

COMMON GRANT APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Date of Application: September 3, 1999

Legal name of Organization Applying: AMD&ART, Inc., N.P.

Year Founded: 1995*

Current Annual Operating Budget: \$14,500

*AMD&ART incorporated in 1999 (including Community Foundation monies)

Are you currently receiving United Way Program Funding? No

Executive Director: T Allan Comp

Contact Person/Title: Jeanne Gleason, President

Address: 411 Third Avenue

Mailing Address if different from above: Same as above

City: Johnstown **State:** Pennsylvania **Zip:** 15906

Phone Number: (814) 539-5357 **Fax:** (814) 539-4345

Project Name: AMD&ART Vintondale Remediation Park

Purpose of Grant: Funds to operate AMD&ART, an organization designing and constructing acid mine drainage treatment parks in Cambria and Somerset Counties.

Beginning/Ending Dates of the Project: October 1999 to September 2000.

Amount Requested: \$10,000

Total Project Cost: \$303,000

(7% admin&staff/10% programming/83% construction)

Geographic Area Served: Blacklick Watershed, Cambria County; Little Conemaugh Watershed, Cambria County; Shade Watershed, Somerset County.

Signature, Board of Directors Chair:

Name and Title: E. Jeanne Gleason, President

Date:

Signature, Executive Director:

Name and Title: T Allan Comp, Project Director

Date:

A. NARRATIVE

1. ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

History

AMD&ART began in 1995 with the gathering of environmental artists, public historians, landscape architects, and biotreatment experts to examine multidisciplinary solutions to Appalachia's worst water pollution problem: acid mine drainage (AMD). Each year, millions of industrial and recreational dollars are lost in Western Pennsylvania alone due to these metals-laden waters. Over the past five years this initial gathering has gelled into a non-profit corporation which brings the talents of volunteer professionals from many fields together with residents of towns afflicted by AMD. From there, we design passive AMD treatment systems that will double as places of recreation and learning. We are currently beginning construction of the first of our three national demonstration projects in Vintondale, Cambria County.

Mission and Goals

AMD&ART operates on the premise that healing communities is as important as healing ecosystems. Our goals:

- To construct passive AMD treatment systems that contribute to the health of the ecosystem and that have long-term maintenance monies built into initial funding.
- To recognize science, design and history as avenues to public engagement and education, creating opportunities for learning and enjoyment at many levels, across both disciplines and generations.
- To include local residents within every step of the process in order to ensure community ownership of the resulting remediation parks. This success will rekindle civic pride and community improvement within coal-patch towns.
- To attract diverse funding sources in order to relieve pressure on over-burdened AMD remediation monies.
- To create a national demonstration model that will help concerned citizens throughout the Appalachian coal belt transform their environmental liabilities into community assets.

Challenges

Building an organization built upon the backs of so many disciplines makes funding a challenge, especially before we have a tangible project constructed. An artistic environmental project steeped in the humanities and driven by communities does not fit neatly into any singular grant categories. Fortunately, AMD&ART has tapped into sustainable development sources and watershed restoration monies to construct the treatment system at Vintondale; however, virtually all of our funds are reserved for construction rather than operational costs.

Plans

Even as we are constructing the Vintondale system, AMD&ART is working on our second and third sites. Because of their scale, we have partnered with many of the environmental agencies and organizations in the region. The Hughes Bore Hole, located near Portage, Cambria County, is more than ten times larger than the Vintondale discharge, and offers incredible aesthetic and interpretative opportunities. Dark Shade Sub-Basin, a small watershed in Central City and Shade Township in Somerset County, has more than twenty discharges—making it one of the most polluted tributaries in Western Pennsylvania. By healing the sub-basin with AMD systems that are designed to acknowledge local history and offer recreation, we will truly have achieved a viable model for the Appalachian coal belt. We plan to remain a focused non-profit, based in Johnstown, that is at ease on both the local and national levels until our demonstration project is completed within the next decade.

Accomplishments

AMD&ART is one of the few multidisciplinary projects in the country to bring together such diverse professionals in search of pragmatic answers that will be implemented. The collaboration of these scientists, historians and artists, along with community input, has resulted in two schematic site plans (please see attached) that address all three disciplines. Engineering and artistic design were completed this year, and groundbreaking will take place in October, 1999, with completion of the treatment system in the Spring of 2000.

