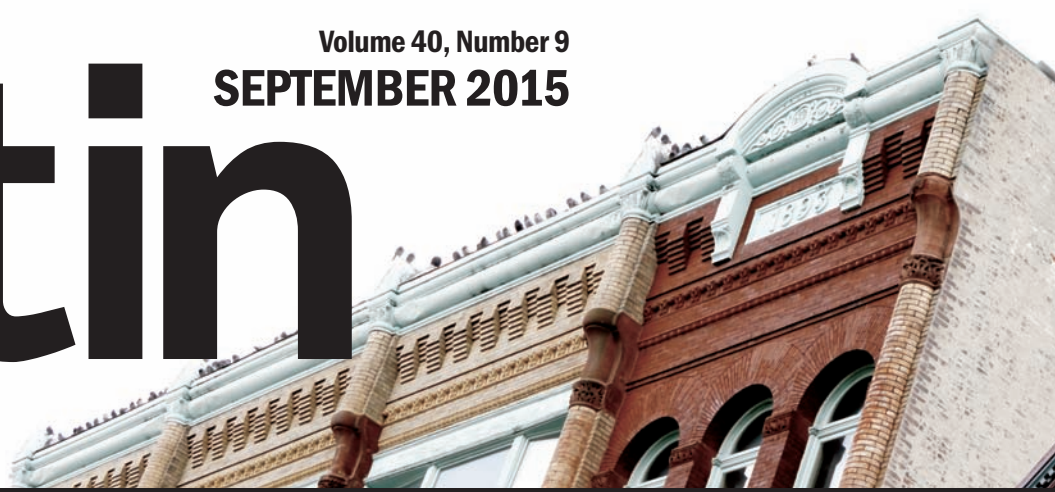


the Bulletin

Volume 40, Number 9
SEPTEMBER 2015

Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty,
Lawrenceville, and Stanton Heights Since 1975



Community organizes to save local church from demolition

By Thea Young *Bulletin Contributor*

Bloomfield - In an empty old church surrounded by the hustle and bustle of new commerce, enormous stained glass windows continue inviting sunlight to the altar, beckoning what many congregants hope is a brighter future for their beloved building.

Albright Community United Methodist Church (486 S. Graham St.) retains a very active congregation, despite the fact that members have been forced to hold their services under umbrellas out on the front lawn. Considering the congregation's storied history, such fervent devotion comes as no surprise. In 1843, the congregation established its original Downtown location as the Zion Church of Pittsburgh of the Evangelical Association.

When they moved to a new church building (designed by local architect Chancey W. Hodgdon) on S. Graham St. in 1906, congregants were happy to worship far from the noise and pollution of Downtown Pittsburgh. Zion soon became the "mother church" for other congregations in Lawrenceville and Stanton Heights.

See **Albright Church** | page 6



ABOVE: Radishes, bumble bees, and a cityscape decorate the new mosaic sign welcoming visitors to Garfield Community Farm (Wicklow and Columbo Sts.). New amenities, like a labyrinth and picnic pavilion, have been incorporated to transform the farm into a community gathering space while retaining its original gardening function. Read more on page 10. Photo courtesy of John Creasy.

Parents ask what Pittsburgh Public Schools' word is worth

By Andrew McKeon *The Bulletin*

Pittsburgh - Questions hung in the air on August 17 as public-school parents gathered at the Jewish Community Center (5738 Forbes Ave.) in Squirrel Hill; they wanted some answers about

See **Back-to-School forum** | page 3

3

All aboard the fast track at The Neighborhood Academy

By Jeanette Lahm *The Neighborhood Academy*

Stanton Heights - In 2001, when The Neighborhood Academy (709 N. Aiken Ave.) first opened its doors in Stanton Heights, many local residents believed it to be a remedial school for

See **Neighborhood Academy** | page 4

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ABOVE: Stanton Heights residents and green committee members join Councilwoman Deb Gross (third from left), Rep. Dom Costa (second from right), and Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association President Jessica Varone (second from left) at a ribbon cutting for the neighborhood's new gateway sign. Photo by Ed Geiger.

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the Bulletin

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PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

By Aggie Brose Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Area citizens can now link their personal and business security camera systems into the broader camera network surveyed by Zone 5 Police. Anyone interested in becoming part of the surveillance network can email Aggie@bloomfield-garfield.org or call 412-441-6950 (ext. 15). Although officers lack the resources to actively monitor all of these local cameras, they rely upon the information obtained through neighborhood cooperation to assist them with ongoing investigations.

Zone 5 police have recently reported multiple cases involving copper stolen from local homes. Homeowners and tenants are encouraged to be vigilant, maintain home exterior lighting, and call 911 to report vehicles transporting stolen gutters or copper pipe.

On August 12, Jehran Johnson of Garfield was arrested on the 5400 block of Broad St. Johnson was charged with felony firearms violations, receiving stolen property, possession of a small amount of marijuana, attempted escape, and resisting arrest. Officers investigated Johnson’s vehicle after sighting a small amount of marijuana in the cup-holder. ♦

September meeting scheduled to update Garfield plan

By Rick Swartz Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation is hosting a community meeting on Monday, Sept. 21, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to provide an opportunity for neighborhood residents to weigh in on updating the “Garfield 2030” housing and land-use plan.

Adopted in 2010, the twenty-year plan was intended to guide how future development would unfold in the residential area of Garfield. Goals and objectives were put in place to address housing, open space, recreation amenities, and infrastructure for the greater Garfield community.

The meeting will be held at the Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Avenue, in Garfield. A light dinner will be provided, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Recreation activities will be available for children on the lower level of the center.

To view the current Garfield 2030 plan, visit the BGC’s website at www.bloomfield-garfield.org. For any further questions, please contact Aggie Brose at 412-441-6950, ext. 15, or at aggie@bloomfield-garfield.org. ♦

The time has come to look at updating GARFIELD’s 2030 PLAN
It’s the neighborhood’s plan for housing and land use.

