FY 2020-2021 Annual Report
Meet the Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh Board of Directors

**Officers**

- Ashley Taylor, President
- Brandon Tucker, Vice President
- Jim Marino, Treasurer
- Katrina Loutzenhiser, Secretary

**Directors at Large**

- Maevon Gumble
- Liz Hrenda
- Alex Jackson
- Niki Penberg
- Henry McKay
- Jade Furente
- Ed Wrenn
- Rita Lampe

The Board of Directors changes with the calendar year instead of with the fiscal year. As such, many of the accomplishments included in this report are owed to the hard work of prior board members, or those serving in different capacities. Special thanks to:

- Henry McKay, President 2020
- Bill Hathaway, Vice President 2020
- Sarah McKay, Director at Large 2020
- Cory Derringer, Director at Large 2020
- Lisa Seel, Director at Large 2020

Read more about the board with their and bios on our website!

[https://sapgh.org/meet-the-board/](https://sapgh.org/meet-the-board/)
President’s Message

Ashley Taylor

I am proud & honored to now serve as the President of Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh. Over the past four years of my membership to this community, I have seen us grow and adapt to local needs and current events with grace, flexibility, sustainability, and passion. 2020, despite all of its unique challenges, was no different. When the coronavirus pandemic swept the globe, our board and leadership swiftly transitioned to Zoom programming with no interruption to our weekly community programming and just a week’s delay in our primary March Assembly. As the pandemic wore on, we continued to maintain membership and offer robust and consistent programming, responding to pandemic updates and our community's shifting needs during a chaotic and disconnecting time for our world. It is my belief that Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh provided a sense of stability, consistency, groundedness, and safety to our members at a time when it was so desperately needed.

We are also excited to continue growing and evolving in the years to come. As a board, our vision for the community is one of longevity and expansion. We wish to increase our adolescent and elder membership, offering more specific programming at various developmental life stages, including but not limited to a youth group, elder/youth mentorship pairings, and elder socials and care support. We also plan to continue serving our current families with young children via playdates, family outings, inclusive childcare at our main events, and meal support for individuals and/or families in need of assistance within our community. Eventually, we hope to maintain our own community center where the milestones of our members and our community as a whole can be held -- weddings, memorials, birthdays, talent shows and arts/crafts or science fairs, and more -- all in the secular and radically inclusive approaches that we hold as the pillars of our community: living better, helping often, and wondering more. At Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh, we pride ourselves on celebrating "this one life we know we have," and we have big dreams for that one life and all the ways we want to share it with each other.
Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh

Who are we?

What do we do?

Where are we going?

Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh is a radically inclusive secular community that celebrates life.

We help each other live better, help often, and wonder more.

We are building a uniquely secular and inclusive system of social support among our Assemblers. To that end, we provide connection, engagement, and enrichment to people who are often not welcome in faith-based communities. Where traditional support structures like houses of worship and extended family aren’t as available or relevant, Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh provides a community and fills a role similar to those institutions, but without the moral judgment, exclusivity, and baggage that they sometimes carry.

As Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh grows, we will continue to expand our capabilities, resources, and supports. It is our vision to one day have enough Assemblers to host an Assembly every week and in multiple locations. As our Assemblers diversify and change, we aim to establish sub-groups such as a youth group and a retiree group. We also want to support our Assemblers as they traverse their lives through both positive changes and challenges. To that end, we want to provide secular counseling services and ceremonies for life milestones.
Amidst the ongoing global pandemic and the ways the United States has been thrown into political unrest, Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh recognized the need for a committee that engaged in service projects for and alongside our larger Pittsburgh community and that participated in movements aimed at eliminating systemic injustice and multiple forms of oppression. Initially formed as an ad hoc committee focused on radical inclusion and diversity, we have broadened our understanding of ourselves and shifted into a standing committee focused on the "helping often" tenet of Sunday Assembly.

Our mission statement: "We live in an imperfect world, and we believe the SAPGH community can make it better. The Activism and Service Committee (ASC) provides opportunities to help often where the need is immediate and to make lasting systemic change that address the root cause of problems. We aspire to radical inclusivity in all that we do."

Given our first task as a committee to focus on inclusion and diversity, we have also created a statement to be used on our social platforms that will signal to others that: "Radical inclusivity is one of Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh’s core values. We seek to create a space that is welcoming and accessible to everyone. We believe that all human attributes, including race, ethnicity, size, nationality, class, age, sexuality, gender identity, citizen status, disability, and spiritual beliefs, are assets to our community. We strive to identify and dismantle systemic injustice and all forms of oppression in ourselves and in our institutions."

