

the Bulletin

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'Who Knew?': 2020 hindsight on COVID-19 pandemic

By Rick Swartz Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.

Perspective

Pittsburgh - Who knew, as we watched the ball drop in Times Square last New Year's Eve, that it would feel as though it had dropped directly onto us?

We knew it would be a presidential election year, and that we would be subjected to a never-ending battering of ads telling us how deceitful, distrustful, and disinterested all of those who hold elected office could be when nobody was looking.

But did any of us think that the words "mail-in ballots" would be enough to send politicians up the walls across the country? Could we have imagined protestors

See **Who Knew?** | page 2



ABOVE: Muralist Ann Lewis (left, elevated by crane) applies colorful designs to Duolingo's corporate headquarters at 5900 Penn Ave. Read more about the East Liberty mural, and its dual histories, on page 8. Photo by Renee Rosensteel.

'Fines & fees' workshop helps Pittsburghers satisfy court debt through restorative approach

By Juliette Rihl PublicSource

Pittsburgh - Diona Brown was at Pittsburgh Municipal Court last month for another case when she learned she had two outstanding court fines for when she was at school, two decades ago. Both were for truancy, dating back to 1999 and 2000. She was 16 years old.

It was so long ago that Brown couldn't even remember why she'd missed school. "Who knew once you grow up you have to take care of that stuff?" she said.

The outstanding amount totaled \$404.50.

For Brown, who's been staying at home caring for her three children while they attend school virtually, the amount is insurmountable. "I don't know how I'm going to pay \$400. I can barely do anything now," she said.

So on Nov. 20, Brown attended Allegheny County's first "Fine and Fee Justice Workshop," presided over by Magisterial District Judge Mik Pappas. Her payment determination hearing was one of 29 that

See **Restorative Justice** | page 4



ABOVE: Bidwell Training Center students discuss local conservation efforts at the former Healcrest Farm in Garfield. Read more on page 6. Photo by Porchea Andrews.

- PAGE 5 -

*GARFIELD GREEN ZONE HOLDS
INAUGURAL MEETING VIA ZOOM*

*HOLLYWOOD IN SHORT: 'SWEDED'
FILM FESTIVAL GOES VIRAL*

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Who Knew? continued from page 1

marching on both sides of the street in Pittsburgh, triggered by the killing of a man in police custody in Minneapolis?

Could any of us have foreseen the deaths of over 250,000 of our fellow citizens, all tied in some unfathomable way to a virus that might have come from bats? If someone had told you that our city government could well finish the year in the red to the tune of \$125 million, you probably would have wondered how someone could be so badly misinformed.

That our schools would close in the late winter, and never re-open? That store shelves would be empty of toilet paper and other household sundries for days, and even weeks, on end? That to be a restaurant owner, or worker, would be the equivalent of hanging from a cliff in the Alleghenies and watching your climbing rope snap in slow motion?

For those of us living in the East End, it would be one bad announcement after another:

Alexander's Restaurant closing for good in Bloomfield; Mixtape Lounge closing for good in Garfield; Nied's Hotel [bar/restaurant] closing for good in Lawrenceville? How did the words "closing" and "good" ever wind up in the same phrase anyways?

It's not the end of the world, but it is the end of the world as we once knew it. My father - a bomber pilot in World War II, who enlisted at the age of 22 - often said that, from 1929 to 1944, it was as if the country had been subjected to "one long, uninterrupted series of [butt] kickings". This is starting to feel like that.

Oh, people still smile - albeit behind masks - and you still get waved through the mystifying network of street construction projects while driving, and neighborhood cats continue disappearing into the night.

And, hey, there's a nine-story office tower currently under construction at Penn and S. Negley Avenues in East Liberty. It's going to have 250,000 square-feet of space to lease, according to the sign.

A cynical friend of mine said we'll be able to tell who's unaffected by the bad times by who signs up to be the tower's tenants. "Don't kid yourself for one moment," he went on to say [half-jokingly, I think]. "If you think everyone is hurting from this pandemic, you're as dumb as they say you are!"

He applied the real exclamation point by telling me that he voted for the sitting president. I pondered what it might mean if no one signed up to be a tenant in the tower.

So it's best to focus on what's right in front of us, and not look to either side. Another adage from my late father: "Don't let the gloom into your living room. Take a long look in the mirror each morning, and make sure you can still recognize the face you see. Find a moment to sit outside and reflect up at the night sky, and remind yourself that 'this, too, shall pass.' Life is substantially worse in places you've never heard of."

In the hardest of times, there is something to be said for retaining the charitable impulse that is alluded to in Matthew 25:40: "Truly, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." ♦

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BELOW: Winners of the "#GarfieldGhostbusters" social media contest pose with each ghost they discovered while walking throughout the neighborhood. Photo courtesy of Nina Gibbs.



Public Works Director Mike Gable announces retirement following decades of service

By Timothy McNulty City of Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh - Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Mike Gable has announced plans for his retirement after more than 45 years of working for the City of Pittsburgh.



ABOVE: Mike Gable, the City's outgoing Department of Public Works director. Photo courtesy of the City of Pittsburgh.

"I did not expect to be working for the City as long as I have, but I have enjoyed all the years, all the positions, and many, many people who made my work easier and influenced and mentored me along the way," Gable announced to employees last month.

"I was given an opportunity over 45 years ago because someone saw something in me - something that I did not know I had," he revealed. "So just remember: that could be you or the employees you work with."

The director's resignation will be effective January 8, 2021. Gable joined the city as a laborer in April 1974 and went on to serve in multiple Coordinator and Assistant/Deputy Director positions in both the Department of Parks & Recreation and the DPW. He was appointed DPW Director in 2014.

"There is no harder-working official in Pittsburgh than Mike Gable and, on behalf of city residents, I want to thank Mike for his decades of public service. We will miss him greatly," Mayor William Peduto said. ♦

the Bulletin

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since 1975

with the mission of reporting on issues affecting underserved communities and facilitating local residents' exchange of ideas.