- Bring your ideas on Monday, September 21st, 6:00 pm, to
- BGC Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Avenue at Dearborn St.
 - Light dinner will be served at 5:30 pm
 - Recreation activities for children will be provided downstairs



For more details contact Aggie Brose, Deputy Director, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation 412-441-6950 ext. 15, aggie@bloomfield-garfield.org

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CALLING ALL JOB SEEKERS!

Aldi, Inc. is starting the hiring process for employees to work at its new grocery store at 5200 Penn Ave when it opens later this fall.

On **Sept. 3**, at 6 p.m. at the Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.), Aldi representatives will share with prospective job seekers the many employment opportunities available at the new store, and what it might be like to work for Aldi. The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center are hosting this event to give East End residents a first-hand look at what the hiring process.

In order to RSVP, please call **412-465-0425**.

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Homebuyer Education Workshop

Come join Neighborworks and PNC Bank at the BGC Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.) on **Sept. 19** (from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.) for a **free** presentation about the steps renters need to take to get on the path to homeownership. Lunch and refreshments will be provided for those in attendance. Guests should register by calling **412-281-9773** or visiting <http://nwwpa.org>.

the Bulletin

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Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty, Lawrenceville, and Stanton Heights Since 1975 with the mission of reporting on activities affecting those communities and offering an opportunity for residents to express opinions and exchange ideas.

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The deadline for the October issue is **Friday, September 18**.

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Back-to-School forum from page 1

the short and long-term future of their children's education at Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS). As attendees found their seats at the back-to-school forum (hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh), a multitude of issues - not least of which was the ongoing dispute over teacher contracts - sparked a discussion where typically there is only warm chatter.

With school just weeks away from starting, PPS Superintendent Dr. Linda Lane remained tight-lipped about efforts to secure new teacher contracts. "The best I can say is that we're continuing to meet and we're continuing to talk," she relented. Although this was not the answer many parents in attendance wanted to hear, it was the best they would get on the subject. As of press time, PPS had yet to reach a new agreement with the teachers' union.

Before Dr. Lane turned the podium over to Saleem Ghubril, executive director of The Pittsburgh Promise, she addressed the looming shortage of bus drivers heading into the school year. "One of the biggest

concerns for us is the bus driver shortage, the same thing that happened last year," Dr. Lane said. "So, if you know anyone," she continued, pretending to solicit references for new bus drivers.

Ghubril lightened the pensive mood somewhat with his response to Dr. Lane's mock request. "By the way, I paid for my college education by driving a sixty-six passenger, yellow school bus," he admitted. "Depending on how things go tonight, I may need that job again," Ghubril said. "Sign me up."

Once the laughter died down, things got serious as Ghubril relayed the news that nobody wanted to hear: The Pittsburgh Promise is capping scholarships for future PPS graduates and restructuring benefits for all students.

According to a July statement released by The Pittsburgh Promise, "Starting with the class of 2017, The Promise will return to its original structure of paying only for tuition and fees (not room and board), and reducing the annual maximum scholarship

award to \$7,500 or \$30,000 over four years." Ghubril defended The Promise's decision by enumerating the available options and inevitable consequences, dismissing the idea of reducing the "spend per student" in order to serve more youths.

"This is not a cost-saving method," he proclaimed. "This is about ensuring that kindergartners this year will have a scholarship waiting for them when they graduate in 2028." Parents understood the logic, but found it hard to reckon with the idea of a third grader receiving less scholarship support than their sixth grade sibling.

The Promise, which has increased graduation rates by 15% since it was founded in 2007, seeks to provide young Pittsburghers with a

steady foundation for college. African-American female students currently make up the largest cohort of PPS graduates. Unfortunately, the numbers matriculating to college could be subject to change, thanks to the Promise's change of plans.

"It grieves me that we have to make this change, and that this change will be a hardship for some parents," Ghubril said. "But the data is the data and the story is the story." ♦

BELOW: A frustrated parent voices concerns about the Pittsburgh Promise scholarship program during an August 17 Back-to-School Forum at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh (5738 Forbes Ave.) in Squirrel Hill. Pittsburgh Public Schools fielded questions about teacher contracts and funding, among other things. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



Neighborhood Academy *from page 1*

delinquent students. This presumption could not be further from the truth.

The Neighborhood Academy is a fully accredited, independent, faith-based, college-preparatory school designed specifically to meet the needs of low-income youth. Its staff is dedicated to developing student's minds, bodies, and spirits to help them break the cycle of generational poverty holding them captive.

Nearly fifteen years since it was founded by Jodie Moore and Rev. Tom Johnson, the academy now boasts a 100% matriculation rate, claiming that every one of its gradu-

ates has gone to enroll in four-year colleges or universities.

Meeting years ago at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Moore and Johnson bemoaned the psychosocial burdens of poverty that weighed so heavily on young students. They began working together to help students with their schoolwork in the Larimer Avenue Youth Club, but soon realized that most middle school students could well be consigned to the grim fate of never leaving their neighborhoods if they failed school.

Moore and Johnson believed that if these

same youths could be immersed in a year-round, caring environment with high expectations, they could grow up to lead fulfilling lives. With generous support from pioneering community members, their vision evolved into The Neighborhood Academy.

Maintaining a ten-to-one student/teacher ratio, the school is small by design, currently serving only eighth through twelfth-graders. Its total enrollment is usually no more than 110 to 120 students per year. Plans to add sixth and seventh-grade curricula would expand the annual enrollment to almost 160 students.

For eleven months of the year, staff run a twelve-hour school day complete with college-preparatory curriculum, career trainings, and after-school programming. Students receive transportation to and

from school, individual counseling, and three square meals a day.

The academy provides exposure to the world of higher education by taking kids on numerous campus tours while also preparing them for the college application process and challenging entrance exams. Scholarship support is available for all students and recruiting for the 2016-17 school year is already underway.

Spaces fill up quickly, according to Moore, so interested families should make haste in contacting alumna/student recruiter Shannon Prentiss by phone (412-362-2001, ext. 112) or email (shannon.prentiss@theneighborhoodacademy.org). Those interested in donating time or talents can learn more at <http://theneighborhoodacademy.org>. ♦



ABOVE: Graduates from the Neighborhood Academy (709 N. Aiken Ave.) proudly display their diplomas as they begin pursuing college plans. Every single graduate from the academy goes on to four-year colleges and universities. Photo by Alexander Denmarsh.

