

**REQUIRED MATERIALS
FOR PACT PROPOSALS**

- Proposal Cover Sheet
- Project Description (6-12 double-spaced pages)
- Three letters of reference for applicant and community artist(s)
- Letters of commitment from partners (for Partnership Projects only)
- Project Timeline
- Project Budget
- Supporting materials documenting artistic skills of participating community artists
- IRS letter of determination of nonprofit status and annual report and/or auditor's report for applicant organization

Please address all correspondence to:

PACT
Creativity & Culture
Division
The Rockefeller
Foundation
420 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10018-2702

Proposals must be received no later than June 15, 2000.

Incomplete proposals are ineligible.

PROPOSAL COVER SHEET

**THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
PARTNERSHIPS AFFIRMING COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION (PACT)**

AMD&ART, Inc.
Applicant Organization
411 Third Ave.
Street Address
Johnstown, PA 15906
City, State, Zip Code
Ellen Micoli, Project Co-Coordinator
Contact Person/Title
(814) 539-5357 (814) 539-4345 amdart@gte.net
Telephone/Facsimile/E-mail
AMD&ART in Vintondale: Artfully Celebrating Science, History, and
Project Title, with Brief Summary below: Community

AMD&ART is a new community enhancement initiative which brings broad public participation to the design and construction of AMD treatment systems and the creation of enjoyable, educational, park-like community landscapes. We are currently building a park in Vintondale, Pennsylvania, a former coal mining town that now suffers from extreme poverty. Working with community artists and local residents, we have developed a place that blends innovative science, responsive landscape design and community history. There are four pieces that we are asking the Rockefeller Foundation to fund: an interpretive site at the old entrance to mine #6, located at the edge of the park, a celebration where the clean, treated water re-enters the stream, an overlook of the park, sculpted out of a huge pile of waste coal, or boney, and an educational visitors' center, developed by the AMD&ART team and run by a VISTA volunteer.

Is this proposal for a "Professional Development Initiative"? ☐ yes ☒ no

Is this a Partnership Project? ☐ yes ☒ no

If you checked "yes," please list names of partner organizations below:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

January 1, 2001-October 31, 2003
Project starting and ending dates
\$515,000 \$140,000
Total project budget Amount requested

AMD&ART in Vintondale: Artfully Celebrating Science, History, and Community

Southwestern Pennsylvania is a region of remarkable beauty and stark degradation, where residents and visitors alike often miss the attractions of the region by focusing on its problems. One of these problems, abandoned mine drainage (AMD), is not only the worst environmental problem, it is the worst economic and social problem. Seeping or surging from abandoned coal mines, AMD is the metals-laden water, often acidic, that coats stream beds with orange sediment, desolating entire watersheds, the emblematic consequence of a complicated past. AMD results when groundwater dissolves minerals exposed during mining, creating an unstable aqueous solution loaded with metals including iron, aluminum, and sulfates. When these discharges reach local streams, AMD often smothers aquatic plant and animal life beneath a bright orange layer of mineral precipitate, resulting not only in habitat destruction, but the loss of waterways as recreational, industrial, and community resources.

AMD&ART has developed a way to destabilize the typical negative expectations of this region of Pennsylvania with large-scale, artful public places that directly address both the problem of AMD and its social consequences. Over the past six years, we've proven that bringing the perspectives of history to mix with the discipline of science, the healing accessibility and delight of innovative design, and the energy of community engagement, creates a productive pathway for action, a pathway that can lead to a way out of an array of problems that challenge the people of the entire Appalachian coal region. But there is a deeper mission here as well. These are not localities in which a new and engaging public space will be a pleasant amenity—these are peoples and places caught in the backwash of economic collapse and social distress. They are towns where a 70% poverty rate for families with children is not unusual. Escape from the orange-coated AMD streams and blighted environments of these places is no amenity, it is essential for survival, for creating a sense of hope and pride that is a part of our character as Americans.

