

# A NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE



## 37<sup>th</sup> Robert L. Vann Media Awards

Point Park University, Lawrence Hall Ballroom  
[PBMF.org](http://PBMF.org)

# **Congratulations to all 2026 Robert L. Vann Media Awards Finalists And Winners!**

We're proud to celebrate the journalists being recognized tonight—and proud to help train the ones being recognized tomorrow.



**CENTER FOR  
MEDIA INNOVATION**

Point Park University



# A NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Deborah Todd

Welcome to the 37th Robert L. Vann Awards, "A Night of Excellence."  
Welcome to the 53rd year of the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation. On behalf of PBMF's executive board, we are grateful for your attendance and support of our organization, which seeks to advance diversity and inclusion in storytelling and in media organizations across Western Pennsylvania.

Tonight, we're pleased to honor winners and finalists from the more than 100 entries submitted for the Vann awards, which recognizes excellence in visual, audio and written journalism that showcases stories from the African diaspora of Western Pennsylvania.

We're also pleased to present special honors that recognize individuals and organizations for their exemplary service to the media industry, the community, and to providing a voice for those who don't always have one.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Todd,  
President, Pittsburgh Black Media Federation

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## PROGRAM

Dinner and Presentation

6 p.m. Reception/Music/Dinner

6:30 p.m. Welcome

2026 Vann Awards/Excellence Daily Newspaper/News Services

Legacy Award

2026 Vann Awards/Excellence Daily Newspaper/News Services

Trailblazer Award

2026 Vann Awards/Excellence Daily Newspaper/News Services

Communicator of Year Award

2026 Vann Awards/Excellence Daily Newspaper/News Services

Recognition of PBMF

2026 Vann Awards/Excellence Non-Daily Newspaper/News Services

2026 Vann Awards/Excellence Magazines

Chris Moore Tribute

2026 Vann Awards/Excellence in Audio

2026 Vann Awards/Excellence in Video

### **Elaine Effort Community Champion Awards**

- A Second Chance, Inc/ Dr. Sharon McDaniel

- Dollar Bank

- Vernard Alexander

2026 Vann Awards/Excellence in Visual Presentation

Closing





# Jatara McGee

## CO - HOST

Jatara McGee is an award-winning news anchor and investigative reporter at WPXI-TV. She has built a track record as a trustworthy and fair journalist during her career, which has spanned West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Her reporting has led to action by local and state lawmakers, policy changes, resignations, and even secured a cancer patient access to a life-saving drug.

Jatara was born and raised in Westmoreland County, graduated from Shady Side Academy and continued her education at the University of Maryland. She is an active member of the National Association of Black Journalists and Investigative Reporters and Editors. She also chairs NABJ's Investigative Task Force, which she co-launched in 2023. The task force is dedicated to increasing the number of Black investigative journalists in newsrooms across the country.

Jatara has been honored with two prestigious regional Edward R. Murrow awards, as well as state and local journalism awards. Her work in Pittsburgh has been recognized by the National Association of Black Journalists, Mid-Atlantic Regional EMMY awards, Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters, Press Club of Western Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh Black Media Federation. She was recently named one of the New Pittsburgh Courier's Fab 40 Under 40 award recipients.



# 37<sup>th</sup> Robert L. Vann Media Awards



# Josh Taylor

## CO - HOST

Josh Taylor is a sports anchor at KDKA-TV in Pittsburgh, and a weekend radio host at 93.7 FM, "The Fan." He returns to serve as co-emcee for this year's Robert L. Vann Media Awards after his first appearance in 2018 with his KDKA co-worker, Mikey Hood.

Taylor grew up in Pittsburgh's Hill District and is an alumnus of Schenley High School and Duquesne University. He was added to Duquesne's Journalism and Multimedia "Wall of Fame" in 2017. Taylor has spent the past six seasons as part of Duquesne's television broadcast team for men's and women's basketball. In

2023, he was a color commentator for the Steel City High School Football Showcase with JRM Productions, and was also part of JRM's broadcast team during the 2024 City League boys' and girls' basketball championships, which aired on SportsNet Pittsburgh.

In addition to a decade-and-a-half career in broadcast media, Taylor has also co-authored seven books spanning various subjects on Pittsburgh sports. He also serves on the Operations Board for Wesley Family Services, and as an advisory board member for the Duquesne University's Center for Emerging and Innovative Media.

