

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Mural Arts Philadelphia Celebrates “A Universe of Possibility” During its 2022 Mural Arts Month Celebration

*The annual, activity-filled October explores creative possibilities & the universal language of art that tells community stories.*



**September 15, 2022 (Philadelphia)** - [Mural Arts Philadelphia](#) (Mural Arts), alongside presenting sponsor TD Bank, today announced the return of its annual **Mural Arts Month** in October with a special announcement of its 2022 theme – ***A Universe of Possibility*** – and a preview of the activity-filled month ahead. Offering community members a chance to experience Mural Arts beyond the wall, Mural Arts will bring the 2022 theme to life with a pop-up exhibition at the [Independence Visitor Center](#) (Visitor Center), where guests can visit and learn about the murals that make Philadelphia the “Mural Capital of the World.” While exploring at the Visitor Center, people will discover Mural Arts happenings across the City of Philadelphia throughout the month, including **key highlights**:

- Mural Arts Fest at LOVE Park
- Mural exhibition and live mural painting for kids and families at Please Touch Museum
- Mural Mingle Happy Hour Series at Yards Brewing Co.
- Special walking tours and Mural Miles Run
- Design unveil of Mural Arts’ new Kensington van
- Dedications and activities featuring Philadelphia’s newest murals and public art projects.



“Art ignites change and opens *A Universe of Possibility* to be explored,” said Jane Golden, executive director, Mural Arts Philadelphia. “This October is all about imagining the creative possibility that art can provide our communities. The changes we can make when we open up our minds. The breakdown of walls through art's universal language that we all see, speak, and feel.”

"We are grateful for the incredible work championed by Mural Arts Philadelphia and excited to see what's in store for Mural Arts Month in 2022. Philadelphia is a beacon for outstanding talent, and we are thrilled to support the effort to uplift and connect our communities through art," remarked Shelley Sylva, TD Bank's Head of US Corporate Citizenship.

Inspired by the *Universe of Possibility* theme, artist Jamee Grigsby designed the 2022 Mural Arts Month theme with a mini-mural now on display at the entrance of the pop-up Mural Arts exhibition at the Visitor Center. A former student of Olney High School who was introduced to Mural Arts through its Art Education program, Grigsby is an example of how art can inspire and shape our communities. Now a lead teaching artist in Mural Arts' Art Education program, Grigsby uses her talents to work hands-on with students and communities to create art that brightens another's day.

From September 28, 2022 - October 31, 2022, the pop-up Mural Arts exhibition titled, Mural Capital Of The World: A Photo Retrospective by Steve Weinik, at the Visitor Center will allow visitors to experience the “Mural Capital of the World” from the lens of Mural Arts’ Senior Staff Photographer Steve Weinik. Working with Mural Arts in a number of capacities since 2006, today, Weinik’s everyday life as Mural Arts’ photographer involves capturing the beauty and integrity of murals through his photography. These images allow people all over the world to experience and connect with artists and their stories, creating art that ignites change. With the help of curator Conrad Benner of Streets Dept., this pop-up exhibition will also include events and Saturday mural tours.

People of all ages and interests are encouraged to participate in exploratory art events meant to inspire throughout October 2022. This is Mural Arts’ 24th year celebrating Mural Arts Month.

### **FULL CALENDAR OF MURAL ARTS MONTH EVENTS & HAPPENINGS INCLUDE:**

#### **Pop-Up Mural Arts Exhibition at Independence Visitor Center titled, Mural Capital Of The World: A Photo Retrospective by Steve Weinik**

**September 28 - October 31, 2022**

**Open daily during regular Visitors Center hours, 9 am - 5 pm**

- Special ***Opening Night on Wednesday, September 28, 5 - 8 pm***  
Q&A led by curator Conrad Benner of Streets Dept. with Senior Photographer Steve Weinik

#### **[Independence Visitor Center](#)**

599 Market Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106

Mural Arts will celebrate a *Universe of Possibility* from September 28 - October 31, 2022, at the Independence Visitor Center with a pop-up Mural Arts exhibition titled, titled, Mural Capital Of The World: A Photo Retrospective by Steve Weinik. Upon arrival, people will be greeted by artist Jamee Grigsby's *Universe of Possibility* mini-mural and have an opportunity to experience the "Mural Capital of the World" from the lens of Mural Arts renowned photographer Steve Weinik. Weinik's photographs allow people all over the world to experience and connect with artists and their stories that create art that ignites change. Alongside the pop-up, Mural Arts will offer special tours leaving from the Visitor Center. The cafe space will be transformed into the Mural Arts Cafe as well.

