Art in Parks: OOA Designs in Emerald View Park
Final Review

Project Location:
Anchor Green Garden, Emerald View Park
Neighborhood: Mount Washington

Applicant(s):
Public Art & Civic Design Division
OOA Designs

Project Duration: Permanent
Has this project come before Art Commission before? Yes
If yes, when? Nov 2021, Dec 2021
RCO District: Yes
Development Activities Meeting: Yes, the DAM has been held
ARTIST BIO/STATEMENT

OOA Designs llc was established in 2018. Ooren Cohen and Alison Zapata combine over 40+ years of artistry in the public realm, community engagement, education and design. Ooren Cohen focuses on metalwork and glass, where Alison Zapata creates beauty through collage and mural painting. Together, we create works that tell stories of place through an intentional use of material and form. Our work combines traditional sculpture construction methods utilizing hand-bent manual methods with cutting-edge digital design and fabrication technology. We digitally design sculptures and detailed elements that are then sent for laser cutting out of steel sheets. We believe in sustainable design, the entire sheet of steel both positive and negative forms are used to create no-waste design. As a result, a unique style has evolved that reflects an understanding of placemaking by incorporating industrial materials, computer numerical control cutting methods (CNC), and organically inspired designs. Combined Ooren and Alison’s past experiences have facilitated an integrated approach to art planning which emphasizes active collaborations and partnerships with contractors, landscape architects, architects, engineers, and the community as a whole.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

A description of their AiP process thus far including community engagement; how they arrived at final design; detailed description of proposed implementation; etc (1-2 page, this should reflect progression or revision since Conceptual Review and fully describe the proposed final product)

The last AC meeting we were approved with conditions to combine two proposed designs. We took a step back, to refocus, research, consult and collect materials to develop our sculptural design for Anchor Green Garden at the intersection of PI Mcardle Expressway and Grandview Avenue on Mt. Washington. In considering the feedback from the first Art Commission hearing, we combined two previous ideas of “lanterns” to a graceful and functional form inspired by our research and community engagement. We are creating a 36 ft garden trellis of scrap metal and elegant line work that becomes a metaphor for the resiliency of women but also symbolic of transformation and growth of post-industrial environments. The main material in this work is Steel, used to emulate both femininity and resilience of women who worked in the steel industry and at home, but also who fought to unionize and continue to stand in solidarity for equality. For these reasons we named this artwork:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRIT</th>
<th>FLOW</th>
<th>GROW</th>
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</table>

“Hearts starve as well as bodies, give us bread, but give us roses” is an anthem that has carried us through designing this piece. A statement taken from David Oppenheims poem, ‘Bread and Roses’ first used in the 1912 textile protests and carried through the women’s labor movement and locally with the unionists work of Fannie Sellins. Roses and Wheat as well as this statement resonates within the design of this piece. Collaged out of scrap steel, rebar and cnc laser cut parts- three-section triptych trellis (each section 11ft wide x 12ft tall 6”-12” depth). The functional garden trellis lines the walkways, welcoming pedestrians into this underutilized parklet.

We will use strong linework design tracing physical labor movements from gathering and rigging to bring height to the piece. We will also utilize hand bent as well as collaged cnc-cut lace works as filigree and decoration. Part of the Carrie Furnace site has been repurposed as a native plant garden, where they have allowed nature to reclaim the space. Our intention is similar, however we would like to work with the Parks Conservancy and local community to plant climbing roses and other climbing plants in the garden space, we hope that the community will steward and conserve this space by maintaining the perennial plants. It is important to note most of the sculpture will be constructed and designed from our community engagement and salvaging of materials. This references the wartime effort to harvest more steel from the greater community to melt down for the production of military equipment. We employed this method as community engagement for the production of the sculpture.

We want to reiterate that these sculptures are designed as digital collages, designed to the best of our intentions through this process- our method is to collect scrap metal and utilize what is found to construct. Our process needs to be trusted and we can post project updates as steps are completed if needed.
March 1, 2022
RE: Art In the Park: AC Final Review- March Session

PROJECT DESCRIPTION CONTINUED: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our four-fold community engagement process has been key to the development of the design listed below and has been a key element to producing the design of the work.

