



GREATER PITTSBURGH ARTS COUNCIL

Arts loud and clear

Office of Public Art
810 Penn Avenue, Suite 200
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222
tel 412.391.2060
fax 412.394.4280
publicartpittsburgh.org
pittsburghartistregistry.org

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ART'S DIVERSITY STRATEGIES

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The Office of Public Art is public private partnership between the City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning and the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council.

Our mission is to provide technical assistance and educational programs about public art in the greater Pittsburgh region. As a program that seeks to provide access to art in the public realm, diversity is essential to our ability to fulfill our mission.

We think about diversity in the following ways for our educational programs and technical assistance projects:

- 1. Age:** We offer a range of age-appropriate programs, and seek age diversity in artist selection panel composition, and participation in our educational programs as attendees or guest speakers.
- 2. Geography:** We work in the entire region, rural and urban. We offer extra assistance to local artists to encourage them to apply for commission opportunities. We seek opportunities in a range of neighborhoods, and are especially interested in those with limited public art presence.
- 3. Economic:** Most of our programs are offered free of charge.
- 4. Cultural:** We strive for cultural diversity in panel composition, raise issues about diversity in the content of public artworks when the artist is responding to history / site / or other community specific factors, and strive for cultural diversity in the artists who are commissioned through our technical assistance projects. We also strive for cultural diversity in the projects that are presented through our educational programs, and through the perspectives of our guest speakers.

We also consider diversity through our administrative policies. These include:

- 1.** We seek out interns and volunteers who can counter or broaden the perspectives of OPA staff. We look for diversity in age, culture, gender, and educational background.
- 2.** We advertise our educational programs and commission opportunities in many different places: newspapers, e-lists, church bulletins, community organization. We advertise in Pittsburgh's *La Jornada*, *The New Pittsburgh Courier*, and other culturally specific or community specific news and information outlets.
- 3.** We try not to be afraid or hesitant to raise questions about the importance of diversity. Even when doing so might make some people uncomfortable.