



Tacony LAB Artist Residency

Fiber Art

Spring 2018

A civic improvement-focused residency, housed in a community art space on the Torresdale Avenue Commercial Corridor in Northeast Philadelphia.

Co-hosted by Mural Arts Philadelphia and Councilman Bobby Henon's Office in collaboration with the Tacony Community Development Corporation.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Deadline: 5 pm EST, Thursday, March 15, 2018

Please email maria.moller@muralarts.org with any questions or comments.

No phone calls, please.

THE TACONY LAB

The Tacony LAB Community Arts Center at 6918 Torresdale Avenue is a hub for creativity and community engagement that combines an artist residency program with free arts classes, cultural events, and public art projects.

Opened in the spring of 2016 as the Tacony Library and Arts Building, the LAB was a shared project with the Free Library of Philadelphia, functioning as a temporary home for the Tacony Library while its building underwent renovation. In August of 2017, the library moved back to its permanent building and Mural Arts Philadelphia expanded the LAB's focus on community-engaged art by increasing arts programming, creating multiple public art projects, and continuing a series of artist residencies, activating the building through December, 2018.

For more information on the LAB, visit:
www.muralarts.org/artworks/tacony-lab
www.facebook.com/taconyLAB

2018 Spring/Summer Residency Fiber Arts

The Tacony LAB Community Arts Center invites fiber artists to apply for a 12-week residency, running May 14-August 5. This residency is a unique opportunity to combine personal practice, community engagement, and the creation of civically-focused public art.

The resident artist will work with this historic and diverse neighborhood to develop a fiber-based project that brings community members together through collaborative creation, building relationships and encouraging neighborhood pride. The project must have a public visual component outside of the four walls of the LAB.

The artist selected for the residency will have access to the LAB studio space for both personal practice and project creation; the space will be shared with LAB art classes and workshops.

The artist will receive a total stipend of \$4,000, in addition to a \$2,000 materials and supplies budget. The artist will be expected to spend approximately 15 hours per week on-site in the studio and the Tacony neighborhood.

Some of this time will be devoted to engaging the community through workshops and activities with youth and adults. The artist will lead at least three weekday evening or Saturday afternoon adult/teen art workshops, and participate in LAB youth art classes as appropriate. The artist will develop these activities in collaboration with the LAB Project Manager. The artist will also be expected to take part in LAB open houses, relevant community meetings, and similar events.

Classes such as quilting, knitting, screen printing, and fabric collage have proved extremely popular at the LAB. Applicants are encouraged to visit the LAB Facebook page (www.facebook.com/taconyLAB) to see photos of some of this engagement and listings of classes and events.

ELIGIBILITY

The residency is open to artists based in the Philadelphia area; experience with community engagement is encouraged. Both established and emerging artists are encouraged to apply. Artists with ties to Northeast Philadelphia are encouraged to apply. Collaborative groups may apply, but please note that we cannot offer additional funding to groups with multiple members. Artists must be citizens of the U.S. or have U.S. work authorization.

The deadline for applications is 5 pm EST, Thursday, March 15, 2018.

LAB and STUDIO

The Tacony LAB is roughly 1800 square feet, divided between a carpeted community space and

two studio spaces with wood floors. There is a raw basement work space of roughly 900 square feet. Wi-Fi is provided in the space.

The artist will be asked to work in collaboration with MAP staff to schedule activities and studio time. The studio is a semi-public space and the artist should be prepared to share their personal practice with interested community members.

RESIDENCY AWARDS and TERMS

- Access to free studio space at 6918-20 Torresdale Avenue.
- \$4000 stipend for 12 weeks residency.
- Funding for materials and supplies (\$2000).
- Support from Mural Arts Philadelphia administrative, marketing and production resources.
- Introduction and orientation to community leaders in Tacony.
- Housing will not be provided.
- Travel costs to/from Tacony will be the responsibility of the artist. The storefront is located a 10 minute walk from the Tacony Regional Rail station.

