

MARCIA CLARK

Marcia Clark's career has spanned work in the for-profit world, with non-profit organizations, and as an artist creating kaleidoscopes and jewelry. She is an inventor with a patent pending in her pocket.

Twin themes have continuously served as the compass for Marcia's life: service to others and the desire to become an artist. After a successful career in the field of surgical equipment sales and management where she trained surgeons in highly technical procedures, Marcia earned an undergraduate degree in Business and Economics from Chatham College. She went on to pursue a Masters Degree in Public Management from Carnegie Mellon University. Her desire to soar lead to earning a private pilot's license. She also delivered motivational keynote speeches including "Dare to Dream: Live Your Life...Don't Let Life Live You." Little did she realize her own life would embody that message.

In 1982, a TV show about the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Arizona inspired Marcia to start the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Western Pennsylvania, an agency fulfilling wishes for children with life-threatening illnesses. She was a founding board member of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America and served as its National Executive Director. This was followed by working for non-profit agencies in health and the arts in management, development, and special projects.

Over the past decade, Marcia has served as a non-profit consultant in various areas including: board development and succession planning, planning to plan, project advisor and manager, and conducting board retreats. Currently, Marcia is working as a Special Projects Advisor with the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. The Garden will be built adjacent to Settler's Cabin Park on 500 acres leased from Allegheny County for 100 years at \$1 per year. On completion, it will have 22 gardens including a rose garden, hanging gardens, children's garden, meditation garden, and others, plus an amphitheatre for performances and space for special events and celebrations. Work on the initial Garden...The Temperate Forests of the World...started this month. It encompasses 5 gardens on 30 acres of land. This is the only botanic garden in the US to be built on land reclaimed from mining and acid water run-off. She said that along with her family, Make-A-Wish and kaleidoscopes, this is the most exciting project she has worked with.

In 1999, Marcia began creating kaleidoscopes and more recently added jewelry to her art. She is one of only 60 working kaleidoscope artists in the United States and her work is sold in galleries in the US, UK, and Japan where she has the honor of having her work in a museum in Tokyo. Her limited edition kaleidoscope, "Dance...Series II" was a 2005 Niche Award Winner – an international award. She was featured in national publications such as "The Craft Report," "Antiques and Collecting Magazine," and also in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette as well as on KDKA television. Marcia believes kaleidoscopes are art for body, mind and spirit and that belief lead Dr. H. Ochi of Japan to invite her to write a chapter for his book, "Kaleidoscopes and Healing" published in Japan.

Marcia is adjunct faculty at Touchstone Center for the Arts and The Society for Contemporary Craft. She is a board member of the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, volunteers for the Siamese Cat Rescue Society, and is a member of the Brewster Kaleidoscope Society, and The Executive Women's Council. Visit her website at www.midheavencreations.com or you can reach her at MCPresents@aol.com.