

FINAL REVIEW | JAN 07 2026

Percent For Art: Hill District

Lead Artists:
Alecia Dawn Young
Naomi Chambers

AGENDA



- **Background**
- **Project Plan**
 - **Location**
 - **Community Engagement**
 - **Design**
 - **Installation**
- **Next Steps**

Background





BACKGROUND

About the project

This Hill District-based public art project is funded through City of Pittsburgh's Percent For Art program – legislation that dedicates 1% of municipal construction or major renovation budgets to public art.

BACKGROUND

Alecia Dawn Young

is a public artist and qualitative researcher whose work examines the intersections of visual arts, well-being, and community-engaged practices. She is a PhD student in Applied Developmental Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh, where her research centers arts participation and community wellness. Alecia brings an interdisciplinary perspective informed by her background in ceramics, community arts education, and embodied wellness.



BACKGROUND

Naomi Chambers

is a painter, sculptor and installation artist. She creates art in an attempt to problem solve, connect and love. Naomi Chambers was born in Pittsburgh where she currently creates and mothers. She is currently Community Liaison of Alisha Wormsley's Sibyls Shrine, a residency for creatives that mother and a 2026 MFA candidate at Carnegie Mellon University. She believes public art is an important way to communicate love and care to communities of people, nature, individuals, and physical structures that we use.



Project Plan

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4
Location + Community Engagement Location confirmed and community engagement remained ongoing. Dec 2024 - Oct 2025	Preliminary Design Oct 2025 - Dec 2025	Finalize Design + Fabrication Jan 2026 - Mar 2026	Installation Mar 2026 - Aug 2026

PHASE 1

Location + Community Engagement

Location confirmed and
community engagement
remained ongoing.