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Board Meetings are held by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month, and are open to the public. Meetings are currently being conducted online via Zoom; email Nina@Bloomfield-Garfield.org for more details.

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the publisher.

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PGH Public Schools' Magnet registration: deadline extended to Dec. 18

A Message from Pittsburgh Public Schools

Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) 2021-2022 Magnet application deadline - for the magnet lottery and Pittsburgh CAPA auditions - has been extended to Friday, Dec. 18, at 5 p.m.

Prospective and current parents are encouraged to apply for inclusion in the magnet lottery. The magnet lottery will take place in mid-February, and general magnet result letters will be mailed home in March 2021. Current PPS families can apply online at pghschools.org/magnet.

New this year, families can receive in-person support with the magnet application. Members of the Magnet Office will be available at the District's Service Center from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturdays, Dec. 5 & Dec. 12, to help families currently enrolled in PPS. The Service Center is located on the South Side (1305 Muriel St.).

Families should schedule an appointment in advance at pghschools.org/magnetappas; pre-scheduled appointments will be prioritized, but walk-ins are welcome. Appointments are scheduled in 20-minute increments.

Families should also bring their Home Access Center username/password and any supporting materials for their child's magnet application. Families can also seek help with their application by reaching out to the Magnet Office at magnetoffice@pghschools.org or 412-529-3991.

Students who do not currently attend Pittsburgh Public Schools - including those who will be entering kindergarten or attend a private, parochial, or charter school - must enroll in the District before completing the magnet registration process at pghschools.org/enrollment.

All applications received after Dec. 18 will be considered for programs with remaining vacancies, or added to existing waiting lists. Families can explore programs by reviewing information at pghschools.org/magnetfair. ♦

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Application Deadline: Feb. 1, 2021

Restorative Justice continued from page 1

took place at the East Liberty courtroom that day.

The workshop’s approach was comprehensive: local organizations were there to offer community service opportunities and free financial counseling. A pro-bono lawyer helped her make sense of her paperwork and gave legal advice. Pappas worked with her to go over her individual circumstances and come up with options for satisfying the debt, be it a payment plan or community service.

“What do you think would work for you?” Pappas asked Brown. The judge and Brown settled on 16 hours of community service over the course of several months, at a rate of \$26 per hour. The rate is recommended by Independent Sector, a national non-profit organization that estimates the value of volunteer time in each state. Brown left the hearing feeling relieved. “It helped me out good, because I thought my only option would be a payment plan,” she said.

The goal of the daylong workshop, which was part of the county’s new Fine and Fee Justice initiative, was to provide individuals with avenues and resources to resolve their court debt. As of 2019, Allegheny County had \$350 million in unpaid court debt on the books. Unpaid fines and costs - even for minor infractions - can lead to warrants, a suspended license and, in the most serious cases, jail time.

Following a *PublicSource* investigation, the county was one of 10 municipalities selected by the Fine and Fee Justice Center to join a national reform initiative called Cities and Counties for Fine and Fee Justice. The initiative is being led locally by Allegheny County Council member Bethany Hallam and Brad Korinski, chief legal counsel in the Office of the County Controller.

While the workshop may seem like a novel approach, Pappas said some courts already

apply the same framework to other types of cases. For example, truancy cases are often grouped together on the same day, with resources and support services available on site. “So the idea of the workshop is really to do the same thing, but to do it for payment determination,” he said.

Due to an administrative order from President Judge Kim Clark, Pappas was able to preside over any cases occurring in Pittsburgh, not just cases in his own district. Individuals with hearings were able to participate over the phone or in-person, with walk-ins accepted. Most of the hearings were for building code violations or truancy cases, Pappas said.

Porchea Andrews, Garfield Green Zone and public safety coordinator for the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, was there connecting workshop attendees with community service opportunities.

She’s been developing the 1520 Adjudication Alternative Program, a restorative justice program that allows eligible individuals to satisfy their debt or other court obligations through service and self-improvement activities. Activities include planting trees, installing stormwater landscaping and native pollinator gardens in partnership with the Audubon Society.

“These are all resume builders, and we’re hoping to get employment partners involved so that when [individuals are] finished with the program, there are employment opportunities,” Andrews said.

Becky Johnson is the program manager of the Pittsburgh Financial Empowerment Center, a city program that offers one-on-one financial counseling. She offered attendees free counseling, including reviewing credit scores, making payment plans and outlining budgets, which could count toward individuals’ community service hours. “I don’t think people realize there’s services out there to help with this process,

and you can have an accountability partner,” she said.

For many people, paying off their court debt can be daunting. Pappas said his court has been trying to find alternatives for issuing warrants, which are administratively taxing, costly, and difficult to keep track of. On top of that, warrants can often feel “coercive,” he said, causing many people to shy away from showing up to court. “The perception is, if I go to court, I’m going to go to jail...” Pappas said. “How do you address that? How do you change that dynamic?”

Pappas said he plans to hold more work-

shops in the future and hopes other judges will consider implementing similar programming. By turning unpaid court debt into community service and financial literacy opportunities, he said, it has the potential to benefit both individuals and the community-at-large.

“There’s a lot of value in it,” Pappas said. “There’s a lot of value in people. You just have to give them an opportunity to show it and earn it.”

[Reprinted in full, with permission from PublicSource. PublicSource is an independent news organization in Pittsburgh. Visit PublicSource.org.] ♦

TELL THE CITY WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE IN GARFIELD!

Neighborhood plans create a path to sustaining a place - and its people - at the local level, but the ForgingPGH Comprehensive Plan aims to set a vision for the entire city. ForgingPGH incorporates city-wide goals into each neighborhood’s plans for growth and development. View the City’s plan, and sound off on what you’d like to see in your neighborhood, at forgingpgh.org.



