



ALLEGHENY DWELLINGS CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

OUR CHOICE, OUR FUTURE

an early
action project

Fineview Overlook

APRIL 5, 2023

Presented To
PUBLIC ART & CIVIC
DESIGN COMMISSION

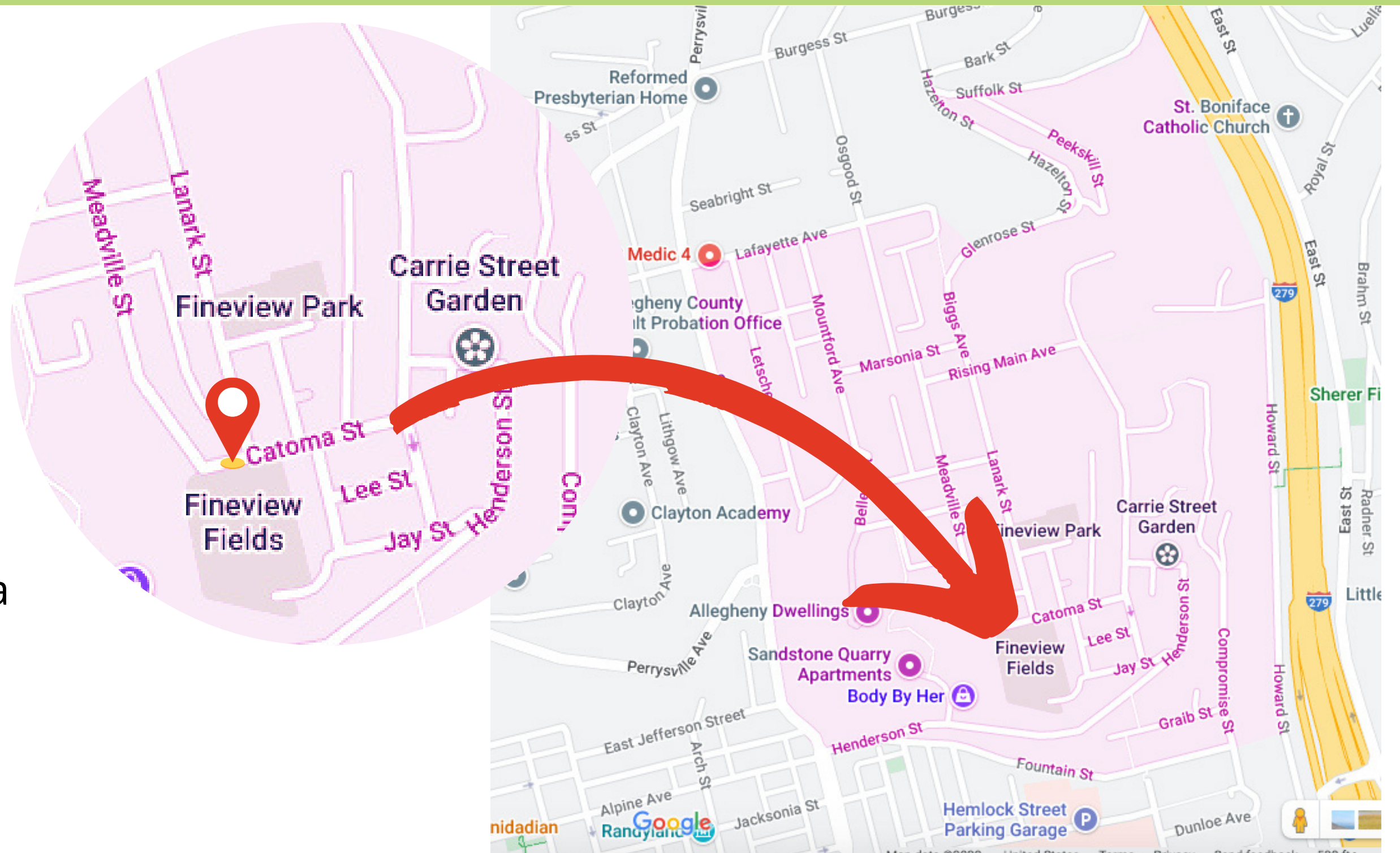
Presented By
FINEVIEW CITIZENS COUNCIL

alleghenydwellingschoice.org



Location - Fineview

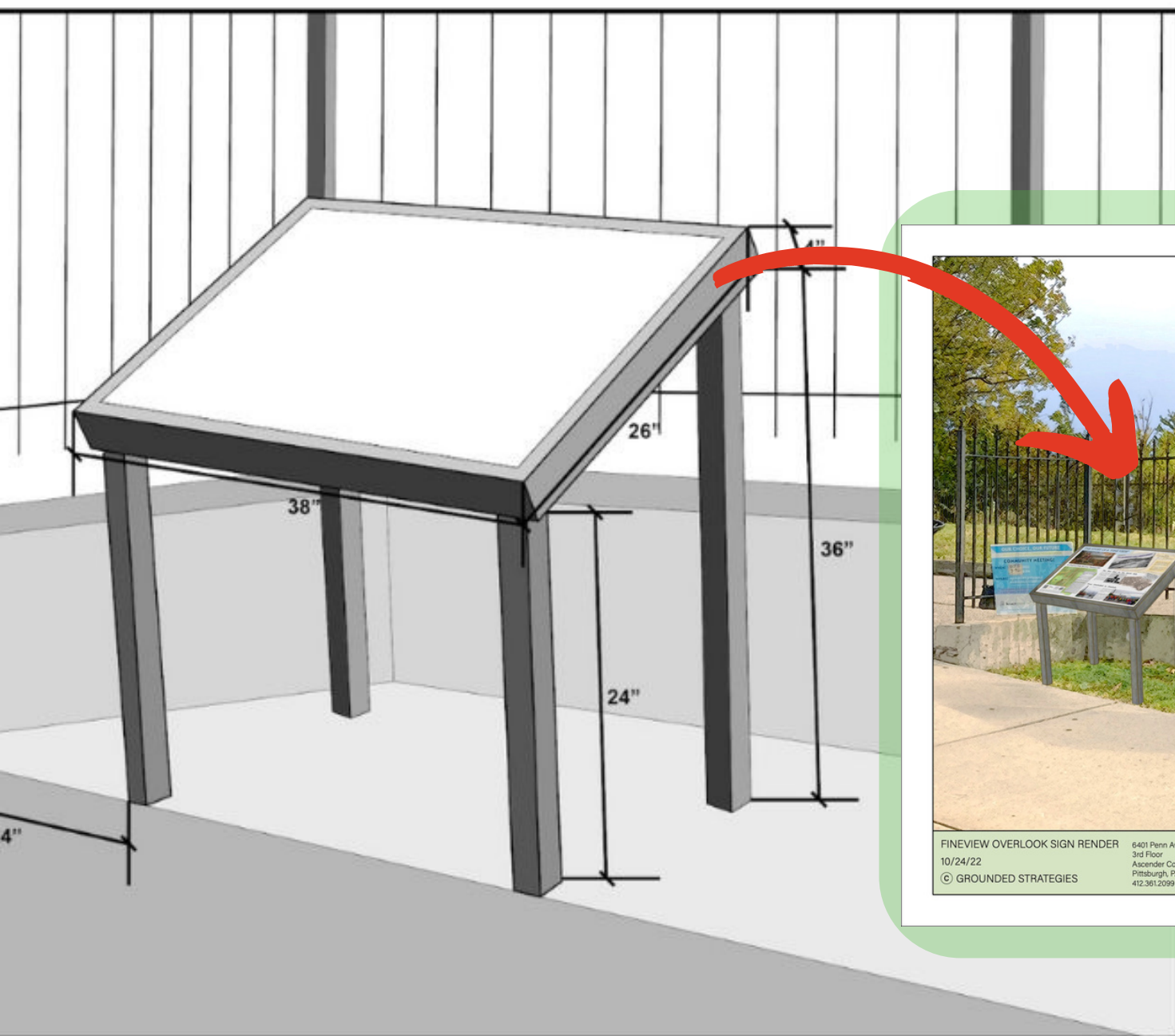
- Fineview Citizens Council is a Registered Community Organization (RCO) of the City of Pittsburgh
- The Fineview Citizens Council volunteer board advocated for the City to designate a parklet here.
- The Fineview Overlook is a treasure to our neighbors who meet and convene here regularly



Proposed Materials

Placement

grounded strategies provided a rendering to show possible design and best placement for the new sign.