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Young summers in Pittsburgh: a photo retrospective

BELOW: At the National Night Out celebration in Garfield on August 4, children stood still long enough to get their faces, arms, and hands painted. Many kids were too busy visiting the fire truck, playing at Nelson Mandela Peace Park, and dancing around as deejays Jay Malls and Nick Nice spun records. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



AT LEFT: Students from the Summer Dreamers program hoist a hand-painted rendering of their goals and achievements at the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) (5321 Penn Ave.) on August 14. The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation hosted an end-of-summer celebration - complete with ice cream and balloons - for participants in its Learn & Earn summer youth employment program. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

BELOW: Kids of all ages picked from an array of free backpacks during a Back-to-School Bash on Saturday, August 8 at Lawrenceville's Arsenal Park. Organized by Encounter Church and a number of generous sponsors, the event provided students with much-needed school supplies for the coming year. Photo by Brandon Kresson.



ABOVE: Neighborhood Learning Alliance's Tech Warriors get up close and personal with some space-age, space-tested robotics equipment during an August 18 trip to Astrobotic Technology Inc. (2515 Liberty Ave.) in the Strip District. Photo courtesy of Zia Meyer.



ABOVE: Books bring a smile to a young reader at 5456 Rosetta St., where a Little Free Library designed by Liam McLane has been installed in conjunction with ongoing initiatives to spruce up Garfield's Kite Hill Park. Photo courtesy of Gary Cirrincione.

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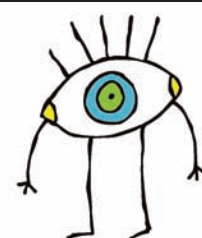
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Albright Church *from page 1*

Now, well more than a century since it was founded and a few decades since it changed names, Albright faces an uncertain future. The church sustained water damage in November 2013 that has since halted worship services and left the building vacant.

Local real estate firm Ross Development Co. is purchasing the property and has filed an application with the City for a special exception, and several variances, to demolish the church and develop a new retail facility in its place. Albright's faithful are responding with coordinated efforts to save the church; at the very least, most parishioners hope to ensure that the building is preserved and maintained as an asset to the community.

At an August 20 public hearing, concerned residents and neighborhood organizations joined parishioners to voice their concerns about the site's proposed redevelopment. As lifelong congregant Abass Kamara put it, "site ownership and the role of Ross Development are points of controversy."

Albright is under the governance of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of United Methodist Churches, a religious organization that negotiated the sale of the building and adjoining land parcel. However, the City's Zoning Board of Adjustment has the final say on developers' plans to build a coffee shop with twenty-seven parking spaces.

The proposal, which calls for a drive-thru window, requires a special exception from

the Pittsburgh Zoning Ordinance. The church's steering committee hopes this exception will give the zoning board enough time to consider alternative options in rendering its decision before an October deadline.

Kamara's sister, Taafoi Kamara, and Lindsay Patross - both members of the steering committee - are encouraging a dialogue about the site's history, surrounding community, and future plans.

Ms. Patross revealed that Friends of Albright was inspired by the efforts of the Union Project (801 N. Negley Ave.), a church-turned-community space in Highland Park. "Communities can now save building and rescue them as dynamic public spaces," she said.

Volunteers have spent recent weeks cleaning the building's interior, repairing exterior features, and maintaining church grounds. "[Congregants] are united in their desire to keep Albright 'Albright,' and have been consistent in their position," Ms. Kamara emphasized.

In order to raise public awareness about Albright's current situation, the Friends of Albright hosted a July 26 block party in front of the church. Patross wants to spread the word that the congregation plans to keep gathering for Sunday service, albeit an outdoor gathering at nearby Morrow Park (Liberty Ave. and Baum Blvd.). She looks forward to 2016 with a goal of, "helping Albright thrive seven days a week," at its historic S. Graham St. location.

Congregants hope to be home for the holidays this year; they push to rehabilitate the building while the fate of their house of worship remains unclear. For more than forty years, Albright has provided an open-to-the-public Thanksgiving dinner and this Wednesday, November 25 will be no different. "We want to keep our eye on that prize of being part of the community," Ms. Kamara said.

Readers interested in volunteering are encouraged to visit <http://AlbrightPgh.com>. Information is also available via Facebook on the Save Albright United Methodist Church page and on Twitter (@AlbrightPgh). ♦



AT LEFT: Clouds loom over the 109 year-old church building that houses the Albright Community United Methodist congregation. A local real estate firm is keen on purchasing the property at 486 S. Graham St. in order to bulldoze the church and build a coffee shop in its place. Plans calling for a drive-thru window require a special exception to the Pittsburgh Zoning Ordinance. As of press time, the exception was still under consideration by the City's zoning board. Photo courtesy of Friends of Albright.



ABOVE: Albright's parishioners miss the sunlight streaming through stained glass in their beloved old house of worship at 486 S. Graham St. Photo courtesy of Friends of Albright.

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Honoring father's art, daughter opens Lawrenceville home for Oct. 4 tour

By Kate Bayer *Bulletin Contributor*

Visitors to this year's Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour will have a unique opportunity to view the works of Dr. Seigle Parks, a "renaissance man" skilled in both medicine and the arts. Dr. Parks' artworks will be on display at the home of his daughter, Margaret Parks, during the house tour on Oct. 4.

When recently looking at houses for sale in the Lawrenceville neighborhood, Ms. Parks wanted a home that could properly showcase her father's prolific talents. His work is the first thing visitors see when crossing the threshold; paintings and sculptures continue to figure prominently throughout the rest of the household.

Dr. Parks was a third-generation general practitioner from Charleston, West Virginia whose artistic interests emerged when he began learning how to frame pictures while in his mid-fifties. He quickly moved from this practical approach towards a more creative art experience, using multiple media to better express himself.

The artist's early pencil sketches captured various scenes around Charleston and soon his focus began to widen as he travelled with his wife, sketching some of the most well-known architecture in Europe. His work in water colors - ocean scenes, pastoral landscapes, and quaint European settings - line the walls of his daughter's home.

