



## Tacony LAB Artist Residency

**Fall 2018**

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

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### REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

**Deadline: 5 pm EST, Monday, June 25, 2018**

Please email [maria.moller@muralarts.org](mailto:maria.moller@muralarts.org) with any questions or comments.

No phone calls, please.

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### 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](http://www.muralarts.org/artworks/tacony-lab)

[www.facebook.com/taconyLAB](http://www.facebook.com/taconyLAB)

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## **2018 Fall Residency**

The Tacony LAB Community Arts Center invites visual artists to apply for a 12-week residency, running September 10-December 2. This residency is a unique opportunity to combine personal practice, community engagement, and the creation of civically-focused public art.

Designed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a “workers’ utopia” with numerous parks and bordered on the east by the Delaware River, Tacony is a historic, diverse and traditionally industrial neighborhood. The resident artist will work with the neighborhood to develop an art 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 studio space is 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 for project production. 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.

Applicants are encouraged to visit the LAB Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/taconyLAB](https://www.facebook.com/taconyLAB)) to see photos of the LAB and and listings of classes and events.

## ***ELIGIBILITY***

The residency is open to visual artists, working in any medium, who are 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, Monday, June 25, 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***

- Monday, June 25, 5:00 pm: applications due.
- Week of July 16: applicants will be notified of decisions.
- September 10: residency begins.
- December 2: residency ends.
- Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:
  - The artist's experience and skill in the creation of unique works of art 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](mailto:maria.moller@muralarts.org). (For help with sharing files on Dropbox, visit: [www.dropbox.com/en/help/19](http://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 5 pm EST, Monday, June 25, 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, “worksamples,” 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](http://muralarts.org/southeast)) and Neighborhood Time Exchange in West Philadelphia ([neighborhoodtime.exchange](http://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 recent renovation of the Tacony Library, 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**

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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://youtube.com/watch?v=ovjypSpk9UU)

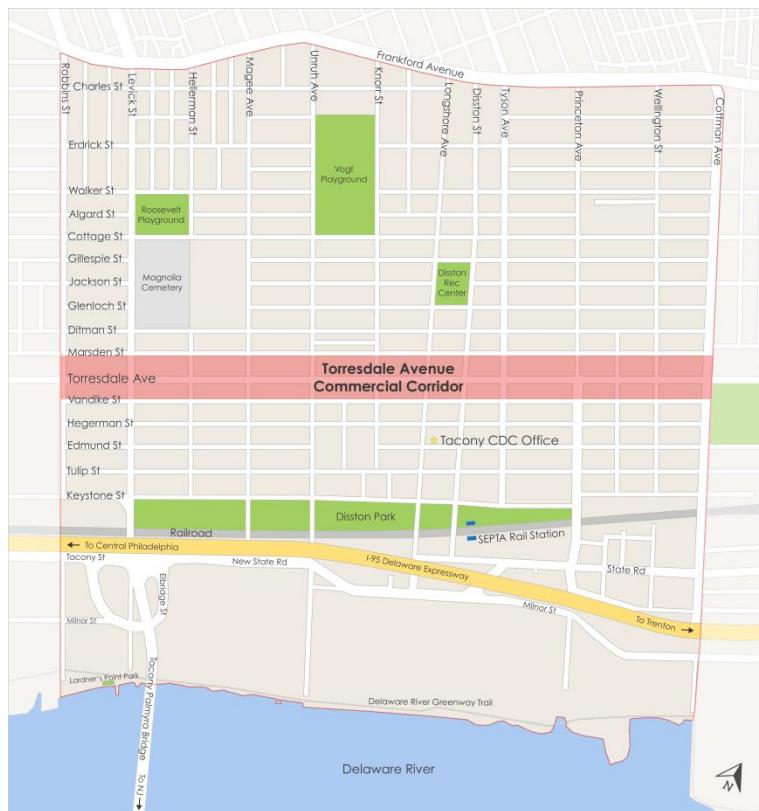
History of Torresdale Avenue: [youtube.com/watch?v=3KRUt3LvO6A](https://youtube.com/watch?v=3KRUt3LvO6A)

Historical Society of Tacony: [historictacony.blogspot.com](http://historictacony.blogspot.com)

Northeast Times: [northeasttimes.com/2015/jan/28/-depth-look-tacony-history](http://northeasttimes.com/2015/jan/28/-depth-look-tacony-history)

Preservation Alliance: [preservationalliance.com/explore-philadelphia/philadelphia-neighborhoods/tacony](http://preservationalliance.com/explore-philadelphia/philadelphia-neighborhoods/tacony)

PlanPhilly: [planphilly.com/articles/2010/05/03/look-disston-company-town](http://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](http://muralarts.org).