Materials

- coated metal to be determined

Sign Printing

Requested quotes and consultation from:

- Printscaapes
- Fred's Signs

Fabrication

To be determined

Installation

Inquiry into the Department of Public Works

Maintenance

Inquiry into the Department of Public Works

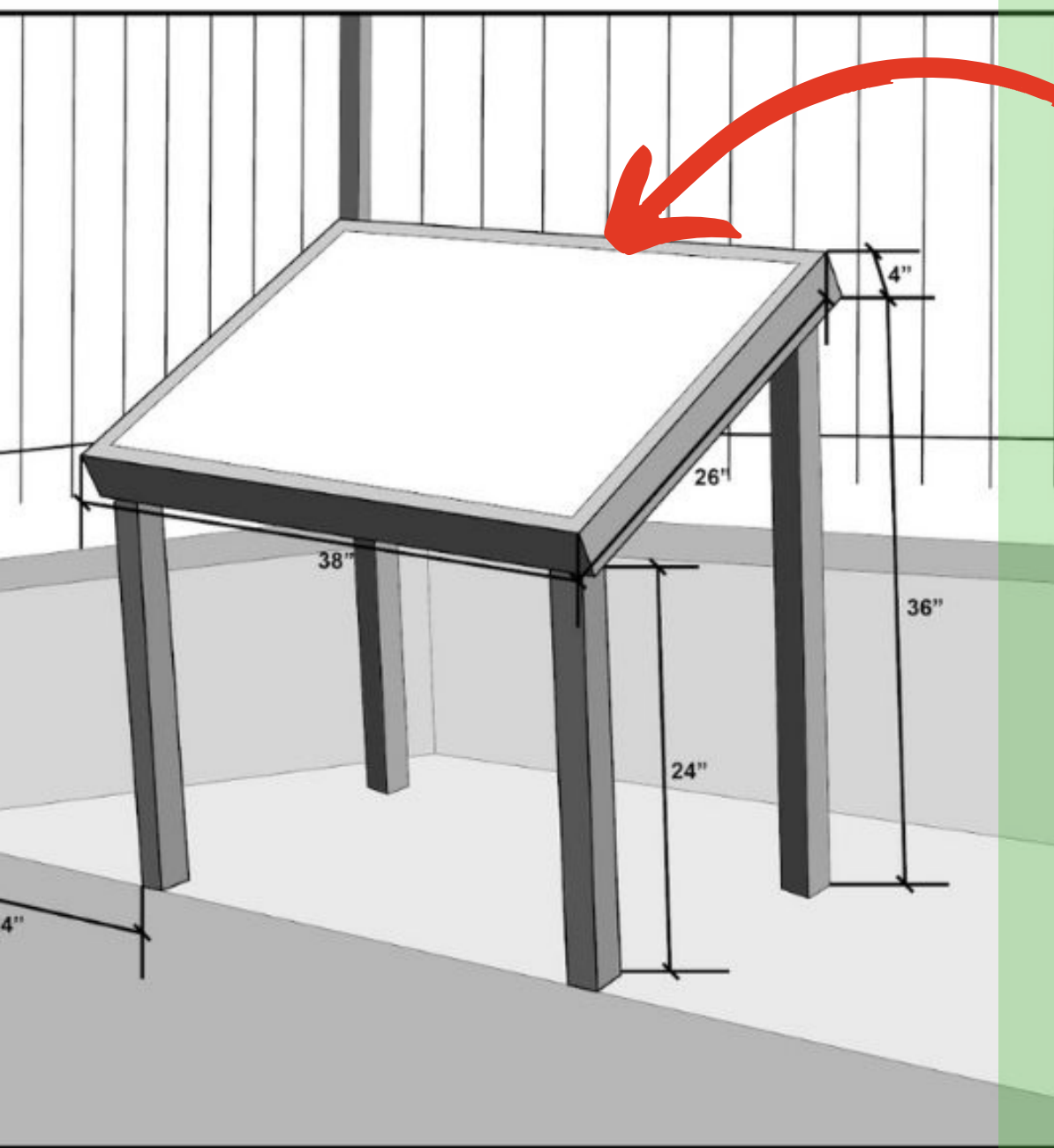
Proposed Materials

Sign Dimensions

38 x 26 x 40 inches

Artwork Dimensions

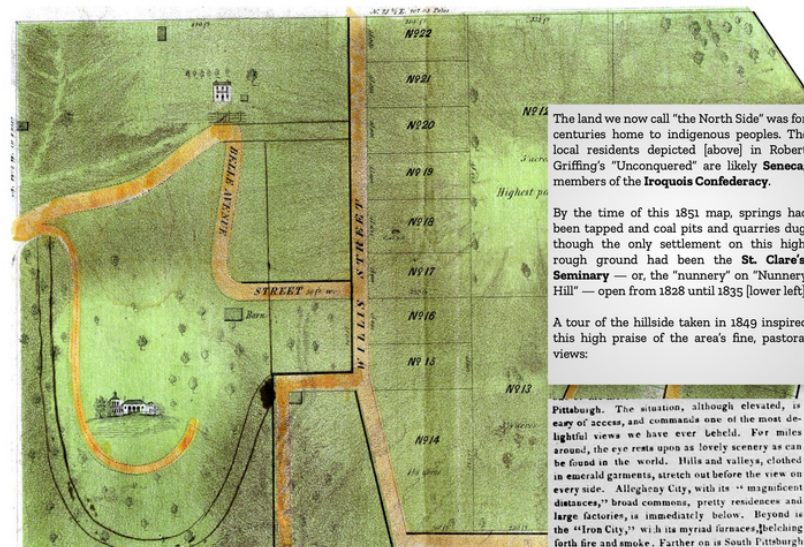
36 x 24 inches



THE STORY OF A "FINE VIEW"



An Allegheny Ridge Becomes "Nunnery Hill"



The land we now call "the North Side" was for centuries home to indigenous peoples. The local residents depicted [above] in Robert Griffing's "Unconquered" are likely Seneca, members of the Iroquois Confederacy.

By the time of this 1851 map, springs had been tapped and coal pits and quarries dug, though the only settlement on this high, rough ground had been the St. Clare's Seminary — or, the "nunnery" on "Nunnery Hill" — open from 1828 until 1835 [lower left].

A tour of the hillside taken in 1849 inspired this high praise of the area's fine, pastoral views:

Pittsburgh. The situation, although elevated, is easy of access, and commands one of the most delightful views we have ever beheld. For miles around, the eye rests upon as lovely scenery as can be found in the world. Hills and valleys, clothed in emerald garments, stretch out before the view on every side. Allegheny City, with its "majestic distances," broad commons, pretty residences and large factories, is immediately below. Beyond is the "Iron City," with its myriad furnaces, belching forth fire and smoke. Farther on is South Pittsburgh and Birmingham, sending up endless clouds of smoke. Manchester, Lawrenceville, New