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## **GARRISON CANAL PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION TURNS GARRISON PLACE INTO AN IMAGINARY FUTURE WORLD**

- ENVIRONMENTAL ARTIST ANDREA POLLI REPURPOSED ELEMENTS OF POPULAR ARTWORK *ENERGY FLOW* FOR THIS NEW COMMISSION
  - PIECE WILL BE FEATURED IN EQT CHILDREN'S THEATER FESTIVAL

**Downtown Pittsburgh, PA** – If you were disappointed to see the beautiful lighted artwork, *Energy Flow* disappear from the Rachel Carson Bridge, you will be happy to learn that lighted elements of the original artwork have been re-used to create a dynamic new piece, *Garrison Canal*. Andrea Polli, who created the original work has created *Garrison Canal* which turns the Garrison Place alleyway into an imaginary underwater future world of big data. Visitors to the Canal 'swim' below a wave of thousands of shimmering lights that transform color and animate in response to real time changes in the local weather conditions from a weather station Downtown.

According to Andrea Polli, “The reception that *Energy Flow* received in Pittsburgh was exceptional and I am so excited to repurpose elements of that piece into something new and beautiful. Also, the local contractors we’ve worked with have been incredible, they have all worked so hard to ensure that every aspect of the piece is stunning.”

The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership commissioned this piece as a wonderful opportunity to reuse elements of work that was much-loved by Pittsburghers and visitors alike. The project is part of a larger initiative to enliven Downtown alleyways with lighting, artwork, and pedestrian enhancements. *Garrison Canal* can be viewed in Garrison Place, between the 900 block of Liberty Avenue and Exchange Way. The piece is visible now and will be a highlight of the EQT Children’s Theater Festival, presented by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust from May 17 – 20. *Garrison Canal* is expected to remain in place until May of 2019.

“*Garrison Canal* continues the effort of many in Downtown to utilize art to encourage exploration of our beautiful built environment” said Jeremy Waldrup, President and CEO of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership. “Enhancing unexpected places through art makes a neighborhood unique, enjoyable and accessible for everyone.”

*Garrison Canal* has been made possible with generous support from: The Herb Burger Memorial Fund of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, Duquesne Light Company, Sargent Electric, EQT Children’s Theater Festival, a project of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, University of New Mexico, Mesa Del Sol Endowment, Richard King Mellon Foundation, The Fine Foundation, Flyspace Productions, Office of Public Art, DQE Communications, Rugby Realty, DraxxHall Management Corporation, and Mike and Tony’s Gyros.

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**About Andrea Polli**

*Andrea Polli is a Professor of Art & Ecology with appointments in the College of Fine Arts and School of Engineering at the University of New Mexico. She holds the Mesa Del Sol Endowed Chair of Digital Media and directs the Social Media Workgroup, a lab at the University's Center for Advanced Research Computing. Polli is an artist working at the intersection of art, science, and technology whose practice includes media installation, public interventions, curating and directing art and community projects, and writing. She has been creating media and technology artworks related to climate change since 1999, when she first began collaborating with atmospheric scientists on sound and data sonification projects. Among other organizations, she has worked with the NASA/Goddard Institute Climate Research Group in New York City, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and AirNow. She holds a doctorate in practice-led research from the University of Plymouth in the UK. Her most recent book is *Far Field: Digital Culture, Climate Change, and the Poles* (Intellect Press).*

**About the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership**

*Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership (PDP) is a dynamic, nonprofit organization comprised of business and community leaders, property owners, civic organizations, foundations and residents who provide energy, vision and advocacy for Downtown Pittsburgh. Working collaboratively with its partners, the PDP strives to create a positive Downtown experience for residents, workers and visitors alike. The PDP's strategic initiatives include clean and safe services, transportation, and economic development and advocacy. For more information, visit [www.DowntownPittsburgh.com](http://www.DowntownPittsburgh.com), or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @DowntownPitt.*

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