AMD&ART is a three-site national demonstration model working with many partners in this region to effectively and strategically treat AMD and coal communities. We challenge the belief that treatment systems should be hidden away, inaccessible to the public, just because we as a society are ashamed of the pollutants we have created. Rather, in this place-specific continuum of human habitation and industriousness, AMD&ART maintains that reclamation is celebration, a chance to artfully redeem a legacy which is now identified with mountains of boney, rust-coated streams, and economic depression. Treatment systems become recreational parks, artworks, educational centers, and historical exhibits that reach the human spirit as well as nature.

After extensive evaluation and public input, AMD&ART selected three sequential project sites east of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Each site fulfills a specific role, progressing from a small pilot project, to a huge discharge, and finally to an entire watershed. Vintondale, AMD&ART's pilot project, offers a manageable discharge central to the community, with high visibility due to the popular Ghost Town Rail Trail that borders the park. Second is the Hughes Bore Hole, a site that provides a challenge on both scientific and interpretative fronts. Here, AMD&ART seeks to demonstrate innovative passive remediation techniques that can handle the sheer size of this discharge, while developing the site as an educational center which maintains its current visual integrity. Finally, our efforts expand in the Dark Shade Sub-basin, where AMD&ART and a host of partners are engaging an entire watershed to prove that this approach can work on the scale necessary to effectively deal with AMD as a watershed problem and a regional solution. We are currently seeking funding for artworks to be conducted at the Vintondale site, projects that complete and enhance the \$375,000 project we will complete this fall.

The Borough of Vintondale, Pennsylvania is a small coal patch town in Cambria County, some 15 miles northeast of Johnstown, nestled deep in the Blacklick Creek Valley. Created by the Vinton Coal Company, Vintondale is a community whose history was defined by underground mining and vast surface works, yet the tangible reminders of this once-proud past are beginning to

fade away. In the 1950's, the last deep mine in Vintondale closed forever. As the procession of miners across the footbridge to the coal complex ceased, so did the sounds of the tiddle, the smoke from the railroad, and the nighttime glow of the coke ovens. The buildings and structures began to crumble, bricks and cut stone were taken to build walls and repair houses in the community.

Today, the riverbed is blanketed with orange sediment from acid mine drainage and the streets are lined with dilapidated houses. The population of 582 is a mere quarter of what it was at the height of the mining industry, and 61.9% of families with children now live in poverty. The per capita income is \$10,957, and only 7.7% of the population over 25 have a college degree¹. These are citizens who rarely, if ever, have the opportunity to participate and learn from any kind of cultural or arts-related activities within their own town.

The Vintondale site is situated on 35 acres of reclaimed mineland that once hosted the heart of this small mining town—a coal plant with major buildings as well as the Pennsylvania Railroad line that connected Vintondale with the outside world. The northern edge of the site is the old railroad right-of-way, today known as the Ghost Town Rail Trail, which attracts approximately 75,000 users annually. The South Branch of Blacklick Creek, a river severely impacted by AMD, carves out the eastern and southern boundaries of the park and separates it from the town center.

Community involvement has been an integral component of the AMD&ART process from the beginning. Townspeople are still deeply connected to this central place, because of both its history and its future. More than 60 residents—10% of the population—turned out for the last two public design meetings to write down their ideas on site maps and to talk with AMD&ART team members, local artists, and each other about their town and the best AMD&ART solution. The resulting design proposal incorporates ideas from everyone that contributed, attracting wide community and agency support. Interest in this new kind of community place is broad and growing, with young people in schools and clubs working with retirees and community activists to make sure

the Vintondale AMD&ART project is as inclusive and exciting as possible. In the summer of 1998, Vintondale volunteer firemen assembled to build a dozen picnic tables for a park that was not even built yet. Recently, more than thirty local high school students prepared a proposal for the Borough council suggesting a BMX bike trail be added to the recreational park design. This month, the volunteer firemen, along with other citizens of Vintondale, will again assemble, this time to build ten benches for the park. One of the major accomplishments of AMD&ART is this ability of the Vintondale residents to build on hope, something they have never done before.

