Art Commission Application Form

You must submit the following along with this form as a single PDF.

• Individual or organizational statement (250 word max)
• Letter of intent that includes history of project and its impact on the community (500 word max)
• Visual materials (See Art Commission Guidelines for requirement)
• Budget describing cost of materials, artist fees, maintenance, installation, etc.
• Two letters of support from project partners or neighborhood organizations
• One letter of support from the Department of Public Works or Department of Mobility & Infrastructure

Notes:

• You may be required to hold a Development Activities Meeting with the applicable Registered Community Organization prior to Hearing. For more information, visit pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/rco.
• After receiving Art Commission approval, any necessary permits, certificates of occupancy, legal agreements, or other city approvals are still required. These must be applied for separately at the appropriate City departments and are the responsibility of the applicant.
• Application format is a digital copy of full application form, required documents, and the presentation to be projected at the Hearing as one single PDF. Send all documents to pacd@pittsburghpa.gov.

Project Information

Type of Project:  □ Conceptual Review
                  □ Conceptual/Final Review
                  □ Final Review
                  □ Courtesy Review

Has this project been come before Art Commission before?

□ No  □ Yes, when:_________________

Duration of project: From ____/____/____ to ____/____/____

Permanent? □ No    □ Yes
Conceptual Review for Art in Parks
OOA Designs

Project Location

Address: Emerald View Park – exact location to be determined

Neighborhood: Duquesne Heights

Applicant Information

Name: Sarah Minnaert, Public Art & Civic Design Division, Department of City Planning

Mailing Address: 200 Ross St, 4th Floor, Pittsburgh PA 15219

Phone: 412.255.8996  Email: sarah.minnaert@pittsburghpa.gov

Relationship or Role in Project: Public Art & Civic Design Manager
November 2021 Art Commission
Conceptual Review

ARTIST TEAM BIO

OOA Designs LLC is a collaboration between Oreen Cohen and Alison Zapata. OOA is woman, mother and artist owned Pittsburgh based design company specializing in creating site-specific public and private art commissions. Our most recent projects include Wightman Park- Squirrel Hill, as well as Private outdoor and indoor mural and sculpture commissions. Our approach as an artist design team and individually spans disciplines of art, design and education to build connections with the immediate environment, communities and functions of place. Utilizing our combined 40 years of experience and expertise as educators and public artists, we have developed a system to inclusively engage communities of all ages through the design process. Our sensibilities in color, light, form and function, as well as our proficiencies in fabrication and coordination, allow us to transform utilitarian spaces into a potent story of place through sculptural and mural arts.

OOA FOUNDERS BIOS

OREEN COHEN
Oreen Cohen grew up between the Rust Belt of the United States and Northern Israel, currently living and working in Pittsburgh, PA. Her site-specific art practice spans the potentiality of material, body and space in sculpture, painting, drawing, public art, intervention and video performance. Oreen received a Master of Fine Arts degree in Sculpture (2014) from Carnegie Mellon University and a BFA (2008) in Painting at the University at Buffalo. She has been active over twenty years participating, collaborating in exhibitions, residencies and public/private commissions nationally and internationally. Her work thrives when built in challenging environments such as in: “When Artists Enter the Factory” at the Brooklyn Army Terminal (2019), Alloy Pittsburgh- =Carrie Furnace (2015), FIGMENT Sculpture Project- Governor’s Island (NYC), Flint Public Art Project-Chevy in the Hole (Flint, MI 2014). Recent projects include a permanent public art installation at Wightman Park, Squirrel Hill in Pittsburgh and a permanent sculpture at Robert Morris University Department of Engineering and Mathematics. Follow the process on instagram @OCO.ART

ALISON ZAPATA
Alison Zapata is a Pittsburgh-born, second-generation Mexican-American visual artist and art educator. Alison Zapata has been working as a visual artist and art educator throughout Pittsburgh for more than fifteen years. She works primarily as a painter, with a focus on portraiture, murals, and multi-media collage and sign painting. Her paintings are collected throughout the United States. Having obtained a BA in Art Education at Carlow University, Alison has developed engaging, child-centered arts programming in classrooms throughout Pittsburgh in various populations since 1998. She is the owner/lead artist of Zapata Studios and co-founder of OOA Designs. Most recently completed projects include large scale murals for Tree Pittsburgh, Colax Middle School, Squirrel Hill Coalition and private clients. Alison’s interest lies in building community and interpersonal relationships through the exploration of art.
PROJECT NARRATIVE

