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RAD PASSES 20TH BUDGET: RECORD \$91 MILLION FOR REGIONAL ASSETS

In November, the Board of Directors of the Allegheny Regional Asset District approved a 2014 budget that includes grants to 91 regional assets totaling \$91.2 million. It is the 20th budget for the District and the first to surpass \$90 million. It will bring RAD's total investment in the regional assets to just under \$1.5 billion.

The budget is a \$1.5 million increase from the 2013 budget and a \$947,750 increase from the preliminary budget released on October 1. While most of the increase since then comes in the form of discretionary capital grants, there will also be significant additional funds for assets to improve the accessibility of their facilities and programs.

"Given the improvements in these programs and facilities over the last 20 years, RAD and its partners have gone a long way toward implementing [the District's] mission—but it is far from accomplished," said the Allocations Committee, which recommends the budget. "Together with the efforts of the asset board members, staff and volunteers along with the support of the philanthropic community and other government agencies and individuals, RAD will look for opportunities to sustain and improve the quality of life in the region."

The 2014 plan is funded with an estimated \$87 million in sales tax funds and \$4.2 million from the District's grant stabilization reserve fund. The largest category of support still goes to libraries at 32% of the budget; regional parks and trails will receive 30%; sports facilities and the convention center will receive 16%; regional facilities like the Zoo, Phipps, and Aviary will receive 8.5%; arts and cultural facilities and programs receive 10% and transit receives 3%. Program administration remains at less than 1% of the budget.

All contractual assets, or assets with multi-year operating funding commitments from the District, will receive a 2% increase over their 2013 funding level. This category includes

libraries and regional parks, the Zoo, Phipps and Aviary along with the Carnegie Museums.

The Electronic Information Network (or eIN), the computer system that connects libraries in the county, will receive a 3% increase.

The budget includes capital grant allocations to regional parks and trails throughout the county for projects improving playgrounds, pavilions, ball fields, pools and general capital repairs.

Increased Funding for "Project Grants" for Connections Grants, Accessibility

Beginning in 2014, "Project Grants" will incorporate both Connections Grants and Accessibility/Inclusion Grants, with \$500,000 available for 2014, an increase of \$350,000 from the preliminary budget.

Under the District's *Regional Assets are for Everyone* initiative, the Board adopted new policies and awarded first time project grants to advance the goal of making sure that everyone can participate in the benefits of the assets. For year 2015 grants, the District will require applicants to designate an "accessibility coordinator" and require assets to publicize their accessibility information.

Also under the "Project Grant" category RAD will continue to consider Connections

Grant proposals. These are one-time project grants design to assist in the implementation of asset connections including mergers, agreements to share a significant portion of administrative costs or facilities, and collaborations that result in revenue enhancement or cost control. Since 2009, the District has provided nearly \$700,000 in Connections Grants.

Contractual Asset Renewal

In other action, the Board voted to renew agreements with the nine contractual assets who have multi-year agreements with the District including minimum funding guarantees. The assets were selected in the first year of RAD operations (1995). The assets are: Allegheny County Library Association, Allegheny County Regional Parks, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the Carnegie Museums, City of Pittsburgh Regional Parks, City of McKeesport Regional Park, National Aviary in Pittsburgh, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens and the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium. Guaranteed multi-year funding for the Electronic Information Network was also added.

Detailed information about the approved allocations, the grant program and the Regional Assets are for Everyone Initiative is available on the District's web page at radworkshere.org or by calling the District office at (412) 227-1900.

RADICAL DAYS DRAWS 50,000 TO REGIONAL ASSETS

Now in its 12th year, the District's annual RADical Days event was a success all the way around, attracting nearly 50,000 people with more than 50 free admission sites and a dozen performing arts organizations. New events this year included trail walks with the Audubon Society at its Beechwood Farms location.

"By opening their doors to the public free of charge, the regional assets are thanking the public for its RAD funds, showing the di-

verse group of funded assets, creating new marketing opportunities, and providing an opportunity to attend for those who otherwise might not be able," said David L. Donahoe, RAD Executive Director. "RADical Days is a great opportunity for the public to explore and to experience all that the regional assets have to offer, from performance to exhibits to recreation," said Donahoe.

(story continues on back page)

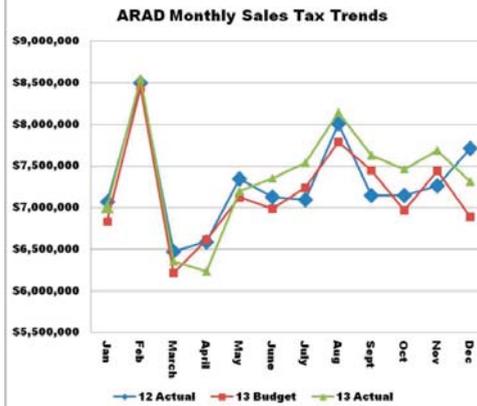
FINANCIAL UPDATE

SALES TAX COLLECTIONS AND MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE

The District's share of the county sales tax revenue for 2013 totals \$88.4 million or 1.2% higher than 2012. This means that Allegheny County government received \$44.2 million and participating municipalities shared another \$44.2 million. After losing ground early in the year, revenue growth trended modestly positive for most of the second half of the year.

