

# PITTSBURGH CENTER for CREATIVE REUSE

# 2023

by the  
numbers  
can you dig it?

# 42

tons of  
donated  
materials  
processed



# 4,694

creative  
education  
participants



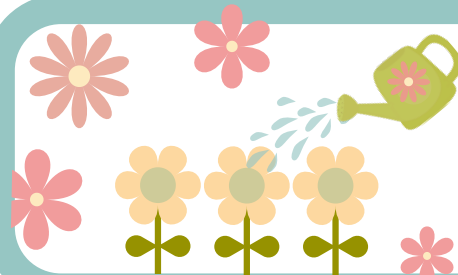
# 23k

retail  
transactions



# 69

community  
partners



# 5,436 +

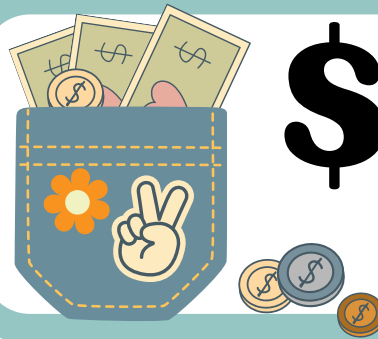
total material  
donations from  
individuals &  
businesses

# 67



# \$51k

individual  
donor  
contributions



# 1,927

volunteer  
& intern  
hours



## Revenue Sources

part of a balanced budget

25%  
grants

60%  
shop sales

11%  
monetary  
gifts

4%  
program  
fees



# WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS

# 2023

## Programs at Partner Sites

Alcosan  
Andrew Bayne Memorial Library  
Atithi Studios  
August Wilson Center  
The Aviary  
Cancer Bridges  
Carnegie Library Homewood  
Carnegie Library of Allegheny  
Carnegie Library of Beechview  
Carnegie Library of Downtown  
Carnegie Library of Hazelwood  
Carnegie Library of Homestead  
Carnegie Library of Knoxville  
Carnegie Library of Mt. Washington  
Carnegie Library of Oakland  
Carnegie Library of West End  
Carnegie Library Penn Hills  
Communitopia  
The Cultural Trust  
East End Food Co-op  
Ellis School

Environmental Charter School  
Industrial Arts Workshop  
Kelly Strayhorn Theater  
Kentucky Avenue School  
Maker's Clubhouse  
Manchester Craftsmen's Guild  
The Mattress Factory  
Phipps Conservatory  
Pittsburgh County Fair  
Pittsburgh Vegan Society  
Playful Pittsburgh Collaborative  
Propel Schools  
Radiant Hall  
Rankin Christian Center  
Rodef Shalom  
Solarpunk Festival  
South Hills Village Mall  
St. Edmunds Academy  
St. Paul Seminary  
University of Pittsburgh  
Western Allegheny Community Library



## About Creative Programing

We promote sustainability and creativity in our in-person creative experiences, as well as through custom kits, video tutorials, and live virtual instruction. Whether it's for a classroom, community center, or virtual party, we love helping folks learn more about reuse while getting crafty!

## In-House Workshops

May 14 - open-ended making  
May 21- open-ended making  
May 28 - open-ended making  
October 7- zines  
October 14 - mobiles  
October 21- block prints  
October 28 - shadowboxes  
November 25 - zines  
December 9 - zines

# WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS

2023

## Climate Change Through Art

In November and December, we partnered with Communitopia to offer a free, Act 48-eligible professional development opportunity for Western PA K-12 teachers. This free workshop involved two 7-hour sessions with an intersession independent project, helping local educators learn to use art as a vehicle to educate students on solutions to climate change while repurposing discarded resources. Participating teachers explored connections such as:

- theater arts to create sustainable behaviors
- mindfulness and creativity
- nature journaling combining art and science while sharpening observation skills
- visual arts to build critical thinking and collaboration



What participants said  
about this workshop:

"Greatly surprised how  
much I learned!"

"Our activities for  
learning were  
wonderful!"



