

Humanities-and-the-Arts in Mid-Central Pennsylvania
Penn State Scholars-in-Residence
An Opportunity to Develop Public Programs in the Arts and Humanities

*A cooperative venture of the Pennsylvania State University's Institute for the Arts and Humanities,
the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts*

Application

Completed applications are due Friday, October 31. They should be sent to the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. Fax to (215) 925-3054 or mail to the PHC at 325 Chestnut Street, Suite 715, Philadelphia, PA, 19106-2607. Applicants will be notified about decisions in December. **Please type or print all responses.**

General Information

1. Sponsoring Organization: AMD+ART, INC.
Type of Organization: NON-profit
Address: 411 Third AVENUE, Johnstown, PA. 15906
County: Cambria Phone: 814-539-5357 FAX: 814-539-4345 E-mail: amclandart@amclandart.org
District Numbers: _____
US Congress _____ PA Senate _____ PA House _____
2. Project Director's Name and Title: T. Allan Comp, Ph.D., Founder
3. Project Title: Scholars, Community And Connections: Exploring the Networks of Meaning in Environmental Remediation AT AMD+ART.
4. Project Dates (Start-End): Winter 2003 - Fall 2004

Project Description

On a separate piece of paper (maximum length 1 page), please briefly answer these questions:

1. What are your goals for participating in *Penn State Scholars-in-Residence*?
2. What audiences are you trying to reach?
3. What areas of expertise do you want your scholar to have? Are there special skills or experience your scholar should have?
4. What planning activities will you pursue through *Penn State Scholars-in-Residence*? Provide a timeline with key dates. The timeline should incorporate information about applying for a *Humanities-and-the-Arts* grant.
5. What people in the organization are responsible for coordinating this planning project? What are their roles and responsibilities?

Project Director: T. Allan Comp, Ph.D.

Project Title: Scholars, Community and Connections: Exploring the Networks of Meaning in Environmental Remediation at AMD&ART

Project Dates: Start – Winter 2004
Completion – Fall 2004

1. Goals

AMD&ART is both a non-profit organization and an idea, the idea that the arts and humanities are critical, necessary, components of any significant environmental remediation project. We seek to transform environmental liabilities into community assets and our process is built on community engagement.

We have a small amount of funding in our Great Map Project for a local symposium on the history of the community of Vintondale, where we work, and the connections between the arts and humanities in creating the large mosaic map of this historic site as a key interpretive element. In the nearly two years since we applied for this important grant, AMD&ART has become widely recognized, even imitated, as a significant approach to engaging community and expanding perspectives in designing and implementing environmental remediation projects. Our goal for a Penn State Scholars-in-Residence is to bring the perspectives of arts and humanities faculty to assist us in developing and presenting a one-day symposium focused on this larger meaning of the work AMD&ART is doing in Vintondale.

2. Audiences

AMD&ART is for both local residents and for the Appalachian coal country -- and all the perspectives those two contain. We will hold the symposium in Vintondale but we will seek to keep our perspective regional and multidisciplinary, like our work. Our hope would be to engage the perspectives of academic scholars in helping all of us (including the scholars as well) to better understand just what AMD&ART may be accomplishing, what it fails to address, how community and the deep understanding of the humanities can be better engaged.

3. Areas of Expertise, Skills, Experience

As a multi and inter-disciplinary project, we must continue to work with several disciplines as necessary, but not sufficient, members of the AMD&ART team. We would hope to have three disciplines drawn from the Penn State faculty.

History/Environmental history, particularly where the scholar has done local or coal country research and is interested in community history.

Design, particularly Landscape Architecture/ Landscape history, again with significant knowledge of coal country issues.

Public Art, particularly an artist familiar with community engagement in developing public art or a commitment to that engagement and some knowledge of coal country communities.

4. Planning Activities

AMD&ART would meet with these three faculty on the Penn State campus several times over several months to develop and shape a symposium. We would rely on their judgment and perspective to assist in identifying significant topics or themes, the best speakers to address those themes (some might be their students doing research specifically for this symposium) and to help AMD&ART shape some way of capturing and disseminating the results of this symposium.

Because we already have a Humanities-and-the-Arts Grant for the Great Map, we would use the Great Map and its completion as a keystone for the symposium. We would begin planning with Penn State Scholars early in 2004, announce the symposium before summer and hold the event in fall of 2004.

5. Coordination

Dr. T. Allan Comp, historian and founder of AMD&ART will serve as Project Director, supported by the AMD&ART staff of three AmeriCorps and VISTA members. We have close linkages with the community, own the old church in which the event will take place and have developed and presented large events in the past.



**Pennsylvania
Humanities
Council**

**30 Years
1973-2003**

December 19, 2003

T. Allan Comp
AMD & Art, Inc.
411 Third Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15906

Dear T. Allan Comp:

We are pleased to tell you that your organization has been selected to participate in *Penn State Scholars-in-Residence*, a collaborative venture of the Pennsylvania State University's Institute for the Arts and Humanities (IAH) and the Pennsylvania Humanities Council (PHC).

Penn State Scholars-in-Residence offers community groups in mid-central Pennsylvania a chance to collaborate with Penn State faculty to plan and develop public programs combining the arts and humanities. We chose applicants who demonstrated good planning and a solid understanding of the arts, the humanities, and public programming. In all, six community groups were selected. They are: the Altoona Symphony Society, AMD & Art, Fort Roberdeau Association, Huntingdon County Arts Council, Portage Area School District with the Portage Area Historical Society, and the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art.

Below are some key items you need to bear in mind.

Terms of Penn State Scholars-in-Residence:

- Your participation consists of a one-day residency with one scholar. Your scholar will be available for follow-up after the residency.
- Using the scholar's profile which you provided in your application, we will find an appropriate scholar for your project.
- Your project may begin in late January/early February 2004.
- The IAH and the PHC will cover your scholar's honorarium and travel expenses.

Next Steps:

- In early January, we will send you information about your scholar, including the scholar's contact information, and an orientation manual to prepare you for your residency.
- If you are new to the humanities or to public programming, you may schedule a telephone orientation with the PHC. A PHC Program Officer will be able to answer any questions you may have about *Penn State Scholars-in-Residence*.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the PHC if you have any questions. We may be reached by telephone at (800) 462-0442 or (215) 925-1005 or by e-mail at phc@pahumanities.org. (Please note that the PHC will close on December 24 and will reopen on January 2.)

We look forward to working with you.

Yours,

Joseph J. Kelly
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Humanities Council

Laura Knoppers
Director
Institute for the Arts and Humanities
The Pennsylvania State University

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