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Residents connect, offer comment during Garfield Green Zone meeting

By Porchea Andrews Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation


Garfield - The first-ever Garfield Green Zone committee meeting took place on Wednesday, Nov. 4, via Zoom. The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's (BGC) Green Zone & Public Safety Coordinator, Porchea Andrews, introduced herself to participants and spoke of the vision she has for the neighborhood's green zone. The topics/projects discussed at the meeting are listed below.

- * Ft. Pitt Park expansion: community input to review four design plans for the park
- * Mandela Peace Park Expansion: City has approved purchase of parcels for expansion
- * Environmental Charter School and Allegheny Land Trust plan to utilize the former Healcrest Farm site in Garfield as an outdoor classroom for students
- * Implementation of "Dump Days": Residents will be able to use these designated days to dispose of large items, in efforts to discourage illegal dumping in the community
- * Invasive Removal Projects: North Evaline St. steps near Kincaid St., thanks to Student Conservancy Association; future projects on North Aiken Ave., and Columbo St.
- * Native pollinator gardens/food garden spaces throughout Green Zone
- * Sub-Committee signups: Community members and allies are encouraged to participate in initiatives within the Green Zone and the community at large
- * Maintenance Committee: Coordinates volunteer days/cleanups, weedings, plantings, tool bank maintenance, and more
- * Green Zone programs and events: Planning/implementation of community programs and events, trainings (plant care, trail building, tree care, etc.), environmental education initiatives
- * Arts & Identity - Community/cultural art initiatives
- * Project Committees: Kite Hill Park, stormwater projects, Garfield parklets/play areas, community trail initiative/streetscapes, community garden plots, fundraising/stewardship, 1520 Program, environmental skill trainings

Join the next Green Zone meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m.; please email Porchea@bloomfield-garfield.org to be added to the email list. ♦



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BGC hosts foraging, medicine-making course with Quiet Creek Farm

By Porchea Andrews Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - On Tuesday, Oct. 13, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) joined Claire from Quiet Creek Farm (Clarion, PA) in guiding Bidwell Training Center students through a foraging and medicine-making course.

At what is now the former Healcrest Farm in Garfield, Claire taught the students about the plant species that are native to their home neighborhoods, as well as how to identify and use various local plants as medicines for common ailments.

Each student was encouraged to see for themselves by foraging the former farm site, utilizing different taxonomy and plant identification skills in the process. The students also learned how to make syrups, tinctures, “decoctions,” and infusions; they were even able to take home some pre-made tinctures.

Anyone interested in planning, or participating in, events like these is welcome to join the Garfield Green Zone’s Event/Programming Committee. Please email porchea@bloomfield-garfield.org for more information. ♦



ABOVE: Pre-made tinctures of comfrey (leaf & root), valerian, echinacea and blue cohosh. Photo by Porchea Andrews.



Christmas
has a different
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'Bloomfield Blitz!' effort supports small biz

By Christina Howell Bloomfield Development Corporation

Op-Ed/Bloomfield - At the end of an unprecedented year [read: COVID-19 pandemic] comes a holiday season unlike any on record. Small businesses are taking a hard hit this year, and Bloomfield Development Corporation (BDC) needs you to close the Amazon tab already - and set your sights closer to home.

On Small Business Saturday [Nov. 28], BDC launched "Bloomfield Blitz!" to reward customers for shopping in the neighborhood. Go shopping, take a photo

to or screenshot of your receipt, and send it to us. For every three receipts you send, you'll be entered in a raffle to win a gift card to a Bloomfield business.

With \$1,000 in gift cards ready to give away - each one a minimum of \$50 - odds are good that you'll be a winner. Each entry or receipt needs to be from a different Bloomfield business; entries must be emailed to business@bloomfieldpgh.org.

Whether you're ordering takeout, buying groceries, or purchasing a gift card, make sure to send a photo or screenshot of your receipt. Want a bonus? Send us a picture of you with your purchase and tell us what you love about the place, products, owners, or employees.

We'll share your story on social media to encourage others to shop locally this holiday season. The deadline for receipts is Sunday, Dec. 20; names will be randomly chosen and the winner will be notified. This promotion is open to Bloomfield residents and non-residents alike.

More info can be found on the BDC website (bloomfieldnow.org). We give our thanks to the RK Mellon Foundation for making this initiative possible. ♦