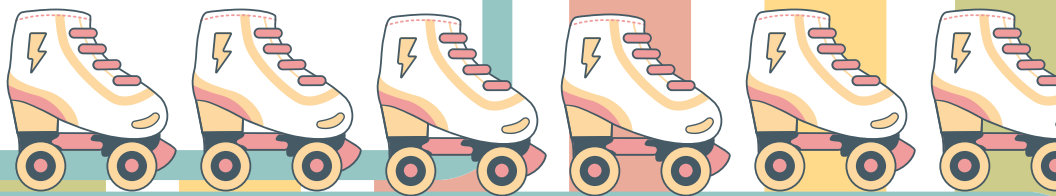
# WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS

2023

## Participation & Support of Local Projects

- All Together PA: Fibershed Collaboration
- Atithi Studios Fashion Fest
- Buffalo Exchange: Tokens for Bags
- Commonplace Coffee
- Phipps Conservatory: Fairchild Challenge and Sustainable Youth Action Committee
- Let's Play, PGH!
- Pittsburgh Racial Justice Summit
- PULSE: Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience
- SewPGH
- Solarpunk Futures
- Three Rivers Arts Festival
- Ultimate Play Day: Pittsburgh Collaborative, Trying Together, and CitiParks
- Grow Pittsburgh
- Assemble

"Giving myself & three children open-ended direction encouraged such magical creativity! Seeing the beautiful, unique pieces from recycled materials was great!"



## Highlights

Americans for the Arts/Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council: We collaborated on a research project to measure the impact of the arts and culture in Allegheny County.

PA Humanities Discovery Project: We shared stories and images of our work to promote the Humanities in PA.

Pedantic Residency, a project of Henry Simonds and Casey Droege Cultural Productions: We hosted tours and conversations with several resident artists.

Pittsburgh 48 Hour Film Festival: We were an official scavenger hunt site for movie props, provided gift certificates for winners of the festival, made trophies and crowns for the winners, and our Executive Director helped present at the awards show.

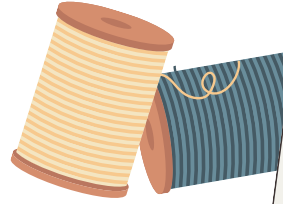
# MATERIAL DONATIONS from BUSINESSES & NONPROFITS

2023

## Business Donors

3 Rivers Outdoor Co  
Allegheny Wine Mixer  
American Rust  
Cabinet Health  
Calamityware  
Cards Unlimited  
Creative Products International  
Franklin Interiors  
GH Advertising  
HAMMER-MANN designwerks  
Highland Carbide Tool Company  
ikm architecture  
Jade Scott Design  
Joe Brusco Upholstery  
Jump with Jill

LGA Partners  
moss architects  
Patagonia  
Penny River LLC  
Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre  
Proof Point  
S2 Stationery & Design  
Santom Upholstery  
Scheels  
Smithfield Trust Co  
SPK - Law Firm of Swensen & Perer  
Xhibit Solutions  
Zieros Ltd.



hooks



CORKS

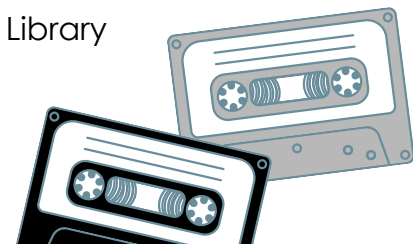
## Nonprofit Donors

The Andy Warhol Museum  
Assemble  
Avonworth Middle and High School  
Cambria County Library  
Cancer Bridges  
Carlow University  
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh  
Carnegie Museum of Art  
Carnegie Museum of Natural History  
Chatham University  
Children's Museum  
Citiparks Office of Special Events  
Construction Junction  
The Frick Pittsburgh

