

## **PUBLIC ART PROGRAM ABOUT COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

*Written by Amy Camp, September 2008*



Mural artist Carolyn Quinn fell in love with Meyersdale this summer. And how couldn't she have?

Pit Stop Kremery brought her ice cream on hot days. Residents packed her lunches. Several community members and trail users stopped to talk with her about her work and to offer local insight.

In speaking about the public art project, Main Street Manager Kathy Koscianski said, "It was more than we ever expected. Every day, residents and visitors watched and waited as the mural progressed. Dozens of individuals from all walks of life provided Carolyn with input and suggestions that helped to shape the final design. What emerged is the integrated product of extraordinary artist talent and community engagement."

Not only did the Meyersdale community engage in the project and come to view it as a source of pride, but the local design committee and building owner leveraged the project to improve the building's facade. A Main Street Program facade grant was used to replace a garage door and paint the front of the building in accordance with the mural's color scheme. The building, owned and utilized by Maple City Tire, is now a welcoming beacon into the town of Meyersdale.

Quinn was one of 12 artists selected this summer to participate in the Trail Town Public Art Program, managed by Cathy McCollom and Christina Lee. The program was one of 12 Regional Connections projects selected from a field of 235 applicants by Pittsburgh 250 Community Connections and The Sprout Fund. In total, 14 works of public art have been added to seven communities along the Great Allegheny Passage.

The Meyersdale art project exemplifies "community connections" at its best. The intent of the regional program was to connect communities to the Great Allegheny Passage and to each other. An unexpected and most delightful outcome was the way that the communities connected with the artists and how residents came together to see the project completed.

Meyersdale is not the only town with stories of community resolve and engagement:

In **Rockwood**, neighbors Gene and Betty Kelly welcomed artist Diane Adams in for dinner and coffee every day at 4:30 p.m. Diane said that their daily call for dinner was how she tracked time left in the work day. Also in Rockwood, Scott Hostettler, owner of 4:13 Industries, and Bill Gurzenda, owner of Rockwood Manufacturing, collaborated to create a second piece of art, a metal sculpture of a steam locomotive that incorporates used bike and train parts. The sculpture was completed as a donation to Somerset County.

In **Confluence**, the committee wouldn't settle for just one piece of art. Instead, it stretched its resources and worked to install six pieces, including a stone etched with a design by local school teacher Mack Beal.

In **Ohiopyle**, the committee assisted artist Laura DeFazio in placing a four-piece sandstone sculpture in the town park. To further take advantage of local resources, the committee sought Ohiopyle artist Colby Love to paint a mural depicting the silhouettes of bikers and hikers on a bridge abutment near the town's entrance.

In **Connellsville**, city employees worked through the night on the eve of the dedication to help artist Steve Fiscus to install a stone and glass arch across the trail near the town's northern entrance. On the other end of town, a mural on the silos of Youghiogheny Glass Factory incorporates factory glass pieces.

In **West Newton**, a six foot sculpture made entirely of railroad spikes was unloaded last week under cover to the intense curiosity of dozens of community residents. Public Art Chair Ben Markle personally trucked in three loads of dirt and together with local landscaper Joanne Hall created a lovely garden and rock pedestal for West Newton's newest addition, a pioneer representing the town's original settlers.

The Trail Town Program is thrilled with the end result of the Trail Town Public Art Program and is grateful to all who helped make it possible. May the community connections and public engagement continue in each of the towns!

And speaking of connections, we'd like to offer a very special thanks to Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania. Not only did we dedicate public art along the trail on Celebration Saturday, but we also installed **informational kiosks** in West Newton, Connellsville and Meyersdale. The kiosks include maps, business directories, and information on nearby points of interest and were made possible through a generous grant from Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania. Their interest in taking part in Celebration Saturday and Pittsburgh 250 has resulted in lasting product to inform trail users and direct traffic to local businesses.



