



WELCOME TO

# THE GARFIELD PGH

FOR BLACK ARTISTS



## A NOTE *from Your Host*

***The Garfield PGH is not just a short-term rental — it is a sacred and historic home.***

“Welcome to The Garfield PGH. We’re honored to host you.

This house was built in 1912 and has been in my family for three generations. It was my paternal grandparent’s – Joseph Garfield Moss Sr. and Rebecca Range Moss – home, studio, hair salon, office, repair shop, place of business, whatever the community needed it to be at the time. They raised my father here, and he went on to help shape the legacy of this neighborhood that still continues today. The maternal side of my family, The Boyds, lived 1 block away. My older sister Michele lived in this house while attending Carlow University. My cousin Janai lived here as a working professional. I myself lived here during undergrad at Carnegie Mellon and again during law school at the University of Pittsburgh. I met my child’s father, David, in this home. Here we have hosted family, friends and those in need. Many have come to rest within these walls.

This space has held us, supported us and grounded our stories. Your stay here continues this legacy of care and hospitality. This packet contains all the essential information to help you settle in comfortably.

By choosing to stay here, you are stepping into a space that is sacred and generational. Please treat our home with care, intention and deep respect – just as you would your own ancestral home. That includes not wearing shoes inside the unit, being gentle with the furniture, always locking the doors, keeping things clean and being mindful of your presence in the neighborhood. Try and be a good neighbor.

This is not just lodging – this is legacy.

Thank you for being part of it.”

- **Founding Director of The Garfield PGH,**  
*Jessica Gaynelle Moss*



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# About THE LOCATION

*The Garfield PGH is a home and creative space originally built in 1912 – it is imperfect and old and has a lot of character. There are some drafty nooks, some creaks in the floor, some not so level landings. It was my grandparent's home where generations of my family have lived and grown. Staying here means loving the space and honoring that history with respect and care.*

*Please read and acknowledge the following:*



- The Garfield PGH is a space made **by Black artists, for Black artists**. Guests must identify as Black, African American, Indigenous, Afro-Latinx, Caribbean, African or part of the African Diaspora.
- Treat the home with care – please no shoes inside – everything was carefully selected and designed with intention.
- There is no wifi, no tv, no dishwasher and no washer/dryer on-site. This home was designed as a space for rest and reflection.
- Your stay requires respectful behavior and mindfulness of this community's history. Familiarize yourself with the rich and vibrant history of The Hill District.



# Join us at **THE GARFIELD**

## Check-In / Check-Out

**Location:** 824 Adelaide St.  
Unit 1, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**Check-In:** 12:00 PM (noon)

**Check-Out:** 12:00 PM (noon)

*Early check-in or late check-out  
must be approved in advance.*

## Security Hold Reminder

Your booking includes a \$100 refundable incidental hold. This covers potential damages, lost keys, extra cleaning, or undisclosed guests. The hold is fully refundable upon checkout if no issues are found. Payment must be submitted within 48 hours of receiving your invoice to confirm your reservation.

## Accessibility Notes for the Space



The Garfield PGH is a historic home built in 1912, and while it has been thoughtfully renovated, there are some limitations to its accessibility due to the age and structure of the building.

The primary guest unit is accessible **only via an exterior and interior staircase**. There is no elevator or ramp access which may pose challenges for guests with limited mobility or those who use wheelchairs.

Inside the unit, doorways are of standard width, however the floors aren't quite level throughout. The bathroom includes a shower only and does **not** have grab bars or roll-in features.

Lighting is abundant during the day, and the space includes well-marked switches and motion lights for key areas. Rugs and furniture have been arranged to allow for easy navigation, though some tighter areas (such as hallways or corners) may be less maneuverable for mobility devices.

If you have specific accessibility needs, we encourage you to reach out before booking. We are happy to provide additional details and work with guests to ensure a comfortable stay whenever possible.