As a growing committee, we are hoping to engage in many projects. One potential project involves participating in a panel alongside other local organizations to discuss the separation of church and state, identifying key action steps and following through on these as community members. We understand service projects to be an important aspect of Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh, and we are excited to witness how this committee grows during the upcoming year.
While we certainly miss our in-person assemblies every month at our local home of Community Forge, the Programming Committee was able to successfully shift to virtual assemblies, meeting online through Zoom to provide space for the SAPGH community to continue to come together and live better, help often, and wonder more. In each monthly assembly, we explore a theme in various capacities: a main guest speaker with extensive experience related to the topic, book club readings/poetry/prose, moments of science, an X is doing their best segment where a guest/community member can share their personal experience with the topic, and selected related songs often performed by community members. This year has included themes such as music (yes, even online!), stress, conflict resolution, bodies, activism, hope, pleasure, and so on.

On top of tapping into new, creative, and resilient ways to stay connected, we even found ourselves with new attendees joining us from all over the world, including London! Our assemblies have held anywhere from 21-43 adults and 4-5 children, and we hope to continue growing those numbers. Although most of our programming throughout 2020 has been virtual, we were even able to host an outdoor in-person drive-in movie theater type assembly in October, following CDC guidelines to ensure safety. We're definitely looking forward to resuming this way of gathering as the weather allows!

Our assemblies are one of the main ways that the SAPGH community is able to get together. Many assemblers leave our monthly get-togethers feeling inspired and expanded as we collectively deepen our knowledge of these topics.

Despite this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, SAPGH assemblies are thriving. It'll definitely be refreshing to resume in-person services, but in the meantime -- we continue to provide stimulating programming focused on living better, helping often, and wondering more.
Community Committee

Chair: Ashley Taylor

At the start of 2020, we solidified regularly weekly programming. Every month, we hosted an open topic Community Circle on the First Sunday, an on-theme Book Club on the Second Sunday, Brunch or Coffee gathering post-Assembly on the Third Sunday, and either yoga or an on-theme Community Circle on the Fourth Sunday. After Darks happened sporadically as needed throughout the year in response to community needs for connection. The Community Committee proudly had NO BREAK in our offerings during the pandemic; we completely & seamlessly transitioned to Zoom with no pandemic-related rescheduling necessary. These offerings included:

- 12 Book Clubs (9 during the pandemic via Zoom)
- 15 After Darks (14 during the pandemic, 2 of which were in-person & socially distant.)
- 19 Community Circles (17 during the pandemic via Zoom)
- 1 online yoga (during the pandemic via Zoom)
- Online discussion prompts, polls, and resources via our Community Circle Facebook Group.
- Gained new membership to our community through these events, even through Zoom
- Remained responsive to Zoom fatigue by offering socially distant programming during the warmer months
- Regularly 4 - 12 people at each non-Assembly community event
This year has been a challenging year where we had to find creative ways to reach and stay connected with our community. Despite the challenges, we were able to continue to grow our reach.

In 2020/2021 we made drastic improvements to our website to better facilitate and reach people looking for community. Those changes included adding an events calendar giving our popular book club its own space. During 2020/2021 the Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh website had over 1,300 visitors.

Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh continues to maintain a robust community on social media. In 2020/2021 over 100 community members were added to its Facebook group, Sunday Assembly Community Circle. There are currently 465 members of the Facebook group and 1,750 followers of the Facebook page.

This year, we formed a partnership with Assemble. Assemble is a non-profit that “envisions diverse neighborhoods of empowered people who create, connect, learn, and transform together”. Through this partnership Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh wishes to share resources and create synergy between our parallel missions.
2020 was a tough year for everyone. Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh’s Fundraising Committee was no exception. With the pandemic, traditional methods of fundraising engagement could no longer be utilized.

A new method was engaged in 2020 – a profit share with two coffee companies. Assemblers can now order coffee through the SAPgh.org website, and a portion of the revenue is shared with Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh.

In the upcoming year, we plan to pursue more partnerships and build a robust online store so that Assemblers can buy products they regularly use while also supporting our community with companies that will revenue-share with us.

In addition, we will begin to pursue funding in the form of grants. Some grants may support regular operations, while others may support specific programs. The Committee will prioritize these discussions with the Board of Directors to arrive at the best direction for the organization. Our end-goal remains the same: to grow our community and to support our Assemblers in living better, helping often, and wondering more.
Operating Revenue 2020-2021

Recurrent Donations $5,697.50
Irregular Donations $755.00
Total $6,452.50

Operating Expenses 2020-2021

Production $2,250.50
Programming $537.20
Outreach $1,307.82
Insurance $858.83
Donation Processing $234.09
Charitable Donations $1,200.00
Total $6,388.44
Live Better
Help Often
Wonder More

SUNDAY ASSEMBLY PITTSBURGH

Annual Report