On a community level, the Borough of Vintondale donated the land for the AMD&ART remediation park.. In a town where the municipal government cannot afford to buy wrenches to fix their borough tractor, this donation of 32 acres—one of their only assets—shows how heavily invested the community is in this project. AMD&ART public meetings have drawn over ten percent of the population (60 residents), and volunteers from the V.F.D. and local high school have answered our calls for tree plantings and picnic table building.

This pilot site has also given us the opportunity to enter into the first non-profit/PennDOT partnership wetlands mitigation project in the nation. Although this partnership will contribute funds to the construction of wetlands on-site, its more important role is in the creation of an endowment that will finance long-term operations and maintenance of the system. The successful outcome of this partnership will open the doors for other watershed organizations throughout the Commonwealth, and perhaps throughout all of Appalachia.

In further pursuit of our goal to expand non-traditional funding opportunities, AMD&ART partnered with the Borough of Central City to apply for a \$200,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Pilot. The award of this grant to Central City constitutes the first time that abandoned minelands have been accepted by the EPA as brownfields, an acceptance that is now growing in state governments as well, opening one more funding door for watershed organizations.

Artist Stacy Levy and Landscape Architect Julie Bargmann, both on the Vintondale project, have created “Testing the Waters,” part of the exhibit *Eco-Revelatory Design: Nature Constructed, Nature Revealed*, which is currently touring the United States. In addition, Bargmann and Levy have been invited to exhibit at the first annual Cooper Hewitt National Design Triennial as one of two landscape design entries. Their design has garnered such national attention because, rather than present an academic theory, it is one of the few projects in the country to offer a viable, multidisciplinary design solution to an environmental and community problem. The preliminary success of this integrated

AMD&ART design process has spurred the National Endowment for the Arts and the Office of Surface Mining to launch a pilot program to pair public artists with remediation-based watershed organizations beginning in 2000.

On a local level, AMD&ART tours *From Rust To Renewal*, a traveling exhibit that uses modern design, historical images and literature, contemporary photographs and public programs to tie together the past, present and future of southwestern Pennsylvania's coal-impacted waterways. Recently we have exhibited throughout the western half of the state at art galleries and environmental events; we plan to expand throughout the Mid-Atlantic region in the coming year.

2. PURPOSE OF GRANT

Proposed Project

AMD&ART has grown tremendously over the past two years, amassing the money needed to construct our pilot site treatment system at Vintondale, begin construction at Hughes, and begin engineering in Central City. However, our grants are strictly linked to construction and program-specific costs, without provisions for operational costs. AMD&ART requests funds with which to run our office, including phone, postage, rent, and travel, so that we can best administer our construction/program funds.

Needs/Problems and Population

Acid mine drainage occurs when groundwater comes in contact with minerals disturbed by old mining practices or when precipitation flows through boney piles. When AMD hits air, the iron, aluminum, manganese and other elements oxidize, coating the riverbed orange, white and/or black. Not only are they ugly, but acidic discharges preclude life in streams. For example, the discharge at Vintondale has a pH of 2.9, the Hughes Bore Hole is approximately 2.8, and the Central City Firehall discharge is 2.5—the pH of vinegar. In comparison, rivers supporting trout range from 6-7.5 pH.

This is not only an environmental problem, however. The orange stained streams symbolize the decline of the region as an industrial center, robbing residents of their proud heritage in building this country, and serving as a reminder of the Rust Belt that has tightened around the area. By cleaning up the streams and involving residents in the process, AMD&ART is restoring hope and pride to communities.

The PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation estimates that it will cost \$15 billion to clean up the Commonwealth's AMD-polluted rivers. Unfortunately, only a few million dollars are available for AMD remediation annually from traditional government sources. As the figures in the chart below illustrate, municipalities do not have the resources to tackle this immense problem, and relatively few dollars now come from private sources. We strive to tap into new funding such as Sustainable Development, Brownfields, arts and humanities monies and private foundations to promote awareness of this problem.

	POPULATION	PER CAPITA INCOME	POVERTY RATE FOR FAMILIES W/ CHILDREN (%)	PEOPLE OVER 25 W/ COLLEGE DEGREE (%)
VINTONDALE BOROUGH	582	\$10,957	61.9	7.7
PORTAGE BOROUGH	3,105	\$9,446	75.3	12.5
PORTAGE TOWNSHIP	4,089	\$9,340	82.1	9.7
SHADE TOWNSHIP	1,246	\$8,201	53.8	6.0
CENTRAL CITY BOROUGH	3,177	\$8,797	72.9	9.9

Project Goals and Objectives

AMD&ART has five tangible goals for the year 2000. In addition to these, we will continue to blaze a trail for multidisciplinary environmental work in the United States, and will continue to seek non-traditional funding partners.

