

Pittsburgh Is Art is a collaboration of local arts organizations who have gathered to develop a collective voice to share the arts story with Pittsburgh and its visitors.

Pittsburgh's Cultural Legacy

Late-19th- and early-20th-century entrepreneurs, bankers and industrialists such as Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick and Andrew Mellon made their fortunes in Pittsburgh. In addition to amassing great wealth and collections of art, these individuals helped form modern philanthropy and made significant contributions to the cultural infrastructure of Pittsburgh and the United States. Their largess created museums, parks, libraries, and universities in Pittsburgh and elsewhere, and their legacy is seen in the present-day institutions of this city.

Andrew Carnegie (1835–1919) built Carnegie Steel Company, which merged with several other companies to create U.S. Steel in 1901. Carnegie invested much of his fortune in philanthropy and founded such institutions as the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. When he founded the Carnegie Museum of Art in 1895, Andrew Carnegie envisioned a collection consisting of “the Old Masters of tomorrow.” In 1896, he initiated a series of exhibitions of contemporary art and proposed that the museum’s paintings collection be formed through purchases from this series. Carnegie thereby founded what is arguably the first museum of modern art in the United States.

Pennsylvania native Henry Clay Frick (1849–1919) made his fortune producing coke—a coal product used in steel manufacturing. In 1882, he entered into partnership with Andrew Carnegie and became chairman of Carnegie Steel Company. Frick formed one of the finest private collections of art in the world, The Frick Collection in New York. His daughter, Helen Clay Frick (1888–1984), was also an avid art collector. The Frick family’s Pittsburgh home, Clayton, and the surrounding estate opened as a public museum in 1990. The Frick Art & Historical Center houses collections of fine and decorative arts, automobiles, and historic artifacts in multiple venues.

In the early 20th century, Pittsburgh-born banker, industrialist and art collector Andrew W. Mellon (1855–1937) was one of the wealthiest people in the United States. A financial prodigy, Mellon helped finance significant American industrial activity. He donated his substantial art collection, plus \$10 million for construction, to establish the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. in 1937.

Among other important early-20th-century Pittsburgh philanthropists is Roy A. Hunt (1881–1986), a lifelong Alcoa executive, who with his wife Rachel, founded the Hunt Botanical Library at Carnegie Mellon University in 1961 (now the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation). Hunt’s financial support enabled the construction of the university’s central library where the Hunt Institute is still housed.

Pittsburgh, Art and Children

As a child, Andy Warhol took classes at the Carnegie Museum of Art. Gene Kelly and Billy Strayhorn grew up dancing and playing music in the East End section of

**PITTS
BURGH
IS ART**

Pittsburgh and John Edgar Wideman and Annie Dillard spent hours at the Carnegie Library.

Pittsburghers are nurtured early in life with a full array of opportunities to participate in the arts. Fiddlestick concerts at the Pittsburgh Symphony introduce children to classical music in a formal setting. Gateway to the Arts puts artists in the classroom. Tickets for Kids makes sure all children have access to performances and exhibits by providing free tickets. Pittsburgh Center for the Arts is the place for learning new techniques with a wide array of classes and camps for children. And the Children Museum is a Mecca for budding artists and musicians with open access to art materials in the Studio and Workshop exhibits.

Schools play a vital role nurturing the next generation of artists. The Arts Education Collaborative, an advocacy group, works at keeping the arts on the agenda of public education. The new Creative and Performing Arts High School of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, built in downtown Pittsburgh, attracts students who "work hard and dream big". The success of the High School is seen in the graduation rate. A remarkable 100% of the students graduate and 75% go onto college to pursue an artistic life.

Manchester Craftsman's Guild is world renowned for its programs involving youth in the arts. Its founder, Bill Strickland, credits his art experiences in Pittsburgh Public School for giving him direction in life.

Young children are a special focus for arts organizations in Pittsburgh. In spring 2010, the Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children will hold the first ever conference on creativity and young children and the Fred Rogers Center will follow with a conference entitled Creative Curiosity, New Media and Learning.

Pittsburgh is a great place to raise children. Housing is reasonable, public schools are innovative and parks are abundant. But what truly makes Pittsburgh great for families, are its many arts organizations that are committed to making the arts accessible and essential in children's lives.

Filmmaking in Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh has a long history with film and cinema. The world's first Nickelodeon was in Pittsburgh and at one time downtown had a dozen movie theaters operating. Now, there is only one movie in Downtown, and it is named the Harris, after the Nickelodeon's inventor, John P. Harris, who opened the world's first Nickelodeon in 1905.

