

SITE / SOUND



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Revealing the Rail Park

SITE/SOUND: REVEALING THE RAIL PARK SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED HIGHLIGHTING RAIL PARK'S PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE Friends of the Rail Park, Mural Arts Philadelphia, and American Composers Forum to Collaborate on Host of Free Performances and Programs

TWEET THIS: Coming Oct 5-19: @muralarts @therailpark & @acfphiladelphia join forces for *Site/Sound!* Experience public art through sight and sound as well as festivities along the future sites of the Rail Park. The schedule has been released!

PHILADELPHIA – August 22, 2019 – Friends of the Rail Park, Mural Arts Philadelphia, and American Composers Forum, Philadelphia Chapter announce the programming schedule for their new collaborative project to take place this fall: *Site/Sound: Revealing the Rail Park*. *Site/Sound* is a free fall festival taking place

October 5–19, 2019 that invites Philadelphians and visitors to envision together the past, present, and future of the city's Rail Park, being developed along the historic terminus of the Reading Railroad. The festival combines large-scale art installations created through sound and light projection by three teams of Philadelphia



Concept Sketch of *Moon Viewing Platform* by Nadia Hironaka, Matthew Suib, & Eugene Lew for *Site/Sound: Revealing the Rail Park*, Oct. 5-19, 2019

artists, cutting-edge live performances of new music, discussions on the use of public art in creating great public spaces, and fun and engaging activities and experiences designed by community organizations from neighborhoods along the current and future Rail Park. Across all three sites, the festival will present a diverse mix of Jazz, Folk, World, Contemporary Classical, Soundscapes, and Electronic music, as well as dance and performance art. Like the anchor installations, the music of *Site/Sound* is shaped by its surroundings, creating a unique listening experience.

SAVE THE DATE! Media are invited to a press preview on Wednesday, October 2 at 6 pm to get a taste of the performances and hear from some of the artists and performers.

The Rail Park and adjoining neighborhoods will teem with public events and innovative art installations combining sound and visual art, celebrating the past, present, and future of the historic rail corridor. *Site/Sound* will invite the public to envision the path of the future park and experience its unusual vantage both above and below the cityscape. The three main projects will take place in various locations bounded between Vine & Spring Garden Streets and 9th & 18th Streets.

Gene Coleman, Executive Director of ACF Philadelphia, will serve as curator of the three anchor art installations from three teams of noted Philadelphia-based visual and sound artist teams: Carolyn Healy and John JH Phillips; Erik Ruin and Rosie Langabeer; and Nadia Hironaka, Matthew Suib, and Eugene Lew. The main installations will be activated on three Saturdays – October 5, 12, and 19 – taking place between 5:30 and 9:30 pm each evening at various locations along the future path of the Park with live performances (see complete schedule, below).

“The *Site/Sound* festival is an opportunity to bring to light the sections of the proposed three-mile Rail Park that many people don’t realize exist,” stated **Kevin Dow, Executive Director, Friends of the Rail Park**. “With only a quarter-mile complete at this time, the Rail Park is more vision than actual park and the three artist installations, along with a robust schedule of community programming, highlight the unfinished sections and I hope will serve as inspiration to Philadelphians to get the rest completed.”

Vibrant community programming is the heart of *Site/Sound*, offered free of charge. Enjoy high-energy taiko drum performances by beloved local all-volunteer ensemble KyoDaiko. Be inspired by spoken-word nights and storytelling events drawn from the hidden history of the railroad from Pecola Breedlove & The Freedom Party and local-artist-created character Auntie Kym. Learn more about the neighborhood’s past and present through specialty tours and experience a “new” technology by building a 19th-century-style pinhole camera with Tsirkus Fotografika. Family-friendly art and sound activities from The Franklin Institute, local artists, and Mural Arts’ Mural Mobile are on offer at and nearby the Rail Park greenway between Broad and North 11th Streets. On the final night of the festival, guests can witness and participate in the creation and destruction of a sand *mandala* with the Bethesda Project and Tibetan scholar and artist Losang Samten (see complete schedule, below).

Jane Golden, Executive Director of Mural Arts Philadelphia, said, “I am thrilled that this fall brings another multi-faceted public art exhibition and festival in the tradition of *Open Source* and *Monument Lab*. *Site/Sound* is a complex and exciting new endeavor that is creative, engaging, and fun. Each of the three large-scale site-specific multi-disciplinary installations will incorporate light projection and cutting-edge performances of new music. In their collective diversity of aesthetic, tone, and intent, these projects posit the public landscape as a place where the mechanical mind and the imagination poetically overlap and proclaim that the Rail Park is open for all.”

