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MURAL ARTS PHILADELPHIA HONORS BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Through a Series of Events, Tours, and Programs, Mural Arts Philadelphia Pays Tribute to Black Artists and Community Leaders in Philadelphia

Tweet this: Throughout the month of February 2021, @muralarts is honoring #BlackHistoryMonth with a series of events, tours, and programs celebrating Black artists and the Black community in Philadelphia. Learn more: muralarts.org

PHILADELPHIA – January 22, 2021 – Throughout the month of February 2021, Mural Arts Philadelphia will honor Black History Month with a series of events, tours, and programs intended to celebrate Black artists and the Black community in Philadelphia. In addition, applications will be accepted for the 2021 round of Mural Arts Philadelphia Fellowship for Black Artists, providing \$2,000 awards to local artists.

Mural Arts Philadelphia Fellowship for Black Artists

In June 2020, Mural Arts launched the inaugural cohort of the Philadelphia Fellowship for Black Artists, awarding grants to 20 Philadelphia artists. The Fellowship is designed to fund, foster, and elevate the important work of Black artists. Designed as an annual initiative, the Fellowship provides funding and opens doors for the selected artists.

Applications for the Philadelphia Fellowship for Black Artists will open February 8 - February 28, 2021. The 2021 Fellowship, sponsored by TD Bank, offers 20 artists \$2,000 each to support their craft. These artists are also given the opportunity to receive consultative sessions with experienced curators who can offer guidance on building powerful portfolios, marketing their work, and networking with fellow creatives from Philadelphia and beyond. Winners will be selected and notified this spring. Applications are simple to complete, and can be found, along with more information on the program, at muralarts.org/fellowship beginning February 8.

During the month of February, the public will be able to hear from and buy the art of the 2020 Fellows. The **Mural Arts Marketplace: Philadelphia Fellowship for Black Artists - 2020 Fellows** launches on February 1 at muralarts.org. Through February, the public can shop a curated marketplace jam-packed with local art and creative services, courtesy of the

Mural Arts Philadelphia 2020 Black Artist Fellows. Find something special for that special someone or select a treasure to add to a personal collection.

In addition, the public can attend two free virtual events to hear from the 2020 artists.

Philadelphia Fellowship for Black Artists: A Year in Review virtual conversations will take place on *Tuesdays, February 9 and 23, 5:30-6:30 pm*. Join Mural Arts for an intimate conversation with Fellows from the 2020 cohort of the Philadelphia Fellowship for Black Artists as they discuss art-making over the past year and plans for their creative futures.

Black History Month Mural Tours from Mural Arts Philadelphia

In celebration of Black History month, join Mural Arts on foot for a special tour featuring murals that represent iconic Black figures, civic heroes, and insightful social justice issues. A professional tour guide will take guests through Center City neighborhoods to view these stunning and impactful murals, hear the stories behind each work of art, and learn about the artists as well as the mural-making process. Tours depart from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), Lenfest Plaza Paint Torch Sculpture, 128 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia. To ensure the safety of all tour guests, a proper face covering is required, with no exception. Tour groups are limited to 10 people or less. Tours will run *Sunday, February 7 and 21 from 2-3:30 pm*. Tickets are \$24 per person. Must reserve in advance at muralarts.org/tours.



Remembering a Forgotten Hero honoring Octavius V. Catto by Willis “Nomo” Humphrey and Keir Johnston
Photo by Steve Weinik for Mural Arts Philadelphia

For those who prefer to tour from home, Mural Arts has created a one-hour **Black History Month Virtual Mural Tour** featuring murals that represent iconic Black figures and civic heroes of the past and present. With a live tour guide, over a Zoom webinar platform, guests will “travel” through different Philadelphia neighborhoods to view these stunning and impactful murals and hear the stories behind each work of art, learn about the artists, and the mural-making process. The tour will explore themes of civil rights, freedom, and equality. The tour will take place on *Wednesday, February 24 at 6 pm*. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be reserved at muralarts.org/tours.

Short drone videos spotlight murals in the **Murals on the Fly** video series which will be shared throughout February to honor Black figures and artists in Philadelphia. Each Monday, a video will be posted on social media. Highlighted projects will be: February 1 – *Untitled* by

Amy Serald; February 8 – *Remembering a Forgotten Hero* honoring Octavius V. Catto by Willis “Nomo” Humphrey and Keir Johnston; February 15 – *Dr. J* by Kent Twitchell; and February 22 – *Legendary* honoring The Roots by Amber Art & Design featuring Tatyana Fazlalizadeh. More information can be found muralarts.org/program/art-in-action/murals-on-the-fly/.

Other Black History Month Events

Cecil B. Moore Philadelphia Freedom Fighters Mural Design Reveal

Mural Arts Philadelphia announces a new project honoring legendary civil rights activist Cecil B. Moore and the Philadelphia Freedom Fighters. Mural artists Felix St. Fort and Gabe Tiberino and Cecil B. Moore Philadelphia Freedom Fighter President Karen Asper Jordan will share the history of the new project. Be the first to view the design for the mural that will be installed at Girard College. The Philadelphia Freedom Fighters worked to desegregate Girard College in the 1960s, which makes this location perfect to host this new work of public art. The event will take place on Friday, February 26. For details, see muralarts.org.

Art of Activism: History Doesn't Have to Repeat Itself

After the overwhelming success of Mural Arts' first season, Art of Activism is back. Join moderator Ginger Rudolph and artists Danny Simmons and Noah Kane-Small as they discuss the history of art and activism within the Black community and how empowering Black youth with art can interrupt the repetition of history. This free virtual event will take place on *Thursday, February 18, 5:30-6:30 pm*. Register at muralarts.events/ArtofActivism.

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 has 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 “City of Murals.” For more information, call 215-685-0750 or visit muralarts.org. Follow along on social media: @muralarts on Twitter and Instagram, and @MuralArtsPhiladelphia on Facebook, and phillymuralarts on YouTube.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: high-resolution images are available in the Mural Arts Philadelphia press room at <http://bit.ly/MuralArtsPressKit>.