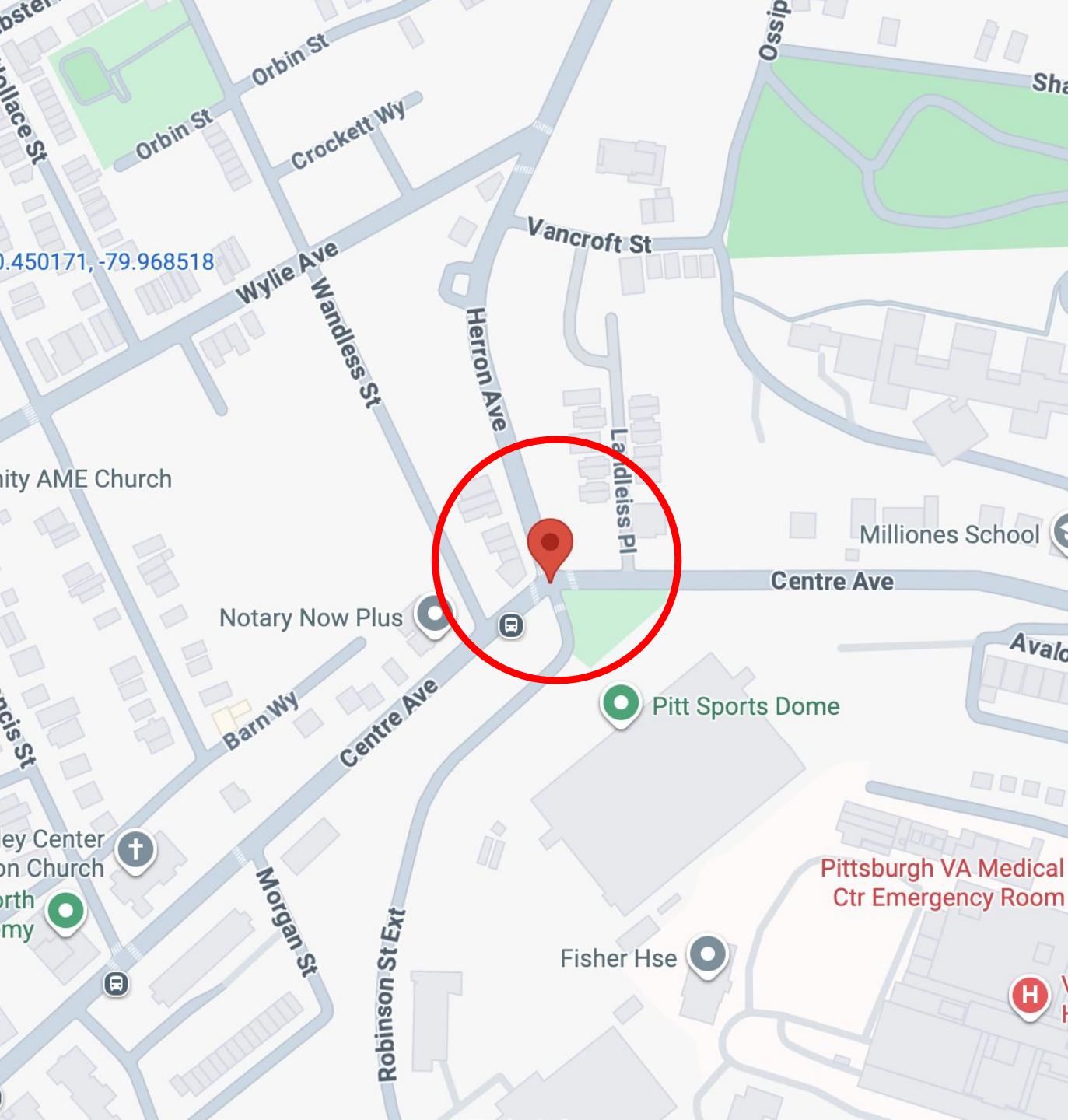
Dec 2024 - Oct 2025

PROJECT PLAN

Location

The Hill District

Centre and Herron Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15219



PROJECT PLAN

Centre & Herron Stormwater Project

Completed



This project at the intersection of Centre and Herron avenues directs runoff from surrounding streets into a cascading 585 foot-long bioswale, where it is absorbed by plants or soaks into the ground. Additional stormwater flows into underground storage tanks and is slowly released into the sewer system.



Progress & Status

- As one of three stormwater projects constructed in 2017 to demonstrate the use of green stormwater infrastructure, this project helps to prevent street flooding and overloading of the combined sewer system.
- It is estimated to manage one million gallons of runoff annually.
- It received the 2018 Sustainability Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Pittsburgh Section.



**Construction
Complete**



We prioritized four ways to engage the community

1. In person conversations with Registered Community Organizations
2. Online engagement at the City of Pittsburgh Engage Page
3. Community participation at the August Wilson Block Party
4. Community focus group: Dinner and Design





A public art project is currently being planned for the Greater Hill District. This project will be funded by the City's Percent For Art program, which is legislation that dedicates 1% of municipal construction or major renovation budgets to public art. Formerly used to pay for smaller, frequently temporary installations, these funds are now strategically focused on larger projects in a more equitable way.

Project updates and opportunities for engagement will be posted to this page as they become available.

Meet the Artist Team



Naomi Chambers is a painter, sculptor and installation artist. She creates art in an attempt to problem solve, connect and love. Naomi Chambers was born in Pittsburgh where she currently creates and mothers. She is currently Community Liaison of Alisha Wormsley's Sibyls Shrine, a residency for creatives that mother and a 2026 MFA candidate at Carnegie Mellon University.



Alecia Dawn Young is a ceramic artist, scholar, and wellness practitioner whose work explores the intersections between creative practices, community well-being, and human development. As the founder of YOGAMOTIF, a creative wellness studio, she integrates visual arts with yoga and meditation through embodied making. With a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Alfred University, a Master of Arts Management from Carnegie Mellon University, and current doctoral studies at the University of Pittsburgh, Alecia's career bridges scholarship, ceramic art, and community wellness. Her artistic practice, rooted in Black cultural traditions and collective archive, has been recognized with several honors, exhibitions, and public art commissions. An experienced educator and facilitator, her career spans a commitment to community wellness rooted in making, teaching, and researching in the visual arts.

Creating in Community Spaces

Who are we?

Alecia Dawn Young is a ceramic artist, scholar, and wellness practitioner. A PhD student at the University of Pittsburgh and previous K-12 art teacher - her career spans a commitment to community wellness rooted in making, teaching, and researching in the visual arts.

