



*Smart talk about stuff that matters.*

The Pittsburgh Humanities Festival, a production of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust and the Humanities Center of Carnegie Mellon University, is a three-day gathering of internationally renowned academics, artists, and intellectual innovators in Pittsburgh’s Cultural District. Presenting “smart talk about stuff that matters,” the Festival offers intimate conversations, interviews, and performances focused on art, literature, music, science, policy, politics, and more—all helping us to explore what it means to be human. The Festival is produced in collaboration with many community partners, including Pittsburgh Arts and Lectures, City of Asylum, The Andy Warhol Museum, University of Pittsburgh, and Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Billed as a thought-provoking collection of creators, critics, and academics, the Festival presents a variety of topics within concurrent sessions of hour-long conversations and discussions. There are several time slots on Saturday and Sunday, with a different speaker/theme in each of the spaces. The Festival recently expanded its concurrent sessions into 24 discussions over three Cultural District venues. Audiences are able to choose the discussion in each slot that is most interesting to them. The Trust also provides supplementary education workshops with local high school students to further engage them in this public humanities work.

Former keynote speakers include Dr. Bro Adams, George Takei, the writers and editors of *The Onion*, and comedian-satirist Bassem Youssef.

To engage festivalgoers in some of the most contemporary and timely public humanities work in the region, the Pittsburgh Humanities Festival launched a public open call: a YouTube-based audition aimed at providing members of the general public with a chance to get involved with the Festival and engage in dialogue about the humanities. Creators of the three top video submissions are invited to participate on stage at an upcoming Festival.



## About the Trust

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust was incorporated in 1984 as a 501(c)(3) organization to lead the cultural and economic development of downtown Pittsburgh. Using the arts as a catalyst, the Trust's board and staff have pursued the vision of a dynamic Cultural District and developed a nationally recognized model that is revitalizing downtown, improving the regional economy, and enhancing Pittsburgh's quality of life. With a 2022 operating budget of approximately \$62 million, the Trust is one of the largest nonprofit arts and cultural organizations in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

For more than 30 years, the Trust has restored classic grand theaters, constructed new facilities, commissioned public art projects, and developed unique urban parks and riverfront recreation spaces in downtown Pittsburgh. The Trust's streetscaping projects and annual festivals have improved the physical and aesthetic environment. The Trust's leadership and achievements are stimulating the dramatic transformation of 14 formerly dilapidated blocks along Penn and Liberty Avenues, from the David L. Lawrence Convention Center to Gateway Center. As part of its efforts to further activate this Cultural District into a dynamic arts destination, the Trust has developed and implemented top-quality, world-class performing arts, visual arts, and arts education programming for the entire community.