# •



# CHERRY STREET PIER No. 9

YEAR 1 Report

**MARCH 2020** 



## THE PHILADELPHIA WATERFRONT STORY

#### In the beginning, there was water.

The Delaware River and its waterfront have played an integral part in Philadelphia's history, having served as a shipping port for goods and people, a safe haven for those escaping oppression in far-off lands, and a source of food and communal gathering space for native peoples and early settlers. Throughout history, the River has also provided millions of residents and visitors opportunities for recreation and entertainment.



The non-profit Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC) is the steward of a six-mile stretch along the Delaware River Waterfront in Philadelphia and is charged with ensuring that the Waterfront reflects this important history and continues to contribute to the city's social and economic health. To that end, the organization oversees the design,

construction, programming, and maintenance of a variety of public amenities that draw people to the river. In creating a strategic approach to reaching these goals, DRWC, with the support of the City of Philadelphia, civic partners, and residents, crafted the Master Plan for the Central Delaware, a comprehensive roadmap for development from Pennsport (South) to Port Richmond (North). Crucial to this plan is the revitalization and creation of public parks every half mile and maintaining and creating direct access from neighborhoods to the Waterfront. Guided by the Master Plan, DRWC has created new parks like the Race Street Pier and Washington Avenue Pier, upgraded beloved Philadelphia destinations like the Blue Cross RiverRink into Winterfest and Summerfest, and transformed a forgotten stretch of public space into Spruce Street Harbor Park, a summertime mainstay for local residents, urban explorers, and tourists.

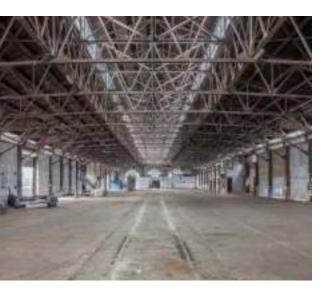




# THE CHERRY STREET PIER STORY

#### From produce pier to artistic enclave.

Located less than fifty steps from Race Street Pier stands the historic Municipal Pier 9. Erected in 1919, the Pier was commissioned by the Department of Wharves, Docks and Ferries and was considerably larger than other piers previously constructed by the City. During its heyday, the Pier was an integral part of Philadelphia's shipping and trade industry, as the city was then known as the "Workshop of the World".



Years later, as the industrial boom slowed and port facilities consolidated to the northern and southern portions of the river, the building sat vacant and eventually came under DRWC's control where it was used for storage of everything from parade floats to vehicles. DRWC, equipped with the directives set forth in the Master Plan for the Central Delaware, decided to convert the 65,000 square foot building into a vibrant public destination that would showcase Philadelphia's creative community and establish a new model for public space.

With a budget of \$5 million and an accelerated timeline, DRWC began the process of creating a fine balance between preserving the historic and beautiful original

structure and providing a vibrant, multi-faceted new public space for all Philadelphia residents and visitors to enjoy. Rather than undertaking a complete renovation, DRWC opted for a phased approach which returned the space to active use more quickly and will build momentum for further investment as the Pier evolves. DRWC and its design and construction team consisting of Interface Studio Architects, Groundswell Design Group, W.J. Castle & Associates, Scungio Borst, Hydro Marine Construction, and D3 Development, breathed new life into one of the last remaining historic finger piers in public control along the Central Delaware River Waterfront. The physical changes to the Pier structure and building shed were carefully chosen to be both economical and preserve its historical character.

The completed space features an outdoor garden, market spaces, exhibition and installation areas, food and beverage locations, and 14 studios, priced at below-market rates for emerging



and under-represented artists. The verdant garden at the easternmost point of the Pier juts into the Delaware River and is encased in the remnant steel trusses of the old rooftop. Brand new north-facing garage doors made of glass welcome visitors (and sunlight!) to the space while food and beverage locations in converted trolley cars offer treats from Philadelphia-based vendors. The first cohort of artists to be in residence at the Pier represented the city's diverse creative community and were selected because of their varied artistic medium, capacity to collaborate, potential for growth, desire to interact with the public, and commitment to their craft.

In October 2018, Cherry Street Pier hosted its grand opening with Philadelphia Contemporary's Festival for the People, which featured live music, visual art installations, tactile, interactive experiences, screen printing, dance performances, film screenings, artist talks, large-scale see-saws, permanent and temporary tattoos, and much, much more. More than 35,000 people flowed through the Pier during its first two weeks, drawing residents from every corner of the city and visitors from the region and beyond.