1 Research-

We visited the Rivers of Steel Bost Archives with a specific desire to find information on Women working in the field, union information, as well as any unique shapes or patterns that might inspire our design. We sifted through the masses of archives to find boxes of memorabilia, clothing, union newspapers, books and images from the Steel industry era. We took images of hundreds of pins, workers ID tags, patches and employee awards for their various shapes. We are utilizing the shapes found in the awards for the base construction of the trellis.

What was fascinating was a catalog of union newspapers that were published around the time women started to take over the workplace in the 1970's, they wrote poems with added line work illustrations and comics about their troubles in the workplace. We are taking note of those line drawings and possibly using them in the metal linework for the trellis.

One book with portraits and interviews had an image of women in the workplace, and a counterpoint image at home surrounded by family- often wearing a dress with some element of decoration, as well as curtains, tablecloth or wallpaper with lace design. Also a video documentary, titled, Women of Steel from 1985 often shows a woman changing from rigid dirty work clothes to their day wear that was often lighter and feminine. We took detailed photographs and scans of the images and interviews- From these photos, we were fascinated with this change in outfit- from rigid to feminine and decided to collect images of lace from the community.

2 Lace Collection- (see attached pg.5)

From images we found at Rivers of Steel, we decided to collect images of lace from the community at large. We sent out a flier to Mt. Washington RCO, we connected with community groups on Facebook both in Mt. Washington and Allentown. But we also spread the call farther on social media- and over the course of three weeks have hundreds of images of lace from over 25 women who shared a little part of their family history. Most women sent a story that went along with the lace that made this process much richer. The lace will be digitally traced and cut as stencils for hand plasma cutting and also sent to a fabricator to be CNC Laser cut.

3 Scrap Metal Collection: (see attached pg.6)

We met with John Walter of Iron Eden- Pittsburgh's ornamental iron work haven. John sat down with us to consult on our project, gave us a tour of his shop and allowed free reign to gain inspiration and also in the future salvage unique pieces of steel from his massed collection. This is a huge contribution to our project- both for inspiring the design, but also to utilize such incredible bits and pieces such as bolts, random shapes, cut outs and other pieces of scrap that would take years to salvage. He also has bucket loads of 1” thick stain glass from the Tree of Life Synagogue that we may utilize in the sculpture as a stain glass mosaic.

We put out a community call for scrap metal which was shared via social media and even Pittsburgh City Paper wrote an article about our community engagement. Seventeen people and businesses had reached out with descriptions and photos of what they can contribute. We are being very specific on what we will pick up, not to get overwhelmed. Of that, we found one specific iron chandelier that we will be picking up for potential use in the piece. Otherwise, the parts and pieces are few that we can actually use and not in quantity as we had anticipated, also spread out geographically. We have picked up materials from the National Robotics Engineering Center at CMU and metalworker Glen Gardener. We are responding to each donation and curating our selection. We will be renting a truck and picking up materials in early spring.

4 Pennsylvania Parks Conservancy- Gardening

We connected with the Pennsylvania Parks Conservancy, DPW and other community stakeholders who maintain the gardens at Anchor Green Garden. We are partnering with them to plant perennial multicolored climbing roses to grow up and around the trellis.
Anchor Green Garden is set back to the right of a major intersection of PJ McCardle Parkway and Grandview Ave. We will install the Trellis as a triptych spanning the grass area either side of the sidewalks and in the center garden. Thinking about curb appeal in a neighborhood setting with significant car traffic, we are constructing a trellis for roses and other climbing plants using lengths of thick and thin aircraft cable woven with rebar and strapping, we are referencing the existing signage in the park about the greater development on Mt. Washington in the early 1800s due to the addition of funicular railways and streetcars. Our material choices are improvised by what we find in scrap, we collected coils of 1” steel cable for example, that is curated to tell a story and bring a more meaningful approach to make this underutilized parklet a destination. No matter if community stewards continue the rose garden, this sculpture with or without living floral elements, will be filled with pattern, color and layers of hand bent steel roses, forged wheat stalks and lace cut outs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trellis Dimensions</th>
<th>(3 sections) Each section 11ft wide x 12ft tall 4”-6” depth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>- Welded Scrap metal (stock bar, rebar, steel cable, sheet steel, tin, tools)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- ornamental steel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Glass electric insulators, borosilicate glass plates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- CNC laser cut lace doilies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation</td>
<td>- 2- 12” sonotube concrete pillars poured 6 ft into the ground 10 ft apart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Trellis structure pipes welded to steel plate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- ¾” 12” diameter steel plate the plate is bolted to a concrete pillar using ¾” redhead concrete anchors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Solar lights possibly installed on the top of the pipe.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lighting. We are considering how the sculpture will read in the daytime, at night as well as the view from traffic. Understanding the new light ordinance the city has put into place, as well it’s promotion of energy efficiency- we are looking into options for in ground solar Flood Outdoor Weatherproof Landscape Lighting. Though after discussing with DPW and other consultants the price of lighting would be costly and prohibitive.