Hillman Library University of Pittsburgh  
La Roche University  
The Mattress Factory  
Pittsburgh Center for Arts and Media  
Pittsburgh Public Theater  
Shadyside Academy  
Trying Together  
University of Pittsburgh  
Wesley High School  
Whitehall Public Library  
YMCA



craft paints



# VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS

2023

## Volunteers

Nancy Aronson	Audrey Desnain	Carleen Markey
Hillary Bogdan	Cole Felton	Madelyn Miller
Marni Cantor	Megan Fruth	C.E Pino
Cynthia Closeky	Eli Goodfriend	Jordan Plumbo
Alison Colbert	Linda Kirin	Sarah Schneible
Karen Cornell	Kate Kmiecjak	Debbie Steinberg
Marie Cosgrove-Davies	Alaine Lambertson	Jenna Vangellow
Maxwell Cummings	Leanne Longwill	Roye Werner
Maddy Dattilo	Hannah Lowe	



Marie & Eli



Nancy

## Board Members

Omoye Aikhuele	Sarah Mayer
Kelsy Black	Sarah Kipling McKay
Michelle Wion Chitty	Adam Nye
Kayla Coley	Erin Palmer
Alicia Donner	Brian Savolskis
Raphaella Esposito	Maggie Zurbruegg-Ramey
Shelby Mastovich	



Felicia



## Interns

Felicia Shen  
Anabelle Kang  
Zoe Sommer  
Ella Mizera  
Lia Kowalski  
Mabry Smyer  
Sofia Brickner

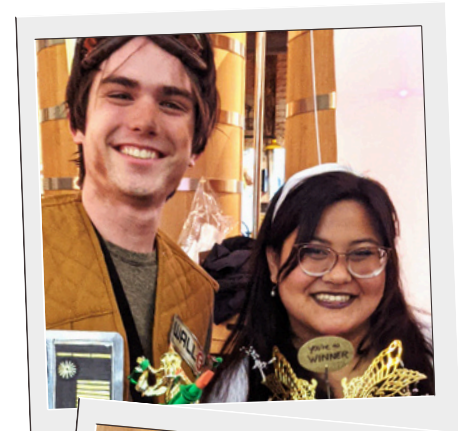
# ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

# 2023

## Craftical 2023

Our annual crafting competition was held on October 19th at Trace Brewing in Bloomfield!

We raised over \$5,000 in support of our mission and were supported by these amazing sponsors:



## What is Craftical?

- Craftical is an intense crafting challenge where participants have 30 minutes to create something amazing from a big bag of crafty goodies from Creative Reuse.
- Everyone votes on their favorite and the top 3 vote-getters face off in a 5-minute craft blitz!
- The entire audience votes once more, and our Ultimate Craft Dazzler is crowned and showered with gifts and glory!

## Featured Reuse Artists

Matt Vituccio

Dara Etienne

Tereneh Idia

Ariel Leath

Orienne Cosentino

Catherine Trendz

Leigh Yost

Jewel Justice

weirdlittleearrings

Elaina Sweeley

Hope Karnes

Isabella Schubert-Jones

“So grateful to have this organization in our community! They inspire reuse and creativity!”

