeted approach to grantmaking intended to change the trajectory for young people in the region," Ms. Anderson said.

"We're losing the thread with these young folks," said Endowments President Chris DeCardy, emphasizing the urgency. "And at this moment in time in the country and in this region, we can't afford anybody in Pittsburgh and southwest Pennsylvania to not successfully be able to move into that journey for work."

In response to the lack of connection between some local young people and the opportunities surrounding them, the Endowments launched a redesign of its Learning area. Since 2016, Learning had funded a wide range of programs that support youth and young adults from pre-K through post-secondary education. This year, the decision was made to increase the focus on helping young adults in the region ages 18 to 24 find and keep living-wage careers, particularly those who face economic hardships and would benefit from additional support to fulfill their potential. These individuals include the parents of young children who are pursuing higher education.

"It's the right time for us to take a step back and look at that portfolio and say, 'How do we want it to evolve?'" Mr. DeCardy said.

Diana Bucco, president of the Pittsburgh-based Buhl Foundation, welcomed her peer philanthropy's rethinking of its Learning focus.

"We've always recognized that the most vulnerable population in our community is our 18- to 24-year-olds that don't get the right foundation," she said. Also, "there's a significant number of sustainable-wage jobs [that don't require a degree] because not everyone's meant for college. I think it was not fair of us as a community to suggest, or as a country to suggest, that everyone should go to college."

well-stated:

The process of revamping the Endowments' Learning area has involved several stages of development. Bridgespan, in partnership with Endowments staff, reviewed 15 years of grantmaking to identify key lessons from past investments. The work included interviewing community, government and systems experts and conducting data analyses based on numerous research studies. The organization completed a national best practices study, identified a set of options and developed criteria for the updated focus such as addressing strong need in the region and providing an opportunity for systems change.

Through this process, a strategic plan was developed, Ms. Anderson said. Among the goals of the plan are to decrease the number of youth who do not transition from high school into either post-secondary education or jobs and to increase the number of young adults and student parents who attain a degree or other high-value credentials.

"We also want to increase the level of community engagement in our work so that we deepen our understanding of the assets and challenges from the people who are impacted directly," she said.

An important next step is to hear directly from young people about "what the barriers are that are inhibiting their progress and what they believe would make a difference in their trajectory," Ms. Anderson said. "Based on what we learn, we intend to build the foundation for young people's success and an inclusive talent development pipeline."

This process would include creating robust pathways to careers for young people who have untapped potential and would benefit from support in obtaining good jobs, she explained. To do this, the Endowments will need to help increase the capacity of organizations that train the local workforce and assist in coordinating the business, education, nonprofit and public sectors around the future of work in the region.

"We intend to also target the barriers that inhibit young parents' progress," Ms. Anderson said. "There are many parents that begin higher education, have aspirations for how it could change their lives, but for a variety of critical reasons aren't able to complete their programs. Taking a long-term, systemic approach in partnership with key intermediaries and building on best practice models will increase our likelihood of success."

This reorientation of the Endowments' Learning Strategic Area will impact many current grantees doing important work," Ms. Anderson added.

"Narrowing our focus around a specific set of people and priorities will necessitate changes in how and who we fund," she said. "These changes are not a reflection of the importance of the work of current grantees. However, in an effort to deepen impact, we had to make hard choices about strategy and partnerships. Our grantees and other community partners are aware of the shift and, to the extent possible, those that don't align [with the changes] going forward will receive transition support.



CRITERIA FOR UPDATING FOCUS OF THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS LEARNING STRATEGIC AREA

Revised focus must:

- Meet strong needs in southwestern Pennsylvania
- Have potential for evidence-informed strategies that have demonstrated impact
- Provide opportunity for systems change
- Fit with Endowments knowledge, grantmaking philosophy and assets

We've always recognized that the most vulnerable population in our community is our 18- to 24-year-olds that don't get the right foundation.

Diana Bucco, president, The Buhl Foundation

The goal is to better understand the regional education and workforce development systems… looking at what is happening in educational institutions, at both the K–12 and the higher-ed levels; workforce development systems; workforce boards; other kinds of education and training programs; and then also all of the other pieces of the education and training ecosystem.

Charlotte Cahill
associate vice president, education,
Jobs for the Future

We have a lot to learn from our existing grantmaking partners. We couldn't care less about the credit. We simply want to play our part so that the region can thrive.

Chris DeCardy, president, The Heinz Endowments

WE INTEND TO ALSO TARGET THE BARRIERS THAT INHIBIT YOUNG PARENTS' PROGRESS. THERE ARE MANY PARENTS THAT BEGIN HIGHER EDUCATION, HAVE ASPIRATIONS FOR HOW IT COULD CHANGE THEIR LIVES AND FOR A VARIETY OF CRITICAL REASONS AREN'T ABLE TO COMPLETE THEIR PROGRAMS.

Carmen Anderson, vice president, Equity & Learning, The Heinz Endowments

"We intend to deepen our knowledge about opportunities to strengthen the workforce system, its connection to educational institutions, and the key polices that create barriers to high-quality jobs and career pathways."

The Endowments will receive a large assist from Jobs for the Future, a Boston-based nonprofit that Bridgespan introduced to the foundation.

"What we are doing is launching in partnership with Heinz a regional asset mapping process," said Charlotte Cahill, JFF associate vice president for education.

"The goal is to better understand the regional education and workforce development systems… looking at what is happening in educational institutions, at both the K–12 and the higher-ed levels; workforce development systems; workforce boards; other kinds of education and training programs; and then also all of the other pieces of the education and training ecosystem."

Besides surveying those institutions' programs, the study will look at issues that affect young adults' ability to participate in workforce opportunities, such as transportation, child care or housing, Ms. Cahill said. As an organization with national reach, JFF will be able to compare the Pittsburgh region to other parts of the country.

The Endowments will develop programming based on what was learned from JFF's analysis, the priorities that young people themselves identified, and new or existing partnerships with communities, targeted intermediaries and the Endowments' grantmaking colleagues, Ms. Anderson said.

"In the next 12 to 24 months, we hope to have a number of strategic initiatives underway that both address barriers and create opportunity," she said.

Endowments staff also kept track of the growing trend nationally to increase career path options for young adults. In May 2023, the Biden–Harris administration announced the creation of a new program, the Roadmap to Support Good Jobs. The stated purpose of the initiative is "to build our workforce by ensuring every American — whether they go to college or not — will have equitable access to high-quality training, education, and services that provide a path to a good career without leaving their community."

Pittsburgh was named as one of five cities to participate in the program as a "workforce hub." As an affiliate, Mayor Ed Gainey's administration has designed an initiative to focus on four targeted sectors: infrastructure, advanced and bio-manufacturing, broadband and clean energy.