Community support is what will allow the park to become a reality. Using the artistic process to incorporate ideas and suggestions from the community, this immense swath of desolate land will become a place for recreation, historical reflection, and treatment of AMD. At the eastern end of the park, there will be a sequence of large pools set within the topography that mark the beginning of the treatment system. The water will flow through this series of settling ponds and SAPS until it flows into the wetlands, cleansed of its metallic pollutants and neutralized to a healthy pH. Native plants, their colors reflecting the increasing health of the water, transition from bright orange to silver-green alongside the system. Where black boney, or waste coal, now barely supports scrubby grasses and stunted trees, a new marsh environment will soon attract a variety of birds and wildlife. Looming over the entire site is a massive pile of boney that provides an excellent vantage point to overlook the park.

Visitors to the park will walk on interpretive trails that draw together historical information, the science behind passive AMD treatment, work by the local artists, and the newly healed ecosystem that will thrive in the wake of remediation. Visitors will gain new perspective on the resilience of nature and the ability of humans to work with the environment in a healing process that creates a new community center. The physical presence of this energized place will symbolize the

¹ 1990 Municipal Census Profiles, Census of Population and Housing, Pennsylvania State Data Center

success of community residents in healing these waters, not only by completing a job left unfinished by past generations, but also by creating a new asset for their own families and future.

The remarkable public involvement and interest in both an environmental and community improvement has come at a perfect time. Vintondale is currently experiencing a renaissance of sorts, due to new municipal benefits. After ten years of a “boil advisory” for their drinking water, a new water line delivers clean, drinkable water, and a sewage line is replacing straight pipe dumping. A new, re-energized police department is, for the first time in many years, a positive and active force in the community. The Municipal Authority has also been revitalized after months of inactivity. The authority, working closely with the AMD&ART team, is the body that will oversee maintenance and use of the recreational park.

AMD&ART has already acquired funding for the construction of the treatment system and the wetlands, and a small amount of funding has been accumulated to address several educational, interpretative, and recreational components of the program. However, if we are to completely take advantage of the site’s potential for learning, inspiration, and healing, a small amount of additional funding is needed over three years. The AMD&ART project in Vintondale offers the Rockefeller Foundation an exciting opportunity to be the final cap on an already highly successful project.

AMD&ART is looking to the Rockefeller Foundation to fund the creation of three artworks and renovate an historic building into a small visitor’s center. There are three artists who will be working with AMD&ART and the Vintondale community to create these four pieces: Stacy Levy, Angelo Ciotti, and Peter Richards. All three of the artists attended a week-long Art in the Environment Workshop in 1995, funded by the Heinz Endowments. Stacy Levy, a public artist and sculptor who is active around the country, has attended several design meetings with the residents to plan other artworks for the park. Angelo Ciotti teaches a course in community public art at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. Peter Richards serves as the interface between community and artists at the Tryon Center for Visual Art, where he is the Creative Director.

The first artwork is at the now sealed entrance to Vinton Mine #6, the largest and most central of the many mines in Vintondale, which has been sealed for years. In the early 1980s, a Rural Abandoned Mine Project leveled what remained of the Vinton Colliery and smoothed over the land to create a swath of struggling grasses, scrawny trees, and scrappy brush, interspersed with uncovered patches of coal refuse. The old mine opening that remains is little more than the end of a drainage ditch, filled with yellow iron sediment. This iron precipitate is known as 'yellow boy', and we call the scar-like ditch the 'yellow boy channel'. Beginning at the sealed mine portal, the channel travels underneath the Ghost Town Trail, under a large concrete slab, and extends like a spine across the park, from the trailside to Blacklick Creek. The Vintondale community, proud of the significance of this area of the park, recognizes the potential of these artifacts and envisions a piece commemorating the history and sense of place they represent.

After much discussion, the community and artists are beginning to define their vision. A large-scale representation of the Vinton Colliery #6 Sanborn map, representing the layout of the buildings of the Vinton Colliery, will be inscribed onto the concrete slab. Fifty feet away, at the sealed mine portal, visitors will encounter an interpretive area. The portal will involve maps, photographs, and a timeline, which will collectively reconstruct the proud history of hard work and the devastating impact of the environmental, social, and economic downfall that followed. Visitors will not only see acid mine drainage being cleansed, but will learn what happened to bring it about.

