

PITTSBURGH OPERA

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A History of the Pittsburgh Opera's Headquarters

1869-1870 The Westinghouse Air Brake Company was established by American entrepreneur and engineer George Westinghouse, Jr. in 1869. The company manufactured a conveyance braking system actuated by compressed air that revolutionized the train brake industry. In 1870, Westinghouse constructed his first Air Brake Plant on the corner of 25th Street and Liberty Avenue in Pittsburgh.

1881 Westinghouse Machine Company began manufacturing in the building after the Air Brake Company moved to a new facility in the City of Allegheny.

1906 Pittsburgh Screw and Bolt Company occupied the building, creating a machine shop and blacksmith on the Spring Way alley side of the facility and a machine shop and stock room on the Liberty Avenue side of the facility.

Other tenants in the 1900s included the Otto Milk Company and Civic Light Opera, which used the facility to build theater sets. Vulcan Motor Trucks also advertised on the office section of the building.

1990 RedZone Robotics bought the building, and in collaboration with the Department of Energy and experts from several universities, built the world's toughest robot designed to take photos inside the reactor building of a nuclear power plant, and in the event of a disaster, push its way through the rubble, clearing paths to help people escape quickly.

2001 Mind Over Media, in partnership with National Development Company of Pennsylvania, LLC paid \$1.475 million for the historic facility and spent more than \$1 million to renovate the interior and exterior.

2008 [Pittsburgh Opera](#) purchased the historic building for \$2.5 million and budgeted an additional \$3.5 million for renovations and improvements. To cover the cost of the building, the renovations and to establish a maintenance endowment for long-term maintenance, the Opera launched a capital campaign to raise at least \$8 million by the end of 2009.

(more)

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2009-2010
Season



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2009 [Pittsburgh Opera](#) announces a new [green initiative](#). The primary focus of this new initiative is to obtain a [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design \(LEED\)](#) Operations and Maintenance Certification for the new headquarters.

In addition to the efforts to prepare the headquarters for certification, the initiative also educates Pittsburgh Opera staff members on living "greener" lifestyles through decreased carbon footprints and personal health improvement and maintenance.

Pittsburgh Opera is expected to submit for the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Existing Building Certification by the end 2009.

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Season

[Pittsburgh Opera](#) celebrates its 71st season in 2009-10 with [Eugene Onegin](#), [Falstaff](#), [The Rape of Lucretia](#), [Carmen](#) and [The Marriage of Figaro](#). In addition to its mainstage productions, Pittsburgh Opera produces a range of programs to engage and enrich the community with more than 20,000 students, families and educators participating in its educational events annually. The internationally renowned Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Program is among the country's top five training centers for rising opera stars and the company's newly designed administrative and rehearsal space, housed in a 139-year-old air brake factory in the city's Strip District, provides space for events ranging from free community Brown Bag concerts to concert recitals by world-class opera singers.

Beginning in August 2009, single tickets for as little as \$10

2009-2010 season subscriptions now for as little as \$21

For ticket information visit our website www.pittsburghopera.org or call (412) 281-0912

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