Troy, &c. show themselves on either side in the distance. The Allegheny river—the pellucid, sparkling, delightful Allegheny, flows by joyfully, dancing in the sunbeams. Beyond is the turbid Monongahela, stealing slowly through valleys as rich as the Nile. Three or two streams soon mingle into the Ohio—a noble river—one of the finest streams in the New World.

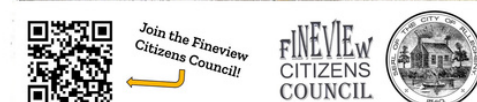


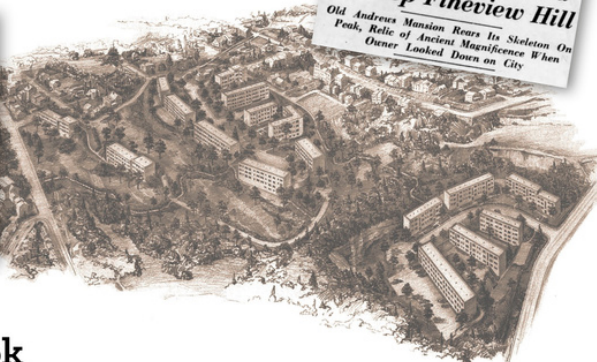
Image sources, counter-clockwise from top-left: Robert Griffing, "Unconquered"; Schullman & Howland (1851), "Plan of Lots in Benwell"; Thompson Hill Region, Deere Library and Archives; "Nunnery Hill" (1849), The Daily Morning Post, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Frank P. Fisher, Jr. (1966), "Pittsburgh Railways Map 2"; Frank B. Fisher, Jr. (1966), "Pittsburgh Railways Map 2"; Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation; Unknown (1949), "Fineview Step Challenge"; Fineview Citizens Council; Marka Fisher, (1949), "Allegheny Challenge"; Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh Research, University of Pittsburgh Library System; John R. Hays, Jr. (1948), "Pittsburgh Housing Project Schedules 1949"; Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, www.post-gazette.com; Samuel Dunbar (1849), "America's Hidden Fine Balance"; Cassin's Magazine, Internet Archive; G.M. Hopkins & Co. (1896), "Real estate guide book of the city of Allegheny, Volume 2, Plate 4"; University of Pittsburgh Library System.



The New Deal on the North Side

In 1940, the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh bought the vacant estate of the late James Andrews for its fifth New Deal-funded low-income housing project: **Allegheny Dwellings**.

