

COMPTON FOUNDATION – FAMILY ASVISORY BOARD

Proposal Outline Form

DATE: 4/28/2004

ORGANIZATION: AMD&ART,INC.

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SHORT PROJECT TITLE: AMD&ART Relational Thinking Initiative

PROPOSAL SUMMARY/PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AMD&ART is an interdisciplinary program with multi-agency support, a project that emphasizes public art, human spirit and the relational thinking that is critical to sustainable living within the environment. While our entire site is an example of the many ways in which the arts can engage children and youth in exploration of both the environment and community history, we seek support for three specific needs over the next 16 months.

Our goal as a non-profit organization encompasses not only our own remediation efforts, but also aiding other fledgling organizations in approaching remediation in an original and artful way. Not satisfied with the status quo, AMD&ART celebrates environmental healing as a centerpiece of the community rebuilding, surrounding sustainable AMD treatment systems with recreational area, historic reminders and artful places.

TOTAL ORGANIZATION BUDGET: \$40,682.13 (last fiscal year)

TOTAL PROJECT (Site Construction) BUDGET: \$600,000.00

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$18,700.00

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES AND AMOUNTS:

RECEIVED/COMMITTED – attached is a list of our funders (note that much of the funding is allocated for a specific purpose such as construction of treatment system or art projects and is not available for education or outreach.

Project Proposal

A. Organization Description

AMD&ART is a non-profit organization that is “artfully transforming environmental liabilities into community assets” in the coal country of Southwestern Pennsylvania – and creating a model for all of Appalachia. AMD&ART combines public art, environmental improvement and community engagement in treating acid mine drainage (AMD), an emblematic and widespread environmental problem, – and we use that process to create opportunities for wider engagement in regional social and economic woes. With multidisciplinary intervention and wide public participation, AMD&ART has created a holistic approach to re-creating place and re-engaging people, incorporating recreational elements, artful spaces, educational opportunities, historic reminders and restored wildlife habitat into designs for passive AMD treatment systems that become a source of community pride.

AMD&ART is public art not merely because it exists in a public space, but more importantly, because it is public in content and form. The subject matter of AMD&ART is an issue of public interest, and the process of public participation is an integral part of the work itself. AMD&ART blends innovative science, responsive landscape design, community history, and active citizen participation to create public spaces in which to explore, learn, reflect, and recreate. AMD&ART utilizes the knowledge of a dedicated Board of Directors, engages the hands and minds of many talented professionals, and channels the energy of dynamic AmeriCorps and VISTA volunteers, all coordinated by a volunteer Founder/Director, nationally recognized as an historian, an artist and a remarkable choreographer of collaborative projects. In a region crippled by the shifting fortunes of coal in a global economy, AMD&ART works with communities to reclaim a heritage that orange streams have long stained and to work together toward a stronger future.

B. Project Goals and Objectives

AMD&ART is an interdisciplinary program with multi-agency support, a project that emphasizes public art, human spirit and the relational thinking that is critical to sustainable living within the environment. While our entire site is an example of the many ways in which the arts can engage children and youth in exploration of both the environment and community history, we see three specific needs in the next 16 months.

First, we are continually receiving requests from academic institutions, community and faith-based organizations, as well as local, state and federal agencies who desire a one-on-one experience with public art, science, technology, and the ability to connect with the environment. With the final completion of the AMD&ART Park in Vintondale this summer, we want to dedicate this first full open year to meeting these requests for information and assistance and the many more we know will come. Most recently, AMD&ART’s “Marking a Return: A National Student Design Competition,” brought a

team of nationally recognized artists and designers to our site to choose a winner from twenty-nine design entries received from across the nation. All of the jury commented on the usefulness of the web site, but strongly encouraged creating a full-time "publicist" position of the AMD&ART AmeriCorps staff, to specifically address our need to better serve those interested in the AMD&ART process.

