



Market Square Public Art

For Immediate Release
April 15, 2019

Contact: Leigh White
Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
(412) 606-9877
lwhite@downtownpittsburgh.com

ALISHA B. WORMSLEY AND RICARDO IAMUURI ROBINSON
BRING STREAMING SPACE TO MARKET SQUARE

INSTALLATION IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH MAY 12

COLLABORATIVE ART PROJECT INCLUDES INTERACTIVE PROGRAMMING THROUGHOUT THE ONE MONTH RUN

Downtown Pittsburgh, PA - The Market Square Public Art program returned this past weekend with *Streaming Space*, by Pittsburgh-based artists Alisha B. Wormsley and Ricardo Iamuuri Robinson. *Streaming Space* transforms Market Square into a space for video, performance, and sound that encourages healing and reflection. The piece is on-site until May 12, 2019. The Market Square Public Art program is presented by the Public Art and Civic Design Division of the City of Pittsburgh, in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership and with technical assistance from the Office of Public Art.

Streaming Space is a 24-foot-tall pyramid with mounted LED screens that display meditative video montages of nature and space and show vintage jazz concerts and films, as well as highlight the work of local futurist artists. An accompanying soundtrack, created by the artists, emits from speakers inside of the pyramid. The concept and design for *Streaming Space* was inspired by Afrofuturism and Black utopian ideals, with emphasis on the work of jazz musicians Ornette Coleman (1930-2015), Alice Coltrane (1937-2007), and Sun Ra (1914-1993). The work and legacies of these artists revolutionized jazz during their respective time periods, and their musical practices extended far beyond the music scene and crossed into spiritual, philosophical, and mythical realms.

“Ricardo and I are really excited to share this new work with Pittsburgh. Our hope is that *Streaming Space* encourages exploration into mindfulness, transcendence, and healing,” said Wormsley.

Streaming Space highlights Wormsley’s approach toward interpreting collective memory and the synchronicity of time periods by recognizing that the past, present, and future occur simultaneously. The sound pieces for *Streaming Space* were produced by Robinson. He investigates the immediate expressions of sound, the traces they leave behind, and the future spaces they have yet to fill. For Robinson, sound allows a listener to travel throughout space and time.

The visual program for *Streaming Space* is a compilation of images and sound pieces that activates memories of humankind's relationship to the planet, settles the chaos of the present, and allows space for healing and care in the future. In addition to Wormsley and Robinson being inspired by Coleman, Coltrane, and Sun Ra, both artists utilize Afrofuturist principles to confront racism, war, and Western power structures. The artists hope that their practices become a hybrid of beliefs, art, and cultures that seek to create spaces for healing, transcendence, and spiritual liberation.

"For the last several years, The Market Square Public Art program has commissioned inspiring work by artists from around the globe," said Jeremy Waldrup, President and CEO of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership. "For the first installation by Pittsburgh-based artists, we could not be more pleased to present *Streaming Space*. Alisha's and Ricardo's work is vital, timely, and provides an important opportunity for reflection."

Programming

Throughout the course of the installation, complementary programming and on-site interpretation for *Streaming Space* will be provided by the Office of Public Art. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, please visit: MarketSquarePublicArt.com.

Saturday, April 20, 2019 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Market Square

See a special performance by Houston-based Lisa E. Harris, a.k.a., Li Harris. Harris is an interdisciplinary artist, performer, and composer. She was classically trained at the Manhattan School of Music in voice and opera. Harris' work focuses on the energetic relationships between body, land, spirit, and place. She uses voice, the Theremin, movement, text, and new media to explore healing in performance.

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Market Square (during the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's Gallery Crawl)

Artist talk and performance by Alisha B. Wormsley and Ricardo Iamuuri Robinson.

Sunday, May 5, 2019 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Market Square

1:00 – 2:00 p.m., Felicia Savage Friedman will lead a yoga and meditation class in Market Square. Participants must bring their own yoga mats.

2:00 – 3:00 p.m., A panel discussion will take place, focusing on how the work of Ornette Coleman, Alice Coltrane, and Sun Ra created spaces, both creative and physical, to encourage healing from the traumatic political landscape in the United States and to imagine Utopian ideals. The panel consists of various artists whose work emulates the goals of

Coleman, Coltrane, and Sun Ra in the present day. Panelists include: Felicia Savage Friedman, Darrell Kinsel, Ingrid LaFleur, Bekezela Mguni, Ricardo Iamuuri Robinson, Alisha B. Wormsley, and Damon Young.

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 | All day | Market Square

Streaming Space will feature videos by 14 Pittsburgh artists, including choreographers, filmmakers, performers, visual, and healing artists. The work will vary from animation to performance and documentary.

####

About Alisha B. Wormsley

Alisha B. Wormsley is an interdisciplinary artist and cultural producer. Her work is about collective memory and the synchronicity of time, specifically through the stories of women of color. Wormsley's work has been honored and supported by a number of awards and grants including: The People are the Light; afronaut(a) film and performance series, Homewood Artist Residency (winner of the Mayor's Award for Public Art); the Children of NAN video art series; and There Are Black People in the Future body of work. These projects and works have been exhibited widely, including at the Andy Warhol Museum, the Octavia Butler conference at Spelman University, Carnegie Museum of Art, Johannesburg, South Africa, HTMLles in Montreal, Project Row House, the Houston Art League, Rush Art Gallery in New York, and the Charles Wright Museum in Detroit. Wormsley is the winner of the 2018 Carol R. Brown Creative Achievement Award for Emerging Artists.

Ricardo Iamuuri Robinson

Ricardo Iamuuri Robinson is a composer, sound recordist, and audiovisual artist. His work explores the ancestry of sound born from object and space. He is founder and owner of SONARCHEOLOGY STUDIOS, a field recording service dedicated to the production of all things related to sound. The work of SONARCHEOLOGY STUDIOS has been featured in live performances and films including Sustainability Pioneers, funded by The Heinz Endowments; and Translations, part of the CSA Series at the New Hazlett Theater. His newest works include THE STEEL-FONICS, a temporary site-based sound installation at Carrie Furnaces, and Mars is Underwater, an audiovisual performance. Mars is Underwater has been performed at the Pittsburgh Gallery Crawl and Afronaut(a) 2.0 at Wagman Observatory. Most recently, he participated in an artist exchange in South Africa that culminated in a show at the Mattress Factory.

About the City of Pittsburgh Public Art and Civic Design Division

This division promotes and ensures quality design of city-owned architecture, infrastructure, and landscape in order to create and enhance place-making by the inclusion of art and arts programming to reflect the city's history, diversity, and culture. The division performs three main functions: staffing of the City's Art Commission; conservation and maintenance of the City's collection of public artwork, monuments, and memorials, and the implementation of new commissions of public art and arts programs and initiatives on City property, citywide. For more information visit: www.pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/public-art/ or contact Yesica Guerra, Public Art and Civic Design Manager.

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, follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/downtownpitt>. And "like" us on Facebook.

About the Office of Public Art

Office of Public Art (OPA) is the leading agent and advocate for public art in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Founded in 2005, OPA is located at the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council and works with communities and artists throughout the region by providing public art education, commissions, project management, artist selection, and artist residencies in the public realm. OPA collaborates with individuals and organizations in both the public and private sector. For more information, visit: publicartpittsburgh.org.