



March 14, 2018

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## **PITTSBURGH DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP SHARES 2017 SUCCESSES AND ANNOUNCES EXCITING NEW PLANS FOR 2018**

- 3 New Public Art Projects
  - New, Free Saturday Night Music Series
- New Initiative to Bring Local Makers Into Downtown Retail Scene
  - Name of the new City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Horse
    - Election of New Officers
  - Golden Triangle Award Recipients

**Downtown Pittsburgh, PA** – The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership held their Annual Meeting today and shared their plans to ensure that Downtown Pittsburgh remains a clean, safe, engaging, and vibrantly programmed neighborhood that continues to grow and develop. The PDP shared their 2017 accomplishments and released their [Annual Report](#), which includes details of their 2018 work plan.

“We are pleased to share our 2017 successes with the community, it was another extraordinary year of high quality programming and initiatives that continue to support every facet of our Downtown neighborhood,” said Jeremy Waldrup, President and CEO of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership. “We are very enthusiastic about our plans for 2018 and appreciate the support of the public and private sectors in carrying out this work.”

### **Public Art Projects**

Making Downtown a beautiful environment for all is an important piece of the work that the PDP undertakes. Utilizing community spaces in unique ways can serve many users, as well as inspire creativity and collaboration. We are pleased to bring the following works to Downtown in 2018:

**Amsterdam Island Antipode** – In April, the Market Square Public Art program will return. The program has a history of bringing unique, large-scale temporary public art to Market Square. The work, in partnership with the Department of City Planning’s Division of Public Art and Design and the Office of Public Art, will be an installation by Ball-Nogues Studios titled *Amsterdam Island Antipode*. Imagine if you were standing in Market Square and began to dig through the center of the earth. Where would you come out? The answer is New Amsterdam, a small island in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Ball-Nogues will create a to-scale model of the island in the middle of Market Square, where visitors can climb and explore.

**Garrison Canal** – As part of a larger alleyway enhancement project, the PDP with the support of the EQT Children’s Theater Festival will light Garrison Place between Exchange Way and Liberty Avenue with work from artist Andrea Polli. *Energy Flow*, currently installed on the Rachel Carson Bridge, helped to spark this new concept with elements of the project being re-installed to create *Garrison Canal*. With the support of the Herb Burger Memorial Fund and Duquesne Light, this alleyway segment of Garrison Place will be turned into an imaginary underwater future world of big data.

**Strawberry Way** - Pittsburgh artist Julie Mallis has been selected for the next mural installation on Strawberry Way. This spring, the PDP will be working with Julie and Strawberry Way stakeholders to develop a concept for the alley and plan to begin the new installation in June.

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### **New Saturday Night Music Series**

Last year, the PDP's new Saturday Night Market proved to be a successful addition to evening programming in Downtown. Seeking to create a regular destination and platform for local musicians, in 2018 the PDP will build the market into a 25 week-long, free, live music series. A high quality list of well-respected local organizations will aid in the programming of the series. Partners include 91.3 WYEP-FM, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, Deutchtown Music Festival /Northside Leadership Conference, Boom Concepts, Liveburgh Studio, Mr. Smalls Funhouse, The Pittsburgh City Paper, and more. The market will once again be the location of the WYEP Singer-Songwriter Contest and with the support of Liveburgh Studio, Raelyn Nelson, granddaughter of Willie Nelson, will kick off the series on Saturday, May 12. A full line-up will be released in the near future.

### **Local Maker Retail Initiative**

In 2017, the PDP invested significant time and resources in developing opportunities for the local maker community to engage in Downtown. The PDP and Bridgeway Capital's Craft Business Accelerator partnered to provide local makers with exhibition opportunities at the PDP-operated Saturday Night Markets and at the People's Gas Holiday Market™ in Market Square.

Last year, the URA asked the PDP to determine how the organization could play a role in the future of a small building located at 604 Liberty Avenue. Knowing that any plan must be built around an active first-floor use, the PDP initiated conversations with the Craft Business Accelerator and the Richard King Mellon Foundation to discuss ways in which existing efforts to incubate local makers and craft businesses can be leveraged as a means of growing retail opportunities. The plan for this building is to purchase and renovate the property to become a curated retail showroom and maker space.

In addition, the PDP has been investigating more immediate opportunities to increase exposure for local makers. In 2018, the PDP will work with current partners on this local maker initiative to curate an experiential storefront along Smithfield Street in Mellon Square. This location will serve as a proof of concept for accelerating local producers and makers in a brick and mortar environment which will include experiential programming for customers and producers.

### **Horse With No Name Contest**

The City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police is re-instating their mounted police division. As a thank you to the Downtown Business community who so generously provided support for both this and the Downtown police substation, the PDP was provided with the opportunity to name one of the newest members of the police force. An online competition was conducted to suggest names for the horse and more than 750 suggestions were received. The suggestions were narrowed to four perfectly Pittsburgh-centric choices. Nearly 1,500 people voted in the poll and at the meeting it was announced that the #HorseWithNoName, now has one. **Lord Stanley** will be an invaluable asset to the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police.

### **Election of New Officers**

As part of the order of business for the day, the PDP elected new leadership to a two year term. New board officers are: *Chairperson*: Lucas Piatt, President Millcraft and Piatt Sotheby's International Realty, *Vice Chair*: Matthew Sterne, General Manager, Fairmont Pittsburgh, and *Secretary/Treasurer*: Craig Stambaugh, Vice President, Human Resources, UPMC Health Services Division, UPMC.

### **Golden Triangle Award Recipients**

The Golden Triangle Awards are presented annually and acknowledge exceptional efforts that benefit Downtown Pittsburgh.

**The Partnership Award** was presented to a group of our collaborators from around the city, The Wayfinding Advisory Committee, who have been working on the development of a pedestrian wayfinding system for Downtown, North Shore, Northside and Oakland.

In addition to the PDP, members of this committee included: Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Department of City Planning, Department of Mobility & Infrastructure, Northside Leadership Conference Bike & Ped Committee, Oakland Business Improvement District, Oakland Transportation Management Association, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, and UPMC.

The second Golden Triangle award honors a member of the PDP's Board of Directors who has provided extraordinary service. The award was re-named the award in honor of one of the founding members of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, and is now known as the **Herb Burger Memorial Board Member Award**.

The award was presented to Ken Lyle of Peoples Gas for his assistance in securing a gift to the PDP from Peoples of a 2017 Ford F-250 truck that is powered by Clean Natural Gas.

### **About the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership**

*Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership (PDP) is a dynamic, nonprofit organization comprised of business and community leaders, property owners, civic organizations, foundations and residents who provide energy, vision and advocacy for Downtown Pittsburgh. Working collaboratively with its partners, the PDP strives to create a positive Downtown experience for residents, workers and visitors alike. The PDP's strategic initiatives include clean and safe services, transportation, and economic development and advocacy. For more information, visit [www.DowntownPittsburgh.com](http://www.DowntownPittsburgh.com), follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/downtownpitt> and "like" us on Facebook.*

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