

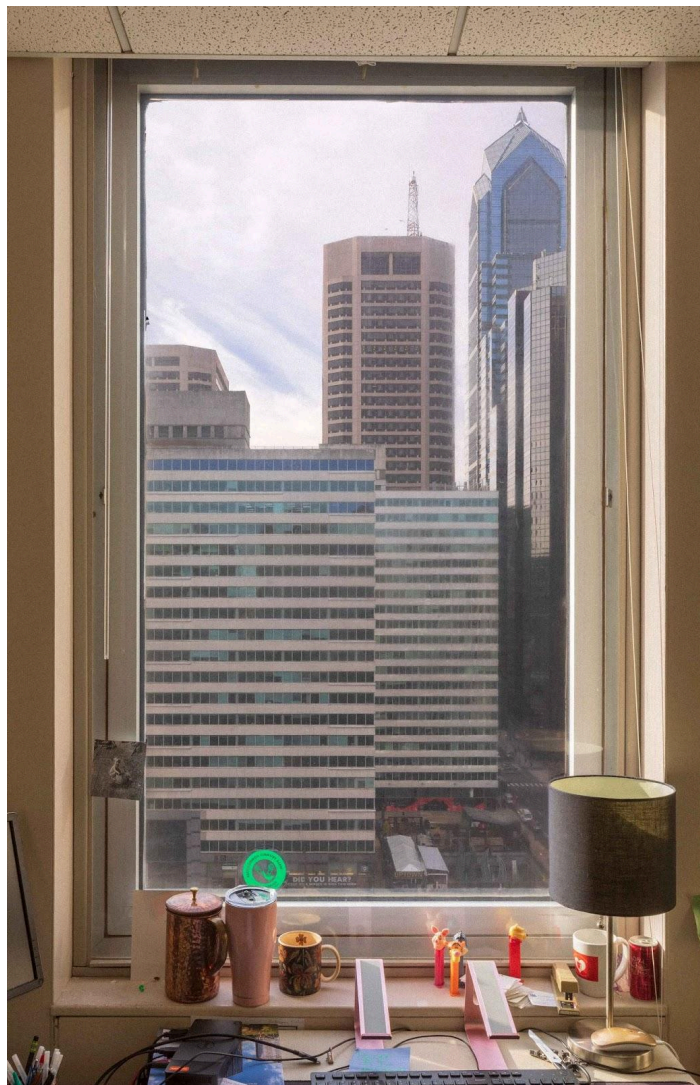
Civic Views: Temporary Public Artwork Proposal

Civic Views is a temporary public art project by Emilio Martínez in collaboration with Mural Arts that documents Philadelphia through the windows of its municipal service agencies. The photographs provide a storytelling device for understanding the hopes, frustrations, and reflections of Philadelphia city employees. Each window becomes a diverse viewing portal to see the city and to begin to map the architecture, geography, and labor needed to run city government.

Following the framing of the office windows, the photographs will be reproduced at a 1:1 scale and are planned to be mounted on a series of scaffolding armatures in the City Hall courtyard in September 2024. Scaffolding is a universal signifier for change, either that something new is about to emerge or that an integral piece of culture needs to be preserved.

Civic Views uses scaffolding to poetically express the mutability of our city, both in terms of city government as well as its residents more broadly, and that change is the constant from which we see the world.

The images will be paired with text excerpts from interviews with city employees, planning documents, and social histories of the documented buildings. This project will connect site-specific photographic history with collaborative art-making to comment on the shifting meanings of urban life and culture in this exciting moment of rapid growth across the city and a new mayoral administration.

