In 2011, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and The City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program launched a cutting edge partnership and environmental artist residency program, called *Arts & Artists Outdoors* (A_2O). This innitiative brings together middle school-aged youth and a professional artist at a local recreation facility to create artwork that highlights the nearby green space.

Photo Credits: Michael Reali

A_2O pairs skilled environmental artists with pre-selected recreation facilities, at which the artist leads twice weekly workshops for youth (ages 10-14), and two family and community workshops. During these sessions, the artist leads participants in engaging, hands-on arts activities that highlight the natural resources of green space near the facility. The program culminates in a temporary or permanent artwork that is dedicated and housed at the recreation facility.

Photo Credit: Michael Reali

For applications and more information, visit: http://muralarts.org/programs/art-education

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