*To honor the legacy of this home and keep the space well cared for, please observe the following:*

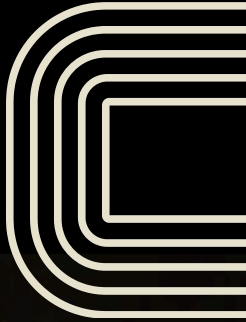
## House Rules & Expectations

- No shoes inside the unit please
- No smoking tobacco inside (porch smoking only)
- No pets allowed, No exceptions
- Do not flush anything other than toilet paper
- Notify the host immediately of any damages or issues
- No unauthorized or undisclosed guests (additional guests incur extra fees)
- Trash pickup is Wednesdays – please put bins out and bring them back in
- Never use the back door; always lock all doors
- Please clean your dishes before departure and place them in the drying rack
- All bookings must be paid in full prior to arrival

## Key Contacts

*For your convenience, here are the support contacts you may need during your stay:*

- **On-Site Support: Onika – (724) 683-2750**
- **Cleaning Services: Jackie – (412) 901-3339**
- **Repairs / Maintenance: Travis – (412) 636-1443**
- **Natural Medicine: Janae – (412) 584-0131**



# About THE GARFIELD

## *Mission*

The Garfield PGH is a space created by Black artists, for Black artists. It was established in response to the lack of safe and welcoming housing options available to Black artists visiting Pittsburgh. In alignment with its founding mission and commitment to cultural preservation, overnight residency at The Garfield PGH is reserved for individuals who identify as Black, African American, Indigenous, Afro-Latinx, Caribbean, African or as part of the African Diaspora.



The decision to paint the exterior of The Garfield PGH entirely black was informed, in part, by the work of Kerry James Marshall. Marshall's practice has long challenged the absence of Black figures in the Western art canon by employing black pigment as both material and concept.

Painting the house entirely black applies this visual strategy to the built environment. It marks the structure as a site of Black cultural authorship and artistic intention. In the context of a historically Black neighborhood, the black façade functions as a form of landmarking: "the black house for Black artists." This action positions the house as a cultural site, signaling that the space is ours: made by us and specifically for us.

# Historic OVERVIEW

“Located in Pittsburgh’s Upper Hill District, 824 Adelaide Street is a brick residential property constructed between 1912-15, according to public real estate records. The Hill District, an elevated plateau above downtown Pittsburgh, developed as one of the city’s earliest residential expansions outside the central core. Originally known as Arthursville, the neighborhood was subdivided in the early 19th century, with many streets laid out by the mid-1800s.”



“The architectural style of 824 Adelaide aligns with typical early-20th-century urban housing in the Hill District—compact, multi-story brick structures built on small lots. The neighborhood itself emerged as a vital center of African-American culture throughout the 20th century, home to vibrant jazz venues, Black-owned businesses and a thriving community.”

“The exact original owner of 824 Adelaide remains unconfirmed in online public records.”

*Feel compelled to build on the research? Let us know what you learn!*  
Its parcel number (0026P00182000000) is documented.





# *Family History at* **824 ADELAIDE STREET**



The house at 824 Adelaide Street holds deep significance for the Moss family, spanning multiple generations. Joseph Garfield Moss, Sr., purchased the home when his son, Joseph Jr., was about four years old, making it the family's central hub for decades. In the mid-20th century, the house was more than a residence, it was a vibrant gathering place within Pittsburgh's Hill District.

Rebecca Moss, Joseph Sr.'s wife, was known for her yeast rolls and ran a basement hair salon, welcoming neighbors and friends alike. Joseph Sr., a pioneering Black motorcycle officer with the local police, often hosted ham radio enthusiasts on the porch. Their son Joseph Jr. fondly recalls the entrepreneurial spirit of the house and remembers it as a magnet for creativity and exchange.



Today, under the stewardship of Joseph Jr.'s daughter, Jessica Gaynelle Moss, the home continues its legacy as a sanctuary for Black artists, linking past and present through service, culture and community.



# Neighborhood OVERVIEW

*824 Adelaide Street is situated in Pittsburgh's Hill District, a historic and residential neighborhood with direct access to downtown and nearby cultural hubs. Guests of The Garfield PGH will find a mix of longstanding community landmarks and newer, locally owned spots – all within easy reach by foot, car, lyft or public transit.*

## Parking & Transportation

Street parking is available for guests. Please do not block Mr. Carter's handicap parking space next to The Garfield PGH. A bus stop is located at the corner of Adelaide and Camp.

## Public Transit & Access

The house is well-connected by Port Authority bus lines, including the 81 Oak Hill and 83 Bedford Hill, with stops just a 5-minute walk away. These routes offer direct access to Downtown, Oakland (home to Pitt and CMU), the Strip District, and East Liberty. Uber and Lyft are widely available and typically arrive within 5–10 minutes.

