

Aislinn Pentecost-Farren

curriculum vitae

Philadelphia, PA (b. Chicago, IL, 1984)

EDUCATION

- 2023 MFA, Studio Art, **University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA
- 2023 MSHP, Historic Preservation - Public History, **University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA
- 2006 BA, Cultural Anthropology, **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2023 Interpreting Climate Change Docent Course, National Park Service Climate Change Response Program

AWARDS / GRANTS / FELLOWSHIPS / RESIDENCIES

- 2025 Maker-Creator Research Fellowship, Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library, Winterthur, DE
- 2025 Environmental Artistic Activism Grant, Puffin Foundation, Teaneck, NJ
- 2023 Indigenous and Climate History Research Fellowship, Stenton House, Philadelphia, PA
- 2022 Anthony Garvan Award for Outstanding Thesis, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA
- 2022 Elizabeth Wiley Award for Outstanding Promise, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA
- 2022 Kleinman Center for Energy Policy Student Grant, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA
- 2019-23 Weitzman School of Design Scholarship, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA
- 2018 Field Grant, Common Field
- 2015 Artist in Residence, Wagner Free Institute of Science, Philadelphia, PA
- 2013 Artist in Residence (with Camp Little Hope), Addo Creative + Arts Council of Wales, Corwen, UK
- 2011 Curatorial Fellowship, Public Trust, Philadelphia, PA
- 2010 Artist in Residence, Elsewhere Museum, Greensboro, NC
- 2009 Fellow, Mildred's Lane, Beach Lake, PA

COMMISSIONS / PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

- 2026 *(work in progress)*, What Now: 2026 Arts Festival, Philadelphia, PA, ArtPhilly
- 2025 *(work in progress)*, NJ Monuments to Immigration and Labor, Rutgers University + Mellon Foundation
- 2024 *Sunset*, Roebling Museum, Roebling, NJ, Burlington County Arts Council
- 2024 *Detour: The Climate Crisis in the Collection*, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA, Eco Social Series
- 2023 *Climate Crisis: The Inherent Exhibition*, guerilla tour at Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, independent
- 2021 *This Pizza Is A Park*, (with Mary Rothlisberger), Old English Pizza, Philadelphia, PA, Riverfront North Partnership
- 2020 *River Ways Oral History Project*, Bridesburg Historical Society, Philadelphia, PA, Riverfront North Partnership
- 2019 *Quarantine Play*, Lazaretto Historic Site, Philadelphia, PA, Velocity Fund
- 2017 *Stories We Know*, Bartram's Garden, Philadelphia PA, ArtPlace America
- 2017 *Rise*, Glen Foerd Historic Site, Philadelphia, PA
- 2017 *American Immigrants*, US/Mexico Border, independent
- 2016 *Neighborhood Yes Fund*, Bartram's Garden, Philadelphia, PA, ArtPlace America
- 2016 *Dirtmaker* (with Camp Little Hope), Cullowhee, NC, Western Carolina University
- 2015 *Field Guide to South Elm* (with Camp Little Hope), Elsewhere Museum, Greensboro, NC, ArtPlace America
- 2014 *Amgueddfa Corwen Museum* (with Camp Little Hope), Corwen, UK, Arts Council of Wales + Addo Creative
- 2014 *Dol Corwenna* (with Camp Little Hope), Corwen, UK, Arts Council of Wales + Addo Creative
- 2014 *Library of Dreams*, National Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia, PA
- 2013 *Bibotorium* (with Camp Little Hope) Fairmount Water Works, Philadelphia, PA, Hidden City Philadelphia

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EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Laminations*, University of Delaware Recitation Gallery, Newark, DE
- 2024 *Golden Spike: 24 Places*, Past Present Projects with Grizzly Grizzly Gallery, Philadelphia, PA*
- 2023 *Aftermath*, Worthless Studios, Brooklyn, NY
- 2023 *Memento*, Practice Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 2023 *Away From Center*, Atelier Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 2019 *Border Control*, Stamps Gallery at the University of Michigan School of Art and Design, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2018 *Learn a River's Name*, Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, Philadelphia, PA
- 2018 *X+1*, Vox Populi Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 2016 *Meadow Mansions*, Audubon Society and Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia, PA
- 2016 *Handmade Landscape* with Camp Little Hope, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC
- 2015 *Afterimage and Other Conditions of Climate Change*, 40th Street Gallery, Philadelphia, PA*

