



**Pittsburgh
Parks
Conservancy**
PittsburghParks.org



Donor Newsletter
May-June 2018
PittsburghParks.org

Frick Environmental Center's first artist-in-residence starts this summer

Your support allows Ryan McMasters to make park music

Your Frick Environmental Center goes from STEM to STEAM. Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math are all components of education programs at the Center. Every year, visitors can view unique, nature-centered artwork by various artists on the gallery walls. This year your support kicks-off the first artist-in-residency program. Ryan McMasters joins the education staff to incorporate music into science and learning.



"I take a lot of my inspiration as a composer from nature and the physical power of sound."

Ryan is a musician whose work focuses on accessibility for both audience and performer. He is currently a Public Humanities Fellow at the University of Pittsburgh where he studies music composition and theory. He will support the summer camp programs with performances, guided listening activities, and opportunities to witness the relationship between sounds and their environments.

One major component of his residency is the creation of a site-specific sound art installation that uses cymbals. Working with the Young Naturalists (students ages 14-18), they'll place cymbals around the Center to harness the power of rain, wind, and trees to create musical experiences for park visitors. The Young Naturalists will help build the piece, find ideal locations for

the cymbals, and maintain the piece throughout the summer. At the end of his residency in August, Ryan's band WOLFTRAP will use the weathered cymbals as part of a musical performance.

“Having the opportunity to work with the incredibly dedicated and passionate

staff at the Frick Environmental Center has been a wonderful experience so far. The prospect of encouraging young students to actively listen to their environment, whether in the park or in the city, is a pretty meaningful component to my time at the park.” 🌞

Also check out: Frick Environmental Center's gallery June - August featuring Ashley Cecil's *Edged Out*



ENGAGE

contact Harmony Hodges at
hhodges@pittsburghparks.org
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Park champions like you

A garden in honor of Meg Cheever

Garden Club of Allegheny County invests in Allegheny Commons

As a parks supporter for 21 years, the Garden Club of Allegheny County has generously funded award-winning gardens in Schenley Plaza and Highland Park, among others. They're stepping up again to support Allegheny Commons Park. Their \$20,000 donation will benefit gardens around the showcase Northeast Fountain restoration project. This gift

will also honor someone very special, recently retired Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy founder Meg Cheever.

GCAC President Mardi Royston says, "GCAC members are so grateful for the hard work and results that Meg has delivered, for the benefit of our community, during her leadership." 🌿



GCAC supported a native plant bed at the Frick Environmental Center



Programs you make possible

You provide new free programs

Dancing in Schenley Plaza

Your gift engages park visitors in new ways, thanks to a brand new program at Schenley Plaza: Dancing in the Park.

Happening every Wednesday from 7-10pm under the Schenley Plaza tent, this free event will feature a different type of dance each week. Styles include a wide variety, from Waltz to Salsa, and Israeli to Argentine Tango.

Lisa Tamres is with Country Coal Traditions, the Parks Conservancy's dance partner. "I am often asked by people who want to get started dancing what to do, and I suggest that they "dance shop" until they find a style of music they like and a group of people they like, and then that is the dance style for them."

This event is the perfect opportunity to try a new, fun dance while enjoying a nice evening in the park. Shawn Fertitta, Senior Manager of Visitor Experience in Schenley Plaza is thrilled to present this new program. "Dancing is a physical activity



photo credit: Renee Rosensteel

Studies show dancing is good for your health and your happiness

that brings communities together in a social and creative way. Each week represents a different style of dance to educate and celebrate the diversity in

Oakland and throughout the City."

The first event held in May brought 30 people out to the park. Check out the upcoming dance at PittsburghParks.org/events

"Now we have a chance to sample all dances right here in the park. Some people enjoy one style, some enjoy many." Lisa Tamres, Country Coal Traditions



photo credit: Saul Weiss

Dancing on a regular basis is linked with a 76 percent reduction in dementia risk (New England Journal of Medicine)



You transform our cherished spaces

Your restoration effort starting to show in Frick Park West

Restoration work has been ongoing for the last three years within Frick West Woods, near the Falls Ravine Trail Beechwood Boulevard entrance. The City's forestry division removed approximately 70 dead, dying, and hazardous trees, in order to enhance park safety. At the same time many non-native invasive species were also removed. These felled trees were used to build the deer enclosures and to help with erosion control.



With your support, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy implemented the restoration plan. The area was seeded with native grasses, and invasive

species like garlic mustard were removed. Working with volunteers, Parks Conservancy horticulturists planted approximately 200

new, native trees. These native trees will help to mitigate storm water, air pollution, and urban heating. Plus they will serve as homes

and food sources for wildlife. Parks Conservancy staff will continue work in this area until the new plantings are well established. 🌱

2018 PNC Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is highest grossing ever at \$579,870



photo credit: John Altendorfer

CEO Jayne Miller with Co-Chairs Mary McKinney Flaherty, Mollie Hanna Lang, Emily Mack Jamison, Jimmi Sue Smith, and Ramsey Lyons

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Sustaining donor is sustaining your parks

Miguel Feitosa knows what it takes to keep parks vibrant

Born in Brazil, Miguel Feitosa first moved to Pittsburgh as a toddler. After being away for some time, he returned "home" seven years ago. "I wanted to come back to Pittsburgh and passed up offers in NYC and other cities. I am very happy to be here. A city is wonderful, but at the same time it can be very taxing. Parks for me are a quiet moment every day to sit and admire, enjoy, and connect with myself."

Highland Park is Miguel's place to relax and meet people within his community. "I walk along the reservoir and it is nice to see familiar faces and to nod and say 'hi, good morning'. These small routines are serene and wonderful. Sometimes someone stops coming and I hope they are okay and maybe just moved or changed their schedules."



Miguel became a donor after learning the Parks Conservancy was a non-profit

not maintained by the City. Wow! I felt moved to contribute somehow even if a little bit!"

He became a "Sustaining Supporter" with a

recurring credit card gift every month. His support funds the everyday important work for team members like Angela and keeps the park beautiful and relaxing. 🌻

Miguel met Parks Conservancy horticulturist Angela Yuele working in the flower beds in Highland Park one morning in 2017. "I learned that the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy was a non-profit and the garden was



Horticulturist Angela Yuele takes care of the award-winning gardens in Highland Park

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