The success of the first festival indicated the interest the Pier would continue to inspire over its first year of operations. In the following pages we have endeavored to capture the impact the Pier has had — on the artists who work here, on the partners who program here, on the community members who visit here, and on the city of Philadelphia as a whole.





#### THE NUMBERS

October 2018 — October 2019

# 300,000+ Attendees

PEAK EVENTS FOR ATTENDANCE







# **Total Events**





SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

28,825



**NEWS STORIES** 





**SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS\*** 



FO

**NEWS IMPRESSIONS** 



\*Impressions: the number of times a user views your content

# THE ARTISTS

#### Creativity takes courage. And a studio. And electricity.

Cherry Street Pier's first cohort of resident artists were chosen from an applicant pool of 52 and represented a wide range of artistic endeavors — from fiber artists and poets to painters and creative entrepreneurs. Over 70 artists applied for residencies in Year 2, some of whom were returning artists and collectives while others were rising creatives from across the city.

The selection of artists was spearheaded by an esteemed committee of artists, curators, art administrators, DRWC staff and board members. Cognizant of the potential impact of the artists not only on the Pier but the Waterfront as a whole, the committee painstakingly reviewed applications and conducted interviews to identify individuals and collaboratives who truly represent the breadth and depth of Philadelphia's rich artistic community.

The Cherry Street Pier brand has grown within the greater arts community in Philadelphia, thanks in large part to the Year 1 artists themselves. Interest in obtaining studio space and programming at the Pier has also skyrocketed, as evidenced, for example, by the over 150 applications received for the Art and Artisans Market, a curated series of markets featuring local makers.



# India Abbott MOVING IMAGE

An emerging artist in moving imagery, India's work aims to weave unusual kinesthetic dynamics with analog sensibilities.



# James B. Abbott Photography

After arriving in Philadelphia in 1981, James B. Abbott began photographing the Ben Franklin Bridge and surrounding neighborhoods along the Delaware River. Over a 25-year period, he produced three additional and different bodies of work on the Bridge and its neighborhood, and went on to other long-term urban and landscape projects in Berlin, the Cape Cod National Seashore, Florence, and Venice.



# CREATIVE CONNECTORS Melody Forrester

Melody Forrester is a practicing attorney and the CEO and founder of Artists First, Inc., a Philadelphia-based artist management and media consulting company. One-half of the Creative Connectors, Forrester has more than 17 years of litigation experience with major law firms and is skilled in the management and representation of recording artists, musicians, music producers, screenwriters, film and television producers, actors, poets, visual artists, and professional athletes.



# Carla J. Fisher

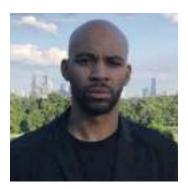
After 25 years in the financial services industry, Carla J. Fisher is now a full-time fiber artist. Working in free-motion machine embroidery, she seeks a visceral response of surprise and delight when a viewer realizes the sculpture they are seeing is simply thread.

"T've loved being part of the pier. You will always have an ally in me. I believe there is a huge opportunity that exists in this city and you [Cherry Street Pier] are a big part of it."—Carl J. Fisher



# Habithèque Inc. CULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

Habithèque Inc. is an interpretive planning, design, and innovation studio based in Philadelphia. For more than 15 years, Habithèque has connected organizations, firms, and individuals to create dynamic spaces for education, storytelling, and cultural and community engagement.



# Acori Honzo sculpture, painting, african american dolls

Acorio Honzo is a sculptor, painter, and doll artist. His art influences range from Andy Warhol, Norman Rockwell, and Jean-Michel Basquiat to comic book artists like Alex Ross and Jim Lee, and his artwork often refers to pop and mass culture.

"A unique experience where I was encouraged and allowed to grow as an artist. The support I received from the staff was also humbling and beyond my expectations!" —Acori Honzo



# Sue Huang

Sue Huang is an artist working at the intersections of new media, installation, and social practice. She is a co-founder of the media arts collaborative Knifeandfork and an Assistant Professor of Digital Media and Design at the University of Connecticut.



# **Felise Luchansky** works on paper, photography, installation

Felise Luchansky is a visual artist who works in photography, collage, and installation. She received the Delaware Division of the Arts Fellowship for Works on Paper and has had solo exhibits at the Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts and the Mezzanine Gallery.