## Groceries & Essentials

**For everyday needs, a Family Dollar is just blocks away. For full-service grocery shopping:**

- Shop 'n Save (Hill District) is under 10 minutes by car.
- Whole Foods Market (East Liberty) is about 12 minutes away on Penn Avenue.
- Trader Joe's (Bakery Square) and Aldi (Baum Boulevard) are also accessible within a 10–15 minute drive.



## Food, Coffee & Culture

- Grandma B's Restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and soul food classics. This place has deep roots in the neighborhood.
- Kaiber Coffee is a nearby coffee shop known for its community vibes. Looking for wifi, go here! Closes at 3pm on most days.
- Pleasant Dreams Records offers a curated selection of vinyl, with a strong focus on punk, hardcore, soul, r&b and local musicians. Go crate-digging here!



## Other Amenities

- The Robert E. Williams playground and park are directly across the street and up the hill, offering green space and the best views.
- The Carnegie Library (Hill District Branch) is within walking distance.
- The nearby Thelma Lovette YMCA offers fitness and lots of free community programs.
- Also check out: Downtown, the Strip District, Troy Hill and Oakland each less than 10 minutes away.





# *Inside* **THE GARFIELD**

## *About the Interior Design*



For this project, I leaned into my passion for thrifting, estate sales and vintage sourcing to preserve the home's original charm while introducing a fresh contemporary edge.

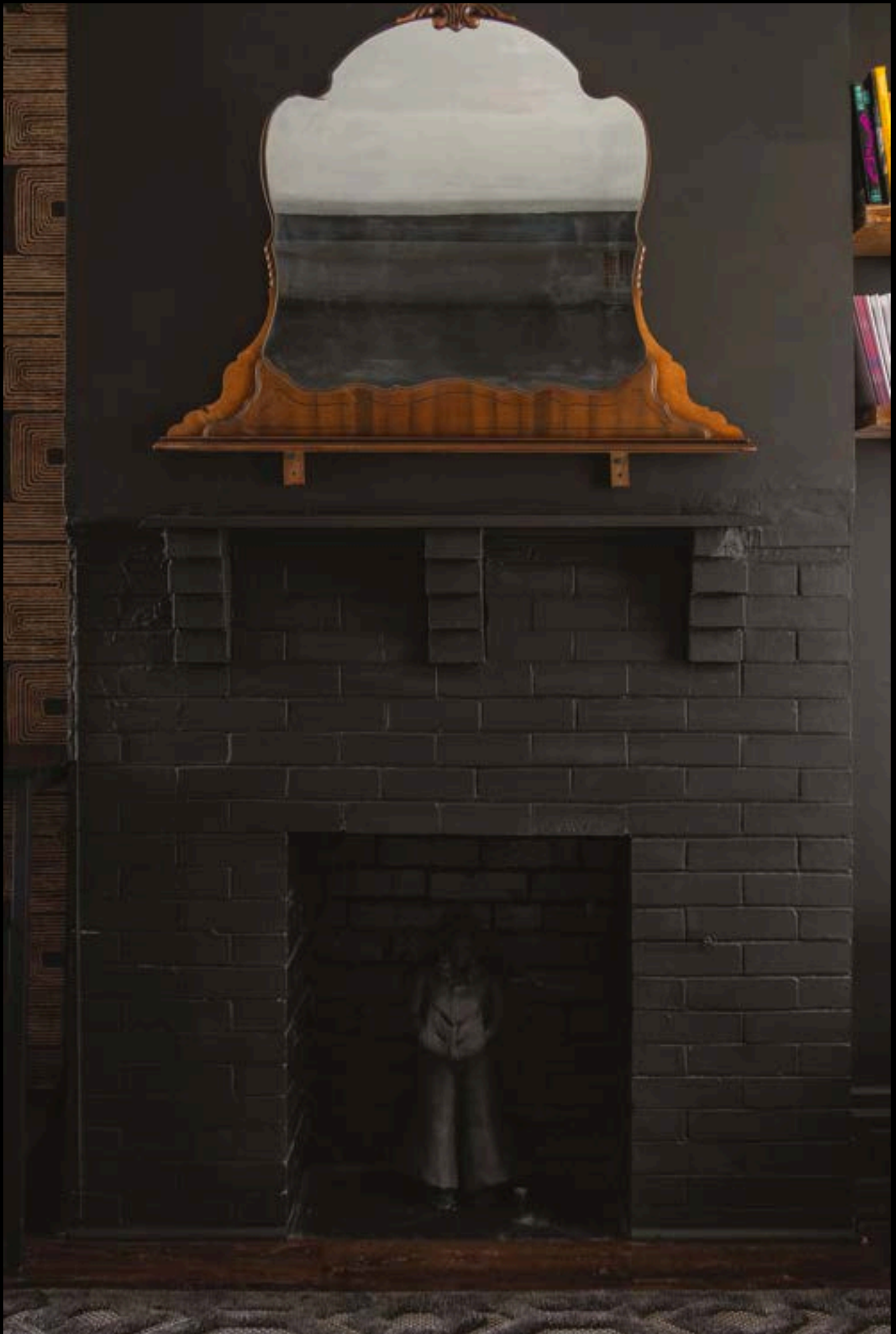
My favorite corner of the house is the bathroom—a space designed to feel like a celebration. I was inspired by the joy and community of Juneteenth cookouts, the room features vertical striped walls and vibrant wallpaper from Otto Studio that captures that specific energy. It's a nod to culture and the beauty of Black gathering spaces. It was a pleasure being a part of such a historical project and having the opportunity to let my gifts shine in a space that truly matters."