He lives in Pittsburgh with his wife (and college sweetheart), Priscilla, their son, Nathan, and their daughter, Jocelynn.



# LEGACY AWARD

## Aubrey Bruce



Aubrey Bruce has enjoyed a successful career as a musician, journalist and music promoter. He began his musical career eight years old as a vocalist in the St. Mark A.M.E Zion Church in Lawrenceville, PA.

To date he has produced live shows and performed with War, Roy Ayers, Chick Corea, Rick James, the Commodores, Steve Torok (former music arranger for The Voice and American Idol), Norman Connors, Angela Bofill, George Howard, Spyrogyra and various other local and national artists. He has also produced and performed at historical venues such as the Lennox Lounge in Harlem, NY, the historic Crawford Grille and Crawford Grille #2, and Graffiti, located in Pittsburgh, PA. Bob Karlovits, former music critic of the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review says as far as Aubrey Bruce is concerned; "You never know what to expect from the singer."

He began his journalism career as a freelance writer and reporter with the New Pittsburgh Courier in 1979. In 1995, he became a staff reporter for the publication. As the new millennium began, he departed the NPC to pen the lifestyles column, 'Truth Serum' for the McKeesport Daily News, opposite 'Miss Manners'.

He returned to the NPC in 2002 to again take the reins as the senior sports columnist for the newspaper which was voted as the #1 African American sports section in America in 2014 by the NNPA. He remains one of the regions and nation's leading sports columnists. At the tender age of 73, he still cherishes the opportunity to communicate with sports fans across all platforms.



**37<sup>th</sup>** Robert L. Vann Media Awards



# COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR



## Dr. Edda Fields-Black

Dr. Edda L. Fields-Black is a direct descendant of a formerly enslaved man who liberated himself after the Battle of Port Royal, joined the 2nd South Carolina Volunteers (34th Regiment USCT), and fought in the Combahee River Raid and Africans enslaved on rice plantations in Colleton County, SC. Since an early age, she has been curious about her grandparents' "peculiar" speech patterns. Her mother's historical and genealogical research was her first inkling of Gullah as both a rich language and culture with its peculiar history. Her desire to reclaim her family's history and culture has taken her to the rice fields of Sierra Leone and Republic of Guinea in West Africa, South Carolina and Georgia.

Fields-Black is a specialist in the transnational history of West

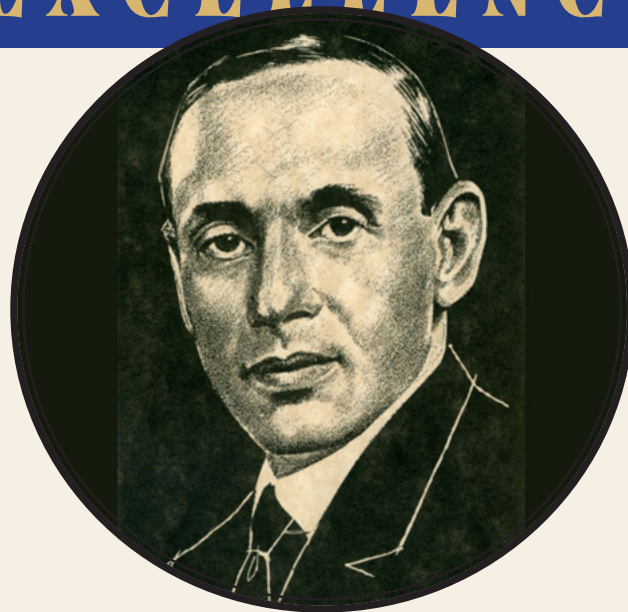
Africa rice, peasant farmers in the pre-colonial Upper Guinea coast and enslaved laborers on antebellum Lowcountry South Carolina and Georgia rice plantations. She is author of "Deep Roots: Rice Farmers in West Africa and the African Diaspora" and co-editor of "Rice: Global Networks and New Histories." She is executive producer and librettist of "Unburied, Unmourned, Unmarked: Requiem for Rice" (with three-time EMMY<sup>TM</sup> Award-winning classical music composer, John Wineglass). Fields-Black has worked as a consultant at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, the International African American Museum, and the Senator John Heinz History Center. She and her family live in Pittsburgh, where she teaches history at Carnegie Mellon University and serves as Director of the Dietrich College Humanities Center.