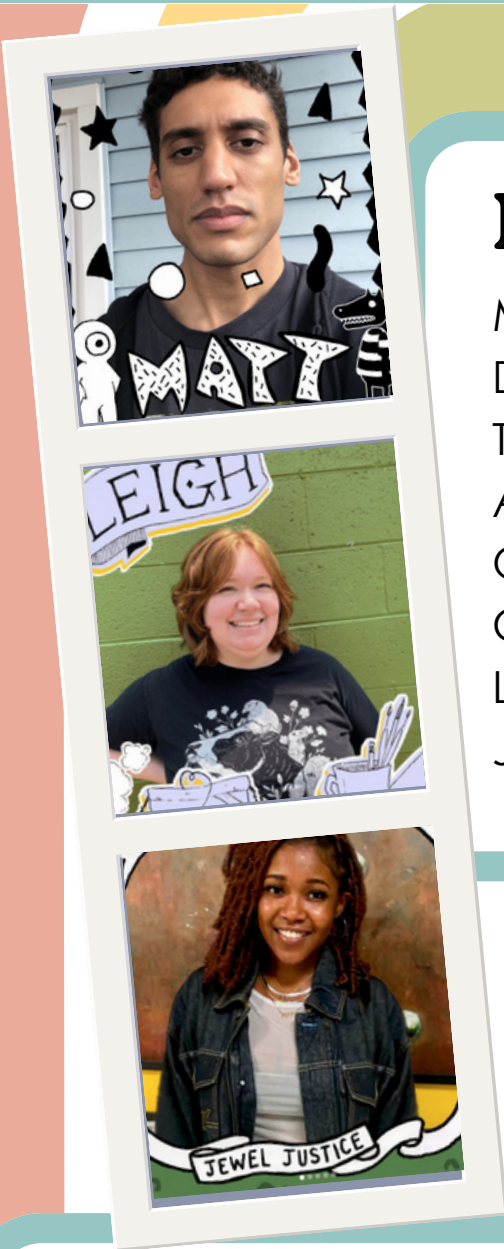
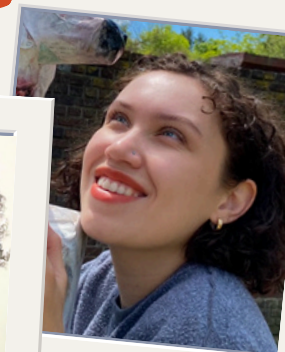
## Artist in Residence & Gallery Program

### Isabella Schubert-Jones, Gallery Artist

- 1-month gallery show, Nov. 2023
- Attendance: ~2956

### Dara Etienne, Artist in Residence

- 3-month gallery show, Dec. 2023 - Feb. 2024
- Opening Reception: Dec. 15
- Demonstration Day: Dec. 3
- Artist Workshop: Feb. 24
- Attendance at all events: ~9500







*Free stuff!*

## Material Give-Away

As part of our Earth Day celebrations in the month of April, we had tables of free materials to further promote reuse!

“Creative Reuse is an asset to Pittsburgh & to spreading accessible resources for creativity & enrichment.”

## Shared Promotion

### Social Media

We shared 25 story or timeline posts promoting other organizations (not including events we are involved with). This includes organizations like Evolve, Assemble, the Drawing Board, ALMA | LEWIS, Pgh Collage Collective, Handmade Arcade, and Pgh Zine Fair.

### Newsletter

We promoted a variety of local events from partner organizations, including:

- Racial Wealth Gap Simulation - Baldwin Community United Methodist
- The Audacity to Believe - Kelly Strayhorn Theater
- Honoring Dr. MLK, Jr. Day - Repair the World and Visit Pittsburgh
- Vegan Wellness Conference
- SolarPunk Future! - Geek Art/Green Innovators and Reimagine Jobs
- Atithi Studios Fashion Festival

## Masking

In Summer 2023, we updated our in-shop masking policy, making masks strongly recommended for most of our business hours, but:

- We continue to promote a safer environment for immunocompromised individuals and others who prefer masking by making masks available for free and beginning each day with a masking hour.
- We also continue to operate our online store, personal shopping service, and private shopping appointments in support of those who require or prefer alternative modes of access to our services.

## Nonprofit Members



- Assemble
- BOOM Concepts
- Environmental Charter School
- Propel Schools
- Center for Arts and Education at West Liberty University
- Winchester Thurston School

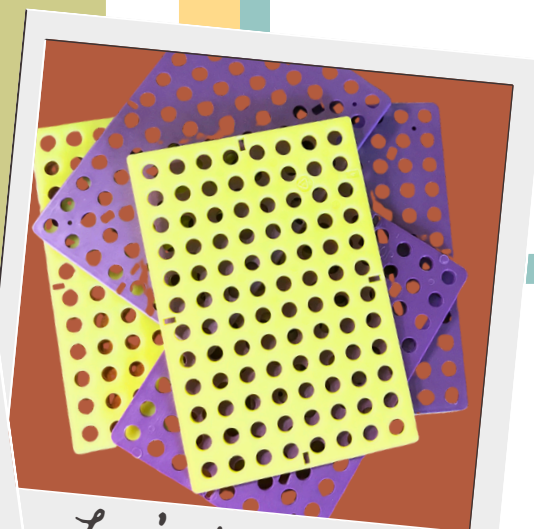
## A ReCreative what?