Monthly budget updates, audits and annual reports are available at radworkshere.org.

Municipalities are reminded that Act 77 has a number of requirements to remain eligible for distribution of the sales tax including the timely filing of the annual report with the state, participation in a low income senior citizen tax relief program and dedicating a portion of the growth in the tax to intergovernmental programs. Have your municipal solicitor make sure you are in compliance.



RADical Days 2013 visitors to Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium appreciate the polar bears.

RADICAL DAYS (CONTINUED)

RADical Days 2014 is expected to take place early next Fall. If you'd like to be placed on the email alert list, visit radworkshere.org, click on "What's Happening" and then the "RADical Days" page for a link to the email form. You can also get text message alerts by texting RAD to SMASH (76274).

Photos from bottom left: visitors at Heinz Field; Squonk Opera performance at the New Hazlett Theater; visitors to the Frick Art & Historical Center.



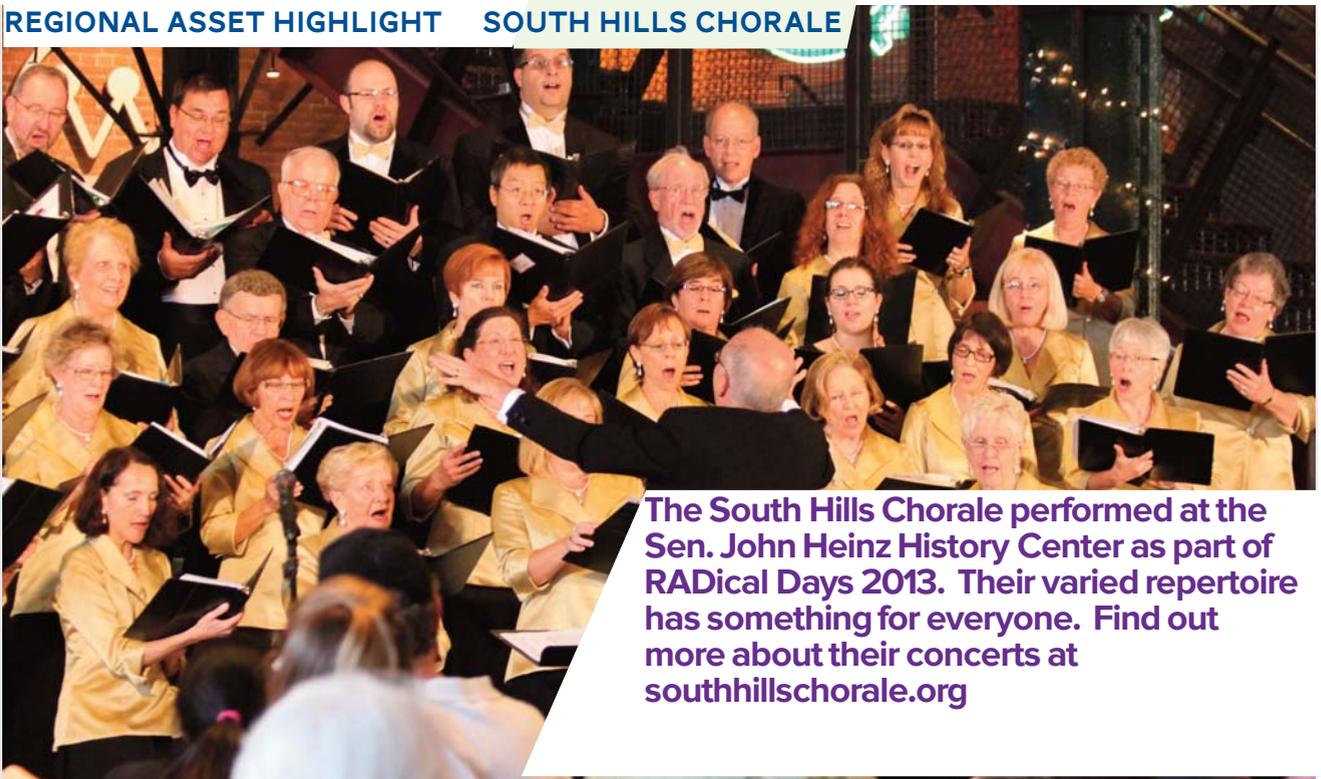
The Children's Museum is proud to be a charter RADical Days participant. This day has offered the Museum a wonderful opportunity to introduce and re-introduce ourselves to thousands of families.
- Jane Werner,
Executive Director,
Children's Museum



425 Sixth Avenue • Suite 1610 • Pittsburgh, PA 15219



REGIONAL ASSET HIGHLIGHT SOUTH HILLS CHORALE



The South Hills Chorale performed at the Sen. John Heinz History Center as part of RADical Days 2013. Their varied repertoire has something for everyone. Find out more about their concerts at southhillschorale.org