

The Sprout Fund
presents

AMP

**Plug into a three-month series of local
art, music and performance**

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THE SPROUT FUND AMPLIFIES THE VOICES OF PITTSBURGH'S EMERGING ARTS SCENE

December 17, 2003 (Pittsburgh) – Turning up the volume and raising the profile for Pittsburgh's emerging arts scene, The Sprout Fund, in partnership with Club Café, The Andy Warhol Museum, and the Brew House Association, will showcase nearly 300 musicians and visual and performing artists with AMP—a three-month event series that highlights Pittsburgh's original artistic talent.

AMP will entertain art enthusiasts this winter with local bands performing six days a week at Club Café in January; Pittsburgh visual artists displaying small works in a juried exhibition at The Warhol in February; and, performance artists taking stage at the Brew House each weekend in March.

"AMP promises to melt away the winter blues by catalyzing Pittsburgh's creative community and providing ample opportunities for the people of Pittsburgh to experience some of the city's finest creative voices," says project partner Marco Cardamone, owner of Club Café.

In what is quickly becoming one of Pittsburgh's most celebrated, grass-roots arts movements, the 2004 series will expand to two other art forms, for two more months, and at two additional venues. "Building on the success of last year's *100 Bands | 31 Nights | 1 City* series, The Sprout Fund will offer emerging Pittsburgh musicians, and now the region's most innovative visual and performance artists, the opportunity to create, showcase, and promote their works," says Cathy Lewis, Executive Director of The Sprout Fund. "AMP will introduce new audiences to the many local artists creating a vibrant arts scene in Pittsburgh."

AMP is open to artists residing in the 13-county Pittsburgh/Western Pennsylvania region of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland counties. The line-up of local bands to play in January is complete and The Sprout Fund has released calls for visual and performing artists for February and March. To find out more about AMP, including a schedule of events, the calls for artists, and how to get involved, visit **amp2004.sproutfund.org**.

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AMP @ CLUB CAFÉ

In January, Club Café will host a range of musical acts as eclectic as the Pittsburgh music community from which it's drawn—from political hip hop to amorphous electronica, crash-and-burn indie rockers and sensitive singer-songwriters, modernist reggae to anachronistic bluegrass-jazz.

Club Café's commitment to AMP is to create experiences where "each evening for only \$5 Pittsburgh can be introduced to the incredibly diverse array of music this city has to offer in an intimate atmosphere with pristine sound," says Cardamone.

AMP @ THE WARHOL

In February, The Andy Warhol Museum will exhibit a group show of small works juried by the curatorial staff of the Museum. For the first time, local artists are being invited to submit 12"x12" square pieces which will hang in a 4th floor gallery at the Museum on the North Shore. Submissions for AMP @ The Warhol will be accepted at The Warhol on January 31 and February 1 from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

In addition to the opportunity for local visual artist to have their work on display at the world-renown Museum, AMP will create opportunities for the artists to connect to Pittsburgh patrons. Thomas Sokolowski, Director for The Andy Warhol Museum, says, "Local artists need to be fed by local collectors. I hope that this exhibition will 'kick-ass' with collectors by offering them a wide array of small-sized works by regional artists."

To connect Pittsburgh to a broader community of emerging artists, AMP @ The Warhol will also feature the internationally-recognized Flat Files by the Pierogi 2000 Gallery in Brooklyn, New York. The Flat Files are wide, shallow stacks of drawers housing more than 3,000 works by over 700 under-recognized and young, emerging artists from around the world. "The Flat Files will bring an international array of other artists to the table. It will be a banquet of art here on Sandusky Street," says Sokolowski.

AMP @ THE BREW HOUSE

In March, the Brew House I.A.C. Garage will feature performances by individuals, independent artistic teams, and small companies working across disciplines to creatively develop new work. AMP @ The Brew House will allow new audiences to explore the diversity of performance art being created in Pittsburgh.

"The industrial quality of our performance space allows for both conventional staged performances as well as things you might not expect to see in a 'theatre-setting' like trapeze artistry and performative sculpture," said George Davis, chair of the Brew House Performance Committee.

"The Brew House is excited to see the response to the Call for Performing Artists," says Davis. "We hope artists will be willing to take risks and consider edgier projects that may still be development." Applications for AMP @ The Brew House are due by 5:00pm on January 16, 2004. Proposals can be submitted online, dropped off, or via mail or fax to The Sprout Fund offices at 4920 Penn Avenue in Garfield.

ABOUT SPROUT

The Sprout Fund, a nonprofit community organization, seeds change, empowers young people to emerge as leaders, and contributes to a vibrant and diverse quality of life. Sprout sees AMP as one of the pieces that will help to make Pittsburgh a city that is thriving, progressive, and culturally diverse—one of the long understood ingredients of a community that is attractive to young people.

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This winter: Get involved. Get stimulated. Get inspired. GET AMPED!