The Pittsburgh Workforce Hub is the only one of a wide swath of potential partners whose presence bolsters Mr. DeCardy's confidence in the likelihood of the Endowments' success in pursuing the new direction of its Learning area. Besides government initiatives, he sees the private sector "really leaning into training in all sorts of different ways" to enable folks to enter directly into the workplace.



That applies to the nonprofit world as well.

United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania is one of the agencies that has been giving attention to workforce-related programs. Sally Ellwein, chief program and policy officer, learned about the Endowments' shift in direction by attending a webinar for philanthropic partners.

"I think my first reaction was that we actually have a lot of alignment with the new focus areas that The Heinz Endowments has outlined," she said.

"For example, our work in financial stability really focuses on workforce development. And our work in building for success in school and life really focuses on youth and making sure that they have the tools they need, everything from early literacy up through post-secondary.

"We're really looking forward to having more conversations about how we can collaborate."

Mr. DeCardy is eager for such conversations.

"We'll want to go even deeper into having those conversations," he said, "especially those that allow us to know where there are gaps that we might be able to fill or where there are

[The] approach to refocusing the Learning area is clear... It is to reach out to the region's young people and to listen carefully to them when they say not only what they need but what they can offer, to move more deeply into existing partnerships and to establish new ones, to keep the Learning area in learning mode, and to partner with everyone they can.

partnerships that we might be able to augment what another organization is already doing."

Ms. Bucco of the Buhl Foundation is "beyond thrilled" at the prospect of a Heinz Endowments deep dive.

"I think that Heinz choosing to go deep and to address this issue will do two things: It'll change the life of an entire generation of young adults. But it will also prepare Pittsburgh to have the labor market that will allow us to grow economically and make it more attractive for more people to choose to move and live here because they will see more opportunity in the neighborhoods that they care about."

Another category of potential partners is the people on the other side of the nonprofit table — individuals and organizations that are already Endowments grantees, whether in community and economic development, in sustainability or in an area that is a less obvious arena for workforce development, the arts.

"We've supported for generations a vibrant community of visual and performing arts organizations, leaders, and a critical thing for the long-term success of this region is that artists, performing or visual artists, can make a career of doing that work," Mr. DeCardy said.

"We have a lot to learn from our existing grantmaking partners. We couldn't care less about the credit. We simply want to play our part, so that the region can thrive. And one way to do that is to enter into partnership with those who have already been doing this work in great depth."

In short, the details of the strategic plan are not yet fleshed out, but the approach to refocusing the Learning area is clear, according to Endowments leaders. It is to reach out to the region's young people and to listen carefully to them when they say not only what they need but what they can offer, to move more deeply into existing partnerships and to establish new ones, to keep the Learning area in learning mode, and to partner with everyone they can.

"This opportunity to support workforce readiness and scaffold career tracks and ladders as a pathway out of poverty, we believe can have extraordinary benefits in so many other ways, including around health, around neighborhoods, around broader community goals," Mr. DeCardy said.

"So, for all those reasons we got animated and excited about an area of work that we've definitely supported in the past, and … over the next number of years, where we're going to increase our focus and increase our resources to try to make our part stronger in this ecosystem, building toward a better future." h

TRANSITIO



The grand lobby of the City-County Building in Downtown Pittsburgh is a 30-foot-wide marble-lined hall with a 47-foot-high barrel-vaulted ceiling supported by bronze classical columns manufactured by Louis Tiffany Studios. The building's ornate elevator doors feature a series of reliefs detailing previous homes of municipal government. Constructed between 1915 and 1917, the City-County Building stretches between Grant and Ross streets and houses city and county government offices and part of the local court system.



N SUPPORT



Changes in government administrations at any level can be fraught with challenges. To help reduce transition difficulties at the local level, The Heinz Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation have funded reports on Pittsburgh and Allegheny County government operations to help prepare incoming officials.

By Donovan Harrell

As newly elected took office in 2022 and 2024, respectively, they including staffing shortages, budget



Margaret J. Krauss/90.5 WESA

leaders in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County faced complex governance challenges, constraints and deteriorating infrastructure.



During a May 31, 2023, news conference, Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey announced plans for a bond issue to raise $30 million for affordable housing. Standing behind Mr. Gainey at the City-County Building in Downtown Pittsburgh are members of his staff, City Council and the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh as well as housing advocates and residents affected by housing issues.

To help ensure a smooth transition, The Heinz Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation collaborated to support studies of government operations that resulted in reports for Mayor Ed Gainey and County Executive Sara Innamorato containing assessments of practices and procedures and recommendations for improvements.

Compiled into comprehensive "guidebooks," the research findings by consultants The Thomas Consulting Group Inc. and HR&A Advisors were designed to provide road maps for both administrations and to help lay a foundation for transparency, community engagement and efficient governance. For the Endowments, these efforts were part of its Democracy and Civic Participation portfolio, which has included assisting leaders in making informed decisions while fostering trust between government and residents.

Matthew Barron, Sustainability program director for the Endowments and head of its Democracy and Civic Participation initiative, said increasing public engagement in political and governmental processes was key to driving the investment in the government analyses and reports.

"One of our primary goals is to get more people engaged in the process of not just elections but in the process of government itself," he said. "[This includes] citizen engagement in government and citizens' awareness of what's happening in their government and the levers that they can use to influence the decisions their government makes and to make their voices heard in those processes.

"The goal was really to pull back the curtain and show people how government works, what kind of critical decisions get made, and then to provide avenues for people to get involved in that."

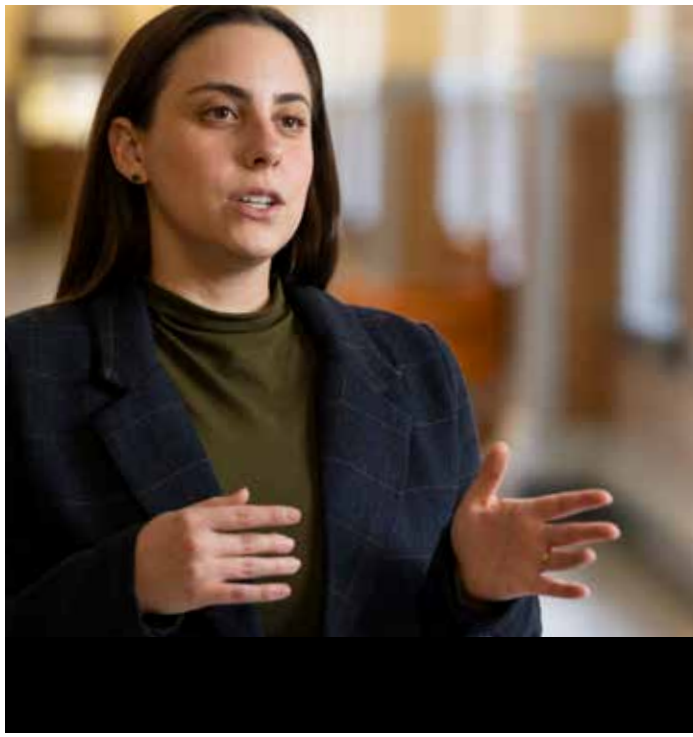
Donovan Harrell is a Pittsburgh-based freelance writer. His last stories for h were in Issue 1, 2023, and included a main story focusing on the importance of urban farms and gardens in the Pittsburgh region during the COVID-19 pandemic and an accompanying story on the food-sustaining benefits of a new bee vaccine.