In the late 1960's, Pittsburgh became a hotbed of experimental filmmaking, attracting greats like Stan Brakhage, Jonas Mekas and Ondine as well as great photographers like Eugene Smith, Weegie and Charles "Teenie" Harris.

Today, Pittsburgh is home to one of the oldest and largest non-profit independent media arts centers in the country, Pittsburgh Filmmakers. Filmmakers was started in 1971 and operates three separate movie theaters as well as 40,000 square foot school and production facility.

Pittsburgh's Contemporary Music

Pittsburgh's contemporary music scene has a strong history to measure up to, from 19th century songwriter Stephen Foster to jazz legends like Earl Hines and

**PITTS
BURGH
IS ART**

Art Blakey. But each new era in music brings forth important and diverse voices from the Steel City.

In 2004, Esquire magazine named the Top 10 "Cities That Rock," and Pittsburgh topped the list, beating out such storied musical hubs as New Orleans, Minneapolis, Denver, and San Francisco. Donnie Iris, who wrote the huge 1970 hit "The Rapper," had a string of rock-oriented top 40 hits in the early 1980s (most notably "Ah! Leah!" in '80) and still performs regularly in the city. Joe Grushecky began as the frontman for the Iron City Houserockers, a band which had enough Bruce Springsteen-esque blue collar grit in their music that Grushecky and Springsteen eventually became friends. The two collaborated on writing the song "Code of Silence" which won Springsteen a 2004 Grammy Award.

That guitar-rock tradition is continued by bands like The Clarks and Rusted Root, which both have current albums getting radio airplay across the U.S. The percussion-laden jam rock of Rusted Root is best-known from their million-selling 1994 album When I Woke, and while The Clarks never fully broke through nationally in their two decades of existence, the quartet can still sell out amphitheatres in Pittsburgh.

With more than 100,000 full-time college students in the area, less mainstream rock sounds find a healthy Pittsburgh audience as well. Internationally renowned political punk rockers Anti-Flag originated here and have kept Pittsburgh their base throughout their nearly 15-year recording history. Meanwhile, the garage rock of Modey Lemon has spread beyond their home base to play at prestigious music festivals from South By Southwest in Austin, Texas, to the U.K.'s Glastonbury.

But though Pittsburgh may be recognized as a city that rocks, other musical genres have been breaking through to a wider audience as well. Wiz Khalifa is an emergent rap star who has been written up by Rolling Stone magazine as an "artist to watch." Similarly, Gregg Gillis is a dance DJ and remixer gaining more acclaim. His latest album (Girl Talk's Feed the Animals) was short-listed by National Public Radio listeners as among the best releases of 2008.

Contemporary Art in Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh has proud history of embracing 'the new' in art, as well as in technology and industry. Contemporaneity has suited this city. So, ironically, these notes on contemporary art reach back to 1896, when Andrew Carnegie established the first ever North American exhibition of international contemporary art, just one year after the first Venice Biennale. The Carnegie International, as it is now known, is housed in the Carnegie Museum of Art, in Oakland. It is still going strong with the 55th exhibit in 2008 (as is its Italian cousin which had its 53rd exhibit this year). Carnegie's aim was to promote international understanding and peace, and to educate and inspire the public, through presenting the best of contemporary art from around the world. This is still the case, and while the International always has a particular 'flavor', due to the interests of the various curators, it always has strong, impactful, new work from all parts of the world.

Another institution with a long-established history of commitment to the contemporary art world is the Mattress Factory. It was founded in 1977 by Barbara Luderowski, who was joined shortly thereafter by Michael Olijnyk, and has been the life-work of these two artists. A globally unique – and globally respected – museum, it focuses on installation art. In addition to permanent

PITTS
BURGH
IS ART

PITTSBURGH IS ART

installations by artists such as James Turrell and Yayoi Kusama, it houses temporary exhibitions as well. These are also formulated in a way that is unusual: each exhibition is the result of residencies, where artists from around the world come and live for months in one of the local properties that have been developed as live-work accommodation by the Mattress Factory, while they develop the work for their exhibition. At the Mattress Factory 'the only rule is that there are no rules,' as Barbara Luderowski is fond of saying; but what is also clear is that the artist is the most important person in the museum's process – another point of difference between it and other museums. Recently, the organization has started a curator in residence program, on the same model as its artists residency program. The Mattress Factory is located in a diverse residential neighborhood on the North Side, where it has had great impact for good.