# Ed Marion

Ed Marion is a painter living and working in Philadelphia whose work at Cherry Street Pier was painting free portraits of Philadelphians that were given to the subject once completed.

"Making art at the Cherry Street Pier has given me an opportunity to both produce and share my art like no other environment. Working in a public-facing studio where audience entry is both welcome and encouraged allowed me to talk with everyday Philadelphians about how and why I make the things I make. People love to know how art is made and visit the places where that happens. Cherry Street Pier serves that up year-round."—Ed Marion



# Orchestra 2001 CONTEMPORARY CLASSICAL MUSIC

Orchestra 2001 is a collective of adventurous, virtuoso performers dedicated to the music of our time. The ensemble strives to be an international leader in connecting diverse audiences with the greatest music of the 20th and 21st centuries, having performed well-attended concerts and smaller shows at the Pier during their residency.



# Sharif Pendleton PRODUCT DESIGN

Sharif Pendleton is a University of the Arts-educated multimedia artist enamored by product design. Launching PLAID (Philadelphia Laser And Industrial Design) at Cherry Street Pier has allowed Pendleton to demystify the design process by offering an original line of products and customized design services influenced by the diverse cross-section of visitors to the Pier.



# Theatre Philadelphia THEATRE, ART SERVICES

Theatre Philadelphia is committed to leading efforts that grow audiences and promote the public's participation in theatre throughout the region, nurturing local theatre artists, fostering the creation of extraordinary work, and forging stronger connections between their art and audiences. At Cherry Street Pier, Theatre Philadelphia hosted public events that showcased theatrical artists and organizations from the region, professional development events, and industry mixers, acting as a hub for audiences to learn what's happening on area stages.



# Tiny Room for Elephants CREATIVE ARTS

Tiny Room For Elephants is a network of creatives that hosts an annual multi-disciplinary festival that fuses art and music with one goal in mind: to create, document, and share culture. Cherry Street Pier has helped actualize a long-time dream for Tiny Room for Elephants, by acting as a hub for its network of artists/musicians to collaborate, create, and showcase new works; produce content for artists, by artists; and further explore ways to build the creative economy via workshops.



# CREATIVE CONNECTORS Stacey "Flygirrl" Wilson

Stacey Wilson is an artist, graphic designer, promoter, and event planner known for her acrylic and ink works of comic book/ graffiti-esque art on wood, canvas, and sneakers, which have been both televised and published. She produced a series of successful Sip N Paints geared to children while at Cherry Street Pier, in addition to other events in her studio, which doubled as a retail shop.



# Yolanda Wisher AUTHOR, POET, PERFORMER

Yolanda Wisher is a published author, Pew Fellow, and Hedgebrook Writer-in-Residence who was named the inaugural Poet Laureate of Montgomery County Pennsylvania and the third Poet Laureate of Philadelphia in 2016. While at Cherry Street Pier, she used her studio to expand her poetic practice beyond the page with workshops, jam sessions, and multidisciplinary collaborations.

## THE PROGRAMMING

#### It's fun and it's fabulous.

As with the six other public parks along the Waterfront, Cherry Street Pier hosts engaging, interactive, festive events throughout the year. As a cornerstone in DRWC's efforts to expand its artistic and cultural programming, these events are directly connected to the vision of the Pier as an arts-based space. Myriad events spanning artistic medium, genres and audiences filled the Pier in its first year, attracting and engaging Philadelphians and visitors from all stripes of life.

#### PROGRAMMING

**11** days of large-scale programming, including Playfest 2018, New Year's Eve Kids' Countdown, the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation Promenade Fundraiser, Birthday Party for the Pier, Dreamfest

#### **FESTIVALS**

**12** including Festival for the People, Tiny Room for Elephants Festival, Design Philadelphia

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

**11** including I Love My Rowhome, Judy Gelles' 4th Grade Project, Provident Spaces

#### **ARTIST-LED EVENTS**

**27+** including Toast to the Barrymores, Wish You Were Here, Orchestra 2001's Pier Pressure, Ed Marion's Portrait Party, Kids Sip N Paint



#### PERFORMANCES

4 including Bearded Ladies' Contradict This!, Kampoeng Indonesian Festival, Ninth Planet

#### WORKSHOPS & LECTURES

**16** including Philadelphia Open Studio Tours, People's Press, Urban Consulate, World Cyanotype Day, Mural Arts & Philadelphia Foundation Paint Day

#### **PRIVATE EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS**

**35** including happy hours, Chef's Night for PAWS, Public Relations Society of America, Campus Philly's My Philly Summer Party, Eagles Fantennial, Make-A-Wish® Fundraiser, FringeArts' Feastival

#### FIRST FRIDAYS

12

#### MARKETS

**43** including Phila Flea, Art Star Winter Market, Food Trust Markets, UBB Warehouse Sale

DRWC has also received requests from over 150 individuals and groups interested in participating in the Art and Artisans markets at the Pier.



