

THE SCOOP

KEEPING YOU ON TOP OF WHAT'S GOING DOWN WITH THE NORTH SHORE CONNECTOR

Local Foundation Aides in Removal and Restoration of Mural



Pittsburgh Recollections

A local foundation has bestowed a generous gift that will help with the preservation of a well-known mural located in Port Authority's Gateway T Station.

The Fine Foundation has pledged \$45,000 toward the removal and restoration of the Romare Bearden "Pittsburgh Recollections" mural that is currently located at the platform level of the Gateway T Station.

Once restored, the mural will be reinstalled in the new Gateway T Station which is scheduled to be open in 2011.

The mural, which stands 13-feet tall and spans 60-feet wide, depicts Pittsburgh's social and cultural history and covers the far platform level wall in the station. It will be removed from its current location as crews close the current Gateway T Station in mid 2009 to make way for a new and improved subway station as part of the North Shore Connector Project.

Pittsburgh Recollections was created using 780 ceramic tiles by Bennington Potters, Inc. of Vermont. Each fired-clay tile was applied with glazes in the colors and patterns of Bearden's design and mounted to the wall surface.

The Romare Bearden mural has called the platform level of the Gateway T Station home since 1984. The mural will be once again on display in the new Gateway T Station when the North Shore Connector opens in 2011.

Mr. Bearden was born in Charlotte, N.C. in 1914. He spent his early years split between New York City and Pittsburgh. He was introduced to and strongly influenced by the musical and cultural innovations of jazz, which would later emerge in his paintings in the form of visual orchestration of the many pieces and styles to which he had been exposed to in his youth.

The original cost of Pittsburgh Recollections was approximately \$90,000 and was part of Port Authority's Public Art Program in its Downtown subway stations undertaken in the early 1980s. The Public Art Program was funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, Benedum Foundation, Federated Investors, Hillman Foundation and the PPG Industry Foundation.

The Fine Foundation is the region's second largest foundation based in Pittsburgh. It issues grants that support the visual arts along with Jewish life and science and medicine with a particular focus on the Pittsburgh metropolitan area.

Approximately \$665,000 is needed to remove and restore the mural. Port Authority also received a \$250,000 grant in from the Heinz Foundation earlier this year toward the mural project.

Local Workforce Is the Backbone of North Shore Connector Project

The transportation and economic development benefits of the North Shore Connector have been widely touted. What many may not know is that the project has created numerous jobs for the local workforce and business opportunities for local companies.

Several local companies are at the core of building the 1.2-mile extension of Port Authority's light rail system, which will create a cohesive central business district that includes Station Square, Downtown Pittsburgh and the booming North Shore.

Along with West Mifflin based Trumbull Corporation and Saxonburg based Brayman Corporation, 35 local companies are contributing their resources to build Port Authority's light rail transit extension to the North Shore.

"Having a local-based workforce providing most of the labor is tremendous for the region," said Brayman Construction Business Development Manager Tom Puzniak said. "It helps the local economy by providing good jobs for a well-qualified workforce."

More than 440 jobs have been created by the North Shore Connector Project. Work performed by local subcontractors includes landscaping (Kim's Nursery, Inc.), guide rail installation (Penn Line Services, Inc.), security (Cauley Detective Agency), and pollution control (Neumeyer Environmental Services); concrete pumping (Howard Concrete Pumping Company, Inc.) and vibration monitoring (Geotechnical Consultants, Inc).

Trumbull, the local company working with California based Obayashi Corporation, is responsible for building the twin 2,200-foot

tunnels that are being mined under the Allegheny River along with the Gateway Station Shell.

Assisting the Trumbull/Obayashi team is Blairsville based A.E. Miller Concrete Products. The company is supplying the pre-cast concrete rings to be used in the North Shore Connector tunnels.

"We're pleased to be a part of this important transportation project," said Mike Buchan A.C. Miller Concrete Products, Inc. Vice-President and General Manager. "Being involved in the North Shore Connector Project benefits our company and our employees, which in turn is great for the local economy."

Brayman is responsible for construction and related work activities of the Allegheny Station's elevated structure which will be located directly adjacent to Heinz Field. The Saxonburg based construction company also completed the installation of nine caissons used for underpinning four support piers of a ramp between the Fort Duquesne Bridge and State Route 65.

Clearly, the participation of local companies in the construction of the North Shore Connector is something that Port Authority, and the region's skilled workforce, can point to with pride.