# A NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE

## About Robert L. Vann

(1879-1940)



Robert Lee Vann, newspaper publisher, politician and civil rights leader, was born Aug. 27, 1879, in Ahoskie, N.C. He graduated as valedictorian of Waters Training School in Winton, N.C., in 1901. From 1901 to 1903, he attended Wayland Academy in Richmond, Va., where he was influenced by John T. Mitchell, editor of the Richmond Planet, who was adamantly opposed to Jim Crow laws and disenfranchisement.

Vann attended Western University of Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh (now the University of Pittsburgh) and graduated from its law school in June 1909. He passed the Pennsylvania bar exam on Dec. 18, 1909.

Initially, Vann worked as counsel for the Pittsburgh Courier, a newspaper organized by a small group of Black residents in March 1910. By 1912, Vann had sole control and became editor of the newspaper.

Within a few years he developed the Courier into one of the leading African American newspapers of the early 20th century. Circulation steadily climbed, reaching 50,000 by 1920 and 174,000 by 1936. By 1930, the newspaper was sold coast to coast and was the largest Black newspaper in circulation in the nation.

Vann's newspaper grew popular because of its opposition to the demeaning duties assigned to Black soldiers during World War I. In the 1920s, Vann also began to cover the rise of the first national Black sports heroes, such as Jesse Owens and Joe Louis, and in the process built a huge readership.

Vann was also active in politics, initially as a Republican. He served as national director of Negro publicity in the Republican presidential campaigns of Warren Harding in 1920, Calvin Coolidge in 1924 and Hebert Hoover in 1928. By 1932, he became a Democrat and helped Franklin Roosevelt win Black votes.

Vann was rewarded by Roosevelt, who appointed him assistant to the attorney general in 1933, a position he held until January 1936. Vann's support for Roosevelt and the New Deal influenced thousands of Black voters to move into the New Deal Coalition.

Vann died of cancer in Philadelphia on Oct. 24, 1940.

In 1988, the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation launched its journalism awards contest. It is named in honor of Vann to recognize his commitment to journalism and creating a voice for the Black community.

Source: [www.blackpast.org](http://www.blackpast.org)



# A NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE

## About The Pittsburgh Black Media Federation

Founded in 1973, the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation is an organization of journalists, communications specialists and college students majoring in journalism and related fields. It advocates for diversity in newsrooms, hosts programs that recognize excellent media coverage of minority communities and trains young people to enter the media industry.

PBMF also was designed to create a social network for Black media professionals in Pittsburgh and surround-

ing areas. PBMF's programming includes the Frank Bolden Urban Multimedia Workshop for teens, the Edna McKenzie Fellowship, which supports African diaspora reporting, and the Christopher Moore Internship, a program that supports preparation and training for local college students.

In 2015, the National Association of Black Journalists named PBMF as Chapter of the Year.

### **PBMF Executive Board:**

Deborah Todd, president

Dr. Ervin Dyer, treasurer

Donovan Harrell, secretary

Dr. Todd Carlisle, parliamentarian.

