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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OVAL+ 2019

### Double the Fun on the Parkway from July 19 - August 18

#### OVERVIEW

For four weeks this summer, from July 19 to August 18, The Oval+ presented by PNC Bank returns to Eakins Oval and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, bringing more fun for all ages than ever before. A **partnership of Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation**, this year The Oval+ continues to expand with more installations and more programming in more places extending from Eakins Oval eastward along the Parkway.



Three new features will help to “Double the Fun on the Parkway” and encourage visitors to spend more time playing, creating, and hanging out:

- **A block with the theme “MAKE,” located in front of the Barnes Foundation**, features outdoor reading and music carts as well as a shipping container transformed into a public space for art + design.
- **A “HEAR” block, in front of the Rodin Museum**, features an array of art installations, stadium seating, and the **BOOM BOX – a retrofitted double-decker bus** playing local radio stations, hosting radio takeovers with DJs, and serving beloved Philly-based food and beverages including water ice, pretzels, and craft beer.
- **A block for “PLAY,” located in front of Von Colln Park**, features a pop-up basketball court, tether ball, badminton, ping-pong tables, and bleachers.

#### DESIGN FEATURES

For the third year in a row, Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation have retained Philadelphia-based **PORT Urbanism** to develop the overall plan and installations for The Oval+. PORT collaborated with **Mural Arts Philadelphia** on the graphic elements of the plan. Design highlights include:

- A series of bright, playful sculptures by Mural Arts Philadelphia artist **NDA** that encourage passersby to engage with the objects in a personalized way and a 34,240-square-foot

ground mural by Mural Arts artist **Felix St. Fort** titled “Vector 2” that was inspired by the **NDA** sculptures.

- The BOOM BOX double-decker bus on the HEAR block retrofitted into a music and snack space by the architectural design firm **FKB**.
- A shipping container located on the MAKE block, transformed into a public space for art + design by fashion designer **Desiree Negron**, with support from artist **Najeeb Sheikh**.
- Outdoor reading and music carts on the MAKE block, designed and fabricated by **Tiny WPA** in partnership with **Interface Studio**.
- The return of PORT-designed installations at Eakins Oval, including the Ribbon Garden, Mr. Mister spray garden, and an oversized sandbox.

## **PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS**

The Oval+ will feature active programming Wednesdays through Sundays between the hours of 11am and 11pm. Dozens of **free** activities and events are planned around the themes “Wellness Wednesdays,” “Arts & Culture Thursdays,” “Food & Flicks Fridays,” “Game Day Saturdays,” and “Sunday Family Fundays.” Some programs take place in Eakins Oval, and some along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in the designated blocks. For the complete schedule, see [theovalphl.org/events](http://theovalphl.org/events).

### **Wednesday Highlights**

- **“Wellness Wednesdays”** at Eakins Oval
  - CKO Kickboxing, weekly 5pm-6pm and 7pm-8pm
  - Power Yoga by Yoga Habit, weekly 6pm-7pm
  - League Cornhole, weekly 6pm-8pm
  - Philly Dance Fitness, July 24, 7-8pm
- **Nature Read-Aloud** at the MAKE outdoor reading room, weekly 11am-12pm
- **Tennis with Philadelphia Freedoms** on the PLAY court, July 24, 6pm-8pm

### **Thursday Highlights**

- **“Arts & Culture Thursdays”** at Eakins Oval
  - **Silent Philly Dance Party**, weekly 8pm-11pm
- **Drag Queen Story Time** at the MAKE reading room, weekly 11am-12pm
- **Live Performances** on the HEAR block
  - BalletX, Thursday, July 25, 7pm-8pm
  - Liberian Women’s Chorus for Change, August 1, 7pm-8pm
  - AFROTAINO presents Bongo District, August 8, 7pm-8pm
  - KYL/D performance, August 15, 7pm-8pm

### **Friday Highlights**

- **“Food & Flick Fridays”** at Eakins Oval
  - **Movie Nights**, 9pm
    - 7/19 “Black Panther”
    - 7/26 “Mighty Ducks”
    - 8/2 “Top Gun”
    - 8/9 “Hook”
    - 8/16 “Little Giants”
- **Philly Reading Coaches** providing one-on-ones at the MAKE reading room, weekly, 11am-2pm

- **Architecture + Design (A+D) Free Play with DesignPhiladelphia** at the MAKE shipping container, weekly 3pm-5pm
- **Ping Pong Tournament with SPIN** on the PLAY block, weekly starting July 26, 6pm-8pm
- **BOOM 103.9 Radio Takeover** of the BOOM BOX, all day.