The Second World War intervened before construction on the project was complete, so defense workers and their families were prioritized over low-income families during the initial application process. Residents began moving in on December 15, 1942.



From Overlooked to Overlook



For most, if not all of the 20th century, the location of this overlook was little more than a fenced-in patch of hillside brush, as photographed [left] on April 30, 1966, the iconic 21-Fineview trolley's last day of service. It took years of tireless advocacy from the volunteer members of the **Fineview Citizens Council**, under the leadership of Bruce West, to push the city to build this parklet. Founded in 1979 to counteract disinvestment and abandonment, the FCC has developed new housing, organized the annual Fineview Step Challenge [right], and fought for the neighborhood's needs amid so many changes on the North Side.



Significance

The Fineview Overlook is a place for people. Visitors and residents convene here each day.

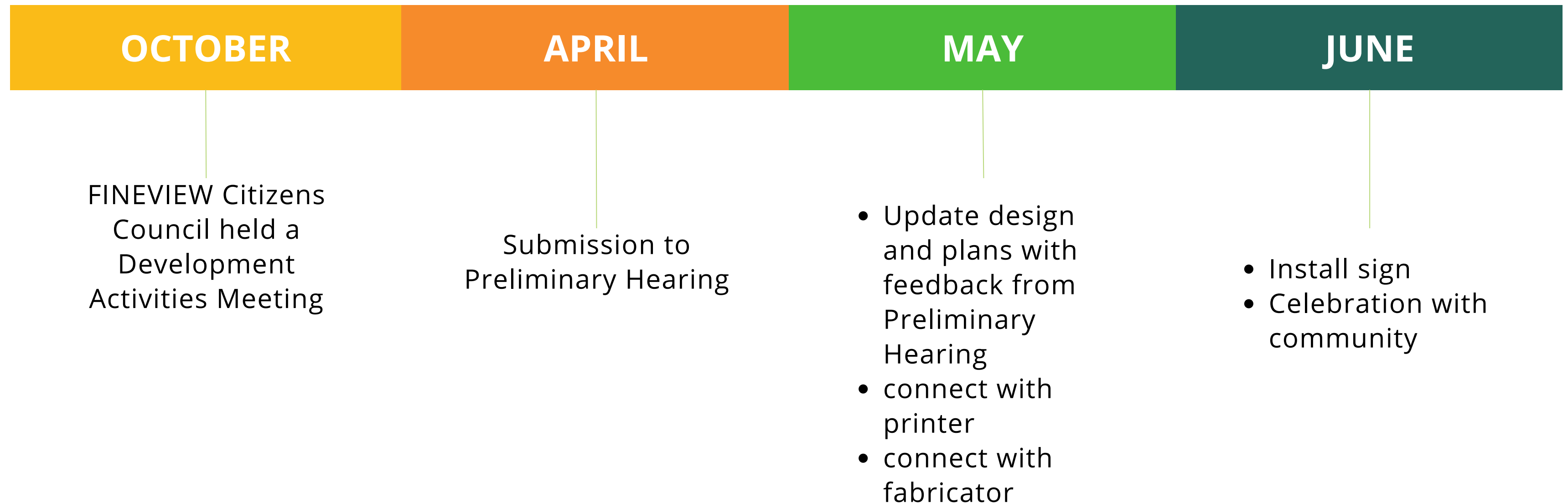


The overlook is used for many occasions throughout the year. Here are a few things that happen regularly - volunteers meet up, the winter solstice spiral and caroling lantern walk, halloween, ribbon cutting celebration, fireworks, and the annual Fineview Step Challenge.



Proposed Timeline

This is a proposed timeline and is flexible as necessary for the project's success





ALLEGHENY
DWELLINGS
CHOICE
NEIGHBORHOOD

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Resource Page

1 Research by Jon Hanrahan, VP of Fineview Citizens Council & Board Member of Allegheny City Societ

2 Heinz History Center

3 "Resurrecting Allegheny City: The Land Structures & People of Pittsburgh's North Side", Lisa Miles

4 Full Research File: Link to research : <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qRmB7SCco0YT6EorqiFp1r8XXCXji1aDRhliWnJqX8Q/edit?usp=sharing>

5 Renderings and Site drawig: Grounded Strategies

Resource Page continued

6

Application guidelines

https://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/redtail/images/20380_PACD_Commission_Application_Guidelines_2023.pdf

7

Application link

<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/pacd-commission-application>

8

Link to City Sign Standards

https://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/redtail/images/7122_Open_Space_Signage_Plan.pdf

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