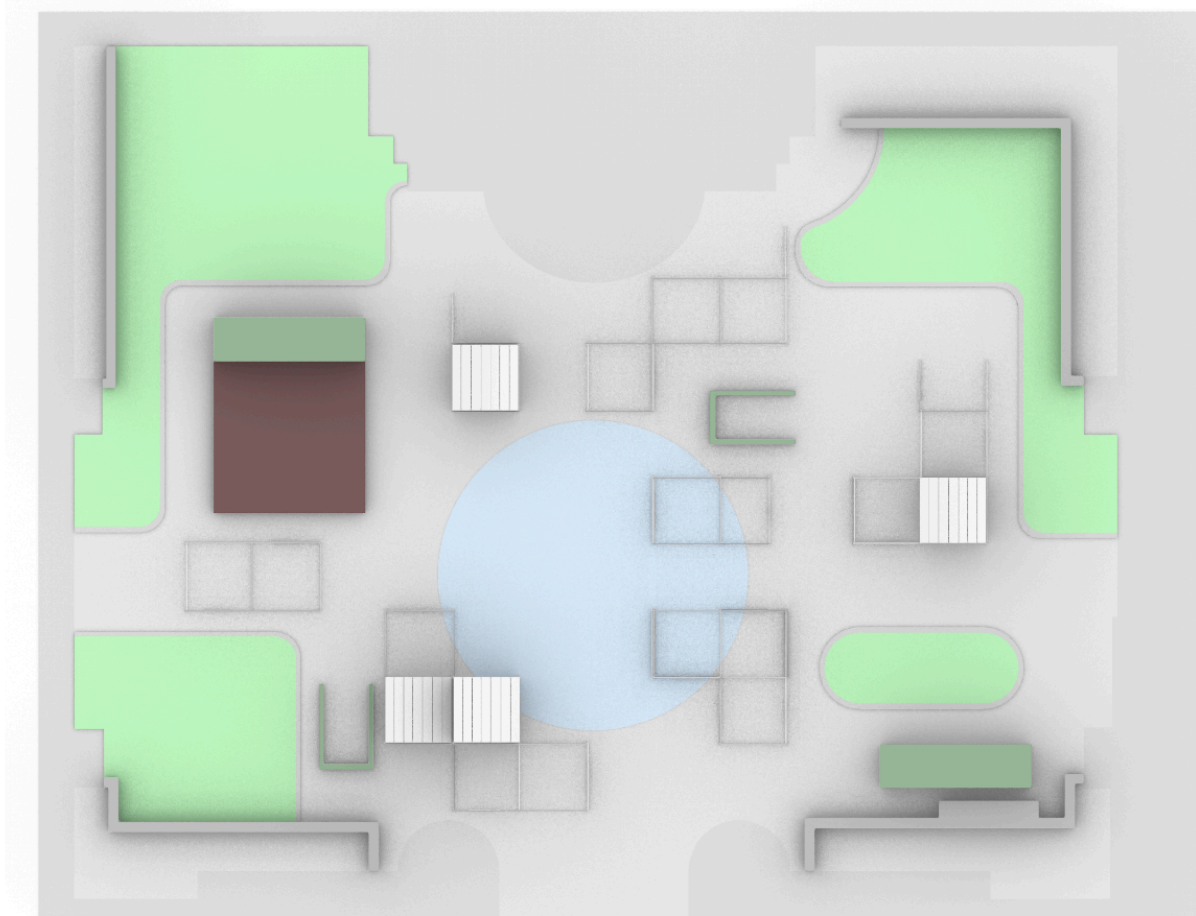


Proposed Exhibition Design:

