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MURAL ARTS PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, AND PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT UNVEIL DESIGN OF NEW MURAL

Tweet this: New mural announced for 13th & Arch with @muralarts @phillyh2o @phsgardening. Public paint days to come in spring & summer.

PHILADELPHIA – March 1, 2018 – Mural Arts Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and Philadelphia Water Department announce a new mural project, *Water Gives Life* by Eurhi Jones and David McShane. *Water Gives Life* will celebrate the present innovations and future vision of these organizations to bring forward-thinking sustainability and beauty to Philadelphia, improving the quality of urban life. The mural is a reimagining of the Mural Arts Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Horticultural Society mural painted by McShane in 1998 at the same location. This enormous (42-foot x 115-foot) work of art will continue to bring a magnified celebration of nature right to the heart of Center City at 13th and Arch Streets.

Water is Life
rendering by
Eurhi Jones
and David
McShane.
*Final design
may have
slight
alterations.*



Celebrating the union between Philadelphia's rivers and local flora, the mural will contain imagery of plants and water. Totem-like arrangements of plant life and pollinators float over a stylized view of Philadelphia. Echoing raindrops, the botanical arrangements were inspired by the elegant hanging wire sculptures of the Japanese-American sculptor Ruth Asawa. Color blocks create an aerial view of the city from the Schuylkill to the Delaware. Woven throughout the composition is the complex network of pipes that deliver clean water throughout the urban

landscape. Nestled among the flowers are fruits and vegetables cultivated in the local ecosystem - which serve as symbols of our access to clean water. *Water Gives Life* marks the third art installation Eurhi Jones has created in conjunction with PWD. In 2015, Jones and PWD created *Waterways*, a temporary art project in Manayunk that used wildlife-themed art decals on sidewalks and buildings to highlight a major water infrastructure project at the renovated Venice Island Performing Arts and Recreation Center.

Jane Golden, Executive Director of Mural Arts Philadelphia, said, “Mural Arts Philadelphia has enjoyed longstanding partnerships with both the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Philadelphia Water Department. We love that art can bring our organizations together again to create a beautiful new piece of art for the public to enjoy and celebrate.”

The mural will be underway this spring, with public paint days planned for spring and summer when members of the public can participate in the creation of the project. These free opportunities welcome painters of all abilities and ages to come get their paintbrushes wet and participate in one or more events. All supplies will be provided. The mural is scheduled to be dedicated in October 2018.



“Whether it is in the rivers that provide our drinking water or in the pipes that connect every home and business to our treatment plants, water is extremely important to our city,” said **Philadelphia Water Department Commissioner Debra McCarty**. “We’re excited about this mural’s focus on water and want to recognize Mural Arts and PHS for working with us in neighborhoods across the city to start conversations about the importance of infrastructure and protecting our rivers.”

“The dynamic interplay between people, plants, and our region’s water supply, is emblematic of the kind of unique collaboration that is needed to effect positive change in our neighborhoods, such as our Rain Check program and PWD’s *Green City, Clean Waters* plan,” said **Matt**

Rader, PHS President. “As this year’s Philadelphia Flower Show explores the ‘Wonders of Water,’ we are excited to partner with both Mural Arts Philadelphia and PWD on this mural, bringing much needed attention to the importance of clean, quality water in our communities.”

About the Artists

Eurhi Jones and **David McShane**, who have been art and life partners for 20 years, met as students at the nearby Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. **Eurhi Jones** has been painting murals with the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program since 1999. She has created murals at schools, recreation centers, playgrounds, and garden spaces around Philadelphia. Her murals appear in the Please Touch Museum, at the Philadelphia Zoo, on Bodine High School, and at community gardens in Brewerytown and West Philadelphia. In addition to painting, she works with textiles, fabric sculpture, and embroidery. She has shown work at the Asian Arts Initiative, University City Arts League, Main Line Arts Center, Abington Arts Center, Wallingford Community Art Center, and the Philadelphia International Airport. Eurhi was raised in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania and is a graduate of Wesleyan University and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

David McShane has been painting for the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program since 1996, and has completed over 100 large, outdoor, community-based murals in the Philadelphia area. His murals include over a dozen elementary school transformations projects in partnership with the Philadelphia Eagles, the Phillies Mural, the Philadelphia Stars Negro League Mural, the Herman Wrice Mural, the Larry Fine Mural, the Jackie Robinson Mural, several fallen police officer and firefighter tribute murals, and the original Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Mural. Outside of Philadelphia, David has received grants to create community murals in Coatesville and Middletown Township, PA, Dublin, Ireland, and in the suburbs of Paris, France. He also creates fine art paintings in his studio, and has exhibited his work at the LaSalle University Art Museum, Artists’ House Gallery, Temple Gallery of the Tyler School of Art, the University City Arts League, the Philadelphia Office of Arts and Culture, and Nexus Gallery. David was raised in Audubon, New Jersey and received degrees from LaSalle University and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

Support for *Water Gives Life* has been provided by the Philadelphia Water Department, City of Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is a not-for-profit organization, founded in 1827, that works to engage everyone in gardening and apply horticulture to transform lives and communities while solving tough challenges facing society. PHS's best known activities include the Philadelphia Flower Show, street tree planting and maintenance, community gardening, public beautification, and the PHS Pop Up Gardens. PHS is supported by individual members and supporters, foundations, partners and government grants. PHS programs bring together people from diverse backgrounds to engage in horticultural projects that advance social equity, environmental sustainability, and urban livability. For information or to support our work, visit [PHSONline.org](https://www.phsonline.org).

The Philadelphia Water Department serves the Greater Philadelphia region by providing integrated water, wastewater, and stormwater services. The utility plans for, operates, and maintains both the infrastructure and the organization necessary to purvey high-quality drinking water to provide an adequate and reliable water supply for all household, commercial, and community needs, and to sustain and enhance the region's watersheds and quality of life by managing wastewater and stormwater effectively. www.phila.gov/water

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](https://twitter.com/muralarts), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/muralarts), and Snapchat, [MuralArtsPhiladelphia](https://www.facebook.com/MuralArtsPhiladelphia) on Facebook, and [phillymuralarts](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCphillymuralarts) on YouTube.

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