Guests can experience the pop-up at the Independence Visitor Center, open daily to the public from 9 am to 5 pm.

### **Mural Arts Tours**

In addition to our regularly scheduled walking tours, Mural Arts will offer a special walking tour throughout October from the Independence Visitor Center. Guests will learn about the city's stunning collection that makes Philadelphia the "Mural Capital of the World." This special tour is in addition to regularly scheduled Center City *Mural Mile* tours on Saturdays at 11 am and Sundays at 2 pm, and rotating neighborhood tours on Saturdays at 2 pm and Sundays at 11 am. Visit [muralarts.org/tours](https://muralarts.org/tours) for a complete schedule of tours or to book your unforgettable experience.

- **Special Center City Mural Mile East**  
**October 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2022 at 2 pm**  
**Starting Location:**  
**Independence Visitor Center**  
599 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Beginning at the pop-up Mural Arts Museum at the Independence Visitor Center, Mural Arts professional tour guides will weave through the streets surrounding historic Philadelphia sites for a 90-minute mural tour, including two public artworks by artist David S. Gordon found at the Independence Visitor Center, *Apprised* and *Acknowledgment*.

All ages are welcome, with tour tickets sold for \$25 for adults and \$18 for children 12 and under. Tickets for tours can be booked at [muralarts.org/tours](https://muralarts.org/tours) and must be purchased in advance.

- **Mural Miles Run with Philadelphia Runner**  
**October 27, 2022, at 5:30 pm**  
**Philadelphia Runner**  
1711 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Mural Miles—the running group that runs miles to murals to learn about art on the move—will host a special Mural Arts Month run in partnership with Philadelphia Runner. Looping through the streets of Philadelphia, runners will be able to see public artworks from the world’s largest outdoor public art gallery.

### **Mural Mingle Happy Hour Series at Yards Brewing Co.**

**Thursday, October 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2022, 3 pm - 6 pm**

**Yards Brewing Company**

500 Spring Garden Street

Philadelphia, PA 19123

Every Thursday in October, Mural Arts will head to the [Yards Brewing Co.](#) for a special mural-inspired happy hour from 3 pm - 6 pm. Each week, Mural Arts will invite an artist to mingle with guests and join in beer, fun, and conversation, offering behind-the-scenes views and inspiration of their mural found in the Philadelphia community.

- **Thursday, October 6, 2022, 3 - 6 pm**  
**Featuring artist Arden Bendler Browning of [Elastic Geography](#) located at Yards Brewing Co.**

In May 2022, Yards Brewing Co. received its own mural titled *Elastic Geography* by artist Arden Bendler Browning on the exterior of the Yards Brewing Co. located at 500 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123. The mural was inspired by colors derived from Yards’ current product labels and selected landmarks around the immediate neighborhood. The resulting marks are gestural and abstract, echoing the energy and ongoing fluctuation and transition within the community where Yards Brewery is located. The circular portals offer the possibility of imagined worlds within that space.

- **Thursday, October 13, 2022, 3 - 6 pm**  
**Featuring artists Donna Grace Kroh & Rachael Reyes Vazquez of *YEAH Philly - Voices of Expression* located at YEAH Philly**

Artists Donna Grace Kroh & Rachael Reyes Vazquez are behind the soon-to-be-dedicated mural *YEAH Philly - Voices of Expression* on the facade of YEAH Philly’s home located at 5257 Walton Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143. This is the first mural by artist Donna Grace Kroh, who was introduced to Mural Arts by volunteering for a paint day activity at The Oval. Kroh’s design includes the colors teal, black, white, and yellow and also notes inspiration from people, including Malcolm X - and themes of self-advocacy. The mural focuses specifically on the concept of protesting—but Kroh wanted to ensure that it was not shown as negative, aggressive, or violent—rather beautiful, positive, and a means to provide voice. YEAH stands for Youth Empowerment For Advancement Hangout (YEAH) and is a Black-led, community-based nonprofit that works with teens and young adults in West And Southwest Philadelphia ages 15 to 24 who have been impacted by violence. Understanding the correlation between poverty, opportunity, and violence, YEAH provides services to address the short- and long-term needs of teens in the evenings



when violence is most prevalent. Official mural dedication to be hosted following this Mural Mingle on Friday, October 14, 2022 at its new home at YEAH Philly.