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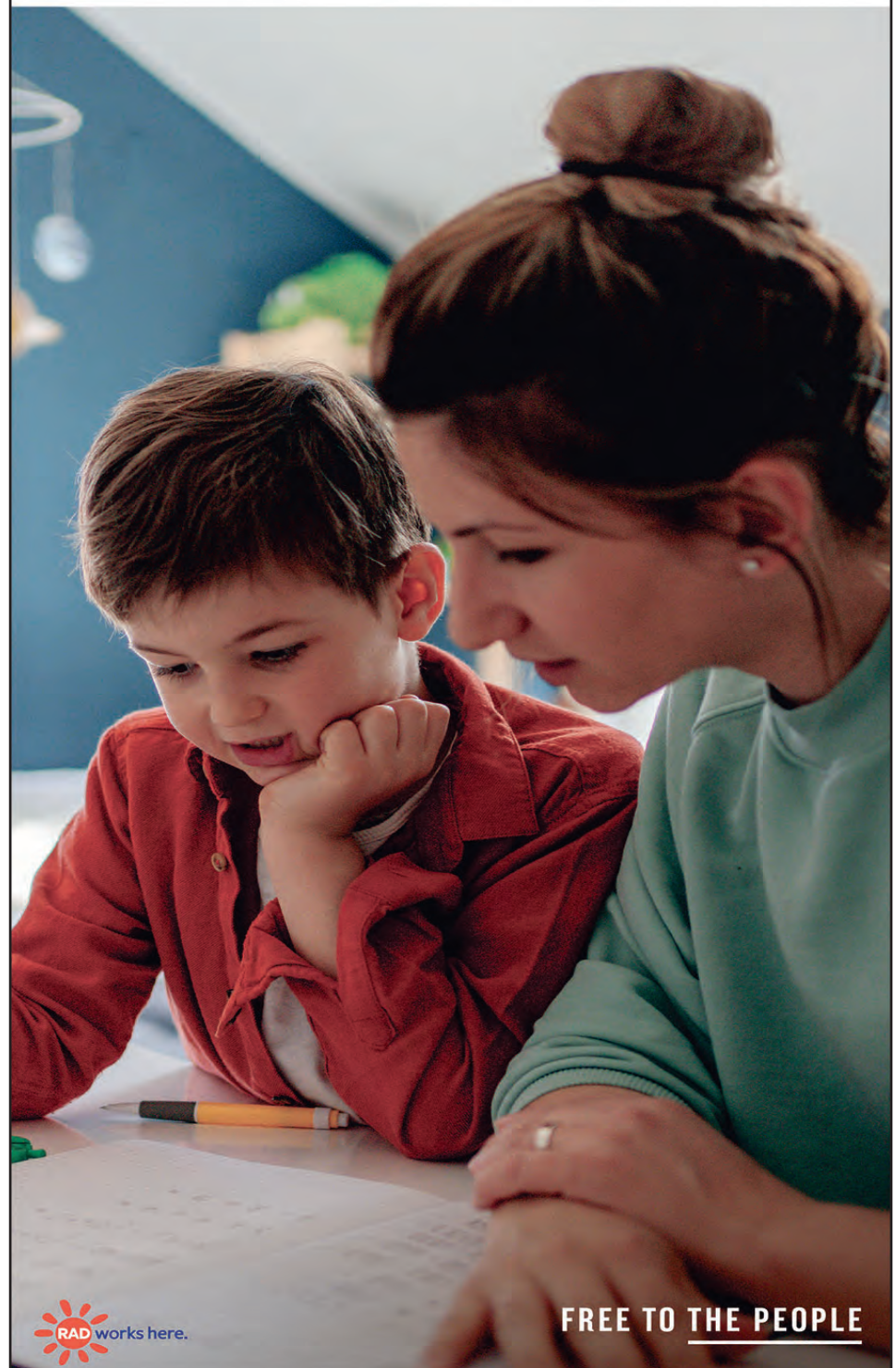
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Neighborhood FOCUS

Duolingo unveils new East Liberty mural, launches arts fund

By Elizabeth Sensky East Liberty Development, Inc.

East Liberty - Many East Enders fondly remember an 8,500 square-foot mural, entitled “Lend Me Your Ears,” that wrapped around a building at Penn and S. Euclid Avenues for more than a decade.

Created by artist Jordan Monahan in 2004, the mural served as an informal gateway, greeting the neighborhood’s visitors with images of children at play, interspersed with colorful patterns and designs.

In 2015, the building’s owners arrived at a difficult decision to remove the mural in order to make renovations to the building. The loss of “Lend Me Your Ears” is still felt throughout the community. Now, five years later, there is a new mural in its place - one that tells another story.

In October, Duolingo unveiled a large-scale artwork – created by Detroit-based artist Ann Lewis - on the side of that same Penn Avenue building, where the company is now headquartered. When Duolingo moved into its offices in East Liberty back in 2016, the idea to create a mural was not the first thing on the world-renowned, language-learning platform’s agenda.

“The idea developed over time,” said John Tronsor, facilities manager at Duolingo. Eventually, Tronsor and his colleagues determined that not only would a mural

BELOW: Ann Lewis, the artist who painted Duolingo’s new mural (5900 Penn Ave.) in East Liberty, connects with a student at the Barack Obama Academy of International Studies. Photo by John Tronsor.



“We recognize how our removal of the ‘Lend Me Your Ears’ mural deeply affected many people in East Liberty...and the creation of the Duolingo Community Arts Commitment was partly inspired by a desire to do something about just that.”

- John Tronsor, Duolingo

beautify the building, but it could also provide an opportunity for Duolingo to engage with the East Liberty community in a meaningful way.

“East Liberty has a long and complex history. The neighborhood is, and has been, responding to the effects produced from a significant amount of development,” Tronsor said. “Duolingo choosing to have its headquarters here puts us in the middle of this changing landscape. We want to be good neighbors, and part of that process is being open and listening to our community.”

Duolingo kicked off the selection process in early 2019 with an open call to artists from around the world. The process was advised by Morton Brown, a consultant and expert in Pittsburgh’s public art history; an artist selection committee was convened, including three of the company’s senior executives and two East Liberty community members.

Over 160 artists, representing seven countries, responded to the call for applications. After narrowing it down to five finalists, the Duolingo team selected Ann


- continued on next page -


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- continued from previous page -

Lewis in July of 2019.

“Ann was selected for the originality and quality of her portfolio, her experience in large-scale public artwork, and her commitment to creating this artwork in a process that actively involved the local community,” Tronsor said.

The initial process included a short residency with the Barack Obama Academy of International Studies in East Liberty. During the residency, Lewis spent time discussing ideas of “community” with students during several language & visual arts classes. Those discussions led her to the mural theme: “We rise together.” The words blend seamlessly into a geometric, maze-like design stretching the length of the building’s west façade. Lewis completed the piece between late August and early October of this year.

Boasting a vibrant orange and purple background, the artwork has quickly become an eye-catching presence on Penn Avenue. Lewis dedicated the mural to the students of the Barack Obama Academy, as well as the local artists and activists she engaged with throughout the process.

According to a *Pittsburgh City Paper* article, Lewis stated: “This wall has a complex history, and I am very grateful that the mural helped reestablish a dialogue between Duolingo and the community.”

Local filmmaker Chris Ivey documented the residency and community engagement process in a new short film [*We Rise Together*]. In concert with the unveiling of the new mural, Duolingo also recently announced its \$150,000 commitment to creating public artwork in Pittsburgh by supporting local artists and arts organizations; monies will be used to fund several public art projects in Pittsburgh over the next three years.