# THE CROSS-COLLABORATIONS

#### The more we work together...

In addition to DRWC and artist-produced events, exhibitions, workshops, and markets, the artists cross-collaborated on numerous events, leveraging their unique talents to create engaging programs and promotions. These productions included:

- *Pier Pressure* between Ed Marion (live painting), Habitheque (projections), Orchestra 2001 (improvised music in response to live painting), and India Abbott (film)
- Newly designed Theatre Philadelphia Barrymore Award by Sharif Pendleton (industrial design)
- Creation of an elephant doll by Acori Honzo (doll artist) for the Tiny Room for Elephants Festival
- *Florentina*, a collaborative installation between Jim Abbott (photographer) and Habitheque
- A Friend of a Friend, a group show curated by Sharif Pendleton, Yolanda Wisher and Acori Honzo



## THE COMMUNITY

#### We're all ears. And keyboards. And phone lines.

DRWC maintains regular communication with Waterfront neighbors and partners to ensure these stakeholders are fully aware of Cherry Street Pier operations and programs that may directly impact them. In addition to bi-monthly meetings with the leadership boards from local residential communities, DRWC fields questions and responds to inquiries on a regular basis.



"We adore the vibrant hub of art, culture and community that lives at Cherry Street Pier. It's become our daily ritual to walk through the pier, and we always have the best time. We're so grateful for Cherry Street

Pier and all the amazing waterfront activities! We had a blast at the New Year's Eve party." – Sufey Chen and 22-month-old Tahvy, Pier 5 Residents

DRWC maintains a dedicated email database with 8,600+ subscribers who receive regular communication about programming and events, artistic opportunities, and other relevant information.

# HOW WE TELL THE STORY

If a paintbrush falls in a studio and no one is around, does it make a sound?

DRWC isn't taking any chances, and has leveraged its significant social media prowess and master storytelling techniques to showcase the organization's newest public park.

A strategic paid and organic content plan has propelled the Pier's brand awareness locally and regionally. Creative, compelling imagery, combined with succinct messaging to targeted audiences has been critical to the exponential growth of the Pier's digital presence. From Instagram stories to artist takeovers, the digital team has cultivated an online community of supporters who, in turn, share events and happenings via their own outlets. In addition, DRWC has identified local micro-influencers whose audiences align with its own, to act as brand ambassadors for the Pier.

Data from October 1, 2018 through October 31,2019



CHERRY STREET PIER ON FACEBOOK

GROWTH **219%** 

OCTOBER 2018

# 2,541 followers

OCTOBER 2019

8,121 followers

IMPRESSIONS\* 6,180,278 ENGAGEMENTS\*\*

224,026

\*Impressions: the number of times a user views your content \*\*Engagements: the number of individuals taking actions on your page including link clicks, shares, comments, and likes



GROWTH **123%** 

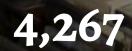
OCTOBER 2018

518 followers OCTOBER 2019 1,156 followers

IMPRESSIONS



ENGAGEMENTS



\*Impressions: the number of times a user views your content \*\*Engagements: the number of individuals taking actions on your page including link clicks, shares, comments, and likes

