

PITTSBURGH

**ART**

IN **PUBLIC**

**PLACES**



DOWNTOWN

WALKING TOUR

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WALKING TOUR

FOURTH EDITION

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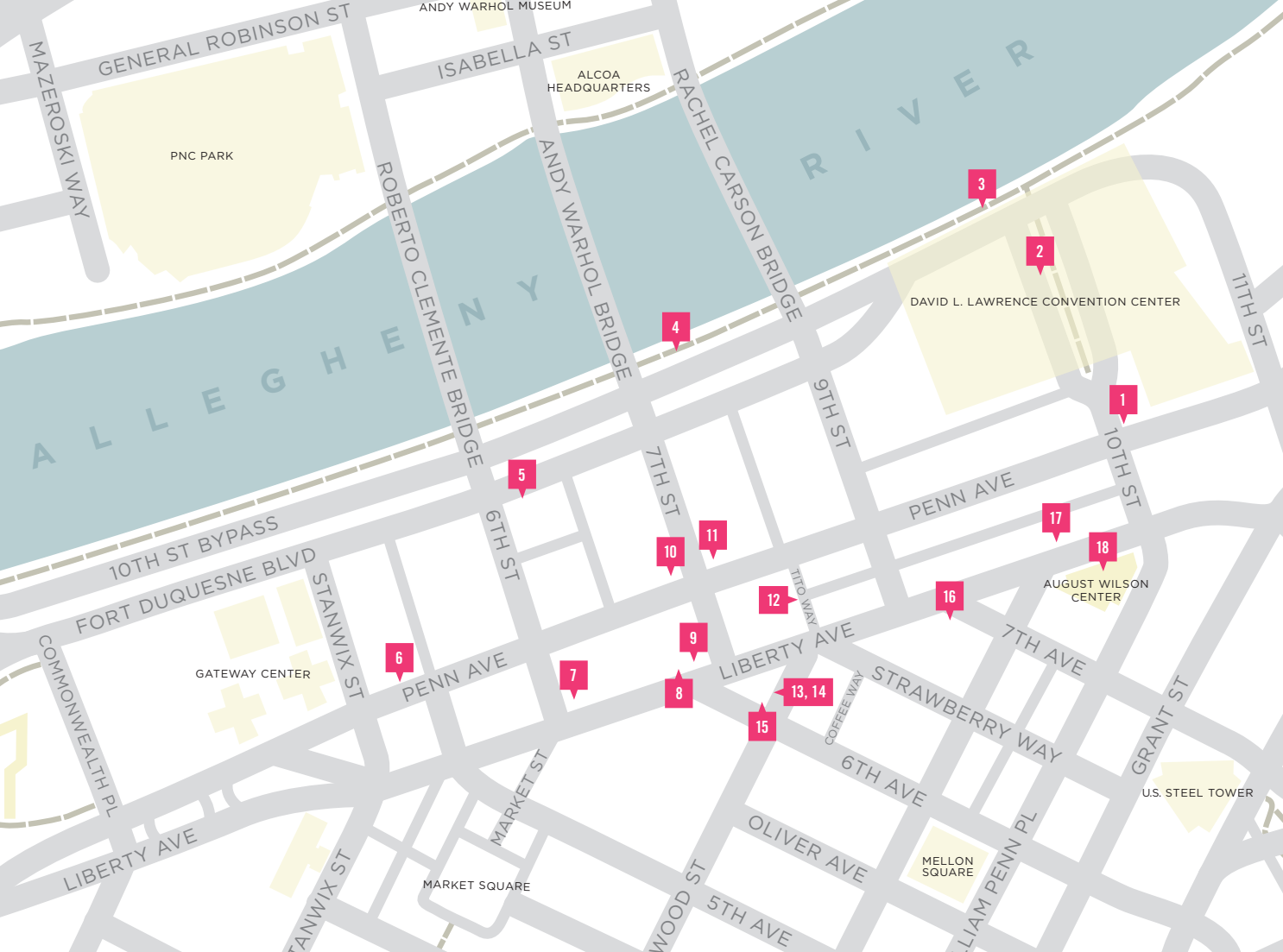
**PHOTOGRAPHY** Renee Rosensteel,  
except where noted



WALKING  
TOUR ONE

## CULTURAL DISTRICT

Contemporary art plays a leading role in Pittsburgh's central arts neighborhood. Adventurous works by prominent artists mark the district's boundaries and are integrated into its varied public spaces.



