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PRESS CONTACT:

[Quinn Logan](#)

Delaware River Waterfront Corp.

O: 215.629.3218

C: 267.539.7295

Exhibitions Demonstrate the Potential for Activation of Municipal Pier 9

Municipal Pier 9, the 93-year old warehouse owned by the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC), features over 55,000 square feet of open space. The unique post-industrial site is conveniently located off Columbus Boulevard next to Race Street Pier, making it easily accessible to visitors who are taking public transportation, walking, biking, or traveling by car.

The immense open floor plan and overall accessibility are key indicators of the Pier's potential as a collective space, and helped to secure Pier 9 as the host of the Fabric Workshop and Museum's latest collaboration with renowned artist Ann Hamilton on her exhibition, *habitus*. Municipal Pier 9 was open to the air, the breeze, and the weather on the Delaware River, thereby creating an expansive environment to compliment Hamilton's large-scale installation. The exhibit brought over 11,500 visitors to the waterfront during its five-week run, from September 6 – October 10, 2016.

Susan Lubowsky Talbott, Executive Director, The Fabric Workshop and Museum, says, "Ann Hamilton's complex, magical installation would not have been possible without the supportive collaboration and problem solving of the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation. The leadership there had the foresight to see how Ann's immersive large scale work could become a magnet for the public and enliven the city's riverfront. We are very grateful."

Municipal Pier 9 will also host Jordan Griska's multifaceted sculpture, *Wreck*, presented by Philadelphia Contemporary from Friday, October 28 through Sunday, October 30 before its installation in a private collection. *Wreck* features a life-size sculpture of a Mercedes Benz S550, shimmering like a crystal and splintered as if by a crash into thousands of reflective pieces of stainless steel.

"The optical contrasts between the aging marine building and the digitally-designed vehicle raise thought-provoking questions about the history of industrialization and technology, human mobility in the urban landscape, and art in the context of digitization and public monuments" explains exhibit representative Tina Plokarz.

The success of Ann Hamilton's *habitus* exhibit, as well as the coming installation of *Wreck*, further highlights the Pier's potential to become a waterfront amenity. DRWC is currently investigating ways to activate this space on a year around basis to accommodate a wide variety of exciting uses, including indoor and outdoor cafes, shared studio space, art performances and temporary art installations. "We envision the activation of Pier 9 as another placemaking initiative to complement our other successful venues such as Spruce Street Harbor Park, Summerfest, and Winterfest", said Joe Forkin, DRWC's Vice-President for Operations and Development.

To learn more about the emerging plans for Municipal Pier 9, please see the following page for very preliminary renderings that illustrate the potential use of this space, and check back in as concepts develop over the next 6 months.

EXHIBIT PHOTOS



Ann Hamilton's installation, *habitus*, featured swaths of cloth transformed into spinning curtains with ropes and pulleys to make them rise and fall.



A preview of Jordan Griska's sculpture, *Wreck*.

MUNICIPAL PIER 9 ACTIVATION PRELIMINARY RENDERINGS



Current exterior of Municipal Pier 9, located on Columbus Boulevard in between Market and Race Streets.



Rendering of potential use for Pier 9 activation created by Groundswell and ISA.

DIRECTIONS

The waterfront can be accessed via car, public transit, bike and walking. For more detailed information, [please see the website.](#)

CONTACT

Website: www.delawariverwaterfront.com

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ABOUT

Delaware River Waterfront Corporation

[DRWC](#) is a 501(c)(3) created in January 2009, exclusively for the benefit of the City of Philadelphia and its citizens. The fundamental purpose of DRWC is to design, develop, program and maintain public amenities such as permanent and seasonal parks, trails, and streetscape improvements to transform the waterfront into a vibrant destination for recreational, cultural, and commercial activities for the residents and visitors of Philadelphia as is consistent with the goals of the Master Plan for Central Delaware. Daily programming throughout the entire year is changing the way Philadelphians see and converse about the waterfront, and is helping to create spaces and communities that connect residents and visitors to the waterfront.

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