**- Interior Designer of The Garfield PGH,**  
*Nadia Phillips*





Jessica Gaynelle Moss  
Double Consciousness, 2023  
oil on linen  
30 x 40 in



# *Inside* **THE GARFIELD**

## *Exhibition Program Overview*

*The Exhibition Program at The Garfield PGH is a hybrid exhibition space that combines a growing permanent collection with rotating, artist-led exhibitions. Both emerging and established artists are selected for the quality of their work and its relevance to the exhibition space.*



## *Permanent Collection*

*The Garfield PGH features a permanent collection of artworks that are owned by the program and remain on long-term view. These works establish the visual and conceptual foundation of The Garfield PGH and reflect its ongoing commitment to contemporary practices across disciplines.*



**The permanent collection includes works by:**

## ✦ *Larry W. Cook*

Larry W. Cook is an interdisciplinary artist and archivist working across photography, video, and mixed media. He received his MFA from George Washington University and has exhibited nationally and internationally at institutions including MoMA PS1, the Brooklyn Museum, the Baltimore Museum of Art, the National Portrait Gallery, and Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt. His work is held in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, Harvard Art Museums, and others. A recipient of the 2024 Gordon Parks Fellowship, Cook is an Associate Professor at Howard University.



**High Rollers #11, 2019**  
**Digital Collage**  
**10h x 8w in**

## ✦ *Murjoni Merriweather*

Murjoni Merriweather is a Maryland-based sculptor whose clay figures are rooted in real people and lived experiences. A graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), her work challenges Eurocentric beauty standards and confronts stereotypes placed on Black bodies. Through sculptural portraiture and video, Murjoni centers self-acceptance, reflection, and community healing while uplifting Black culture and identity.



**BRAIDED 3.1, 2025**  
**Ceramic, Hand Braided**  
**Synthetic Hair**  
**On a wooden stand**  
**14 x 6 x 6 in**

## ✦ **Marcè (Mar-say) Nixon-Washington**

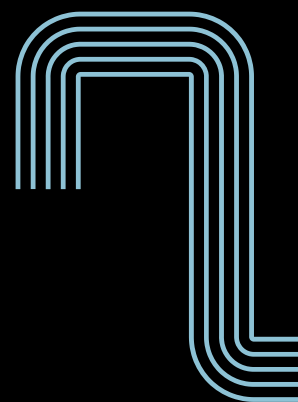
Marcè Nixon-Washington is a multidisciplinary artist based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She received her BFA from West Virginia University with a focus in Africana Studies and is currently completing her MFA at Tyler School of Art and Architecture (anticipated May 2026). Marcè studied ceramics in Jingdezhen, China. Her practice investigates ceramics as an archival material, using clay to record personal and cultural histories. Her work has been exhibited at Companion Gallery, Concept Art Gallery, Eutectic, The Carnegie Museum of Art, and The Mufei Gallery in Jingdezhen, China. She has participated in residencies at The Archie Bray Foundation, Manchester Craftsman Guild, Haystack Mountain School of Craft, 1Hood, and the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts and Media. Her work has been published in TABLE Magazine and Ceramics Monthly.



