





Dear Friends,

I am deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our foundation community, corporate sponsors, members, donors, and event attendees. **Because of you, the August Wilson African American Cultural Center continues to thrive as one of the largest Black multi-disciplinary arts centers in the United States.**

Your generosity allows us to serve as a beacon for the arts, storytelling, learning, and cultural exchange—both in Pittsburgh and on the global stage.

The AWAACC celebrates the power of the arts to bring people together. **In 2024**, we welcomed thousands back to our downtown streets for the **14th Annual Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival**, engaged in thought-provoking **TRUTHSayers** events with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Nikole Hannah-Jones** and National Humanities Medal recipient **Isabel Wilkerson**, and gathered for a delicious meal through our culinary series, ***A Seat at Our Table***, featuring superstar chef **Eric Adjepong**.

In September 2024, we celebrated the **15th anniversary of the opening** of our iconic building. Some of the greatest artists of our time have graced our stages and their art has been on view in our galleries. We have built a reputation for presenting art with excellence and integrity in mind, and we **thank YOU for supporting us in this commitment**. The next fifteen years are ours to shape a bright and sustainable future for the August Wilson African American Cultural Center.

Your belief in our mission fuels everything we do, and I hope you take great pride in the **impact** we create together.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

With appreciation,

Janis Burley
President & CEO / Artistic Director



EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

URBAN ACADEMY AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

This year, we welcomed 200 Urban Academy students for a dynamic and engaging **MLK Day** celebration. Through art, music, dance, and educational activities, students explored the legacies of **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** and playwright **August Wilson**—two transformative figures whose work and leadership continue to inspire.

The program fostered learning and creativity while encouraging students to draw connections between historical and cultural heroes.

In addition to MLK Day, our ongoing collaboration with Urban Academy includes a student-led tour guide program at **The Writer’s Landscape** exhibit. This initiative empowers students to share their knowledge and voices as they guide visitors through the world of August Wilson, deepening their understanding of his impact on literature and social change.

AWCOMMUNITY DAY PARTNERSHIP WITH HAZELWOOD LOCAL—S.T.E.A.M ON THE GREEN

Our ongoing partnership with Hazelwood Local continues to grow, marking its third successful year in 2024. Each year, our collaborative events have grown, with last year’s event bringing together over 700 community members. We are excited to continue this partnership in 2025 with our TECH-themed **AWCommunity Day** celebration. We are incredibly grateful to our co-presenting sponsors, **UPMC** and **UPMC Health Plan** and **Citizens**, for their generous support.

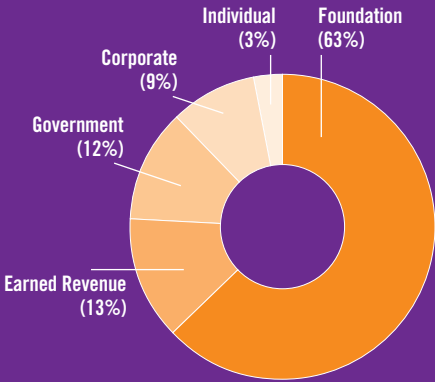


STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES

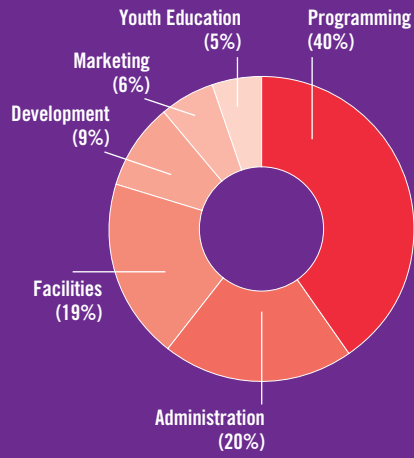
AWAACC’s **Youth Writers Camp** celebration and poetry slam gave young writers a platform to shine. We also launched a special event for adult learners—a screening of the **Paul Laurence Dunbar** documentary—attended by 80 people. The discussion linked Dunbar’s works to August Wilson, inspiring creative exploration. These programs promote literacy, storytelling, and community engagement across all ages. Thank you to **Howmet Aerospace Foundation** for their support.

BY THE NUMBERS:
100,000 PATRONS
63,000 ATTENDED
FREE EVENTS
11,000 GALLERY VISITS
400+ ARTISTS OF COLOR
130 EVENTS
65 RENTALS

FINANCIALS



EXPENSES



YOUTH PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
3,700 STUDENTS FROM 25 SCHOOLS
SUMMER YOUTH WRITERS CAMP
YOUTH HIP-HOP CAMPS (MUSIC, ART, DANCE)
VISUAL ARTS SCHOOL TOURS AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMING
SCHOOL-BASED EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: CATHRYN “CC” CALHOUN

AWAACC’s small but dedicated full-time staff makes our work possible. This year, we highlight **Cathryn “CC” Calhoun**, our Director of Education and Community Engagement, for her commitment to inclusive programming and lifelong learning.