On June 16, 2021 Alison and I took a hike around the many facets of Emerald Park to locate a site that could be amplified by incorporating public art. We were stricken by the site located at Point of View Park (Grandview Avenue at Sweetbriar Street) on the westernmost end of Grand View Scenic Byway Park in the Mount Washington neighborhood of Pittsburgh, PA. We walked down the gravel trail to an open, sloping hill that had an almost spiritual connection for us for its openness to the sky, and grounded green scape surrounding us. The trail curvature and landscaping boulders with planted flowers placed as a vista point is ideal to receive a monumental sculptural work.

We came upon this location and words just started flowing connecting us to this site. The position on the hill overlooks the industrial areas of Pittsburgh to the left and to the right the modernized city- a site where the past, future and the rivers converge. It is a location that overlooks the Arteries of roads that lead to the heart of pittsburgh.

We are taking time to research, scour, and scavenge materials for this project. Some points of research come from visiting the Youghiogheny Glass Factory in October. During our visit we met the Director of the Stained Glass Association of America with whom we had a lengthy conversation about glass fusing and other methods and processes of glass work. We browsed the collections of glass in the shop, where we found glass slag rocks that inspired more visioning around a heart form.

ARTWORK IDEA

Anatomic and stylized heart “beacon” built out of scrap steel, rebar, fused and slumped glass, glass insulators forged in a brutalist construction with pointed illumination to spread constellations of light across the hillside landscape.

The overlook view from Mt. Washington to the Point emphasizes the forms and functions of a heart. Ventricles of bridges and veins of city streets overlap hilly terrain, snaking creeks, rivers, trails, train tracks and streets to over 90 neighborhoods. Coexisting within this landscape over the years become a push and pull, an ebb and flow constantly moving and removing resources. The elements Air, Fire, Water and Ground are integral components to the rise of Pittsburgh economically and socially. The current energy and residual history of labor, aspiration and grit makes the city beat on.

Materials: steel rebar, steel pipe, collected antique glass insulators, vintage steel toy train tracks, cast and slumped glass, lighting and concrete.

Approximate Dimensions: 5 ft circumference x 10 ft tall
SITE LOCATION

The location on top of the hill strategically allows Pittsburghers from dozens of neighborhoods and road ways to view it. The site is a gathering place, frequented on 4th of July, to the James West sculpture, but empty beyond that point. We intend for our sculpture to become part of the skyline by day and a beacon by night.

Image: Point of View Park on the Hillside that leads to a trail.
## ART IN THE PARK - OOA EMERALD VIEW