A VITAL INVESTMENT

The Heinz Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation were motivated to invest in transition support for local governments, foundation officials said, because they had a clear understanding that such changes can be difficult and disruptive if not properly managed. The officials explained that their interest in assisting with the transition process stemmed from their belief in the importance of stable governance and transparency as well as public engagement.

"We really wanted to figure out what was the best way to support a smooth transition of power, and to ensure that the Gainey administration could [start] in the right direction without having to take lots of time trying to figure out where the roadblocks and the stumbles were," said Phil Koch, vice president of policy and community impact at The Pittsburgh Foundation.

Conducting the studies was complex, involving months of interviews, research and community participation. For the City of Pittsburgh guidebook, the Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation worked with The Thomas Consulting Group to produce a detailed series of transition reports for Mr. Gainey. Compiled between October and December 2021, the "Pittsburgh Government Guidebook" provided a comprehensive picture of the state of Pittsburgh's public sector. It included insights into staffing needs, budget allocations and ongoing projects across all city departments.



Joshua Franzos

"That information was critical to us in gaining an understanding of what we were walking into on day one," said Jake Pawlak, deputy mayor and director of the Office of Management and Budget for the City of Pittsburgh. "[It] could inform our decisions about what to continue and where to change direction or change focus, what the pitfalls might be, what were issues that needed to be resolved early in Mayor Gainey's leadership. It set a baseline that was really necessary."

According to Mr. Barron, many of the recommendations for the transition processes have been implemented, particularly around affordable housing. One particular effort stemming from a report recommendation saw the Gainey administration leveraging the city's ability to borrow money in the bond market to invest directly in affordable housing. The city went on to do a multimillion-dollar bond offering that was used to fund affordable housing initiatives, Mr. Barron said.

Another issue the city guidebook highlighted, Mr. Pawlak said, was the severe deterioration of public services, including significant staffing shortages in the Bureau of Police, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, and the Department of Public Works. No new police recruit classes had been hired since the pandemic in 2020, leading to critical gaps in the city's police force. One of the most immediate outcomes from the report was the reopening of the Pittsburgh Police Academy with updated community-oriented training. The first recruit class started in July 2023 and graduated in March 2024. The guidebook's recommendations helped the Gainey administration prioritize this action as a necessary step to address the city's staffing crisis.

Additionally, the launch of the Freedom House EMT Training Academy in February was another direct result of the guidebook's recommendations and was aimed at recruiting and training a new generation of emergency medical technicians from historically underserved communities, Mr. Pawlak said.

The report also highlighted the need for infrastructure improvements, particularly after the early 2022 collapse of the Fern Hollow Bridge, which connects the city's Squirrel Hill neighborhood to the Point Breeze and Regent Square neighborhoods and the borough of Wilkinsburg. The administration used the findings to streamline processes and increase funding for bridge repairs, street maintenance and other critical projects, Mr. Pawlak explained.





Leah Friedman, community affairs and special projects manager, Office of Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato

> “One of the challenges on the front end was that there had never been a community engagement effort that was as big, as diverse or inclusive as the engagement that we set out to complete.”

> “Pittsburgh is extremely fortunate to have such a strong, vibrant philanthropic community. It’s a blessing of our heritage, and much of Pittsburgh’s success has been possible thanks to the leadership and partnership of [that] community.”

Jake Pawlak, deputy mayor and director of the Office of Management and Budget for the City of Pittsburgh



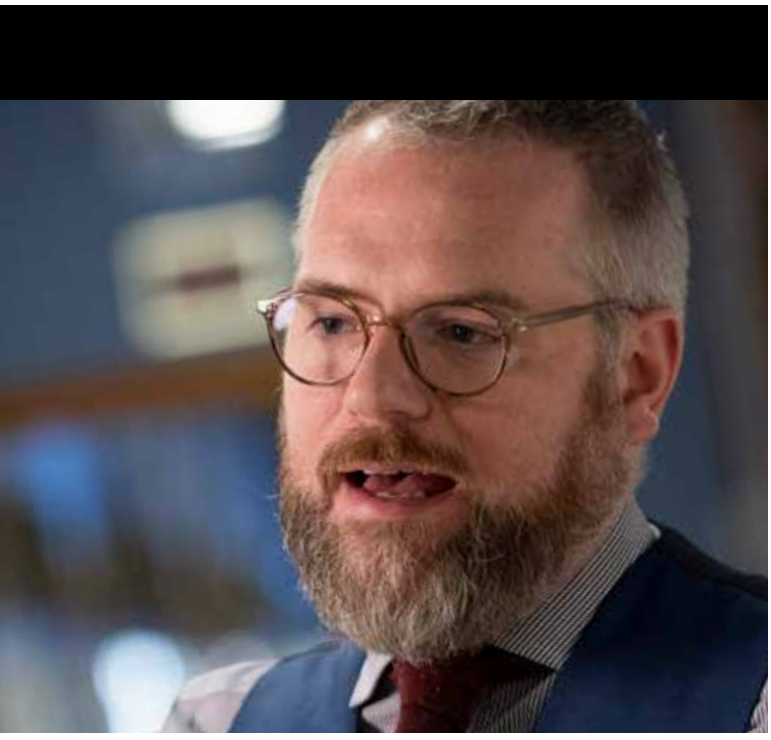


"In a lot of cases, we have found ways we could make things faster and more efficient, and that has paid huge dividends, both in making the way we do our work better, but also in making our employees stay invested," he said.

COMMUNITY INPUT MATTERS

For the county executive's administration, the Endowments and several foundations, such as the Pittsburgh and Buhl foundations, along with local nonprofits, such as the justice-focused Pennsylvania United and One Pennsylvania, partnered with HR&A Advisors to help produce an assessment report similar to the one produced for the City of Pittsburgh.

