Irene Sparks is not only a Pittsburgh face and body painter, Nick named Beanie as a child, Irene has creative breathtaking murals in local restaurants, homes and businesses. Also enjoys teaching art to children and giving the public a scare with her Sci-Fi FX make-up that was recently in production with the Pittsburgh Haunted House show Hell Way to Heaven where she created the feature character of "the devil" every night. I started as a child watching my mom sew the most beautiful items from wedding dresses, suits to curtains. My dad create theater sets and took pictures, he was a professional photographer and taught at the local Community College in Arizona. Our bathroom was the dark room at times or the dining room table was my mom's cutting board. Creativity runs deep in our blood. For years I just kept my creative talents as a hobby. Until, someone offered to pay me for my work. I was like "Wow! Ok" Coming from a child who would hide painting on walls behind my dresser to being paid to paint was a complete game changer. Pittsburgh continues to be amazed, rather its hand painted instrument's, SFX make-up or Body Painting, or her colorful paintings. Look at our corporate event page to see some who Beanie Paints has worked with in the Pittsburgh area. Make sure you follow Beanie Paints on Instagram!
When I moved to Pittsburgh from Arizona in the early 90's I learned about The Hill District has a rich history of black cultural legacy through sports, Gus Greenlee being the first to own the Negro League team The Pittsburgh Crawford's, and having Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson as players who both have a remarkable history. Dizzy Gillespie and John Coltrane played their music and brought in crowds from all over the country just to hear them! Arts & culture were a part of the fabric of the Hill District. Our late and great Madame CJ Walker who started a beauty parlor and school. Adding these pieces to the mural is a must-have. The Hill has been home to other ethnic groups throughout its early years. As I create the mural design, it is of utmost importance to have input and vision from the community and stakeholders. The Hill was the birthplace of entrepreneurs, cultural leaders, political leaders, and musical titans. This history shall not be forgotten and will be told visually every time the mural is gazed upon. My desire is to connect and uplift contemporary cultural leaders and legacy makers while paying homage to past generations.