

CHERRY STREET PIER No. 9

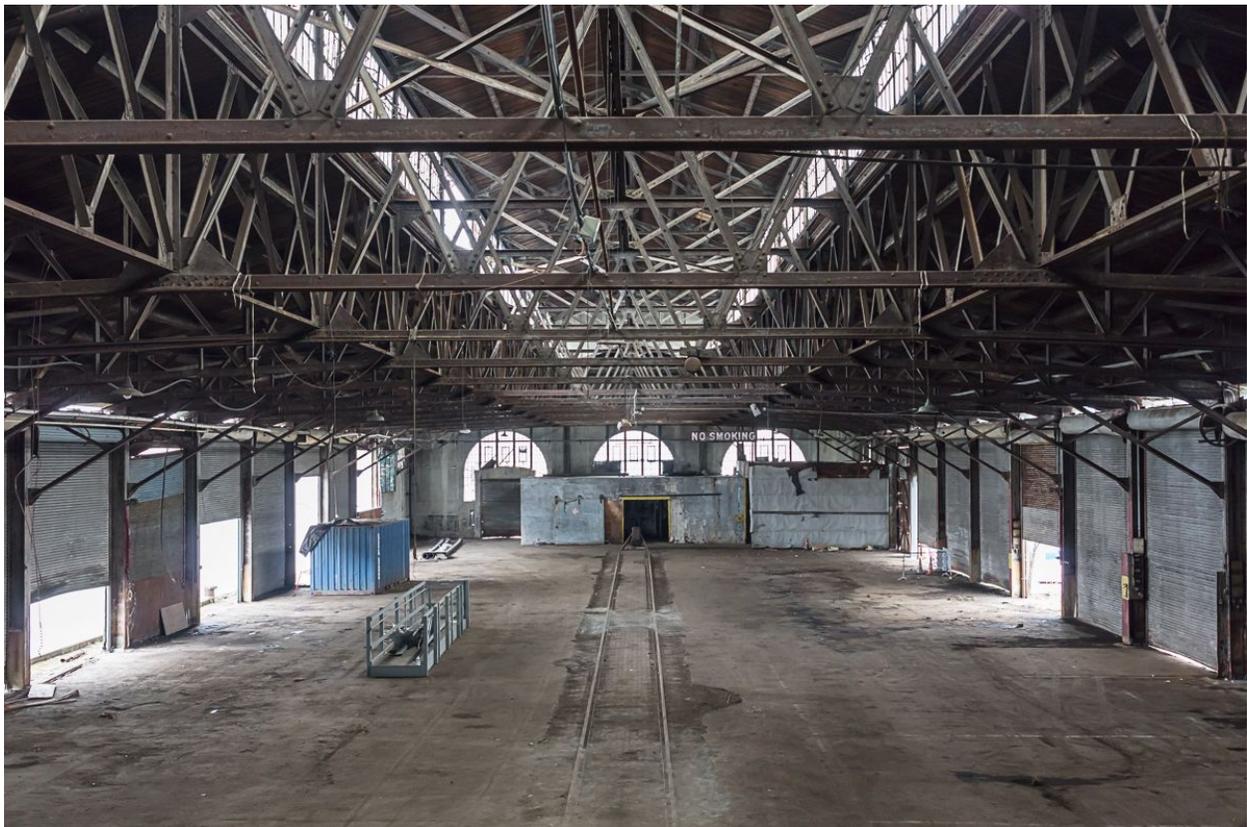
PRESS CONTACT:

Emma Fried-Cassorla
Director of Marketing & Communications
Delaware River Waterfront Corporation
efried-cassorla@drwc.org
O: 215.629.3218
C: 215.313.5582

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE DELAWARE RIVER WATERFRONT CORPORATION ANNOUNCES CHERRY STREET PIER RESIDENT ARTISTS, OPENING DATE, AND FESTIVAL

The Delaware River Waterfront Corporation's newest park opens on October 12th with a focus on Philadelphia's thriving creative community



PHILADELPHIA (August, 2018) – On October 12th, 2018, Philadelphians will have the opportunity to enter into the newly transformed [Cherry Street Pier](#) -- a 55,000 square foot former municipal

shipping pier that is being converted into a vibrant public destination that showcases Philadelphia's creative community and establishes a new model for public space. With a budget of \$5M, the [Delaware River Waterfront Corporation](#) (DRWC) is creating a highly visible cultural and commercial anchor for the area that is a key part of the organization's [Master Plan for the Central Delaware](#).

