



Request for Proposals

Alloy Pittsburgh 2020

Location: Carrie Blast Furnaces National Historic Landmark, Swissvale, Pennsylvania

Request for Artist Proposals

Entry Deadline: February 7, 2020

ABOUT:

Alloy Pittsburgh is a unique visual and performing arts initiative developed for the Carrie Blast Furnaces National Historic Landmark and administered by Rivers of Steel. Through Alloy Pittsburgh, Rivers of Steel seeks to examine the history, current condition and possible future of the Carrie Blast Furnaces without permanently transforming the characteristics of the site, while offering regional artists a unique exhibition opportunity and career-building experience.

In 2020 Alloy Pittsburgh will reach beyond the walls of the Carrie Blast Furnaces to place resident artists in five neighboring communities of Braddock, Hazelwood, Homestead, Rankin and Swissvale, Pennsylvania. Five visual and/or performing artists will be paired with partner organizations in each municipality for a three-month residency period during which time artists can communicate, collaborate and connect with local residents to develop their final projects at the Carrie Blast Furnaces.

Selected artists will be provided with funding, publicity and support to develop temporary site-based artworks that will be presented to the public in an exhibition held at the Carrie Blast Furnaces site from August 29th to September 30th, 2020.

COMMUNITY RESIDENCY:

Rivers of Steel is excited to partner with five local organizations as host sites for Alloy Pittsburgh 2020 community residencies. This year's partner organizations will be announced, along with the selected artists following the notification deadline below. Each institution will work collaboratively with the Alloy Pittsburgh team to select and pair artists with the venue most suitable to their work. Host venues vary in their capacity to support certain types of creative work. While some may be suited for traditional "workshop" space, others may be more appropriate as visioning spaces suitable to fluid forms of creative exploration, performances and community forums. For this reason, host venues are not meant to replace an artist's existing studio, but rather supplement their current workspace with a location accessible to the community, wherein artists can deepen their relationship with both the host organization and local residents. Artists applying for Alloy Pittsburgh can stipulate the preferred type of residency workspace but final decisions for artist placement will be made by the host organization and Alloy Pittsburgh project team.

DETAILS & SELECTION CRITERIA:

A jury of project advisors and host community representatives will review all proposals and select artists for participation. Selected artists will receive a \$3,600 artist fee to cover 15 hours/week of their time during the three-month community residency period, along with a \$2,000 material stipend for the creation of the project. Proposals will be reviewed based on the clarity of the artist's unique vision for the

project, project feasibility, community involvement, and relevance to the Carrie Blast Furnaces. Special consideration will be given to artists whose work demonstrates previous success working within the community. Please note that we anticipate project proposals to change throughout the duration of the residency period and therefore all preliminary project proposals are not binding if selected for Alloy Pittsburgh. However the panel pays close attention to how each artist envisions their work unfolding and how they anticipate integrating their work with the community. **All proposals should clearly demonstrate a non-permanent impact on the Carrie Furnace site.** Although site specificity is key, artists must be flexible in their site preference at the Carrie Furnaces, as availability is dependent upon a number of feasibility issues that must be determined by the Rivers of Steel.

ELIGIBILITY:

Alloy Pittsburgh is open to regional Pittsburgh artists and collaborative groups. Artists must live in one of the following southwestern Pennsylvania counties: Allegheny, Indiana, Butler, Westmoreland, Armstrong, Beaver, Lawrence, Washington, Fayette and Greene. Projects eligible for Alloy Pittsburgh may vary from traditional to non-traditional artistic mediums, including but not limited to new media, performance, sculpture, drawing, painting, photography and video. **All works must be conceived specifically for the Carrie Furnaces site in collaboration with members from the host community, and must exist in some physical form throughout the full duration of the exhibition.**

Selected artists are expected to spend approximately 15 hours/week in their community residency locations throughout the residency period between May 1 – July 31st, 2019. Artists are also required to attend an on-site research laboratory at the Carrie Blast Furnaces scheduled for May 18th – 21st, from 10:00am - 3:00pm each day (Lunch is provided each day). All artists must be available to install their artworks during the install period and help de-construct the work during the de-installation period.

TIMELINE:

Interested artists are encouraged to apply before the February 7, 2020 deadline. Selected artists will be notified by March 1st, 2020. May 18-21 all artists will join Alloy Pittsburgh team on-site for a mandatory research laboratory. During this time artists will be provided with onsite access and time to explore the logistics of integrating their work into the Carrie Blast Furnaces site. Additional programming during the research period at Carrie will assist the artist in establishing reciprocal relationships with the communities surrounding the Carrie Furnaces and introduce them to former workers, community stakeholders, program alumni, and scholars who will contextualize the site within the larger exploration of place-based identity.

Lectures, presentations and discussions by local arts professionals will also play an important role in supporting the artist's research activities during the three-month residency period.

From August 17 – 28, 2020 the Alloy Pittsburgh team will oversee installation of the projects at the Carrie Blast Furnaces site. On Saturday, August 29th 2020 Alloy Pittsburgh will open to the public with a reception held onsite at the Carrie Furnaces from 1-5pm. The artwork will remain on display for 4 weeks with additional public events and tour opportunities occurring throughout this time period. Each artist will be asked to give a brief discussion of their installations during one of the scheduled tours in September. Upon the conclusion of the project the site will be returned to its present condition.

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 6th, 2020	Public request for proposals announced
February 7th, 2020	Deadline for public to submit proposals
March 1st, 2020	Notification of artists selected from RFP.
May 1 st – July 31, 2020	Community residency period. (Artists intros scheduled in advance)

May 18th – 21st, 2020	Research residency at Carrie Furnaces. (Mandatory for all artists)
Aug 17th – 28th, 2020	Install period for artists at Carrie Furnaces.
August 29 th , 2020	Opening reception at Carrie Blast Furnaces 1p-5p.
Aug 29th – Sept 30th, 2020	Exhibition period.
October 1st - 9th, 2020	De-install period for artists at Carrie Furnaces.

SUBMISSION MATERIALS:

Interested artists should submit a project proposal including the following materials compiled into one PDF packet no larger than 10mgb. These PDF packets should be emailed to cmcginnis@riversofsteel.com by the deadline stated above. Please state “AlloyPGH 2020 (your last name)” in the subject line of your email.

- Preliminary project proposal (limit one page)
- 10 images of previous work or url links for video submissions
- Current CV
- Artist Statement

Questions can be directed to Chris McGinnis at cmcginnis@riversofsteel.com. There are currently no tours being offered at the site but additional information on the Carrie Furnaces National Historic Landmark can be found at <http://www.riversofsteel.com/> and info on previous Alloy Pittsburgh projects can be found at <https://riversofsteel.com/experiences/exhibitions/alloy-pittsburgh/>

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