Introduced in April 2024, the "All In Allegheny Action Plan" revealed a similar range of workforce challenges, particularly in human services and public safety. The county faced more than 1,000 open positions when Ms. Innamorato took office, including in essential services such as health care and emergency response.



Joshua Franzos

However, what set the Allegheny County transition apart was the significant level of community engagement involved in creating the All In Allegheny guidebook. More than 19,000 residents participated in surveys, public forums and small-group discussions between November 2023 and April 2024 to help provide a wealth of data on the issues residents deemed most important, said Leah Friedman, the community affairs and special projects manager for the county executive's office. These included affordable housing, public safety, infrastructure and workforce development.

The unprecedented scale of the community engagement process was a demanding but ultimately invaluable process in generating the guidebook, she said.

"One of the challenges on the front end was that there had never been a community engagement effort that was as big, as diverse or inclusive as the engagement that we set out to complete," Ms. Friedman said. "This had never been done before, and a lot of people had never engaged with the county government before in this way, so it took a lot of education."

The All In Allegheny plan includes 91 action items, each with a clear timeline for completion in six months, one year or three years. One of the most significant outcomes of the plan is the 500 in 500 initiative, which is a partnership between the county executive's office and the Department of Human Services. The program aims to make 500 units of affordable housing available for individuals exiting the shelter system within 500 days of the initiative's launch, which was in June of this year. The units are expected to include new construction, purchases and collaborations with partners.

According to Ms. Friedman, this initiative, shaped by the community engagement process, directly addressed the county's housing crisis, particularly for those exiting homelessness.

In addition to housing, another key outcome based on recommendations from the All In Allegheny plan focuses on expanding access to voting, Ms. Friedman said. In alignment with the county's "vibrant democracy" policy priority, the county added five satellite ballot drop-off locations for the 2024 primary election. For this year's general election, the county expanded this effort by adding even more satellite locations, where residents also had access to additional voting services.

Another recommendation from the transition process was to have the county take steps to hire more staff to take advantage of federal funding programs, Mr. Barron said.

He highlighted the county's efforts to reform its Clean Air Fund, ensuring that it is better utilized for environmental justice issues.

Residents who contributed to the plan said county government leaders had not asked about their priorities or ideas before, Ms. Friedman said, and residents showed they're ready to let their voices be heard.

"I think the level of engagement and response that we received from communities throughout Allegheny County proved that community members are willing and ready to shape the government that represents them, and we can really see those voices as a partner as we move forward," she added. "And that's why we kind of hope to always be working in a way that is in collaboration and coordination with the community, rather than just top-down, because we know that we can build that trust, we're able to be responsive and the community is ready to help."

Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato has a laugh after signing her first executive order, Allegheny Hire, Inspire, Retain, Empower and Save (AGH H.I.R.E.S.), which is designed to improve the county's recruitment strategies, employee retention and training programs.

PHILANTHROPY'S STRATEGIC VALUE

Strong partnerships with philanthropic organizations have been instrumental for the Gainey administration, according to Mr. Pawlak.

"Pittsburgh is extremely fortunate to have such a strong, vibrant philanthropic community," he said. "It's a blessing of our heritage, and much of Pittsburgh's success has been possible thanks to the leadership and partnership of [that] community."

These partnerships remain central to the city's efforts, he explained, and there are hopes to expand and deepen them further.

Mr. Koch highlighted The Pittsburgh Foundation's unique position in working alongside both private foundations and government.

"As a community foundation, we have a role to play in working with government, private foundations and the community to develop strategies to strengthen democracy," he said. He added that he believes that addressing the most pressing issues in southwestern Pennsylvania will require cross-sectoral collaboration, with foundations, government and corporations working hand in hand.



Courtesy Allegheny County

Looking ahead, officials with city and county administrations said each is committed to transparency and continued engagement with their residents.

The Gainey administration plans to promote transparency through direct public engagement, Mr. Pawlak said.

"We established the Office of Neighborhood Services early in the mayor's administration specifically for the purpose of ensuring that we had deep and meaningful engagement with the public to let them know what we're working on and to hear their concerns."

The City in the Streets initiative, in which the mayor and all city departments visit different neighborhoods each month, is a direct extension of this philosophy.

"We've invested heavily in engagement around our budget process to ensure that residents are more deeply included," Mr. Pawlak added. Although these efforts were not specifically structured around a transition report or guidebooks, the goals of participation and engagement remain embedded in the administration's approach, he said.

Ms. Friedman echoed the commitment to transparency through the county's forthcoming Action Plan Tracker. This tracker, which launched this fall in October, will allow the public to see real-time updates on the progress of the 91 action items included in the All In Allegheny plan.

"It's going to give transparent updates to the public, to anyone who was involved in the transition planning, attended a community meeting or took the survey," Ms. Friedman said. "We want to make sure that we are looping back with the community, acknowledging the time and ideas they contributed and showing them where we are in delivering on the promises within this plan."

The guidebooks produced for Pittsburgh and Allegheny County have set a new standard for how philanthropy can support government transitions, Mr. Barron said, adding that the Endowments has had inquiries from other cities around the country looking to replicate the success of the reports.

One of the most positive outcomes from both processes has been increased resident engagement, according to Mr. Barron.

"When people were given access to detailed information about what the city and county do, they were better equipped to be involved. It created more mechanisms for resident engagement and feedback," he said.

The guidebooks provided the Gainey and Innamorato administrations with valuable recommendations for addressing critical challenges, including union contracts and staffing issues, Mr. Barron explained. And looking ahead, the Endowments plans to continue supporting the development of transition reports for local government.

"It's proven itself to be of great value to the community," he said. **h**



Joshua Franzos

For more information

Pittsburgh Government Guidebook

The Heinz Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation worked with The Thomas Consulting Group Inc. to produce a detailed series of reports for Mayor Ed Gainey before he assumed office in 2022. The "Pittsburgh Government Guidebook" provided a comprehensive picture of Pittsburgh's public sector that included information about staffing needs, budget allocations and ongoing projects across city departments.

All In Allegheny Action Plan

To support County Executive Sara Innamorato, who took office in January 2024, the Endowments and several local foundations and nonprofits partnered with HR&A Advisors to produce the county assessment report. Development of the "All In Allegheny Action Plan" also included a high level of community engagement, with more than 19,000 residents participating in surveys and discussions about issues such as affordable housing, public safety, infrastructure and workforce development.