The second artwork is the final release channel for the treated water. After a trip through the treatment system, the water enters a clarification marsh and a polishing wetland. Finally, the water returns to the South Branch of Blacklick Creek, eventually joining the Kiski-Conemaugh river system, Pennsylvania's 2000 River of the Year. An essential element of this interpretive environmental art and water treatment park will be the culmination of the water's movement through the site. This "point of return" is a place for celebration, reflection, and education. One

possibility for this celebration, discussed by the community and the artists, involves a limestone spillway designed to enhance the sounds of splashing and gurgling.

The third artwork involves resculpting the huge boney pile that looms over the west end of the site. Approximately half of this waste coal will be removed for use at a co-generation plant. The remaining boney will be carved into an overlook with a path spiraling to the top. At its peak, there could be a ring of stones, salvaged from the remains of the Vinton Colliery, as a protective barrier. This overlook will serve as another reminder of the history of this place, but it will also be a place for reflection on the future and the reality of recovery as people look out over the park.

All these artworks have been discussed with the community, but their shape and form will not be finalized until more meetings are held. One such meeting was held in the fall of 1999, bringing together older residents of Vintondale with humanities scholars to discuss their memories and interpret the humanities themes that will be developed on site. All options will be discussed at both Municipal Authority and Borough Council meetings, which are open to the community. Final decisions will be made at several design forums, again with both residents and artists in attendance, which would be held this winter.

Finally, as we begin to realize the many opportunities created by the completion of the Vintondale park, we've realized that a visitors center will strengthen the success of the project, enhancing all opportunities for continued, meaningful involvement by the community residents. An integral part of the visitors' center will be the full-time VISTA volunteer who would develop and run the center for the first three years. We are currently in negotiations to obtain the old Hungarian Reformed Church at the end of Main Street in Vintondale, at the edge of the park. The church, built in 1930, is highly accessible to visitors arriving by car, as well as by the Ghost Town Trail. The visitors' center will provide an opportunity to obtain feedback from the community and other visitors, and also create a place to facilitate education and learning.

EVALUATION PLAN

A broadcast quality documentary about AMD&ART's presence in Vintondale is currently being filmed. This video will be coupled with photographs by AMD&ART's staff photographer for a visual history of the Vintondale project. A book on AMD&ART, written by our founder/director, Dr. T. Allan Comp, is being compiled from newspaper and magazine articles, staff documentation, and correspondence with community members, and local, state and national organizations. A Bridge Residency, awarded Dr. Comp by the Headlands Center for the Arts, will facilitate this writing.

At the completion of the park, all artworks will be subject to peer review by other artists familiar with this type of work. The park itself will be evaluated by the community and other visitors with surveys and response cards. The visitor's center will be an important source of such feedback. Two surveys of the Vintondale residents have already been conducted and will serve as a point of reference from which to gauge our success. The information collected will be posted in the visitor's center, shared at future community meetings, and published in AMD&ART's yearly reports. An economic evaluation of Vintondale will also be performed in five years to determine how the park has brought in tourist dollars, new businesses and economic transformation.

AMD&ART is deeply concerned about the strengths and weaknesses of our work in Vintondale because we are in the midst of developing more treatment sites with increasingly larger communities and watersheds affected. Once we have confirmed the transformations that are possible within these communities, we hope to inspire other communities and organizations throughout Appalachia to do similar work.

AMD8ART, Inc.
ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION PACT GRANT BUDGET
2001-2003

