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VOICE OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY



Vice President Harris and President Biden arrive at campaign event in Pittsburgh on Monday. —AP PHOTO/QUEEN MARTIN

Harris and Biden rally in Pittsburgh

Colleen Long
Erin B. Logan
Will Weissert

PITTSBURGH — Vice President Kamala Harris used a joint campaign appearance with President Joe Biden in the critical swing state of Pennsylvania on Monday to say that U.S. Steel should remain domestically owned — concurring with the White House's monthslong opposition to the company's planned sale to Japan's Nippon Steel.

Her comments came during a rally before cheering union members marking Labor Day in the industrial city of Pittsburgh, where Harris said U.S. Steel was "an historic American company and it is vital for our country to maintain strong American steel companies."

"U.S. Steel should remain American-owned and American-operated, and I will always have the backs of America's steelworkers," she said.

That echoes Biden, who repeated Monday what he's said since March — that he opposes U.S. Steel's would-be sale to Nippon, believing it would hurt the country's steelworkers. It's little surprise that Harris would overlap with Biden on the issue, but nonetheless constitutes a major policy position for the vice president, who has offered relatively few of them since Biden abandoned his reelection bid and endorsed his vice president in July.

Biden took the stage first and was met with chants of "Thank You, Joe" as he and Harris appeared in an International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers hall.

The president called Harris the only "rational" choice for president in November. He said choosing her to be vice president was the "single best" decision of his presidency and told the union members that electing her will be "the best decision you will ever make."

Biden also started to say, "Kamala Harris and I are going to build on this" as if he were still running and she was his running mate — but he corrected himself. It underscored just how much the race has changed and how Harris has been careful

HARRIS - 5A

Mural's future in doubt



For 25 years, the massive mural titled Common Threads has stood at the northeast corner of North Broad and Spring Garden Street.

—TRIBUNE PHOTO/ABDUL SULATHMAN

Growing development could seal the fate of 'the Mona Lisa of North Broad'

Imani Waters
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER



The former Harriet Tubman mural, which stood in the Market East area of Center City, became a thing of the past as the building it adorned was torn down to make way for a parking lot expansion. —PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER GAMBLE

For 25 years, the massive mural at the northeast corner of Broad and Spring Garden has stood as a symbol of Black pride and artistic spirit for Philadelphia.

The mural's future, however, is in doubt as the area north of Center City continues to be overtaken by a large amount of new development.

In 1998 renowned artist Meg Saligman turned the side facade of the building into a captivating work of art. As with other projects across the city it was supported by Mural Arts Philadelphia.

The large artwork was created on the west side of the former Thaddeus Stevens School, which was used by the School District of Philadelphia at the time. It is now the Mural Lofts apartment building and owned by the development firm EB Realty Management, also called EBRM.

Titled Common Threads, the mural features a series of figures representing different cultures and eras, all interconnected by threads. These threads symbolize the commonalities that unite humanity.

Standing at center is a young Black young girl, Tameka Jones, wearing braids and a red

MURAL - 4A

City's community college makes gains with O.V. Catto scholarship

A more diverse student body is enrolled longer thanks to a program launched by former Mayor Jim Kenney.

Chanel Hill
TRIBUNE NEWS REPORT

Community College of Philadelphia has found early success in the retention and completion for students who have participated in the college's Octavius Catto Scholarship, according to a new report by the education research organization Research for Action.

The 27-page report includes data from fall 2020 to spring 2023 as well as interviews with scholarship developers, four staff focus groups and six focus groups with scholars.

"The Catto Scholarship has proven to affect students' lives on

and off campus," said CCP President Donald Guy Generals in a statement.

"Covering the costs of tuition at CCP is just part of the initiative," he said. "It also connects students to resources like affordable housing, childcare and career coaches who help our learners stay on track."

Among Catto scholars, 49.7% identify as Black and 24% as Hispanic. Fifty-five percent of scholars are under the age of 19 while just under 40% of non-Catto scholars are younger than 19 years old.

However, female students are overrepresented in both groups,

which is consistent with community colleges enrollment data nationally.

About 86.7% of the scholars remained enrolled from the fall to the spring within the same year compared to 77.2% for non-Catto students. Nearly 69.2% of the scholars are retained into their second year compared to 55.2% of non-Catto students.