Our ReCreative Partners Program provides affordable and sustainable materials to schools, libraries, nonprofits, and arts organizations. This annual partnership program offers different membership levels to fit the needs of various organizations.



### Membership Benefits:

- Discount on Bulk Bags
- Discount on priced items
- Collect-and-hold service
- Material giveaway
- Promotion
- Authorized buyers
- Direct billing



*Lou's fav item:  
science waffles!*

"The Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse is an important partner for us. We use the materials we get through the Partners Program on a daily basis in the Center." Lou Karas

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Accessibility



- Our General Policy, which appears in-store, on all newsletters, and on our website: No sexism. No racism. No ableism. No ageism. No homophobia. No transphobia. No hate. We believe that people from marginalized communities deserve to be supported, respected, and safe.
- Our mission is to inspire creativity, conservation, and community through reuse, and our values guide us to do so in the most inclusive, accessible, and equitable way we can. To effectively engage with and be part of the Pittsburgh community, we want everyone to know they are valued. These principles are the guiding values that reflect our culture, informing how we carry out our mission. They are woven throughout our day-to-day activities, community events, educational programming, and practices already highlighted from 2023 in our Year in Review.



Highlights from previous years that continued in 2023:

### Creating Access

- Online (e.g., improving accessibility features on our website and social media; maintaining an online store for those not comfortable with in-person shopping for any reason).
- In our shop and in-person programming/events (e.g., aisle clearance, mobility-device-friendly restroom, contrast in signage, maintaining a mask requirement during specific hours, personal shopping service, etc.).
- Reducing cost barriers to access by offering low-cost art supplies.
- Hiring based on lived experience, not education.

## Creating Inclusion

- Amplifying under-recognized voices through our Artist in Residence program and Featured Reuse Artist spotlights
- Messaging throughout our physical and digital spaces to reinforce our values and set the tone for events/programming
- Gender-neutral restroom facility and signage
- Training and development for all staff in inclusive practices
- Soliciting feedback from program participants and community members on how to improve and better meet their needs
- Job postings highlighting organizational culture
- Inclusive hiring practices

## Creating Equity

- Increased minimum pay for staff and teaching artists, many of whom are people from marginalized communities
- Power-sharing in decision-making re: policies
- Donating to Black-led/Black-serving nonprofits and yearly support of the PGH Racial Justice Summit
- Project Sponsorship Program - offering free and discounted materials to artists and organizations making a difference in our community
- Providing local resource guides to community members in need

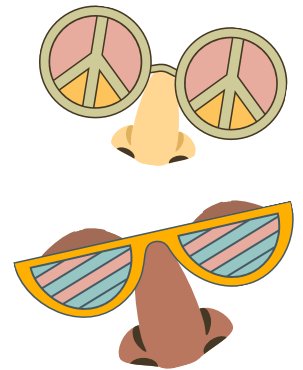
"I was immediately blown away with the incredible amount of supplies and kindness from the staff, I . . . spent four hours in the shop and despite leaving with nearly 30 lbs of art supplies . . . I only managed to spend \$80 . . . The staff went out of their way to answer questions & even helped me carry out the box."  
[Panicdotjpg](#), Google Review



