

Andrew Carnegie, as painted by Théobald Chartran in 1895. This portrait in oil on canvas was a gift to the Carnegie Museum of Art by Henry Clay Frick.

Nearly a century after his death,
Andrew Carnegie's legacy surrounds us.

BY MARY S. GILBERT

The great industrialist Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) was a visionary in many respects, but even he might not have foreseen the strength, scope, and significance of his enduring philanthropic legacy in Pittsburgh.

On November 14, the Women's Committee of the Carnegie Museum of Art will honor its benefactor and namesake with the inaugural Carnegie Legacy Day, as part of Carnegie Off-Kilter, a weekend celebration of his foresight and munificence.



One of the entrances to the Carnegie Museum of Art in Oakland.

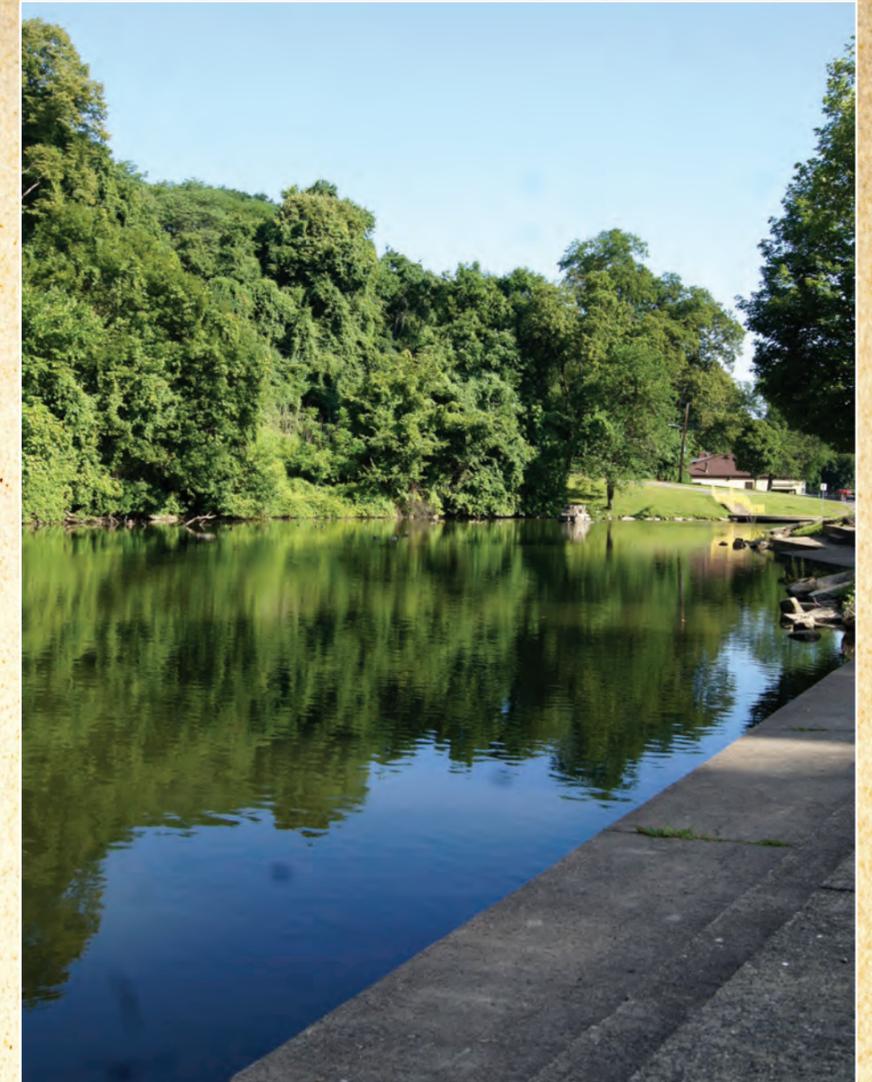
On that date, both the Carnegie Museum of Art (CMOA) and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH) will welcome 500 girls from various youth organizations with free admission and special programs. The girls will also receive complimentary, yearlong, dual memberships to encourage their continued attendance and personal development.

This dramatic outreach to a lesser-served population is only one example of the enduring spirit of the Scottish-born tycoon, which is alive and well today in his adopted city.



Inside the Carnegie Steel Company's Homestead Steel Works during the late 1890s.

Carnegie's fortune came from the Carnegie Steel Company, which formed the basis of U.S. Steel, and when he sold his company for half a billion dollars in 1901, he was the richest man in the world. In accordance with his "Gospel of Wealth" philosophy, the famous capitalist spent an estimated \$350 million to establish a variety of institutions for the greater good. "He who dies rich, dies disgraced," he claimed.



Lake Carnegie in Highland Park.



Carnegie Place in Point Breeze.

Although Carnegie created organizations elsewhere in the world, his benevolence was concentrated in Pittsburgh, where it redesigned the landscape and changed the lives, lifestyle, and culture of the people.

Young Carnegie and his family moved to what he called "the aristocratic quarter" in Pittsburgh's East End after several years in Allegheny City and elsewhere. Carnegie Place in Point Breeze and Lake Carnegie in Highland Park are reminders of his presence there, while nearby Oakland serves as the location for the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; the Carnegie Museums, Music Hall, and Lecture Hall; and the Carnegie Institute of Technology, forerunner of Carnegie Mellon University.