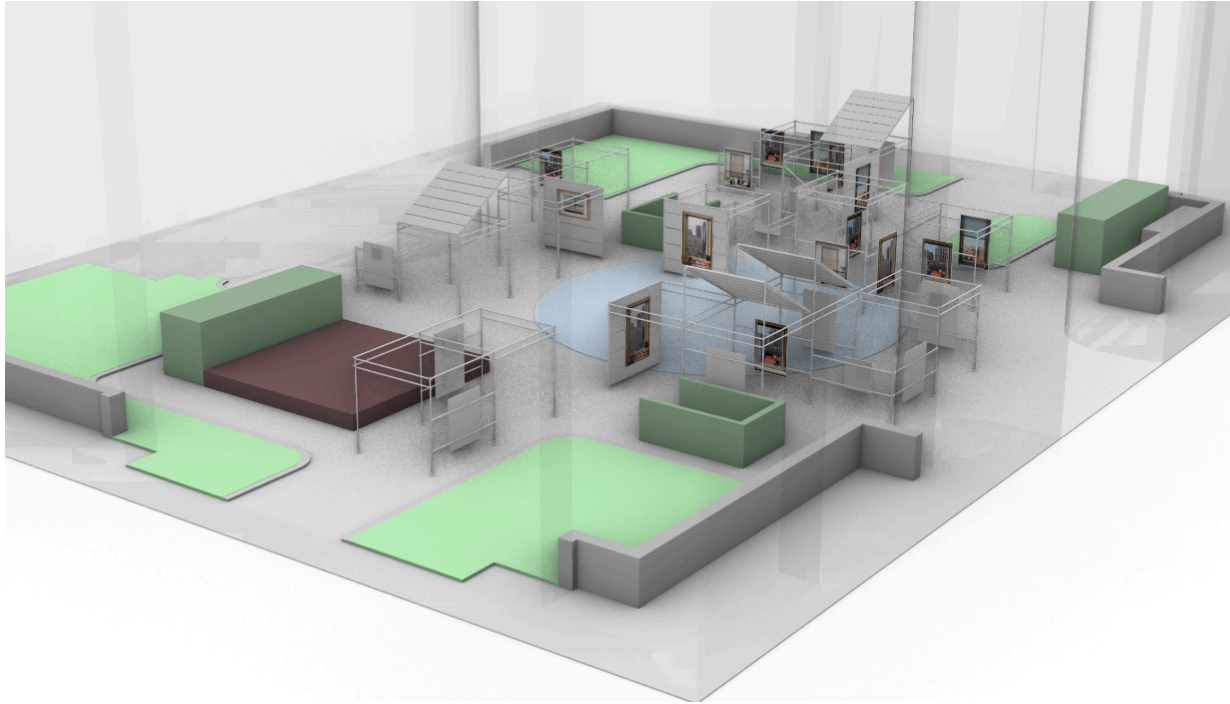
The layout for the scaffolding armatures and placement for each photograph will loosely follow Philadelphia's grid. The location of each window's office building will correspond to where they are installed in the artwork installation. The goal here is that Philadelphia's geography and the network of city-operated buildings is abstractly indicated at a human scale to the public. This will also echo the painted city grid highlighting Philadelphia's four squares that exists at the center of the courtyard's compass.

The several digital mockups below are an initial rendering of how the project would look. Each pathway through the scaffolding structures is spaced to 10 feet wide to allow for plenty of egress and room to view the photographs. Mural Arts is currently getting quotes from several scaffolding vendors on costs for building and installation. The structures will be built at the highest professional standard to ensure the safety of the public, the artwork, and the courtyard.