With a background in psychology, leadership, and education, Cathryn has shaped impactful community initiatives. She has been recognized with the **New Pittsburgh Courier Fab 40 Under 40 Award** and the **Ladies Who Lead Award** for her work. Beyond AWAACC, she serves on multiple boards, runs her own business, and promotes health and wellness through free Zumba fitness classes. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in Education with a specialization in Organizational Leadership, set to be completed in 2025.

CC’s passion for education, mentorship, and community engagement continues to inspire and uplift those around her.



FESTIVALS
51,000 ATTENDEES
30 MUSICAL ARTISTS



PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

In 2024, the **14th Annual Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival (PIJF)** celebrated an important homecoming, making its triumphant return to our downtown streets, spotlighting Pittsburgh’s rich jazz legacy and its enduring influence on the global jazz scene.

The festivities commenced on September 19 with the signature Jazz Train, featuring live performances by acclaimed pianist **Orrin Evans** and vocalist **Vanisha Gould**. Departing from New York City with stops in Newark and Philadelphia, the journey set the tone for a weekend of musical celebration.

On September 20, **Maysa** performed for a sold-out crowd and the **Taste of Jazz Party** offered more than 500 guests culinary delights from 15 local restaurants, alongside musical performances throughout the AWAACC building.

Over the weekend of September 21–22, Liberty Avenue transformed into an electric jazz hub with FREE outdoor performances. The lineup included Grammy winning pianist **Robert Glasper**, the dynamic **Marsha Ambrosius**, acclaimed blues vocalist **Shemekia Copeland**, Cuban sensation **Cimafunk**, and a final Pittsburgh performance by the legendary **Average White Band**. Also featured: **Sean Jones**, **Endea Owens & The Cookout**, **Orrin Evans**, **Emmet Cohen**, Brazilian songstress **Luedji Luna**, and **Howie Alexander**.

The 2024 Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival was co-presented by **Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield**, with additional support provided by the **Mellon Foundation** and other major sponsors, including **The Wilson Group**, **UPMC** and **UPMC Health Plan**, **Visit Pittsburgh**, **Rivers Casino**, **BMW of Pittsburgh**, **Bacardi**, and **Xfinity/Comcast**, and more.

Stay tuned in 2025 as we celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival! Visit pittsburghjazzfest.org for updates.

COLLECTIONS IN BLACK EXHIBITION

The AWAACC fosters creativity and community through its **B.U.I.L.D. Residency Program**. In 2024, B.U.I.L.D. artist-in-residence **Phillip Thompson** presented his groundbreaking exhibition **Collections in Black: A Celebration of Black Comic Book Culture**.

Delving into the significant contributions of African American collectors, artists, writers, and creators from the Golden Age of comics to the present, *Collections in Black* reflected Phill’s passion for storytelling and visual art. It featured original works by artists like **Shawn Martinbrough** and **John Jennings**, alongside rare collectors items. Visitors also had an opportunity to preview Phill’s documentary film featuring interviews with artists across the country and documenting some of the rarest comic and art collections. By merging traditional artistic techniques with contemporary influences, Phill captured the essence of Black experiences and their profound influence on the world of comics and visual culture.

Supported by the **Richard King Mellon Foundation**, the B.U.I.L.D. Residency provides a vital platform for African American artists in Pittsburgh to develop their craft, engage with the community, and showcase their work.

VISUAL ARTS
OVER 11,000 VISITORS
5 SHOWS



**CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF THE AUGUST WILSON
AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER**

On September 17, 2009, an iconic, symbolic building opened its doors to the public in the Cultural District of Pittsburgh, Pa. Today, the August Wilson African American Cultural Center is **one of the largest, Black multi-disciplinary arts centers in the country!** Some of the greatest artists of our time have graced our stage and their artwork has lined our gallery walls. In 2024, we proudly celebrated fifteen years of honoring the legacy of August Wilson by elevating voices, preserving history, and inspiring future generations through dynamic performances, thought-provoking conversations, and transformative experiences.

Our milestone year has been filled with unforgettable moments—and the momentum continues as we look to 2025, honoring the legacy and accomplishments of those who have come before us and laying the groundwork to ensure the Center continues to be a resource and source of inspiration for the generations to come. With your continued support, the AWAACC will remain a hub for creativity, dialogue, and celebration, ensuring that August Wilson’s legacy—and the countless narratives that shape our world—continue to thrive for generations to come.

**Thank you for being part of our journey.
Here’s to 15 years—and many more ahead!**

**THANK YOU
TO OUR LEAD
SUPPORTERS!**

RICHARD KING MELLON
FOUNDATION

HEINZ ENDOWMENTS

HENRY L. HILLMAN FOUNDATION

ALLEGHENY REGIONAL ASSET
DISTRICT (RAD)

THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION

THE CLAUDE WORTHINGTON
BENEDUM FOUNDATION

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BLUE SHIELD

UPMC AND UPMC HEALTH PLAN

CITIZENS

HOWMET AEROSPACE
FOUNDATION

COMCAST XFINITY AND
NBC UNIVERSAL

PPG FOUNDATION

THE WILSON GROUP

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL
ON THE ARTS

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST,
VISIT AWAACC.ORG.**



**JOIN/UPGRADE YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!
VISIT WWW.AWAACC.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS.**

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