### **Robert L. Vann Awards committee:**

Dr. Ervin Dyer, chair

Dr. Sheila Beasley

Nikki Coffee

C. Denise Johnson

Natalie Hill

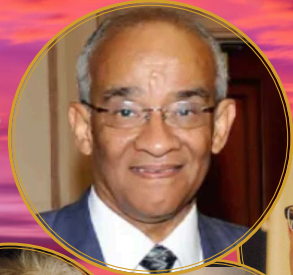
Allegra Battle

Shaylah Brown

Willa Kindle



# PBMF Presidents (through the decades)



## 1973-1980

Dee Thompson

## 1981-1991

Christopher Moore

Jean Bryant

Robyn Denise Youse

Lou Ransom

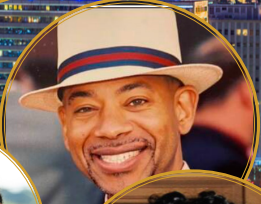
Carmen Lee

Yolande Campbell

Merlisa Lawrence Corbett

## 1992-2000

LaMont Jones



## 2001-2010

Ervin Dyer



## 2010-2023

Tonita Davidson

Tory Parrish

Brian Cook



## 2023-present

Deborah Todd



**37**th Robert L. Vann Media Awards



# TRAILBLAZER AWARD

## Ashley "Brotha Ash" Woodson



Ashley G. Woodson, also known as "Brotha Ash," is celebrating the 25th year of Brotha Ash Productions Media, L.L.C., a company inspired to entertain, educate and inform communities locally and across the country about African American culture. Brotha Ash was born and raised in the City of Pittsburgh's historic Hill District. Being a dancer, actor and piano player, he always knew that he would be the next Michael Jackson, but God had other plans. Also being a proud Black man who loves his culture, he was inspired by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X and his favorite hip-hop artist Chuck D of Public Enemy to inspire other Black people to be proud of who they are, where they come from, so they would know where they are going in the future.

Coming from a family of Black-owned businesses in the Hill District, he knew that one day he wanted to have his own business. Unofficially, he started Brotha Ash Productions Media in 1995 by having events such as New York City shopping trips, Las Vegas trips, Mother's Day Cabarets, fashion shows and much more.

Officially, September 1, 2001, Brotha Ash Productions Media, L.L.C. was launched. In 2004, the website [www.BrothaAshProductions.com](http://www.BrothaAshProductions.com) was created where businesses, companies and organizations could advertise their businesses and events. Brotha Ash loves giving back by having others share their businesses, events, and stories through his quarterly publication called "Brotha Ash Productions Magazine," which was launched in 2014, and the rest is Black history.

He has won many awards and interviewed countless national celebrities, but his biggest accomplishment to date is serving his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whom he gives all the glory and honor to every day. He is also proud to serve at Calvary Baptist Church as the Sound Engineer.



# A NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE



## Elaine Effort – Forever a Champion

**Elaine Effort** was a pioneering, award-winning journalist with a decades-long career in Pittsburgh.

For 38 years she worked as a reporter for KQV-AM 1410, reporting on crime, politics, the arts and anything else that she found to be newsworthy. She was a founding member of the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation, a mentor to dozens of young journalists, a Girl Scouts leader, a mother and a grandmother.

She died on Nov. 6, 2024.

**Effort** grew up in Detroit, Michigan, and attended the University of Michigan, where she earned a bachelor's in political science, a master's in journalism and also met her husband, Edmund. She started at Pittsburgh's KQV in the 1970s, where she stayed for the duration of her professional career. In addition to her daily reporting, she also produced a regular series called "Pittsburgh Profiles," in which she highlighted the work of people in the city making a difference in their communities.

Effort participated with and championed several community service and civic groups, but she was a leader in the Girl Scouts organization and spent time with dozens of young women.

Effort's "Pittsburgh Profiles" series on KQV featured diverse voices, often from the city's Black community. Through the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation's program for high school students looking to learn more about journalism, she mentored dozens of teens about the broadcasting industry

After retiring from KQV in 2017, Pittsburgh City Council honored Effort with a proclamation on Dec. 28. She'd go on to work for WESA from 2018-2019, producing the station's "90.5 WESA Celebrates 90 Neighborhoods, 90 Good Stories" series. It features interviews with artists, health experts, gym trainers and quilters — just to name a few.

Through her decades of reporting, she earned multiple Golden Quill Awards and Robert L. Vann Awards and received the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation's Legacy Award for her longstanding and outstanding service to journalism.

From reporting by WESA radio



# ELAINE EFFORT COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD



## Dr. Sharon McDaniel and A Second Chance, Inc.

### Dr. Sharon L. McDaniel

Dr. Sharon L. McDaniel is the Founder, President, and CEO of A Second Chance, Inc., the nation's leading nonprofit voice on kinship care. With more than 40 years of distinguished leadership in child welfare, she has become a nationally respected advocate, strategist, and thought leader dedicated to improving outcomes for children and families. Her extensive service includes roles as Trustee of Casey Family Programs, Board Member of the Eden Hall Foundation, and appointments to numerous national and federal advisory bodies focused on child welfare, permanency, and kinship care. She is also the former president of Black Administrators in Child Welfare and founder of both the National Sankofa Institute for Senior and Emerging African American Child Welfare Leaders and the African American Strategic Partnership.