At the age of fifty-three, Dr. Parks enrolled in the art program at West Virginia State College, where he later graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the age of seventy-one. During his studies there, the elderly artist developed a passion for sculpting. He became so passionate about sculpture and wood-working that he spent the last fifteen years of his life attempting to sculpt and paint every indigenous hen and drake in North America.

Ms. Parks has quite a few of his duck sculptures, of all shapes and sizes, in her collection. Her father's precise carving marks define the ducks' feathers, colored to bring about a life-like appearance; many of them even appear to be caught in the act of listening.

The works are such detailed representations of each species that the West Virginia Forestry Department asked for, and received, a complete set of his ducks. Dr. Parks gave some of his sculptures away to family and friends because he relished in the act of sharing his art with others.

Those interested in seeing some of Dr. Parks' works will now be able to experience them firsthand on Sunday, Oct. 4 - from noon until 5 p.m. - as Ms. Parks opens her doors for the annual Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour (organized by the Lawrenceville Hospitality Association and sponsored by the Children's Hospital of UPMC).

More information can be obtained on their website at <http://lha15201.org>. Tickets can be purchased in advance at these Lawrenceville locations: Gallery on 43rd St. (187 43rd St.), Dandelions (4108 Butler St.), City Grows (5208 Butler St.), Coca Café (3811 Butler St.), and Pavement (3629 Butler St.). ♦



ABOVE: Dr. Seigle Parks' watercolor landscapes of his old West Virginia stomping grounds have found a new home in Lawrenceville with his daughter, Margaret Parks. Sketches, paintings, and sculptures created by Dr. Parks will be on display during the annual Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour on Oct. 4. Image courtesy of Kate Bayer.

Neighborhood FOCUS

Bloomfield athletes inducted into Hall

By **Dick Romano** *Bloomfield Youth Athletic Association, father of Rick Romano*

Founded in 1975, the Bloomfield Sports Hall of Fame honors men and women whose careers and exploits as players, coaches, managers, referees, and sponsors have uplifted the Bloomfield community. A wall of plaques commemorating the efforts of these men and women stands tall inside the WesBanco, Inc. bank at 4719 Liberty Ave. in Bloomfield. Maintained by the Bloomfield Youth Athletic Association, the Hall welcomed two new inductees to enjoy the recognition they deserve.

Bob Donatelli and Rick Romano grew up playing baseball together in Bloomfield. As kids, all they could ever dream of was playing in the major leagues one day. Both friends pursued their dreams by way of colt baseball, pony league, and American Legion little leagues - as well as other neighborhood teams.

As a pitcher and infielder in high school, Donatelli was outstanding. He had great defensive ability and a strong throwing arm, not to mention power hitting. In 1964, he pitched a no-hit, sixteen strikeout performance. Most Valuable Player a few times over, Donatelli also won a number of awards for highest batting average and best pitcher. On top of that, he even played varsity basketball for St. Joseph's in Bloomfield.



ABOVE: The late Rick Romano grew up playing baseball in the back-alleys of Bloomfield. In his pursuit of the big leagues, he achieved pitching triumphs that have earned him a posthumous place in the Bloomfield Sports Hall of Fame. Photo courtesy of Dick Romano.

Not long before Romano passed away last year on Sept. 10, he wrote his father a letter that reads, "My best memories were the times we shared down at the field, over sandwiches and pop, in between ballgames."

— Dick Romano

father of Bloomfield Hall-of-Famer Rick Romano



ABOVE: Bloomfield Hall of Fame inductee Bob Donatelli (right) accepts his honorary plaque from Dick Romano, founder and president of the Bloomfield Youth Athletic Association, during a ceremony at the Bloomfield bank branch of Wesbanco, Inc. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

Romano grew up with a glove in his hand. From the age of seven, he began playing catch with his father every evening and soon developed into an ace pitcher. Pitching two no-hitters in, one of which was during an all-star game, Romano earned many little league baseball trophies.

After high school, he kept his focus on playing big league baseball and even enjoyed opportunities to try out for two professional ball clubs: the Kansas City Royals and the Chicago Cubs. He then spent a month in the San Diego Padres' farm system before getting an unexpected tryout with the San Francisco Giants when the team was in town to face the Pittsburgh Pirates.

When the Giants' manager asked if he would like to pitch to Willie Mays during batting practice, the young Bloomfield pitcher said, "Yes, please." Not long before Romano passed away last year on Sept. 10, he wrote his father a letter that reads, "My best memories were the times we shared down at the field, over sandwiches and pop, in between ballgames."

Donatelli and Romano truly embody what it means to be an exceptional athlete in Bloomfield. The Hall wishes to preserve their legacy for generations to come. ♦



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Bleier's one-man play to benefit Children's

By Andrew McKeon *The Bulletin*

Downtown - Professional athletes are more dynamic than the in-game feats and post-game soundbytes that often define their legacy. Few ever get the chance to tell their life story. Even fewer get to tell it like legendary Pittsburgh Steelers halfback, Rocky Bleier, who takes the stage at Heinz Hall (600 Penn Ave.) on September 15 for a "one-night only" performance.

The Play with Rocky Bleier will provide a window into Bleier's storied football career while also taking audiences into his life off the field, most notably his war-time experiences in Vietnam and his advocacy for veterans' rights. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette sportswriter Gene Collier found the four-time Super Bowl winner's personal narrative to be more than script-worthy.

As their conversations became more collaborative, Collier - who also wrote the *The Chief* (a portrait of beloved Steelers owner Art Rooney) - made plans to create a play with Bleier as the star of the show.

Co-produced by Thomas Tull, Alba Tull, and Robert Citrone, *The Play* is donating proceeds to the Children's Hospital Foundation of Pittsburgh. On account of the subject matter, and the play's charitable partnership, former Steelers defensive lineman Chris Hoke was happy to become an executive producer for the first time.

