

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Mural Arts Philadelphia's
25th Annual Mural Arts Month
Celebrates "The Power of Commitment"**

Activity-filled, month-long celebration this October explores commitment and pursuit of the nation's largest art program to create a vibrant and inclusive Philadelphia

September 19, 2023 (Philadelphia) - [Mural Arts Philadelphia](#) ("Mural Arts"), alongside presenting sponsor [TD Bank](#), today announced its **25th Annual Mural Arts Month** celebration this October, unveiling its 2023 theme: ***The Power of Commitment***. This theme resonates with Mural Arts' unwavering devotion to providing transformative experiences and fostering progressive discourse in the City of Philadelphia. Through participatory public art that beautifies, advocacy that inspires, and educational programming and employment opportunities that empower, Mural Arts enhances the vibrancy and inclusivity of the city. The commitment of artists reflected in their creations has not only uplifted and transformed communities but has also solidified Philadelphia's esteemed reputation as the "Mural Capital of the World." The theme is a testament to Mural Arts' enduring role as a catalyst for economic stimulus, inspiring community change, and empowering individuals throughout Philadelphia.

Following the dedication of a Mural Arts Month mini-mural by artist Donna Grace Kroh at LOVE Park, Mural Arts – the nation's largest public art program – previewed its month-long celebration with happenings for all ages and interests. While LOVE Park will serve as a key Mural Arts Month location to celebrate the ***Power of Commitment***, key highlights for the 25th Annual Mural Arts Month will include:

- Mural Arts Fest, a block party at LOVE Park to the theme, *For the Love of Hip-Hop*, including six mini-mural installations called *Painting the Party!*
- A two-day national public art Symposium presented by Mural Arts Institute titled *Created, Together*.

- Philly Artist Talks with new muralists and up-and-coming artists in Partnership with StreetsDept.com and the Paradigm Arts Building.
- Special walking and trolley tours.
- New mural-themed wine with Mural City Cellars.
- Partnership with the American Red Cross working to shine a light on Sickle Cell Awareness in Philadelphia communities.
- Dedications and activities featuring Philadelphia's newest murals and public art projects, including the new design unveil of Art Education's *Murals on the Move* van, Climate Justice Initiative Mural, and more.
- Mural Arts Month Closing Reception at Fringe Bar.

"I think about the power of art all of the time and how the **commitment** of artists and their works are truly a binding force that can transform societies," said **Jane Golden, executive director, Mural Arts Philadelphia**. "We hope our community and visitors will join us this October to witness first-hand the profound results such commitment generates. We see this *power of commitment* in the brush strokes of our Teaching Artists working in schools to foster our future generation, the pride of community members creating a public masterpiece, and neighborhoods transforming into canvases of hope, identity, and resilience."

"We are excited for the dynamic new work championed by Mural Arts Philadelphia and look forward to seeing what's in store for Mural Arts Month in 2023. Philadelphia is home to outstanding talent, and we are thrilled to support the effort to uplift and connect our communities through art," remarked **Karyn DiMattia, TD Bank's SVP, Head of US Brand, Creative and Sponsorships**.

Inspired by the 2023 theme, artist Donna Grace Kroh designed the mini-mural titled *The Power of Commitment*, now on display at LOVE Park at 16th Street and JFK Boulevard. Kroh was introduced to Mural Arts by volunteering for a paint day at The Oval several seasons ago. While studying under many talented artists, her creativity and talents were quickly noticed as she collaborated with YEAH Philly, PHS Philadelphia Flower Show, and local restaurants to create street art through muralism. Recently, Kroh exhibited in the Museum of Broken Windows in Manhattan, New York. Kroh's mural will be on display for the duration of Mural Arts Month at LOVE Park alongside six (6) additional mini-murals to be live-painted at Mural Arts Fest in an installation called *Painting the Party* on Saturday, September 30, 2023. Curated by Darnell Schoolfield and Conrad Benner, the project will celebrate Philadelphia-based creatives, with the murals on display through October 31, 2023.

People of all ages and interests are encouraged to participate in exploratory art events meant to inspire throughout October 2023 and to visit muralarts.org/muralartsmonth for updates.

Sponsors for Mural Arts Month include presenting sponsor TD Bank, Penn Medicine, The Fresh Grocer, owned and operated by Pat Burns and the Burns Family, Parkway Corporation, ShopRite of Whitman Plaza, owned and operated by the Colligas Family, Margelle and Shelly Liss, and Federal Donuts.