ABOVE: Duolingo’s corporate headquarters (5900 Penn Ave.) sports a new look within a historic neighborhood. Photo by Renee Rosensteel.

Local artists Natiq Jalil and Alison Zapata are the first two recipients of grants from the program. Their selection brings the project full circle, as Zapata assisted Monahan with the creation of “Lend Me Your Ears.”

“We recognize how our removal of the ‘Lend Me Your Ears’ mural deeply affected many people in East Liberty. The mural’s removal was unavoidable, but we understand that we have a role in its removal,” Tronsor said, “and the creation of the Duolingo Community Arts Commitment was partly inspired by a desire to do something about just that.”

An open call for arts-oriented grant applications is scheduled for launch next spring. In the meantime, Duolingo is fielding a wide range of responses to the building’s new “skin.”

“What we’ve seen people respond most positively to is the story of the work’s creation,” Tronsor explained. “Lewis arrived at a simple, direct, three-word statement that should give us all pause when thinking about our own community - and our responsibilities toward one another: ‘We rise together.’” ♦



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Sen. Jay Costa opens new office in Bloomfield

By State Senator Jay Costa D-Allegheny

Op-Ed/Pittsburgh - COVID-19 and the necessary emergency declarations that we've endured here in Pittsburgh have brought challenges to nearly every aspect of our lives.

Even though we're not able to gather in public, or host the in-person events that we've become accustomed to, my office and I are still available to help you with our comprehensive, constituent-focused services at any time.

As an elected official, I feel privileged to convey local residents' priorities to my colleagues in Harrisburg, no matter the cost. Throughout the pandemic, I have joined my staff members in hosting virtual townhalls on critical topics like health insurance, utility assistance, education, and voting.

We publish a newsletter (*The Costa Connection*), encouraging constituents to share their stories at senatorcosta.com.

Although we're following COVID proto-

cols and social distancing at our offices, each location remains staffed to answer your calls and help with any issues you might be experiencing during these trying times.

In fact, we recently opened up a new office in Bloomfield (4736 Liberty Ave./Suite 1/ Pittsburgh, PA/15224).

We continue processing PennDot paperwork, property tax and rent rebate forms, and all of the common types of assistance that you and your neighbors have come to expect from my office.

Now that we're conveniently located in the heart of Bloomfield, feel free to contact us at any time: phone (412) 578-8457; fax (412-578-9874); or email (costa@pasenate.com).

We hope to be able to accommodate walk-in visitors again, but the safety of our staff and yourself is our top priority. Please contact our staff; we will get right back to you with any assistance you might need. ♦

Public art vs. 'art in public places'

By Darrell Kinsel BOOM Concepts & Lawrenceville United

Insight/Pittsburgh - What is the difference between public art and art in public places? When I was recently presented with this question, it inspired me look at Pittsburgh's creative landscape through a different lens.

Thinking about the phrase "public art," it seems stodgy, disconnected, and bureaucratic. The terminology conjures images of statues with expired meanings and intentions, abstract sculptures brought into communities for "cool points," or monuments where the concept designs (re: artist wishes) rarely, if ever, match the implementation (and final budget).

Pittsburgh has a ton of these public art projects - many of them celebrated for reasons that are rarely understood or echoed by neighbors.


When I consider the phrase "art in public spaces," it makes me think of freedom, relationship building, and community voice. If you do some exploring, Pittsburgh (especially Garfield) is home to some amazing examples of art in public spaces.

These objects and images - Garfield's neighborhood "Gators" murals, the historic pieces along the East Liberty busway, Alisha Wormsley's "There Are Black People In The Future" project, Camerin Nesbit's murals of Homewood, the sidewall project in Bloomfield, and Njameij Njie's incredible photo installations in The Hill - are of real value to our neighborhoods.

I can even see the Braddock Carnegie Art Lending Library making a case for creating space for art in public spaces - outside of the confines of the old-school public art model.

All of this is important, because we can't have art shows in the ways we're used to. Gone (for now) are the days of free box wine, 4-hour old cheese, and galleries brimming with people on an art safari. We all have to think of ways to refocus and make the art outside even better than ever before.

At BOOM Concepts (5139 Penn Ave.), we have begun shifting more of our work towards art in public places. I don't think we need any more "public art" projects here. Instead, we need more "art in public places" for all of us to enjoy! ♦

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'sidewall' project: Boom Concepts presents artist James 'Yaya' Hough

A Message from BOOM Concepts



ABOVE: At the "sidewall" intersection of S. Millvale Ave. & Lima Way, "UNTITLED (LOOK!)" captures attention in Bloomfield. Photo by Andrew McKeon.

Bloomfield - A public mural space called "sidewall," located on the side of a private residence at 608 S. Millvale Ave., is dedicated to exhibiting works by local artists and collaborators from beyond Pittsburgh.

Curated by BOOM Concepts, the latest installment illustrates the internal and external state of black bodies in this moment of social crisis and change. Entitled "UNTITLED (LOOK!)," it presents the simultaneous experience of trauma and empowerment - energies within our bodies as we struggle against forces of white supremacy.

Contemporary artist and muralist James "Yaya" Hough, who created the piece, centers his work on issues of race, mass incarceration, and US history.

Hough spent 27 years in prison under a mandatory life sentence. While incarcerated, the artist continued to hone his craft, creating pieces that reflected his time and experiences within the justice system.

Following his release in 2019, Hough became dedicated to using his art in the struggle for prison reform in Pennsylvania. He is currently the first artist-in-residence with the City of Philadelphia's District Attorney's Office and has displayed

his work at MOMA's PS1 Gallery for its "Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration" exhibition.

"I believe that great artists should strive to be agents of social change," Hough stated. "We are not only society's eyes, but also its conscience."

From a highly visible setting at the intersection of S. Millvale Ave. & Lima Way, "UNTITLED (LOOK!)" will be on display for 60 days. Art appreciators are encouraged to safely visit the exhibition during a socially distanced walk, run, or bike ride through Bloomfield.