"When my son was four years old, he had open heart surgery at Children's Hospital," Hoke told *The Bulletin*. "The service and the professionalism that doctors showed

there was, in my opinion, second to none." It is no wonder that Hoke, who lives in the Pittsburgh area, is glad to see the hospital having a positive impact on other families, and neighborhoods. "It has really helped jumpstart the revitalization of Lawrenceville and Bloomfield," he said.

Bearing two Super Bowl rings as he darts around town for promotional events, Hoke is not your average producer but, then again, *The Play* is not your average play. Most production occurs offstage, well before showtime because, as Hoke mentioned, "It's a one man show and that one man is Rocky Bleier."

"We all know that Rock had a unique life," he said. "After surviving Vietnam as a wounded warrior, it took a lot of fight for Rock to get back to playing with the Steelers. It took a lot to become such an integral part of four championship teams."

Yet, Hoke understands the limitations of football as a cultural identity, especially in Pittsburgh. He hopes that more arts initiatives and events like *The Play* can help the city grow. "We've always been known for the success of the Steelers, but now it's time for people to know that our city has a lot more to offer."

Preceded by a "Roast of Rocky Bleier" in the afternoon, *The Play* opens for one night only at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 15. Tickets are available at <http://www.pittsburgh-symphony.org/production/46700/the-play-with-rocky-bleier>. ♦

SHOWCASE OF THE MONTH

BELOW: Impressive stone and brick features frame this showcase property at 1382 Woodbine St. in Stanton Heights. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



By Aggie Brose Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Stanton Heights - *The Bulletin's* showcase property of the month is at 1382 Woodbine St. in Stanton Heights. According to the Allegheny County real estate website, the recorded owner is Charles C. Lukehart, who acquired the property in October 1995.

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) staff visited the property and found it to be a very well-maintained complement to the attractive neighborhood around it.

The front steps are framed by a sandstone wall with pillars, lanterns, and a wrought-iron gate. The front door is accented with beautiful flower arrangements and bushes that have been trimmed with care. It is a picture-perfect house.

Previously a resident of Edgewood, Lukehart bought his beautiful Woodbine home twenty years ago because he liked the neighborhood. BGC staff wish to thank Mr. Lukehart for choosing to live and invest in Stanton Heights, and for being such an attentive homeowner. ♦

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Farm grows sense of community in Garfield

By Rev. John Creasy Associate Pastor, Open Door Church

BELOW: A new labyrinth winds its way through fully-functional herb gardens at Garfield Community Farm (Wicklow and Columbo Sts.) Photo by Stephanie Bell.



Garfield – Standing atop the hill on nearly three acres of land near the water tower, at the corner of Wicklow and Columbo Sts. – a tiled mosaic sign welcomes visitors to the Garfield Community Farm. Local artist Anna Duchane designed the festive marquee to showcase the growth potential of an urban garden as both a food source and a community gathering place.

By partnering with local restaurants and operating a farm-stand at Valley View Presbyterian Church (601 N. Aiken Ave.), the Garfield Community Farm provides organic produce to neighbors far and wide. The farm maintains a mission to serve its Garfield neighborhood by offering a special CSA for residents living less than a mile away.

But the farm's mission, conceived in 2008, now goes beyond just fruits and vegetables. Thanks to generous support from Westminster Presbyterian Church (2040 Washington Rd.) and a grant from the Abbey of the Arts, the farm can now

expand its focus to develop more community gathering spaces on site. Friendship resident Stephanie Bell's ecological re-design helped transform an herb garden into a place for meditation, prayer, and rest – without sacrificing any agricultural function.

The new garden features a labyrinthine path for visitors of all ages; an adjoining picnic pavilion now offers more seating space to relax and enjoy the natural environment. Staffers at the Garfield

Community Farm plan to add more perennials and garden beds around the pavilion, enhancing the garden's aesthetic while increasing its growing capacities.

Visitors can expect to meet AJ Bisesi, the farm's director of community outreach, as she tends to the herb garden and connects with other green-thumbs. Because agricultural education is critical to its mission, the farm conducts tours, field trips, and classes on organic gardening; students can use the farm as their laboratory by practicing with permaculture and exploring the solar-paneled bio-shelter.

Neighbors looking for some gardening advice – or even just a nice place to picnic – are encouraged to stop by and enjoy the natural wonders right in their backyard. More information about is available at <http://garfieldfarm.com>, as well as on Facebook via the Garfield Community Farm page and Instagram (@garfieldcommunityfarm). ♦

Global group links area youths with better jobs

By Dean Matthews Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center

Garfield - Designed by leading educators and employers, "Generation" is a global non-profit focused on connecting ambitious young adults with good jobs. This fall, the Generation initiative is helping young Pittsburghers fast-track into careers in hospitality and retail.

Curriculum manager Craig Michalski works to help eligible participants (between the ages of eighteen and twenty-nine) develop the skills they need to prepare for the first day on the job. "Retail stores and hotels quickly promote high achievers who have the drive to be successful," he said. "Generation equips students with both the professional and interpersonal skills they need to succeed in customer service jobs."

On Tuesday, September 8, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), will host two informational sessions – one at 2 p.m. and one at 7 p.m. – on this initiative at the BGC Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.). "Generation will provide its participants with everything they should need to have a real advantage entering the workforce," according to Rick Flanagan, the BGC's youth development director.

September 28 is the kick-off to the Generation initiative's free fall course, which will provide thirty-five to fifty students with a monthly living stipend. Applications are now being accepted at <http://generationinitiative.org/RetailUSA>. Eligibility for the program is contingent on participants being able to lift forty pounds, pass a drug screening and criminal background check, and possess a high school diploma or GED equivalent. For more information, visit <http://generationinitiative.org/contact/>. ♦

Arts-in-Motion festival kicks into high gear



AT LEFT: On Saturday, Sept. 19, Garfield plays host to the annual Arts-in-Motion festival, where local artists exhibit their talents with one-of-a-kind performances. The festival will take place from noon until 6 p.m. at the corner of Penn and N. Atlantic Aves. Families are encouraged to bring their kids to share in the festivities. Neighborhood creatives from Most Wanted Fine Art will have their custom-painted art-cars on hand for all to enjoy. Graphic courtesy of Most Wanted Fine Art.



