

here&there



Photo: Joshua Franzos

Heinz Endowments board and staff, shown above, get a lesson in dinosaur anatomy during a tour of the "Dinosaurs in their Time" exhibit at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh. The museum's former Dinosaur Hall, built a century ago, was expanded to house the world-class, \$36 million exhibit. It portrays the diversity of Mesozoic life by placing the dinosaur skeletons in dramatic and scientifically accurate poses among the plant and animal species that shared dinosaurs' environments. The Endowments donated \$4 million in 2003 toward the construction of the exhibit.

Congratulations

At its 94th annual conference in Denver, Colo., last summer, the Governmental Research Association recognized the Pennsylvania Economy League's "IssuesPA 2006" project as the nation's "most effective" state-level educational program. IssuesPA is a non-partisan, statewide awareness project focused on raising the issues critical to Pennsylvania's future. It was initially launched in 2002 around the gubernatorial campaign to provide voters with substantive information about the candidates. By 2006, the project had expanded to include a Web site, www.IssuesPA.net; articles about important issues; polling on these issues; a gubernatorial candidate questionnaire; and a speakers bureau. It also featured a ground-breaking partnership between the Economy League and the state's public television stations that produced a four-part television series on topics facing state policy leaders. IssuesPA 2006 was funded in part by the Endowments, The Pew Charitable Trusts, The Pittsburgh Foundation, the Pennsylvania Public Television Network and the members of the Pennsylvania Economy League.

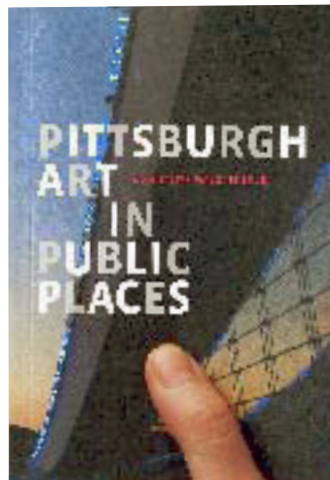
Also recognized last year was "Pittsburgh Art in Public Places," a walking tour booklet, shown below, that described public art in downtown Pittsburgh and was featured last year in PRINT magazine's Regional

Design Annual. The booklet was among 400 graphic design projects selected from more than 20,000 entries from across the United States. Landesberg Design, the firm for *h* magazine, did the graphic work for the guide. Selection for PRINT's annual is one of the major graphic design competitions in the country. The issue was released in November.

BACK TO NATURE

Wal-Mart officials have dropped plans to build a superstore and shopping plaza on the site of the former Dixmont State Hospital property in Kilbuck, north of Pittsburgh. They also have agreed to return the 75 acres to a sloped version of the land's pre-development condition and to plant trees and vegetation.

The decision, announced last summer, ended a five-and-a-half-year dispute with development opponents that became more heated after a massive landslide dumped 300,000 cubic yards of dirt, rock and debris on Route 65 below the site over a year ago. The Endowments provided \$36,000 in support to the grass-roots organization Communities First! that was formed to oppose the Wal-Mart development. Leaders of the group hailed the decision but said they would continue to monitor Wal-Mart's handling of the site.





YOUTH INTERNS

The Endowments' youth philanthropy program expanded last summer to include 22 interns at five organizations, with teams of recent high school graduates placed at the Endowments' offices, United Way of Allegheny County, North Hills Community Outreach, The Forbes Funds and The Pittsburgh Foundation. Each group developed a separate funding opportunity to serve Allegheny County youth and young adults, with grants to local organizations totaling \$154,370.

The interns based at the Endowments, shown above with Children, Youth & Families program officer Wayne Jones, far right, were from left, Louis Finley of Winchester Thurston High School; Kathryn McCaffrey, a junior at Penn State University who served as senior intern coordinator; Adrienne Webb of Schenley High; and Trevor King of North Allegheny High. They reviewed proposals for funding collaborations between community organizations and high school artists to develop public art for local neighborhoods.

The United Way interns—Chelsey McCoy of the Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts, Christopher Carter of Allderdice High, Audra Pettus of Perry Traditional Academy and Mahra Whitelock of Schenley—looked at education and violence-prevention programs for young adults ages 12 to 24.

The Forbes Funds fellows were Alicia Atterberry of the Ellis School, Sydney Blount of Gateway High and Michael Surh of St. George's High in Newport, R.I. They examined programs that support youth leadership development and enhance the capacity of youth leadership organizations.

Jules Coulson of Schenley, Maurisha Trent of Mt. Lebanon High and Susan Carr of North Clarion High were interns at The Pittsburgh Foundation. They reviewed programs for youth in grades three through 12 that were designed to increase literacy rates through reading and creative writing.

And North Hills Community Outreach, an interfaith community service organization in Pittsburgh northern suburbs, had two teams. One group included Katie Pfrommer of North Hills High, Katie Rectenwald of Eden Christian Academy, Theresa Timcheck of North Allegheny and Katie Walzer of Vincentian Academy. They examined programs for youth in kindergarten through grade 12 that support learning, safety and health. On the other team, Christina Binz of Shaler Area High, Scott Sullivan of Deer Lakes High, Monique Wingfield of Avonworth High and Kaitlyn Kirby of North Allegheny looked at programs designed to improve the lives of at-risk youth.

STAFF NEWS The Endowments' recent staff addition is Melanie R. Brown, shown below, who is the new Education program officer. Brown, 26, grew up in Monroeville, a community east of Pittsburgh. She studied secondary education and literature at American University in Washington, D.C. After graduating in 2002, she worked for four years at the SEED—School for Educational Evolution & Development—Foundation's Public Charter School in Washington, where she taught language arts, co-founded the school's musical theater program and led the school's classics program.

Brown left full-time teaching to enroll in a graduate program in arts education at Harvard University, and received a master's of education degree in June.

She replaces Gerry Balbier, who left the Endowments at the beginning of last year to become vice president of innovation programs for the educational technology company Apangea Learning.



Photo: Suelien Fitzsimmons

Langley Clock

Samuel Langley probably wasn't thinking about the artistic value of his work in 1870 when he invented the "Allegheny system" for accurately measuring and disseminating exact time. But the invention by Langley, who was director of the Allegheny Observatory on what today is Pittsburgh's North Side, was the inspiration for New York artist R.M. Fischer's public artwork "Langley Observatory Clock," shown right. The piece was completed last year and stands in Pittsburgh's North Shore Riverfront Park. The Endowments awarded the city's Sports & Exhibition Authority and Allegheny County \$250,000 in 2003 to help support public art in the park.



Photo: Charles Alcorn