*****KEY SPOTLIGHTS OF 2023 MURAL ARTS MONTH EVENTS, HAPPENINGS AND PARTNERSHIPS *****

Mural Arts Month Celebrations at LOVE Park

16th Street & JFK Boulevard
Philadelphia

- ***The Power of Commitment* Mini-Mural Installation**
Tuesday, September 19, 2023 - Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Unveiled at the Mural Arts Month Announcement on September 19, 2023, *The Power of Commitment* mini-mural by Donna Grace Kroh will be on display in LOVE Park through October 31, 2023.

- **Mural Arts Fest: *For the Love of Hip-Hop***
Saturday, September 30, 2023, 12 – 6 pm
**Rain date: Sunday, October 1, 2023

Mural Arts will kick-start the month ahead with a Mural Arts Fest to the theme *For the Love of Hip-Hop* at LOVE Park on September 30th from 12 pm - 6 pm. Visitors and residents alike witness the profound results such commitment generates, invoking the same feelings of pride, community, and hope that Mural Arts has fostered in communities across Philadelphia for the last 39 years. Hosted by WURD'S REVIVE P.O.C., the block-party style event aims to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Hip Hop. This festival, curated by Mural Arts Event Manager Medina Oyefusi, will feature performances by some of Philadelphia's rising talent, such as Joie Kathos, Corey Lee, Mir Fontaine, Seraiah Nicole, TreWay, and the Now Generation, and more. Live DJ sets will also include DJ Nash, THURSDAYNIGHTGROOVE, DJ Bria G, BlackSoulSummer's Brotha Taaj, Philadelphia Eagles official DJ, MTV Raps Host DJ Diamond Kuts, and many others.

Curated by Darnell Schoolfield and Conrad Benner, ***Painting The Party: A Live-Painting Project*** will be center stage, showcasing live mural-making in celebration of Philadelphia-based creatives and encouraging their freedom of expression through open-ended themes. Guests will see works of art come to life in real-time, culminating in the creation of six stunning 4' x 8' mini-murals that will be on display through October 31, 2023, at LOVE Park. Artists on site will include:

- [**Tykira Mitchell**](#), a portrait painter based in Philadelphia who predominantly uses acrylic and oil paints to create her works of art.
- [**Tai Corrienté Baucom**](#), a colorful figurative illustrator, designer, and muralist with influence from her roots and generations of family stories.
- [**Keshida Layone**](#), a self-taught visual artist born and raised in New York currently living and creating mixed-media artwork in Philadelphia.
- [**Corinne Dodenhoff**](#), a graphic designer, illustrator, and all-around creative type in Philadelphia.
- [**Nasir Young**](#), an artist whose primary source of imagery is the everyday scenes of urban inner-city life.
- [**Rushawn Videl-Gevonte Stanley or “Scum Lizard,”**](#) an American illustrator, muralist, and founder of the Philadelphia Chalk Festival.

To elevate the fun, food trucks, face painting, a photo booth activation, and Federal Donuts will be onsite alongside a vendor marketplace for local small businesses and creatives. The space will offer a place to display their work and sell the merchandise. A “podcast stage” hosted by Zindzine’s Zindzi Harley will further shine a light on local curators and artists in the Philadelphia area, with two curated panels taking place during the festival. Additional partners also onsite will include:

- [American Red Cross](#) demonstrating its commitment daily within Southeastern Pennsylvania and its unwavering dedication of its volunteers, whose sole mission is to alleviate human suffering. Participants of Mural Arts Month will be able to learn more about the Red Cross’ special campaigns, one of which is the Sickle Cell Initiative.

Partners include the American Red Cross, Zindzine, Stumble Media Group, LLC, Federal Donuts, Parks & Recreation, and the City of Philadelphia.

- **Mural Arts’ LOVE Park Artist Workshop Hub Throughout October**

As part of Mural Arts Month, Mural Arts will install and create an artist workshop hub in a retrofitted shipping container on the northwest side of LOVE Park. In celebration of Mural Arts Month, we will host a series of interactive workshops in the programming space, including printmaking, mural painting, teach-ins, storytime, and creative writing. On view from 16th street will be an installation featuring a selection of meaningful murals from Mural Arts history, curated by Phoebe Bachman.

The schedule of happenings will be available and announced soon.

[Phoebe Bachman](#) (she/they) is a Philadelphia based artist, facilitator, and curator. They have spent the last decade building an interdisciplinary creative career rooted in collaboration.

