



Pittsburgh  
Public Schools



*The Pathway to the Promise.™*  
We are an equal rights and opportunity school district.

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING 341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**For Immediate Release**  
March 4, 2016

Contact: Mercedes J. Howze (412) 529-3800

## **The Friends of Art and Pittsburgh Public Schools Create Amnesty Program to Collect Missing Artwork**

PITTSBURGH, March 4, 2016 – This September, The Friends of Art is preparing to celebrate its century-long commitment to the students and artists of Pittsburgh, with an exhibition of the works donated to the Pittsburgh Public Schools at the Heinz History Center September 2016-June 2017.

But, in order to display the complete collection, in an authentic way, The Friends of Art and Pittsburgh Public Schools must recover close to half of the missing collection. Amnesty is now being offered for the return of any artwork or information related to the missing works of art, which are among the oldest and most historical pieces in the collection.

“Our students and their parents, as well as the Pittsburgh community, will be able to view the 100-year old curated collection in its entirety for the first time ever. We want to provide viewers an experience that captures the artist spirit of Pittsburgh. While the gift of art is hard to measure, I am confident that the collection will be here for the next one hundred years through the amnesty efforts,” Dr. Kimberly Cruz, Arts Education Senior Program Officer.

No questions will be asked, penalties levied, or unwanted publicity circulated related to the return of any artwork, valued at a combined \$1.1 million.

“Friends of Art hope the Amnesty appeal will inspire a search for the lost works of art so that the initial intent (1916) of the Friends of Art may be realized in the recovery of many of the missing art works. It was, and still is, believed that the Friends of Art Collection can be used to advantage in shaping students' academic success and quality of life through critical and analytical thinking, writing, and creative expression. This holds true for the general public, art scholars, teachers, and those who appreciate art and artists,” said Co-Project Managers Adrienne Heinrich and Dr. Patricia A. Sheahan.

Artwork or information leading to the return of artwork should be provided to Alison Oehler at Concept Art Gallery, located at 1031 S. Braddock Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15221. Ms. Oehler may also be reached at (412) 242-9200 or [alison@conceptgallery.com](mailto:alison@conceptgallery.com). A website has been created that shares the missing collection at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/foa-missing-artworks/>. The link to the Flickr site only works on GOOGLE search engines.

###