We consulted with the non-profit, Zero Fossil (ZF) to review the space and decide on solar panel and light integration. We are also finding out information from DPW about tapping into electricity at the site and contracting an electrician to install a hardline. For solar, the garden space is south facing (towards the neighborhood) which is ideal for solar energy collection. ZF can install a pole that holds a 40”x40” solar panel and leads two cables through a thin ¾” trench in the concrete to the charger and then daisy chained to the lights. The solar panel or the electric lighting, (whichever is chosen after further consultation) would be on a timer, set to turn on from 4pm-midnight and also 4 am-7am to operate for all seasons and times that the art may be viewed. The sculpture will be downward lit for high contrast illuminating the textures and forms of the trellis.

Another option would be to purchase industrial garden solar spot lights and install them on top of the trellis’s.

4. BUDGET ATTACHED on next page (4)
March 1, 2022
RE: Art In the Park: AC Final Review- March Session
# ART IN THE PARK 2022

**PROPOSED PROJECT BUDGET**

3.1.22

**OOA DESIGNS**

Oreen Cohen, Alison Zapata

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The City of Pittsburgh</td>
<td>$60,000.00</td>
<td>[3]</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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**Total Contributed Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>$60,000.00</th>
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### Project Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steel for sculpture and supports</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>1 ton of rebar (B+G Rebar and wire +delivery), Ryerson laser cuts estimated 3,000.00- any other materials needed glenshaw steel/fieldcrest steel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>materials from John walters</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>Stain glass, scrap metal/other stock steel materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabrication (in shop)</td>
<td>$2,600.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>Consumables (gas, welding equipment, grinding tools, sanding, oxy/acetylene etc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscaping</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>climbing roses and wheat, other climbing plants in collaboration with the PA Parks Conservancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
<td>confirmed</td>
<td>concrete, 6 ft sonotubes, subcontractor post digging, hardware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist Fees</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
<td>confirmed</td>
<td>Artist Labor fees divided by team $10,000.00 each</td>
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**Subtotal Project Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>$34,100.00</th>
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### Other Expenses (please list)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shop rental Rt. 8</td>
<td>$2,750.00</td>
<td>confirmed</td>
<td>Shop space rental Rt. 8 location- $400 a month plus utilities March-August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powdercoating</td>
<td>$1,400.00</td>
<td>confirmed</td>
<td>powdercoating sealant and clear coat spray @ protohaven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>confirmed</td>
<td>presentations, meetings, sketches, model materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>$1,050.00</td>
<td>confirmed</td>
<td>Protohaven Makerspace Cnc plasma class +powdercoating+sandblaster $560.00, Blacksmithing class (oreen)- $90.00, Basic mig class (alison) $90.00 + membership for one month $105 each for months of classes + $50 each weekend membership to use metalworking equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>$1,700.00</td>
<td>confirmed</td>
<td>Progressive Liberty Mutual- 1 yr (after complete take off car coverage)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>confirmed</td>
<td>Truck rental, gas, delivery/install, parking for meetings pertaining to project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>LLC taxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>Incidental Maintenance and Installation / $9k reserved for lighting by subcontractor (need answers from DPW)</td>
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**Subtotal Other Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>$25,900.00</th>
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### TOTAL EXPENSES