**Alright, 2024**  
**Ceramic**  
**14 x 6 x 6 in**

## ✧ *Wavy Wednesday*

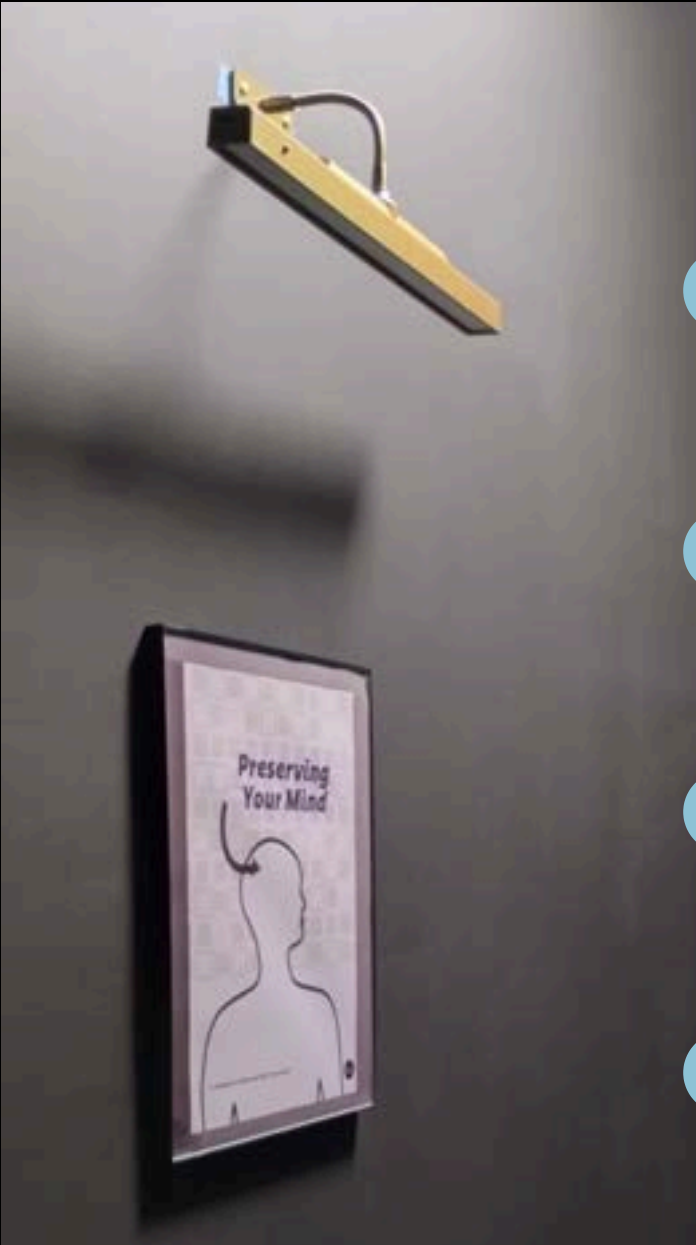
Kamara T., known professionally as Wavy Wednesday, is a Pittsburgh-based studio artist, muralist, and activist. Her work blends pop art aesthetics with social commentary, addressing racial, gender, and cultural justice through bold color and recognizable symbols. A graduate of California University of Pennsylvania, Wavy is currently pursuing a master's degree in painting at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Her work has been featured in public art projects throughout Pittsburgh and highlighted by platforms including Afropunk and Supermarket Magazine.



**Cranes in the Sky, 2025**  
site-specific mural painting  
3ft x 6 ft

## *Rotating Exhibitions*

*In addition to the permanent collection, The Garfield PGH hosts rotating exhibitions by invited artists. The program is committed to supporting contemporary artists by providing opportunities for direct sales, visibility and a professional presentation. These works are not owned by the program and are presented for a defined term. Participating artists retain full ownership of their work and manage sales directly, with the flexibility to replace sold pieces during the exhibition period.*





# THE GARFIELD *Garden*

## About the Garden



“Thank you so much for the opportunity to support the Garfield through my landcare practice. It has been an honor to collaborate with the land in this way. This project was designed with ecological health, long-term resilience and beauty in mind.