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- Finish construction of the AMD remediation system and 10 acres of constructed wetlands in Vintondale, allowing us to begin treating water in the Spring, 2000. Volunteers from the Blacklick Valley will help with the plantings that will turn this system into a major public art installation. Next year we will continue to work with community members to implement Phase II of the recreational park (playground equipment). We will also design and place interpretive signage/artistic elements within the site. Located along the Ghost Town Trail, which hosts over 70,000 users annually, this system and its accompanying interpretation will be an excellent educational tool for explaining remediation, bituminous history, and ecology.
 - Engineer the Hughes Bore Hole passive treatment system. This discharge, which pumps between 1000-3000 gpm into the Little Conemaugh River, will be one of the largest passive system ever designed. When implemented, it will help to restore three miles of stream. Our goal is to build a pilot scale system in 2001 with the design we create with our partners in 2000.
 - With the sale of the Bethlehem dams to the Cambria and Somerset County Commissioners, the remediation of Dark Shade Creek has leapt to prominence within the local cleanup strategy. In 2000 we will work with our partners to come up with engineering for the largest discharge in the basin (in downtown Central City). Additionally, as a result of the EPA Brownfields grant for which we partnered with the Borough of Central City, AMD&ART will spearhead a community-driven design agenda which will assess the needs of local residents and incorporate them into the treatment system design (i.e. walking paths through the system and historical signage).
 - Continue to produce humanities and arts programming, both locally and throughout the state. We have discovered that the humanities and arts aspects of AMD&ART provide entries into the project for many residents who otherwise would not become involved. Our promise to interpret history on-site with the help of residents has brought on board historical societies and older community members. Meanwhile, our commitment to public art has attracted galleries and younger members of society. We are fortunate to be able to work with the recently formed Coal Heritage Alliance to educate about AMD throughout Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic region.

- Finally, as we complete the first phase of our pilot project and move on to our other sites, AMD&ART strives to make the problem of AMD, and our solutions for community-enhanced treatment, known throughout Appalachia and the rest of the nation. We have contracted a local professional filmmaker to record the Vintondale construction on film, and will submit articles to arts, environmental, and heritage publications. Our website is currently under construction, and will be up in October, 1999.

New/Continuing Program

AMD&ART is a continuing program, shifting from a planning and design focus into construction this year.

Partnering Organizations

Because these projects are so large in scale, AMD&ART has many partners. We will keep the descriptions brief, but welcome any inquiries for more specific information.

Advanced GeoServices Corp., Chadd's Ford, PA. AGC provided more than \$6,000 of pro bono engineering work for the Hughes Bore Hole in 1999.

Borough of Vintondale, Cambria County. Donation of 32 acres of land for construction of the project. Will fund and maintain the recreation park portion of the site. The residents of Vintondale were active members of the design process, providing comments, suggestions, and their history to the AMD&ART team.

Borough of Central City, Somerset County. Is providing office space and support for watershed intern this year; as the recipient of the EPA Brownfields grant, will contribute brownfields assessment and design monies to watershed coalition.

Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority, Ebensburg, PA. The CCCRA is working with us at Vintondale, where they will assume ownership of the treatment system and wetlands; they are also partners at Hughes, where they are currently working on the Mainline Trail initiative and will assume ownership of the site in the future.

Cambria County Redevelopment Authority, Ebensburg, PA. This agency is working with AMD&ART as construction manager for the Vintondale site. Their landscape architect is also working with the Borough to design future recreation elements for this site.

Canaan Valley Institute, Davis, WV. Has provided funds for AMD&ART publications in 1998-1999.

EarthTech, Inc., Johnstown, PA. A local engineering company that specializes in the passive treatment of AMD. Donates the time and services of partner Bob Deason.

Environmental Information Services, Windber, PA. A local watershed improvement consultant, EIS has donated hundreds of dollars in free GIS mapping services to AMD&ART in 1999.

Jamestown Rod & Gun Club, Jamestown, PA. A local sportsmen's club adjacent to the Hughes Bore Hole. The Club has already donated 13 acres of land for future treatment use, and is ready to volunteer their labor once the dirt begins to move.

Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior. Their contribution is twofold: first, they donate time for our project director, Allan Comp. Secondly, they have contributed \$68,000 towards the construction of the Vintondale treatment system.

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Interdisciplinary Program. The PCA has supported AMD&ART since 1995 with operating and artists' fees monies. Their grant in 2000 will support artists' visits and supplies.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Keystone Small Communities Program. This agency granted \$20,000 to the Borough of Vintondale for construction of a walking trail, volleyball court and horseshoe pits in 2000. The Borough will continue to work with them in the future.

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Watershed Conservation, WRAP Program. The PA DEP contributed \$10,000 to the purchase of substrate for the Vintondale wetlands in 1999.

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 9 (Hollidaysburg) and District 10 (Indiana). PennDOT is paying AMD&ART \$87,000 to construct 5.8 acres of mitigation wetlands at Vintondale. Funds not spent on construction will be used to create an endowment for the long-term maintenance of the site.

Pennsylvania Humanities Council. The PHC has funded \$500 and several public programs for AMD&ART in conjunction with our *From Rust To Renewal* exhibit in 1998-1999. We have also received \$1,000 to bring professional historians to Vintondale this

September to work with residents to explore the historical themes which will be interpreted on-site.

Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps, AmeriCorps. The PMSC makes the everyday operation of AMD&ART possible. Since our inception in 1995, PMSC members have ably carried the administrative, volunteer coordination, and community relations duties of the organization.

Pennsylvania Rural Arts Alliance, Loretto, PA. For four years, PRAA served as fiscal sponsor for AMD&ART, and has also supported us by donating time and services of our President, Jeanne Gleason.

Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project, Somerset and Cambria Counties. Because of the scope of Hughes and the Dark Shade Sub-basin, we will embark upon design and construction with this local watershed organization. Already AMD&ART and SCRIP have joined to initiate engineering at the Central City Firehall site.

US Forest Service. Over the past two years, the USFS has provided AMD&ART and the Borough of Vintondale with nearly \$13,000 to purchase vegetation/soil amendments and wood for construction of park furniture at the Vintondale site.

US Environmental Protection Agency, Sustainable Development Program. Awarded in 1998, this \$250,000 SD grant has provided operational expenses for 1998-1999. Remaining funds for 2000-2001 are slated for construction and design expenses.

Western Pennsylvania Watershed Protection Program, Pittsburgh, PA. In 1998, the WPWPP awarded AMD&ART \$10,000 toward wetlands construction in Vintondale.

Of course, our project depends heavily upon our volunteers. All of our artists, historians, and scientists have donated hundreds of hours to the project since 1995. We also depend on the community volunteers, such as the Vintondale volunteer fire department, the Blacklick Valley High School Student Council, and the Jamestown Rod & Gun club for volunteer labor.

Timetable

1999-2000

- Host groundbreaking at Vintondale, and complete construction of the Vintondale treatment system, wetlands, and Phase I of interpretive and recreational components. Apply for funding for Phase II of interpretive and recreational components.
- Complete engineering for the Hughes Bore Hole prepare for construction of pilot scale system. Finalize plans with the Allegheny Ridge State Heritage Park to route the Mainline Trail through the site.
- Complete engineering for the Central City Firehall Discharge, study downstream sites, and bring in AMD&ART artists/historians/scientists for at least one community design meeting to begin preliminary conceptual design of interpretive elements.
- Exhibit *From Rust To Renewal* at at least one major venue, and at local events/conferences.
- Publish articles in three publications; post website at www.amdandart.org; begin filming documentary footage.

2001

- Complete Phase II of Vintondale site. Apply for funding for final interpretive and recreational (field) components.
- Construct pilot scale system at Hughes.
- Hold final community planning meetings and finalize conceptual plan for Dark Shade Sub-Basin and community components of Firehall discharge system. Prepare to construct Firehall pilot system.
- Continue to exhibit and program throughout Pennsylvania.

We anticipate that within 10 years, AMD&ART will have completed its national demonstration model, constructing the three sites and leaving adequate operation and maintenance funds for each site.

Long-Term Funding

AMD&ART has already been successful in securing long-term funding for the Vintondale site through our partnership with PennDOT. All of these sites will operate with minimum maintenance for approximately 25 years before they will need to be overhauled. To ensure that both routine maintenance and long-term recharging will be taken care of, all AMD&ART will be transferred to local land conservancies, which will be able to draw off of endowments set up for each site.