The project creates a fine balance between preserving the historic Municipal Pier 9, a 99-year old pier, and creating a new space for all Philadelphia residents and visitors to enjoy. The Pier will feature an outdoor garden, market spaces, exhibition and installation areas, food and beverage, and 14 artist studios. The first cohort of artists to be in residence at the Pier represents Philadelphia's diverse creative community with artists like **Cori Shepherd**, a sculptor, painter and doll artist, **Yolanda Wisner**, a Philadelphia Poet Laureate, **India Abbot**, an emerging artist in moving imagery, and **Sharif Pendelton**, a multimedia artist focused on product design, just to name a few. Biographies of all 14 artists can be found below and on the [website](#).

This much anticipated park is **kicking off with a two week long arts festival produced by Philadelphia Contemporary called Festival for the People**. The festival, which runs from October 13th through October 28th, will feature a dynamic set of participatory programs, events, sculptures, installations, videos, and banners, which will activate all of the different spaces within Cherry Street Pier as well as neighboring Race Street Pier.

“Cherry Street Pier is the seventh public park that the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation has built according to the Master Plan for the Central Delaware. This Pier will create a new model for public space -- one where the creative community is essential to the mission of the space. At Cherry Street Pier, we seek to provide the foundation and resources for the arts to flourish on the waterfront and in Philadelphia. The Pier will continue to help reconnect the city to its waterfront by creating a community space that is inclusive, educational, exciting, and collaborative,” said Joe Forkin, President of DRWC.

Funding for the project was provided by the [City of Philadelphia](#), [the William Penn Foundation](#), [The Board of Directors of City Trusts and the Delaware Avenue Fund](#), [the PA Department of Community and Economic Development](#), and [The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation](#).

About the artists

One of the unique components of this new park is the focus on fostering and building the creative community in Philadelphia by providing low-rent studios, market and exhibition areas, and programming focused on showcasing the breadth of work being done in the city. The artist studios were intentionally created to be completely public facing so that all visitors could see how art is made, and so that the artists could meet and interact with new audiences.

To choose artists for the studios, DRWC put out an open application across the city, and used both an internal review process as well as consultation and guidance from experts in public art, public space, and community building. The goal was to put together a cohort that would work

collaboratively, be open to and excited about engaging with the public, and would be a good representation of Philadelphia and its creative community. DRWC is pleased to announce the artists who will be the first cohort to take up residence in the 14 on-site studios.

These artists include:

- Ed Marion, a painter who will be focusing on portraiture of visitors to the Pier
- Yolanda Wisher, a poet, educator and curator and former Philadelphia Poet Laureate
- Sue Huang, who is working at the intersections of new media, installation, and social practice with pieces that explore social structures, personal histories, domestic and public spaces, and nature
- Carla Fisher, an emerging fiber artist who, after 25 years in the financial services industry, is making the jump to being a full-time artist
- Orchestra 2001, a collective of adventurous, virtuoso performers dedicated to the music of our time and one of two nonprofits with dedicated spaces within the pier
- Cori Shepherd, a sculptor, painter and doll artist
- Stacey Wilson, who is a graphic designer, illustrator, and event producer
- Melody Forrester, the CEO and founder of Artists First, Inc., a Philadelphia based artist management and media consulting company as well as a practicing entertainment lawyer
- Jim Abbot, an urban and landscape photographer who has been shooting Philadelphia and its waterfront for the last 35 years. He will be sharing a space with his daughter, India Abbot, an emerging artist in moving imagery with a passion for experimental 16mm filmmaking
- Theatre Philadelphia, a nonprofit that is dedicated to bringing together and celebrating Philadelphia's diverse and growing theatre community
- Felise Luchansky, who is a visual artist working in photography, collage and installation.
- Sharif Pendelton, a multimedia artist focused on product design. He will be bringing his laser into the studio space to begin building his next business
- Victoria Prizzia, the founder of Habithèque Inc., an interpretive planning, design and innovation studio creating exhibits and experiences for learning.