As a Sustainable Landcare Accredited Professional, I use practices that go beyond conventional landscaping. My goal is always to prioritize soil health, biodiversity, and low-maintenance care that supports the local ecosystem.

“While installing the garden I met several lifelong residents of Sugar Top who offered daily encouragement on their power walks and thanked me for working so hard to make the neighborhood more beautiful.”

- Landcare for The Garfield PGH,  
*Heather Manning*



“The garden was designed for pollinators, birds and beneficial insects. Residents will have the opportunity to be in community with bees, butterflies and eventually birds enjoying the elderberries. There’s always some chance of deer or other critters browsing.

I chose elderberry to plant in the far right corner as an anchor plant. It felt in alignment to have a tree that provides medicine in a space that supports Black creatives.

It’ll take about a year or two for the garden to really fill out. Right now the plants may look a little small or spaced apart, but over time they’ll knit together into a layered, full habitat.”



## What's Planted

- Back row: Black Cohosh, White Turtlehead, Cardinal Flower, Blue Lobelia, Elderberry
- Middle layer: Wood Fern, Mountain Mint, Purple Bergamot, Zig Zag Aster, Calico Aster
- Front layer: Coral Bells, Golden Alexander, Windflower

## Words from Past Guests



“Let The Garfield PGH residency be your secret tree house. As it is mine. It’s not only a true gem rooted in one of the most caring neighborhoods in the country but morning groundings never felt better than on the front porch. May the space be a rejuvenating experience.”

*-Tierra Armstrong*



“After spending time at The Garfield, I recognize it now to feel like a second home. From the natural lighting to the curation of Black art everywhere, to nicest neighbors, inspiration is literally all around. Spending most mornings looking over the city from the hill, I know it could never be imitated.”



*-DaRemen J.*



# In Pittsburgh's Hill District, a Village Takes Care of Itself

Offering affordable temporary housing to Black artists, The Garfield PGH invokes community and familial legacy.



WRONG HOUSE  
SEP 07, 2025



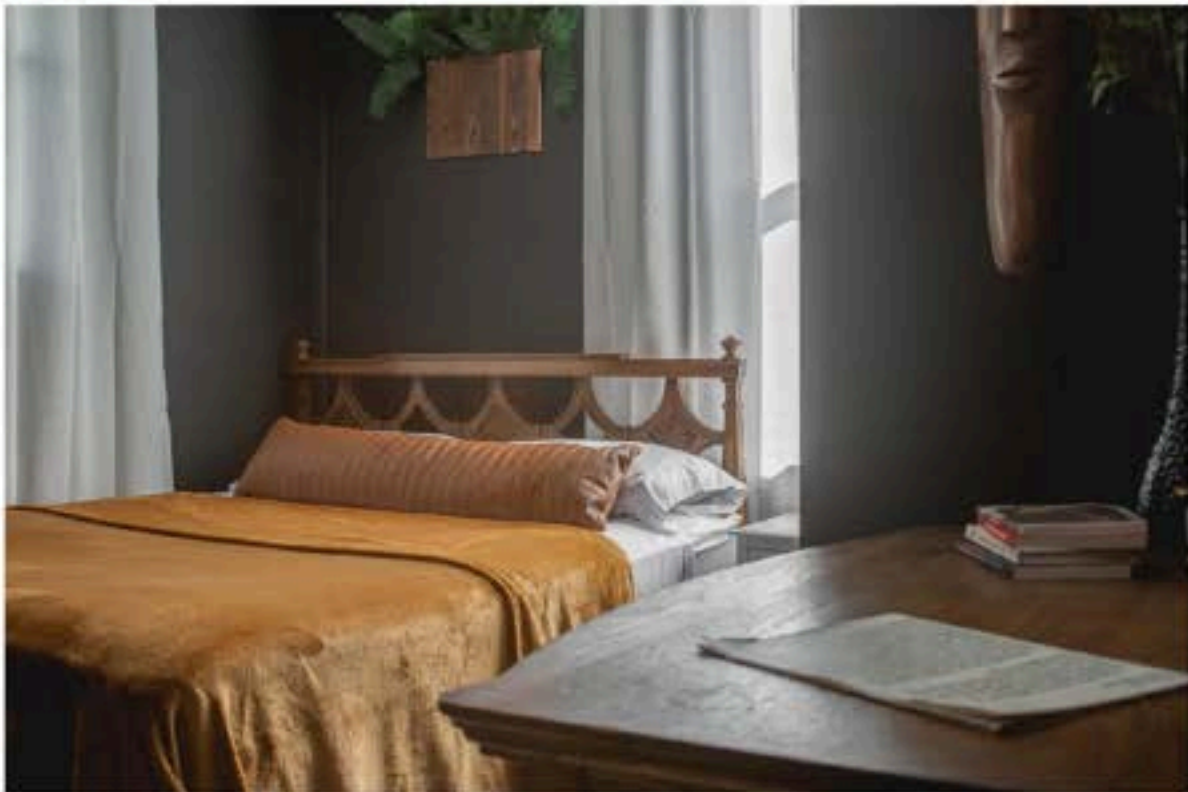
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Share



