Pittsburgh
Cleaner, Healthier, and Thriving
The three navigable rivers that converge at the center of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, along with proximate raw materials helped the city and its surrounding communities to become the nation’s premier steel locale by the late-1800s. Steel, its associated industries, glass factories, and other manufacturing operations abounded in the close-knit river valley neighborhoods of southwestern Pennsylvania. In addition, some of the earliest and best pollution control equipment was also designed and built in the area.

The Air Pollution Control Association (now Air & Waste Management Association, A&WMA, and headquartered in Pittsburgh) began in 1907 “to advance the science and art of air pollution control.” A&WMA has for 110 years endorsed cutting-edge theory and practice in the pollution control field, because, although heavy industry was terrific for business, Pittsburgh air quality and residents’ health suffered.

In honor of the 110th anniversary meeting of the Association, perspectives on western Pennsylvania history, air quality modeling, and monitoring, along with examples of the environmental renaissance of Pittsburgh are the subject of this issue of EM. Although the spatial focus is apparently narrow, the application is broad. As with A&WMA’s Annual Conference & Exhibition, we expect you’ll find insight in this issue into air–science practice that can expand your understanding and motivate innovation in the field for years to come.

**Now, a brief look at the host city…**

Today, Pittsburgh is a cleaner, healthier, thriving metropolis that is still a leader in environmental theory and practice while maintaining a mix of steel-making operations and other manufacturing, advanced technology, and top-notch educational and health care institutions.

While in Pittsburgh, you may wish to explore the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, National Aviary, Carnegie Science Center, Carnegie Museum, Heinz History Center, or Andy Warhol Museum. Perhaps take in a play or musical at the nearby Cultural District venues such as the Benedum Center, Byham theater, or O’Reilly theater. Or, enjoy the classic music of the Pittsburgh Symphony at ornate Heinz Hall. Maybe even go wild at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. Then again, you could cheer on the Pirates at one of the most beautiful ball-yards in all of baseball: PNC Park.

Whatever your pleasure, take it from a life-long resident, Pittsburgh just may be the biggest hometown-friendly metropolis in the United States.

Be sure to check out the Visit Pittsburgh website (http://www.visitpittsburgh.com/ACE2017) for a one-stop shop for things to do in the ‘Burgh. em