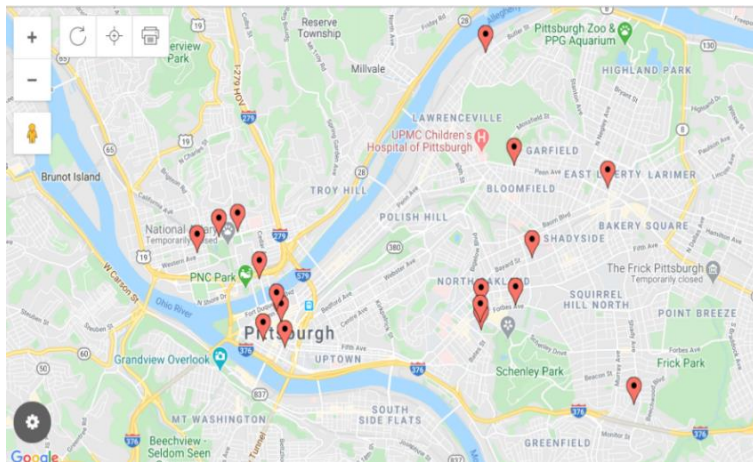


After Traveling Half of the Globe

Tuhin Das

Four years ago, I came to Pittsburgh. Every day I use Google Maps to see the street views of my hometown Barishal and Pittsburgh. The pins below represent where I have done readings and presentations.



One day, looking at neighborhood map of Pittsburgh, I discovered that the shape of the Southside is like a dinosaur; Hazelwood is like a bird! →

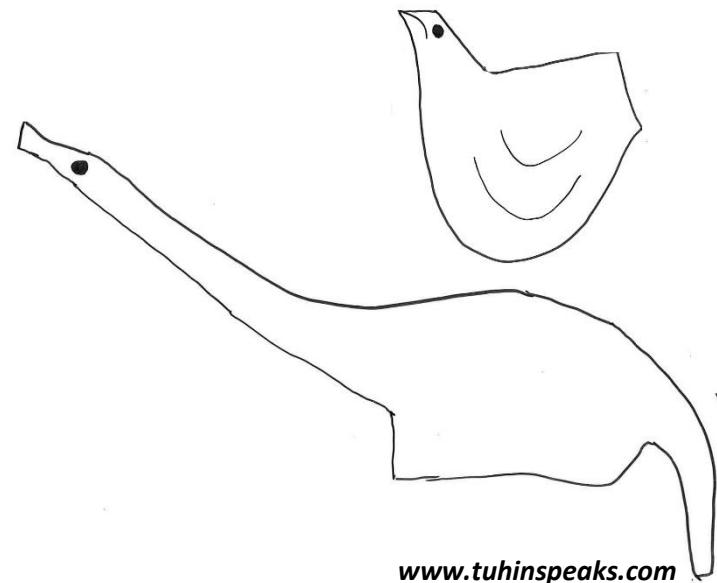
I live in the Central Northside neighborhood. Oh, it's an artistic neighborhood, has great human values, like tolerance and hospitality. It has a lyrical syntax. I like the old houses—basically old houses with trees or with front porches, new houses with banners that say: “No matter where you are from, we’re glad you’re our neighbors,” houses with murals, houses showing a poster that says: “We remember you Antwon Rose,” houses with Pride flags.

Sampsonia Way is well known to national and international art and writing communities. In my last four years, I saw hundreds of writers and artists walking in the alley, day and night. One morning, I discovered Belarusian Nobel Laureate Svetlana Alexievich on my street; she wrote a book called *Voices from Chernobyl*. Another day, I saw Chinese activist Ai Wei Wei looking at the mural on Burma House. The Central Northside itself is a museum. Walking by the Andy Warhol Museum, I get new ideas for drawings in my head.

I remember my country when I stand on one of the Three Sisters bridges. The rivers in Pittsburgh give me a flowing sense of peace and I came from a land of rivers too. The rivers give me the objective to keep going in life. Here, the parks give me green peace. My life could be harder without walking in these parks, without friendly trees. I wrote so many poems about Central Northside, my two journal notebooks are filled with letters in my native language, Bengali, they are the eyewitnesses of those days and nights.