In terms of completion rates, Catto scholars experience higher rates of associate degree completion on average compared to a non-Catto student at CCP. The average three-year degree completion rate for Catto scholars



Students line the walls inside Bonnell Hall at Community College of Philadelphia's main campus for the school's open enrollment day on Thursday. —TRIBUNE PHOTO/KYLEAN WATSON

is 25.7% compared to 16.1% for non-Catto CCP students.

Catto scholars attributed their success in the program to the

support system that the scholarship offers.

CCP - 4A

Harris slams Trump for incident at Arlington National Cemetery

Samantha Waldenberg
Shania Shelton

Vice President Kamala Harris on Saturday sharply criticized Donald Trump over the incident Monday during the former president's visit to Arlington National Cemetery, saying that he "is unable to comprehend anything other than service to himself."

Veterans, service members and their families "should be honored, never disparaged, and treated with nothing less than our highest respect and gratitude," Harris wrote in a lengthy post on social media.

She continued: "It is my belief that someone who cannot meet this simple, sacred duty should never again stand behind the seal of the President of the United States of America."

Trump has faced controversy over his visit to the cemetery after a wreath-laying ceremony to honor the 13 US service members who were killed in the Kabul airport bombing in 2021. Trump campaign officials have said an individual physically blocked the former president's team from accompanying him during the visit, and a cemetery spokesperson confirmed to CNN "there was an incident" and a "report was filed."

The US Army issued a stark rebuke of Trump's campaign over the incident, saying Thursday that participants in the ceremony "were made aware of federal laws" regarding political activity at the cemetery, and "abruptly pushed aside" an employee of the cemetery.



This combination of photos shows Vice President Kamala Harris, left, on Aug. 7, 2024 and Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump on July 31, 2024. —AP PHOTO/CHARLES REX ARBOGAST

Saturday's statement marks the first time the vice president has directly addressed the controversy as she attempts to draw a contrast between herself and her rival ahead of their September 10 debate. Michael Tyler, the Harris campaign's communications director, previously called the incident "pretty sad" in an interview on CNN but said it is what people have "come to expect from Donald Trump and his team."

Christy Shamblyn, the mother-in-law of Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole

Gee, who was killed at Kabul airport's Abbey Gate in 2021, attended the Arlington event. Shamblyn said Saturday that she hadn't witnessed any altercation and that the media should focus on the consequences of the Afghanistan withdrawal instead of the controversy over Trump's visit.

"I understand that there may have been a little bit of a misunderstanding, but... let's talk about the Americans and the Afghans we left behind. Let's talk about the people we brought over that weren't vetted. Let's talk about the

wounded, and that's what we want to bring focus back to," Shamblyn said on CNN's "Smerconish."

The Trump campaign on Saturday sent out a statement from Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton, an Army veteran and Trump ally, defending the former president and attacking Army Secretary Christine Wormuth.

Cotton, who was not present during Trump's trip to the cemetery, said "neither the families nor President Trump violated cemetery regulations or policies" and claimed the "political apparat-

chiks working for the incompetent secretary of the Army disrespected the wishes of these Gold Star families."

Accounts of the incident on Monday have varied, with the campaign insisting there were no violations of the law, while cemetery officials have said Trump's team was told ahead of time to avoid political activity. Federal law prohibits political campaigning or election-related activities within Army National Military Cemeteries, according to a statement from Arlington National Cemetery obtained by CNN.

A video of the visit posted by the Trump campaign on TikTok showed the former president walking through Arlington and visiting grave sites, with audio of him criticizing the Biden administration's management of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan.

NPR first reported there had been a "verbal and physical altercation" during the cemetery visit. A source with knowledge of the incident told the outlet that a cemetery official attempted to prevent Trump's team from photographing and filming in the area where recent US casualties are buried. In response, Trump campaign staff "verbally abused and pushed the official aside," according to NPR.

An Army spokesperson said while the incident was reported to the police department at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, the employee in question "decided not to press charges" so the Army "considers this matter closed."

CNN

MURAL - 1A

shirt, standing as the focal point with her contemporaries dancing and engaging with historical figurines. When the mural was created, Jones was a student at the Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts in South Philadelphia. She could not be reached for this report.

"She wanted to take her



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own pose," Saligman said of Jones. "And that is how she sort of became this central figure. I thought it was so cool at the time that she did that. She was so beautiful. And she is now referred to a lot as the Mona Lisa of Broad Street."

For years, the lot, like many others near prominent Black murals in the city, sat vacant and used mostly as a parking lot. The lot mirrored the space across from it, next to Benjamin Franklin High School, until the massive I.V.I. North at 510 North Broad St. was built two years ago. That corner is also home to a Giant grocery store and other retail space.