CHERRY STREET PIER - YEAR 1 REPORT

DELAWARE RIVER WATERFRONT CORPORATION • 24



CHERRY STREET PIER ON INSTAGRAM

GROWTH **187%** 

OCTOBER 2018

# 6,795 followers

OCTOBER 2019

19,548 followers

IMPRESSIONS

3,488,021

ENGAGEMENTS

76,685

DELAWARE RIVER WATERFRONT CORPORATION • 25

# **Totals Across All Channels**



# 9,854 followers

28,825 followers

IMPRESSIONS

9M

ENGAGEMENTS

503K

DELAWARE RIVER WATERFRONT CORPORATION • 27

CHERRY STREET PIER - YEAR 1 REPORT



# **Top Social Media Post (Instagram)**



REACH 12,769 1MPRESSIONS 20,539

LIKES

2,581

INTERACTIONS

103

COMMENTS

**59** 

# Website

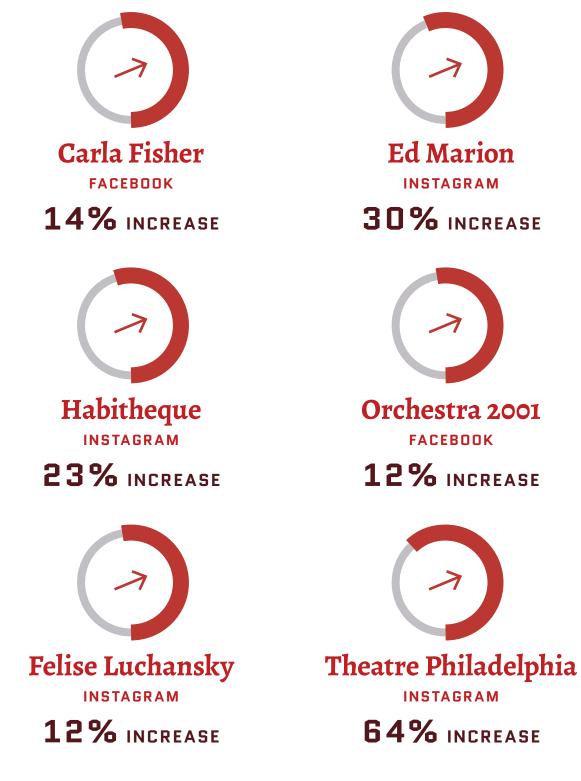
Data from October 1, 2018 through October 31,2019



\*Impressions: the number of times a user views your content

1.3M

## **ARTISTS' SOCIAL MEDIA**









# Tiny Room for Elephants

INSTAGRAM

**131%** INCREASE

# THE RESULTS: MEDIA

#### If you build it, they will come and cover it.

Cherry Street Pier has enjoyed abundant news coverage in its inaugural year. From TV to print and radio to digital, news outlets covered the opening of the Pier as well as numerous events throughout, from the launch of The Food Trust Market presented by Aetna to a feature on James Beard-nominated food vendor Hardena. An entire episode of WHYY's *Movers & Makers* television show is dedicated to Cherry Street Pier — its transformation, artists, and events.







# THE RESULTS: AWARDS

#### Top of the world.

In addition to the media and press mentions, the Pier has amassed other accolades from respected organizations and publications for design, sustainability, and use, including:

- Philadelphia Magazine's Best of Philly Best Public Space winner
- 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania's Commonwealth Award
- Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia Preservation Achievement Grand Jury Award
- 2019 American Web Design Awards (cherrystreetpier.com)



# THE FINANCIAL IMPACT

#### Money matters.

Cherry Street Pier has also supported the entrepreneurial ambitions of the artists, providing some artists — for the first time — a permanent space in which to create and sell their wares. That artists were able to expand and deepen their artistic practices while building and scaling their businesses is a testament to the successful model of providing subsidized rent, 24-hour studio access, and operational, marketing, and promotional resources.

A few of the success stories for the artists include:

- PLAID (Sharif Pendleton) has become financially self-sufficient
- Acori Honzo has sold several high-end dolls and sales continue to increase
- Since April 2019, Carla Fisher's work has been in such high demand that she currently works solely on commissions that require a six-month lead time.
- Jim Abbott has had recent success with sales of larger works after participating in the markets
- Orchestra 2001 has received several grants specifically for work tied to the Pier

#### IN ADDITION:

- Collectively, the food vendors earned more than \$225K in revenue in Year 1
- Cherry Street Pier received approximately \$95K from private event rentals and booth/market fees

The artists have received a variety of invitations to participate in exhibitions, speaking engagements, workshops, festivals, and art fairs; have garnered commissions and curatorial opportunities; and have been featured in magazines, newspaper articles, and TV shows.

- The Tiny Room for Elephants Festival tripled in size from its previous location
- Carla Fisher was invited to the world-renowned Art Basel show in Miami Beach: in addition, Carla won a Leonardo da Vinci award from the Florence Biennale in Italy
- Acori Honzo was invited to participate in the Detroit Doll Show

## THE WAY FORWARD

#### The future depends on what we do today.

While Year 1 at Cherry Street Pier was an overall success, there were also challenges associated with operating and programming a new space that necessitated our team to pivot, regroup, and adjust plans. We will leverage these learnings to finetune our operations, programming, and marketing efforts in Year 2.

