



**Student Authors**

YPA helped students at Propel Andrew Street High School publish 350 books that gave them a boost for college prospects and earned the school more than \$500 in revenue.

## Saving Old Buildings . . . One Young Person at a Time

YPA provides tools so young people can save and maintain their history. YPA provides events, tours, research, training, technical assistance, and special projects that encourage the next generation to take a leadership role in preserving their communities.

Incorporated in 2002 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, YPA is the only organization of its kind in the United States.

Headquartered in historic Homestead at the Moose

Building, YPA operates in the nine-county southwestern Pennsylvania region that includes the following counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington, and Westmoreland.

YPA has several core programs that involve young people with historic preservation:

- Youth Main Street Advisors Program;
- Preserve Pittsburgh Summit;
- Annual list of the “Top Ten Best Preservation

Opportunities in the Pittsburgh Area”;

- Preservation Video Contest; and
- The Michael Eversmeyer Promise Award.

YPA has also published the region’s first study of the “Economic Impact of Historic Preservation” and the first tourguide of African American history, called “Discover the Legacy: The African American Experience in Southwestern Pennsylvania.”

# Download the Past to Upload a Better Future



The mission of YPA is the participation of young people in the preservation of historic resources.

YPA educates, trains, and inspires a new generation to appreciate their history and pursue community improvement endeavors.

YPA's programs make a difference in the lives of young people by providing them with the skills, the experience, and the confidence to shape a better future in their neighborhood.

For instance, YPA's Youth Main Street Advisors program turns at-risk youth into published authors with a strong resume builder for college and beyond. It emphasizes teamwork, research and writing skills, and courage to pursue civic engagement projects.

YPA's African American History Tourguide is being used by more than 5,000 students and teachers. Called "Discover the Legacy," the guide features more than 100 historic sites related to the African American experiences in the nine-county southwestern Pennsylvania region.

Our efforts have helped secure a historic film exchange in Pittsburgh's Uptown neighborhood; we have published the region's first study on the Economic Impact of Historic Preservation; and we have conducted tours of historic properties for hundreds of people, including teachers, students, and young professionals.

**"If it weren't for YPA, I might have never realized the influential impact and the power that young people, like myself, hold."**

Colleen Schmidt, YPA Intern, 2008-2009

## YPA's Value Proposition is the following:

- *Community Awareness:* We are active in the community, particularly African American communities; we have spoken to more than 50 different organizations and events;
- *Youth Programming:* We work with young people, particularly high school and college students, as well as young professionals, on unique programs that meet academic needs, and we have attracted more than 5,000 people to our community- and school-based programs;
- *Publishing:* We have published more than 20 unique publications and have been featured in more than 140 media stories;
- *Civic Engagement:* This includes cleanup projects, historic nominations, and collaborative ventures;
- *Leadership Development:* Since 2003, YPA has hosted more than 30 interns and volunteers.

YPA provides tools so young people can save and maintain their history. YPA provides events, tours, research, training, technical assistance, and special projects that encourage the next generation to take a leadership role in preserving their communities.

Since 2003, more than 4,500 people have participated in our public programs.



## YPA Program Overview

### *Youth Main Street Advisors Program*

YPA's **Youth Main Street Advisors** program connects students with communities through the creation of a student-produced book about the community's history, present, and future. The book allows the students to develop academic skills, achieve credit toward graduation, build a resume for college, and generate useful ideas for community revitalization. YPA has partnered with local publisher Red Engine Press to ensure the books are high quality and can be sold to generate revenue for the community. YPA has worked with the following schools: Peabody High School, Propel Andrew Street High School, Brownsville Area High School, Monessen Senior High, Forbes Road Career and Technology Center, and Trinity High.



### *Preserve Pittsburgh Summit: Young Ideas for Old Buildings*

YPA's **Preserve Pittsburgh Summit** is a collaborative, interactive workshop on historic preservation that uses a historic community as a laboratory for teaching historic preservation. It features on-site tours of historic buildings and a chance to work in teams to develop recommendations for the reuse of these sites. It is a fun, interactive way for students to witness history, first-hand build career skills, and earn academic credit.



### *Historic Preservation Month Celebration*

YPA hosts an annual **Preservation Month Celebration** each May to honor preservation accomplishments in southwestern Pennsylvania. The Celebration features the release of YPA's annual list of the **Top Ten Best Preservation Opportunities in the Pittsburgh Area**, which highlights historic preservation projects in southwestern Pennsylvania, such as the New Granada Theatre, featured at left. The Celebration also includes a Preservation Awards Reception for the winners of the **Preservation Video Contest** and **Michael Eversmeyer Promise Award** given to an emerging preservation leader.



### *Developing Youth Leadership in Preservation*

Since 2003, YPA has hosted numerous student interns, who have worked on a variety of projects including dedication of the National Negro Opera Company house historical marker, the Preserve Pittsburgh Summit, historic nominations and reports, and use of the **GigaPan panoramic camera**, in partnership with Carnegie Mellon University.

### *Download the Past to Upload a Better Future*

Since 2003, more than 5,000 people have participated in our public programs. YPA published the region's first tourguide of African American History, "**Discover the Legacy: The African American Experience in Southwestern Pennsylvania**" and the region's first analysis of the "**Economic Impact of Historic Preservation in Southwestern Pennsylvania.**" Through the next generation, we can build a better future by preserving our past.