*The Trail Town Public Art Program is supported in part by Pittsburgh 250 Community Connections, The Sprout Fund, Community Foundation of Fayette County, and PA Partners in the Arts. The Informational Kiosks in Connellsville, West Newton, and Meyersdale were made possible through a grant by Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania / NiSource Foundation. See below for a full list of program supporters, volunteers, and participants.*

**PHOTOS AND THANK YOUS APPEAR BELOW**

West Newton Metal Sculpture, Bill Secunda



Connellsville Arch, Steven Fiscus



Connellsville Mural, Meeghan Triggs and Chris Galiyas



Ohiopyle Rock Sculpture, Laura DeFazio



Two of six new pieces in Confluence  
Rock etching by Sam Romesburg (a Mack Beal design)  
Bench by Martha Murphy



Rockwood Mural, Diane Adams



Rockwood Sculpture, Scott Hostetler



Meyersdale Mural, Carolyn Quinn



## **THANK YOU!!!**

### Columbia Gas Kiosk Project

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania / NiSource Charitable Foundation

Terry Murphy, President of Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania

George Stark, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania

Leslie Orbin, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania

Tom Deetz, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania

Linda McKenna Boxx for countless hours on this project

ThoughtForm, Inc. under the direction of Greg Rose

Chris Suchko, Contemporary Designs

Jessica Steimer, Trail Town Intern

All local contacts that helped supply content

### Trail Town Public Art Program and Celebration Saturday

Pittsburgh 250 Community Connections

The Sprout Fund - Matt Hannigan and Dustin Stiver

Community Foundation of Fayette County

PA Partners in the Arts

Christina Lee, Public Art Program Manager

PNC Bank

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania

Venture Outdoors

Donna Bour

Allegheny Conference on Community Development

Trail Town Public Art Regional Steering Committee:

Amy Camp

Michael Edwards

Barbara Harrold

Doug Hutchins

Jerilyn Jackson

Ted Kovall

Ashley Kyber

Ben Markle

Cathy McCollom

Linda McKenna Boxx

Pam Metzger

Leslie Orbin

Lenora Palonder

Clara Pascoe

Dexston Reed

Tracy Stack

Gay Thompson

Lynda Waggoner

Paul Wiegman

West Newton Public Art and Celebration Saturday

Bill Secunda, artist  
Ben Markle, Committee Chair  
Joann Hall  
Jack Cusick  
Cathy McCollom  
Barb LaFace  
Marlene Yurkovich  
Judy Harvey  
Connie Pollock  
Mary Anne Dubinshak  
Mark Albers  
Aaron Nelson  
Loree Speedy  
Mikey Nohavicka  
Rosemarie Lumsden  
Terri, Taylor and Summer Eckels  
Kathy Kiselich and Alex  
Camille Van Fleet  
State Representative Ted Harhai  
Gregg Ketchun, Westmoreland Intermediate Unit Foundation  
David LaFace and Dee Taylor  
Christine Comini  
Jessica Bigi  
105th PVI Company E  
Classic Cars - Robby Phillips and Don Kosor  
West Newton Volunteer Fire Company  
Merrie the Clown  
Bob the Juggler  
High Ryder Band  
Spirit Jazz Project  
Burtner's Rock & Gem  
PNC Bank  
West Newton Bike Shop, Bill Baird  
Barbera Electric, Brent Barbera  
Curves, Jackie Pawlik  
Kimberly Construction, Dale Kimberly  
Yough River Trail - North Section Crew  
Regional Trail Corporation - Leslie Pierce & Betsy Manderino  
West Newton Mayor Art Berarducci  
West Newton Borough Council, Maintenance Crew & Police  
Twin Rivers Council of Governments  
Bill Yorty  
West Newton Rotary  
John Brunory

WNCTV  
Times-Sun  
Al Perry  
John DeMarco  
Barb Phillips and Dennis Lender  
Residents and visitors in attendance