3. EVALUATION

AMD&ART has several evaluation mechanisms in place, so that we can gauge our organization on several levels. Because we are a grant-run organization and a national demonstration project, we are always reevaluating our progress in order to bring on-board new partners and spark our colleagues in other watersheds to see the bigger picture. If specified, AMD&ART staff would be happy to issue quarterly reports (which we issue to our government sponsors), or at whatever interval is convenient to the Community Foundation.

The most tangible evaluative test we will have to pass is the construction and success of our remediation parks. Did we build the treatment system and other site components that we planned, and did they come in under budget? Do our in-kind contributions match our cash contributions? There are also the physical parameters that we must pass. Because we are selling our wetlands in Vintondale to PennDOT, the water from the system must meet several criteria measuring pH, alkalinity and metals content. The wetlands will be measured for no less than two years in order to judge their health. We expect to sell wetlands at our other sites, so these rigorous institutional standards will be monitored at them as well. In broader terms, regional organizations and agencies will be looking very closely at how these systems improve overall watershed health.

Second, have we succeeded in improving community well-being once the remediation parks are in place? While much of this evidence will be anecdotal, AMD&ART is working with the Center for Regional Analysis in the Institute of Public Policy at George Mason

University to qualitatively study the impact, both economically and socially, of these parks on communities. Is our use of history and environmental art something that people take pride in, and help to maintain? Do they see an improvement in their environment? GMU and AMD&ART will continue to survey residents over the next decade.

Third, do we have school groups touring the sites within a year of their completion? Are we able to work with the local watershed education initiative, The Stream Team, to introduce children and adults to the power of passive treatment and design prerogative as a solution to this problem?

Finally, did we create a shift in the way that Appalachians deal with AMD? Will systems be constructed throughout the coal belt that incorporate design, interpretation and recreation? They will if we can prove that our remediation parks work, not only to other watershed organizers, but to funding partners on all levels, from private to federal.

Expenses	
July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999	
Salaries	
2 full-time AmeriCorps members	7,900.00
Payroll Taxes	-
Fringe Benefits	-
Contractual	-
Engineering	7,991.56
Artists	10,000.00
Interns	8,331.35
Legal	1,800.00
Socio-Economic Impact Study	5,956.01
Bank	62.40
Construction	-
Mushroom Compost	9,996.00
Travel	2,594.69
Equipment	500.45
Supplies	1,031.13
Printing and copying and photos	2,937.18
Telephone and Fax	2,388.16
Postage and Delivery	222.45
Rent	1,800.00
Utilities	-
Exhibit Expenses	1,247.71
Conferences	60.00
Public Meetings	94.45
Charettes	200.00
EPA Grant Fiscal Management	10,000.00
In-Kind Expenses	
AMD&ART Team (documented volunteer)	13,715.00
Labor (documented volunteer)	5,848.00
Land (donation)	15,000.00
Grand Total	109,676.54

Income	
July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999	
Grants	
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, 1998	\$ 521
Canaan Valley Institute	\$ 2,100
EPA Sustainable Development	\$ 46,042
Western PA Watershed Protection Program	\$ 9,996
Pennsylvania Humanities Council (Quick Grant)	\$ 498
Donations	\$ 62
In Kind Services/Goods	
Documented AMD&ART Team Services	\$ 13,715
Documented Volunteer Labor	\$ 5,848
Vintondale land	\$ 15,000
Contracts	
Office of Surface Mining Internships	\$ 15,895
TOTAL	\$ 109,676

Projected Income	
July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000	
EPA Sustainable Development	confirmed--60% construction/15% design/15% staff \$ 49,000
PA Council on the Arts	confirmed--50% operational/50% artists' support \$ 4,500
PennDOT	confirmed--65% construction/35% maintenance \$ 87,000
Office of Surface Mining	confirmed--100% construction \$ 68,000
US Forestry Service	confirmed--100% construction \$ 8,500
PA Humanities Council	confirmed--100% humanities program \$ 1,000
Borough of Vintondale	confirmed--100% park elements \$ 20,000
Heinz Endowments	possible--100% design elements \$ 25,000
Central City Borough	possible--100% community design \$ 15,000
PA Historical and Museum Commission	possible--100% interpretive signage \$ 5,000
Community Foundation	possible--100% operational \$ 10,000
Volunteer Labor	anticipated--100% construction \$ 10,000