- **Thursday, October 20, 2022, 3 - 6 pm**  
**Featuring artist **TBD****
- **Thursday, October 27, 2022, 3 - 6 pm**  
***Know The Elements* mural featuring artist Christian “TAME ARTZ” Rodriguez and Bill Strobel**

Born and raised in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, until the age of 9, Christian “TAMEARTZ” Rodriguez was drawn to the arts through his mother, who he watched draw for hours. His family moved to Philadelphia, where he became infatuated with the graffiti art style, writing, and culture. His new mural, *Know The Elements*, created alongside Bill Strobel, is dedicated to the foundations of Hip-Hop with images identifying DJs, MCs, Graffiti writers, and Breakers, showing the importance of unity and the impact that Hip-Hop culture has had worldwide. The mural highlights important figures from Philly, such as Lady B, Reef the Lost Cauze, and Bboy BoxWon. This mural includes collaboration from Mural Arts’ Restorative Justice Guild program and Rec Crew through workshops and mural installation. TAMEARTZ hopes the youth can see a reflection of themselves within the project.

No advance registration is required. Happy Hour specials for the Mural Mingles will include:

- \$5 | Yards IPA Pretzel, Hummus Platter, Fried Mac & Cheese, Select 20oz Beers
- \$6 | Philly Wings, Cheesesteak Eggrolls, Carnitas Tacos, 1/2 Nachos, Philly-style Cheesecake, Select Wines & Cocktails

### **Mural-Making Saturdays & *We Will Write the World* pop-up mural exhibition at Please Touch Museum**

#### **Please Touch Museum**

Memorial Hall  
4231 Avenue of the Republic  
Philadelphia, PA 19131

- **Pop-up Mural Arts Philadelphia *We Will Write the World* Exhibition**  
**Opening October 5, 2022**, with special \$2 admission for children and families from 4 pm - 7 pm. The exhibition will remain open until October 31, 2022
- **Mural-Making Saturdays: 10 am - 12 pm**  
**October 8, 15, 22, & 29, 2022**



- **Thursday, October 13, 2022, at 10 am - 12 pm – Reading Promise Week Celebration (October 10 - 16)**  
featuring artists and partners behind the murals & special mural-making paint day

Calling all young artists! Mural Arts will head to the [Please Touch Museum](#) in October for hands-on mural making and mural exhibition of the [We Will Write the World](#) public art and early childhood literacy project that proves reading is all around us and inspires adult-child reading interactions.

On Wednesday, October 5, 2022, Please Touch Museum will open its *We Will Write the World* mural exhibition next to its Creative Arts Studio from 4 - 7 pm with a special \$2 Museum admission. Visitors will have the chance to see new murals coming to Philadelphia neighborhoods, as well as the artwork of young artists who inspired the mural designs. The exhibition at the Please Touch Museum will feature murals from South Philadelphia, Logan, Fairhill, and Germantown with artists including Manuela Guillén, De'von Downes, Rebecca Miller, Andre Chaney, Jihan A. Thomas, and Daphne Smallwood.

On Thursday, October 13, an official artist meet-and-greet with the children and all partners involved will take place during Reading Promise Week –October 10 - 16. Special readings will take place, as well as mural-making paint activations with the artists of *We Will Write the World* murals.

On Saturdays from 10 am - 12 pm throughout October - including October 8, 15, 22, and 29, artists from the *We Will Write the World* project will be onsite for hands-on mural making in the Museum's Creative Arts Studio. The artists will work with children and their families to help paint a new mural that will soon be introduced to the community to inspire reading. Museum visitors and participants in the workshops will preview the mural design and help paint the mural behind-the-scenes on parachute cloth, where it will later be transferred to its future home on a wall in the Philadelphia community.

Mural Arts' [We Will Write the World project](#) with funding from the [William Penn Foundation](#) integrates with the [Reading Promise](#) campaign to meet *Read By 4th* goals that stimulate early literacy in Philadelphia. [Read By 4th](#) is Philly's early literacy movement—family, communities, and systems working together to protect every child's right to read. It is guided by the understanding that children who read well by 4th grade have a better chance at school and life success.

**Please Touch Museum is open Monday, Wed-Sat 9 am to 4:30 pm, and Sun 11 am to 4:30 pm.**

Online Reservations Ages 12 mo.+ Are Required.

Make a reservation at [pleasetouchmuseum.org](https://pleasetouchmuseum.org).

### **Mural Arts Fest**

**Saturday, October 22, 2022, 12 pm - 4 pm (Rain date - Sunday, October 23, 2022)**

**LOVE Park**

16th Street & JFK Boulevard

Philadelphia, PA 19102

Mural Arts Fest—a free interactive day filled with live art, music, dancing, creativity, food truck, and fun—will give back to the residents of Philadelphia and celebrate public art that has beautified the city. Travel by Map will spin dance music from around the world for people around the world. SpinCo will join the celebration from 12 - 2 pm through movement in spectacular ways, including hoops and juggling, alongside breakdancing by Hip Hop Fundamentals from 2 - 4 pm. Free family photos and face painting will be onsite. FLYGIRRL will be on-site to create a community mural.