She uses public art to engage



Connected with:

- Hill District Collab.
- HDCG
- Hill CDC
- Uptown Partners

Received feedback



Shared project plan and collected emails



Listened to community stories

PROJECT PLAN

PHASE 2

PHASE 1

Location + Community Engagement

Location confirmed and community engagement remained ongoing.

Dec 2024 - Oct 2025

Preliminary Design

Oct 2025 - Dec 2025



<https://prints.carnegieart.org/detail/501119/harris-small-crowd-gathered-outside-studio-dee-whod-radio-station-hill-district-august-1-1951>



<https://hillhistory.org/items/show/71>

INSPIRATION: PLACE

Site histories and storied community projects inspire this work.

Centre and Herron was once home to Studio Dee of WHOD (top), an energy that entertained and gave the community a voice.

The Court of Ideas, located at 2001 Centre ave, was a community-built outdoor theater and creative space.



INSPIRATION: COLLECTIVE CARE

“all those mothers
were raising all those
kids together”

-Attendee of Dinner and Design event



Harris, C. (ca. 1945–1946). *Alyce Brooks plays a mirrored piano on a rotating stage at the Crawford Grill No. 1, 1401 Wylie Avenue* [Photograph]. Charles "Teenie" Harris Archive, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA. 2001.35.5695.

<https://carnegieart.org/uncategorized/charles-teenie-harris-archive-timeline-captions/>