Mural Arts Tours

Mural Arts will offer special walking and trolley tours throughout October. Guests will learn about the city's stunning collection that makes Philadelphia the “Mural Capital of the World.” Advanced tickets are required - no walk-ups accepted

- **Special Center City Mural Mile**
Saturday, September 30, 2023, 11 am – 12:30 pm
Starting at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, ending at Mural Arts Fest

Get to know Mural Arts Philadelphia’s world-renowned collection on foot along the Mural Mile. Explore culturally rich and bold Center City, getting up close and personal with murals that tell the intimate and inspiring stories of our city, its leaders, citizens, and amazing public art. The Mural Mile highlights art tucked in out-of-the-way corners to soaring additions to the cityscape like the breathtaking [Untitled](#) by Amy Sherald and [Water Gives Life](#) by Philadelphia artists Euhri Jones and David McShane. And, as a special twist as we kick off October's Mural Arts

Month, this tour will end at Love Park so that guests can participate in a fun art festival.

- **Mural Talk & Tour | Artist Talk with Meg Saligman & Center City East Tour**

Saturday, October 7, 2023, 2 – 4 pm

Tour Begins at Sugar Refinery Apartments (225 Church St, Philadelphia, PA 19106) and ends at *Philadelphia Muses* mural (13th and Locust Streets, Philadelphia, PA)

In celebration of Mural Arts Month, guests will enjoy this special opportunity to meet artist Meg Saligman, creator of some of Philadelphia's most iconic murals, including *Common Threads* and *Philadelphia Muses*. Come prepared for fun, creativity, and surprise in this unique behind-the-scenes look at Sugar Mom's Hideaway, Meg's working Studio. A Mural Arts tour will follow this visit, led by a professionally trained tour guide, and guests will see and learn about some stunning murals, and the tour will conclude at *Philadelphia Muses*. This is a unique opportunity to get up close and personal with a spectacular artist – visit muralarts.org/tours to book your tickets.

Cost: \$45 per person – advanced reservations are required – space is limited.

- **Trolley Tour**

Sunday, October 15, 2023, 10 am – 11:30 am

Trolley pick-up at Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, 128 N. Broad Street

Guests will explore the show-stopping murals East of Broad Street with this Masterpieces trolley tour for an in-depth look at Philadelphia's bold and brilliant public art. This route features inspiring works like Jackie Robinson by artist David McShane and others along the Broad Street corridor.

- **The Outside In Art Tour**

Saturday, October 28, 2023, 2 – 3:30 pm

Tour begins at the Philadelphia Fashion District, 9th & Market Streets Entrance

Mural Arts Philadelphia, in partnership with the Philadelphia Fashion District, will launch The Outside In Art Tour, which features a variety of stunning murals around the area, followed by an inside visit showcasing bold permanent artwork. Guests will be wowed by an eclectic mix of murals, mosaics, sculptures, and more!

These special tours are in addition to rotating neighborhood tours on Saturdays and Sundays at 11 am and 2 pm. Visit muralarts.org/tours for a complete schedule of tours or to book your unforgettable experience. Advanced tickets are required for all tours.

Don't forget to give the gift of art with limited-edition Mural Arts merchandise is available - visit muralarts.org/shop to purchase bags, hats, tour gift certificates, and more!

Artist Talks

Mural Arts enthusiasts will hear from the artists behind its latest murals with artists' talks throughout the city.

- **New Muralists: A Philly Artist Talk Series at Paradigm Arts Building**
Curated by Conrad Benner, founder of StreetsDept.com & project manager of Mural Arts
Wednesday evenings | October 4, 11, and 18, 2023
Paradigm Arts Building
 12 N. 3rd Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19106

Painting The Party–Artist Panel
Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 5 pm - 8 pm

Conrad Benner and Mural Arts Philadelphia’s Social Media & Marketing Manager **Darnell Schoolfield** will host an in-depth discussion with the artists who created six (6) mini murals now on display at Love Park during *Painting The Party*, including:

- [Tykira Mitchell](#), a portrait painter based in Philadelphia who predominantly uses acrylic and oil paints to create her works of art.
- [Tai Corrienté Baucom](#), a colorful figurative illustrator, designer, and muralist with influence from her roots and generations of family stories.
- [Keshida Layone](#), a self-taught visual artist born and raised in New York currently living and creating mixed-media artwork in Philadelphia.
- [Corinne Dodenhoff](#), a graphic designer, illustrator, and all-around creative type in Philadelphia.
- [Nasir Young](#), an artist whose primary source of imagery is the everyday scenes of urban inner-city life.
- [Rushawn Videl-Gevonte Stanley or “Scum Lizard,”](#) an American illustrator, muralist, and founder of the Philadelphia Chalk Festival.