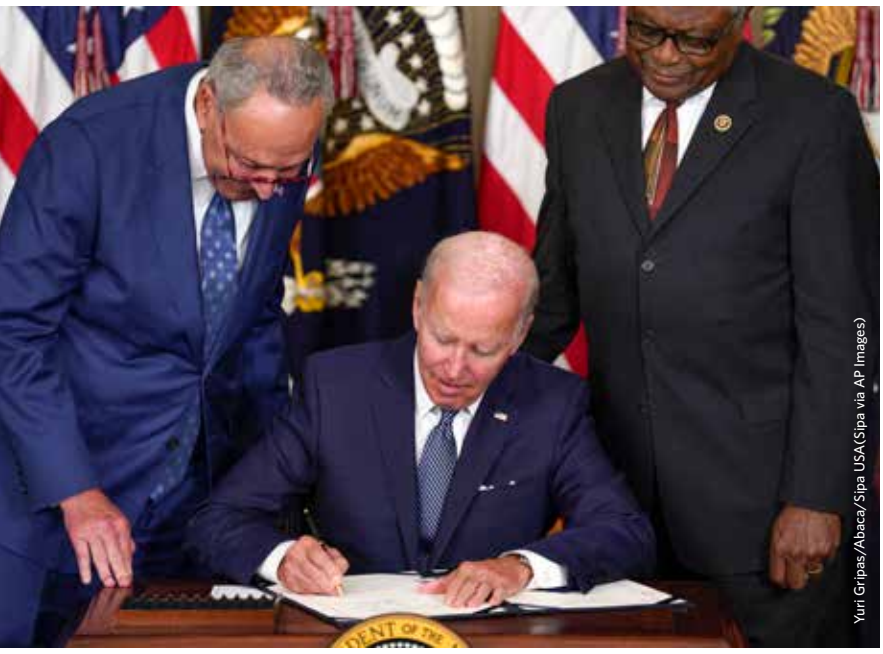
Peter Grundini

IN ON THE ACT

Even as the political landscape shifts in the U.S., the number of Inflation Reduction Act–funded projects is growing in western Pennsylvania, and grants from $10 million that The Heinz Endowments set aside to boost local IRA efforts are helping to get the work started or to move it faster through the pipeline.

By Adam Reger

THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT WAS BIG NEWS WHEN IT WAS SIGNED INTO LAW IN AUGUST 2022.



President Joe Biden, center, signs the Inflation Reduction Act at the White House in August 2022. Standing beside him are Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, (D-N.Y.), left, and U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, (D-S.C.).

The legislation committed roughly $500 billion in investments and tax breaks toward job creation, energy savings programs and clean-energy initiatives.

More than two years later, the IRA is no longer on the "front page" of print or digital news sources for most Americans—and following the results of the 2024 presidential election, it faces an uncertain political future. While there are unanswered questions about President-elect Donald Trump's plans for the funding package, he has signaled an intention to cut government spending, which may include the IRA.

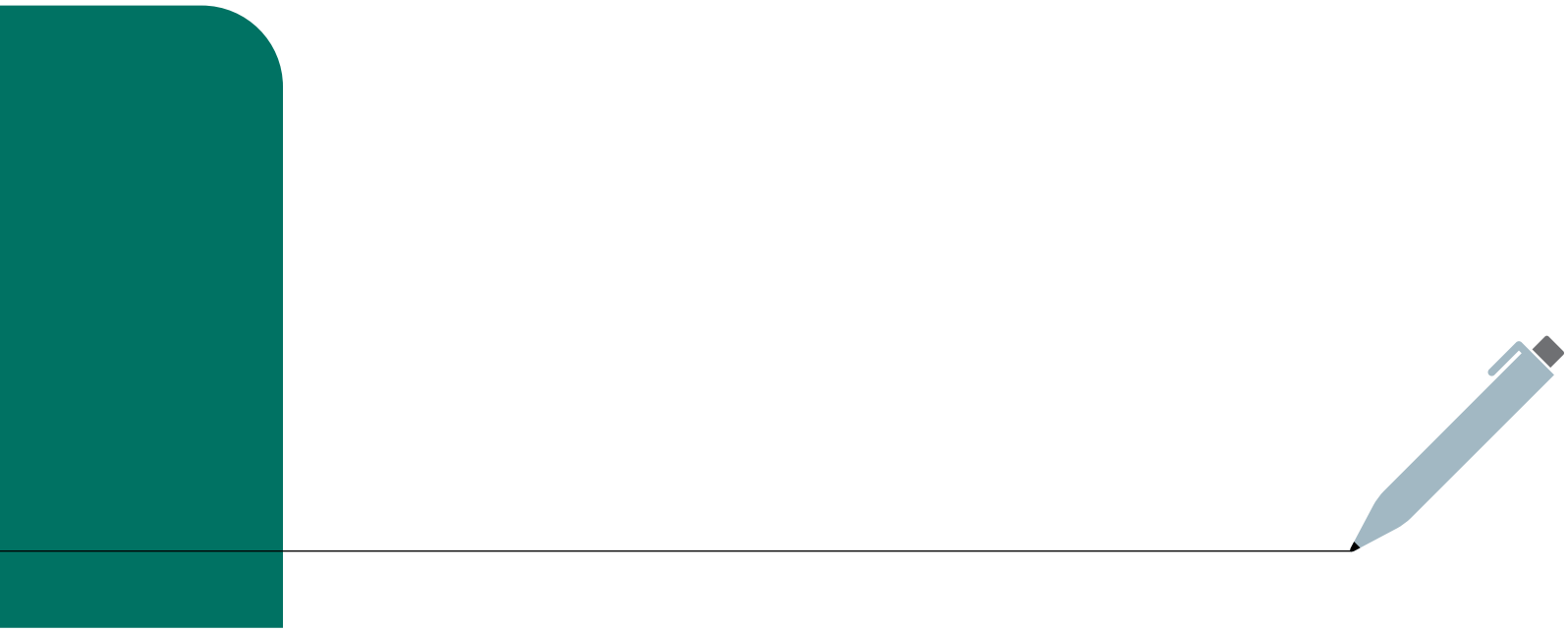
This uncertainty has stakeholders across southwestern Pennsylvania working to prepare for several potential outcomes. Amanda Woodrum, co-director of ReImagine Appalachia, a nonprofit dedicated to building a clean-energy future in Appalachia, says that her organization's January 2025 strategy summit will focus on ways to keep IRA funding in place, including highlighting the legislation's success stories.

Despite the shadow hanging over the IRA, the package has already disbursed a considerable amount of money, the impact of which is only now beginning to be felt in communities across southwestern Pennsylvania.

"A lot of what we're doing is just starting," said Brian Regli, executive director of Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro's Office of Critical Investments. Many of the initiatives funded under the IRA, Dr. Regli noted, are seven- to 10-year projects.

For those projects that have received funding, "2025 is really the implementation year," said Sarah Ralich, senior

Adam Reger is a freelance writer whose last story for h ran in Issue 2, 2023, and looked at how The Heinz Endowments grants during the pandemic helped several local arts organizations maintain and upgrade their venues.



manager of energy and construction for ACTION Housing, a Pittsburgh nonprofit organization that helps homeowners and renters.