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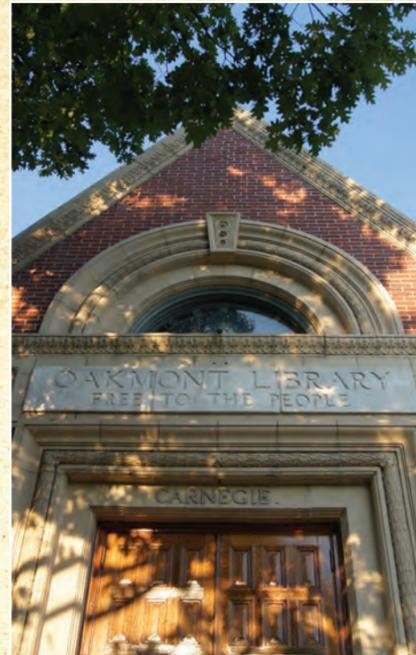


Carnegie's name is on buildings throughout Oakland, including (clockwise from the top) the main Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; the one-time Carnegie Institute, home to the philanthropist's art and natural history museums—both now part of the more recent and larger entity Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh; Carnegie Music Hall; and Carnegie Mellon University.

In addition to those organizations, the steel baron established the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, which awards the Carnegie Medal and financial grants to brave individuals in the United States and Canada who, at great personal risk, save or attempt to save the lives of others. The commission, with offices in the Koppers Building downtown, has presented nearly 10,000 medals and more than \$37 million to recipients and their families since its creation in 1904.

Today, the institutions created by Carnegie respect his original intentions by upholding the principles of innovation, entrepreneurship, and excellence. Underlying their efforts are pride and an honor-bound responsibility to safeguard and advance their founder's legacy.

According to Robert Gangewere, author of *Palace of Culture: Andrew Carnegie's Museums and Library in Pittsburgh*, Carnegie was a keen proponent of the arts and sciences who believed people could make something of themselves through self-study. As a working lad with little formal education, he borrowed books from the private library of Colonel James Anderson; a retired businessman living on the North Side—an experience that he credited as being instrumental to his success. His desire that others might have a similar opportunity inspired the founding of the free Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) in 1895—as well as more than 2,000 other free libraries around the country that bear his name.



The Oakmont Carnegie Library, which was funded by a \$25,000 gift from the steel magnate in 1899.

Now 19 locations strong, CLP supports individual achievement and strengthens the power of community by providing dynamic and diverse resources. In addition to books, it offers creative learning programs for children and teens, job and career assistance, and free computer and Internet access.

"What's just as important is what Carnegie didn't provide—an endowment," says CLP President and Director Mary Frances Cooper. "Carnegie gave money to build libraries with the understanding that people of the community wouldn't value them unless they supported them themselves, so the ongoing operation expenses are the cities' responsibility," she explains.

Also formed in 1895 was CMOA, charged with collecting "the Old Masters of tomorrow" sourced from early Carnegie International exhibitions. In addition to CMOA, the entity known as Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh now includes CMNH, with its popular and historic Dinosaur Hall; Carnegie Science Center, which bestows the Carnegie Science Awards to recognize and promote outstanding science and technology achievements in western Pennsylvania; and The Andy Warhol Museum, global keeper of the legacy of artist and native son, Andy Warhol.



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The Carnegie International exhibition, which dates back to 1896, is presented approximately every three years and is considered a preeminent survey of international contemporary art in North America.



The Carnegie Museum of Natural History's most popular exhibit, Dinosaur In Their Time, features, at its center, two dinosaurs named for Andrew Carnegie and his wife, Louise. *Diplodocus carnegii*, discovered in 1899, was the museum's first dinosaur, and *Apatosaurus louisae* was the first dinosaur found at Carnegie Quarry—now Dinosaur National Monument—in 1909 during an excavation that was funded by Andrew Carnegie.

“With continued outreach and connection [as] a goal, we think about what it means to carry Carnegie’s legacy to the next generation, and what kinds of programs, exhibits, and experiences will appeal to them,” says Jo Ellen Parker, president and CEO of Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh.

Parker notes that Carnegie Legacy Day’s focus on girls is especially appropriate as CMOA celebrates its 120th year, given the bold influence of Carnegie’s hard-working mother, Margaret Morrison Carnegie, on her son.

Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), founded in 1900 as a cluster of technical schools—including one named for Carnegie’s mother—has evolved into an internationally recognized research university whose alumni become the innovators of their generation.

In a letter formalizing his gift of the educational institution, Carnegie claimed, “My heart is in the work.” That phrase, long part of the school’s official seal, reflects his belief



Jo Ellen Parker, President and CEO of Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh.

that giving people the tools they need helps more than just giving them money, according to Gabrielle V. Michalek, director of scholarly publishing, archives, and data services at CMU.

The school names its highest-achieving seniors Andrew Carnegie Society Scholars and awards the Andrew Carnegie Prize in Mind and Brain Sciences to trailblazing researchers. Numerous traditions and activities at CMU honor Carnegie’s Scottish heritage, including *The Thistle* yearbook, *The Tartan* student newspaper, and the Tartan athletic teams. The university is one of the few in this country to offer a degree in bagpipes. And the kilt-wearing Kiltie Band offers a sartorial nod to the great Scotsman.

November’s Off-Kilter celebration pays tribute to all aspects of Carnegie’s legacy, with a fresh spin aimed toward the future.

“I think he’d be proud,” Cooper says when considering Carnegie’s reaction to the ongoing work of the institutions he founded. “He always wanted the best for Pittsburgh,” she says, adding that if he were alive today, “He’d push us to do more, and that would be fine.” SA

Carnegie Off-Kilter kicks off Friday, November 13, with Carnegie Fling!, a black-tie gala with a Scottish flair. The marble foyer of the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland sets the scene for cocktails, entertainment, and dinner. For more details, including ticket prices and reservations, call 412-622-3291 or visit cmoa.org.



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