Front Street Walls 2023–Artist Panel
Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 5 pm - 8 pm

Conrad Benner and artist Symone Salib will guide a conversation with Front Street Walls 2023 artists, including **Iris Barbee Pendergrass, EL TORO, Emily White, and UNAPXLXGETIQ**. Since 2016, Front Street Walls in Fishtown has been an arts and culture staple for Philadelphia. This refresh aims to continue creating more opportunities for up-and-coming artists to paint in our public space and ensure this art represents the people of Philadelphia.

- [UNAPXLXGETIQ](#), or Artist & Designer Emmanuel Wisdom known as a conscious creator, creating to heal, nurture, and cultivate a prosperous afro-human mentality.
- [Emily White](#), a painter, muralist, and sculptor whose work focuses on the relationship between the animal and its changing environment.
- [EL TORO](#), or Justin, is an artist born in the Philippines but residing in Philadelphia. He is known for creating "EL TORO," an anthropomorphic character inspired by the carabao (a water buffalo native to the Philippines).
- [Iris Barbee Pendergrass](#), a Philadelphia native who uses her passion for art and design to illustrate her feminine side, creating the inspirational brand

These Pink Lips to inspire women to be sexy, strong, beautiful, and comfortable with their femininity and power.

Wawa: Welcome America 2023–Artist Panel

Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 5 pm - 8 pm

Conrad Benner and Symone Salib will chat with three artists behind the murals created to celebrate the 2023 Wawa Welcome America. Artists include:

- [Devyn Dais](#), a 22-year-old abstract painter, currently attending Tyler School of Art full-time. She works in oil, acrylic, and other mixed media.
- [Yuliya Semenova](#), a Ukrainian painter, printmaker, and muralist who has made the United States home for the last six years. Yuliya explores how culture, history, and identity are constructed and how they intersect.
- [Ayiana Viviana](#), an abstract artist who explores the nature of emotion through art, and how creating can bring to the surface things hidden deep within.

About the Artist Talk Series Hosts:

Conrad Benner is the founder of StreetsDept.com and a Project Manager with Mural Arts Philadelphia. Named one of the 76 most influential people in Philly by Philadelphia Magazine in 2020, Conrad is a Fishtown, Philadelphia-born-and-raised photo-blogger, curator, and podcaster. For the last 12 years, his work has explored art, our public space, and the creative minds shaping the world around us. Conrad has also used his platforms to advocate for better public transit with #SEPTA247, increased funding for Philly's unhoused youth with #AmICutOut, and various voter drives including #ToThePolls and #MailboxVoters, among other efforts. "I focus on the public space because that's what connects us. I believe that our shared spaces are powerful tools for building and supporting a more equitable city."

Darnell Schoolfield is a creative go-to in the arts, culture, and non-profit sectors. He is the Social Media and Marketing Manager at Mural Arts Philadelphia, the nation's largest public art program. With a background in creative writing, design, videography, and music journalism, he brings a unique skill set to managing the organization's social media presence through content creation and strategic marketing efforts. In 2018, Darnell became the first Digital Content Creator for the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation, helping oversee digital strategy and content creation for parks such as Spruce Street Harbor Park, Penn's Landing, Cherry Street Pier, Race Street Pier, and Blue Cross RiverRink. In 2021, he co-founded Art From the Heart Gallery, Philadelphia's first-ever NFT Art Gallery, sparking an innovative change in the crypto art scene, focused on providing access to ownership in digital assets. To date, Schoolfield delivers creative direction to multidisciplinary artists, creates independent and organizationally backed digital programming, facilitates panel discussions, and curates galleries and exhibitions throughout the tri-state area, helping give voice to historically underrepresented artists.

Symone Salib (she/her) is a first-generation Cuban/Egyptian street artist, muralist, and trauma-informed educator based out of Philadelphia. Through paint and illustration, she works to highlight the lives of people, with an emphasis on BIPOC across her city since 2017. She focuses on vibrantly sharing the stories of people in

hopes we can connect and resonate with humans who are different from ourselves. She strives to spread joy and create a space where people are not only seen but heard and valued.

About the New Artist Talk Series Location: Paradigm Arts Building

The Paradigm Arts Building is a commercial art space for the greater Philadelphia community. In the heart of Old City, the building offers visitors the opportunity to experience, collect, and make art, all under one roof. Established by Paradigm Gallery + Studio co-founders Jason Chen and Sara McCorriston, the Paradigm Arts Building expands upon the gallery's founding mission of increasing access to the commercial art world, supporting artists and advancing their careers, and collaborating with like-minded partners to build a more equitable, sustainable arts economy for all.