The third Pittsburgh visual art organization that has an international reputation also has a commitment to contemporary art. While Andy Warhol, the subject of The Andy Warhol Museum, died in 1987, this Pittsburgh native and alum of Carnegie Mellon University has had profound and continuing impact on later generations of artists. The Warhol (as it is known) has a commitment to not only exhibiting Warhol's works, but also to mounting temporary exhibitions of contemporary work from around the world that can trace some influence back to him. There are also strong music series and seasons of live art.

Among the smaller not for profit galleries, the notable ones include Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, in Oakland; Silver Eye Center for Photography in the South Side; FE Gallery in Lawrenceville; and Space and The Wood Street Galleries downtown. All of these have regularly changing exhibitions of local, national, and international artists and lively associated events. The contemporary commercial art gallery scene is not extensive. The main galleries to look out for are Concept, in Regents Square, and James Gallery, in the West End. The serious collectors of cutting edge contemporary art in town still tend to buy from dealers in New York.

The artist-run organizations in Pittsburgh are increasing. A number of small galleries and studios have opened in the Friendship/Garfield area of the Penn Avenue corridor. Anchored by the benign influence of the Pittsburgh Glass Center and the pro-active Penn Arts Initiative for housing artists, the monthly Unblurred is an evening of gallery-hopping and music attracting young artists and their supporters. Out in Braddock township, the enterprising Mayor is trying to rebuild civic pride in his devastated neighborhood (a former steel town) through encouraging young artists to take cheap or free studios. The Unsmoked events in Braddock attract a similar crowd as Unblurred.

Finally, in Pittsburgh a strong and developing relationship between new art and new technology is perhaps inevitable. In 2008, Robot 250 was a collaboration between artists and Carnegie Mellon's Robotics Institute, with robot-facilitated art everywhere from downtown to the parks and streets of the city. The local chapter of Dorkbot ('people doing strange things with electricity') holds its packed meetings in the Brillo Box pub in Lawrenceville; and Carnegie Mellon's Studio for Creative Inquiry holds conferences on such things as Art and Code, and Mobile Phone Art, that attract people from around the world. Whatever the art of the future will be, for sure Pittsburgh artists will be making it.

Pittsburgh's Theater Community

Theatre has played a leading role in Pittsburgh's transformation. Downtown's headliner has been the accomplishments of the Cultural Trust, whose redevelopment of historic stages and an entire neighborhood now attracts audiences from around the region. Pittsburgh CLO, the city's oldest and most

PITTSBURGH IS ART

prestigious producer, brings classic musicals, original Broadway hits, and entertaining cabarets to the Cultural District. The Pittsburgh Public Theater produces an exceptional collection of theatre, from classics to new works, in its gorgeous space designed by Michael Graves. The August Wilson Center for African American Culture recently joined the Cultural District, with its stunning new theatre and galleries honoring the remarkable contributions of Pittsburgh's most significant theatre artist. The Cultural Trust also hosts Bricolage, Pittsburgh Musical Theatre and Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company.

Pittsburgh theatres bring vitality to many neighborhoods beyond downtown. City Theatre attracts playwrights from across the country to premiere their works at the company's intimate stages on the South Side. The New Hazlett Theatre on the North Side and the Kelly-Strayhorn in East Liberty both have rich histories and now house compelling offerings. Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre fits perfectly amid Oakland's academic institutions. Quantum Theatre finds adventure and innovation by seeking new and unexpected locations for every production.

The Pittsburgh theater community thrives in part thanks to remarkable theatre training programs at the area's universities. Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama has trained innumerable significant theatre artists, not to mention leaders in film and television. Point Park University and its resident professional company, the Pittsburgh Playhouse, are particularly noted for developing musical theatre talent. The University of Pittsburgh not only houses Pitt Repertory Theatre, but hosts Kuntu Repertory Theatre, our region's leading African-American company.

Pittsburgh's theatre traditions run deep in our educational system and our community. The Gene Kelly Awards, led by the Pittsburgh CLO, celebrate achievement by students in high school musicals throughout the region, and have recently been used as a model for the National High School Musical Theater Awards and the first annual Jimmy Awards in New York. Prime Stage and Gemini Children's Theater produce plays that serve area students. The region also boasts a remarkable amount of community theatres. By originating new works, by training future artists, and by bringing people together, Pittsburgh theatres play an important role in the transformation and vitality of our region.