An accomplished author, educator, and internationally sought-after lecturer, Dr. McDaniel has presented at prestigious institutions including Oxford University, Howard University, and the University of Barcelona. Her lifelong commitment to education and leadership development is reflected in her academic achievements, including two doctorate degrees, executive education studies at Harvard Kennedy School and the University of Chicago, and countless local and national honors recognizing her transformational impact in the field of child welfare and beyond.

### A Second Chance, Inc. (ASCI)

Founded in 1994 in North Braddock, Pennsylvania, A Second Chance, Inc. (ASCI) is a pioneering nonprofit dedicated to kinship care and culturally responsive, community-based services for children and families. Established to address disparities in the child welfare system, particularly the shortage of African American foster and adoptive families, ASCI has grown from a small startup into a nationally recognized agency with more than 200 employees that has served over 40,000 children throughout its history.

As Pennsylvania's first private nonprofit focused exclusively on kinship care, ASCI partners with public child welfare systems to place children with relatives or trusted family connections, preserving cultural identity and promoting stability. Through its holistic approach to family support, reunification, and systems innovation, the agency has expanded its impact across Pennsylvania and nationally, helping shape and advance best practices in kinship care.



# ELAINE EFFORT COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD



## DOLLAR BANK

For more than 170 years, Dollar Bank has been a steadfast presence in the communities it serves, guided by a longstanding commitment to inclusion, access, and opportunity.

Since 1855, Dollar Bank has worked to expand access to financial services and homeownership, helping individuals and families build stability, security, and generational wealth. Over time, that commitment has evolved into a comprehensive approach to community development—one that prioritizes equitable lending, financial education, and meaningful partnerships designed to meet people where they are and support where they're going.

Today, that work is carried forward through a strong local presence across neighborhood branches, where relationship-building remains central to the Bank's approach. By fostering trust at the community level and empowering local teams to engage directly with residents, businesses, and organizations, Dollar Bank ensures its impact is both personal and lasting. Programs like The Way Home—which provides credit counseling and down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers—reflect this commitment in action, helping open doors that have historically been out of reach for many.

Dollar Bank's dedication to the Pittsburgh community extends beyond banking services. Through long-standing partnerships with community-based organizations, support for economic development initiatives, and active participation in efforts that uplift all voices and stories, the Bank continues to invest in the strength and vitality of the region. Equally important is its focus on fostering inclusion from within—supporting Employee Resource Networks, mentorship opportunities, and leadership development programs that reflect and serve the diverse communities it represents.

Looking ahead, Dollar Bank remains energized by the work still to be done—continuing to strengthen community connections, develop future leaders, and help build communities where people and possibilities can thrive.



# ELAINE EFFORT COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

## Vernard Alexander



Two decades ago, Vernard Alexander turned inspiration into action after reading about the closing of a historic business and the indifference surrounding it. Determined to create stronger support systems for entrepreneurs, he founded the Minority Networking Exchange (MNE), a platform dedicated to connecting, educating, and collaborating with small business owners across the Pittsburgh region. Since then, Vernard has become widely known as “The Connecting King” for his unmatched ability to bring people, resources, and opportunities together.

To further his mission, Vernard co-founded CKV Suites, a versatile event venue that hosts business and social networking events designed to strengthen community ties and support entrepreneurship. His expertise in social media engagement has also made him a sought-after consultant and influencer, helping businesses, nonprofits, and public figures expand their visibility and impact. With more than 30,000 followers across social platforms, Vernard has leveraged his influence to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for grassroots initiatives and nonprofit organizations, including developing a funding strategy that helped secure \$1 million for a local nonprofit.

Vernard’s commitment to entrepreneurship extends to his work with Kiva International, where he is recognized as one of the top trustees in Pennsylvania and ranks among the leading fundraisers internationally, helping entrepreneurs secure more than \$220,000 in crowdfunding support. Overall, he has helped businesses raise more than \$10 million for startups and expansions, including ventures that grew into multimillion-dollar brands and investment funds.

For the past three years, Vernard has hosted “Motivational Mondays” at Noblemen Cigar Lounge, a weekly entrepreneur series featuring guest speakers, networking opportunities, and fundraising initiatives for local businesses and charities.