Development plans have come and go for the northeast section of the intersection, which has sparked concern on what will happen to the mural.

As projects grow across town, beloved pieces of work like the former Harriet Tubman mural that stood in the Market East area of Center City, become a thing of the past as the building it adorned was torn down to make way for a parking lot expansion.

Over the years, EBRM presented different plans to build a high rise mixed use building with a facade that would showcase views of the mural. The company had received zoning approval for a high rise building, but those approvals expired, according to a report from The Philadelphia Business Journal in 2023.

The Journal also reported "the site is in a qualified opportunity zone and eligi-



A 2019 rendering of a proposed development at the corner of Broad and Spring Garden with a view of the mural east of the project. —MURAL WEST CREDIT: ADAM OLSEN/SCALAR ARCHITECTS

ble for Philadelphia's 10-year tax abatement." EBRM has since put the site up for sale. Representatives from the firm could not be reached for this report nor is it clear who owns the lot now.

"It's really important for people who are building and developing in this city to understand that murals are civic assets and they are beacons and landmarks and they're part of our story as Philadelphia," said Jane Golden, founder of Mural Arts Philadelphia. "When murals go away, we all feel wounded and we feel that loss."

Under Golden's leadership, Mural Arts Philadelphia has transformed the city into an open-air gallery, promoting social change and community engagement through public art.

Golden reflected on the personal impact of the

mural at Broad and Spring Garden, saying, "I feel such a thrill because I think the mural gives young people in our city the dignity and respect that they truly deserve."

She acknowledged, however, the challenges ahead for the large scale artwork. "We know that it's risky that someone might build in front of it, and we hope that the developer would be sensitive to the fact that this mural is iconic, internationally known and beloved, and that they would take that into consideration when they're building," she said.

Golden said Mural Arts Philadelphia is working closely with developers, community members, and preservationists to find solutions that honor the mural's legacy while



A 2023 rendering of a proposed development at the corner of Broad and Spring Garden with a different view of the mural at its side. —DAVIS ARCHITECTS / EB REALTY MANAGEMENT CORP.

development, whatever it is, an example of community," she said. "A landmark beloved piece of art and development working together, not fighting each other."

Saligman, the mural's artist, stressed the importance of collaboration. "We need to be in conversation to make this

accommodating urban growth.

Saligman, the mural's artist, stressed the importance of collaboration. "We need to be in conversation to make this

around support including a bookstore credit of \$500 each semester, a monthly direct payment for basic needs of \$275, access to the program's financial advisors, tutors, resources and support specialists and career connections staff.

There is an income cap of \$8,000 Expected Family Contribution, also called EFC, toward tuition. The EFC determines a student's eligibility for federal scholarship and is based on income provided on the FAFSA.

Former mayor Jim Kenney launched the scholarship during his second term in office. The scholarship

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Negro National Anthem Lift Every Voice and Sing

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" was written by the noted African-American poet and civil rights leader, James Weldon Johnson.

It was originally intended for use in a program given by a group of Jacksonville, Fla., school children to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday. Inasmuch as it was used to convey a sense of brotherhood and heritage, it is often referred to as the Negro National Anthem and sung at the opening of various public gatherings.

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won
Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,

Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way,
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray,
Lest our feet stray from the places,
Our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God, True to our native land.

CCP - 1A

"What's different about Catto from the other scholarship programs is how much they care," a Catto scholar said in a report. "They want you to be a part of this community. It's not just a scholarship. It's a community of people that want to see you succeed."

In the report, Research for Action made recommendations for CCP to expand and grow the scholarship in the future.

Among the recommendations that were made includes identifying and creating additional wrap-around services to support Catto scholars, building

out the infrastructure and support for success coaches and creating more community building opportunities among Catto scholars.

"Our recommendations intend to support the work of the scholarship as an important initiative with the potential to lift Philadelphians out of poverty and put them on the path to success," the report said.

Named after educator and civil rights activist Octavius Catto, the last dollar scholarship provides first-time, full-time college students with an opportunity to eliminate barriers to degree completion.

The scholarship also provides students with wrap-

around support including a bookstore credit of \$500 each semester, a monthly direct payment for basic needs of \$275, access to the program's financial advisors, tutors, resources and support specialists and career connections staff.

There is an income cap of \$8,000 Expected Family Contribution, also called EFC, toward tuition. The EFC determines a student's eligibility for federal scholarship and is based on income provided on the FAFSA.

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