INTRODUCING THE PORCH LIGHT PROGRAM

Does art have the power to heal? Mural Arts Philadelphia’s Porch Light Program thinks it does. The Porch Light Program, a collaboration between Mural Arts and the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, works closely with communities to uplift public art as both an expression of community resilience and a vehicle of personal and community healing. We create murals that focus on issues that affect our mental health, including faith and spirituality, homelessness, trauma, immigration, war, community safety and tensions, and addiction.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE PORCH LIGHT PROGRAM?

The Porch Light Program builds a team of artists, service providers, program participants, community members, and city-wide stakeholders to collaborate on a transformative public art project. The program strives to catalyze positive changes in the community, improve the physical environment, create opportunities for social connectedness, develop skills to enhance resilience and recovery, promote community and social inclusion, increase access to services, shed light on challenges faced by those with behavioral health issues, and reduce stigma and encourage empathy.

WHOM DO WE ENGAGE?

Each Porch Light site is different. At every site, we strive to consistently engage approximately 20 individuals in weekly art workshops and a final public art piece. It is also a priority of the Porch Light Program to engage the surrounding community as a whole through paint days, health forums, and community meetings.

WHAT IS THE PORCH LIGHT PROGRAM TIMELINE?

Each Porch Light Partnership lasts from October through June. Weekly programming occurs between October and April. Open studios are held as needed between April and May. Public art installation and mural dedication is conducted throughout the summer. Community paint days and design discussions are held throughout the project. Unforeseen circumstances may impact the timeline at each partner site.

HOW DOES MY ORGANIZATION BECOME A PORCH LIGHT PARTNER?

We invite organizations addressing behavioral health needs to read through the Porch Light Program goals, roles, and responsibilities to determine whether this program could be a good fit for your organization. Then, please complete the accompanying application by October 20th, 2017. Finalists will be chosen by November 7th, 2017. Please note: each year we are only able to accept 1 - 2 new Porch Light Partners into the program.

Check out the program’s virtual mural tour at porchlightvirtualtour.org

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“In Mural Arts we have everyone coming together to help each other. Other people help me and I try to help others here, and to send a message that we can get everything together and make this a better city. At least we can try.”
– Porch Light Participant

“The Mural Arts Program has given our clients a sense of belonging, that they are a part of the community and are connected to it.”
– Porch Light Partner Staff Member

PORCH LIGHT TEAM

Porch Light Program Director: Laure Biron, laure.biron@muralarts.org
Porch Light Program Project Manager: Jessica Lewis-Turner, jessica.lewis-turner@muralarts.org
Porch Light Program Administrator: Emily Crane, emily.crane@muralarts.org

RECENT PARTNERS

Kirkbride Center, Girard Medical Center, Broad Street Ministry, Children’s Crisis Treatment Center

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Applications Due: Oct. 20th
- Finalists Notification: Friday, Oct. 27th, 2017
- Final Site Visits/Interviews: Oct. 30th - Nov. 3rd
- Final Selections: Monday, Nov. 7th, 2017
- Orientation Lunch and Mural Tour: TBD
PORCH LIGHT PARTNER SITE PROVIDES

Recruitment and Outreach:
The Porch Light Partner Site identifies, recruits, and retains up to 25 service recipients to participate in the program once a week between October and April. Partner sites also engage the broader community and assists in recruiting additional community organizations to public events through regular announcements. Mural Arts will provide additional publicity material to assist in the recruitment process.

Staff:
The Porch Light Program identifies at least two people to provide support to this partnership:
1) Partnership Coordinator - Understands how the Porch Light Program fits within the overall goals of the agency and how to communicate that effectively to staff; communicates program goals and activities to staff, service recipients, and community as needed; communicates with MAP to ensure proper documentation of program attendance, retention, and involvement in program activities; assists in the planning for community events.
2) Project Coordinator - Remains in close communication with workshop coordinator to ensure proper documentation of workshops and to learn about any client-related issues; provides crisis management as needed; assists in the planning for community events; serves as conduit of information to Partnership Coordinator about any client issues that present themselves in the workshop; maintains contact with Mural Arts staff about program administration and project updates.