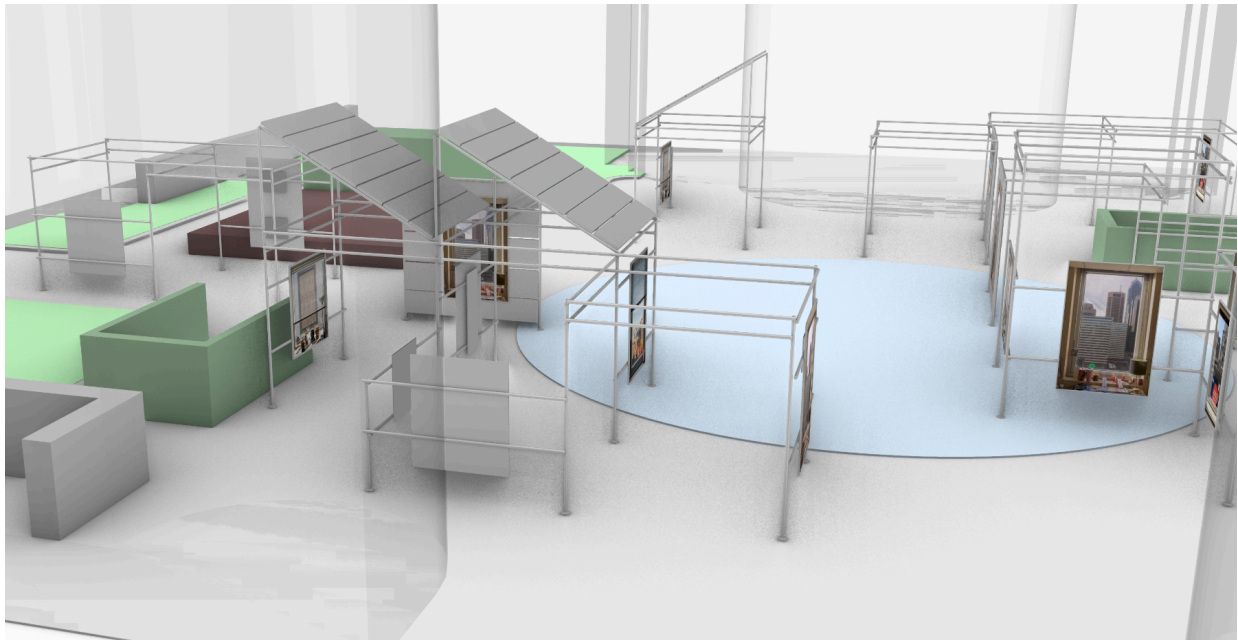
Aerial View:



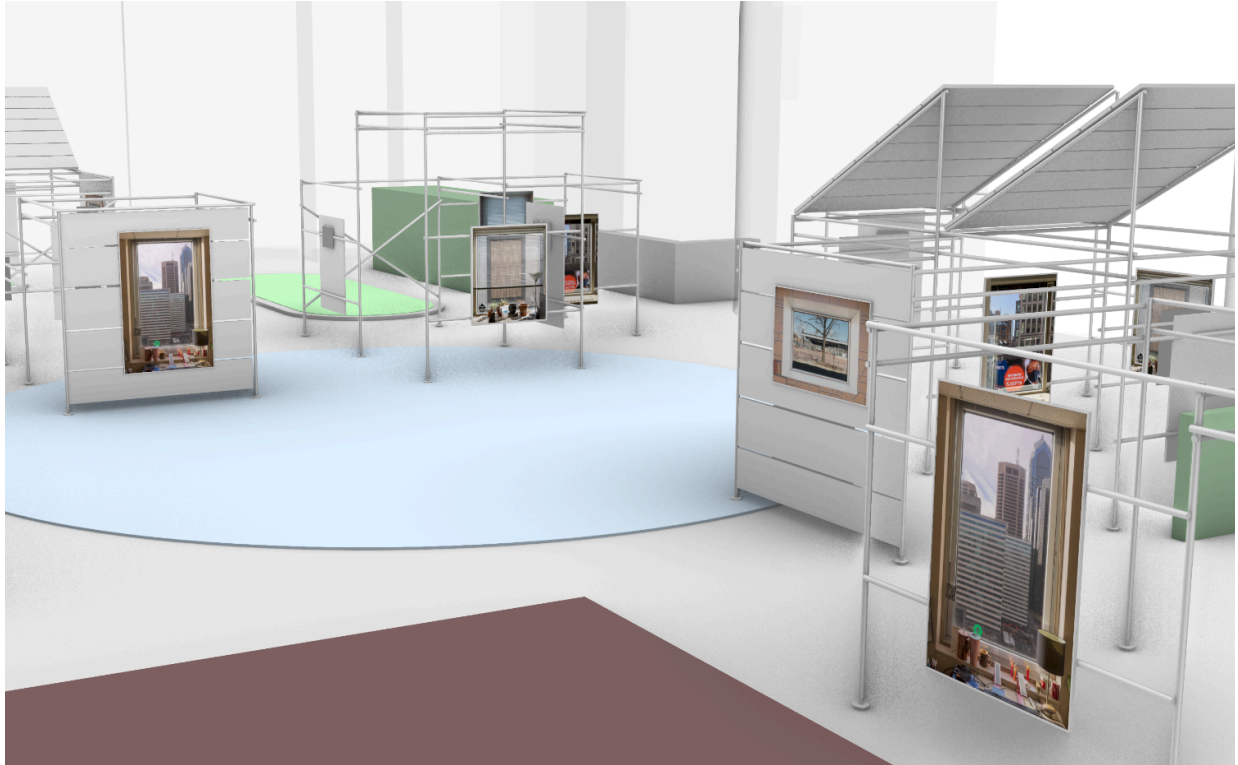
Northeast Angle View:



