

Art in the Open Returns to Schuylkill River Banks in May

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Forty juried artists from all over the country will work along the Schuylkill River Banks—from Fairmount Water Works to South Street—Friday, May 18, to Sunday, May 20, sunrise to sunset. An outdoor showcase of artists working in a variety of media including painting, video, sculpture, and performance, this event is free and open to the public.

A curated exhibition of AiO alumni artists will open the event at Art in City Hall on Wednesday, May 16. AiO Family Day—Saturday, May 19, from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm—will offer hands-on workshops and informal art and science stations.

Originally launched in 2008, Art in the Open has presented more than 175 artists working outdoors. Gen Coutroubis, Director of Artist Programs at the Center for Emerging Visual Artists (CFEVA), says this year they are looking for “artists who can merge their artistic practice with a response to environmental concerns.”

AiO is presented by PNC Arts Alive, CFEVA, Fairmount Water Works, and City Parks Association. Additional funding is provided by the William Penn Foundation.



An artist at work during a previous Art in the Open event.

City Lit

PCI Hosts Celebration Honoring Kency Kennedy on His Retirement

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Thank you for your smiling face. You've made the library a safe and happy place. You are a special person they can never replace.

—Bonnie Eisenfeld

At the Free Library, Philadelphia City Institute branch (PCI), on Tuesday evening, December 12, guests of all colors, genders, and ages celebrated security guard Kency Kennedy on the occasion of his retirement. The retirement party, sponsored by Friends of PCI, and planned and implemented by Head Librarian Erin Hoopes, featured catered food and wine

and a talented jazz combo. Hoopes gave a moving farewell speech, and Kennedy extemporized about his experiences in his job over the past 36 years.

At the party, Erin Hoopes delivered this farewell speech to Kency Kennedy:

“I started working at the library, here at PCI, 10 years ago. Kency was one of the first staff members who took me under his wing. I watched him in action countless times – helping people, getting to know people, doing and saying hard things in a kind and respectful way. Kency, I am so

grateful for the years I got to work with you. You have taught me so much about how to be brave, how to be strong, how to be kind, and how to stay true to my values while still respecting the individuality and importance of every person who walks through our doors. Thank you for your service, thank you for being a friend, thank you for all the nights you sat after hours and talked me through a problem. You cannot be replaced. My wish for you is that you always remember the good you’ve done and the deep and meaningful contribution you have made to our Library, our neighborhood, and our city. Thank you.”

Out & About

Mark Your Calendars! CCRA To Hold Two Major Events in May

First up: a CCRA fan favorite, the **Celebration of Center City Living**, will be Thursday, May 10, at the Ethical Society on Rittenhouse Square from 6 to 9 pm. Celebrate the joys of Center City living with your friends and neighbors—or get acquainted with new ones; and help raise some money for CCRA at our historic neighborhood venue on the Square.

Next up: The **CCRA Annual Meeting** will be Wednesday, May 23, at the Academy of Vocal Arts, 1920 Spruce Street, beginning at 6 pm. Join your fellow members to hear about exciting accomplishments of the past year, plans for the coming year, and to vote on the slate of new officers and nominations to the Board of Directors.

Save The Date: The **4th Annual Sky High Block Party** will be Monday, June 18, at the Pyramid Club, 1735 Market Street.

These events promise opportunities to connect with your neighbors and your neighborhood! Stay tuned to your weekly eNewsletter for updates and further information.