



Waterway Arts Initiative

Philadelphia Mural Arts, Philadelphia Water Department, Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University

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Contact

Ryan Strand Greenberg

ryanstrandgreenberg@gmail.com

[Submission link](#)

1. Introduction

The Waterway Arts Initiative is a new project emerging from a long standing partnership between the Philadelphia Water Department and Mural Arts, focused on nurturing connections between residents and local waterways. Organizers Phoebe Bachman and Ryan Strand Greenberg will work with a project team and partnering institutions to develop a creative project that draws on the power of multi-disciplinary storytelling and research to raise awareness of key flooding issues in the Philadelphia region. This year's initiative is focused on Philadelphia's Germantown neighborhood, consistently among the most impacted areas for topographic and infrastructure-related flooding over the last several decades.

For more information about the issue of repeated Germantown flooding please read the below articles:

- <https://water.phila.gov/blog/germantown-flooding-task-force/>
- https://www.phila.gov/media/20210128101653/Why_Germantown_Floods_1.22.21.pdf
- <https://water.phila.gov/drops/wingo-what/>
- <https://waterhistoryphl.org/>

The Initiative will bring together a team of community leaders, scholars, and artists, to engage in participatory research with Germantown residents. Together they will co-create a multi-faceted series of community events, performances, lectures, and temporary artistic interventions focused on flooding and the emotional toll that this takes on residents, bringing the infrastructure and stories “above ground”. There are a number of partners involved in issues of urban flooding who the artist will interface with including Office of Sustainability, Licenses & Inspection, Office of Emergency Management, amongst others.

This RFP is designed to identify an artist who can join in this collaborative effort. We encourage artists of any medium to apply. Artists should have previous experience collaborating on creative projects in community contexts. The artist will be part of a small creative team that includes a data scientist focused on stormwater identified by the Academy of Natural Sciences, and one community advocate from Germantown's Flood Task Force identified by the Philadelphia Water Department. The creative team will be responsible for engaging Germantown residents in participatory workshops in fall 2023 and creating a public project in spring 2024. The artist will receive an \$8,000 stipend and the team will have \$20,000 for project realization. The creative team will be supported by two curators and a project manager.

Timeline

- Onboard creative team September 2023
- Participatory research with Germantown residents October - December 2023
- Creative team reflection & production January - March 2024
- Creative team public output April 2024

2. Background (full project description)

The 2023-24 initiative is based in Philadelphia's Germantown neighborhood, consistently among the most impacted areas for infrastructure-related flooding over the last several decades. The project will focus on flooding and the emotional toll that this takes on residents, bringing the infrastructure and stories “above ground.” The Initiative will draw on the power of storytelling and coalition-building to bridge connections between artistic practices, environmental stewardship, education, and advocacy in key areas of Northwest Philadelphia.

This summer, we will interview and hire a creative team for 2023, including an artist lead, a community lead and a science lead. These key members will work closely this fall to conduct participatory research in the area and develop community-engaged programs. The project will culminate this spring in a public output which could include: film screenings, food programming, performances, demonstrations, soundscapes, teach-ins, festivals, installations, a virtual platform, lectures, story walks, publications or information campaign.

The artist will be responsible for working collaboratively as a member of the creative team and with the project curators to co-create a public project that reflects stories and advocacy around infrastructure-related flooding.

The project will be produced by Mural Arts Philadelphia with key partners, the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) and Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. Mural Arts will provide administrative and curatorial support for the project. PWD will connect the artistic team with research and on-going community engagement in the Germantown area. The Academy of Natural Sciences will provide curatorial and scientific support as well as access to facilities, collections, and research.

3. Scope of Work, Budget and Schedule

Scope of Work

The artist will be responsible for the following work:

- Attending project-related meetings and community input sessions
- Conducting independent research and presenting that research back to the rest of the artistic team
- Liaising with community groups to participate in research

- Participating in creating communications materials that reflect research and on-going project development
- Developing and producing a small public event in fall 2023 and a public project in spring 2024

Mural Arts will be responsible for:

- Curatorial support for overall project
- Project management, including contractual agreements, budgets, meeting schedules
- Public interpretation, including communications and public-facing outputs
- Programming curating and support, including identifying locations and additional artistic or community partners to lead teach-ins or related programs
- Event production support
- Liaison with partners Philadelphia Water Department, Academy of Natural Sciences
- Archiving of project materials

Artist Fee and Budget

One selected artist will be compensated \$8,000 for their participation. This includes independent research, attending and participating in artistic team meetings with scientists and community members, creating original artwork(s), an event and/or an installation.

The whole creative team will have access to an additional \$20,000 available for project realization. Further funding is available for events, additional honorariums, and communications.

4. Artist Selection Process

Eligibility

The artistic team members should be based in the Philadelphia area and be available for in-person engagement in fall 2023 and in-person production in winter and spring 2024.

