

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Hot molten metal casting and live graffiti-style painting workshops
among family fun at Rivers of Steel Arts Community Day July 15**

Homestead, PA – June 30, 2017 -- Building on its popular fall Festival of Combustion, Rivers of Steel Arts (RoSA) is launching its first community day on Saturday, July 15, from 3-7 p.m. on the grounds of the historic Carrie Furnaces, Carrie Furnaces Blvd in Swissvale. Admission is “pay what you like” at the gate.

Rivers of Steel Arts (RoSA) is a community arts and heritage program that supports artistic projects that interpret local history and re-imagine familiar places. “Our site offers opportunities to engage in unique family-oriented activities that recreate history in unusual, hands-on demonstrations designed to entertain while engaging all ages in revisiting the region’s heritage of steel,” says Chris McGinnis, RoSA chief curator.

“Where else can you enjoy molten metal casting, create sun prints and silk screening, and watch live painting demonstrations all in one place? It’s not your typical family afternoon,” McGinnis adds.

Rivers of Steel, through RoSA, boasts Pittsburgh's only Urban Arts program focused on aerosol arts, inspired by graffiti-style writing. At the event, visitors will learn the beauty and cultural context of this art form and try their own hand with the guidance of Urban Arts Curator Shane Pilster. Rivers of Steel’s Photo Arts Coordinator Ivette Spradlin will create photo portraits of visitors. Everyone can try their hand at creating cyanotype (sun print) at workshops with professional photographer Jeffrey Krsul. Ed Parrish, Rivers of Steel’s furnace master, will add the fiery sizzle with foundry demonstrations in metal casting.

Community creative partners add to the line-up. Mobile Sculpture Workshop will present welding and metal fabrication demonstrations. Braddock Carnegie Library Neighborhood Printshop will present hands-on silk screening. Contemporary artist Amy Masters will design a custom "head-in-hole" photo booth for pictures with the kids.

“The Rivers of Steel Arts Community Day introduces communities surrounding the Carrie Furnaces and the greater Pittsburgh region to the historical site. Many may not know it is open for tours, workshops, festivals and as an event rental area,” McGinnis explains. “We believe that when folks rediscover the value of their shared industrial and cultural heritage, it inspires greater appreciation for this legacy and ultimately helps residents see their community with a new perspective.” Each season at the Carrie Furnaces National Historic Landmark’s 35-acre site takes on a new dimension, from breathtaking sunsets to a thriving ecological garden.

Through a range of exhibitions, performances and educational experiences, Rivers of Steel promotes novel partnerships to enhance the lives of residents by building local pride and attracting renewed public interest in Pittsburgh’s Monongahela River Valley.

RoSA is a program of Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation, a non-profit that manages the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, an eight-county region and one of 49 such organizations as designated by Congress. Its mission, in partnership with the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resource, is to conserve the industrial, cultural, natural, and recreational resources of southwestern Pennsylvania.

For additional information, visit www.riversofsteel.com.

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