**Mural Arts programs to dedicate its newest murals and host happenings, including:**

- **Mural Arts Porch Light Program will host, *And you will know it's done when the oil stops bubbling* Performances by playwright Mike Durkin**  
**\*Part of the FringeArts' 2022 Fringe Festival**

**October 1, 2022, at 6 pm & October 2, 2022, at 2 pm**

**Kensington Corridor Trust Community Garden**

3236-56 Kensington Ave

Philadelphia, PA

In collaboration with Philadelphia's Kensington neighborhood residents, playwright Mike Durkin will bring theater performances to the Kensington Corridor Trust Community Garden focused titled, *And you will know it's done when the oil stops bubbling*. Durkin describes food as community, power, legacy, memory, love, home, and life. Through performances, Durkin will look at the role food and recipes play in the Kensington area. As a culmination of the project, Durkin will create a community recipe book and participatory community meal. The project aims to look at the diversity of community members to tell the story of Kensington through recipes. By tracing the past, present, and future stories around food, the community can forge deeper relationships with its neighbors as well as the environment. This performance series will be a part of the FringeArts' 2022 Fringe Festival.

Performances are FREE, but tickets are required. Registration for Free Tickets can be made [here](#).

Mural Arts Porch Light program, a collaboration with the City of Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, focuses on achieving universal health and wellness among Philadelphians by offering opportunities to contribute to meaningful works of public art. With year-round workshops, community meetings, health forums, and paint days, the Porch Light program has produced an ongoing list of brilliant murals and transformed public spaces.

- **New Kensington Van Unveil & Community Project Celebration**  
**Thursday, October 6, 2022, at 11 am**  
**In front of *Lots of Lots of Love* Mural**  
**3236 Kensington Ave**  
**Philadelphia, PA**

Mural Arts invites the community to celebrate public art and projects in the Kensington community with a special unveiling of the new Mural Arts' Kensington Storefront van—which was wrapped with a winning artist design. Brought to the Kensington neighborhood by Mural Arts' Porch Light program, the Ford Transit cargo van was a generous gift to Mural Arts Philadelphia from the Snider Foundation and the Anderson Family Foundation, and will support the expansion of the Kensington Storefront's arts, culture, and wellness programming in the 19133, 19134 and 19125 zip codes. Four artists submitted designs and the winning artist was selected with input from the community.

Alongside the new van, Mural Arts will celebrate artists that have brought public art pieces and murals to the community with live-art-making pop-ups by artists who have brought various murals to inspire the community. Mural Arts will also share details on its new Kensington Storefront, open and now located at 3208-3210 Kensington Ave., Philadelphia, which will share space with the *Color Me Back* program. This new storefront location was made possible through the generosity of Shift Capital. To close the fun, there will be a special performance for the community by the Mural Arts Environmental Justice program that works to rectify and activate around environmental justice issues through the intersection of socially engaged public art and environmental justice activism.

Keeping the central issue of dumping facing Philadelphia neighborhoods in mind, Mural Arts' Environmental Justice program will welcome Die, Dumping, Die! or D3, a collective from Fairhill and Kensington neighborhoods that promote a clean, caring, and connected community. In addition to hosting neighborhood cleanups, this group hosts a performance called "*A Funeral for a Dump Site*," illustrating how dumping impacts communities. Through vibrant costumes, dance, and celebration, neighbors will be inspired to take up action against illegal dumping!

- **Mural Arts' Community Murals program will dedicate *YEAH Philly - Voices of Expression* Mural**  
**Friday, October 14, 2022, from 4 - 5 pm**  
**YEAH Philly**  
5257 Walton Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19143

Inspired by Malcolm X, Tupac, MOVE 9, and the young people in their community, YEAH Philly works to holistically support the young people of West/Southwest Philadelphia. Prioritizing larger systemic oppression and understanding the real everyday impacts, YEAH Philly created a liberating space for youth, a connecting space for community, and is becoming an overall pillar in the Philadelphia

community. This project directly represents the work of youth power, Black power, and community power. Represented in bold purples, blues, and black, it leaves YEAH's stamp and welcomes all aligned with the power of Black youth. This mural was designed by Lead Artist Donna Grace Kroh with assistant artist Rachael Reyes Vazquez.