Gene Coleman, Site/Sound Curator stated, “It’s a pleasure to be able to present the innovative work of these three outstanding composer/visual artist teams. Each installation creates spaces of environmental, social, and historic meditation, incorporating sound and audio-visual media as new forms of expression in public art and reflecting the history and future of the Rail Park, a new vital cultural asset to the city.”

SITE/SOUND: REVEALING THE RAIL PARK PUBLIC SCHEDULE

Please check the Site/Sound website for final schedule and performers

Saturday, October 5

Installation Performances, Night One

5:30 – 9:30 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, October 6

Kick off the festival with a toast at Roy Pitz, next to the first performance at 990 Spring Garden Street.

- *Soon/ Now/ Gone*, 990 Spring Garden Street, rear parking lot, Erik Ruin & Rosie Langabeer
- *Aspect 281*, 990 Spring Garden Street, east parking lot, Carolyn Healy & John JH Phillips
- *Moon Viewing Platform*, The Cut, between North 17 and 18th Streets, north of Callowhill (viewable from 465 North 18th Street), Nadia Hironaka, Matthew Suib, & Eugene Lew

Sunday, October 6

Rail Park Specialty Tour

Tuesday, October 8

Taiko Drumming with KyoDaiko

The Rail Park, enter at Broad & Noble Streets, 7 p.m.

Honoring the people of Asian descent who were instrumental in the construction of American railroads, this free performance is an interactive taiko drumming performance from group KyoDaiko.

Thursday, October 10

Chinatown Anti-Displacement Walk

10th & Vine Plaza, 6-8 p.m.

Beginning in the heart of Chinatown, this special tour led by the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation (PCDC) is part of a series of walks exploring Race, Protest, and the Built Environment, and the need for anti-displacement measures to protect gentrifying communities. Ends at the YeShi Chinatown Night Market hosted by PCDC.

Community Workshop at the 2019 YeShi Chinatown Night Market

10th & Vine Plaza, 7-9 p.m.

At this Community Workshop, join local artists to make a special object that you can use throughout the festival. In this workshop, participants will learn how to make shadow puppets that bring the world to life.

Friday, October 11

muraLAB: Art-Making and Public Spaces (a Design Philadelphia Event)

Triple Bottom Brewing, 915 Spring Garden Street, 5:30-7 p.m.

Why does public art matter? How does it inspire wonder and create connections in public spaces? Join guests Lucas Cowan from Boston's Rose Kennedy Greenway and Miranda Kyle, Arts and Culture Program Manager for the Atlanta BeltLine, as they discuss art as a tool for community and exploration in these unique public spaces.

Saturday, October 12

Family Day

Folk Arts - Cultural Treasures Charter School (FACTS)

1023 Callowhill Street, 3-5 p.m.

This fun Family Day includes interactive demonstrations from a Franklin Institute sound scientist and art activities with the Mural Arts Mural Mobile. Build your own 19th-century-style pinhole camera with Tsirkus Fotografika, learn how to capture images, then shoot your first roll of film. Come back for the Saturday night performance at FACTS to drop off the film and have it developed for free. *Workshop sponsored by PhotoLounge of Philadelphia and Lomography.*

Installation Performances, Night Two

5:30 – 9:30 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, October 13

- *Soon/ Now/ Gone*, Shamokin Street between N. 11th Street and Ridge Avenue
- *Aspect 281*, 990 Spring Garden Street, east parking lot
- *Moon Viewing Platform*, The Cut, between North 17 and 18th Streets, north of Callowhill (viewable from 465 North 18th Street)

Sunday, October 13

Mural Arts Specialty Tour

The Rail Park (Broad & Noble Streets), 11 a.m.

Join Mural Arts Philadelphia for a special walking tour with a notable Philadelphia personality, highlighting murals in the neighborhoods along the railroad corridor.

Tuesday, October 15

Storytelling with Auntie Kym

The Rail Park (Broad & Noble Streets), 7 p.m.

Auntie Kym, created by artist Kymberlee Johnson-Norfleet, will host an evening of personal stories and poetry inspired by the history of the Rail Park and explore how to honor community in adapting it for new uses.

Thursday, October 17

Rail Park Walking Tour

Meet at 21st & Pennsylvania Avenue, 6 p.m.

Join Friends of the Rail Park board members for a street-level walking tour and explore the park's past, present, and future. This street-level tour will follow along elevated and submerged sections of the former Reading Railroad and will end at the Rail Park (Broad & Noble Streets).

Friday, October 18

Homegrown with Pecola Breedlove & The Freedom Party

Location to be confirmed, 7-9 p.m.

Pecola Breedlove & The Freedom Party is a gathering space for poets, lovers of poetry, and people of color who are simply looking for positive vibes in the city of Philadelphia. For this special event, generations of poets will write and perform poems about the history of their neighborhoods.