BOOM Concepts has highlighted the work of Sakony Shakur, Jameelah Platt, Takara Canty, and Miles E. Saal during its guest curatorship of sidewall. Dedicated to the advancement of POC and LGBTQIA creative entrepreneurs, BOOM serves as a hub for field building, knowledge sharing, peer-to-peer mentorship, and storytelling.

Along with its 5139 Penn Ave. headquarters in Garfield, BOOM operates satellite studio locations and hosts the Black Unicorn Archives & Library project, Magic Organs Studio, and Jenesis Magazine. To learn more, visit boomuniverse.co. ♦

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In order to make sure for social distancing we are asking for the
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REGISTER AT THE LINK OR AT THE CONTACT BELOW

<https://tinyurl.com/BGCHoliday2020>

WHERE: 113 N. Pacific Ave Pittsburgh PA 15224

WHEN: Two Days of Free Market Hours:

Friday Dec 4th (First Friday) 6pm-8pm

Saturday Dec 5th 1pm-4pm

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LOCAL REAL ESTATE BLOTTER

- Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield, East Liberty, Lawrenceville, & Stanton Heights -

Real Estate Sales (for the month of October 2020)

Compiled by Lillian Denhardt, RE/MAX Select Realty

Bloomfield

Anthony J Venditti to Kayla M Spridik at 224 Cedarville St. for \$298,000.

David Paul Henninger to Michael T Martucci III at 332 Orwell Way for \$160,000.

DKH Properties Inc to Dana R Hinchberger at 0 Pearl St. for \$88,500.

Frederick H Voskuhl to VMRN LLC at 232 S Millvale Ave. for \$160,000.

Geraldine L Hoel to Hadar Dora Glazer at 365 S Winebiddle St. for \$260,000.

Helen Nothwang to Mei-Yu Wang at 305 S Winebiddle St. for \$442,000.

James C & Stephanie B Dewar to Elizabeth Dewar at 124 S Atlantic Ave. for \$150,000.

Jeffrey L Pittler to John Khalil at 4609 Friendship Ave. for \$202,500.

John Andrew Fignar to Jing J Ou at 322 West Penn Pl. for \$155,200.

Nalat Intarangi to Owen J Norley at 301 Roup Ave. Unit 3 for \$240,000.

Pesh Inc to Collier Development LP at 4420 Lorigan St. for \$350,000.

Robert P Haigis to Braddock Beech LLC at 4045 Penn Ave. for \$175,000.

Robert T & Gloria J Ledonne to Anthony V Reale at 4781 Sciota St. for \$55,000.

Stephen B & Tara U Williams to Natale Demarco Jr at 4620 Liberty Ave. for \$375,000.

Terrance J & Donna M Fischer to Kristi Marie Fischer at 4051 Cabinet St. for \$80,200.

Friendship

No sales to report.

Garfield

City of Pittsburgh to Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation at 5360 Rosetta St. for \$1,000.

City of Pittsburgh to James Hawk at 0 Kincaid St. for \$10,000.

Jerry Amey to Mario Johnson at 4825 Columbo St. for \$12,500.

John Reese Jr to Aspen Associates LLC at 5012 Dearborn St. for \$160,000.

Michael Zajko to Krista D Bland at 5341 Waterford St. for \$150,000.

Module Development LLC to Tausha J Williams-Herndon at 5456 Black St. for \$183,794.

Penn Pioneer Enterprises LLC to Cedro Properties LP at 5211 Dearborn St. for \$143,700.

Penn Pioneer Enterprises LLC to Drawbridge Ventures LLC at 5355 Broad St. for \$95,000.

SS Allegheny LLC to Bradley Macaulay at 0 Schenley Ave. for \$2,014.

SS Allegheny LLC to Bradley Macaulay at 0 Schenley Ave. for \$2,702.

Saint Lawrence O'Toole Roman Catholic Church to Garfield Jubilee Association Inc at 5323 Penn Ave. for \$250,000.

Victoria McGinnis to Qiana H Bowyer at 4810 Columbo St. for \$8,200.

East Liberty

Frank & Frances Stagno to Louis Devito at 6301 Saint Marie St. for \$45,000.

Gerald Loevner to 5803 Centre LLC at 5803 Centre Ave. for \$3,786,000.

Giacomo & Rosa Tolomeo to Steven A Emling at 5455 Stanton Ave. for \$339,000.

Ibupittsburgh Inc to Xiaozhen Chen at 6210 Huntress St. for \$35,000.

Phic LLC to Nicholas Aaron Dean at 5625 Hays St. for \$359,900.

Sara E Cannon to Brent M & Hayley S Ripperger at 719 Mellon St. for \$295,000.

Short Family Trust to Diane Reintgen at 725 Chislett St. for \$170,000.

Lawrenceville

20183WY-29 LLC to Rebecca Loose at 355 44th St. for \$575,000.

39th Street Associates LLC to Robert L & Louise J Byer at 206 39th St. for \$610,000.

5515 Butler Street Development LP to Christine A & Carl D Lovejoy at 143 55th St. for \$529,400.

Amani Real Estate Partners LLC to Douglas & Traci Borsch at 0 53rd St. for \$171,500.

ANG Real Estate LLC to Peter G Jellison at 3454 Ligonier St. for \$442,500.

Austin & Anna C S Sposato to Sacoyia Reed at 800 Mccandless Ave. for \$143,500.

Bradley D & Melissa P Frost to Mark & Doyal at 174 38th St. for \$635,000.

Brenda Etschmaier to Gregory Sotereanos at 181 46th St. for \$349,000.

BRGS Relocation Inc to Cody D Berman at 5142 Keystone St. for \$399,900.

Brian Ewing to Trey David Gantner at 5216 Carnegie St. for \$260,000.

Cinque Saunders to Courtney Lyn Bailey at 5203 Wickliff St. for \$176,000.

Damian Kush to Lauren N Doyle at 3511 Leech St. for \$170,000.