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## 1 FOR PITTSBURGH 2005 JENNY HOLZER

### LED and text

📍 Fourth Floor Terrace, David L. Lawrence Convention Center, 1000 Fort Duquesne Boulevard. Can also be seen from the corner of Penn Avenue and Tenth Street

Stretching across the convention center's swooping roofline are 688 feet of blue light-emitting diode (LED) tubes. Jenny Holzer created this kinetic display to present important books that tell compelling stories about Pittsburgh, including Thomas Bell's *Out of This Furnace*; John Edgar Wideman's *Homewood Trilogy*, *Damballah*, *Hiding Place*, and *Sent for You Yesterday*; and Annie Dillard's *An American Childhood*. Over time, new books may be added to the collection.

The artwork's monumental scale creates a significant contribution to the city's skyline. The texts scroll 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *For Pittsburgh* is one of the artist's largest LED projects in the United States.

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## 2 DAVID L. LAWRENCE CONVENTION CENTER 2003 RAFAEL VIÑOLY ARCHITECTS

📍 1000 Fort Duquesne Boulevard

The design for the convention center was inspired by Pittsburgh's bridges. This can be seen in the swoop of the cable-suspended roof, which is secured by a series of 15 individual cables and masts. It was the first convention center to achieve LEED® Gold under the New Construction rating system and LEED Platinum under the Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance rating system by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The public art program for the convention center included commissions and purchases of works by artists of local, national, and international renown, including *The Last Supper*, a triptych by Felix de la Concha, in the East Lobby.

The convention center bears the name of David L. Lawrence, the political maverick who served as Pittsburgh's mayor from 1946-1959 and saw the city through its first Renaissance.



### 3 CONVENTION CENTER RIVERFRONT PLAZA 2011

LAQUATRA BONCI ASSOCIATES, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

↑ Allegheny Riverfront along Fort Duquesne Boulevard between Eleventh and Ninth Streets

This section of Three Rivers Park connects the Strip District to Downtown. Boat docks and seating areas are available for public use. The design features native vegetation common along Pittsburgh's rivers, and provides habitats for fish and other wildlife under the pedestrian platform.





#### 4 ALLEGHENY RIVERFRONT PARK 2001

ANN HAMILTON, ARTIST, AND MICHAEL VAN VALKENBURGH ASSOCIATES, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

📍 Allegheny Riverfront along Fort Duquesne Boulevard between Ninth and Sixth Streets

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust created a transition from the city to the river by initiating an effort to improve this section of the Allegheny riverfront with a design by Michael Van Valkenburgh and Ann Hamilton. To allow easy access to the river's edge, two sets of ramps

were built off of the Andy Warhol Bridge. A cast-bronze handrail that references the river's movement, designed by Hamilton, guides pedestrians down the ramps. Along the river walkway, Hamilton imprinted bulrush reeds in the concrete paving, adding fossil-like striations to the hard surface. A variety of trees were used for the park and planted close to each other, a technique Van Valkenburgh calls "hyper-nature."

## 5 UNTITLED, (FULTON THEATER) 1993

RICHARD HAAS

Mural

↑ Byham Theater, North Façade, between Barkers Place and Sixth Streets along Fort Duquesne Boulevard

Richard Haas is well known for giving flat surfaces a three-dimensional appearance. This 36 x 56 foot mural was painted in a method known as *trompe l'oeil*, which translates from French to “fool the eye.”

The artist integrated the windows and doors of the theater into the mural, which presents Pittsburgh’s steel legacy. The setting is a steel mill interior where furnaces are pouring hot metal. The painted door on the lower right-hand side reads “Ohio,” in reference to the formation of the Ohio River by the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers.