SELECTION TIMELINE and PROCESS

- Thursday, March 15, 5:00 pm: applications due.
- Week of March 26: applicants will be notified of decisions.
- May 1: residency begins.
- Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:
 - The artist's experience and skill in the creation of unique fiber works and their public implementation
 - The artist's ability to engage community members in a reciprocal creative process
 - The artist's grasp of the goals of community development and civic improvement

APPLICATION

Applications must include the following items to be considered:

1. Cover sheet listing:
 - a. Name
 - b. Email address
 - c. Telephone number
 - d. Mailing address
 - e. Website may be submitted as supplemental material, though we cannot guarantee that it will be reviewed by the selection committee.
2. Application Narrative
3. Work Samples
4. Work Samples Description List
4. CV

All application materials - except for work samples - must be submitted as PDFs. See below for work sample formatting instructions.

Materials should be submitted in a single folder titled with your last name and first name. Example: *LastnameFirstname*.

Please submit all materials via Dropbox. Upload the folder to your Dropbox account and then “share” the folder with maria.moller@muralarts.org. (For help with sharing files on Dropbox, visit: www.dropbox.com/en/help/19.)

Title all files in the folder with your last name, first name, the type of file, and no extraneous spaces or punctuation. For example: *LastnameFirstnameApp.pdf*, *LastnameFirstnameCV.pdf*, *LastnameFirstnameWorksample01.jpg*.

Submit your application by 5pm EST, Thursday, March 15, 2018.

Application Narrative (maximum 500 words)

Please provide an artist’s statement that details your experience with and approach to community-engaged art.

In addition, describe your initial ideas regarding the creation of this project. How would you structure community engagement? What workshops might you offer to youth and adults? How might you see the work being visualized publically?

Work Samples

You may submit a minimum of 7 and maximum of 10 images.

Images must be:

- Formatted as .jpgs
- Less than 1MB each in size
- No more than 2000 pixels on the longest side
- A maximum of 300 dpi and a minimum of 72 dpi
- Titled with your last name, your first name, “worksample,” and a number indicating the viewing order. Use “0” in front of single digit numbers. For example:
LastnameFirstnameWorksample01.jpg

Work Sample Description List

Please include title, date, and a brief description (maximum 100 words).

CV

Maximum of 3 pages, including education, exhibition or project history, and any other relevant professional artistic experience.

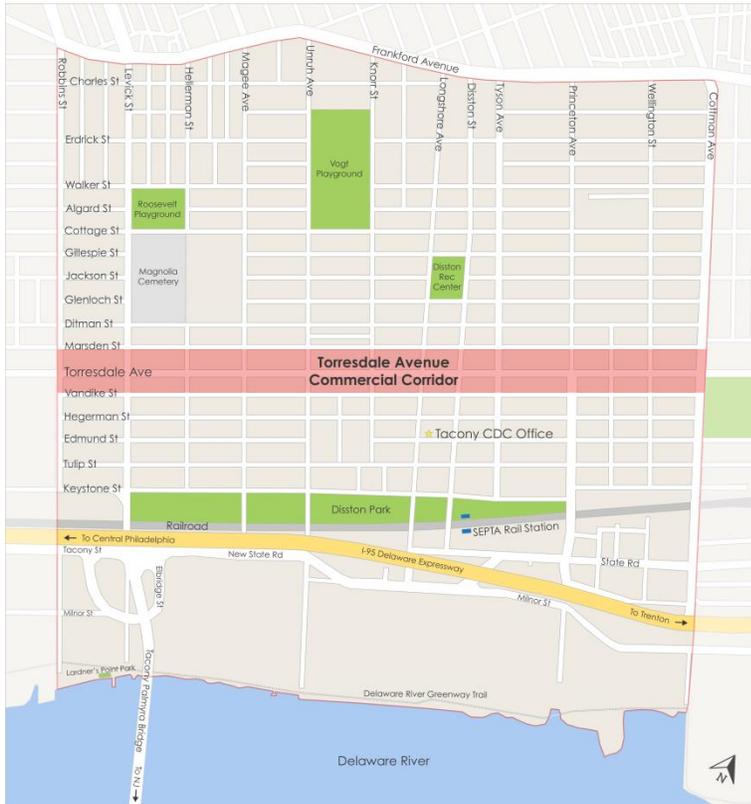
PROGRAM GOALS

Over the last few years Mural Arts Philadelphia has launched several storefront hubs to maximize its presence in communities where we are involved in major participatory public art projects. With projects such as Southeast by Southeast in South Philadelphia (muralarts.org/southeast) and Neighborhood Time Exchange in West Philadelphia (neighborhoodtime.exchange), we have found that having a consistent presence helps to galvanize the community, provide additional services, create a safe and welcoming space, and make an impact on life along a corridor.