AT RIGHT: It was art-cars galore at last year's Arts-in-Motion festival. Participating artists will have another chance to gussy up their favorite vehicles at this year's festival in Garfield. Musicians, along with food and craft vendors, will help provide something for every taste on Sept. 19. Photo by Sam Thorp.

Lawrenceville provides for young parents

By Christine Bethea *Bulletin Contributor*

Lawrenceville - Sometimes parents just want a helping hand, but support is often hard to find. At the Family Care Connection facility, located at 5235 Butler St. in Upper Lawrenceville, the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC offers free assistance programs to help first-time parents navigate the responsibilities of raising children.

Parenting classes such as "Infant Tummy Time," "Toddler Time," and "Kindergarten Readiness" focus on how to make the most of parent-child bonding time. Adult education sessions, including the "Parents as Teachers" curriculum, help young parents teach their children through simple acts of play.

Derek Gordon, who runs a program on responsible fatherhood, understands the value of young parents communicating respect to each other and their children. "We touch on issues that impact the larger community," he said. "Children will pick up on anything they see or hear, so it's up to us to keep things positive."

Gordon wants men to look at the things they take for granted and realize that even seemingly small things, like helping to tie shoelaces, can have a tremendous impact upon a child's well-being. He invites fathers and sons on various field trips, taking them to destinations like the Pittsburgh Steelers' training camp in Latrobe,

to foster camaraderie through shared experience.

"While the subject matter isn't necessarily strenuous, it's not all light stuff either," Gordon explained. "Eight weeks of workshops and breakout sessions really help the fathers understand themselves in order to better understand their kids."

Community Aid 11/FDS Brenda Brown, who facilitates the Toddler Time program, has organized everything from special reading projects and flannel board games to crafting sessions where families learn how to make their own Play-Doh. On a recent "Dino Day" adventure, she collaborated with a neighboring floral shop, Green Sinner (5232 Butler St.), to bring tiny terrariums to life.

"We like making connections with our business neighbors," Brown said. Always on the lookout, she combs through conferences and workshops to find new ideas and improve programming for Lawrenceville parents and their children.

"I've learned techniques to look at opera and other music from a young person's perspective," Brown added. "I'm looking forward to incorporating those lessons into classes this fall." Interested parents may call 412-784-8683 for class schedules and information about other parenting resources available in Allegheny County.



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Bantha Tea Bar opens doors on Penn Ave.

By Amber Epps Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

BELOW: Inspired by Star Wars' legendary desert dwellings, Bantha Tea Bar (5002 Penn Ave.) offers customers a relaxing, yet refined take on tea and coffee; the tea room's reverse-osmotic water filters make for clean, crisp drinks without any room for alcohol. Upon opening its doors in early September, Bantha hopes to connect with residents along Penn Ave. Photo by Dougie Duerring.



Garfield - Set to open in early September, Bantha Tea Bar looks to become a new community hangout by providing a unique social atmosphere without alcohol at 5002 Penn Ave.

When asked why they decided to open a tea bar in Garfield, owner/operators Brett Boye and Jack Ball admitted that they just really enjoy drinking tea.

Bantha's tea selection will include fifteen to twenty loose-leaf varieties sourced from local producers like Healcrest Urban Farm, Cutting Root, Presto George, and Three Rivers Tea.

Using mugs from Ton Pottery (158 41st St.) in Lawrenceville, Boye and Ball will serve coffee selections from Sweet Unity Farms, a Tanzanian coffee grower owned by baseball icon Jackie Robinson's son, David.

For about \$3 a cup, patrons can enjoy their tea - and the free Wi-Fi - while munching on local baked goods and soaking up the ambience. Bantha's distinctive Penn Ave. exterior (a nod to its beloved *Star Wars* namesake) has prompted much curiosity about the look and feel of its interior tea room.

Inside, the layout boasts much more than your average drywall and drop-ceiling. Mosaic patterns decorate the tile flooring while the walls - made from a "cobbling" mixture of straw, clay, dirt, and sand - provide energy efficiency with a cozy, inviting quality.

Garfield artist Dante Lombardi, who painted the entrance sign along with Jack Ault, hopes to organize an inaugural art show at Bantha in the near future.

The owners sought to craft many of the tea bar's fixtures from local materials; parts of the former Quiet Storm café can be found in the dessert display case and an old trolley rail (removed from Penn Ave. during Phase I of reconstruction) now serves as a foot-rest underneath the bar. Local carpenter Kristian Kaseman provided the wood necessary to construct a support beam, as well as a table near the front window.

Fourth River Workers Guild completed much of the interior work, like the space's solar-powered grid system and the backlit, glass bottles punctuating the bar. Bantha's water filtration method will use reverse osmosis to guarantee a cleaner tea and coffee-drinking experience.

Despite all the sophistications, however, Ball wants anyone and everyone to feel welcome. "Bantha is safe for people with no knowledge of tea," he noted. "It's a place that's okay for people who don't consider themselves 'tea snobs.'"

Ball expects the hours of operation to be from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday through Friday and from noon to 9 p.m. on the weekends. More information can be found online at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bantha-Tea-Bar/57034025303381>. ♦

Properties on Penn Avenue

Interested in buying/renting a property located on or around Penn Ave? Interested in selling/renting your own property located on or around Penn Ave? The Penn Avenue web site has a page dedicated to commercial and residential listings (www.pennavenue.org).

The properties listed represent those that we know to be available. If you would like your property listed on our site, please email details about the property, sale/rent price, approximate square footage, contact info, and photos (if available) to mainstreets@bloomfield-garfield.org. Please use "Property Listing" as the subject line. Note: The BGC is not a real estate agent and does not arrange or broker the sale/lease of any properties. Instead, the BGC seeks to facilitate a way for potential developers or investors to locate owners who may or may not be interested in selling or leasing their property.



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Assemble launches season of after-school programming

By Nina Barbuto *Assemble*

Garfield - Now that school is back in session, so are many after-school programs. To kick off this after-school season, Assemble (5125 Penn Ave.) is hosting its "Week of Awesome," a week-long showcase of all the hands-on programs available to students - at no cost - this school-year.

