

AMD&ART

CREATING COMMUNITY ASSETS

411 THIRD AVENUE • JOHNSTOWN, PA 15906

PHONE (814) 539-5357 • FAX (814) 539-4345 • amdandart@amdandart.org

www.amdandart.org

20 December 2003

Maxmillian Angerholzer III
Program Director and Secretary
Richard Lounsbery Foundation
1020 19th Street, NW, Suite LL60
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Sir:

I write on behalf of AMD&ART, a small, innovative non-profit organization in the historic coal country of western Pennsylvania. When I started AMD&ART, I called my idea "the art thing" because I did not want to define it further. We needed to find a way to engage many people in the largest environmental problem in the region, Acid Mine Drainage or AMD, one so long-lived and ubiquitous that natives in their 40s recalled thinking in their youth of their local streams as filled with orange juice, never once questioning the possibility of something better than those orange juice streams of their childhood. I'd done a lot of work in the history of technology in the US and worked with several regional heritage areas as well. Years earlier, I learned a lot about the work of others in public art, thanks to a couple NEA Individual Fellowships and a Hirsch Farm Residency. I went looking for a team that could work with me on this quest. It would be avowedly inter- and multi-disciplinary; it would start with real understanding based in history, engage serious sculptors and designers in the entire process, make sure we had solid science at every stage, work so closely with the community that their aspirations were fully translated into the form and substance of the project, and keep that process open to the creation of solutions that not only fixed the immediate environmental problem, but opened opportunity for broader engagement by all concerned.

Today, AMD&ART is a nationally recognized model for reclamation, working with many partners to effectively and *strategically treat AMD and coal communities*. We challenge the belief that treatment systems should be hidden away, just because we as a society are embarrassed by the mess we created. Rather, AMD&ART maintains that reclamation should be a celebration, an overt and visible effort by our own generation, a chance to artfully redeem a proud legacy now obscured by mountains of waste coal, rust-coated streams, and economic depression but equally responsible for the nation building, community development and personal achievement that made this country. We've proven that treatment systems can also become gardens, virtual arboretums and places of learning; wetlands can be educational centers rich in habitat, and site history can reach the human spirit as well as nature. AMD&ART transforms aerators into fountains; limestone ditches into waterways, settlement cells into ponds and wetlands of wondrous living complexity and industrial site remnants into historical reminders,

"ghosts," that invite reflection. Once-passive community members have become advocates for their new community place—a reclamation project that addresses the water and the people, bringing fresh perspectives and a stronger community.

I think AMD&ART is successful because it is art and people, because we all pledge to never compromise but always accommodate, because our structure stands on three legs for greatest stability – our design team, our AmeriCorps and VISTA staff, and a deeply engaged community. We are an integrative, multidisciplinary approach that provides a new arena large enough to include the interests and concerns of an entire community while together we create a delightful and interesting public place that fixes a real problem. We bring individuals, organizations and funding agencies with diverse interests to work together as partners, bringing new energy and comprehensive solutions to AMD remediation in Appalachia. And we do it on a very small operating budget: our only staff is AmeriCorps and VISTA, our director a volunteer, and our volunteers numerous. Our commitment is to keep it simple, simple enough for others to follow, for others to find equal success.

We've raised a good deal of money to build this 35-acre AMD&ART Park and we are now in the very last stages of completion. Like all ambitious projects, we need more help to finally complete, but more important, we also need help to be effective in our new role as a model for others throughout Appalachia, indeed throughout America. With encouragement from Matthew Gorton, a former intern of mine, we write to request \$5000 in support from the Lounsbery Foundation to accomplish three specific projects. First we will spend \$1000 enhancing the historical work that will inform the primary site interpretation location at the site. Second, we will spend \$2000 upgrading our web site to provide better support to those that would follow in our steps. Finally, we need an additional \$2000 just to pay the bills -- heat for the Education Center, telephone for our office, and an unexpected but welcome bill for \$800 to connect our Education Center (located in an old church that is the closest building to the site) to the new sewer system in Vintondale, eliminating a straight pipe and helping AMD&ART to be a community leader in connecting to the new sewer.

At AMD&ART, 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. We urge the Lounsbery Foundation to join us in this partnership. Together we can create the paradigm shift essential to engaging all Americans in understanding the seamless linkages among our history, our environment and our legacy for this nation.

Please give AMD&ART your most serious consideration.

Sincerely,

T. Allan Comp, Ph.D.
Founder: AMD&ART

Richard Lounsbery Foundation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David M. Abshire
Jesse H. Ausubel
William Happer
Richard J. McHenry
David D. Sabatini
Frederick Seitz

PRESIDENT

David M. Abshire

VICE PRESIDENT

William Happer

TREASURER

Florence F. Arwade

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

SECRETARY

Maxmillian Angerholzer III

December 29, 2003

Dr. T. Allan Comp
Founder
AMD&ART
411 Third Avenue
Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15906

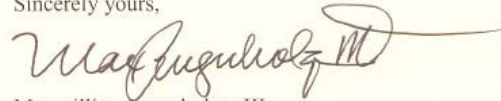
Dear Dr. Comp:

I am very pleased to inform you that the Richard Lounsbery Foundation has approved a discretionary grant of \$7,500.00 to AMD&ART for its *General Operating Expenses*. The enclosed check represents the gift's full amount.

In one year's time, we will expect a substantive update on AMD&ART, as well as a detailed financial report on the use of Lounsbery funds.

On behalf of David Abshire and the Board of Directors, please accept our best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



Maxmillian Angerholzer III
Program Director

Enclosure: Check No. 10950

cc: Mr. Matthew P. Gorton