## 6 OBJECTS IN THE GARDEN 1997

CHARLES OLSON

Acrylic on canvas

↑ Lobby of 501 Penn Avenue

Charles Olson is a painter known for his expressive color. He creates small-scale works from life and uses the studies to inform his large works, as seen here in this site-specific lobby series.







## 7 **ARPEGGIO** 2011 **ANGELA CONNER**

Steel

↑ Garden Plaza at Heinz Hall, Liberty Avenue at Sixth Street

The Pittsburgh Symphony transformed a former Woolworth's store into this plaza in 1982. It features a water fountain and *Arpeggio*, a sculpture inspired by the collaborative nature of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, as evidenced by the four steel structures that work together to produce sound and movement. The plaza was designed by MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni.



## 8 **PITTSBURGH PEOPLE** 1988 **PENELOPE JENCKS**

Bronze

↑ EQT Plaza, 625 Liberty Avenue

The figures in this plaza refer to the relationship between Pittsburgh's business and arts communities. This plaza was one of the early projects created during the redevelopment of Pittsburgh's vibrant Cultural District, which is home to the nearby Benedum Center for the Performing Arts, completed in 1987.

## 9 MIDTOWN TOWERS RELIEF 1907

ARTIST UNKNOWN

📍 643 Liberty Avenue

The façade of this building features reliefs of people with Pittsburgh connections. On the second story are portraits of: Teddy Roosevelt; Andrew Carnegie; George Guthrie, Mayor of Pittsburgh from 1906 to 1909; Matthew Quay, United States Senator from Pennsylvania from 1897 to 1899; songwriter Stephen Foster; William Pitt, the British Prime Minister for whom Pittsburgh is named; George Washington, who fought in Pittsburgh during the French and Indian War; William Penn; Mary Schenley, whose family land was donated to create Schenley Park; and H.D.W. English, former head of Pittsburgh's Chamber of Commerce.

Dominion Tower, now EQT Plaza, was designed by Kohn Pederson Fox Associates. Midtown Towers was designed by Thomas Hannah.







## 10 **AGNES R. KATZ PLAZA** 1999

**LOUISE BOURGEOIS, ARTIST, IN COLLABORATION WITH MICHAEL GRAVES & ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS, AND DANIEL URBAN KILEY, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT**

Bronze, stone, trees

↑ Seventh Street and Penn Avenue

The plaza, named in honor of Agnes R. Katz, a local supporter of the arts, is a central feature of the Cultural District. According to landscape architect Kiley, “The plaza was designed to allow the sculpture to be the dominant feature, to promote maximum flexibility, and to allow users to experience it through a variety of ways.”

In the 23,000-square-foot plaza, Kiley planted 32 linden trees closely together in double rows in order for the branches to be pleached, or woven. In the center of the plaza are the most dominant features: the bronze fountain and eyeball-shaped benches by Louise Bourgeois. The fountain, standing 25 feet high, features two streams of water that spout from the top and flow to the base. This piece has heated water, allowing it to flow all year.





#### AGNES R. KATZ PLAZA

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust has commissioned artists to create bike racks throughout the Cultural District. Notice the bike racks throughout the district, including *For Nate & Jakob* by Brett Yasko, across the street from this plaza.