INSPIRATION: ARTS & CULTURE HISTORY

Hill District culture as a national export

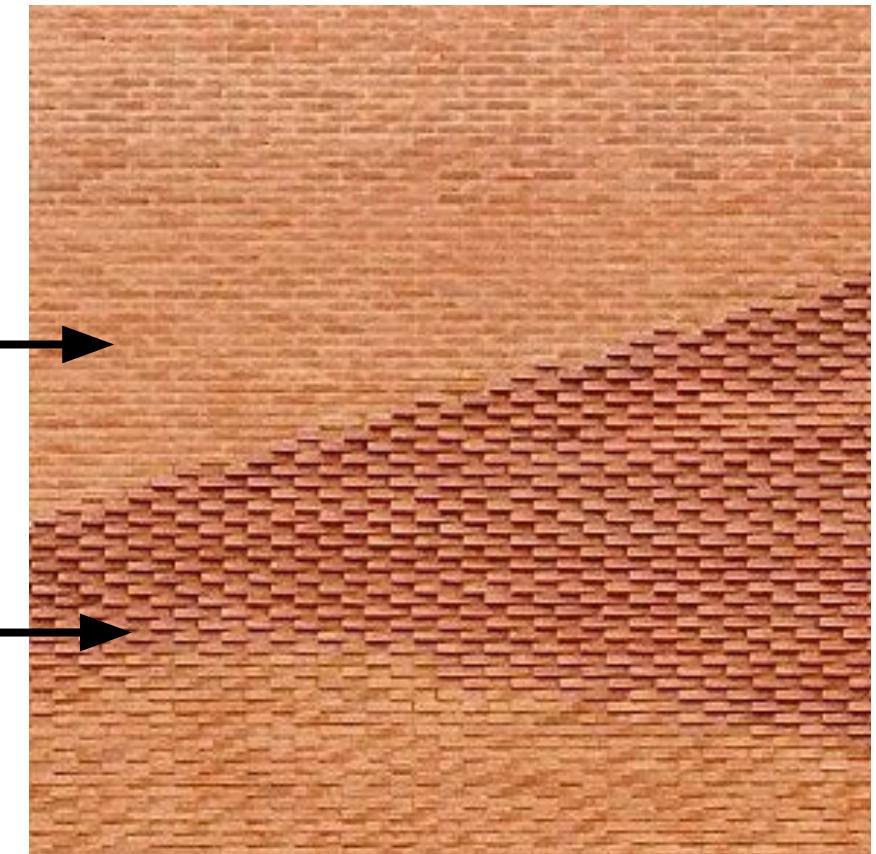
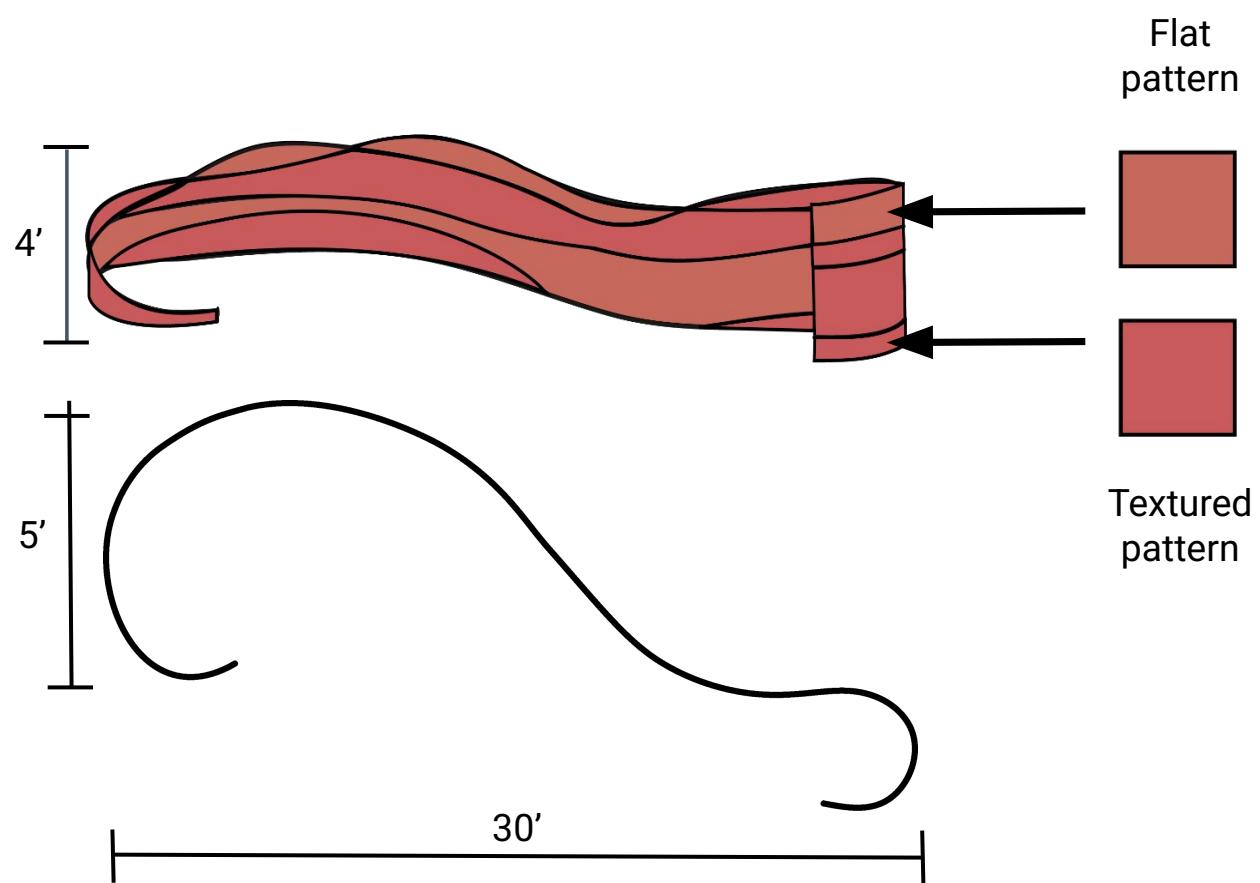
The Hill's rich arts heritage rooted in the Black experience shaped local and national jazz, theatre, and art culture.

