

Naudain Street Artists Exhibit in November

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

The Naudain Street Art Collaborative will hold a group exhibition on Saturday, November 3, and Sunday, November 4, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Ageless Gardens Gallery, 2503 Naudain Street. Participating artists will include Bhavisha Patel, Sally Eisenberg, Karen Villarreal,

Ed Bronstein, Betsy Alexander, Leslie Sudock, Lauren Sweeney, William Silver, and Emily Squires Levine. This event is free and open to public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact naudainartcollaborative@gmail.com

Below: Artists in the Naudain Street Art Collaborative who exhibited in the 2017 Philadelphia Open Studio Tour (POST): from left, Ed Bronstein, Bhavisha Patel, and Karen Villarreal. These three artists are also participating in POST 2018 on October 14, along with Sally Eisenberg of the Collaborative.



The artists in their studios during last year's POST event.

To Your Health

Marijuana Is Now Legal in Pennsylvania for Certain Medical Conditions

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Patients in Pennsylvania with 17 specific diagnoses may now legally use marijuana to alleviate certain symptoms such as pain, anxiety, and loss of appetite. Patients may go to specially trained and licensed doctors for prescriptions and then to dispensaries where trained and licensed pharmacists fulfill their orders. Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana Program is explained in full detail on this website: <https://www.pa.gov/guides/pennsylvania-medical-marijuana-program/>

The elements of the website include: 17 medical conditions for which marijuana is indicated; how to obtain it; documentation and identification required; and lists of licensed physicians and dispensaries. Physicians are listed by county; several are in Center City Philadelphia. The closest licensed dispensary to Center City is Restore Integrative Wellness Center, 957 Frankford Ave., in Fishtown.

Here's how it works: Patients and caregivers must register with the PA Department of

Health, Patient and Caregivers Registry and visit a licensed physician who will certify that the patient suffers from one of the 17 serious medical conditions. You pay a fee and receive a medical marijuana identification card. That card enables a patient to obtain medical marijuana from an approved dispensary in Pennsylvania.

Marijuana, also known as cannabis, is available legally in a variety of forms, including pills, oils, topicals (including gels, creams and ointments); vapor; tinctures, and liquids. Different ingredients, dosages, and forms are prescribed specifically for each patient's needs.

A caregiver in Center City reports that she and her husband, a cancer patient, went to a licensed doctor who prescribed marijuana for loss of appetite. The patient was able to register and pay the registration fee at the doctor's office. In about a week, the patient received his identification card. He

and his wife went to the licensed dispensary and met with a pharmacist who advised on form and dosage. It sometimes takes a few purchases to come up with a workable solution. In her opinion, "the dispensary in Fishtown was a lovely and tranquil facility."

The next step was for the caregiver to register, which requires a PA photo license, electronic fingerprinting and another fee. The site lists official places to register. This caregiver ID card allows her to go to the dispensary to make a purchase on the patient's behalf.

Several studies have shown that cannabis therapy prescribed by a doctor is safe and efficacious for pain relief from a variety of ailments, and does not have the adverse effects of opioids. For more information, go to the official PA website to find a licensed physician.