Jane Seymour Open Heart Sculpture

Conceptual Review

Project Location: Grandview Ave Overlook
Neighborhood: Mount Washington

Applicant(s):
Mount Washington Community Development Corporation

Project Duration: Permanent
Has this project come before Art Commission before? No
If yes, when? n/a
RCO District: Yes
Development Activities Meeting: No, the DAM has not been held
In 2010, MWCDC worked closely with area elected officials and the Department of Public Works (DPW) to bury utilities and install new light poles along Grandview Avenue. At that time, the poles were equipped with banner supports, and colorful place-making banners were installed to welcome visitors and enhance their Mount Washington and City of Pittsburgh experience. In 2019-2021, MWCDC performed a successful campaign to replace those banners, replace informational and wayfinding signage in the Grandview/Shiloh parklet near the Monongahela Incline and install new welcome "triangles" along east Grandview Avenue. Current Grandview Avenue improvement projects include planning for burying utilities along west Grandview Avenue, creating a unified plan for the Grand View Scenic Byway, and pre-planning for visitors centers and public restrooms along or near Grandview Avenue.

MWCDC has been fortunate to have the City Council, Mayor's Office, DPW and the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) working together, with MWCDC and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, to improve conditions along Grandview Avenue, including replacing, repairing or rebuilding unsightly and failed sidewalks, retaining walls, benches, and landscape areas.

In 2019 MWCDC was approached regarding the possibility of installing a new sculpture along Grandview Avenue designed by an internationally known sculptor. At that time, the funding to fabricate the sculpture was not available. In 2022, the funding to fabricate the sculpture was raised, and further planning and activities became necessary, including gathering community input, identifying an installation location, and facilitating timely installation.

The bronze sculpture design boasts a hand-applied patina in earth and sea tones of browns and grays, which complement the Mount Washington skyline and its connection to the three rivers below. The size (seven feet in height) and location (on a Grandview Avenue overlook) of the sculpture create a sense of place that promotes interaction with the sculpture and its inviting form. The sculpture is interactive in that visitors are encouraged to touch and pose with it. The proposed location is well-recognized as one of the most romantic places in western Pennsylvania, which the sculpture accentuates and reinforces. The sculpture will become an icon for events such as proms, marriage proposals, and weddings which already take place along Grandview Avenue in large numbers. This sculpture promotes the theme of public art along Grandview Avenue, which includes the Point of View sculpture by James West in Photography Park and the new Art in Parks sculptures intended for the Anchor Green Garden. From an economic development perspective, the celebrity nature of the artist will generate new tourism opportunities that people will associate with the City of Pittsburgh and Mount Washington. There will be benefits to local business districts due to the many new visitors who come to the neighborhood to interact with the sculpture.

Project partners and interested parties include Pittsburgh's sister city of Bradenton, Florida; Larry Richert, local media personality; and the anonymous donor, who is providing $125,000 for sculpture fabrication and transportation. The City of Pittsburgh is considering building the sculpture base, performing the installation and securing permits if necessary.
Mount Washington / Emerald View Park
Grandview Avenue Overlook Sculpture

May 25, 2020

Mount Washington Community Development Corporation
608 Virginia Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15211
(412) 481-3220 | info@mwcdc.org | www.mwcdc.org
**Project Location:** 300–400 Block of Grandview Avenue
Proposed Locations

Site Drawings

Structural Plans, Sections and Details

Project Proposal

In Situ

Materials, Bronze / Concrete
Conclusion

MWCDC has received Letters of Support from the Grandview Lions Club, Neighbors on the Mount, and Mary, Queen of Peace Parish. Letters are pending from the Department of Public Works and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. MWCDC will seek public comment per standard organizational procedures and as required by the Art Commission.

The sculpture is a gift to the City of Pittsburgh from an anonymous donor. The pedestal may be contributed by the City. Maintenance requirements for a bronze sculpture on a concrete pedestal should be minimal.

The sculpture currently is planned to be installed in time for a late July event which Ms. Seymour is scheduled to attend.
The Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) is a community-based 501(c)(3) organization, founded in 1990, that provides business, housing, infrastructure and community development programs and services to the neighborhoods of Mount Washington and Duquesne Heights in the City of Pittsburgh. Our mission is to bring together residents and business owners in Mount Washington and Duquesne Heights to cultivate growth, development and investment toward a stronger and more livable community. MWCDC’s Strategic Plan 2018-2022, which guides all current MWCDC activities, was created through multiple publicly-advertised and well-attended community meetings. One of the areas of focus that the community asked us to incorporate into the plan was to work with city leaders to ensure that Grandview Avenue looks its best to welcome the 1.2 million visitors who come to this City attraction each year. We also were requested to work more closely with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy to enhance the Emerald View Park (EVP) experience for tourists, visitors and residents (the proposed sculpture location is in a portion of EVP). Major organizational accomplishments include helping to create EVP and its trail system, repurpose three outdated local school buildings, create the Shiloh Street Shops archway, and bury utilities along east Grandview Avenue. MWCDC is operating with a nine-member Board of Directors, Executive Director, Research and Outreach VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) and eleven skilled interns, work study students and volunteers.
The budget for this project is approximately $132,500 to $152,500 depending upon the final sculpture base and funds raised.

1) Sculpture fabrication and transportation: $125,000

2a) Sculpture Base, Option 1 (Rectangle): $7500

2b) Sculpture Base, Option 2 (Circle): $27,500

The sculpture, if approved, is planned to be installed in the third week of July 2022 to coincide with the Celebrity Care Fest. The artist is scheduled to appear at the unveiling.
April 15, 2022

The Grandview Lions Club supports the effort of the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation to place the Jane Seymour open heart sculpture on one of the oval overlooks on Grandview Avenue, providing that the American Flag is not relocated.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

David M. Donis
Secretary
25th April 2022

Art Commission
City of Pittsburgh

Re: “Open Heart” Sculpture for Grandview Avenue

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter of support from the Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Mount Washington and the South Side for placement of the “Open Heart” Sculpture on Grandview Avenue. As a community of faith we have been working to open our hearts to the transition and changes in community and demographics as well as the many visitors to our city. We believe publicly displaying the value of an “Open Heart” Sculpture would significantly enhance the beauty of our neighborhood, and share a valuable message to the communities and its visitors.

We look forward to your approval of this effort so that the entire city may benefit from this sculpture. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions.

Sincerely,

Rev. Michael J. Stumpf

Pastor Mary, Queen of Peace Parish
Grandview Avenue Overlook Sculpture Proposal
Additional Pending Letters of Support

Department of Public Works
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
Office of Theresa Kail-Smith, City Council President