Second, The AMD&ART project lends itself to interdisciplinary, experiential education as well as traditional science and arts curricula. Perhaps more important, our work with children and youth, particularly our work with at-risk youth, brings lessons in conflict resolution and community relationships directly to our students. We are also working within a regional consortium of AMD treatment systems to develop a useful curriculum that fits the state standards and engages students at many levels. To meet the increasing number of requests from regional academic institutions to come to the site and take advantage of these opportunities, we need to continue our full-time Environmental Education Coordinator on site.

Third, a scientific solution may clean the water, but a multidisciplinary and collaborative solution has the power to both clean the water and engage community in a healing process. AMD&ART is establishing a new role for artists and humanists and scientists as well, not as solitary visionaries, but as participants; not as some ultimately mystical or magical process, but an important, critical perspective; not as arbitrator, but as co-worker, one among many disciplines equally necessary (but none sufficient) to the recovery and revitalization of this region and its peoples. The commitment to sustainability and the relational thinking that created AMD&ART are, we think, important contributions to broader spiritual awareness. AMD&ART is literally inter-connectedness in action, respecting the natural world and engaging our own human capacities in attempting to re-establish the balance so critical to sustainability on the planet. We need to develop and present a one-day workshop at several times during the year to bring regional interests together to learn from our ten years of experience and we need to develop from those workshops the printed materials and web site additions that will take that learning to many others as well.

For these three reasons, we ask for consideration in the Inter-Program Projects of the Compton Foundation. AMD&ART has proven, through our successes, what can be done when you mix historical perspectives with the discipline of science, the healing and delight of innovative design, and the energy of community engagement. Visitors to the park can walk on interpretive trails that draw together historical information, the science behind passive AMD treatment and the newly healed ecosystem that now thrives in the wake of remediation. Students can learn at many levels and in many arenas and residents can enjoy both the beauty of the site (visible from almost the entire town) and take pride in their accomplishment.

Our goal and our commitment is to be able to provide other institutions, organizations and communities with the benefits of an interdisciplinary approach to remediation on a local and national level, not by doing it for them, but by helping them to do it themselves. Better outreach materials, an active educational initiative engaged in the

entire region and a serious effort to bring the lessons learned from AMD&ART to a regional constituency are all critical to our success in meeting this commitment.

C. Measurements of Projects Effectiveness

Our effectiveness will be instantaneous through the inter-connectedness of a full-time AmeriCorps "publicist" and an AmeriCorps Education Coordinator. Each position will require personal interaction with all disciplines and people of all ages. We are requesting a 50% match and some expense support for these two very important functions at AMD&ART.

Through the work of our "publicist" AmeriCorps Member, we will develop new publicity materials and informational tool kits for anyone seeking knowledge about the AMD&ART concept and process.

- We will develop and distribute "rack cards" to at least 20 local outlets, informing regional visitors of the site and its attractions.
- We will also develop and distribute an informational brochure for use at conferences, community festivals and similar meetings, attending at least five conferences or similar events in the next year.
- We will actively publicize the teacher workshops and the "interconnectedness-in-action" workshops, presenting at least 2 of each.

The Education Coordinator AmeriCorps Member, will compile measurements of effectiveness through evaluations of individual and group trainings and activities, both on site and in the classroom.

- We will organize and schedule mini workshops for students and teachers alike, developing and presenting at least 7 in the next year.
- We will develop and produce educational tool kits for each participant, making sure we are addressing the Arts and the Sciences in ways that will equip attendees to inform others about the AMD&ART interdisciplinary and inter-relational process.

Finally, in an effort to capture the deeper messages and lessons of ten years of development at AMD&ART, we will coordinate a special one day workshop to be scheduled during the year to bring regional interests together to learn from our ten years of experience. While that effort will be led by Dr. Comp, Founder of AMD&ART, both our "publicist" and our Education Coordinator will work to assure the proceedings are widely available electronically, making the proper website additions.

D. Update of 2003 Family Advisory Board Grant

Since receiving our Compton Family Advisory Board grant in October 2003 we are having great success with our new web site. All the things we hoped to accomplish -- clear presence for the art in AMD&ART, easy access and navigation, quick recognition

of the applicability of AMD&ART to other situations -- are all working well.