His leadership and community impact have earned him numerous honors, including Pittsburgh’s “Fab 40 under 40,” “50 Men of Excellence,” “Social Media Influencer of the Year,” “Community Connector of the Year,” and recognition as a 2023 Multiplying Good “Change Maker.” In 2025, KDKA Radio’s Larry Richert named Vernard a “Hometown Hero” for his outstanding service to the Pittsburgh community.

Vernard currently serves as Director of the University of Pittsburgh’s Homewood Community Engagement Center and Secretary for Invest PGH.



Making our  
community  
better is what  
you **do** best.

We are proud to support  
Pittsburgh Black Media Federation.

**DollarBank**<sup>®</sup>  
Let's get you there.

Dollar.Bank





**A** SECOND CHANCE<sup>INC.</sup>  
Kinship Care



***Dr. Sharon L. McDaniel, PhD, EdD, MPA  
Founder, President, and CEO***

***is honored to accept the***

***Pittsburgh Black Media Federation's  
Elaine Effort Community Champion Award***



***Legacy in Action. | Leadership in Motion. | The future in focus.***

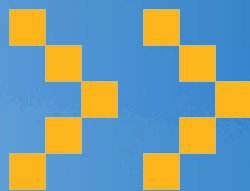
***As media evolves, so must leadership. A Second Chance, Inc. stands at the intersection of advocacy, innovation, and impact, shaping not only conversations but futures for the youth and families we serve in kinship care.***

[www.asecondchance-kinship.com](http://www.asecondchance-kinship.com)

412-342-0600



Pitt Engagement and  
Community Affairs is  
proud to celebrate our  
own **Vernard Alexander**  
for his outstanding  
commitment to our  
communities, the  
University, and beyond.



University of  
**Pittsburgh**®

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**Engagement and  
Community Affairs**

[community.pitt.edu](http://community.pitt.edu)





University of  
**Pittsburgh**<sup>®</sup>

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**Kenneth P. Dietrich School  
of Arts and Sciences**  
Department of English



A NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE



PROUD TO SUPPORT

**D. E. I.**

IN JOURNALISM

**DIGNITY.  
EXCELLENCE.  
INTEGRITY.**



# AWARDS

**37<sup>th</sup>** Robert L. Vann Media Awards

## 2026 ROBERT L. VANN AWARDS FINALISTS

### EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM DAILY NEWSPAPERS /NEWS SERVICES

#### History/ Culture/ Arts

Gregory Laski  
Pittsburgh's Public Source  
"Black Sewickley residents preserve their surprising history through story and film"

Samuel Long  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"Mon Valley native Tamara Tunie holds her heritage close to her heart"

Shaylah Brown  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"AFRICANISM Gala is a love letter to and by Black women"

Steve Mellon  
Pittsburgh Union Progress  
"At Hawk's Nest, hundreds of sickened workers died, then were hidden and forgotten; it wasn't an accident"

#### Spot Breaking News

Hallie Lauer, Mike Wereschagin, Jacob Geanous and Laura Esposito  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"Pittsburgh at a tipping point in high-stakes race for mayor"

Hanna Webster  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"North Side-based nonprofit TransYOUning wins \$175K national award"

Madaleine Rubin  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"North Side group demands more transparency for Esplanade project, a site it says is contaminated"

#### Sports

Jason Mackey  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"Kordell Stewart on his football legacy and how; no one was really ready for his style"

Colin Beazley  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"The Iyanna Wade Show: Clairton star ignores critics, pursues scoring title"

Brad Everett  
Pittsburgh Union Progress  
"Ama Sow finds a home in Montour, flourishes on and off the court"

#### Public Affairs

Megan Tomasic  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette PBMF  
"For Pittsburgh's Hill District, another school closure feels all too familiar"

Megan Tomasic  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"Sala Udin steps down from Pittsburgh Public School Board after decades of activism"

Laija Mistry  
Pittsburgh Public Source  
"A narrow win, a bold plan: Gene Walker's bet on PPS consolidation"

Julia Burdelski  
TribLive  
"Critical constituency"

#### Business/ Consumer/ Technology

Gretchen McKay  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"Tug Butter stand began with a mother's determination"

Madaleine Rubin  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"What does a possible Penguins sale mean for the Hill — after years of stalled Development?"