PROJECT PLAN: MOCK UP

home: an idea of softness

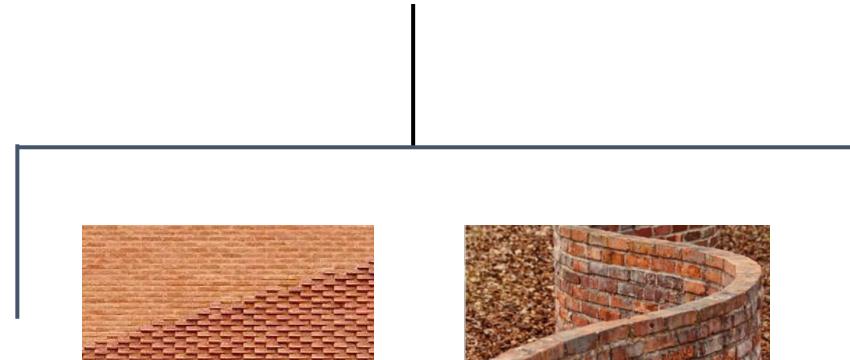


PROJECT PLAN: DIMENSIONS & SURFACE TEXTURE

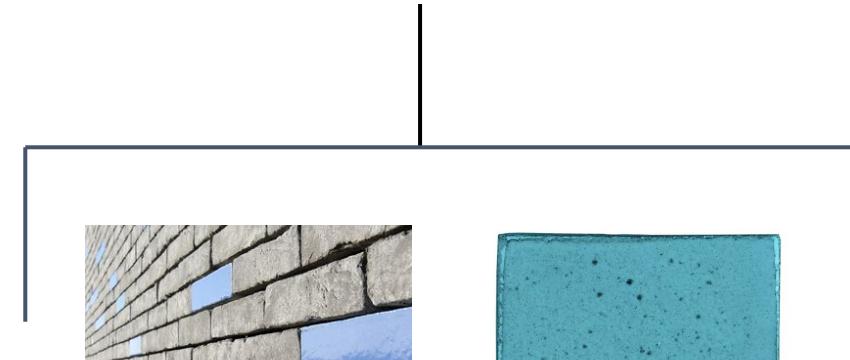


PROJECT PLAN: CORE MATERIALS

Red brick



Tile Inlay



Color and surface determined during
community engagement activities

PROJECT PLAN

PHASE 3

PHASE 1

Location + Community Engagement

Location confirmed and community engagement remained ongoing.

Dec 2024 - Oct 2025

PHASE 2

Preliminary Design

Oct 2025 - Dec 2025

Finalize Design + Fabrication

Jan 2026 - Mar 2026

Finalize design and fabrication

This Hill District public art project collaborates with several partners to complete this current step



Western Pennsylvania
Conservancy



DESIGN & FABRICATION: PROJECT PARTNERS



The Art Supply Co. (TASC) is supporting the project with ongoing project management and resource identification.

TASC offers a wide range of art consultancy services and excellent project management. TASC is a branch of Casey Droege Cultural Productions, an arts business that has been building the arts economy since 2016. TASC centers building the arts economy by creating paid opportunities for artists and arts workers in the Pittsburgh region. As a certified Woman- and Disability-owned business, they take pride in their social mission.



WPC is committed to greening approaches like the Centre and Herron Avenue Bioswale that reduce stormwater runoff in our communities and waterways.



Matthew Schlueb of SCHLUEB Architecture will provide architectural drawing and construction renderings.



Renner & Sons will be the fabrication and construction partner.



PGH2O is a longtime partner of the bioswale site who will engage in the projects design and protect the bioswale functionality.

PROJECT BUDGET

Percent for Art

This Hill District public art project is funded by the City of Pittsburgh

INCOME	
City of Pittsburgh	
*Percent for Art, already allotted to project	\$90,000
EXPENSES	
Team Project Management (2 years)	30,000
Community Engagement and Design	10,750
Fabrication	30,000
Installation	19,250
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES	\$90,000

PHASE 4

PHASE 1

Location + Community Engagement

Location confirmed and community engagement remained ongoing.

