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PRESS RELEASE

Mural Arts Philadelphia to Receive \$25,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved [more than \\$25 million in grants as part of the NEA’s first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2018](#). Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of \$25,000 to Mural Arts Philadelphia for *FloatLab*, a public art installation using sound and light to interpret the ecological health of the Schuylkill River. The Art Works category is the NEA’s largest funding category and supports projects that focus on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and/or the strengthening of communities through the arts.

“It is energizing to see the impact that the arts are making throughout the United States. These NEA-supported projects, such as this one to Mural Arts Philadelphia, are good examples of how the arts build stronger and more vibrant communities, improve well-being, prepare our children to succeed, and increase the quality of our lives,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “At the National Endowment for the Arts, we believe that all people should have access to the joy, opportunities and connections the arts bring.”

FloatLab, scheduled for completion in 2019, will be a one-of-a-kind, state-of-the-art installation and learning laboratory on the waterfront of the Schuylkill River adjacent to Bartram's Garden. The innovative design from artist J. Meejin Yoon combines the power of art and



FloatLab rendering by Höwler + Yoon Architecture.

science to create a platform for engagement with art and ecology, in ways that will build champions and stewards for Philadelphia's rivers and wider ecosystem.

FloatLab will employ techniques from architectural design, marine engineering, and naval architecture to provide the public with the unique experience of seeing the water at eye level, bringing previously invisible properties of the Schuylkill into focus.

For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

Mural Arts Philadelphia is the nation's largest public art program, dedicated to the belief that art ignites change. For over 30 years, Mural Arts has united artists and communities through a collaborative and equitable process, creating nearly 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 us on social media: @muralarts on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and Snapchat, [MuralArtsPhiladelphia](#) on Facebook, and [phillymuralarts](#) on YouTube.

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