"We are quite pleased to have so many companies from Southwestern Pennsylvania contributing to this vital transportation project," said Winston Simmonds, Port Authority's Rail Operations/Engineering Officer. "Our ability to utilize local companies clearly demonstrates how valuable and skilled our workforce is here in the region."

North Shore Station Begins to Take Shape

A new state-of-the-art light rail station is beginning to take shape on Pittsburgh's North Shore.

The concrete shell of the North Side Station, located underneath the Sports and Exhibition Authority parking garage on West General Robinson Street, is scheduled to be completed in January 2009.

"Basically, the shell is the box that the finished station will fit into," said Project Manager Jerry Marintel. "Once the shell is constructed, then we begin the process of adding the station finishes." Station finishes include the interior walls and ceiling, lighting, signage, elevators and escalators, station platform and other amenities.

The new T station will serve as a multimodal facility and as a rapid transit connection to numerous North Side and North Shore destinations. Commuters can park their cars in the garage and board a train into Downtown Pittsburgh, Station Square or into the South Hills. And what can be more convenient than riding the T to Carnegie Science Center, PNC Park, Heinz Field, and the many cultural, dining and employment destinations located along the North Shore? The North Shore Station is located in the heart of it all.

"Convenience and location make this station a real asset to North Shore and North Side businesses and residents," said Mr. Marintel.

The joint venture of Obayashi Corporation and Trumbull Corporation of West Mifflin is constructing the station shell and New York based architecture firm Cooper Carry created the station design.

The station's platform is located 40 feet below street level and the approach to the station will feature a galvanized steel and exposed concrete design.

"The station will have a rough-hewn finish as you ride the escalator from the concourse level," said Mr. Marintel. "As you proceed to the platform level, the station transitions to a clean, smooth finish, giving passengers a sense of arrival."

The station will feature a vaulted ceiling and attractive lighting at the platform level, creating a high-tech atmosphere.



Crews work in the area of the North Side Station portal.



| LOCATION | ACTIVITY | START | COMPLETION |
|--|--|---|---|
| Stanwix Street: Is currently open between Fort Duquesne Boulevard and Penn Avenue. Will close again in January. | Construction activities related to building of new Gateway T station. | Work is scheduled to begin in mid-January. | Will reopen to traffic in Fall 2009. |
| Stanwix Street: Closed between Liberty and Penn avenues. | Construction of new Gateway T station. | Work began in August 2008. | Will remain closed until station construction is completed in 2011. |
| Penn Avenue Extension: Overnight lane closures between Stanwix Street and Liberty Avenue Around-the-clock inbound and outbound closure is scheduled to begin in January 2009. | Construction of new Gateway T station. | Long term, round-the-clock closure is scheduled to begin in January 2009. Overnight closures are ongoing. | Will reopen to traffic in late 2009. |
| Liberty Avenue: Intersection with Stanwix Street | Utility work related to construction of new Gateway T station. | Work began in February 2008. | Periodic nighttime restrictions at intersection through January 2009. |
| Reedsdale Street (Eastbound lanes): Between Allegheny Avenue and Tony Dorsett Drive | Utility work related to construction of station structure. Access to parking lots maintained and Reedsdale Street opened to traffic on Game Days | Work began in September 2008. | Long term closure to continue through 2010. |
| Reedsdale Street (Eastbound lanes): Between Sprout Way and Allegheny Avenue | Demolition of Miller Print building. | Work began in October 2008. | Demolition scheduled to be completed by spring 2009. |

To sign up to receive email alerts and information about the North Shore Connector project, contact Dave Whipkey at **412.566.5137** or dwhipkey@portauthority.org.

Construction Information 24/7
Construction Hotline: 412.566.5222 Web site: PortAuthority.org

Caffé Amante Pleases the Palate

For nearly 10 years, Caffé Amante has served up delectable Italian cuisine at reasonable prices.

Located on the second floor of Fifth Avenue Place in Downtown Pittsburgh, Caffé Amante continues to be a destination for those looking for fine Italian dining without putting a serious dent in their wallet.

“Our slogan in Italian is ‘un po di tito,’ which translates into ‘a little bit of everything,’” said restaurant manager Debbie Doucette. “I believe once you see our menu, you will agree wholeheartedly with that.”

Caffé Amante offers a wide variety of fare, giving diners plenty of choices to satisfy every taste.

“What is great about Caffé Amante is that you can enjoy fine Italian dining at a reasonable price,” said Ms. Doucette. “You can have a nice sit-down lunch for between \$10 and \$12.”