- ***Hopefully Graffiti Artist Talk | From Here to Fame: Uncovering Brewerytown's Deep Roots in the International Graffiti Movement***
Saturday, October 14, 2023, 6 – 8 pm

Parkway Central Library
1901 Vine Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Introducing a new mural project called *The History of Graffiti*, Mural Arts will host a discussion on graffiti art called From Here to Fame: Uncovering Brewerytown's deep roots in the International Graffiti Movement. The conversation will feature prominent graffiti writers, including Sub, Cornbread, Cool Cone, and Dawud Anyabwile (Brothaman Comics), and will be moderated by Master Prink 123.

The History of Graffiti project is in collaboration with the Museum of Graffiti in Wynwood, Miami, and interviews pioneering Philadelphia graffiti writers Sub, Cornbread, Dave ICP, Cool Cone, Dr. Cool, and Lewis. These interviews will be included in the Philadelphia section of the Museum of Graffiti, be shown locally, and will inform a mural in Brewerytown a block away from Cornbread's birth home.

- ***AND INTO THE STREETS: A Community Revisited - Gathering and Conversation***
Saturday, October 21, 2023, 2 – 4 pm

Louis Kahn Park
11th and Pine Streets
Philadelphia, PA

AND INTO THE STREETS is a project by artist Rami George (they/them) depicting the complexities of Philadelphia's LGBTQ community. Representing archival images and materials from the now-defunct LGBTQ news publication, *Au Courant* (1982–2000), George threads together underrepresented histories that depict a queer cultural memory of Philadelphia life. With the help of community leaders and partner organizations, "A Community Revisited" will bring together individuals pictured in George's project, former members of *Au Courant's* staff, and community leaders from this era. This will be an open community discussion reflecting on the past and present through the *Au Courant* archive. The conversation will be hosted by Chris Bartlett, executive director of the William Way LGBT Community Center, and

David Acosta, renowned poet, writer, and co-founder of Casa de Duende. All are welcome.

Educational & Advocacy Happenings

Mural Arts Institute will host a two-day national symposium titled *Created, Together*.

Friday, October 20, 2023, 9 am-6 pm

Moore College of Art
1916 Race St,
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Saturday, October 21, 2023, 9 am-4 pm

Friends Center
1501 Cherry St
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Created, Together is a national assembly for artists and creatives working with communities brought to Philadelphia by Mural Arts Institute. This two-day event includes site visits to public art projects throughout the city of Philadelphia, a film screening, and a full day of networking with fellow creatives from across the country. The gathering is open to all who identify as contributors to the creative intersection of art in public spaces. Artists, administrators, community members, policymakers, students, and more are welcome. The goal of this symposium is to amplify the voices of people doing this work daily, and by design, there is not a long list of celebrity names highlighted. Instead, through a National Call for Creatives, emerging artists and changemakers were awarded travel grants to participate in the event, representing Arizona, California, Kentucky, Illinois, Oregon, Ohio, Oregon, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, and Washington, DC. The event is also culminating our three-year Public Art & Civic Engagement Capacity Building Initiative (PACE) that has supported six public art projects in collaboration with APANO Communities United Fund in Portland, Oregon, Louisville Visual Arts in Louisville, Kentucky, and Southside Community Arts Center in Chicago Illinois. Along with the local Philadelphia community, this convening will include unique voices from cities across the nation to build a dynamic conversation about the future of socially engaged public art.

- **Friday, October 20, 2023**
Moore College of Art & Design

Symposium participants will have an exclusive opportunity to journey behind the scenes of a community-centered public art project in the City of Philadelphia. This intimate exploration is part of Mural Arts Philadelphia's ongoing commitment to art engagement and community connection. Participants will see a screening of short documentaries and engage in an

artist talk with seven distinguished public artists. These creators hail from Chicago, IL; Louisville, KY; and Portland, OR, and have contributed their visionary talents to the Mural Arts Institute's Public Art and Civic Engagement Capacity Building Initiative (PACE).

- **Saturday, October 21, 2023**
Friends Center

Participants will play a critical role in shaping the present and future of socially engaged public art practices. Through thoughtful breakout conversations led by dynamic facilitators, every voice will be heard, enriching the dialogue and fostering new ideas in public art. Throughout the day, participants will share insights and generate questions to inform a unique audience-driven panel discussion as a capstone to the symposium. This event will be an excellent opportunity to make national connections, share ideas, and challenge one another in what the future of socially engaged public art can be.

For more information about the Symposium, see [here](#). To register for the symposium, please visit [here](#).

The PACE Initiative, Call for Creatives, and the entire Created, Together symposium are projects of the Mural Arts Institute, made possible with funding provided by the Mellon Foundation. The Mural Arts Institute is supported by the JPB Foundation and the Mellon Foundation.