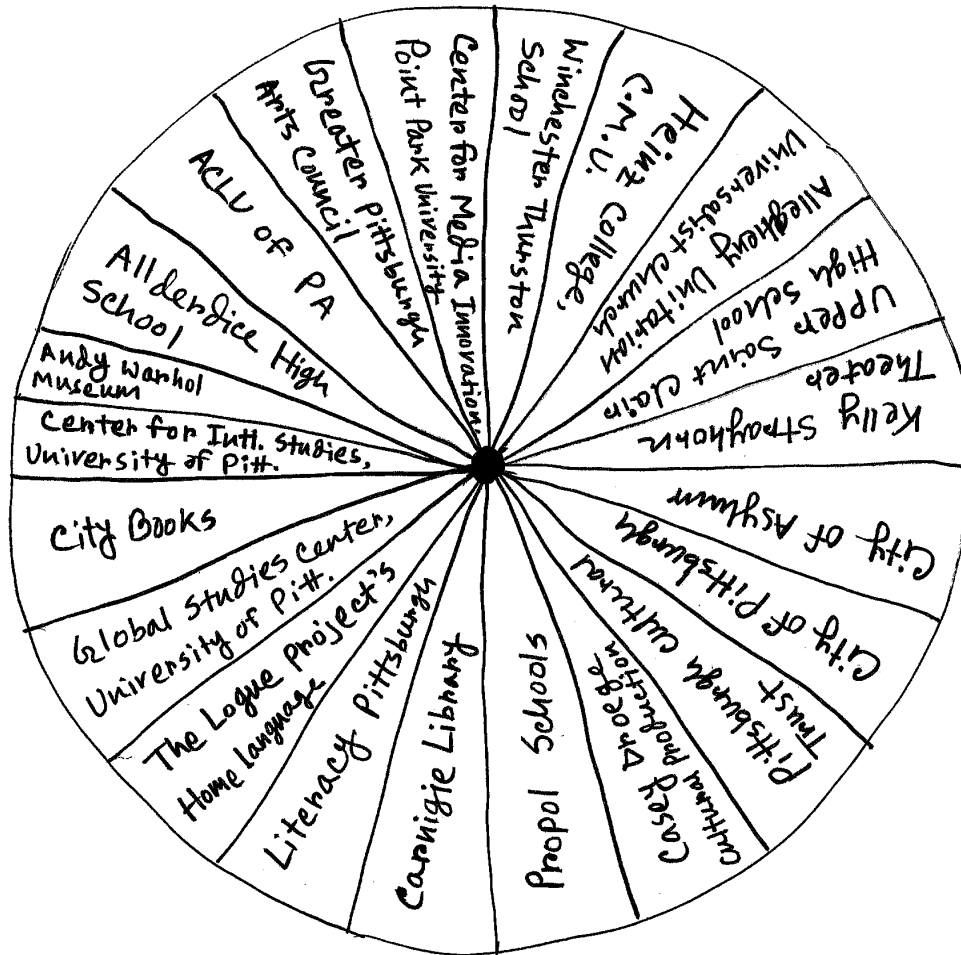
Now when you see me next time on the street, yell from your car window, “Hey, I’m going to the Dinosaur (Southside)!” And I will reply with joy: “Hello, I am off to bird’s territory (Hazelwood).” It will be fun!
So many years ago, this industrial city belonged to trees, animals, and birds; this land did not bear the names we use to refer to it today.



www.tuhinspeaks.com

Freedom of Expression Circle

Places where I was given a chance to use my voice



- Pittsburgh Cultural Trust 803 Liberty Avenue
- City of Pittsburgh 414 Grant Street
- City of Asylum 40 West North Avenue
- Kelly Strayhorn Theater 5941 Penn Avenue
- Upper Saint Clair High School 1825 McLaughlin Run Rd
- Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church 416 W North Ave
- Heinz College Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Ave
- Winchester Thurston School 555 Morewood Ave
- Center for Media Innovation Point Park University, 305 Wood St
- Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council 810 Penn Avenue
- Casey Droege Cultural Production 937 Liberty Ave
- Allderdice High School 2409 Shady Ave
- Andy Warhol Museum 117 Sandusky Street
- Center for International Studies University of Pitt., 4400 Posvar Hall
- City Books 908 Galveston Ave
- Global Studies Center University of Pittsburgh, 230 S Bouquet St
- The Logue Project's Home Language Venue: Assemble, 4824 Penn Ave
- Literacy Pittsburgh 411 Seventh Ave Ste. 525
- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Downtown brunch, 623 Smithfield St
- Cathedral of Learning University of Pittsburgh, 4200 Fifth Ave