Deborah J Androvich to Catherine Davin at 263 38th St. for \$410,000.

Don D & Carolyn N Williams to Brian Czarnecki at 4127 Foster St. for \$510,000.

Douglass V Dick to Nathaniel M Dirks at

3512 Penn Ave. for \$346,000.

Edward Piontek to GEB Investment Partners LLC at 5313 Carnegie St. for \$170,579.

Eric M & Rachel G Bruening to Jared R Schau at 5230 Harrison St. for \$360,000.

Erica A Taylor to Daniel J & Denise R Hughes at 145 42nd St. for \$289,000.

J L A Properties LP to Scott Saeger at 3931 Liberty Ave. for \$534,650.

Jacob S Milofsky to Jeneni Withers at 5114 Duncan St. for \$242,000.

Jessica S Margolis to Arnold Lau at 515 56th St. for \$174,000.

Jessica S Margolis to Courtenay Sashin at 525 56th St. for \$162,000.

Kimberly A Smith to Pierre Kahhale Family Trust at 160 45th St. for \$441,500.

Mary J Habajec to PD Investments LLC at 4737 Butler St. for \$140,000.

May Lynn Griser to French Silver Enterprises LLC at 4908 Harrison St. for \$167,000.

Michael & Audrey Karnish to BRGS Relocation Inc at 5142 Keystone St. for \$399,900.

Michael E Fifth II to Anne Bontempo at 3929 Cabinet Way for \$140,000.

Milestone Custom Homes LLC to Adam S Longshore at 143 46th St. for \$127,500.

PGH Housing LLC to Samuel Foxworthy Investments LLC at 4723 Butler St. for \$528,000.

PGH LLC to Aaron Lucas at 5265 Duncan St. for \$438,000.

Philipp Haban to Nicholas Huber Fernandez at 4224 Post St. for \$468,000.

Robin A Berman to Cody Stitely at 265 Ater Way for \$131,679.

Tammy L Shaul to Mornate Realty LLC at 3829 Mintwood St. for \$170,000.

Three Rivers LP to Pluto Holdings LLC at 5105 Holmes St. for \$110,000.

William G & Jessica L Warnock to Nettisha

Sharella Virginia Holas at 5728 Butler St. for \$175,000.

Stanton Heights

Benjamin K Gundy to Jennifer Marie Paul at 1131 Downlook St. for \$351,000.

Ks Max Property LLC to Brian J Wilson at 1459 Hawthorne St. for \$115,000.

Sheila A Jeffries to David A Lash II at 1364 Woodbine St. for \$273,000.

William R & Judith Ann Klimovich to Andrew Witchey at 1133 Fairfield St. for \$272,900.

This column uses data from Allegheny County that contains occasional errors (sale price, owners' names, etc.). We strive for accuracy every month so, if something looks off, please let us know. For questions, comments, or just to chat about real estate, email Lillian at lillian@agent-lillian.com or call 412-335-6068. ♦

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Hollywood remakes gone viral: national film festival launches from Lawrenceville

A Message from Row House Cinema

Lawrenceville - Get ready to spend the holiday season remaking *Casablanca* in the kitchen, *Fargo* in the family room, or even *Backdraft* in the basement.

Owing to the last few weeks of never-ending elections, tweet-storms, and COVID-19 concerns, organizers of the "Sweded Festival for Creative Re-Creations" are extending the submission deadline for movie-lovers to remake their favorite films at home.

With the support of independent cinemas across the country, Lawrenceville's Row House Cinema will accept online submissions through Dec. 31. The best entries will be compiled into the feature-length Sweded festival, which will be presented both as a virtual cinema offering by independent cinemas and [where possible] in select big-screen locations in late January.

Brian Mendelssohn, owner of Row House Cinema (4115 Butler St.), helped found the festival in 2016. Now, in the first year Sweded has gone national, he thinks that giving film fans a bit more time to end 2020 on a high note - one of cinematic fun and frivolity - will help expand the festival's reach.

"We've already received entries from all over the country, but we also know how distracted everyone has been by current events and the unrelenting news cycle," he explained. "We hope this extra time will spur film fans to pick up their phones and remake their favorite movies," he said "fast, cheap, and out of control!"

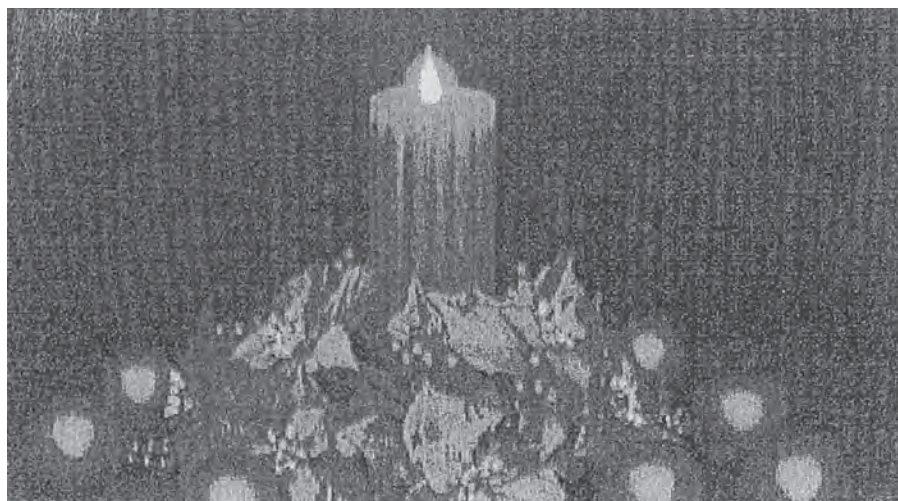
Sweded films take their name from Michel Gondry's 2008 film *Be Kind, Rewind*, in which two video store employees create bizarre, short "Swedes" of Hollywood films. The buddy-comedy characters, portrayed by Jack Black and Mos Def, have since inspired an entire movement of filmmaking - one that starts with imitation and ends in pure, unadulterated flattery.