For theater goers and holiday shoppers, dinner at Caffé Amante averages around \$35 per person, which includes a beverage, salad and side dish.

“Since we’re located on the edge of the Cultural District, we tend to get a lot of folks that will choose our restaurant for dinner before they go to the show,” said Ms. Doucette. “We also get a lot of businessmen and women that will come here for lunch.”

Caffé Amante is a popular destination for those looking to host holiday parties, as well.

“We have a wonderful private area that is great for parties or gatherings,” said Ms. Doucette. “Keep us in mind when you are planning a special occasion during the holidays or whenever.”

Caffé Amante is open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dinner hours are between 4 and 9 p.m. The restaurant is open for dinner between 4 and 9 p.m. on Saturdays.

For more information, call 412-391-1226.

Project Quick Facts

Project Name: North Shore Connector

Length: 1.2 miles from Downtown to the North Shore

Cost: \$435 million

Location: Downtown Pittsburgh's Central Business District and North Shore

Three New Stations: Allegheny, North Side and Gateway

Completion of Construction: Scheduled for 2011

Current Status: Construction is progressing on schedule

| STATION NAME | LOCATION |
|--------------|--|
| Gateway | Downtown Pittsburgh - Underneath Stanwix Street between Penn and Liberty Avenues |
| North Side | North Shore - Adjacent to General Robinson Street and Tony Dorsett Drive |
| Allegheny | North Shore - Above Allegheny Avenue and Reedsdale Street |

Have Questions, Need Info?

Submit your questions to: The Scoop - Media Relations Department/ Port Authority of Allegheny County/
345 Sixth Avenue/ Pittsburgh, PA 15222 or online at PortAuthority.org.

Whether you're shopping or dining, enjoy these great discounts from some of Pittsburgh's finest businesses and retailers. Clip the coupons below and use them at your favorite stores. Get The Scoop on the North Shore Connector and save some green.

C&C News & Snax

2 PPG Place

Mix & Match Deal
25 cents off any purchase of:

| | | |
|-----------------|------|-----------|
| 1 Candy Bag or | | 1 Tea or |
| 1 Candy Bar or | PLUS | 1 Soda or |
| 1 Large Popcorn | | 1 Water |

Taxes excluded. Limited one purchase per customer.
Valid through 1/15/09. Valid only at indicated locations.
Source: Scoop up the savings

Chocolate & Chances

400 Stanwix Street

Mix & Match Deal
25 cents off any purchase of:

| | | |
|-----------------|------|-----------|
| 1 Candy Bag or | | 1 Tea or |
| 1 Candy Bar or | PLUS | 1 Soda or |
| 1 Large Popcorn | | 1 Water |

Taxes excluded. Limited one purchase per customer.
Valid through 1/15/09. Valid only at indicated locations.
Source: Scoop up the savings



Buy any Toasted Wrap combo meal at regular price get a Toasted Wrap for only .99

Coupon valid at both locations PPG food court and 963 Liberty Avenue.
www.fernandoscafe.com
Source: Scoop Up The Savings



Hair Fashions by Howard

Open for business during street construction

625 Stanwix Street
Pittsburgh, Pa 15222
412.232.0044
412.471.1333

TALL GIRL

Fifth Avenue Place - 1st Level

10% off any regular price purchase at Tall Girl.

Taxes excluded. Limited one purchase per customer.
Valid through 1/15/09. Valid only at indicated location.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings



Fifth Avenue Place - 2nd Level

10% off entire purchase.

Valid through 1/15/09. Valid only at indicated location.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings



Fifth Avenue Place, PPG Place Food Court and 441 Smithfield Street.

10 percent off any food purchase at any Downtown Pittsburgh location

Taxes excluded. Limited one purchase per customer.
Valid through 1/15/09. Valid only at indicated locations.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings



107 Fifth Avenue Place

10 percent off any wrap or panini sandwich, \$1 off any salad.

Taxes excluded. Limited one purchase per customer.
Valid through 1/15/09. Valid only at indicated locations.
Source: Scoop Up The Savings

Participation in Scoop Up The Savings is free to all businesses within the North Shore Connector construction zone. Each participating retailer is encouraged to place an advertisement or offer an incentive such as a percentage off discount, a buy-one-get-one or a free item with purchase. Scoop Up The Savings is sponsored by the Port Authority and Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership. To participate in or ask questions about the program, please call 412.566.5137.

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