



Philly Public Arts Forum

A series of public programs highlighting art in Philly's public spaces, culminating in a public art making & installation workshop.



Overview

- Three events over two weeks: artist lightning talks, panel, workshop
- Partnered with local street art photo blog (StreetsDept.com) to invite nine local artists, activists, curators, and organizers
- Emphasis on artists of color and artists living with disabilities
- Installed a temporary wall on the outside of our main campus library
- Offered by academic library but open to the public
- Possible with almost any budget

Organizing questions

- What *is* the public space?
- Who's creating the work we see around the city?
- How does access to art and arts education shape who's invited to participate in our city's creative placemaking?
- What role can public art play in sparking conversation, empowerment, empathy, and understanding around important social and political issues?



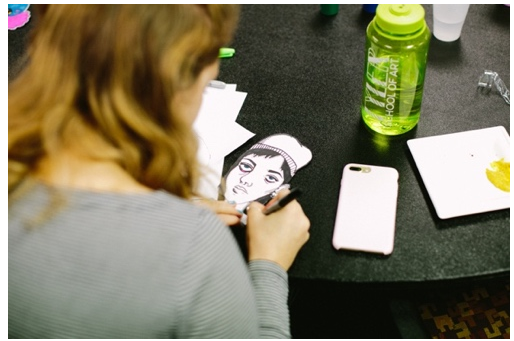
Your Public Arts Forum

Basic needs (shoestring budget)

- Workshop space and leader
- Computer paper, markers, scissors
- Wheat paste
- Any flat surface: get creative!

Sky's the limit!

- Bring in local artists
- Multiple programs
- Honoraria for artists
- Snacks for guests
- Construct freestanding wall
- Larger variety of art supplies



Promotion and takeaways

The events were successful (nearly 200 attendees over three nights) in part due to our partnership with Streets Dept. He promoted on his popular social media channels and asked our artists to do the same, which brought in new audiences.

To help promote to our patrons, we hung framed photos of the artists' work in a popular library walkway a few weeks in advance of the forum.

Finally, we left the wall up for two weeks after the workshop to encourage people to add to it. On sunny days, we tabled with leftover supplies. This gave us an opportunity to talk to visitors about our programming.

What's wheat paste?

Wheat paste is a liquid adhesive made from wheat flour or starch and water. It does no damage to the wall it is on. There are videos on Youtube showing how to make wheat paste easily. You can also buy wallpaper adhesive.

Thanks for your interest!

I love chatting programming, so please reach out with questions or ideas.

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Libraries