Following through on the aim of their inspiration, each Sweded work is created with a final runtime [under five minutes] in mind. All submissions will be reviewed by a panel of judges that selects entrants to participate in the feature-length festival, which debuts in January. In addition, judges will award cash prizes for the best Sweded films in multiple categories.

A number of independent cinemas have already booked the festival, through Row House Cinema Online, and screenings are now scheduled across the country (opening dates depend on local regulations and conditions).

Sweded festivities will also be presented as a virtual cinema offering; approximately half of the revenue from each ticket will support participating theaters, which continue struggling on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The festival is accepting now entries through Dec. 31; each entry requires a \$10 fee, providing access to a virtual screening of all films. Visit rowhouse.online for details. ♦



During this Holiday Season, more than ever, our thoughts and prayers turn to those who have lost a loved one this past year. We are lighting a candle in our funeral home in remembrance of all the families that we have been privileged to serve. And it is in this spirit that we simply, but sincerely say... May the Peace and Joy of the Christmas Season be yours throughout the New Year.



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Garfield Jubilee's YouthBuild Program

Garfield Jubilee Association, Inc. is now recruiting for its YouthBuild Program. Eligible youths must be 16-24 years of age, meet low income requirements, and live in the City of Pittsburgh or Allegheny County. Participants without a high school diploma may complete the necessary GED requirements. Career tracks include opportunities in construction, as well as health care (CNA); the age requirement for this career track is 18-24 years, and participants must have a high school diploma. Information on the YouthBuild Program is available at garfieldjubilee.org. For more info, call program coordinator Dion Jones at 412-665-5206; email DionJones@garfieldjubilee.org or YouthBuildPgh@gmail.com.



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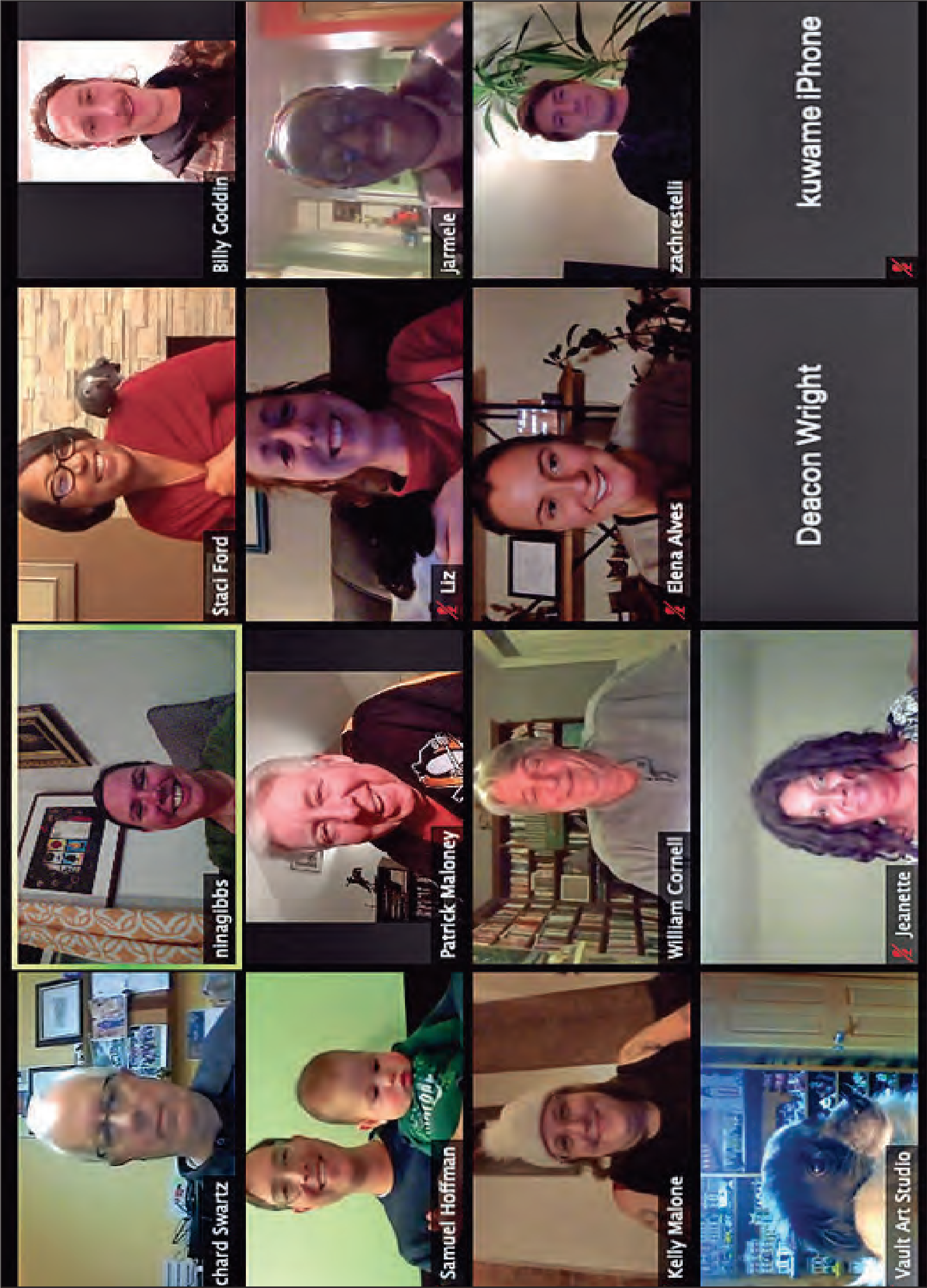
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BGC BOARD & STAFF MEMBERS: ‘ZOOMIN’ THROUGH 2020



ABOVE: The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's (BGC) Board of Directors hosts its monthly meeting on Zoom - the leading "new normal" platform for social gatherings in 2020. Photo courtesy of Nina Gibbs.