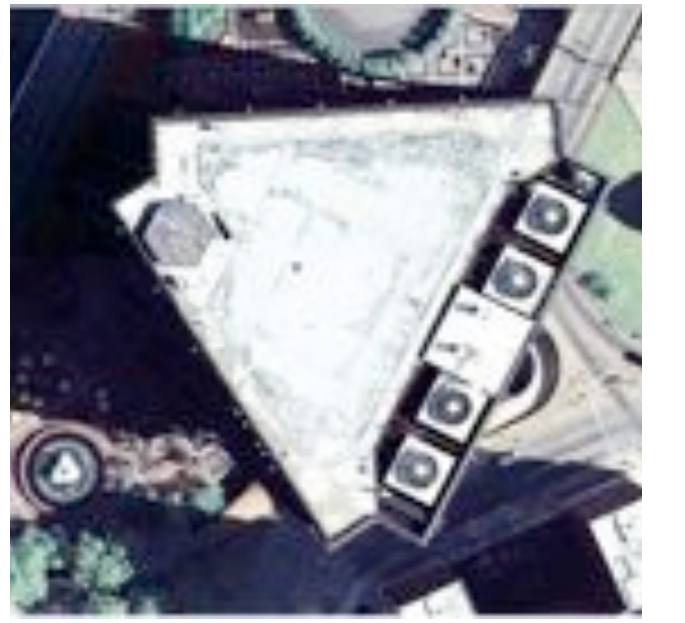




# The Pittsburgh Gigapanorama Project ([www.gigapanorama.org](http://www.gigapanorama.org))

**The Pittsburgh Gigapanorama Project** originated at the STUDIO FOR CREATIVE INQUIRY at Carnegie Mellon University during an investigation into the possibilities of transforming the one-acre rooftop of the U.S. Steel Tower, the tallest building in Pittsburgh, into a publicly accessible park. Conceived as a way to convey to the public the incredible perspectives available from the 845-foot-high rooftop, the first Pittsburgh Gigapanorama captures a complete 360-degree panorama of southwest Pennsylvania from the building's triangular perimeter on October 19, 2009. The project has evolved into a tool to document and change perceptions of Pittsburgh and an exploration of this new form of urban portraiture.



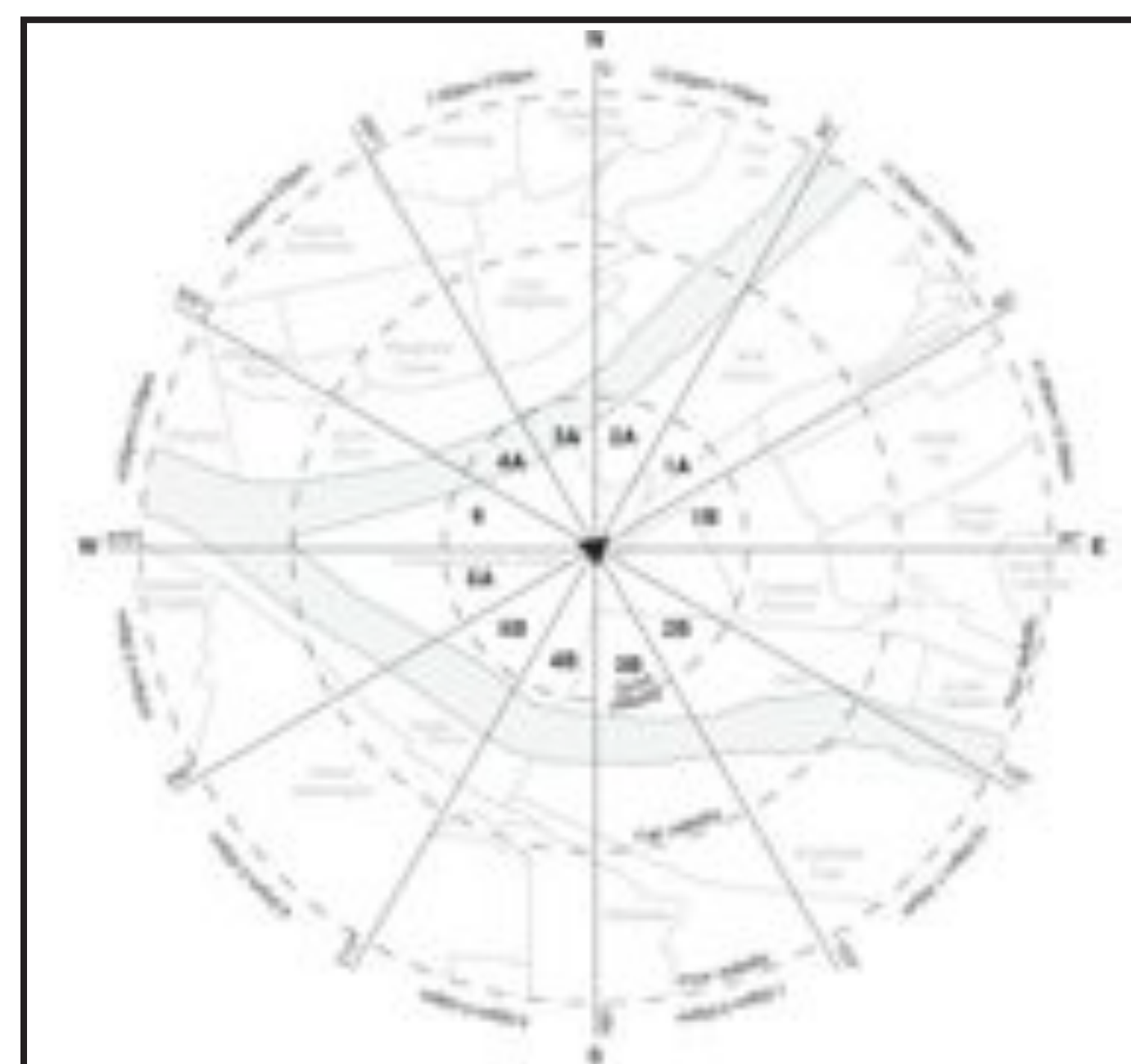
**The first Pittsburgh Gigapanorama:** An assemblage of four separate Gigapans, the image totals 31.3 gigabytes (10.5 gigapixels) of information. While larger gigapixel photos have been created, this image presented unique technical challenges necessary to capture a 360-degree image from the huge rooftop. Unable to shoot from a single central point, our solution required the creation, manipulation, and melding of four separate Gigapan images, each measuring 12 to 16 gigabytes. Accomplishing that required overcoming numerous technical challenges.