# TRANSPARENCY

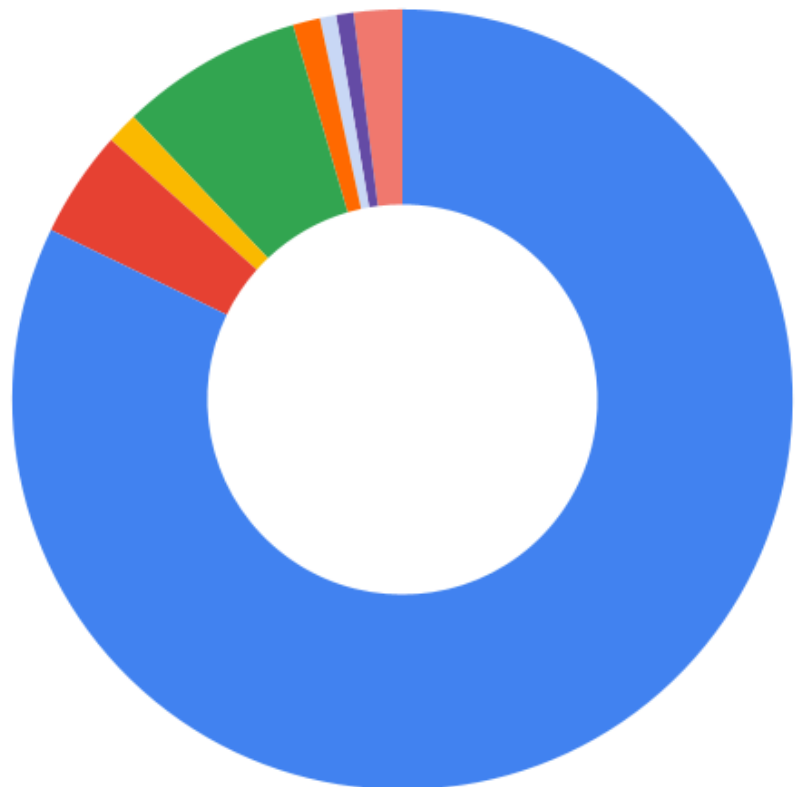
2023

Our largest cost is the investment we make in our people. It takes a dedicated team to carry out our mission: running our shop, processing donated materials, coordinating events and volunteers, running a gallery, and planning and delivering educational programming throughout the city. In 2023, we were pleased to add the new position of Operations Assistant to help build administrative capacity and better support our team.



## Budget Expenses

- Salaries & Related Expenses
- Facilities & Equipment
- Office Expenses
- Professional Services (Teaching Artists, Gallery Artists, etc.)
- Insurance Expense
- Travel & Meetings
- Marketing & Advertising
- Banking Expenses (credit card fees, etc.)



# STAFF & BOARD EDUCATION

2023

## Our Dyn-O-Mite! Staff

Ash Andrews, Executive Director  
Cammie Brady, Creative Manager  
Daniel Shapiro, Materials Coordinator  
Aubrienne O'Donnell, Operations Assistant  
Xiola Jensen, Shop Manager + Marketing Asst.  
Vivienne Shao, Shop and Materials Assistant

Brendan Wangler, Shop Backup  
Daniel Shaffer, Shop Backup  
Matt Vituccio, Shop Backup  
Christina Hansen, Shop Backup  
Leigh Williams, Shop Backup  
James Kim, Shop Backup



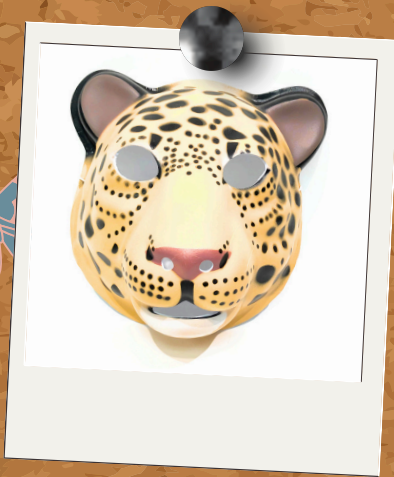
## Classes & Workshops We Attended

- Accessible Social Media
- From Performative to Practice: Improving DEI in Your Nonprofit
- Naloxone (Narcan) Training and the Opioid Epidemic
- Neurodiversity and Accessibility with Evolve Coaching
- Race + Disability Series with the FISA Foundation
- Suicide Prevention with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Real Estate Essentials for Nonprofits
- Tools for Identifying Individual Donors
- Volunteer Engagement Strategy
- Evaluations and Conversations
- Managing Conflicts in the Workplace
- Successful Home Page Management
- Earned Advertising
- How to Activate Your Board to be Fundraisers
- When a Governing Board Works
- Science and Art of Survey Creation
- Performance Management
- New Supervisors Training
- Recognizing & Avoiding Common HR Mistakes
- Leadership vs. Management
- Best Practices in Managerial Coaching
- Financial Storytelling

# THE SHOP

2023

Everyone is welcome in our shop, where you'll find all kinds of interesting materials like art and craft supplies, fabric, yarn, picture frames, beads, office supplies, artwork, paper, design samples, and various odds and ends. Our inventory is based on business and individual donations, so it changes every day.



