

MURAL ARTS PHILADELPHIA



OUR MISSION

Through participatory public art, Mural Arts Philadelphia inspires change in people, place, and practice, creating opportunity for a more just and equitable Philadelphia.

OUR VISION




We envision a world where all people have a say in the future of their lives and communities; where art and creative practice are respected as critical to sense of self and place; and where cultural vibrancy reflects and honors all human identities and experiences.

OUR STORY

Mural Arts was first established in 1984 as part of the Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network and incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1997. We continue to work in close partnership with the City of Philadelphia as a hybrid public-private arts organization. Our mission is to use participatory public art to inspire change in people, place, and practice, creating opportunity for a more just and equitable Philadelphia. Our commitment to generating social change through artistic processes is deep in our organizational DNA.

OUR APPROACH

Mural Arts leads projects designed to address the unique local needs of different communities, with the common threads of producing exceptional artwork and artists engaged in deeply rooted community practices as the infrastructure for change. We work closely with key stakeholders throughout the project development phase to channel their experiences, identities and ideas into the direction of each project. Projects respond to:

-  Needs & opportunities articulated by civic leaders or identified in neighborhood plans
-  Project applications from community leaders
-  Topics relevant to youth & vulnerable adults enrolled in workshops in our 3 main program areas

“ We are proud of what we do at Mural Arts and propelled by the hope of what art can do for communities. It taps into our collective imagination, merging the political, social, civic and poetic to make our often frayed, complicated world a better place.

~Jane Golden, Executive Director



OUR PROGRAMS

ART EDUCATION

This program expresses our relentless belief that every young person needs and deserves access to art. We work with experienced teaching artists who collaborate with young people to create innovative art for public spaces across Philadelphia. Over 2200 children and youth participate in our programs annually across over 20 unique sites.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

This program disrupts the cycle of mass incarceration in the prison industrial complex by providing stability, supportive relationships, and non-judgmental spaces where justice-impacted people can reimagine themselves as valuable. This programming provides over 100 people a year with employment, job skills development through daily workshops and exposure to career and education pathways, individualized support, trauma counseling, peer support, mentorship, and referrals.

PORCH LIGHT

This program is a joint collaboration with the City of Philadelphia's Department of Behavioral Health & Intellectual disAbility Services, to uplift public art as an expression of community resilience and a vehicle of personal and community healing. Porch Light projects put names and faces to important mental and behavioral health issues. Participants have the opportunity to contribute to meaningful works of public art through workshops, community meetings, health forums, and paint days.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

- 75-100** public art projects completed annually
- 25,000+** people engaged through our programs and projects annually
- 3,800+** murals making our work the largest public art initiative of its kind
- \$2.7M** injected into Philadelphia's creative economy each year

GET INVOLVED

At Mural Arts, we believe in the power of public art to transform and connect communities. Our free programs and citywide murals thrive through the support of donors, partners, and the community. By joining us, you help sustain creative opportunities for all and preserve the vibrant culture that makes our city unique. Together, we can keep art accessible and impactful. Please visit our website for volunteer and donation opportunities.



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