**Now Appearing: "New Perspectives of Pittsburgh: Interactive Urban Panoramas"** Measuring 20 feet wide by 42 inches high, a huge print of the first Pittsburgh Gigapanorama is the primary piece in an exhibit of printed Gigapan photographs organized by the project and now on public display at the Photo Forum Gallery in the upper lobby of the U. S. Steel Tower, 600 Grant Street in Downtown Pittsburgh. In addition, the exhibit features large framed prints of 19 other Gigapan panoramas of Pittsburgh taken by a dozen photographers. Exhibit visitors can also explore the actual Gigapans at two computer kiosks. Prints of the images in a variety of sizes can be purchased at the kiosks or on the project's Web site: [www.gigapanorama.org](http://www.gigapanorama.org). New Perspective of Pittsburgh is open daily and admission is free. Bring photo ID to show at the building's security desk. Tell them you're there to see the exhibit.

**The second Pittsburgh Gigapanorama:** On September 23, 2010, the project team shot 12 separate gigapans consisting of more than 9,000 individual images to create a second 360-degree panorama from the rooftop of the U.S. Steel Tower. In addition to implementing numerous technical and equipment improvements that allowed us to shoot downward and capture much of the foreground, we sought to populate the photo. Using social networking and the grid map to the left, we were able to communicate during the shoot directly with dozens of groups and individuals who positioned themselves in places they could be seen by our cameras. We even captured a Pirates/Cardinals baseball game in PNC Park in mid-pitch! We are currently in the process of assembling the separate Gigapans into a single image, which when completed is expected to total more than 100 gigapixels of information.

**More to come:** In addition to printing and displaying this new image as part of the U.S. Steel Tower exhibit, we plan to use it in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Visitor and Convention Bureau and other area agencies to promote the city and its magnificent panoramas. The project also plans to shoot Pittsburgh Gigapanoramas from other high perspectives and to explore methods of publicizing Gigapanoramas as a tool for travel and tourism purposes.



PITTSBURGH SUPERCOMPUTING CENTER

MCKAMISH



songwhale

PHOTO FORUM

STUDIO for Creative Inquiry



GigaPan

THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS  
HOWARD HEINZ ENDOWMENT • VERA I. HEINZ ENDOWMENT