## 11 **MAGNOLIAS FOR PITTSBURGH** 2006

**TONY TASSET**

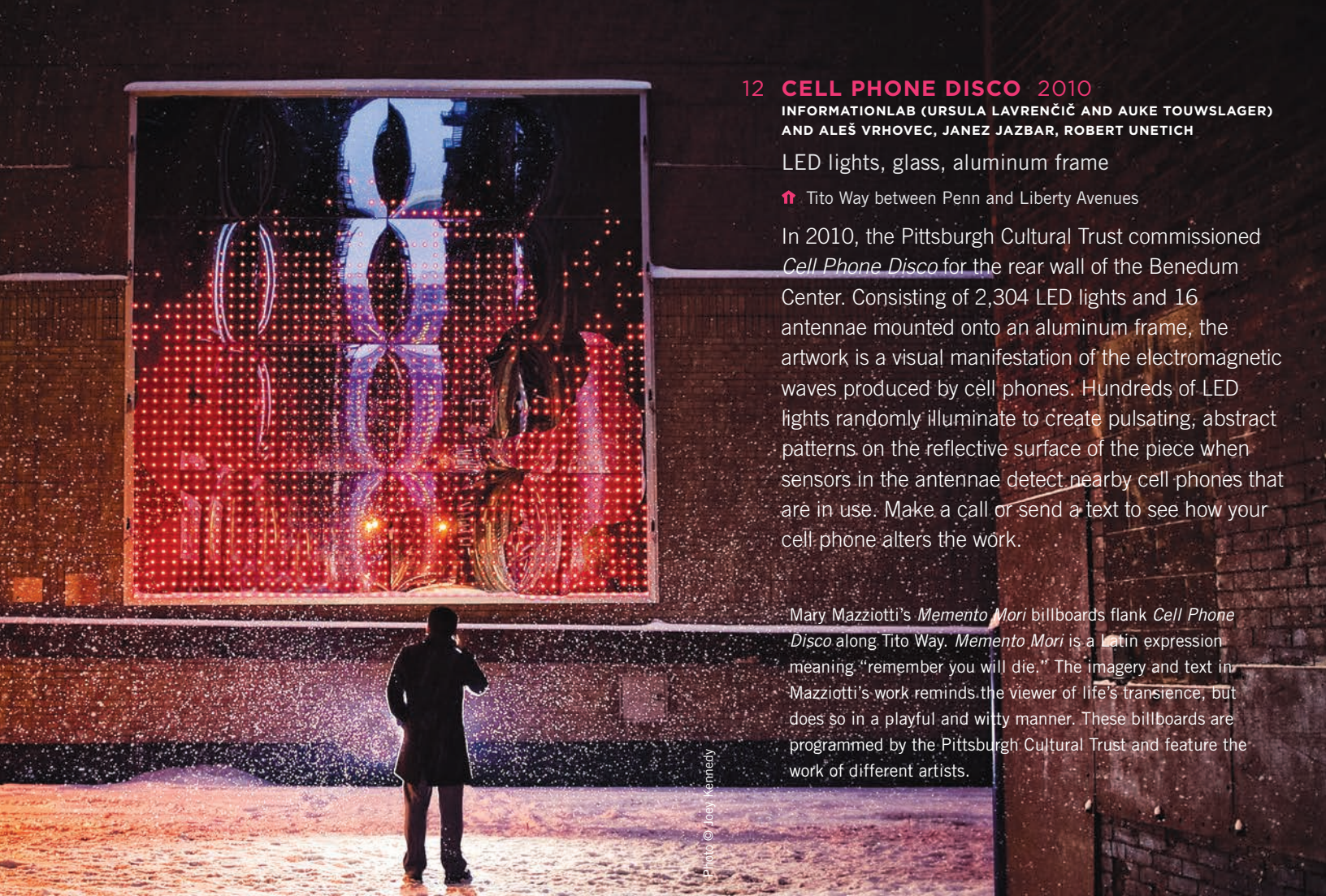
Painted bronze, trees, and landscaping

↑ Seventh & Penn Parklet, Seventh Street and Penn Avenue

Each of these hand-sculpted magnolia trees contains approximately 800 individually painted petals. The artist wanted “to create a little magic, fairy-tale moment in the daily hustle and bustle of Downtown Pittsburgh.”

The artist designed the entire landscape surrounding the two bronze trees using five live magnolias, ivy ground cover, and a curved path. By choosing to keep the bronze trees eternally in spring, the artist has provided an element against which viewers can mark the changing seasons.





**12 CELL PHONE DISCO 2010**  
INFORMATIONLAB (URSULA LAVRENCIĆ AND AUKE TOUWSLAGER)  
AND ALEŠ VRHOVEC, JANEZ JAZBAR, ROBERT UNETICH

LED lights, glass, aluminum frame

↑ Tito Way between Penn and Liberty Avenues

In 2010, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust commissioned *Cell Phone Disco* for the rear wall of the Benedum Center. Consisting of 2,304 LED lights and 16 antennae mounted onto an aluminum frame, the artwork is a visual manifestation of the electromagnetic waves produced by cell phones. Hundreds of LED lights randomly illuminate to create pulsating, abstract patterns on the reflective surface of the piece when sensors in the antennae detect nearby cell phones that are in use. Make a call or send a text to see how your cell phone alters the work.