Established in 2017 as an initiative of Mural Arts Philadelphia, the Mural Arts Institute (MAI) is dedicated to sharing knowledge, ideas, and experiences that have shaped our approach to community-centered art-making with a global audience. At its core, MAI seeks to build connections, sustain relationships, and share skills about the practices that have been instrumental in creating works of public art with Philadelphians. We work with artists, arts administrators, and community leaders across the world to align knowledge, amplify voices, empower change, and distribute resources that move us all toward a more inclusive and equitable future for socially engaged public art.

Mural Dedications & Project Design Unveils

- **Philly Daydreams: Stories in Transit**
MEDIA PREVIEW: MEDIA RSVP required - Thursday, October 5, 2023,
11 am - 1 pm
*****Interested media to RSVP directly to***
marcellus.armstrong@formanartsinitiative.org or
max@bluemedium.com

OPEN TO PUBLIC:

October 6 – 8 and October 12 – 15

Thursdays and Fridays: 11 AM – 2 PM

Weekends: 1 PM – 4 PM

Philadelphia's City Hall Station in the Oculus
Broad and Market Streets
Philadelphia

Forman Arts Initiative ("FAI") and Mural Arts in collaboration with SEPTA invite media to a private event to kick-off Anula Shetty's *Philly Daydreams: Stories In Transit*, a new augmented reality public art project exhibited throughout Philadelphia's transit system. Beginning in October, Philly Daydreams will offer SEPTA riders the opportunity to be virtually accompanied on their journeys by fellow Philadelphians through stories, daydreams, thoughts, and performances that Shetty has filmed. QR-triggered photographs taken by Shetty will replace the advertising space on select trains, and anyone with a phone can activate a transit story.

The event takes place in Philadelphia's City Hall Station in the Oculus, which has been closed to the public since the onset of the pandemic. The event will feature a multi-channel presentation of Shetty's films and a live performance by choreographer and dancer Shaily Dadiala. Remarks will be made by the artist along with FAI co-founders Michael Forman and Jennifer Rice, Mural Arts Executive Director Jane Golden, and SEPTA CEO Leslie C. Richards.

Presented by Forman Arts Initiative and Mural Arts Philadelphia in collaboration with SEPTA.

- **Adaire Elementary School Mural Dedication**
Thursday, October 5, 2023, 2 pm - 5 pm
Adaire Elementary School
1300 E Palmer St, Philadelphia, PA 19125

Mural Arts will celebrate the unveiling of this amazing project co-created by the students at Adaire Elementary School and lead artist Ben Volta. This project was funded by the Marrasso Family Foundation, the Penn Treaty Special Services District, the Joseph Roberts Foundation, and the Friends of Adaire, in addition to Mural Arts.

- **Mural Arts Environmental Justice Department's Climate Justice Initiative Mural Dedication**
Entitled: Climate Justice in Lenapehoking
Saturday, October 7, 2023, 4 pm – 5 pm
**Rain Date: Saturday, October 8, 2023, 4 - 5 pm
1800 N American St
Philadelphia, PA

Based on collaborators' stories, led by muralist Eurhi Jones, this 400-foot long mural created through the Climate Justice Initiative (CJI) illustrates the injustices of the past and present, and offers a hopeful vision for the future. CJI creates public art about the climate crisis in Lenapehoking (the homelands of the Lenape people, approximately equivalent to the watershed of the Lenapei Sipu / Delaware River). Convened by Mural Arts Philadelphia's Environmental Justice Department, this

collaboration between activists, organizers, and artists seeks to galvanize individuals into collective action for climate justice. Special musical guest PhilHarmonia. Keynote speech by Jerome Shabazz, Executive Director of the Overbrook Environmental Education Center. For further info, visit www.climatejusticeinitiative.com and www.muralarts.org. Funded by PTS Foundation, Anonymous, The JPB Foundation, Nextfab Studio, and the City of Philadelphia.

- **The Art Education program unveils new *Murals on the Move* Van & Design**

Thursday, October 12, 2023, 11 am

LOVE Park

16th Street & JFK Boulevard

Philadelphia, PA

A new design by artist Carolina Gomez will be unveiled Mural Arts' Art Education Program's new *Murals on the Move* van. *Mural on the Move* converts a Parks & Recreation truck with a colorful and graphic exterior outfitted with supplies for a range of art-making activities. Led by trained Teaching Artists, the truck operates Monday through Thursdays during three two-month semesters (summer, fall, and spring). Each recreation center will receive three visits, and over the course of three semesters, the *Murals on the Move* vehicle will visit 30 sites, each serving roughly 15-30 students. An intensive summer session reaches 22 sites and over 600 students.