Beginning September 21, every Monday night will be "Girls' Maker Night." Geared towards fourth through eighth graders, this girls-only program takes a fresh, fun look at robotics, science, digital media, and art. Students will meet local experts and work on projects that can change their world.

On Tuesday, September 22, Assemble will host Imaginative Engineering for students in Grades 4-8. Participants will explore their inner scientist or engineer by blowing something up, redesigning a helmet, and working with researchers from the University of Pittsburgh on projects involving "dancing spiders," among other exciting activities.

For students interested in time travel and history, Assemble is putting on a "Time Travel Learning Party" on Wednesday, September 23, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. This

all-ages program is a family friendly event that will allow participants to imaginatively travel back-and-forth in time; local makers, scientists, artists, and technologists will oversee a number of fun, hands-on activities.

On Thursday, Sept. 24, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., students are invited to "Tech You Out," an event focused on technology and engineering. Students will be inspired to create by hacking and remixing, naturally teaching one another throughout the process. They will have a chance to explore game and app design using design tools like, "Scratch," a product of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"Saturday Crafternoons," offer students in first through eighth grade the chance to meet local makers and collaborate with community partners as they spend the afternoon crafting and building.

Saturday, September 29, marks the first Crafternoon session, where students will be encouraged to explore crafty ways to make a difference in the community; some featured projects include building a "Little Free Library" in the neighborhood and even designing a board game with professional game designers.

Parents can sign their children up for any of these or other Assemble programs by just showing up to 5125 Penn Ave and speaking with the staff.

Participants may RSVP for the Week of Awesome via the event page (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/week-of-awesome-tickets-18168419231>). Any questions about event schedules or student eligibility can be directed to Nina Barbuto by calling 412-254-4230 or emailing Nina@AssemblePgh.org. ♦

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Sorry, but we do not accept listings by phone.

The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, fundraisers, and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Listings are published on a space-available basis; we cannot guarantee any placement. Announcements for the **October** issue of *The Bulletin* are due by **Sept. 24**. Please submit listings using our online form at http://bit.ly/bulletin_submit.

September 4

GARFIELD

Art & Soul

An exhibit of Spiritual & Socially Conscious Art by Benjamin Creme, artist, author and founder of Share International. Compelling photos depicting such global issues as hunger, poverty, homelessness and environmental degradation. Other photos will show what life could be like when these problems are resolved. Additional exhibits include video, graphic art and an introduction to Transmission Meditation. Free and open to the public.

September 5

GARFIELD

Unity 4 the Community

Unity For The Community Day event at Morningside COGIC at 5173 Dearborn Street, Pgh.PA. 15224 from 9am-5pm. Steelers Mascot, Central Blood Bank, Children's Hospital, Citizen Bank and many other vendors will be in attendance. Games, face painting, youth mime, puppeteers, singing, music for entertainment. FREE backpack stuffed with school supplies will be passed out.

If you're interested in being a vendor contact Cathy 412 853 2022 or Becky 412 638 6202. National Food Bank Truck scheduled to arrive from Fla. to pass out 1,000 FREE bags of food. Come out and enjoy the festivities. You can win Silent Auction

basket, tickets to futue Pirate game,etc. A day filled with fun for all ages. Hope to see you there!

September 10

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Excel Class

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville and Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania have teamed up to offer free computer workshops to residents who want to brush up on their computer skills. The workshop topic on September 10 is Microsoft Excel. Students will be introduced to Excel spreadsheets, entering formulas, and basic formatting. Classes are held in Goodwill's computer lab at 118 52nd St. and run from 6 to 8 p.m. Participants must register in advance by calling 412-632-1842.

September 13

GARFIELD

Characters of the Bible

Morningside Church of God in Christ (5173 Dearborn St.) presents "The Characters of the Bible" at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 13th. Come bring your family and friends and be blessed as you see some of the greatest characters of the bible come to life before your very eyes.



ABOVE: Vertigo-Go performs at Arsenal Lanes bowling alley (212 44th St.) during Lawrenceville's Rock All Night Tour (RANT) festival on August 15. Photo by John Colombo.

September 15

LAWRENCEVILLE

Kindergarten Readiness

The Family Care Connection Kindergarten Readiness program will be starting on September 15, 2015. This program is for children ages 3-5 years old and is held every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 10a.m.-12p.m.

We will focus on developmentally appropriate activities including, math, story time, art, science and strengthening the social skills needed for a successful transition into Kindergarten. Please call Ms. Linda for more details or to register @ 412-784-8683.

September 16

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Book Lecture

Free Lecture - Arcadia book series

The Lawrenceville Historical Society's public meeting series continues with a presentation by Jean Domico on "Millvale." Domico is the author of a book on our neighboring community for Arcadia's Images of America series. Topics addressed will include the Graff, Bennett & Company, Baeuerlein Brewery, and Saint Nicholas Church. This free lecture will take place on September 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the Carnegie Library auditorium, 279 Fisk Street, in Lawrenceville. No reservations are necessary.

September 17

EAST LIBERTY

Vintage Open House

Vintage senior community center at 401 North Highland Avenue in East Liberty invites older adults 60+ to an Open House on Thursday, September 17 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Vintage offers a wide array of fitness, wellness, arts, recreation and trip programs just right for your active lifestyle. It's a warm, friendly and fun place where lasting friendships are made. Come see what we're all about! Please RSVP at (412) 361-5003.

September 19

GARFIELD

Homebuyer Workshop

Join NeighborWorks and PNC Bank at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Avenue for a free presentation on the right steps towards homeownership. To register call 412-281-9773. Lunch will be served to all in attendance.

LAWRENCEVILLE

LIVE! in Lawrenceville

LIVE! in Lawrenceville is the annual benefit for Lawrenceville United. Featuring live music, dinner, dancing, a photo booth, auction, and lots of activity

**INTERESTED IN PUSHING FOR CHANGE?
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Join the BGC at the Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.) on Monday, Sept. 28, for an informal orientation session on how to join the Board of the organization. Members of the community with an interest in promoting youth education and employment, public safety, and neighborhood revitalization are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Aggie Brose at 412-441-6950 (ext. 15) by Friday, Sept. 25.