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<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
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### TOTAL INCOME

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
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### expenses-income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>$0.00</th>
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OOA Designs llc was established in 2018. Oreen Cohen and Alison Zapata combine over 40+ years of artistry in the public realm, community engagement, education and design. Oreen Cohen focuses on metalwork and glass, where Alison creates beauty through collage and painting. Together, we create works that tell stories of place through an intentional use of material and form.
The site: Anchor Green Garden at Grandview and PJ McCardle Parkway
Anchor Green Garden: Top of McCardle
The marriage of two previously proposed designs:
Combining brutalist metalworking details to create a lace trellis with an emphasis on linework and beauty.
Overtime, Worker Writer Anthology 1979-1989
HEARTS STARVE AS WELL AS BODIES

GIVE US BREAD BUT GIVE US ROSES
Trellis sketch- design added filigree with glass insets, powdercoated and plasma cut forms, hand bent steel roses and cnc cut lace doilies.
In Situ- installed as 3 separate trellis designs acting as a Tryptich
Community Engagement = key to our process

-Flyer shared on social media: both Facebook and Instagram with great response

Facebook groups such as Mt. Washington Community groups/Buy Nothing group

- Pittsburgh City Paper published an article about our project and material collection on 1/11/22
  Link to Article

- We have had around 20 people reach out with images of scrap. We are curating the pieces that are usable for the sculpture and not taking just anything. We are in process of scheduling pick up for the pieces that are usable.

Metal and lace sought for public art park project honoring women of Pittsburgh’s industrial history
By Amanda Waltz

A SCULPTURE in EMERALD VIEW PARK

We will pick up pipes, mufflers, tool boxes, sheet metal, old tools chain etc (no appliances please)

Send us a pic or describe what you have!
Email OOADESIGNS@GMAIL.COM

A Project by OOA DESIGNS LLC  https://www.behance.net/ooadesigns
Commissioned by Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh’s RADical ImPAct project

Artists Green Cohen-zotto and Alison Zapata (right) of OOA Designs pose next to their sculpture.
TOUR of Iron Eden and Project Consultation with John Walters
Scrapped materials from Protohaven donated by Jan Loney and K2 Metal works
^ Collected from the National Research Engineering Center @ CMU
Plasma Cutting Steel to cut lace and rose designs around the pipes. This process will also be used on the bottom edges of the pipes for drainage.

< Forming main structure using rebar and poles.
- collected scrap metal (cable, sheet, tools, ornamental etc)
SCULPTURE DETAILS:
Wheat and Roses
Trellis sketch- foundational form made from 3/16” x 2” x 20 ft steel bars that we will build off of with Ornamental steel and found objects.

Each section is 12 feet wide x 12 feet tall x 12 inch side profile (approximate)
Women at work and at home Images found at the Rivers of Steel Archives
Looking for Lace!

Contribute to the design of a new public art project in Emerald View Park.

OOA Designs is looking for lace that has been in your family.

Take a photo of the lace on a black or dark background - email it to OOADESIGNS@gmail.com by March 1st

The lace patterns will be collaged into an intricate steel sculpture honoring women’s labor at home and in industry!

This project is commissioned by the City of Pittsburgh Department of Arts and Culture and funded by the RAD Impact Grant.
Over 16 women have reached out and have shared over 60 images of lace and the stories behind them.

- **Our process**: Digitally trace the lace and convert to .DXF cut files for smaller doilies.
- Draw out with rebar, flatbar, chain. Scrap metal as main grid of trellis.
- CNC Laser cut lace community contributed lace will be rolled, collaged and welded to the trellis.
- Cut by EH Schwab Fabrication.
INSTALLATION

^ ¾” x 6” REDHEAD Tru Bolt Wedge Concrete Anchor Drilled/Hammered into sonotube cast concrete 6 ft length

^ Ex. using same anchors on OOA Wightman Park Sculpture

^ Drawing of tabbed ¼” thick footer bars welded to base of sculpture with punched holes and bolts
Partnering with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy on plantings in the garden
Thank you!

Please take our survey, we want your feedback!

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