Detail:



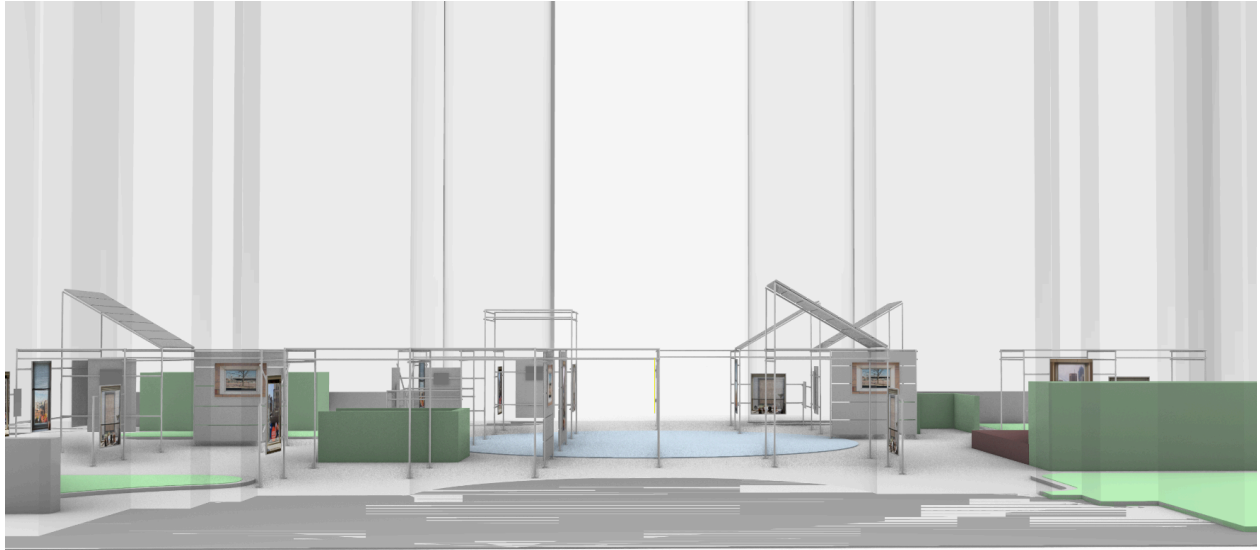
Detail:



East Perspective:



North Perspective:



Example of Additional Photographs:



Public Programming:

Mural Arts intends to host robust public programming during the September 2024 installation period for the project. This will include tours of the installation with architectural and city historians, performances responding to the artwork, and artist talks and panel discussions. The space will be alive with activations throughout its presentation. The central compass and area around the stage will remain open to accommodate people gathering for events.

Project Timeline:

September 2023: initial contact made with Department of Public Property and Office of Special Events

November 2023: proposal for North Apron of City Hall presented; rerouted to Courtyard with approval from Office of Special Events

February–March 2024: shared updated plan w/Department of Public Property; reworking proposal and finalizing vendor contracts; contact with city agencies of interest

March–May 2024: finalized plan for Office of Special Events; photographing of additional offices; research on buildings; present finalized plan to Art Commission and city agency partners

June–July 2024: preparation of logistics for installation

September 2024: installation; opening and public programming; installation closes at the end of the month

October–ongoing 2024: series of photographs moves to Municipal Services Building concourse for long-term exhibition

Contact information:

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