

Setting the Stage: How can you create processes to support artists in making their best work?

With *Renee Piechocki*

*Homecoming: Hill District, 2019*  
By Njaimeh Njie  
Pittsburgh, PA



# Values

Transparent

Follow Through

Artist Focused

Optimistic

Honest



*Congregation*, 2014 by KMA, Pittsburgh, PA

Artist Selection (10 minutes)

Project Team (5 minutes)

Contracts (5 minutes)

Connecting (10 minutes)

Constructive Feedback (5 minutes)

Questions, Discussions, Story Swaps Between

# Selection Processes

Request for Proposals

Request for Qualifications

Invitational

Direct Selection

# Artist Opportunity

Languages

Information Session

Posting the Call



*Gateway Sculptures, 2017 by James Simon, Tampa, Florida*

# Selection Committee Members

**Arts Professionals:** arts administrators, artists, curators and other creative colleagues.

**Project Representatives:** people connected to the project through funding, function, or use of a site.

**Designers:** architects, landscape architects, engineers, or other people designing the site.

**Community Members:** people connected to the project through geography, common interests, or use of a site.

August Wilson Park, Pittsburgh, PA  
RFQ for Permanent Artwork

- 3 Arts Administrators (Curator, Public Art Professionals)
- 2 Project Representatives (City Site Owner, Organization Commissioning Artwork)
- 3 Community Members (Neighborhood Residents)
- 1 Designer (Landscape Architect)



# Senior Housing Development, Pittsburgh, PA Invitational for Permanent Artwork

- 1 Arts Professional (Curator)
- 2 Project Representatives (Owner)
- 3 Community Members (Residents)
- 1 Designer (Project Architect)





# Temporary Public Art and Placemaking Program, Pittsburgh, PA "Super Panel", RFQ for Temporary Artwork

2 Artists

1 Arts Administrator

2 Project Representatives (Agencies Commissioning Artwork)

6 Community Organization Representatives (Neighborhood Organizations)

6 Community Members (Residents, Board Members)



Artist Residency, Pittsburgh, PA

RFQ for Creative Project  
“Super Panel”

3 Arts Administrators

1 Project Representatives (Key Artist Collaborator)

4 Community Members (Residents Collaborating with Artist)



# Interview Purpose: Chemistry and Vision

Is this the right artist for the project?

Will we enjoy working with this artist?

Can this artist make something great  
for us at this place?

Does this artist care about us / our  
community / our vision / this site ?



John Pena meeting with the Larimer Seniors, Pittsburgh, PA 2017

# Contracts

Professional Artist Contracts

Scope of Work

Fair Payment Schedule

Exit Clauses



*Crossed Pinkies*, 2015 by Ellen Forney, Seattle, WA

DO CONTRACTS MAKE YOU FEEL...

- A. TERRIFIED
- B. FRUSTRATED
- C. ANGRY
- D. HOPELESS
- E. ALL OF THE ABOVE!

*Surprisingly interesting*  
A BOOK ABOUT

# CONTRACTS

Sarah Conley Odenkirk



# Project Team

Sounding board

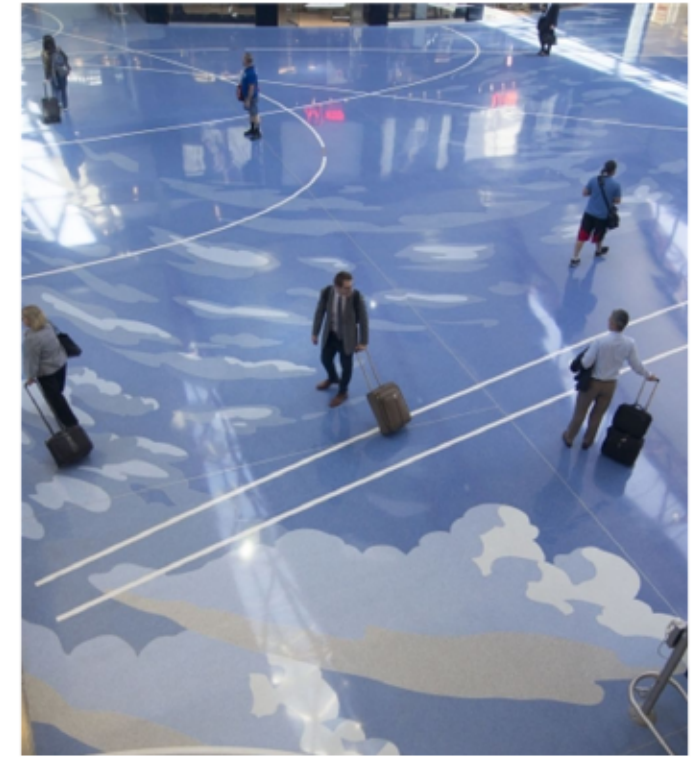
Community connections

Red tape cutters

Talk honestly about politics,  
problems, challenges,  
solutions



Artist Residency Cohort, 2017 Pittsburgh, PA



**Project Team for Clayton Merrell**  
Allegheny County Airport Authority  
Gensler, Inc. Architects  
Owner's Representative  
Artist  
Public Art Consultant



## Connecting with Communities

Arts Excursions Unlimited, 2014 - present  
by Edith Abeyta and Greater Hazelwood Community Members



Time

Access

Introductions

Invitations

Resources

Check Ins

Edith Abeyta in the AEU Studio



## Constructive Feedback



*Far from this setting in which I now find myself, 2017 by Meredith James, Boston, MA*

Setting boundaries and expectations

Context matters

Let artists do their jobs

Different settings for different  
types of feedback

Don't let it snowball





*Affirmation Study, 2018*  
Emma Pavlik, Cleveland OH