SCHOLARLY ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- "Interpreting the Climate Crisis at Museums and Parks," in *A Historian's Handbook to Saving the World*, with Sophie Hess, ed. Emily Pawley and Alexandra Hui (under review with MIT Press, estimated publication 2027).
- "The History of the Lower Schuylkill River," in [*Petrosylvania: America's First Petrochemical Corridor*](#) digital humanities encyclopedia, ed. Jared Farmer (estimated publication October 2025).

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- 2025 Organizer and panelist, "Climate History/Climate Hope: Tools for Action," National Council on Public History Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, March
- 2025 Guest speaker, Artist Talk with Amy Hicks, University of Delaware, Newark, DE
- 2024 Organizer and panelist, "History of the Future: Culture and Heritage Museums' Unique Role in Inspiring Climate Action," American Alliance of Museums Future of Museums Summit, virtual, October 29-30.
- 2024 Panelist, "Museum Engagement Tactics: Lessons Learned from Henry Ossawa Tanner House and the Climate Crisis Heritage Project," Small Museum Association Conference, Richmond, VA, February 19-21.
- 2024 Panelist, "Storytelling and Climate: How Museums and Exhibitions Narrate Crisis," University of the Arts Museums Forum, Philadelphia, PA, January 23.
- 2023 Panelist, "All Hands on Deck: Interpreting Energy at Museums and Historic Sites," New England Museum Association Annual Conference, Portland, ME, November 8-10.
- 2023 Convener and panelist, "Cultural Emergency Response: Updates on Interpreting the History of Climate Change," National Council on Public History Virtual Meeting, online, October 4-6.
- 2023 Convener and panelist, "Cultural Emergency Response: Interpreting the History of Climate Change," National Council on Public History Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, April 12-15.
- 2019 Panelist, "Out of the Box: Public Art, Placemaking and Planning," American Planning Association PA Annual Meeting, Reading, PA, October 20-22.
- 2019 Panelist, "Exploring Historic Themes Through Contemporary Art," American Association for State and Local History, Philadelphia, PA, August 28-30.
- 2019 Panelist, "Picturing a Place: Artists and Community-Based Asset Mapping," Moore College of Art + Mural Arts Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, April 2-3.
- 2016 Convener, "SW Roots: Neighbor, Nature, Narrative," In/Out Conference: Ethics, Attention, and Intention in Socially-Engaged Art, Philadelphia, PA, July 22-24
- 2014 Panelist, "The Field Beside the Car Park," Rural Works Seminar, Addo Creative, Corwen, Wales, UK
- 2013 Artist Talk, "Practice for Practice," Owain Glyndwr University, Wrexham, Wales, UK
- 2012 Artist Talk, "Dreamboats for Nightmares," Philadelphia Nerd Nite, Philadelphia, PA

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WORKSHOPS

- 2019 *Public Art and Engagement Strategies*, Forecast Public Art + Mural Arts Institute, Minneapolis, MN
- 2019 *Accessible Production for Community Mural-Making*, ArtsNow Akron + Mural Arts Institute, Akron, OH
- 2019 *Public Art and Engagement Strategies*, Live 6 Alliance + Mural Arts Institute, Detroit, MI
- 2019 *Site Partner Breakout Groups*, Art and Environment Initiative Symposium, Philadelphia, PA
- 2018 *Practices for Self-Managing Artists*, ArtsNow Akron + Mural Arts Institute, Akron, OH
- 2018 *The Long Dash*, all-ages climate resilience dance game, Franklin Institute + Philadelphia Science Festival, Philadelphia, PA
- 2016 *Fairmount Flags*, all-ages urban greenspace workshop, Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia, PA
- 2014 *Pollinator Defense Kitchen*, all-ages environmental art workshop, Mural Arts Philadelphia + Bartram's Garden, Philadelphia, PA
- 2014 *Natures//Cultures*, all-ages neighborhood botany workshop, Mural Arts Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
- 2013 *Community Design Charrette for Public History Signage*, Corwen Library, Corwen, Wales, UK

