



## GRANT RECIPIENT INFORMATION

Timely completion of this form is required to receive a grant award from the CTC Foundation.

Name of Organization	AMD&ART, Inc., N.P.
Address	411 Third Avenue
City, State, Zip	Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15906
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Fax	814-539-4345
Web Address	<a href="http://www.amdandart.org">www.amdandart.org</a>
Contact Person	T Allan Comp, PhD
E-mail Address	<a href="mailto:amdandart@amdandart.org">amdandart@amdandart.org</a>
Make check payable to	AMD&ART, Inc.

### Description of Organization

AMD&ART is a non-profit incorporated agency governed by a Board of Directors. AMD&ART celebrates environmental healing as a centerpiece of community rebuilding, surrounding sustainable AMD treatment systems with recreational areas, historic reminders and artful places.

For the past eight years, AMD&ART has been working closely with the community of Vintondale, Pennsylvania to transform an abandoned mine drainage discharge and 35 acres of abandoned mine land from environmental liabilities into community assets. 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 in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, 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 largely gone. 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 tippie, the smoke from the railroad, and the nighttime glow of the coke ovens. The buildings and structures were taken down, bricks and cut stone were taken to build walls and repair houses in the community. By the 1980's, the site was the town dump.

The Vintondale site is situated on 35 acres of mine-scarred land that once hosted the heart of this small mining town--the Vinton Colliery plant with its half-dozen major buildings and 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, a major factor in selecting this site. The South Branch of Blacklick Creek, a river severely impacted by AMD, curves around the eastern and southern boundaries of the park and separates it from the town. The Vintondale AMD Treatment System and Community Park is under construction, and the 35-acre wasteland will host a passive AMD treatment system, 12 acres of habitat rich wetlands, and recreational areas; with an array of historical and environmental interpretive elements. This site provides the perfect opportunity to increase AMD awareness in our region. In addition, it aids other fledgling organizations in approaching remediation in an original and artful way.

With the donation and transformation of a local church building into an Environmental Education Center, AMD&ART seeks to demonstrate how artistic design is valid in addressing environmental and

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social ills. Various schools and educational groups have been using the site as an outdoor classroom for the past 4 years. As a new community enhancement initiative, AMD&ART brings broad public participation to the design and construction of AMD treatment systems and the creation of enjoyable, educational, environmentally enhanced community landscapes. The physical presence of this energized place will symbolize the success of community residents in 1) healing the waters; 2) by finishing a job left unfinished by past generations; and 3) by creating a new asset for their own families and future.

Working with artists, engineers and local community residents, we have developed a place that blends innovative science, responsive landscape design and community history. Among the number of projects in progress at the AMD&ART Vintondale site, we are currently working on three interpretive areas. At the site of the Mine #6 portal we are reconstructing the heavy timber frame of that mine opening and filling the opening with a black granite slab etched with the life-size images of miners taken from 1930's film footage from Mine #6. Just across the Ghost Town Trail from this portal, a 15 by 25-foot platform at grade will become a mosaic map of the entire site, opening better understanding of the mine and its community. At the point where the now-clean water returns to the river, a national student competition will create a marker for this victory. Finally, looming over the eastern edge of the site is a massive pile of boney that we hope will one day provide an excellent vantage point to overlook the park. It will give the viewer a better understanding of the scale of this human endeavor; the determination and simple grit of the people that started all this, and the commitment of their children and grandchildren who finished it, closing a circle of critical significance. AMD&ART has identified these three interpretive pieces as the Mine Portal, the Great Map Platform (installation scheduled for the Spring 2004), and the "Marking a Return" (the clean water return dedication scheduled for the Summer of 2004). The partial initial funding for these projects came from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Vira I. Heinz Endowments.

#### **Description of what the grant will be used for.**

Although AMD&ART has been successful in gaining support from a wide variety of funders, there are always opportunities for better work, deeper interpretation and significant environmental enhancement. While we have sufficient funds in hand to create the Mine Portal, the surrounding landscape and exhibits are not within the scope of our current funding. To create and install the informational signage and supporting landscape for this interpretive rest area along the Ghost Town Trail, we need additional funding.

On the opposite side of the Ghost Town Trail, we will install the Great Map, a mosaic of the 1928 Sanborn map with additional etched granite tile around the border that deals with community life in Vintondale -- the population mix over the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the 22 languages once spoken there, and images of the buildings that once existed on the site, etc. Here again, we have some funding in hand to create the mosaic, but we do not have the additional funds needed to complete the tile border that addresses the life of this community. With present annual usage (75,000) of the Ghost Town Trail that runs through the site, we are confident of the significance and the impact of these exhibits.

Finally, at the point where the water re-enters the river, we are holding a national student competition to mark this victory over environmental degradation and community decline. We have asked over 120 colleges' and universities' art and environmental departments to participate in the competition. The funding is in place to pay for the competition and to install the selected design (construction cost of \$10,000). Our funding request is to cover the cost of laying the actual piping that serves the final wetland pond and carries the purified water from the final wetland pond to the river.

The total cost for these three critical enhancements to the Vintondale site is \$5800, and the benefits are

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far greater than the numbers might indicate. In each case, a significant section will be transformed into a totally intergrated project, one that fully addresses the environmental needs and the community revitalization that are core to the AMD&ART mission. We sincerely hope the CTC Foundation will grant AMD&ART's request for \$5000 and join us in completing this environmentally enhanced Vintondale site.

**What Congressional District are you located in?**

12

**Award Ceremony Attendees** (\* indicate who will receive check at ceremony)

T Allan Comp, Founder  
Jeanne Gleason, Board of Directors President  
Cynthia Wigger, Watershed Development Coordinator

**US Citizen?**

Yes  
Yes  
Yes

**Media outlets you would like us to contact.**

The Honorable John P. Murtha  
Tribune Democrat, Johnstown

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Surface Mining

Grant Budget Sheet  
Supplemental Detail

CTC Foundation  
Regional Development Grant

AMD&ART, Inc.  
Johnstown, PA

Mine Portal Project	\$2,800
Create and install informational signage, and supporting landscape for this interpretive rest area.	
Great Map Platform Project	\$1,600
Granite Tiles 16 tiles @ \$100 each = \$1,600	
Return of the Water Project	\$1,400
Pipe rework from the final wetland to the river	
Total	\$5,800