As IRA money begins to trickle down to the communities that will use it, this moment marks an exciting window of possibility, according to several nonprofit leaders (even if it is tinged with doubt about the legislation's future). The Heinz Endowments has played a vital supporting role, setting aside $10 million to be available for grants to help fund everything from advancing solar power and retraining former mineworkers to preparing Appalachian communities for a clean-energy future.

As Matthew Barron, the Endowments' program director for Sustainability, put it, "We're thinking about this $10 million investment as a sprint that helps us get moving faster and build some infrastructure, which gets us into a marathon where we're continuing to work on these things for the next decade plus."

If the innovations and initiatives supported by the Endowments prove successful, said Rob Stephany, the foundation's Community & Economic Development senior program director, it will be hard to return to old ways of doing things.

"If a school district can save money through solar energy and dedicate more funding to teachers and kids, that's a really hard thing to put back in a box," he said. "If we can build a clean-tech cluster that's employing union folks, that's a really hard thing to put back in a box."

But many of the nonprofits and municipalities now benefiting from the IRA's transformative investment faced critical gaps in their capacity to seize on these opportunities.

Also, in the first year of the legislation's implementation, western Pennsylvania did not benefit meaningfully from its incentives and grants.

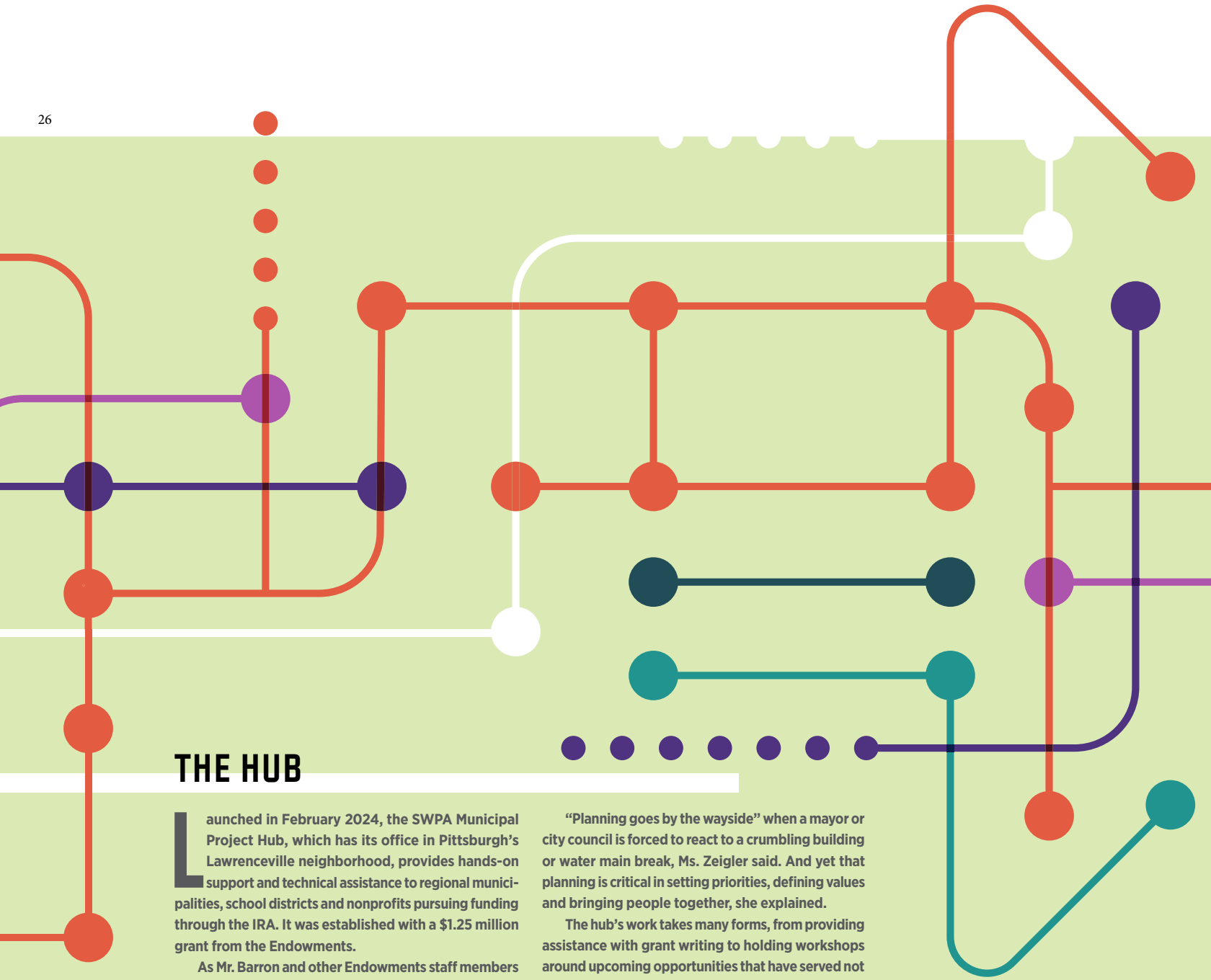
For example, Climate Power, an environment-focused, strategic communications organization based in Washington, D.C., issued a Clean Energy Boom Anniversary Report in 2023 that found the IRA created the most permanent clean-energy jobs in Georgia (16,678), Michigan (15,856), New York (13,555) and South Carolina (13,543). Pennsylvania ended the first year with just 457 new jobs through the law.

The employment picture in Pennsylvania has improved, with Climate Power reporting in September that the number of clean-energy jobs in the state had increased to 2,881 because of new projects in areas such as hydropower manufacturing, solar energy and electric vehicles. But more needs to be done.

Dr. Regli has sought to educate stakeholders and address the shortfalls, and he lauds the Endowments for its capacity-building work.

"None of this works without folks like The Heinz Endowments stepping into the breach," he said.

With Endowments support, communities and nonprofit organizations across the region are building the capacity to take part in needed change throughout the region and the nation. Here are a few of their stories.



THE HUB

Launched in February 2024, the SWPA Municipal Project Hub, which has its office in Pittsburgh's Lawrenceville neighborhood, provides hands-on support and technical assistance to regional municipalities, school districts and nonprofits pursuing funding through the IRA. It was established with a $1.25 million grant from the Endowments.

As Mr. Barron and other Endowments staff members were preparing to request $10 million in IRA-related funding from the Endowments' board, they surveyed approximately 100 grantees and other regional stakeholders about their readiness to take advantage of this opportunity.