A guest bedroom at The Garfield PGH, whose interiors were overseen by Nadia Hayes. // Photo courtesy Ashley A. Ross

*Written by Lila Allen*

Joseph Garfield Moss, Jr., can still remember how the aroma of his mother Rebecca's yeast rolls wafted from the open windows of his childhood home onto Adelaide

Street. Back then, there was no A/C; just a warm breeze that could carry the scent for blocks.

But it wasn't the baked goods alone that beckoned guests—and during Moss's youth, there were many of them. In the '50s and '60s, the Hill District of Pittsburgh (also known as "Little Harlem") had been a nucleus of Black culture for decades. The local paper, *The Pittsburgh Courier*, was one of the most prominent Black publications in the country, and neighborhood jazz venues like the Crawford Grill drew in the genre's greatest talents: Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Billy Eckstine. Before heading to the Grill for a night of partying, ladies would stop in at the basement of 824 Adelaide for an updo—also courtesy Rebecca, she of the yeast rolls. On the porch, her husband, Joseph Garfield Moss, Sr., hosted fests for ham radio, a pastime he picked up when he wasn't on patrol for the local police department. (He was one of the city's first Black motorcycle officers.)

"That house was like a magnet—a focal point of activity not only for Black intellectuals, but Black geeks," the junior Moss recalls. His father had purchased the property when he was around four years old, and as a young boy, Moss remembers this enclave being the kind of place he could walk to school alone. "The village took care of itself," he says.

Moss's childhood address, 824 Adelaide, is now a destination of a different kind, though perhaps it's actually not so different at all. Once dressed in a red brick, the home now wears a slick sheath of black paint from stoop to chimney top, its one flashy accessory being the shiny metal 8-2-4 street numbers on the front.



Jessica Gaynelle Moss, the artist behind The Garfield PGH, saw its all-black exterior as a means of landmarking. Its shade was inspired in part by Kerry James Marshall's radical use of black pigment. // Photo courtesy Ashley A. Ross

Joseph Jr.'s daughter, [Jessica Gaynelle Moss](#), is the one responsible for the new duds. "I wanted to find a way to make it a landmark," she says of the paint job. Though the property was out of the Moss family's hands for many years, it came back to Joseph Jr. in 2006, with Jessica becoming its steward 15 years later. This spring, it reopened as something totally new, or maybe not that new at all: [The Garfield PGH](#), a nest for Black artists in need of short-term lodging.

"It's a Black house for Black artists," says Jessica. An artist herself, Jessica's practice is often social and community-driven—no doubt in part the product of her time spent working with the artist [Theaster Gates](#). Among her projects since then has been an artist residency called [The Roll Up](#), which she founded, and [Sibyls Shrine](#), an art collective and residency program for Black mothers where she serves as managing director.



Jessica leaned on an all-Black team to bring The Garfield PGH into existence—and continues to rely on them for its maintenance. Onika Reigns of [Black Dream Escape](#) manages the property, and its appearance is kept up by [Jacquelin Walker](#). [Joseph Hall](#) and [Dana Bishop Root](#) also contributed to its development.  
*// Photo courtesy Ashley A. Ross*

Several years ago, when she was arranging a stay for a guest artist, Jessica recognized a gap in Pittsburgh's short-term housing market. "We had a series of artists coming into town, and I would put them in really nice places," she recalls. For one resident, she lined up an attractive property in Mount Washington, a neighborhood known for its grand views and restaurant row. "I put her there, and she was like, 'Where are the Black people?'"

