

*WindNest* is a submission from the 2010 free and international open call Land Art Generator Initiative (LAGI) design competition. LAGI is a project of Society for Cultural Exchange, an artist-run Pittsburgh based non-profit organization. LAGI has brought together thousands of creative minds around the world to work towards increasing public awareness of and support for the proliferation of renewable energy generation infrastructure that is integrated within urban and suburban environments.

*WindNest* is a unique renewable energy installation that is designed as a safe and educational public amenity for visitors. The installation will demonstrate the potential for our sustainable infrastructures to be joyful contributions to creative placemaking. Walking through *WindNest*, visitors will experience a set of moving cloud formations overhead. As they linger on their way through this beautiful place, they will discover that the pods above them are at that very moment generating clean electricity with a mix of wind and solar technologies. The electricity is generated to offset the electricity demand of the PNC Carousel in Schenley Plaza—further adding to the playfulness of the concept behind the piece. Sightlines between Forbes Avenue and the Mary E. Schenley Memorial have been carefully considered in the massing of the installation.

Lighting design is integrated into the conceptualization of the project and will provide sufficient illumination for the safety of visitors to the installation at night. Sound generated by the wind turbines and other on-site equipment shall not exceed 50dB when measured at 5 feet above ground level within a 10 foot perimeter of the project site. Moving parts of the installation will be designed to mitigate against potential flicker effects that are sometimes associated with wind turbines. Provisions will be made for the protection of birds or other animals, with integrated netting keeping them from coming into contact with wind turbines, and disabling potential nesting within the installation.

Out of hundreds of entries within the LAGI portfolio of submissions, *WindNest* was chosen by the project partners as the most suitable for adaptation to the Pittsburgh context and the specific site. The design team, Suprafutures, is led by landscape architect and artist, Trevor Lee, who is based in Philadelphia.

LAGI has successfully held three international open call competitions in 2010, 2012, and 2014 for the United Arab Emirates, New York City, and Copenhagen respectively. The core design brief challenges artists, architects, scientists, landscape architects, and engineers to come up with proposals to address 21st century energy challenges that are aesthetic and pragmatic, by incorporating renewable energy technologies as media for public artwork. *WindNest* will be the first constructed outcome of the LAGI project.

*WindNest* is supported locally by the Heinz Endowments and the Henry Hillman Foundation with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Horne Family Foundation. Project partners so far include: the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Homewood Renaissance Association, Conservation Consultants Inc., University of Pittsburgh (Swanson School of Electrical Engineering). The project has the support of Mayor Peduto, Carnegie Library, the University of Pittsburgh, Councilman Dan Gilman's office, Citiparks, DPW, Oakland Business Improvement District, Oakland Planning and Development Corporation, and the Parks Conservancy.

*WindNest* will present a model for what renewable energy generation can aspire to be within urban landscapes and will be a symbol of Pittsburgh's commitment to a green economy. During its two-year temporary installation period at Schenley Plaza, LAGI will record data from the electricity generation and responses from the community about the artwork in order to better understand the potential for the creative integration of renewable energy infrastructures into important civic spaces.

More about LAGI is at [www.landartgenerator.org](http://www.landartgenerator.org).



land art generator initiative  
renewable energy can be beautiful