Physical Space:
The Porch Light Partner Site provides a dedicated space for weekly workshops available throughout the duration of the program and includes tables, chairs, proper ventilation, and access to a sink for appropriate art materials.

MURAL ARTS PROGRAM PROVIDES

Program Management:
Mural Arts will also manage the project budget, timeline, tracking and documentation. Mural Arts is responsible for ordering all art supplies for the weekly workshops and public art pieces. Lastly, Mural Arts will create, provide, and/or disseminate any necessary information about the Porch Light Program at events, forums, or media opportunities.

Art Workshops and Community Engagement Opportunities:
Mural Arts will provide and manage weekly workshops for service recipients as well as public community events in the form of design conversations, open studios, and paint days.

Artists:
1) Lead Artist - The Lead Artist will provide vision and production plan for public art; Lead the creation of the public art; Create meaningful curriculum leading to the creation of the mural; Maintain close communication with Mural Arts about needed materials, supplies, curriculum, and timeline for mural; Attend Mural Arts and community design reviews, community events, and community forums.
2) Assistant Artists - The Assistant Artists will assist the Lead Artist during public art production and installation. All assistant artists will managed by Mural Arts including contracts, hours, payment, and training.

When scheduling and field placement student hours permit, the Porch Light Program will provide a Bryn Mawr College School for Social Work and Social Research masters level student at the workshops to assist the artist.
BASIC INFORMATION

Site Name: 

Site Street Address and Zip Code: 

Hours of Operation: 

Primary Contact Name: 

Phone: Email: Website: 

Will Porch Light Weekly Programming occur at the address above?  □ Yes  □ No 
If no, please provide address: 

Preferred days of programming (check all that apply) 
□ Mon  □ Tues  □ Wed  □ Thurs  □ Fri 

Preferred times of programming (check all that apply) 
□ Mornings  □ Afternoons  □ Evening 

Anticipated program participant age range 
□ 12-21  □ 22-42  □ 42-62  □ 62-82 

Does your site currently offer any of the following? 
□ Group Therapy  □ Yes  □ No 
□ Alternative therapeutic activities  □ Yes  □ No 
□ Methadone Maintenance  □ Yes  □ No 
□ Intensive Outpatient Services  □ Yes  □ No 

Is your agency located near a commercial corridor?  □ Yes  □ No 

Is your agency located in an economically disadvantaged community?  □ Yes  □ No 

NARRATIVE: Respond to each of the questions below on a separate sheet of paper. Please type and label your responses. Your responses should total no more than 5 pages. 

1) Provide a description or overview of your agency and mission, the behavioral health activities it currently provides, and communities it serves. 
2) How does your agency’s mission and culture align with a vision for participatory public art engagement that includes clients and the broader community? 
3) Provide bios for the site staff who will serve as Partnership and Program Coordinators for the program. 
4) Explain why your organization/agency would like to be a Mural Arts Porch Light Program Partner Site. 
5) Describe your site’s proposed strategy for recruiting and retaining service recipients for the Porch Light program. 

LETTERS OF SUPPORT: Please attach TWO letters of support from community partners who are interested in participating in the public Porch Light activities, including paint days, design discussions, and open studios. Each letter of support must be typed or printed legibly with the individual’s/group’s full contact information and must be no longer than one page. 

HOW TO APPLY: 
Complete and return the attached application. All applications must be received by October 20th, 2017. Incomplete or late applications will not be reviewed. 
Please direct all inquiries to Jessica Lewis-Turner, Porch Light Project Manager, at Jessica.Lewis-Turner@muralarts.org or 215-685-0739. 
Submit completed applications to:

Mural Arts Program 
c/o Porch Light Program 
Thomas Eakins House 
1729 Mt. Vernon Street 
Philadelphia, PA 19130 

Application Check List 
□ Basic Information 
□ Narrative Response 
□ Letters of Support