Dec 2024 - Oct 2025

PHASE 2

Preliminary Design

Oct 2025 - Dec 2025

PHASE 3

Finalize Design + Fabrication

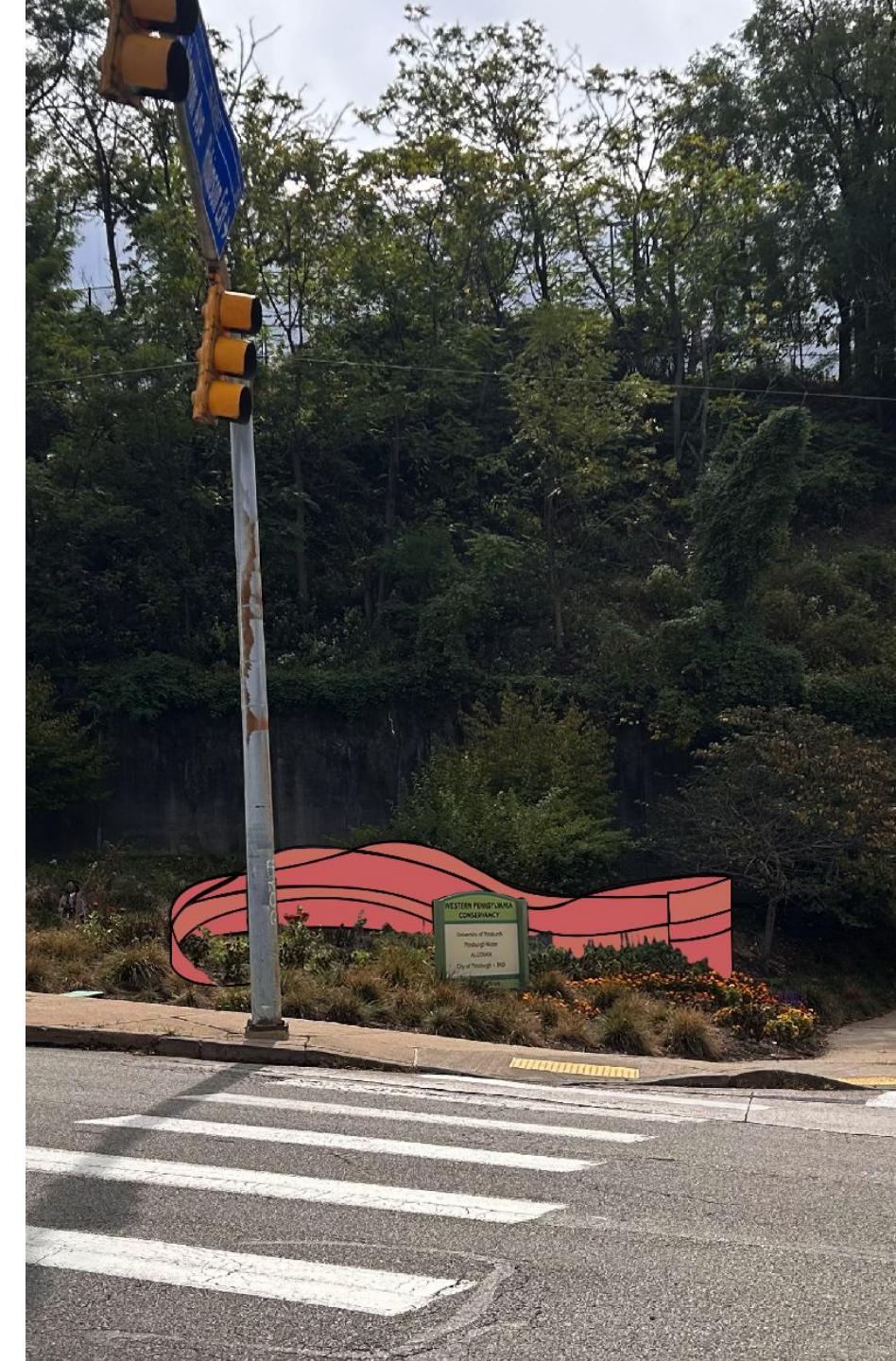
Jan 2026 - Mar 2026

Installation

Mar 2026 - Aug 2026

Next steps

- Phase 3 (through March 2026)
 - Finalize architectural drawings
 - Ongoing community engagement
 - Procure donated bricks
- Phase 4 (March - August 2026)
 - Community engagement activities
 - Install on site
- Phase 5 (August 2026)
 - Community unveiling and celebration
 - Update online community archive



Thank you

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