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Contact: Paige Ilkhanipour 412-365-2145 x 202
paige@pittsburghglasscenter.org

Date: February 5, 2009

NEIGHBORHOOD MOSAIC PROJECT

Artist Daviea Davis and Community Transform PGC Gallery into Glass Mosaic Wonderland

NEWS FACTS

- *First time collaborative residency and exhibition between Daviea Davis, PGC, local schools and the community*
- *360 degree glass mosaic panorama of the city of Pittsburgh*
- *Over 100 students involved, age 3 - 18*
- *Over one million shards of glass donated by Youghioheny Glass*
- *Everyone is invited to participate at PGC Tues. – Fri. from 10am – 3pm through March 31*
- *Exhibition opens April 3*

PITTSBURGH, PA...The transformation begins. Bit by bit with glass and glue, the Hodge Gallery at Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC) is transforming into a glass mosaic wonderland depicting scenes of Pittsburgh.

The Neighborhood Mosaic Project is a collaborative residency and exhibition between Pittsburgh artist Daviea Davis, PGC, several schools and the community. Davis is working with students in the schools and community members at PGC to “map” the city in mosaic glass during her residency from January to March 31, 2009. She will integrate all of the ideas into a 360 degree glass mosaic panorama of the unique characteristics and joys of the City of Pittsburgh that will open for public view on April 3 and run through June 14, 2009. The project is sponsored by the Multicultural Arts Institute, Construction Junction and Youghioghney Glass.

What's Happening Now? The Residency

Over one million shards of colorful stained glass donated by Youghiogheny Glass will be used to complete the project. Initially, Davis uses pen and paper to capture her ideas for each mosaic snapshot. Then, she brings the images to life on either wood panels or recycled home windows donated by Construction Junction. She begins by positioning what she calls the “bones” or key elements of the mosaic on the surface. She uses glue to secure the colorful glass bits creating the main features. Then, she elicits helps from her students and PGC visitors to complete additional elements of the mosaic. Once all of the glass is in position, she seals the mosaic with grout.

“This project isn’t just about my perception of Pittsburgh. It’s bigger than that. I want everyone to think about their neighborhood, what they love about it and have pride in their community,” said Davis.

A key part of the residency includes visits to various Pittsburgh schools. Davis is visiting Taylor Allderdice High School, Pittsburgh Montessori, Pittsburgh Sterrett and Arsenal Family and Children’s Center. First, she’s discussing the unique qualities of the neighborhoods surrounding the schools with the students and helping them make their own mini mosaic. Then, she’ll work with the students on a larger mosaic that will remain on display at each school. Students will follow-up by attending a glassblowing demonstration at PGC and will help with the glass mosaic panorama in the Hodge Gallery. All of the students, teachers and parents will be invited to the official exhibition opening on April 3 from 6 to 9 pm at PGC.

Everyone is Invited to Participate

Glass mosaic can be enjoyed by all ages. Participants have remarked at how meditative and addictive the process can be. It’s not uncommon for visitors to spend hours on site helping with the mosaic. Everyone is invited to join Davis at PGC and help with the

mosaic Tuesday – Friday from 10 am – 3 pm, through March 31 or during these special times at PGC – Friday, February 13 from 5 – 9 pm and Friday, March 6 from 6 -9 pm.

About Daviea Davis

Daviea Davis is a self-taught glass mosaic artist living in Pittsburgh's Edgewood neighborhood. She works primarily in salvaged stained glass. She regularly creates community mosaics at Pittsburgh Glass Center and various Pittsburgh schools. She teaches as she works, perpetually creating and encouraging creativity. Her work can be seen in the following locations:

- Pittsburgh International Airport
- C.C. Mellor Memorial Library, Edgewood
- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, East Liberty Branch
- Point Brugge Café
- Chetlin Orthodontics
- Gilda's Clubhouse of Western Pennsylvania
- Mission Measurement, Chicago IL
- Many private homes

About Pittsburgh Glass Center

Pittsburgh Glass Center is a nonprofit, public access glass school, studio and gallery dedicated to teaching, creating and promoting glass art. A growing arts organization in the region, PGC is bringing new life to Pittsburgh's glass art legacy and maintaining the momentum brought to the region by Dale Chihuly and Pittsburgh Celebrates Glass 2007. Learn more about the Pittsburgh Glass Center by visiting our Web site at www.pittsburghglasscenter.org or by calling 412-365-2145.

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