Cherry Street Pier is currently undergoing extensive repairs to its 100-year-old roof and windows to further insulate and brighten the space, which will increase opportunities for events and provide a more stable and enjoyable experience for visitors. New glass garage doors have been installed at the front of the Pier, making the entrance from Columbus Boulevard much more welcoming and allowing more light to fill the space. In addition, large-scale signage will be placed outside of Cherry Street Pier to further brand the destination for those on foot, bicycle, and in motor vehicles.

A new cohort of artists for Year 2 has been chosen and will be announced in March 2020. The artists represent a range of mediums, level of experience, and diverse backgrounds, and will join some returning artists from Year 1. In addition, new food options, innovative programming and exhibitions, and large-scale festivals are planned for Cherry Street Pier as the space serves individuals and communities from near and far.

Just as the Waterfront has evolved over its lifetime, reinventing itself to serve the needs and desires of the people who populate it, Cherry Street Pier continues to provide access to arts and culture, manifest a sense of community, present opportunities to collaborate, and more. The possibilities are seemingly endless as DRWC innovates, plans, and creatively imagines a Waterfront that is representative of and built for the residents of this city and visitors from every background imaginable.



AREIN

## THE SUPPORT

#### DRWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Alan P. Hoffmann, Board Chairman** Management Consultant

**Jay R. Goldstein, Board Vice Chairman** President of Spring Garden Lending

**Donn G. Scott** Retired, Former Senior Vice President of Wells Fargo

#### Marilyn Jordan Taylor

Professor of Architecture & Design & Former Dean, PennDesign, University of Pennsylvania

**William L. Wilson** Principal-in-Charge, Synterra Ltd.

**Diane Dalto Woosnam** Arts Consultant

**Ellen Yin** Owner, Fork Restaurant, High Street on Market, High Street Hospitality Group

**Mario Zacharjasz, AIA** Principal, PZS Architects, LLC and President of Puente Construction Enterprises, Inc.

**Michael I. Hauptman, AIA** Partner, Brawer & Hauptman Architects **Avi D. Eden** Consultant with a background in finance and law

**William P. Hankowsky** Chairman, President and CEO of Liberty Property Trust

**Matt Ruben** Chair, Central Delaware Advocacy Group, President NLNA

**Anne Fadullon** Director of Planning & Development, City of Philadelphia

#### **Michael DiBerardinis**

Harold T. Epps Director of Commerce, City of Philadelphia

**Obra S. Kernodle IV** Commissioner, Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board

#### PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORTERS

- City of Philadelphia
- William Penn Foundation
- The Board of Directors of City Trusts and the Delaware Avenue Fund
- PA Department of Community and Economic Development

- The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
- The Board of City Trusts Delaware Avenue Fund

#### **PROGRAMMING PARTNERS**

PopUpPlay • Philadelphia Foundation • Urban Consulate • DesignPhiladelphia • Philadelphia Contemporary • Mural Arts Philadelphia • Fleisher Art Memorial • Center for Emerging Visual Artists • Pig Iron Theater company • 9th Planet • Bearded Ladies • The Philadelphia Art Museum • Al Bustan Seeds of Change • DreamPhiladelphia • Women Organized Against Rape • Lino Kino • FringeArts • Pentimenti Gallery • Philly Soapbox • Technically Philly • Philadelphia Eagles • Philadelphia 76ers • Preservation Alliance • Make-A-Wish® • PAWS • Knight Foundation • Sustainable Philly • The Green Fund • All Fest • 48 Hour Film Festival

#### DRWC STAFF

<b>Joe Forkin</b>	<b>Emma Fried-Cassorla</b>
President	Creative Director
<b>Jodie Milkman</b>	<b>Sarah Eberle</b>
Executive Vice President	General Manager, Cherry Street Pier
<b>Rinku Modi</b>	<b>Em Downing</b>
Vice President, Finance & Human Resources	Site Manager
<b>Lizzie Woods</b>	<b>Marcus Bush</b>
Vice President of Planning & Capital Programs	Site Manager
Dave Moore	

Director of Parks & Attractions

## ABOUT DRWC

#### DELAWARE RIVER WATERFRONT CORPORATION (DRWC)

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 and is helping to create spaces and communities that connect residents and visitors to the waterfront. Visit delawareriverwaterfront.com for more information.





#### CHERRYSTREETPIER.COM