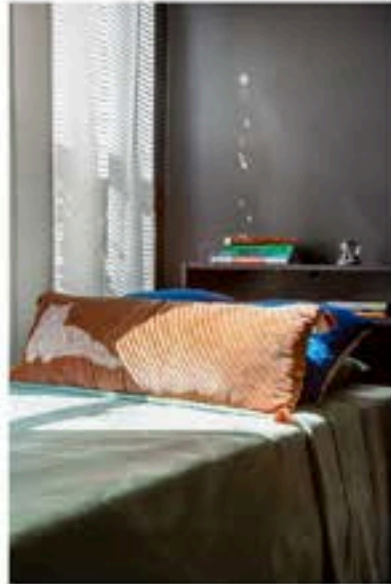


Black art and literature run throughout the property. [Wavy Wednesday](#) created the mural in the kitchen, which underwent a full renovation. Jessica's future plans for The Garfield PGH include adding artist studios in the basement, where her grandmother's hairdressing chair once stood. // Photos courtesy Ashley A. Ross

So she looked elsewhere. "The next time she came, I put her in a Black neighborhood. And it was nice, but there were no amenities." It was a Goldilocks scenario—in either direction, too much of one thing, and not enough of another. Fortunately, Jessica was already sitting on a property on Adelaide Street, and it was packed with history and symbolism as an epicenter of Black creativity.

A few grants and a six-figure renovation later, [The Garfield PGH](#), as it is now known, is open for business. But maybe "business" isn't the right word, as it's hardly a moneymaking endeavor: To stay there, you must self-identify as a Black artist—something you indicate via a [questionnaire](#) that goes directly to Jessica for review. Once booked, the rate is \$100 per night for a two-bedroom apartment, plus a standard cleaning fee. (Comparable properties in the area tend to run closer to \$200 or more per night, plus cleaning charges.) Jessica, who is primarily based in Ft.

Lauderdale, uses that money to pay a housekeeper and a “flipper,” who readies the property for the next guest.



Designer Nadia Hayes embraced bold decor—like chunky painted stripes, animal prints, and graphic wallpaper. // Photos courtesy Ashley A. Ross

Beyond being a place for temporary housing, The Garfield PGH is an exercise in creating an all-Black economy. Inside, art from local Pittsburgh artist [Darrin Milliner](#) hangs on the walls, which are also mostly painted black. (Jessica has a zero-percent commission structure—guests can buy artwork off the wall by texting Milliner.) The Garfield’s general contractors, subcontractors, designer, muralist, cleaners, and flippers have all been Black, and at times, Jessica acknowledges, this commitment to principle has been challenging to pull off. Skilled labor is hard to find even under less restrictive circumstances, and Jessica was managing the entire affair remotely. Prices of materials multiplied during the Covid-19 bubble, pushing the Garfield farther and farther from completion. But Jessica found a lifeline through allies in the arts, and particularly in her friend and designer [Nadia Hayes](#), who stepped in to complete the

renovation, source furniture, and push The Garfield PGH over the finish line. The village took care of itself.



The black-dominated palette continues inside The Garfield PGH, including on the walls of the living room and hallways. // Photo courtesy Ashley A. Ross

The history of 824 Adelaide circles around in other ways, too, at least from Jessica's perspective. Hearing her father recount the neighborhood's lively past as a Black cultural hub, she points out that it was the human element—the *people* at the center of the Hill District narrative—that drew in the community. And that's where she sees The Garfield's ultimate value, too. "I have reasons to get people to come," she says. "What kind of space do I have to cultivate to help Black people feel safe enough, comfortable enough, secure enough that they can just chill? What does that space even have to look like? That's what I'm interested in." ▢

[Lila Allen](#) is the editor in chief of *Wrong House*.

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# *Contributor* **CREDITS**



*For more Information, Lodging Inquiries and Press:*

Please contact us at [thegarfieldpgh@gmail.com](mailto:thegarfieldpgh@gmail.com)

*Thank you to all involved in the project:*

**Nadia Hayes, Interior Design & Construction Manager**

**Antoine Williams, Lead Contractor**

**Additional Contractors: Travis, Kwame, Vania, Nico, Alex**

**Ashley Ross, Photographer**

**Joseph Hall, Support Team**

**Dana Bishop Root, Support Team**

**Jacqueline Walker, Hospitality**

**Onika Reigns, Hospitality & Site Manager**

**Heather Manning, Garden & Landcare**

**Janel Young, Graphic Designer**

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