Tim Grant  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"Six new townhomes. Zero buyers. And one developer on the brink."

Madaleine Rubin  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"As corporate America retreats on DEI, Pittsburgh employers weigh their next moves"



## News Feature

Megan Guza  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"North Braddock pastor who came face to face with gunman confronts trauma"

Shaylah Brown  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"A 97-year-old woman found 7 Underground Railroad stops in New Brighton"

Justin Vellucci  
TribLive  
"Pittsburgh Detective"

## Health /Medical

Shaylah Brown  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"We want to normalize these conversations: Churches are talking about end-of-life care"

Hanna Webster  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"Meet the maternal health doc working to close the race gap"

Solomon Gustavo  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"Roberto Clemente Jr. shares grief of his father's death with families experiencing loss"

Rich Lord  
Pittsburgh's Public Source  
"Job One: Neither autism nor tragedy will stop Penn Hills man from saving lives"

## Enterprise / Investigative

Jimmy Cloutier and Stephana Ocneanu  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"Flush with millions, out-of-state corporate landlords shake up Allegheny County landscape"

Madaleine Rubin and Jimmy Cloutier  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"As Pittsburgh nears a budget crisis, tax-exempt statuses have gone unchecked for years"

Mike Wereschagin, Hallie Lauer and Jimmy Cloutier  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"Dark money in the Pittsburgh's mayoral race" "How dark money flooded the race for Pittsburgh mayor"

## Science / Environment

Shaylah Brown  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"A community garden brings hope after chaos in the Hill District"

Stephana Ocneanu  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"After the Clairton Coke Works blast, air quality stayed within normal range. Experts caution that may not tell the whole story"

Lindsay Shachnow  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"Parts of greater Pittsburgh region continue to be haunted by 2025 extreme weather events"

## Editorials

Brandon McGinley  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"Going to seed: Dozens of Pittsburgh parks and recreation projects have been delayed, Mothballed"

Adriana E. Ramírez  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"Oakland pedestrian deaths remain preventable tragedies"

Lori Falce  
TribLive  
"Pennsylvania's CROWN Act"

## Columns

Brandon McGinley  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"My son went to the park to play baseball. He ended up hiding from gunfire."

Adriana Ramirez  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"We need more Black teachers"

Lori Falce  
TribLive  
"Are you a DEI hire?"



## **EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM NON-DAILY NEWSPAPERS/ NEWS SERVICES**

### **History/Culture/Arts/Entertainment**

Michelangelo Pellis  
Pittsburgh City Paper

"Damon Young talks humor, shame and gentrification"

David S. Rotenstein  
NEXTpittsburgh

"Louise Harris wrote numbers and her own ticket in Pittsburgh History"

Ann Belser  
East End Print

"Ahmad Jamal's piano comes home"

Nichole Faina  
Pittwire/University of Pittsburgh

"High school student and August Wilson quilt"

### **Public Affairs/ Politics/ Government**

Robert Taylor  
New Pittsburgh Courier

"Daylon Davis, resigns as NAACP Pittsburgh Branch president"

Jamar Thrasher  
NEXTpittsburgh

"Tim Stevens encourages a lifetime commitment to voting"

Naomi Ilochi  
New Pittsburgh Courier

"Pittsburgh tied for worst city for Black professionals"

## **EXCELLENCE IN AUDIO JOURNALISM**

### **Public Affairs/Politics/Government/Education**

Chris DeCardy, host; Scott Roller, Josh Franzos, Tim Murray, Becky Brindle,  
producers

h magazine /Heinz Endowments

Podcast: "125 years of groundbreaking, life-changing work of Sarah Heinz  
House w/ CEO Demeshia Seals"

Julia Zenkevich  
Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting Corporation/90.5 WESA

"Data shows racial disparities in juvenile detention at Allegheny County's  
Shuman Center"

Megan Harris, Mallory Falk and Sophia Lo  
City Cast Pittsburgh

"Does Mayor Ed Gainey Have any Regrets"

## **Documentary**

Susan Scott Peterson

Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting Corporation/90.5 WESA

"WESA Reports: King: A Year in the Life of a Pittsburgh public school"

## **News Feature**

Kate Giammarise and Julia Maruca

Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting Corporation/90.5 WESA

"Kingsley Association weighs options amid financial uncertainty"