### PROPOSED PROJECT BUDGET

Updated 11/6/2021

**Artist Team**

OOA Designs - Oreen Cohen, Alison Zapata

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The City of Pittsburgh</td>
<td>$ 60,000.00</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First increment</td>
<td>$ 12,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second increment</td>
<td>$ 30,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third increment</td>
<td>$ 18,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Contributed Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 60,000.00</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In Kind Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Kind Supporter 1</td>
<td>$ 2,000.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>Pittsburgh Glass Center- Idea Foundry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Other Support</strong></td>
<td>$ 2,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 62,000.00</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steel for sculpture</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>Raw steel, Scrap, plate for base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete</td>
<td>$ 2,500.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>glass framing stainless steel plates and hardware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric</td>
<td>$ 2,500.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabrication (in shop)</td>
<td>$ 1,750.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>Consumables (gas, welding equipment, grinding tools, sanding, oxy/aceteylne etc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass (Insulators)</td>
<td>$ 500.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>Online resellers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass working subcontract</td>
<td>$ 500.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>Pittsburgh Glass Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardware</td>
<td>$ 250.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>redhead concrete anchors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shop rental</td>
<td>$ 2,000.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>5 months rental $400.00- Alison Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist Fee (Oreen)</td>
<td>$ 18,000.00</td>
<td>confirmed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist Fee (Alison)</td>
<td>$ 18,000.00</td>
<td>confirmed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Project Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 49,000.00</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Expenses (please list)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>$ 1,500.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>stamped engineer drawings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prototyping</td>
<td>$ 11.00</td>
<td>confirmed</td>
<td>printed photos @CVS for collage maquette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>$ 281.27</td>
<td>confirmed</td>
<td>Progressive Liberty Mutual-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>installation</td>
<td>$ 5,000.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>Arca Fine Art Installers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makerspace Membership</td>
<td>$ 1,050.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>pr month $105.00 per person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$ 200.00</td>
<td>confirmed</td>
<td>Truck use, delivery/install, parking for meetings pertaining to project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>$ 1,665.00</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>LLC taxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>$ 1292.73</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>Incidental Maintenence and Installation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Other Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 11,000.00</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 60,000.00</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 2,000.00</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 60,000.00</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Engaged  Elegant  Placemaking
Oreen Cohen
Pittsburgh resident for 10 year transplant from Rochester, NY

MFA from Carnegie Mellon University
specialty in Metalworking and glass sculptures in site-specific installations

Program coordinator/educator/fabricator/public art consultant
Alison Zapata

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA

B.A. in Art Education from Carlow University

Painter with focus on portraiture, murals, and multi-media collage.

Youth Educator k-12
Fabrication Process
EMERALD VIEW PARK: Grandview/Point of View Park
Intention: To create a beacon at night
Historically, Pittsburgh Community and Tourists Gather at Mt Washington and Grandview Location
The telling of a story…
Through an illustrative sculpture created in a brutalist style reflecting the rigor and grace of Pittsburgh’s land and labor history through use of material.

- A monument symbolizing the heart of Pittsburgh, it’s landscapes; natural man made.
- An homage to steel and glass industry
- A recognition to woman laborers- both at home and in industry.
Heart of the City

The overlook view from Mt. Washington to the Point emphasizes the forms and functions of a heart. Ventricles of bridges and veins of city streets overlap hilly terrain and snaking creeks and rivers. People in coexistence with this landscape becomes a push and pull, an ebb and flow constantly moving and removing resources. The current energy and residual history of labor, aspiration and grit makes the city beat on.

We intend to create a sculpture using elements of steel, glass and collected materials that illustrates a beating heart.
Anatomic and stylized heart “beacon” built out of scrap steel, rebar, glass insulators in a brutalist construction with pointed illumination to spread constellations of light across the hillside landscape.
Proposed site location on a map
Point of View Park Hillside
MATERIAL INSPIRATION: Main Structure (Interior)
- Cast Glass and Plasma Cut Hand Drawings

- Antique glass patterns (left) plasma cut (right) into the main arteries or pipe structures of the sculpture.

- We are also going to research the process of blowing borosilicate (pyrex) glass tubes and sheets into a patterned mold using designs to the left.

- These patterns (left image) were often found glazed in home glass windows and wears. These feminine flowing patterns are used in the sculpture to clarify the role of women in stabilizing industry, family and neighborhood working-class survival.

Resource: Vintage patterned glass designs from Pittsburgh Glass Company

Sculpture model - interior supportive structure 5”-12” wide and 7 ft to 10 ft tall steel pipes
Exterior Skin

Lacey “skin” or “blood vessels” made from cold and hot working steel line work.

Anatomic and stylized heart “beacon” built out of scrap steel, rebar, glass insulators in a brutalist construction with pointed illumination to spread constellations of light across the hillside landscape.
INSPIRATION CONTINUED

Lighting and glass sources
Field Research

Historical Glass Club of Pittsburgh
PROMOTING PITTSBURGH GLASS HISTORY

Youghiogheny OPALESCENT GLASS COMPANY, Inc.
Field Research Continued

Visiting Youghiogheny Glass 10/15/21
Thank you!

Please take our survey, we want your feedback!

https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/art-parks/ooa-designs