



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rivermark Northern Liberties Celebrates a Vision Fulfilled on the Waterfront

Ribbon Cutting Welcomes Stunning 60' Illuminated Sculpture, An Ode to Delaware River

(Philadelphia, PA) September 17, 2025 – The developers of [Rivermark Northern Liberties](#) – [Jefferson Apartment Group](#) (JAG) with [Haverford Development Partners](#) were joined by city officials, arts advocates, and others to celebrate completion of the mixed-use development and welcome *River Soundings*, a landmark public artwork by internationally acclaimed artists Haddad | Drugan, which stands 60-feet tall on the Delaware River Waterfront in Philadelphia. Photos from the event can be found linked [here](#).

Rivermark Northern Liberties is on the site of the former Festival Pier featuring 470 luxury rental units across two residential buildings, 45,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space anchored by a Sprouts Farmers Market, and 4 acres of waterfront public-use space – including an extension of the Delaware River Trail, sitting areas, lawns, and the newly installed sculpture as the focal point.

“Rivermark Northern Liberties was first envisioned more than a decade ago,” said Drew Chapman, JAG Senior Vice President and Development Partner. “We’re incredibly proud to fulfill this vision of a best-in-class mixed-use community not just for our residents but as a lifestyle destination for all of Philadelphia to enjoy along the waterfront. *River Soundings* is iconic public art, and we’re delighted to officially welcome it as the capstone to Rivermark. The artists have created a meaningful sculpture that crowns the waterfront and is colorfully illuminated at night. It will engage the community in a shared experience with programming at sunset and also including team colors on game days.”

A creation of Seattle-based [Haddad | Drugan](#) – the renowned conceptual artist team of Laura Haddad and Tom Drugan – *River Soundings* reflects the uniqueness of the Delaware River. Elements of its logging and maritime history, as well as its visual qualities and the early methods used to navigate it, are all represented in the sculpture.

“It’s like an extrusion of the river pulled up above the surface, a soaring tower representing the depths below,” Haddad said. “We imagine that this piece will act as a beacon as seen from a distance, similar to a navigational marker or lighthouse.” For those experiencing the work up close, the sculpture also includes a collection of etchings at its base, inspired by navigational devices specific to the Delaware River.

“As proud as I am of the overall real estate project, I believe that Rivermark Northern Liberties will come to be known for, and identified by, *River Soundings*,” said Charles Houder, Founder of Haverford Development Partners and a native of the Philadelphia area. “To me, that is the highest expression of public art – when residents and visitors to the site can feel a connection to the piece and its meaning is continually defined and redefined by those who view it.”

River Soundings is constructed with three 60-foot steel columns with two circular frames: one at the top and one 12 feet above the ground. The distance between the frames measures eight fathoms (48 feet), which is the deepest point of the river adjacent to Rivermark at high tide. The centerpiece features nearly 100 vertical cables adorned with over 3,000 shimmering discs, inspired by sunlight reflecting on water.

In addition to Sprouts, which opened this summer, Lucky Duck – a new neighborhood-tavern concept – has announced plans to open in a space with an outdoor patio that overlooks the river and the Ben Franklin Bridge.

“The transformation of Festival Pier into Rivermark Northern Liberties marks an important milestone for Philadelphia’s Waterfront,” said Joseph A. Forkin, President & CEO of the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation, which controls the 9-acre site where Rivermark was built. “This installation honors the Delaware River’s legacy and serves as a welcoming centerpiece for a vibrant, accessible, and art-filled Waterfront. It shows what’s possible when design, development, and public purpose come together.”

River Soundings was commissioned under the Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation's (PHDC) pioneering [Percent for Art](#) program established in 1959 – the nation’s first initiative requiring developers working with public entities to allocate funds for public art. Philadelphia’s modern program requires art that is tailored to the location of a new development and includes an educational component.

Rivermark Northern Liberties is managed by [JAG Management Company](#). Construction debt financing is provided by Citizens Bank and Santander Bank. Rivermark Northern Liberties is located 501 N. Columbus Blvd. in Philadelphia, just two blocks from the Spring Garden SEPTA station.

About Jefferson Apartment Group

[Jefferson Apartment Group](#) is a leading full-service real estate firm specializing in both luxury and attainable multifamily and mixed-use real estate investments on the East Coast, from acquisition and development through construction. In addition, JAG Management Company provides property management services from Massachusetts to Florida. Headquartered in McLean, Virginia, in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, JAG has regional offices in Boston, Philadelphia, Charlotte, and Orlando. The firm is committed to creating and managing communities that are high-quality, innovative, and environmentally responsible.

About Haverford Development Partners

Haverford Development Partners LLC is a real estate investment and development company based outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The company is involved in all aspects of real estate development and investment, with a focus on master planning, mixed-use land development, ground-up multi-family development and place-making hospitality development. For more information, please visit [Haverford Development Partners](#).

About DRWC

The [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 the 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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