Connellsville Public Art and Celebration Saturday

Steve Fiscus, artist  
Meeghan Triggs, artist  
Chris Galiyas, artist  
Michael Edwards, Committee Chair  
Gay Thompson  
Ted Kovall  
Terry Bodes  
Tom Rusnack  
Connellsville Redevelopment Authority  
Connellsville Cultural Trust  
Jeff Dardozzi, Earth Alchemists  
Bud Murphy's  
Domino's Pizza  
Pizza King  
El Canelo Mexican Restaurant  
Discount Party Stores  
Krumanacker Electrical Service  
PNC Bank "Grow Up Great" Adventure Truck  
Connellsville Street Dept. & Park and Recreation Dept.  
Froggy Radio 94.9

Ohiopyle Public Art and Celebration Saturday

Laura DeFazio, artist  
Colby Love, artist  
Dana Mitchell, Celebration Saturday lead  
Doug Hoehn, emcee  
Annelise Carleton-Hug, face painter  
Kate McCarty, Art Committee Co-Chair  
Amanda Love, Art Committee Co-Chair  
Marci McGuinness  
Pat Nicholson  
Sara Mitchell  
Diane Bauerle  
Marianne Skvarla  
Dolores Love  
Jeremiah, Venture Outdoors  
PNC Bank  
Ohiopyle Borough - Stewart on the Green

Ohioyle State Park  
Reilly's Best  
Firefly Grill  
Clark, Jess, and the Ferncliff Collective

Confluence Public Art and Celebration Saturday

Rick Rhodes, artist  
Marth Murphy, artist  
Stone Art Designs  
Confluence Town Council  
Johnny Tressler, Council President  
New Centerville Stone  
Mona Tissue  
Barbara Harrold, Committee Chair  
Chris Sechler  
Mack Beal  
Jody Best  
Paul Wiegman  
PNC Bank

Rockwood Public Art and Celebration Saturday

Diane Adams, artist  
Judy Pletcher, Rockwood Mill Shoppes (Committee Chair)  
Larry Mazer (emcee)  
John Benford  
Jay Best, Rockwood High School  
Bill Gurzenda, Rockwood Manufacturing  
Scott Hostettler, 4:13 Industries  
Marianne Shurtz, Gingerbread House B&B  
Zach Weimer, Rockwood High School  
Free Ride Pittsburgh  
CSX  
Somerset County  
Clapper's Building Materials  
Dave and Jon Clapper  
Rockwood American Legion  
PNC Bank  
Gene and Betty Kelly, Kelly's Wood Shop  
Barry and Jean Atchison, Husky Haven Guest House  
Ron Bruner, Log Haven B&B  
Julie Cramer, Market Motivators  
Rebecca Malena, Venture Outdoors  
Renee Pletcher  
Matt Cusack, Rockwood High School  
Noah Killen, Rockwood High School  
Amy Nist, Rockwood High School

Madison Ringer, Rockwood High School  
Cody Firestone, Rockwood High School

Meyersdale Public Art and Celebration Saturday

Carolyn Quinn, artist  
Sharon Clapper  
Susan DiPasquale  
Madolin Edwards  
Trish Fogle  
Kathy Koscianski  
Mae Smith  
Roger McKenzie, Maple City Tire  
Clappers Building Materials  
Meyersdale Automotive Center  
Meyersdale Renaissance Inc.  
Ron and Audrey Irwin  
Meyersdale Shop-N-Save  
Doni Miller  
Pat Murray  
Dave Clapper  
Al Miller  
Bill Hajel  
Mary Neimiller  
Sean Brady, Venture Outdoors  
Terrie Miller  
Catelyn Hillegass, 2008 PA Maple Queen  
Shelby Baird, 2008 Somerset Fair Queen  
Nathan Cook  
Jenna Newman  
PNC Bank  
The Pit Stop Kremery  
Meyersdale Area Historical Society  
Justin Quinn  
Albrights Video and More  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Apex Screen Printing  
Laurel Hill Recordings  
Kathy Newman  
Paula Kretchman