Pittsburgh and Its Architecture

Pittsburgh is a beautiful city set at the confluence of two rivers, which form the Ohio River. Thanks to the foresight of our leaders, who insisted on placing our largest buildings in the back of our Golden Triangle, the city steps back graciously from "the Point". Surrounding hillsides, too steep to build on, remain green and tree covered with pockets of housing that cling with precarious charm. Pittsburgh, not only beautiful, is truly a well-designed city, transformed by its architecture that respects history and topography, while embracing technology.

Architecture is a marriage of design and science. Pittsburgh is a city, which has been transformed by its design and the science of building. The physical design of a place – through elements such as proportion and scale, color and texture, form and function – determines the experience. When walking through a building or viewing it from a distance, are you inspired, comforted, or intimidated? Physical design can evoke emotional responses, to which only a particular place can impart. Livable cities, like Pittsburgh, are the culmination of thousands of these nuances, and, when done well, make us feel good about the places where we live, work, and play.

PITTSBURGH IS ART

Pittsburgh is a collection of neighborhoods, which mostly began as ethnic communities and remain distinct because of isolating topography. In recent years they have been transformed by new housing and amenities and have been enhanced by the reclamation of our riverfronts. The Lower Hill District boasts a new arena under construction but was already largely transformed by a mixed income housing project Crawford Square which helped knit the community into downtown. The Northside is seeing tremendous growth as a family centered area anchored by the Children's Museum, which won a notional design award for its highly successful renovation.

Our most visited neighborhood is the Golden Triangle, home to many corporate headquarters in the mid 19th century. Architectural design was a way for many corporations, proud of their contributions to the economic engine of the US, to make bold statements of their presence. Their selection of building materials spoke to the industry that was housed within. For instance, Alcoa chose the very durable and sturdy aluminum for their headquarters now the Regional Enterprise Tower. US Steel obviously selected steel and the PPG building became a series of glass towers. Significant architects with buildings in downtown Pittsburgh include H. H. Richardson, Henry Hornbostel, Daniel Burnham, Harrison & Abramovitz, and Philip Johnson.

As the science of building has evolved more emphasis has been given to the greening of buildings. These efforts are bolstered by a body of research knowledge from the Intelligent Workplace at Carnegie Mellon University, which studies the science of building systems and the impact of the material choices. The David L. Lawrence Convention Center led the wave of new greener convention centers with innovative day lighting and wastewater recycling systems.

Pittsburgh's architecture illustrates the story of a changing city. As we have transformed from a city with an industrial economy to a knowledge center, we are reclaiming our neighborhoods and our riverfronts, building green and designing a most welcoming and livable city.

Dance in Pittsburgh

At the turn of the 20th century, modern dance pioneer Martha Graham was growing up on Pittsburgh's North Shore while the local dance scene ironically favored the upbeat rhythms of the polka and the square dance. Today that gap has been filled with a widely diverse and energetic variety of forms.

The ethnic traditions of immigrants who arrived at the confluence of the three rivers is still passed on today through the Duquesne University Tamburitzans and organizations that have formed numerous heritage sites. In the meantime, the polka went on to become Pennsylvania's state dance.

Concert dance had a belated start in comparison with the other community art forms like theater and classical music, although local dancer Karl Heinrich suggested a Pittsburgh Civic Ballet as early as 1926 in *Musical Forecast* magazine and Genevieve Jones launched a platform for modern dance in the 1930's. They and other pioneers like Frank Eckl, Jr., Charlotte Mady, Francis Mayville and Mario Melodia laid the groundwork for today's Pittsburgh concert dance scene, which finally arrived on the heels of the influential Ford Foundation dance grants in 1963.

Spurred on by a growing national interest in the art form, two leading organizations simultaneously took root in 1969 with the establishment of the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, now one of the top companies in the United States,

and Pittsburgh Dance Council, which initially encouraged the growth of the three new companies. Although Janet Gillespie and Company is now defunct, Pittsburgh Black Theatre Dance Ensemble has recently been resurrected and Dance Alloy Theater still reigns as the oldest of the modern dance companies.

Through those early efforts of the Dance Council, Pittsburgh now has a burgeoning contemporary dance scene, among them Attack Theatre, Bodiography, MillerDance and The Pillow Project. They not only perform in a variety of venues and outdoor locations, but have also reached out to form innovative collaborations with other arts groups. Besides the Dance Council, presenting organizations like the August Wilson Center for African American Culture, the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater and the New Hazlett Theater not only foster local talents, but also enrich Pittsburgh dance with touring companies.

The Pittsburgh area has become a hothouse for young dance talent, represented by nationally recognized programs at Point Park University and Slippery Rock University and a number of professionally-oriented studios that are working to raise the standards of dance for future generations.