Bill O'Driscoll

Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting Corporation/90.5 WESA

"Pittsburgh biographer chronicles groundbreaking auto-racing champ"

Bill O'Driscoll

Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting Corporation/90.5 WESA

"Pittsburgh event 'Owning Our Future' explores roles of BIPOC-led  
cultural groups"

## **Enterprise/Investigative**

Jillian Forstadt

Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting Corporation/90.5 WESA

"Double Jeopardy: From Classroom to Courtroom"

## **EXCELLENCE IN VISUAL JOURNALISM**

### **Personality Profile/Photography**

Lucy Schaly

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

"Reading the Room" Pittsburgh Public Schools Supt. Wayne Walters  
stands up after reading 'My Glasses Are My Super Powers' to kinder-  
garten students, Feb. 27, 2025."

Rob Liggett

NEXTpittsburgh

"Portrait of TyLie Shider"

Joshua Franzos

h magazine and The Heinz Endowments

"Marques Redd and Mikael Owunna, founders Rainbow Serpent"

## **Spot News Photography**

Justin Guido

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

"Deadly Shooting" Erica Louis, Kendrick Curtis mother sheds a tear"



## Sports

Sebastian Foltz  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"Greeting the Fans": Steelers safety DeShon Elliott high-fives youth football players"

Justin Guido  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"Marathon Victory": Jane Bareikis celebrates with Megan O'Neil at DICK'S Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon finish line.

Marlon Martin  
New Pittsburgh Courier  
"DJ Turner™ Meet Darnell Washington": Steelers Tight End; Nov. 16, 2025.

## Digital/Multimedia

Laura Malt Schneiderman  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
Building Tension: With 14 schools on the chopping block and 12 slated for other uses, Pittsburgh students are facing major changes

Sharon Ebersson  
OnStage Pittsburgh  
"Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company's inaugural August Wilson's American Century Cycle Experience"

## Feature Photography

Lucy Schaly  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"Reading the Room".

Tom Altany  
Pittwire/University of Pittsburgh  
"Gary Jackson"

Justin Guido  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
"North Braddock pastor confronts trauma and an uneven road"

## Photography Essay

Emily Matthews  
Pittsburgh Union Progress  
"Photo Finish: The speed, strength and emotion at the PIAA track and field championships"

## EXCELLENCE IN WRITTEN JOURNALISM/ MAGAZINES

### Profile

Sean Collier  
Pittsburgh Magazine  
"Learnmore Jonasi, the Well-Traveled Comedian"

Kahmeela Adams-Friedson  
Pittsburgh Magazine  
"The Cinematic Poet"

### Public Affairs/Politics/Government/Education

Amy Whipple  
Carnegie Magazine  
"Nurturing Empowerment: Program Lifts Teachers by Bringing them Together"

Sheila Beasley  
Soul Pitt Media  
"REACH YOUTH: Journey of Leading from Pittsburgh to Hollywood"

### History/Culture/Arts/Entertainment

B. Denise Hawkins  
Carnegie Magazine  
"Who can better talk about us than us?"  
Fall 2025: 'Who can better talk about us than us?' - Carnegie Magazine

Ervin Dyer  
Pitt Magazine  
"To Dance Is To Dream"

Elwin Green  
h magazines and The Heinz Endowments  
"The Mythic Spirit in Art"

Kahmeela Adams-Friedson  
Pittsburgh Magazine  
"Jazz Legends"



## EXCELLENCE IN VIDEO JOURNALISM

### History/Culture/Arts/Entertainment

Nathalie Berry  
WQED Multimedia  
"The Power of Dance"

Michelangelo Pellis  
Point Park University Center for Media Innovation  
"POV: Damon Young"

Kellie Burkett, producer; Lisa Sylvester, reporter; Paul Zalakar, photographer/  
editor  
WPXI  
"Trailblazer Vivian Davidson Hewitt"

### Public Affairs/ Politics/Government/Education

Sheila Beasley  
Goodstar Consulting Services, LLC.  
"Celebrating August Wilson Through Hip Hop"

### Enterprise/ Investigative

Jatara McGee and Chris Kunicki  
WPXI-TV  
"Silence Hurts: Investigating Pittsburgh's Unsolved Homicides"



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