Art Commission Application

South Side Park Public Art
Conceptual Review

Project Location: South Side Park
Neighborhood: South Side Slopes

Applicant(s):
Department of City Planning
Carin Mincemoyer

Project Duration: Permanent
Has this project come before Art Commission before? No
If yes, when? n/a
RCO District: Yes
Development Activities Meeting: Yes, the DAM has already been held
Letter of Intent – Cloud Well at South Side Park

Dear Commissioners,

In 2020, I was selected to create public art for the Phase 1 renovation of South Side Park. I am seeking conceptual approval for my proposed sculpture, titled *Cloud Well*, to be sited within this Phase 1 footprint.

*Cloud Well* is a proposed sculpture that references 3 presences of water in the park: Water on the ground surface in the form of surface streams, water underground flowing through the sewer line, and water in the sky in the form of clouds. Located at a point where the surface stream intersects with the underground sewer, the 6-foot diameter cylindrical sculpture references the shape and diameter of the sewer line hidden beneath the ground. (The sewer line itself follows the path of a historic stream.) A mirrored steel dome reflects the clouds passing overhead, bringing the water in the sky down to earth and into the artwork.

The sculpture takes the form on a 6-foot diameter cylinder, alluding to historical water wells. The masonry walls of the cylinder will be constructed of either stone similar to that found in the park, or of brick, in reference to that fact that both a brick factory and multiple brick houses were once located in the park. The 3 foot height of the work allows viewers to peer into the top of the sculpture to see the mirrored dome reflecting the clouds. The proposed location options are both next to the ADA-accessible boardwalk, with additional vantage points from nearby steps or viewing platforms.

The community engagement I have conducted includes in-person and virtual meetings with both community groups and individuals, as well as making an online survey available on EngagePGH where people could give input on what they wanted to see in an artwork for the park. I have also presented the *Cloud Well* concept to Friends of South Side Park, and to the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association, the RCO for this area.

I look forward to sharing this project with you and answering any questions you may have.

Thank you,
Carin Mincemoyer
Artist Statement

Carin Mincemoyer’s work ponders the ways in which humans try to embrace, struggle to control, yearn for, reject, and alter the natural environment. Her creative practice encompasses sculpture, installation, public art and design in diverse materials including wood, metal, discarded packaging, and live plants. Mining the visual evidence of humans’ efforts to contend with the seeming chaos of nature, she employs the engineered forms of scaffolding and bridges, the image of the underappreciated dandelion, a weather icon meant as shorthand for the complexity of a thunderstorm. These works offer opportunities for heightened perception of our daily predicament, our constant navigation between civilization and wildness.
South Side Park
Public Art Project: *Cloud Well*
Carin Mincemoyer

Pittsburgh Art Commission - Conceptual approval
Community Engagement

Attended meetings of Friends of South Side Park, South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association, South Side Community Council, Arlington Civic Council (EngagePGH link shared)

Engage PGH - link shared out by community groups in newsletters

Attended Goatfest, tabled alongside PashekMTR

Sara Thompson, LA with Pashek MTR

Barton Kirk of Ethos Collaborative (stormwater for Phase 1)

Janice Serra, FoSSP, wrote South Side Park Stream Daylighting

City Planning project team including Andrea Ketzel, Senior Project Landscape Architect DPW

Presented at FoSSP Annual meeting on Zoom, and SSSNA, the RCO for this project
Research

Master Plan for South Side Park

Historical materials from FoSSP

Multiple site visits, photographed Phase 1 area

Low participation in EngagePGH - Master Plan process indicated interest in showcasing water

Review of construction drawings
South Side Park
Phase 1 Design Schematic Plan
September 1, 2020
1872 map showing historic location of stream, present location of sewer
Phase 1 renovation construction documents
Inspiration - images of stone cairns and wells, sewer, garden gazing balls
Cloud Well

Rough concept sketch - working title: Cloud Well

The water cycle

Brings together water in 3 locations:

*Water in the sky* (clouds)

*Water on the surface* (streams)

*Water underground* (sewer)
Cloud Well

Mirrored dome in top reflects the clouds

Location is near where the surface stream and the underground sewer converge

The circular shape and 6-foot diameter of the well is similar to the underground sewer
Questions I’m working on:

Feasible to fabricate within budget?

Is a step or ramp necessary, or can walking deck provide higher vantage point?

Steepness of dome?

Design for drainage

Stone or brick? Or glass?
Phase 1 renovation - proposed artwork location options
Option #1 “Lower Boardwalk” – Allows for ADA access, views from above from the nearby steps and multi-modal trail; avoids stepped pools but is nearby to surface channel (highlighted in blue). There is also a bench in this area that could be reconfigured to accommodate art piece, as needed. Reference Figure C below.
Option #2 “Upper Boardwalk” - Allows for ADA access, views from above from the observation platform (approximately 4’ above); avoids stepped pools but is nearby to surface channel (highlighted in blue). There is also a bench in this area that could be reconfigured to accommodate art piece, as needed. Reference Figure D below.
Thank you!
## Carin Mincemoyer / Cloud Well at South Side Park
### Project Budget

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Estimated expense</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning, Design, project management (20%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials and Fabrication (40%)</td>
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