Process

The artist should apply via the google form (linked here). Applications will be reviewed by curators Phoebe Bachman and Ryan Strand Greenberg as well as staff from Mural Arts, PWD and the Academy of Natural Sciences. The selected artist will be informed in September.

Qualifications and Review Criteria

We are looking for the following:

- An interest in water and infrastructure-related flooding
- Experience with participatory research
- Experience working with city departments and/or with communities
- Willingness to work collaboratively across different disciplines
- Experience producing a projects and/or programs in the public realm

- Experience working with community members surrounding issues of Environmental Justice.

How to Apply

Preliminary Consultation

Artists who are interested in submitting their qualifications are encouraged to contact Mural Arts with any questions about the project, its scope or requirements, or how to complete an application. Periodically, questions and answers of general interest will be posted to the Mural Arts website where this RFQ is posted (<https://www.muralarts.org/for-artists/artist-opportunities/>).

Submission Requirements

Interested artists should submit:

- ☐ The attached application checklist, including artist contact information and an inventory of all material that is being submitted.
- ☐ A CV or resume (up to 2 pages).
- ☐ A current artist statement
- ☐ A short written response that addresses your artistic practice, relevant past experience with community-engaged projects and interest in this specific project. The letter should also explain:
 - What motivates you / interests you most about the project?
 - How would you approach your engagement with the stakeholders?
 - Your general availability during the project period, indicating other professional obligations and any other constraints on your availability
- ☐ Up to 10 images of past completed work that you consider relevant to this project.

Digital images must be JPEG files and must be no more than 300dpi and no larger than 1024 x 768 pixel resolution. Each image must be unlocked and downloadable for viewing.

Each JPEG file must be titled with the artist's name and number that corresponds to the annotated image list. File name example: JonesJane001, JonesJane002.
- ☐ A list of images, including the following information:

Image name, Artist's name
Title of artwork, Location, Date of Completion, Budget
Medium and Dimensions
Brief description
- ☐ Two professional references that can speak to your creative talents and your ability to undertake this project. Include name, address, email address and telephone

Submission Instructions

[Submissions will be accepted through this link](#)

Miscellaneous

Proof of Insurance

Prior to performing any Works or Services, or entering into a contract with Mural Arts, the selected artist(s)/artist team(s) must show proof of the minimum insurance as indicated below. This insurance must be maintained during the term of this Agreement:

- a. Workers' Compensation Insurance (including without limitation coverage for Artist, its officers, owners, principals, directors, employees, volunteers, guests, and/or agents) if applicable.
- b. Employers Liability Insurance, if applicable, with minimum limits of the greater of \$100,000 E.L. each accident, \$100,000 E. L. disease-each employee, \$500,000 E.L. disease-policy limit or as required by the law of the state in which the Project is located.
- c. Commercial General Liability Insurance, Insurance Services Office (ISO) form Commercial General (CG) 00 01 (12/07) or equivalent occurrence policy which will provide primary coverage to the additional insureds (Owner) in the event of any occurrence, claim, or suit with limits of the greater of: (1) Artist's actual coverage amounts or (2) One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence and Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) in the aggregate. Artist's insurer will add Owner as an additional insured on this policy using ISO endorsement CG 2010 (07/04) or its equivalent.
- d. Automobile Liability Insurance (1) having a combined single limit each accident in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) or in the amount of Artist's actual coverage, whichever is greater, and (2) coverage applying to "any auto", including hired and non-owned auto liability.

Artists may satisfy the insurance amounts by an umbrella / excess insurance coverage policy.

About Mural Arts Philadelphia

Mural Arts Philadelphia is the nation's largest public art program, dedicated to the belief that art ignites change.

For 30 years, Mural Arts has united artists and communities through a collaborative process, rooted in the traditions of mural-making, to create art that transforms public spaces and individual lives. Mural Arts engages communities in nearly 100 public art projects each year, and maintains its growing collection through a restoration initiative. Core Mural Arts programs such as Art Education, Restorative Justice, and Porch Light yield unique, project-based learning opportunities for thousands of youth and adults.

In recent years, Mural Arts has evolved into a multi-disciplinary arts organization exploring the intersection of muralism, public art and contemporary art. In addition, Mural Arts has collaborated with an increasing range of community, civic, cultural and development organizations to realize

projects that have expanded the city's public art portfolio in new and exciting ways. Increasingly, Mural Arts has assisted in private organizations in commissioning artworks that engage the communities where they are working.

For more information: <https://www.muralarts.org/>

About Philadelphia Water Department

The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) supplies drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services to customers within the City of Philadelphia.

The Department also has one wholesale water contract and 10 wholesale wastewater contracts with entities outside the City. PWD maintains a network of more than 3,100 miles of water mains, 3,700 miles of sewers, six treatment facilities, and 34 pumping stations.

The primary mission of the PWD is to plan for, operate, and maintain 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.

In fulfilling its mission, the utility seeks to be customer-focused, delivering services in a fair, equitable, and cost-effective manner, with a commitment to public involvement.