"What we heard resoundingly was that people needed capacity," Mr. Barron said. Survey respondents indicated they saw significant gaps in their readiness to apply for grants and to deploy the funds effectively. "We used that data to build the concept of the hub to be an intermediary, an information disseminator, a hand-holder to the region to fill in those gaps as much as we could," he said.

For many municipalities, said Megan Zeigler, chief executive officer of the hub, the day-to-day demands of governance prevent leaders from dreaming big.

"Planning goes by the wayside" when a mayor or city council is forced to react to a crumbling building or water main break, Ms. Zeigler said. And yet that planning is critical in setting priorities, defining values and bringing people together, she explained.

The hub's work takes many forms, from providing assistance with grant writing to holding workshops around upcoming opportunities that have served not only to inform regional stakeholders but also to break down the silos that can exist among neighboring municipalities, each of which can get caught up in its own concerns and challenges.

"Especially for federal grants, these applications need to be bigger, usually involving multiple municipalities," Ms. Zeigler said. "Looking beyond your boundaries to have competitive applications has been really key.

"The hub currently has funding through December 2025, and the majority of the IRA discretionary grant funding will expire in 2026. This means our region has approximately 15 months to build capacity and momentum to take advantage of many of these opportunities," she added. "It's hard, but we can do hard things, and securing these federal funds now can be that launching point for more thoughtful and strategic investments in the future."

NEW CAREERS

The United Mine Workers of America Career Centers, established in 1996, helps mineworkers who have been displaced from the industry, providing training as they pivot to new careers in the clean-energy economy. One recent initiative has employed these workers in capping the region's many abandoned mines.

But at the Ruff Creek training facility, the UMWA Career Centers also runs a highly successful, hands-on mechatronics program, says Clemmy Allen, executive director. The program includes training in hydraulics, pneumatics and automated control, and graduates are being hired, many before they've even completed the course.

Thanks to a $100,000 grant from the Endowments, the UMWA Career Centers was able to raise $750,000 in matching funds in order to receive a $2.9 million award from the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission. (That funding became available through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, adopted to help alleviate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.)

"Without the matching funds, this program would not have ever been possible for the Career Centers," Mr. Allen said.

The Career Centers' work to create bright futures for displaced mineworkers exemplifies the ways in which the emerging clean-energy economy is forging new partnerships, many unimaginable just a decade or so ago.

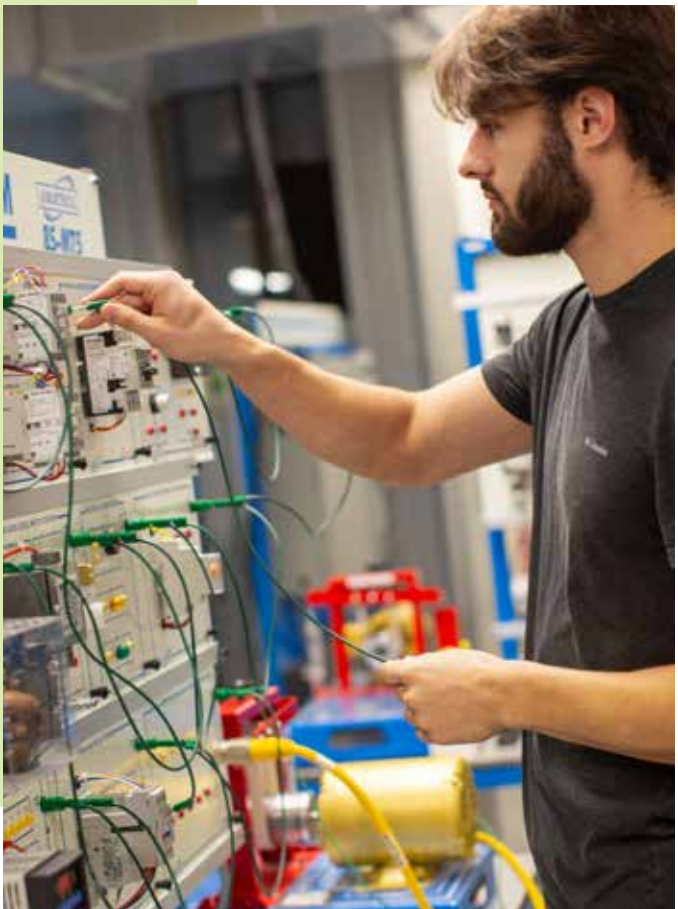
"A lot of the things going on today, 20 or 25 years ago would have been sacrilegious to get involved with [for] some of these groups," said Mr. Allen, citing recent conversations among the Career Centers, the United Mine Workers Association, and manufacturers of electric-car batteries and solar panels about training mineworkers for jobs in these facilities. "Previously there was very little interaction. We're still in the early stages, but the future may bring a partnership with these people."

Andrew McElwaine, vice president of Sustainability for the Endowments, noted that he is now having the kinds of conversations about the viability of clean-energy sources with corporate America and start-up companies that he recalls having in environmental circles more than a decade ago. The landscape is shifting dramatically, he said, making the manufacture of solar panels and electric-vehicle batteries not just environmentally friendly but also potentially profitable.

"We've been in an economic transition in this region since 1979, when the first mills began to close," he said. "Now, long-held economic development aspirations are finally being realized because clean tech and IRA financing are bringing back manufacturing jobs, which is happening for the first time in decades."

> "ESPECIALLY FOR FEDERAL GRANTS, THESE APPLICATIONS NEED TO BE BIGGER, USUALLY INVOLVING MULTIPLE MUNICIPALITIES. LOOKING BEYOND YOUR BOUNDARIES TO HAVE COMPETITIVE APPLICATIONS HAS BEEN REALLY KEY."

Megan Zeigler, chief executive officer, SWPA Municipal Project Hub



Bridget McKenna

Trenten Kobertz, 19, of Richeyville, Pennsylvania, is a student in the mechatronics program at the Ruff Creek campus of United Mine Workers of America Career Centers in Greene County, Pennsylvania. Mr. Kobertz is using an electric motor control learning system designed to help students understand the electric relay control of air conditioning motors in both industrial and residential settings, so that they can design, install, operate and troubleshoot air conditioning motor control circuits.

REIMAGINING APPALACHIA

Based in Bridgeport, West Virginia, ReImagine Appalachia received a $450,000 Endowments grant in 2024 to support its work repurposing shuttered coal plants, among other projects in the Ohio River Valley, which includes parts of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Kentucky as well as West Virginia.

The nonprofit played an important role in shaping the IRA and in educating regional policymakers about the importance of supporting it and the sustainable development priorities of local stakeholders, particularly in West Virginia.