GRADUATE TEACHING

- 2024 Adjunct Associate Professor, *Critical Tourism: Museum Tour Design*, Museum Studies Program, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2023 Visiting Lecturer, "Interpreting the Intersecting Heritage of Colonialism and Climate Crisis," *Introduction to Historic Site Management*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2020 Visiting Lecturer, "Critical Approaches to History Interpretation," *Introduction to Historic Preservation*, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018 Visiting Lecturer, "Art and Memory in Public Spaces," *Philadelphia: Urban Experience and Public Memory*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2015 Visiting Lecturer, "Art, Ecology, and Design," *Industrial Design Studio: Water*, University of Arts, Philadelphia, PA

K-12 TEACHING

- 2020 *Concrete Neighborhood*, K-8th art series based on industrial heritage, Bridesburg Recreation Center, Philadelphia, PA
- 2015 *Bear, Butterfly, Snake*, 4th-6th grade environmental art program, Wagner Free Institute of Science + four public schools, Philadelphia, PA
- 2014 *Field Guide to Dorsey Playground*, 6th-10th grade environmental art program, Mural Arts Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
- 2013 *Dreamboats and Waterfutures*, 3rd-5th grade field trip program, Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center and Hidden City Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

- 2023-27 **National Council on Public History**, Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- 2016-20 **Eastern State Penitentiary**, Art Installation Selection Committee, Philadelphia, PA
- 2019 **Glen Foerd Historic House**, Artist Residency Selection Committee, Philadelphia, PA
- 2013 **Elsewhere Museum**, Artist Residency Selection Committee, Greensboro, NC

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & CURATORIAL PROJECTS

DIRECTOR

2021 - present

Climate Crisis Heritage Project, Philadelphia, PA

Public history studio that creates public interpretation projects for heritage sites, museums, and historic landscapes that illuminate climate crisis history within their collections and resources.

Elms Mansion Prototype Audio Tour Script - Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport, RI

Climate Historic Context Statement - Lowell Mills National Historic Park, Lowell, MA

DESIGN FELLOW

2021 - 2022

PennPraxis Lenape Heritage Project, Philadelphia, PA

Partnered with tribal leadership to develop culturally-sensitive recording methods for pre-colonial structures with an interdisciplinary team of preservationists, historians, archaeologists, landscape architects, and designers.

CURATOR

2019 - 2022

Riverfront North Partnership, Philadelphia, PA

Created and directed a series of public art projects for a future park in a riverside industrial zone.

Up The Creek - lantern parade tracing maritime Underground Railroad routes by walking artist Ken Johnston

Point No Point - neighborhood newspaper insert and storefront exhibition by photographer Jaime Alvarez

PUBLIC ART CONSULTANT

2018-2019

Mural Arts Institute, Philadelphia, PA

Advised new place-based community arts initiatives in OH, MI, and MN, funded by the Knight Foundation

ART EDUCATION PROJECT MANAGER

2014 - 2019

Mural Arts Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Developed visiting artist curricula in response to learning objectives, student skill levels, and artist interests.

Curated 5+ public art projects per year in partnership with public schools, recreation centers, and afterschool settings

PROJECT MANAGER

2018 - 2019

Temple Contemporary for artist Emma Smith's *Whistling Orchestra*, Philadelphia, PA

Researched labor music history, directed whistler recruitment, and produced performances inspired by workplace music.

ASSISTANT CURATOR

2015 - 2017

Bartram's Garden/Mural Arts Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Designed and managed projects and programs to build connections between a historic riverside garden and its neighbors.

Stories We Know - publication on the Black history of the garden with public historian Sharece Blakney

Been Here - participatory film project with dance and media collective BARETEETH

Neighborhood Yes Fund - grant redistribution program supporting creative projects by neighbors

CO-DIRECTOR

2013 - 2017

Camp Little Hope, Philadelphia, PA / Corwen, UK / Greensboro, NC / Cullowhee, NC / Copenhagen, DK

Designed and directed participatory public art projects with interdisciplinary artist collective.

PROGRAM CURATOR

2011 - 2012

Elsewhere, Greensboro, NC

Curated residencies and public programming for an art museum based on the collection of a 20th-century salvage store.