### Saturday Highlights

- **“Game Day Saturdays”** at Eakins Oval
  - **Quizzo in the Beer Garden**, 4pm-6pm
- **Pop Up Play and Fab Youth Philly’s Play Captains** on the PLAY block
- **WPPM 106.5 FM Takeover** of the BOOM BOX, all day.
- **Summer Sounds Series with DJs at the Oval**, weekly 6pm-10pm
  - DJ Mr. Sonny James & DJ Lil Dave series kickoff on 7/20

### Sunday Highlights

- **“Family Fun Sundays”** at Eakins Oval
  - **Let’s Rock Recess!!!** (a kid-friendly DJ dance party), 2pm-7pm
  - **Global Craft Market** by the Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians on the MAKE block

### **FOOD AND BEVERAGE OPTIONS**

- The all-new BOOM BOX features seating inside and on top of the bus and offers Rita’s Water Ice, Philly Pretzels, draft beers by Mainstay Independent Brewing Company, and beverages by La Colombe. Hours are Wednesdays-Fridays from 5pm-11pm and Saturdays-Sundays from 2pm-11pm.
- The Oval+ Beer Garden is open Wednesdays-Fridays from 5pm-11pm and Saturdays-Sundays from 2pm-11pm, featuring food from Chayatee Thai restaurant (vegan, chicken and pork options) plus wine, cocktails, “adult slushies,” and beer featuring Park’s Pale Ale brewed in concert with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation.
- A rotating line-up of food trucks at Eakins Oval offers a variety of meal and dessert options, including QT Vietnamese, Brotherly Grub, La Chocolatera, Dump n Roll, and Island Shack.

### **TRAFFIC DETAILS**

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and Fairmount Park Conservancy worked with City agencies and partners to develop a traffic protection and maintenance plan and to implement safety measures that correspond with the closure and detour schedule outlined as follows:

From July 5 to August 25 vehicle traffic will be redirected in the following ways:

- The outbound outer lanes (north side of Parkway) will be closed to vehicles between 20th Street and Art Museum Drive.
- The outbound Parkway bike lane will remain open.
- N. 20th St, N. 21st St. and N. 22nd St. will remain open.
- Vine St. traffic will be directed to the Parkway inner lanes or to make a right onto 20th St.

### **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

**The Oval+** is created by a partnership of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and Fairmount Park Conservancy. Summer at The Oval+ is presented by PNC and supported by funding from ArtPlace America and Knight Foundation. The first version of Philadelphia’s summer-only “Park on the

Parkway” was launched by Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation in 2013. It transformed the eight acres of Eakins Oval (mostly used as a parking lot) into a public space with community programming, events, and activities. In 2017, The Oval expanded down the Parkway to include two nearby parks adjacent to Logan Circle. The 2018 version was The Oval+’s largest footprint to date with the expansion of the pedestrian haven down the Parkway.

**Fairmount Park Conservancy** exists to champion Philadelphia’s parks. We lead capital projects and historic preservation efforts, foster neighborhood park stewardship, attract and leverage investments, and develop innovative programs throughout the 10,200 acres that include Fairmount Park and more than 200 neighborhood parks around the city. For more information, please visit [myphillypark.org](http://myphillypark.org), join us at [facebook.com/fairmountparkconservancy](https://facebook.com/fairmountparkconservancy), and follow us on Instagram and Twitter @myphillypark.

**Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR)** advances the prosperity of the city and the progress of her people through intentional and sustained stewardship of nearly 10,200 acres of public land and waterways as well as through hundreds of safe, stimulating recreation, environmental and cultural centers. PPR promotes the well-being and growth of the city’s residents by connecting them to the natural world around them, to each other and to fun, physical and social opportunities. PPR is responsible for the upkeep of historically significant Philadelphia events and specialty venues, and works collaboratively with communities and organizations in leading capital projects and the introduction of inventive programming. To learn more about Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, visit us at [www.phila.gov/parksandrec](http://www.phila.gov/parksandrec), and follow @philaparkandrec on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**Mural Arts Philadelphia** is the nation’s largest public art program, dedicated to the belief that art ignites change. For over 30 years, Mural Arts has united artists and communities through a collaborative and equitable process, creating nearly 4,000 artworks that have transformed public spaces and individual lives. Mural Arts aims to empower people, stimulate dialogue, and build bridges to understanding with projects that attract artists from Philadelphia and around the world, and programs that focus on youth education, restorative justice, mental health and wellness, and public art and its preservation. Popular mural tours offer a firsthand glimpse into the inspiring stories behind Mural Arts’ iconic and unparalleled collection, which has earned Philadelphia worldwide recognition as the "City of Murals." For more information, call 215-685-0750 or visit [muralarts.org](http://muralarts.org). Follow us on social media: @muralarts on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/muralarts) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/muralarts), [MuralArtsPhiladelphia](https://www.facebook.com/muralartsphiladelphia) on Facebook, and [phillymuralarts](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqWz8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8) on YouTube.

**For more background on the project’s creative partners – PORT Urbanism, Mural Arts Philadelphia, NDA, Felix St. Fort, and FK – please visit the Conservancy’s online press room: <http://bit.ly/ConservancyPressKit>. The press room also contains renderings of the 2019 design and high-resolution photographs from the 2018 season.**

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*Photo by Albert Yee for Fairmount Park Conservancy.*

7/15/19