CALL FOR ARTISTS:
Germantown Rising Ideas Community Arts

PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT

US Water Alliance Arts Accelerator *Philadelphia*

Submission deadline has been extended to *Monday, January 25 at 5 p.m.*

CALL FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY ARTISTS/CULTURAL LEADERS &/OR CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Philadelphia Water Department invites community artists/cultural leaders and/or cultural organizations from Germantown to submit qualifications for the *Germantown Rising Ideas Community Arts* project. This project is part of the Department's participation in the US Water Alliance's Water, Arts, and Culture Accelerator, an initiative advancing climate-related water solutions through municipal water and local arts partnerships. This Arts Accelerator includes five cities across the nation: Little Rock, AK; Madison, WI; New Orleans, LA; Philadelphia, PA; and Tucson, AZ. Each city includes a team of water utility professionals and artists/cultural leaders. **Each team will co-design a project together, as well as attend several peer learning exchanges.** The Arts Accelerator is supported by US Water Alliance staff, the One Water Artist-in-Residence, and an arts consultant. For more information on the USWA Arts Accelerator, visit: http://uswateralliance.org/initiatives/water-arts-and-culture-accelerator

The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) is seeking a local artist or cultural leader in the Germantown neighborhood to join their team, as the Germantown Rising Ideas Community Artist.

What is the Germantown Rising Ideas Community Arts project?
In partnership with the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD), US Water Alliance and the Germantown Community Flood Risk Task Force, the Rising Ideas Community Arts project focuses on creative engagement around the topic of flooding in Germantown.

Germantown has a rich water history that includes streams that once flowed throughout the community. However, a projected impact of climate change is more frequent flooding events in the future. This reality can make the topic of flooding, which is already sensitive in Germantown, an even more challenging issue to address locally. The intent of the community arts process is to create a space for healing for those directly impacted by flooding and foster empowered residents informed with flooding preparedness knowledge and awareness. (Don't fret – the team will help the artist by providing flooding resources and other helpful information on the topic.)

PWD believes in community engagement and utilizing the arts as a vehicle for communication, relationship-building and problem-solving. Through local partnerships, PWD has led several arts initiatives, such as Uncover the Green, Drink More Tap, and water-themed murals. We aim to continue our use of art as a vehicle for engagement with the selected Germantown Rising Ideas Community Artist.

Work Media: We are flexible. It's up to the discretion of the artist/cultural leader and/or cultural organization! If your submission meets the below entry requirements, we are open to a wide variety of media, including but not limited to visual arts (i.e., painting, video) and performance arts (i.e., dance, spoken word). It's up to you to select the medium.

Artist Criteria:

- Artist to co-create a process that involves the community and results in informing, educating, and raising awareness of flooding and anticipated climate change impacts in Germantown.
- An artist/cultural leader with strong communications skills and an ability to lead a creative process with a participatory approach and/or impact.
- An experienced community artist/cultural leader from the Germantown community (or with a connection to Germantown) is strongly preferred.
- An understanding that participation from the target audience is best – community members specifically in flood-prone sections of Germantown. However, the audience does not have to be limited to just the residential blocks and can expand to both sides of Germantown Ave. Audience engaged may be of any age (i.e., multi-generational, students, seniors, etc.).
- Artist must maintain a positive tone throughout the process and it must be reflected in the work. (We want to inspire hope!)
- An artist/cultural leader that can work independently but can also be a team player, whether working in collaboration with community members or Arts Accelerator Team members/City representatives.
- Artist must abide by COVID-19 health and safety City guidelines (i.e., masks, distancing, etc.) throughout the creative process, including during community engagement.

REVISED SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Please note that we made changes to this section on December 31. Please re-read this section carefully.

1. A description of your interest in partnering with the Philadelphia Water Department on this particular project, noting your community collaboration experience and your interest in the topic of flooding/climate change in Germantown. (1 page max.)

2. A resume.

3. Two professional references that can speak to your *collaborative* community work.

4. A link to a location where we can review your artwork. This could be a web-based portfolio site, a social media account, or a link to a cloud-based storage site such as Google Drive, Dropbox, or WeTransfer. ***Note****: to ensure our team can view the work, change any link settings to public or include the appropriate password.*

   Don't have a portfolio site yet? There are free web platforms like Squarespace, Wix, MyPortfolio, and Behance that let you create portfolios to showcase your work.

   Not up for creating a site? Please send samples of your work to **pwd.artists@gmail.com** with the subject line 'Work samples: Your name'. Keep attachments **under 10mb total**.

5. Your contact information (phone, email and address).

***Note the above items (1-5) must be packaged and sent in <u>one</u> email to pwd.artists@gmail.com ***

Entries Due: By Monday, ***<u>January 25, 2021 at 5:00 pm</u>***

All-inclusive budget: $20,000.00. This covers all fees, fabrication/production costs, travel, meetings, documentation, and installation costs. The selected artist/cultural leader will also participate in monthly meetings with the Arts Accelerator Philadelphia Team, as well as Accelerator Peer Exchanges with other participating cities. The selected artist/cultural leader will have access to Accelerator "office hours" with US Water Alliance staff and consultants to help support partnership building with PWD.

Proposed Timeline*:* The panel may invite the top candidates in for an interview in late January or early February 2021. The final selected artist/cultural leader will be announced shortly after. Artist/cultural leader will kick off the community art process in Germantown in February 2021. The project is to be completed in June 2021. Check-ins with the Arts Accelerator Philadelphia Team to be scheduled monthly, from February through June.

Selection Process: The Arts Accelerator Philadelphia Team and representatives of the Germantown Community Flood Risk Task Force will comprise the selection panel. We will review submissions, potentially interview, and select the finalist – the Germantown Rising Ideas Community Artist.

Notification to artist/cultural leader: The top candidates will be notified via email in late January or early February, 2021. If an acknowledgement of our email notification is not received from the artist within a reasonable amount of time (within 72 hours), we may move on to a new candidate, therefore disqualifying the first candidate and so on.



Still have questions? Contact us at: pwd.artists@gmail.com