At the recent American Association for Mining and Reclamation, several attendees stopped AMD&ART's Founder/Director, Dr. Comp and commented on the web site. Many were hard-core mining types, but they recognized and respected what we were doing and asked about how they might implement some of our work in their own. Their magazine, Reclamation Counts, is now interested in an article on our work.

Montalvo, the prestigious artist in residence program near Palo Alto, called AMD&ART to say they looked at the web site as part of a review of artists to be invited for the first opening year of their new residence program. As a result, Dr. Comp has been asked to undertake a residency in 2005 as one of three artists selected nationally for their opening year --that would never have happened without the new web site and a clear presence for art as well as environment.

Many of the contacts that Dr. Comp is making throughout the Appalachian Coal Country in his job with the U.S. Office of surface Mining are now asking more about AMD&ART, largely because they can now both understand the project and see its utility to their own work. Given the dearth of intellectual resources in Appalachia, we are becoming a real beacon in coal country, a source of inspiration for watershed interests at the grass roots.

Several publications have reviewed the web site and are now interested in articles about AMD&ART -- a primary goal for the web site. One editor turned out to be a local crusader for a large SuperFund site in Missouri and was actually more interested in how to apply AMD&ART approaches to her SuperFund site than she was in the article! We will get the article, but we will also make a difference in that local community, a double victory.

AMD&ART is grateful to Marshall Compton and the Compton Family Advisory Board for supporting our endeavors—without your contribution we would not have realized such a dynamic website. Please view our newly release website at www.amdandart.org.

Today, there is a second AMD&ART-like project underway, on the campus of the University of Virginia at Wise. Perhaps more important, reclamation and watershed restoration projects as big as the Upper Clark Fork (part of the largest superfund site in the U.S.) and as small as Crowley Creek on the Oregon coast are using AMD&ART as a model that brings the arts and humanities into a real and useful engagement with the sciences — real interdisciplinary collaboration to the environmental planning process. We owe some of that success to the results of the work funded by the Compton Foundation.

Project Budget- AMD&ART Relational Thinking Initiative

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|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| "Publicists" AmeriCorps Match | \$ 2,050.00 |
| Education Coordinator AmeriCorps Match | \$ 2,050.00 |
| Publicity materials and Informational Toolkits | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Curricula and Educational Toolkits | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Workshop "specific" Materials | \$ 1,500.00 |
| 7 Mini Workshops for Students and Teachers | \$ 3,500.00 |
| 1 day Regional Workshop | \$ 2,200.00 |
| Project Related Expense Support | <u>\$ 4,400.00</u> |
| Total Requested | \$ 18,700.00 |

*The "Total Project Budget" shown on the Proposal Outline Form refers to our total budget for the construction of the treatment system and construction of several large public art pieces.

Projected Income for 2005

Foundation Grants: \$30,000.00 (these funds carry over from year to year.)



Organizational Budget

The organizational budget reflects the costs of running the main AMD&ART outreach office in Johnstown, PA for the last fiscal year.

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| Vista Staff | 1,876.74 |
| AmeriCorps Staff | 13,480.09 |
| Internship | 2,500.00 |
| Office Supplies | 2,048.11 |
| Office Equipment | 673.79 |
| Postage/shipping | 1,136.64 |
| Telephone/fax | 3,746.18 |
| Internet access | 723.58 |
| Legal Fees | 100.00 |
| Audit Fees | 2,200.00 |
| Accounting/Bookkeeping | 3,167.80 |
| Insurance Expenses | 2,286.00 |
| Office Rental | 2,737.50 |
| Utilities | 1,840.58 |
| Real Estate Tax | 137.16 |
| Marketing/Public Information | 465.99 |
| Printing/Newsletter | <u>1,561.97</u> |
| Total Budget | 40,682.13 |

Projected Income for 2005

Foundation Grants: \$30,000.00 (these funds carry over from year to year.)

* We do have federal grants that address specific issues; we have only included our basic administrative costs in this budget. We also have arts grants for our artist in residency and other specific projects that don't affect our yearly administrative budget.