Mary Mazziotti's *Memento Mori* billboards flank *Cell Phone Disco* along Tito Way. *Memento Mori* is a Latin expression meaning "remember you will die." The imagery and text in Mazziotti's work reminds the viewer of life's transience, but does so in a playful and witty manner. These billboards are programmed by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust and feature the work of different artists.

Photo © Joey Kennedy





### 13 THIRTEEN GEOMETRIC FIGURES 1984 SOL LEWITT

Slate on marble

↑ Wood Street T Station, mezzanine level

In 1984, renowned American artist Sol Lewitt was commissioned to create *Thirteen Geometric Figures* for the Wood Street T Station. Lewitt's artistic studies in minimal forms and simple line drawings served as the template for this 200-foot-long mural; large, geometric shapes made of slate span the entire length of the monumental piece. The prominent location of the work on the mezzanine wall makes it impossible for viewers to miss; however, the mural's size prevents it from being seen all at once. For Lewitt, a leader in Conceptualism, the idea behind the art was the most important aspect of any work. According to him, "artists are mystics rather than rationalists. They leap to conclusions that logic cannot reach."



## 14 ORNAMENTAL FRAMES 1984 ALBERT PALEY

Steel

↑ Wood Street T Station, platform level

These sculptural frames are part of a tradition of functional objects designed by artists. In Downtown, there are examples of gates, bike racks, and seating made by artists. Paley worked intuitively on the frames without making initial sketches. The sweeping, organic lines of the work integrate into the station's architecture, transforming the frames into a sculptural relief rather than a wall assemblage. In addition to their decorative qualities, the frames function as a platform for advertising cultural events.



## 15 168 LIGHTBULBS 2001 JIM CAMPBELL

LED

↑ Above entry to Wood Street Galleries, Wood Street and Sixth Avenue

Campbell created this work by programming display patterns and images on a timed loop viewed on the grid of LED light bulbs. A man running on a beach, people crossing the street, and Claude Shannon, the father of information technology, take shape in the glow of alternately lit bulbs. *168 Lightbulbs* forces the viewer to stand back, away from the piece, to be able to see the images and to gain perspective on how the individual lights form shapes and figures.







## 16 YESTERDAY'S TOMORROW 2006

BRIAN HOLDERMAN

Mural

↑ Seventh Avenue and Liberty Avenue

Holderman intended to create a scene that focused on how past Pittsburghers may have imagined the city's future and, appropriately, modes of transportation. Located on the exterior wall of the Smithfield-Liberty Garage, Holderman's composition is full of vibrant color, vintage-inspired fonts, futuristic cars, and the skyline of a bustling city. Parked cars fill the foreground, a train cuts through the center of the work, and a blimp floats through the sky. Twisting and turning sidewalks unify imagery in the mural and also pay homage to the original mode of transportation—feet.

## 17 LIBERTY AVENUE MUSICIANS 2003

JAMES SIMON

Cast concrete

↑ 947 Liberty Avenue

Artist James Simon spent fifteen years of his career making violins. Fittingly, one of the fifteen-foot-tall figures, which pay homage to Pittsburgh's musical history, plays that instrument. The three figures were sculpted from clay in Simon's Pittsburgh studio and then cast in concrete before being installed in their courtyard home.

This project is located in the midst of the Penn-Liberty Historic District, which extends from Seventh to Tenth Streets between Penn and Liberty Avenues. The oldest buildings in the district were constructed in a variety of architectural styles, including Italianate, Queen Ann, Richardson Romanesque, and Classical Revival.



## 18 AUGUST WILSON CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE 2009

ALLISON WILLIAMS, PERKINS+WILL, ARCHITECTS

↑ 980 Liberty Avenue

Named for the renowned playwright and Pittsburgh native August Wilson, the center celebrates the history and culture of African Americans through exhibitions and events. The building design draws inspiration from historical East African trading ships. The glass window billowing out toward Tenth Street resembles a sail that caught a gust of wind.



## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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