



## Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Historical Timeline

**1984:** The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is established on the vision of H.J. “Jack” Heinz II. Carol Brown is named the non-profit organization’s first president. The \$43 million restoration of the Stanley Theater begins.

**1987:** The restoration of the Stanley Theater is completed, and the new 2,800-seat theater is re-named the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts.

**1990:** The Trust purchases the former 1,300-seat Gayety Theater and renames it the Fulton Theater. In 1995, the theater becomes the Byham Theater.

**1992:** The Wood Street Galleries are established.

**1995:** The Trust purchases, refurbishes, and re-opens the 194-seat Harris Theater, formerly a movie theater.

**1997:** The Trust purchases 801-807 Liberty Avenue. After extensive renovations, the Trust’s current administrative offices open in 801 Liberty.

**1998:** The Trust commissions a first-time collaboration between artist Ann Hamilton and landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh to create Allegheny Riverfront Park, a two-tiered linear promenade located alongside the Allegheny River. Storefront gallery space opens at 707-709 Penn Avenue.

**1999:** The 650-seat O’Reilly Theater opens as Pittsburgh Public Theater’s permanent home. The Trust unveils Agnes R. Katz Plaza, a 23,000 square foot public gathering space featuring landscape design by Daniel Urban Kiley and a 25-foot bronze fountain designed by sculptor Louise Bourgeois.

**2000:** The Trust pioneers Shared Services as a cost-savings consortium for Cultural District member organizations. The program currently includes the August Wilson African American Cultural Center, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Pittsburgh Opera, Pittsburgh Public Theater and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

**2001:** J. Kevin McMahon is named president and CEO of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust

**2002:** *Trust Presents* is launched to bring diverse, world-class entertainment to the Cultural District. *Pittsburgh Dance Council* becomes a programming division of the Trust.

**2003:** The Trust opens Theater Square, a 330,000 square foot complex with a parking garage, centralized box office, the 265 seat Greer Cabaret Theater, and the Backstage Bar. *First Night Pittsburgh* becomes a programming division of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

**2004:** The Trust presents the inaugural *Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts*. 812 Liberty Avenue is converted into SPACE, a gallery showcasing works by regional artists, and 709 Penn Gallery opens, aimed at highlighting diversity in the field of visual art. The Trust hosts its first quarterly *Gallery Crawl*.

**2008:** *Pittsburgh International Children's Theater* and *Three Rivers Arts Festival* become programming divisions at the Trust. The Trust forges a partnership with the law firm Cohen & Grisby to be the presenting sponsor of the *Trust Presents* series.

**2009:** The Trust Arts Education Center opens in the James E. Rohr building. The Century Building - Pittsburgh's first affordable residential loft - opens following restoration by TREK Development Group and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

**2011:** The Trust *Cabaret Series* launches at the Greer Cabaret.

**2015:** The Trust's Department of Strategic Partnerships & Community Engagement is established to cultivate mutually beneficial relationships across diverse communities. The first-ever *Humanities Festival*, a project of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust and the Humanities Center of Carnegie Mellon University, features internationally renowned academics, artists, and intellectual innovators.

**2017:** The 943 Liberty Avenue renovation finishes with the help of the PPG Colorful Communities program, creating an expanded performance and education venue for Pittsburgh's nonprofit Arcade Comedy Theater.

**2018:** The Trust begins the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Block residential development.

**2019:** *Liberty Magic* begins, a programming series in the newly renovated space at 811 Liberty Avenue. The first annual *Bookish in the 'Burgh* festival takes place. The Trust starts efforts to convert the former Bally Sports Club into a multiplex cinema, complete with an on-site bar and restaurant.