"We really began in 2020 with the goal of making sure that as climate change debates were heating up, Appalachia was at the table. Otherwise, we'd be on the menu," said co-Director Amanda Woodrum, referring to the harm to the region's people and environment that would continue because of extractive energy practices.

In seeking to make sure that the infrastructure package met Appalachian priorities, the group convened a vast array of stakeholders, including those connected with organized labor, racial justice and environmental causes, along with local government leaders.

"By coming together across the four-state region, we created collective leverage and helped turn the conversation into a more productive one by creating a list of, essentially, what Appalachia would need to become a leader in the new clean-energy economy," Ms. Woodrum said. "We helped fuel prosperity across the country, with the result that our lands were damaged and our workers became sick, and so we deserve our fair share."

As with Ms. Zeigler's work with the hub, ReImagine Appalachia works with small communities that have part-time mayors and volunteer city councils that are busy dealing with the latest crises.

"They're wondering, 'What even are my options?' and so there's a lot of support that needs to happen in regions like ours before you start pumping funds in," Ms. Woodrum said. "Otherwise, those funds will just go to the same old political channels."

Obtaining funds from the IRA is just half the job, Ms. Woodrum said. It's imperative to make sure the money is spent the right way so as to ensure that the work keeps going and future investments keep coming.

"Everyone wants sustainable and equitable development, but you have to empower workers to participate, and that takes time," Ms. Woodrum said. "If we truly build out a worker- and community-centered, sustainable, equitable development strategy for coal country, we can turn this region into leaders of the new economy and permanently change the politics around national climate solutions."

Even in the wake of the presidential election results, she noted that the IRA directed a vast amount of its resources toward rural communities, many of them represented by Republican lawmakers who may be reluctant to see the economic gains of those communities undone by repealing the IRA. Finding new and effective ways of talking about IRA-driven successes—and future opportunities—across Appalachia will be a key priority at ReImagine Appalachia's strategy summit in early 2025.

"We got a glimpse of the world we want to live in, and that's hard to take back," said Ms. Woodrum. "And so, we'll keep on keeping on. There's still a lot of opportunity on the table to find the work and do it."



Duane Prokop

U.S. Rep. Summer Lee, (D-Pa.) left, walks with Pittsburgh Gateways Corporation president and CEO Don Evans at the Energy Innovation Center in the city's Hill District in August. Both participated in a Clean Energy Business Roundtable hosted at the center by The Heinz Endowments and Climate Power, the latter of which is an environment-focused, strategic communications organization based in Washington, D.C. Participants discussed western Pennsylvania's role in clean-energy innovation and federal investments in the sector.

Sarah Ralich, senior energy and construction manager at ACTION-Housing Inc., stands in front of Crafton Towers, a 103-unit senior high-rise in Crafton, a borough about 6 miles from Pittsburgh. Ms. Ralich applied for and obtained a $6.18 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to support a full energy-efficiency retrofit of Crafton Towers, which included solar paneling to produce 86% of the building's energy on-site and new, energy-efficient windows. The grant is part of the Inflation Reduction Act-funded Green and Resilient Retrofit Program.



Bridget McKenna

A CONTINUING STORY



WORKING TOGETHER

Sarah Ralich was hired at ACTION-Housing Inc. with a $200,000 grant from the Endowments. She identified, applied for and won a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant worth $6.18 million to support the full energy-efficiency retrofit of Crafton Towers, a 103-unit senior high-rise in Crafton, a borough about 6 miles from Pittsburgh. The grant is part of the IRA-funded Green and Resilient Retrofit Program.

The building has not seen a significant upgrade since it was built in 1974. The retrofit, slated for early 2025, will equip the high-rise with solar paneling that is modeled to produce 86% of the building's energy on-site and new, energy-efficient windows.

That retrofit is among the most dramatic examples of IRA funds supporting energy-efficient renovations that will benefit area residents. It's also an example of the kind of "proof of concept" project that Ms. Ralich, along with partners at the Endowments, hope will only accelerate the ongoing momentum propelling the clean-energy movement.

ACTION-Housing is also part of a Solar for All application that has received funding. The program will deliver affordable and reliable solar power to low-income Pennsylvanians and environmental justice communities. And the group has been working with regional partners to create a single intake form that homeowners and renters can use to request services like heat pump replacements, energy audits and other clean-energy improvements. The goal is to make it easier to take advantage of the many programs available rather than making people seek out assistance from several different organizations.

"As a region, we've all collectively been good at building coalitions and going in on applications together," Ms. Ralich said. "The foundation community has been a big part of organizing meetings. No one is doing things in a vacuum, and it's really helpful because we're not all submitting applications for the same things. Instead, we're working together."

Although the IRA involves a staggering amount of money, once funds are apportioned by region and divided among the legislation's priority areas, the funds disbursed locally are not quite as transformative as they first appear to be, Ms. Ralich pointed out.

"So, we need to all work together," she said, "to get the biggest bang for the buck."

The next year will bring many IRA- and Endowments-supported projects to life. But the change-making impact of the IRA is not close to running its course.

Just as it has taken several years for IRA funds to show up in communities, said Brian Regli of Gov. Shapiro's Office of Critical Investments, it may take time for the nonprofit community to fully appreciate the power of tax credits in the legislation.

"What the legislation is doing is rewarding entrepreneurial risk," he said. "But you've got to do the thing to get the thing."

An organization that wants 30% of the cost of its solar-panel project funded, said Dr. Regli, has to raise funds for the project, and it will then receive a 30% tax credit. Unlike grant applications, which may not be selected for funding, tax credits are noncompetitive and are not capped at a certain dollar amount.

That makes the Endowments' vision, advocacy and support so critical, grantees said. By helping regional municipalities and nonprofit organizations implement their plans for a clean-energy future, The Heinz Endowments is trying to spark the kind of epochal change that the IRA is seeking to promote.

"If you're not helping these organizations do the thing, you're not helping," Dr. Regli said. "And Heinz is helping." **h**

here&there


Joshua Franzos



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 ground-breaking 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.



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."



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.

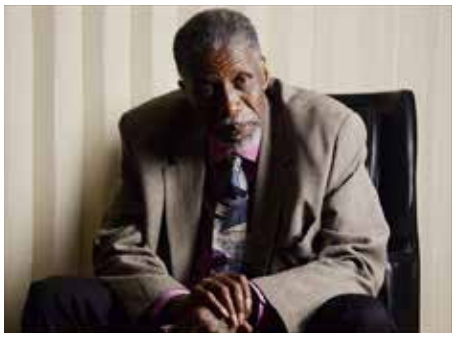
The second report, released in October, showed that service members seeking help in finding civilian jobs often turned to nonprofits due to the lack of assistance provided by the federal government. Despite their critical role, little is known about which nonprofit organizations and employment models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

THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS

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