	2001	2002	2003	TOTALS
EDUCATION CENTER				
Office Support				
personnel	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 12,000.00
postage	\$ 499.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,499.00
printing	\$ 500.00			\$ 500.00
advertising		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
telephone	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 2,400.00
office supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
travel	\$ 700.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,700.00
subtotal	\$ 7,399.00	\$ 8,300.00	\$ 7,900.00	\$ 23,599.00
Outreach				
indoor exhibit	\$ 5,700.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 13,700.00
travelling exhibit			\$ 4,866.00	
ed. materials	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,416.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 6,416.00
workshops	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
documentation	\$ 366.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 966.00
subtotal	\$ 8,316.00	\$ 7,016.00	\$ 11,616.00	\$ 26,948.00
Facilities/Equipment				
rental	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 3.00
repairs	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
furnishings	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,000.00
utilities	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 8,550.00
office equipment	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,800.00
presentation equipment	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 2,000.00
subtotal	\$ 16,351.00	\$ 7,151.00	\$ 5,851.00	\$ 29,353.00
Edu. Center Total	\$ 32,066.00	\$ 22,467.00	\$ 25,367.00	\$ 79,900.00
MINE PORTAL				
fees for artist one	\$ 3,750.00			\$ 3,750.00
fees for artist two	\$ 3,750.00			\$ 3,750.00
construction and materials		\$ 7,500.00		\$ 7,500.00
Mine Portal Total	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
WATER CELEBRATION				
fees for artist one		\$ 4,500.00		\$ 4,500.00
fees for artist two		\$ 4,500.00		\$ 4,500.00
construction and materials		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
public meetings		\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Water Celebration Total	\$ -	\$ 14,200.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 19,200.00
REFUSE PILE				
fees for artist one	\$ 4,500.00			\$ 4,500.00
fees for artist two			\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
construction and materials			\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Refuse Pile Total	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 19,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS				
other staff travel	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 2,800.00
supplies	\$ 600.00	\$ 500.00		\$ 1,100.00
bookkeeping/financial	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 6,900.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 46,666.00	\$ 46,667.00	\$ 46,667.00	\$ 140,000.00

Project Timeline

Prior to acquisition of Rockefeller Funding

June-December 2000

Visitors' Center; Negotiations for obtaining the Hungarian Reformed Church

Following acquisition of Rockefeller Funding

January-May 2001

Visitors' Center; Renovation

April-November 2001

Visitors' Center; Exhibit development

Mine Portal; Community design forums and site installation

January-May 2002

Visitors' Center; Open and in use

Water Celebration; Community design forums

June-September 2002

Water Celebration; Installation

Boney Pile; Community design forums

October 2002

Water Celebration and Mine Portal; "Exhibit" Opening and Community Celebration

October-December 2002

Boney Pile; Community design forums

January-October 2003

Boney Pile; Resculpting and installation

October 2003

Vintondale Community Celebration of Completion



THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

November 7, 2000

Dr. T. Allan Comp
AMD&ART, Inc. N.P.
411 Third Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15906

In reply, please quote: RF 99045 #72

Dear Dr. Comp:

I am pleased to report that the officers of the Rockefeller Foundation have taken action to provide up to \$140,000 to AMD&ART, Inc. N.P. toward the costs of creating public art pieces and a visitors' center at abandoned mine sites in Vintondale, Pennsylvania. This sum is available during the 34-month period beginning January 1, 2001. Any grant funds unexpended on October 31, 2003, will revert to the Foundation. In accepting these funds, you agree to the terms and conditions set forth in this letter and acknowledge that while the Foundation is providing support for this project, sole responsibility for the supervision, direction, and control of the conduct of the project lies with AMD&ART, Inc. N.P.

It is our understanding that the funds will be used in accordance with the budget submitted with your proposal of June 15, 2000, to the PACT program. A check for \$46,666, representing the first payment of the grant, will be sent to you on or about January 1, 2001. Subsequent payments of \$46,667 respectively, will be made on or about January 1, 2002 and January 1, 2003, upon receipt and acceptance of an interim progress report and accounting for the previous payment. Within the two-month period following the termination of the grant on October 31, 2003, we shall need to receive a financial accounting on the use of the grant funds and a report on the grant's substantive outcome. Please refer to the enclosed notes on reporting procedures in preparing grant reports, which should be sent to the attention of Peter Helm, Program Associate.

420 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York
10018-2702

Telephone: 212-869-8500
Facsimile: 212-764-3468

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
November 7, 2000
AMD&ART, Inc. N.P. – RF 99045 #72
Page 2



A brief public announcement of this award will be made in the Foundation's Annual Report. Please read carefully the enclosed guidelines that must be followed in any announcements of or references to this grant.

It is a pleasure to report this action to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lynda Mullen", is positioned above the typed name.

Lynda Mullen
Corporate Secretary

Enclosure

Copy: Ellen Micoli