**Keep up with neighborhood events! Visit the
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's news blog at**
www.bloomfield-garfield.org

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stations, LIVE! is a fun way to spend an evening and support your local community nonprofit. Tickets available at www.lunited.org. or at the door: \$35/ea. or \$50/pair. 7-10pm. Teamsters Temple, 4701 Butler St.

September 20

LAWRENCEVILLE

Lunch and a Movie

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church (237 37th St.) will host lunch and screening of the movie Facing the Giants at 11:30 a.m. No charge but freewill offerings will be accepted with proceeds donated to children's lunch programs.

September 24

LAWRENCEVILLE

Computer Workshop

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville and Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania have teamed up to offer free computer workshops to residents who want to brush up on their computer skills. The workshop topic on September 24 is Microsoft Excel. Students will be introduced to Excel spreadsheets, entering formulas, and basic formatting. Classes are held in Goodwill's computer lab at 118 52nd St. and run from 6 to 8 p.m. Participants must register in advance by calling 412-632-1842.

September 25

EAST LIBERTY

KST Dance Project

October Bulletin Deadline: **September 18**

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Download guidelines for stories, photos, and notices: bit.ly/bulletin_news

BELOW: Mickey & the Snake Oil Boys pump rocking roots music into the Lawrenceville air at Nied's Hotel (5438 Butler St.) for the Rock All Night Tour (RANT) extravaganza. Dozens of bands played along Butler St. on August 15, delighting show-goers beyond their bedtimes. Photo by John Colombo.



Kelly Strayhorn Theater presents Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project — Declassified Memory Fragment. Featuring a top-notch ensemble of dancers and musicians from Burkina Faso, Olivier Tarpaga's newest work of dance theater pulses with the beauty and complexities of contemporary African society.

Caustic and clever, Declassified uses dance, text and live music in an open letter on African society—and addresses the unspoken realities that shape the continent's dynamic cultures, lifestyles and politics. Fri-Sat / September 25–26 8 PM Kelly Strayhorn Theater \$25 / \$10 Members

September 30

BLOOMFIELD

Music from Mali

KST Presents Vieux Farka Touré and Julia Easterlin When Malian master musician Vieux Farka Touré met indie vocalist Julia Easterlin for the first time, something divine happened: kindred spirits discovered moments of pure beauty, joy, melancholy and magic. In a white-hot burst of inspiration they crafted six original songs, three startling covers—including Bob Dylan, Fever Ray, and Appalachian folk—and one new song built upon a classic West African tune.

Touristes is equal parts modern and ancient, haunting and playful, subtle and visceral, and their intimate concert maps the sounds of two people—speaking different languages and from two continents—finding common ground in the spaces between. Wednesday, September 30 at 8

p.m. Tickets are \$25 (\$10 for members of Kelly Strayhorn Theater).

Ongoing

LAWRENCEVILLE

Weekly Dinner

The Lawrenceville Community Organic Garden will be hosting a weekly dinner for all children ages 18 and under. Through an alliance with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Food Security Partnership and the United Way of Allegheny County, the Community Garden will be home to all manner of food and activities from 6-8 PM every Wednesday evening. Come join the fun!

EAST LIBERTY

Zumba Gold at Vintage

Zumba Gold is a fitness program designed to take the exciting Latin and International dance rhythms created in the original Zumba Fitness program and bring them to the active older adult and beginner participant that may need modifications for success. Zumba Gold classes are held at Vintage on Tuesdays at 1 pm. for an affordable fee. The Vintage facility is located on Highland Avenue in East Liberty. For more information, call Tom Sturgill at (412) 361-5003, Ext. 104.

CITY-WIDE

Parent Child Group

Toddler Time is a parent /child interaction group. The facilitator presents opportunities for exploration in a classroom setting that promotes social/emotional, intellectual, gross/ fine motor, and language / literacy development combining various hands on activities with materials, books and music. To begin this Fall. For Further Information Call: Ms. Brenda 412 877 7683 (ext. 13).

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MEET DR. RIGHT

Arts promote social change through Penn Ave. Creative accelerator

By Elizabeth Sensky *East Liberty Development, Inc.*

East Liberty welcomes a new accelerator to the neighborhood this year with the arrival of “Penn Ave Creative,” a pilot program of the Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST). Unlike its technology-focused neighbors at AlphaLab and Thrill Mill, this accelerator has a different focus: Penn Ave. Creative aims to create social change through art.

This group will be receiving creative, technical, and financial support to tackle issues facing the Penn Ave. community. An inaugural group of six emerging artists, social change leaders, and entrepreneurs were selected from thirty-six applicants to participate in the program - which kicked off with a weekend visioning retreat on August 21.

With support from the Heinz Endowments, the program will run for twelve weeks, culminating in the Penn Ave. Creative Symposium. Here, those who have successfully completed the program will have an opportunity to present their ideas to the community and potential funders. Participants will receive a project development stipend and take part in six weekly intensives and one-on-one mentoring with KST’s network of community and cultural leaders.

“The fellows will be interacting with and deepening their relationships with each other and the community at large for the duration

of the program,” Penn Ave. Creative’s project manager, Joy KMT, said. She elaborated on how the program was initiated by KST’s executive director, Janera Solomon, as a response to the changing landscape of Penn Ave.

“There was a desire to see the development of the community reflect the true diversity of the people who call the East End, ‘home,’” KMT said. Penn Ave. Creative was envisioned as an opportunity to bring the community together around cultural issues and foster a more interconnected and collaborative neighborhood.

Diversity is a cornerstone of the program. One way KST plans to realize this vision and directly involve the community is by hosting a “Penn Ave. Meet-Up” for those who work and play along the corridor.

With participants spanning a wide range of creative and cultural backgrounds, organizers sought artists and entrepreneurs who use their art or cultural practice as a form of activism. “We looked for a genuine passion and dedication to diversity and social issues in their work and everyday lives,” KMT said.

Everyone is welcome to learn more about the program, get involved, and follow the participants’ progress by visiting <http://kelly-strayhorn.org/community/penn-avenue-creative/>. ♦



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