



**MEDIA ALERT** | For Immediate Release  
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## **Allegheny County Airport Model Landed in the Miniature Railroad & Village®**

*Carnegie Science Center's Miniature Railroad team release a new model crafted with new and traditional methods*

High-resolution images available [here](#).

**PITTSBURGH, Oct. 3, 2023** – Today, the Miniature Railroad & Village® team at Carnegie Science Center unveiled the first visitor's choice model, Allegheny County Airport.

For the first time ever, the Miniature Railroad team opened the new 2023 model for a vote from Sept. 5, 2022 to Jan. 15, 2023.

"From the outset, we recognized the importance of involving the very people we serve, and their support, enthusiasm, and votes have been instrumental in shaping our new models," said Jason Brown, Henry Buhl, Jr., Director of Carnegie Science Center. "With the addition of the Allegheny County Airport model, we are not merely expanding our miniature world; we are further including our community and fortifying their connections to organizations around Pittsburgh in miniature form."

A total of 43,871 visitors chose from Allegheny County Airport in West Mifflin, Fredrick J. Osterling Office & Studio in the North Side, and Oliver Miller Homestead in South Park. Allegheny County Airport won with 22,519 votes.

"Allegheny County Airport has been an iconic landmark in Western Pennsylvania for more than 90 years. It launched the Pittsburgh region as an aviation leader in 1931 and today continues to be a significant contributor to the region and the industry," said Allegheny County Airport Authority CEO Christina Cassotis. "On behalf of ACAA, I'm thrilled the Carnegie Science Center decided to include a model of this aviation icon amongst so many local greats represented in the display."

Combining new and traditional methods, used by the Miniature Railroad's creator Charlie Bowdish, the Science Center's team of experts recreated the Allegheny County Airport model down to its smallest details.

Pieces of the model such as the windows, portico, control tower, doors, and the planters were 3D-printed. Additionally, the walls, made of white acrylic, were taken into the BNY Mellon Fab Lab where the team laser cut individual bricks into the building.

Highlighting the history of Allegheny County Airport's opening, a crowd of hand-painted onlookers watch a flight show. In true Bowdish-style, the team hand-painted the floors and the elaborate Aztec detailing around the decorative window above the front doors. The roof is additionally made of fine-grained sandpaper. Behind Allegheny County Airport, there will be a new animation: an airplane with a spinning propeller.

The Miniature Railroad & Village® illustrates the Pittsburgh region's rich and diverse history up until 1940, including people, events, and places that have had a marked influence on the region. The Miniature Railroad team selects models that fit the timeline and have a rich social history enabling visitors to draw personal connections to the exhibition's story. Three new models are already eligible for voting for unveiling on Sat., Oct. 5, 2024. Visitors can vote on a kiosk inside the Miniature Railroad exhibition through Sun., Jan. 14.

Formerly known as Pittsburgh-Allegheny County Municipal Airport (AGC), Allegheny County Airport opened to a crowd of 100,000 people on Sept. 11, 1931. Architect Stanley L. Rush designed the art deco-style building. When this airport opened, it was the country's third largest and the region's main airport until Greater Pittsburgh Airport, which opened in Moon in 1952.

Visit [CarnegieScienceCenter.org](https://CarnegieScienceCenter.org) to learn more about the Miniature Railroad & Village®.

### **Carnegie Science Center**

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center's goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh's premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

### **Accessibility: Features for All**

Carnegie Science Center welcomes all visitors. We work to assist visitors with disabilities in obtaining reasonable and appropriate accommodations, and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities. We welcome visitors in wheelchairs on the deck of our USS Requin (SS 481) submarine. Below-deck visits require full mobility. Hearing assistance devices are available for The Rangos Giant

Cinema. Please ask when you buy your ticket.

Please note that requests for accommodations should be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. For specific questions about wheelchairs, strollers, or other programmatic or equipment needs, see the ticket counter located on the first floor of the main building or contact Customer Service at 412.237.1641 or [info@carnegiesciencecenter.org](mailto:info@carnegiesciencecenter.org). Please contact Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh's Accessibility Coordinator with concerns regarding accessibility for visitors with disabilities at the museums. On weekdays, call 412.622.6578 or email [accessibility@carnegiemuseums.org](mailto:accessibility@carnegiemuseums.org).

**About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, [Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh](#) is a family of four dynamic, distinctive museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. The museums reach 1.5 million people a year through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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