



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Parks & Recreation

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Philadelphia Stories and The Fairmount Park Welcome Center "Forgotten Philadelphia"

WHO: *Philadelphia Stories* and The Fairmount Park Welcome Center, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

WHAT: "**Forgotten Philadelphia**" **Gallery Opening**, an exhibit that explores hidden treasures from the Philadelphia area, from abandoned historic buildings to forgotten parks, through the work of local artists and writers. The exhibit combines art inspired by specific heritage sites with poems and short fiction that speculate on the stories behind these hidden treasures.

WHEN: **TODAY @ 5pm – 7pm**

WHERE: Fairmount Park Welcome Center / **Love Park**
1599 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA

The sites represented in this exhibit were selected by the artists who then submitted proposals suggesting sites that inspired them. Fifteen sites were chosen from these proposals based on the diversity of their location (sites range from Philadelphia's Center City to suburban neighborhoods to the North, West and South of the city), the diversity of the artists' chosen medium of expression (painting, video, mixed media, photography, and drawing are all represented), and the historical relevance of each site - a relevance that may or may not be remembered by the public. Sites such as The Philadelphia Zoo and the Assembly Room where the Declaration of Independence was signed may be preserved now, but without public awareness and attention, even they could be in danger of disappearing, just like the Banks at the corner of Front and Norris Streets in Kensington.

Once selected, sites were assigned to local writers and poets selected by the editors of *Philadelphia Stories*. The writers and poets featured in this exhibit took a variety of approaches to interpreting these heritage sites. Some writers imagined stories of characters who may have experienced these sites as visitors or residents. Some poets chose literal reactions to the sites, some reflected on the sites more figuratively. The resulting exhibit presents a unique interpretation of these heritage sites through words and art.

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