



**FAIRMOUNT PARK CONSERVANCY ANNOUNCES:**

# **CALL FOR ARTISTS**

For community-engaging environmental art

**FDR PARK: Saturday, October 20, 2018**



***DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: September 13, 2018, 11pm***

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: September 13, 2018, 11pm EST**

FDR PARK, SOUTH PHILADELPHIA

### INTRODUCTION

Fairmount Park Conservancy seeks to commission one artist or artist team to create an outdoor environmental art installation or interactive experience that invites visitors and community members to engage with the relationship between FDR Park and climate change. The project must be installed or activated by Friday, October 19, 2018. The duration of the project or installation is negotiable; there is a possibility for installations to remain on view for several weeks. Artists may submit ideas for participatory projects, installations, sculpture, and multi-disciplinary interventions that engage FDR Park users. A stipend of \$4,000 will be allocated for the artist/artist team. This commission is part of the Arts and Culture Program at the Conservancy, supported by grants from CUSP at The Franklin Institute and William Penn Foundation.

### FDR PARK MASTER PLAN

This project is part of the FDR Park Master Planning process. Fairmount Park Conservancy, in partnership with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and the Friends of FDR Park, launched a master planning process for the 348-acre FDR Park in South Philadelphia in March 2018. FDR's popularity, years of heavy use, and regular flooding have taken a toll on its infrastructure and environmental integrity. The goal of the master plan is to revitalize the park, restoring it back to its original intent as an urban oasis for people as well as plants and animals, and create a shared vision for the park's future.

FDR Park was designed by the Olmsted Brothers and opened in 1921 as League Island Park. The park is a designated Historic District by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and is home to a series of lakes and lagoons, a golf course, the American Swedish Historical Museum, and a range of recreation facilities including tennis courts, ball fields, and a skate park. Before development, the land that is now FDR park was a marshland between the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers, including creeks, islands, and extensive wetlands. European settlers and farmers filled in the marsh over time, first for farming, later for housing and urban development. FDR Park is the only estuary park in Philadelphia (meaning it is influenced by tides) and is a critical piece of intact coastal plain habitat.

For more information about the master plan, including relevant documents and background, please visit [myphillypark.org/fdr-park](http://myphillypark.org/fdr-park).

### CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE

FDR Park regularly experiences flooding due to its natural hydrology, and climate change experts predict the park will be impacted by sea level rise and additional flooding due to severe storms in the next 50-100 years. The planning team is considering how the park can help mitigate the

impacts of the warmer and wetter future predicted for Philadelphia, while also safeguarding the park's infrastructure against rising sea levels, more severe storms, and a changing climate. Proposed projects should take the past and potential future of the park into consideration and aim to further residents' engagement with and understanding of the relationship between the park and climate change, focusing on solutions.

## LOCATION

FDR Park is located at South Broad Street and Pattison Avenue in South Philadelphia. The park is bordered by major regional institutions, including the Navy Yard, the Sports Complex and related parking areas, NovaCare and the Eagles practice facility, the former site of the Navy Hospital, and the Philadelphia Energy Solutions oil refinery complex. Packer Park is the only neighborhood directly bordering the park.

Location of the installation/project within FDR Park is negotiable, but we urge applicants to consider the lawn in front of the American Swedish Historical Museum (#1 on the map below) or the lawn between Meadow Lake and South Broad Street (#2) as the best potential spaces. Projects should avoid use of historic structures in the park, including the Boathouse and Olmsted Overlook, unless extreme care and consideration for the structures' historic nature and current uses are taken.



## **ART COMMISSION OPPORTUNITY**

Fairmount Park Conservancy seeks to commission one temporary outdoor public art project that engages FDR Park users with the park's past as a marsh, the park's current use as a community gathering space, and the park's future as both a resource to combat the effects of climate change and a piece of critical infrastructure at risk from those same effects. The artist or artist team will also be asked to work with an environmental educator (selected by the Conservancy) to support the development of an educational curriculum centered around the piece, and to participate in a "Family Day" that invites South Philly residents to engage with the project and the park and learn about **solutions** to climate change and sea level rise. Family Day is currently slated for Saturday, October 20, 2018. The installation/project must be completed and installed by Friday, October 19.

Proposals should consider one or all of the following:

- The park's environmental past, present, and future
- Climate change, sea level rise, and potential solutions
- The FDR Park Master Planning process
- The communities, individuals, and groups who use, activate, and love the park

There are no limitations as to material or form and may include: sculptural and interactive installations, participatory projects, visual, auditory, sensory, and/or multi-disciplinary interventions. Projects must consider exposure to the elements (wind, rain, etc.) as well as the possibility for installations to remain on view for several weeks.

## **BUDGET**

A budget of \$4,000 has been allocated for the artist or artist team selected. The \$4,000 budget will be inclusive of all artist(s) fees, artist stipend, time, fabrication, installation, transportation, de-installation and all other project-related expenses.

## **TIMELINE**

- **September 13, 2018, 11pm: Deadline for submissions**
- September 19, 2018: Selected artist or artist team notified
- September 20-26: Selected artist(s) meets with Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, Friends of FDR Park, and climate educator; site visit and walk-through
- September 27-October 18: Fabrication of installation, development of curriculum, and preparation for event
- October 19, 2018, 3pm: Installation to be completed on-site
- **October 20: FDR Park Family Day**

## **ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

Local Philadelphia artists, as well as artists who reside within the Greater Philadelphia area, are invited to submit a proposal. Artists with strong connections to South Philadelphia and/or FDR Park will be given special consideration. Artists of all backgrounds and disciplines may apply.

All artists who apply must demonstrate:

- Strong visual and conceptual skills
- Desire to engage with community
- Willingness to incorporate feedback on aspects of design or implementation
- Ability to take charge of all aspects of project delivery (including sourcing materials, fabrication, delivery to site, final installation of work) on time and on budget

A proposal will be selected on the basis of creativity, artistic merit, engagement with the FDR Park community, relationship to the site, as well as potential to inspire visitors and engage them with the park and the master planning process. This commission is intended to educate park users about climate change and sea level rise, encourage them to consider potential solutions, and increase engagement between park users and park managers.

Artists are required to comply with applicable rules and procedures of the Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation.

*Fairmount Park Conservancy reserves the right not to accept any of the proposals submitted.*

## **SUBMISSION**

Artists are required to submit:

- 4 - 6 images that best illustrate previous work. If applicable, include work that demonstrates your ability to produce outdoor temporary work.
- A short narrative proposal (max. 1 page)
- 2 - 4 images that illustrate the proposal (sketches, Photoshop images, etc.)
- CV or bio, not to exceed more than 2 pages (1 page if double-sided)

The deadline for submissions is Thursday, September 13 at 11pm. Submit all materials as a single PDF to Lindsey Walker and Adela Park at [arts@myphillypark.org](mailto:arts@myphillypark.org). The submission should not exceed 6 MB.

For questions concerning proposals, please email us at [arts@myphillypark.org](mailto:arts@myphillypark.org).

## **FAIRMOUNT PARK CONSERVANCY**

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 100 neighborhood parks around the city. Philadelphia has one of the largest urban park systems in the world, providing residents with extensive health, environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits.

[www.myphillypark.org](http://www.myphillypark.org)

Facebook: /FairmountParkConservancy

Twitter: @myphillypark



Instagram: @myphillypark, @fpcartsandculture

**Fairmount Park Conservancy**

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