- ***Afromation Avenue: Project Walk with Creators***  
**Wednesday, October 26, 2022, from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm**  
Beginning at 52nd & Chestnut Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19139

Mural Arts will invite guests to walk *Afromation Avenue* Wednesday, October 26th, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, beginning at 52nd & Chestnut, to celebrate Black joy, self-love, and community! *Afromation Avenue* is a collection of curated positive affirmation street signs personalized by predominantly Black/African American communities throughout the city of Philadelphia. The project wants to create spaces for reflective thought and conversation while honoring the cultural identity of each community. Street signs are used to guide and regulate the traffic flow of people; they assist in helping others get from one familiar place to another. *Afromation Avenue* lends itself as a social-emotional guide in hopes of cultivating spaces where community members feel encouraged, valued, and respected. *Afromation Avenue* supports the city's "Read By 4th" early literacy movement, and the School District of Philadelphia's social-emotional learning focus, and furthers the city's beautification initiatives. It also hopes to drive tourism to less visited areas to continue strengthening communities struggling economically.

- **Mural Arts' Art Education program will dedicate *Flight* by artist Tatyana Fazlalizadeh**  
**October 27, 2022, 4 - 7 pm**  
1228 Spruce Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

*Flight* will be a series of murals that imagine what it would be like for Black people to take flight, imagining freedom, liberation, and transformation. Featuring realistic paintings of Black people floating in the air, the murals will range from life-sized to gigantic and will be paired with short texts by Black authors who poetically write about flight in their work. Partners include the University of the Arts and African American Museum of Philadelphia.

Mural Arts' Art Education program works with students across the city to unlock their creative capacities, inviting them to take risks, share their experiences, and illustrate the world as they see it. Art becomes a platform for discovery, launching the types of personal and communal experiences that can shape a student's path for years to come. The program provides in-school and after-school arts-based programming



for over 2,000 students at 16 sites across Philadelphia each year, studying everything from entrepreneurship to environmental stewardship through an artistic lens.

- **Mural Arts' Community Murals Program will dedicate the *Colored Conventions Murals***  
**Friday, October 28, 2022, from 4 - 5 pm**  
315 & 351 Washington Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19147

Mural Arts Philadelphia will dedicate two new murals with the Colored Conventions Project by artist Ernel Martinez, focused on the rich history of the Colored Conventions Movement, founded here in Philadelphia.

From 1830 until well after the Civil War, African Americans gathered across the United States and Canada to participate in political meetings held at the state and national levels. A cornerstone of Black organizing in the nineteenth century, these "Colored Conventions" brought Black men and women together in a seven decades-long campaign for civil rights, education, voting rights, fair labor, and more.

This award-winning initiative brings Nineteenth Century Black organizing to digital life at [ColoredConventions.org](https://ColoredConventions.org). The Colored Conventions Project is a flagship of the Center for Black Digital Research at Penn State University. The City of Philadelphia, Center for Black Digital Research, The Pennsylvania State University, and William Penn Foundation funded the project.

Mural Arts' Community Murals program is deeply rooted in Mural Arts' beginnings as a grassroots platform for the voices of everyday citizens. It collaborates with community members to imagine and lead projects that build social capital, develop a sense of communal ownership over space, represent diversity, and empower people to make change in their city. Community Murals projects often highlight important figures and themes from Philadelphia's history. A rigorous behind-the-scenes process provides community members with the tools and creative space to envision and then express what their stories look like in a public space.

For updates and a complete listing of Mural Arts Month happenings, please visit: [muralarts.org/muralartsmonth](https://muralarts.org/muralartsmonth)

A special thank you to Mural Arts Month sponsors including, TD Bank, PECO, Parkway Corporation, Nick & Dee Adams, as well as Federal Donuts & Signature 57.

#muralartsmonth

### **About Mural Arts Philadelphia:**

Mural Arts Philadelphia is the nation's largest public art program, dedicated to the belief that art ignites change. For more than 35 years, Mural Arts have united artists and communities through a collaborative and equitable process, creating over 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 "Mural Capital of the World." For more information, call 215-685-0750 or visit [muralarts.org](http://muralarts.org). Follow along on social media: @muralarts on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), @MuralArtsPhiladelphia on Facebook, and [phillymuralarts](#) on YouTube.

###

**Media contacts:**

Kaitlyn Haney, Signature 57  
[khaney@signature57.com](mailto:khaney@signature57.com)  
215-514-6495

Tamara Yvette Day, Signature 57  
[tday@signature57.com](mailto:tday@signature57.com)  
571-435-5304

Sinead Murray, Signature 57  
[smurray@signature57.com](mailto:smurray@signature57.com)  
215-584-7730