The new design and van will help Murals on the Move:

- Deepen connections between young people and their communities/rec centers.
- Foster positive relationships among youth and between youth and adults.
- Instill pride among young people who see their work displayed in public.
- Provide basic art-making skills.
- Inspire a portion of those served to pursue more in-depth art education.

Artist Carolina Gomez is a graphic designer and illustrator with a bachelor of fine arts in Graphic Design from Tyler School of Art. She has worked as an assistant muralist and an assistant teaching artist with Mural Arts and lives in Philadelphia.

Mural Arts' Art Education program works with students across the city to unlock their creative capacities, inviting them to take risks, share their experiences, and illustrate the world as they see it. Art becomes a platform for discovery, launching personal and communal experiences that can shape a student's path for years to come. The program annually provides in-school and after-school arts-based programming for over 2,000 students at 16 sites across Philadelphia, studying everything from entrepreneurship to environmental stewardship through an artistic lens.

- **Tilden Middle School Mural Dedication**

Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 3:30 – 5 pm

Tilden Middle School

6601 Elmwood Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19142

Mural Arts will dedicate and celebrate the work that Visiting Artist [Kah Yangni](#) conducted with students at Tilden Middle School, a series of silhouette installations on the front lawn, and two banners installed inside of the school.

- **First Mural in Camden with Hopeworks titled, *Accessibility, Equity, Empowerment***
Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 11 am
Hopeworks
808 Market Street, 3rd floor
Camden, NJ 08102

Mural Arts' first Camden-based mural, *Accessibility, Equity, Empowerment*, will be located at and in partnership with [Hopeworks](#), a nonprofit and social enterprise dedicated to providing a positive and healing environment that propels young people to build strong futures. Local artists worked with [Eric Okdeh](#) and community members to create a visual experience reflective of the community's need and drive toward bridging the digital divide. The theme is intrinsic to Hopeworks' use of technology, healing, and entrepreneurship to transform lives in Camden and the surrounding communities.

- **Mural Arts Restorative Justice Rec Crew Help Dedicate *Champions in the Making***
Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 3 – 4:30 pm
Christy Rec Center
56th & Christian Streets
Philadelphia

Last fall, the Mural Arts' Rec Crew assisted artist Gabe Tiberino in painting background patterns of a new mural onto Christy Rec Center. The work continued over the Spring and Summer, painting figures at play onto parachute cloth representing the various sports offered at the recreation center. The placement of the figures represents how the center will look after the completion of a major renovation by Rebuild, slated for 2024. Additionally, the pool deck was painted this past summer as part of the Rec Crew's Swim Philly project.

Mural Arts Restorative Justice program is an alternative to traditional means of rehabilitation and punishment that brings together justice-impacted community members, focusing on humanity, relationships, conversation, and understanding as the first steps to healing. Art education, paired with personal and professional development and hands-on assistance on mural projects, forge the growth of strong, positive bonds between returning citizens and justice-impacted communities. The Restorative Justice program strongly emphasizes work readiness within our Guild and Rec Crew programs and gives a creative voice to people disconnected from society.

- ***Know the Elements - 50 Years of Hip Hop! Phase 2 Mural Dedication & Celebration***

Thursday, October 26, 2023, 12 – 3 pm

910 West Oxford Street

Philadelphia, PA

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Hip Hop, Mural Arts will dedicate our second *Know the Elements* Mural with a celebratory block party in partnership with TAME ARTZ LLC. The mural by Christian “TAME ARTZ” Rodriguez & Bill Strobel is an homage to Hip-Hop culture, highlighting each pillar of Hip-Hop: DJs, MCs, Graffiti Writers, and Breakers. This mural continues to show the importance and the impact of Hip-Hop in our culture today, especially in its’ 50th year! The mural will feature original lyrics by Reef the Lost Cauze.

This mural has included collaboration with the Mural Arts’ Restorative Justice Guild program and Rec Crew through workshops and mural installation.

The first mural of this series is located at 900 Cecil B. Moore Avenue, Philadelphia, PA.

Wine & Merch Collaborations

Amplifying Mural Arts Month spirit, October will welcome a new collaboration with [Mural City Cellars](#) (MCC), Philadelphia's first urban winery, creating minimal intervention wines made with locally available grapes. MCC sources fruit within a 300-mile radius and works with Philadelphia-based artists to design their labels and give back to their neighborhood through their Community Supported Winery (CSW) program. Co-owners Nicholas and Francesca are partnered with Mural Arts Philadelphia for their co-branded wine, the sales of which will contribute to the vibrant public art scene in the city of Philadelphia.