Saturday, October 19

Mandala Meditation with the Bethesda Project

Under the Viaduct, 907 Hamilton Street, 3-6:16 p.m. (sunset)

In partnership with the Bethesda Project, watch and reflect as scholar, artist, and former Tibetan monk Losang Samten creates a sacred sand *mandala*. At sunset, help dismantle it to close out the festival.

Installation Performances, Night Three

5:30-9:30 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, October 20

- *Soon/ Now/ Gone*, Under the Carlton Street Tunnel, between North 11th & North 12th Streets
- *Aspect 281*, 990 Spring Garden Street
- *Moon Viewing Platform*, The Cut, between North 17 & 18th Streets, north of Callowhill (viewable from 465 North 18th Street)

The Site/Sound Projects

Carolyn Healy & John JH Phillips, *Aspect 281*, 990 Spring Garden Street, east parking lot

Carolyn Healy and John JH Phillips will present *Aspect 281*, a site-specific multimedia installation in the parking lot beneath the Reading Viaduct just east of 990 Spring Garden Street. This anonymous urban space will be transformed into a vibrant matrix of objects, sound, video, and graphics revolving around the idea of signals, nestled against the tracks leading into the future expanded Rail Park. The artists' ideas originally sprang from curiosity about the impact railroads had on the urban history of the city. As trains became a prevalent feature of the city, the routes of the rail cars became critical, much like the travel of packets of digital information carves pathways in our contemporary culture. Collaborating with composer and curator Gene Coleman, Healy and Phillips will present three evenings of eclectic audio/visual performances in the installation.

Nadia Hironaka, Matthew Suib, and Eugene Lew, *Moon Viewing Platform*,

The Cut, between North 17th & North 18th Streets, north of Callowhill (viewable from 465 North 18th Street)

Moon Viewing Platform is an interdisciplinary public installation that will transform an inhospitable and disused stretch of open-air land into a large-scale performance/gathering space featuring regular acts of caring, a stage, and building-sized nighttime video projections featuring an episodic series of short films. The garden/installation references the *karesansui* (Japanese dry landscape garden), as it becomes a set for a series of short videos and musical performances, inviting audiences to enter another world through the senses and the imagination and provides the opportunity to engage in intimate commemorative gatherings that celebrate compassion, creativity, and community as essential components of human life.

Erik Ruin and Rosie Langabeer: *Soon/ Now/ Gone*, located at a different location each of the three weeks:

- *October 5*: 990 Spring Garden Street, rear parking lot
- *October 12*: Shamokin Street between North 11th & Ridge Streets
- *October 19*: Under the Carlton Street Tunnel, between North 11th & North 12th Streets

Soon/ Now/ Gone engages with the Rail Park site's history as a space for movement through a series of interactive installations and performances. The point of departure is the Victorian era, where technologies such as the railroad and photography/cinema began to be used as a way to capture, collapse, and re-deploy time. In various



tunnels and underpasses beneath the Viaduct section of the Rail Park, audiences will be invited to activate zoopraxiscopes – a pre-cinema device developed by Eadweard Muybridge in 1879 – which will project hand-drawn images from rotating glass disks in rapid succession to create the illusion of motion. Each zoopraxiscope is fitted with a music device that visitors can use to activate an original soundtrack composed for the installation. By turning on and off different strains of the music and triggering sound effects, they will be able to create their own scores to the moving images on the tunnel wall. Thematically-linked performance programs each night feature everything from time-traveling storytellers to processional puppets to audio-visual improvisations.

Site/Sound: Revealing the Rail Park is supported by the William Penn Foundation, PNC Arts Alive, and PECO. Special thanks to the National Endowment for the Arts and SEPTA. For more information, visit muralarts.org/sitesound.

About the Partners

Friends of the Rail Park (FRP) is a 501(c)3 organization that drives the vision behind the transformation of historic rail lines that traverse Philadelphia into a continuous three-mile linear park and recreation path that connects and enlivens the social, historical and environmental fabric of Philadelphia's communities. FRP's mission is to be the City's partner to create, activate, and enhance the quality of the Rail Park in order to engage diverse residents, bridge communities, and promote inclusivity among Philadelphians and visitors. Visit therailpark.org.

The American Composers Forum, Philadelphia Chapter facilitates an ecosystem of creativity through music. Our goal is to make composers, and the music they create, a vibrant and integral part of human culture. Programs reflect the diversity of our world, and we partner with a variety of ensembles and organizations to create opportunities for new work to flourish. Visit acfphiladelphia.org.

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

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photos of the Rail Park Viaduct courtesy of Friends of the Rail Park
EDITOR'S NOTE: high-resolution images are available in the Mural Arts Philadelphia press room at <http://bit.ly/MuralArtsPressKit>.