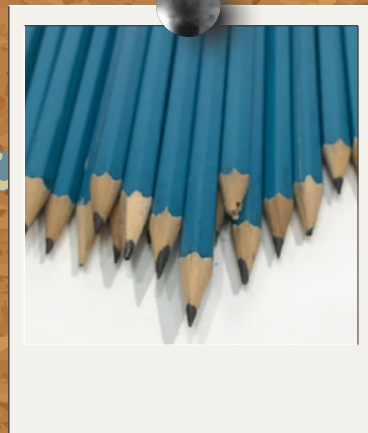
"Wonderful!!! Magical, creative, and inspiring, are only a few of the adjectives I think of when describing this!! Thank you!!!"



"Absolutely wonderful. Very fun eclectic shopping location. The prices are very good. I come from out of town once a year and make sure to come here every time."  
Burke L., Google Review



"Everything you didn't know you needed to make art. Affordable prices and surprisingly well organized for the number of absurdly random items they have." Kerrigan, Google Review



“An enchanted place where things — the things of my community, things that were near and dear and/or incidental and irrelevant to the people of western Pennsylvania — go to await strange and thrilling reincarnations.”

Journalist Ted Anthony on Creative Reuse in his article *The Second Lives of Things*



## REUSE NEWS

- Need last-minute Valentine's? Make something old new again (KDKA Pittsburgh Today Live, February 2023)
- Clothing exhibition reveals 1000 years of Black history — in Pittsburgh and beyond (Pittsburgh Post Gazette, February 2023)
- Spring Cleaning, Creatively (East End Co-op newsletter, April 2023)
- The Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse: Where old objects meet new possibilities (Feature in Kidsburgh, April 2023)
- Earth Day Projects (KDKA Pittsburgh Today Live, April 2023)
- The Second Lives of Things (Feature in Ted Anthony's *Unsorted But Significant*, June 2023)
- Ya Jagoff! On Q (August 2023)
- Everything Old Is Art Again: The Appeal of Creative Reuse Art Supply Programs by Michael Pollick (syndicated news story, December 2023)
- Creative Gift Wrapping (KDKA Pittsburgh Today Live, November 2023)



Creative Reuse ED, Ash Andrews, appears on Pittsburgh Today Live showing folks how to creatively wrap and decorate holiday gifts.



# FOUNDATION GRANTS

# 2023

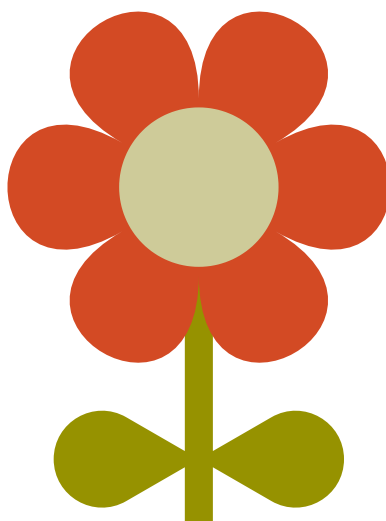
- Duquesne Light Community Impact Program
- Grable Foundation
- Heinz Endowments
- Henry John Simonds Foundation
- McElhattan Foundation
- McSwigan Family Foundation
- Opportunity Fund
- PA Council on the Arts
- Pittsburgh Foundation
- PNC Charitable Trusts



What one parent loves about Creative Reuse:

“Watching my children's minds come alive with creativity as they learned about sustainability & reuse!”

**THANKS for READING**



Stay groovy!

**Later  
Gator**