The **2022 Mural Arts Red** is 100% Chambourcin, a local varietal that grows just over the bridge in Swedesboro, NJ. The grapes were picked in the Fall of 2022, and the wine spent eight months aging in neutral French oak barrels at the winery in Fishtown. It's fruit-forward and light with notes of cherry, raspberry, and pomegranate and tastes delicious with a slight chill. The winery will also sell the Mural Arts Month-themed wine, donating 15% per bottle for every sale.

Additionally, Mural Arts will be selling **special edition Mural Arts Month merchandise** to showcase the *Power of Commitment* at muralarts.org/shop

Social Events

- **New Voter Registration Party at City Hall Courtyard**
Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 10 am – 3 pm
City Hall Courtyard Philadelphia

Councilmember At-Large Kendra Brooks will invite Philadelphia's youth to embrace their civic power and shape the future of their city. At the New Voters Registration Party in the City Hall Courtyard, young Philadelphians aged 18-30 are given the

chance to engage with bipartisan politics in an inviting, festive setting. Mural Arts will be onsite to offer information and art activations.

This event doesn't just aim to inspire political participation but also to foster meaningful partnerships, connecting new voters with various organizations that offer positive outlets and opportunities. More than just a registration drive, it's an innovative approach to violence prevention, linking our city's youth with the information and resources they need to make a significant impact.

- **Mural Arts' Tacony LAB's 6th Anniversary Celebration**

Friday, October 6, 2023, 5 – 8 pm

Tacony Lab

6918 Torresdale Ave

Philadelphia, PA

An anniversary celebration with an art exhibit and maker market, Tacony LAB will celebrate its 6th Anniversary at this First Friday event. Located in the Tacony neighborhood of Northeast Philadelphia, Tacony LAB Community Art Center is a program of [Mural Arts Philadelphia](#) in partnership with City [Councilmember Mike Driscoll](#). Tacony LAB brings the neighborhood and the arts together to create a unique hub for learning, creativity, and community engagement in Northeast Philadelphia. The Tacony LAB runs an artist-in-residence program, offers art classes for adults and youth, holds open studio sessions for the public in our well-equipped studio/maker space, and presents arts-focused events free of charge.

For more information about Tacony LAB, please visit taconylab.org

- **Meet Mural Arts: Closing Reception**

Thursday, October 26, 2023, from 7 – 11 pm

Fringe Bar

140 N Christopher Columbus Blvd

Philadelphia, PA 19106

To conclude Mural Arts Month, Mural Arts will give the public an opportunity to meet and interact with our board members, directors, and employees in a celebratory setting. As Mural Arts approaches its 40th year in 2024, this event will allow the community it serves to address how Mural Arts can best support and interact with Philadelphia neighborhoods and communities. Complimentary beer and wine while supplies last.

- **GRANT BLVD Finally Friday**

Friday, October 27, 2023, 5 – 8 pm

Mural Arts Philadelphia

GRANT BLVD

140 S. 34th St., Philadelphia, PA 19130

GRANT BLVD's new storefront on UPenn's campus is happy to host a new Artist spotlight series in collaboration with Mural Arts Philadelphia, beginning September

29th, featuring a limited series of prints by Black Artist Fellowship alum Yannick Lowrey. GRANT Blvd is a sustainably sourced, socially conscious, Black-owned, women-led apparel B-Corp committed to supporting currently and formerly incarcerated women.

Finally, Friday events will feature a discussion with GRANT Blvd Founder and CEO Kimberly McGlenn and the featured artist in conversation, moderated by Darnell Schoolfield.

About Mural Arts Philadelphia:

Mural Arts Philadelphia is the nation's largest public art program, dedicated to the belief that art ignites change. For more than 35 years, Mural Arts have united artists and communities through a collaborative and equitable process, creating over 4,000 artworks that have transformed public spaces and individual lives. Mural Arts aims to empower people, stimulate dialogue, and build bridges to understanding with projects that attract artists from Philadelphia and around the world and programs that focus on youth education, restorative justice, mental health and wellness, and public art and its preservation. Popular mural tours offer a firsthand glimpse into the inspiring stories behind Mural Arts' iconic and unparalleled collection, which has earned Philadelphia worldwide recognition as the "Mural Capital of the World." For more information, call 215-685-0750 or visit muralarts.org. Follow along on social media: @muralarts on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), @MuralArtsPhiladelphia on Facebook, and [phillymuralarts](#) on YouTube.

###

Media contacts:

Kaitlyn Haney, Signature 57
khaney@signature57.com
215.514.6495

Tamara Yvette Day, Signature 57
tday@signature57.com
571.435.5304