For more information about each individual artist, please visit our [website](#).

“Public spaces have an opportunity to create deeper connections between people and their city,” said Patrick Morgan, Director/Philadelphia of Knight Foundation. “With Knight Foundation support, Cherry Street Pier will be a model site to help look at Philadelphia's public spaces in a brand new way, providing resources for creative spaces and communities that engage all citizens.”

About the Pier



Municipal Pier 9, the original name for Cherry Street Pier, is a 99-year old warehouse and former shipping pier that has sat vacant for decades. The photo above shows the pier before construction, looking south from the Race Street Pier. In the span of six months, DRWC and its design and construction team consisting of [ISA](#), [Groundswell Design Group](#), [W.J. Castle & Associates](#), [Scungio Borst](#), [Hydro Marine Construction](#), and [D3 Development](#), will breathe new life into one of the last remaining historic finger piers in public control along the Central Delaware River Waterfront.

To that end, the Pier will have an outdoor garden encased in the remnant steel trusses of the old rooftop, brand new north-facing garage doors made of glass, food and beverage locations in converted trolley cars, artist studios, flexible market areas, and exhibition spaces for large and small installations. [Renderings](#), [photos](#), [press releases](#), and [more details about the project](#) are available online.

Notes Sheila Hess, City Representative, City of Philadelphia, “The city is excited to support this new public space because we believe that culture and creativity are essential in building, revitalizing and engaging communities. By exposing Philadelphians at all ages to the wide variety of art and artists, we can improve educational outcomes, spur economic development, and help to preserve and maintain Philadelphia's creative community. At Cherry Street Pier, Philadelphians will get a chance to be exposed to art and just as importantly, the artists behind the work. In essence, they will get a chance to peek behind the curtain to see how art is actually made.”

About Festival for the People

A colorful banner for the 'Festival for the People'. The main text 'Festival for the People' is in white on a red background. To the right, a yellow box contains the text '★ 3 Weekends ★' and 'OCT. 13 ---- 28'. To the left, a blue box says 'Free Free Free' with stars. A green box lists featured artists: 'FEATURING Hito Steyerl / Andrea Bowers / CREOS / Erlin Geffrard / Jennifer Levonian / Maider López / Yoshua Okón / Tintin Wulio / + more'. A pink box on the right says '@ Cherry Street Pier + Race Street Pier'.

To kick off the opening of the park, Cherry Street Pier will play host to a two week long festival produced by [Philadelphia Contemporary](#) called Festival for the People. The festival, which runs from October 13th through October 28th, will feature participatory events, sculptures, installations, videos, and banners, activating both Cherry Street and Race Street Piers. In keeping with the mission of Philadelphia Contemporary, the Festival for the People aims to expand the public conception of what contemporary art is and can be across a range of mediums and subjects. Funding for Festival for the People was generously provided by the [William Penn Foundation](#). Full details to be released shortly by Philadelphia Contemporary.

CONNECT

Facebook: [Cherry Street Pier](#)

Instagram: [@cherrystreetpier](#)

Twitter: [@cherrystpier](#)

Email: cherrystreetpier@drwc.org

Website: www.cherrystreetpier.org

ABOUT KNIGHT FOUNDATION

About Knight Foundation: Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy. For more, visit kf.org.

ABOUT PHILADELPHIA CONTEMPORARY

Founded in 2016, [Philadelphia Contemporary](#) is dedicated to bringing visual art, performance art, and spoken word to the city of Philadelphia. A nomadic contemporary art organization with ambitions to establish a free standing globally oriented and locally aware museum, Philadelphia Contemporary has pioneered a vibrant and sustainable model based on partnerships and collaborations. Having commenced pop-up programming in October 2016, Philadelphia Contemporary continues to develop an ambitious roster of projects that will be mounted in the coming years, while planning for a permanent home in a new building.

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.

###