In Tacony, we look to the Torresdale Avenue corridor as the point of inspiration and the storefront studio hub as the spark. With civic projects such as the library renovation, the neighborhood is entering a new phase of exploration, evaluation and transformation. We are inspired by the robust blend of challenges and opportunities the neighborhood provides; it is the perfect creative springboard for artists.

With the launch of the Tacony LAB and the production of several public art interventions along Torresdale Avenue, we are engaging the community in the language of place-making. This process infuses Tacony with the presence of artists working on public projects in public space, exploring the cross-fertilization of the visual arts and civic improvement, and demonstrating how working with creative thinkers and artists can amplify community assets while tackling challenges.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY



The Torresdale Avenue Commercial corridor, located between Cottman Avenue to the north and Robbins Street to the south. Map courtesy of the Tacony CDC.

Located along the Delaware River in Northeast Philadelphia, Tacony is a historic community with roots dating back to 1679. It is perhaps most well known as the location of Disston Estate, a “company town” created by industrialist Henry Disston in 1871 to house workers at the Disston Saw Works. Disston intended Disston Estate to be "a paradise for the working man of moderate means" and to a great degree, he achieved this goal. Well into the 20th century, Tacony was a suburban-style town within the city: a place of steady jobs, public green space, single-family homes, and cohesive community.

Following World War Two, deindustrialization led to a decline in neighborhood conditions. One by one, the factories that drove Tacony’s economy disappeared and businesses closed on the commercial corridor of Torresdale Avenue. However, the built environment of the neighborhood remained largely intact, with many Victorian houses and tree-lined streets, in addition to historic buildings such as the Tacony Library and amenities such as Disston Park.

In recent years, organizations such as the Tacony Community Development Corporation have been working to reverse the effects of decades of disinvestment through initiatives that will have maximum impact in reducing blight and spurring development. Effective vacancy on the Torresdale Avenue Commercial Corridor fell from 30 percent to 10 percent in past 3 years. Improvements such as security cameras, street cleaning and rehabbed storefronts are working in combination with major projects such as the renovation of the Tacony Library to spur investment and interest.

For more information, visit:

History of Tacony: [youtube.com/watch?v=ovjypSpk9UU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovjypSpk9UU)

History of Torresdale Avenue: [youtube.com/watch?v=3KRUt3LvO6A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KRUt3LvO6A)

Historical Society of Tacony: historictacony.blogspot.com

Northeast Times: northeasttimes.com/2015/jan/28/-depth-look-tacony-history

Preservation Alliance: preservationalliance.com/explore-philadelphia/philadelphia-neighborhoods/tacony

PlanPhilly: planphilly.com/articles/2010/05/03/look-disston-company-town

ABOUT MURAL ARTS PHILADELPHIA

Mural Arts Philadelphia, founded in 1984, is the largest public art program in the United States. MAP believes that art ignites change. We create art with others to transform places, individuals, communities and institutions. Through this work, we establish new standards of excellence in the practice of public and contemporary art. Our process empowers artists to be change agents, stimulates dialogue about critical issues, and builds bridges of connection and understanding. Our work is created in service of a larger movement that values equity, fairness and progress across all of society. We listen with empathetic ears to understand the aspirations of our partners and participants. And through beautiful collaborative art, we provide people with the inspiration and tools to seize their own future. For most information, visit: muralarts.org.

ABOUT THE PARTNERS

Councilman Bobby Henon's Office

Councilman Bobby Henon represents Philadelphia's 6th Council District in Northeast Philadelphia, which includes the proud neighborhoods of Tacony, Mayfair, Holmesburg, Lexington Park, Holme Circle, Ashton, Bridesburg, Wissinoming, Port Richmond, East Torresdale, Castor Gardens, Oxford Circle, Rhawnhurst, Bells Corner, and Frankford. For more information, visit: bobbyhenon.com.

The Tacony Community Development Corporation/ The Historic Tacony Revitalization Project

The Historic Tacony Revitalization Project is a project sponsored by the Tacony Community Development Corporation (TCDC) to revitalize Torresdale Avenue in the Tacony neighborhood of Philadelphia. The effort is guided by the Main Street approach to commercial district revitalization. For more information, visit: historictaconyrevitalization.com.