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**MURAL ARTS PHILADELPHIA REVEALS ARTIST PROJECTS  
FOR *MONUMENT LAB***

***Wide Range of Topics to be Featured in Fall 2017***

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**PHILADELPHIA – May 4, 2017 – Mural Arts Philadelphia reveals the full list of artist projects for *Monument Lab*, an upcoming citywide public art and history project that will feature temporary public art in 10 locations across the city for this fall.**

*Monument Lab* is co-produced by Mural Arts Philadelphia and curators Paul Farber and Ken Lum, and will kick off with a summer public preview on July 1, in partnership with Historic Philadelphia, Inc.'s Franklin Square and Wawa Welcome America. A major Kickstarter campaign launching today – the first of its kind for Mural Arts – offers additional glimpses of everything to come this fall, as well as special opportunities to experience the project.

The 21 artists on the *Monument Lab* roster will cover a range of ideas, topics, and ways to examine a singular question: **What is an appropriate monument for the current city of Philadelphia?** Mural Arts has invited the artists to answer this question with an unprecedented series of temporary installations in Philadelphia's iconic public squares and neighborhood parks. The projects will be accompanied by learning labs, run with youth research teams who will spur dialogue, collect creative data around the artworks, and encourage people to design or describe their own visions for monuments that represent Philadelphia.

**Karyn Olivier** will “remix” an existing monument in Germantown's Vernon Park, with a mirrored surface that literally reflects the surrounding landscape and people, as a bridge



between past and present (see concept image at left).

**Tyree Guyton**, renowned Detroit artist and founder of the Heidelberg Project, will respond to pressing issues around trauma, experienced in Philadelphia and throughout the nation, with a project in the Kensington neighborhood that explores the relationship between time, recovery, resilience, and healing. **Marisa Williamson** will create a mobile map that tracks African American historic sites around Washington Square, including sites of buried and untold stories, and that allows users to uncover clues by

finding symbols throughout the neighborhood. **Shira Walinsky** will build a fully-functioning newspaper kiosk in South Philadelphia's Marconi Plaza, filled with books, papers, artwork, photos, and maps made with refugee communities at *Southeast by Southeast*, a storefront hub in South Philadelphia supported through Mural Arts' Porch Light program and the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services.

The full list of topics and concepts is as follows:

- **Tania Bruguera** (City Hall area): the “new immigrant” in Philadelphia
- **Mel Chin** (City Hall): the ordinary citizen and representation through a participatory art installation
- **Kara Crombie** (Franklin Square): Philadelphia's rich musical history and access to arts and music education in the city
- **Tyree Guyton** (Kensington): trauma and the relationship between time, recovery, resilience, and healing
- **Hans Haacke** (West Philadelphia): archaeology of the vacant lot
- **David Hartt** (Norris Square): the civic and cultural significance of community gardens, green common spaces, and Afro-Latino history
- **Sharon Hayes** (Rittenhouse Square): the absence of women in Philadelphia's monuments
- **King Britt and Joshua Mays** (Malcolm X Park): youth monument to the future and the enduring power of Malcolm X
- **Klip Collective** (Marconi Plaza): immigrant families and histories of South Philadelphia's generations of families, then and now

- **Duane Linklater** (Penn Treaty Park): Philadelphia's Indigenous history and Lenape Chief Tamanend's legacy
- **Emeka Ogboh** (Logan Square): sound, collective memory, and poetic storytelling in Philadelphia
- **Karyn Olivier** (Vernon Park): "remixing" a current monument to bridge past and present
- **Michelle Angela Ortiz** (City Hall area): a monument informed by the voices and stories of undocumented mothers unjustly detained at the Berks Detention Center, a family prison outside of Philadelphia, in cooperation with the Shut Down Berks Coalition
- **Kaitlin Pomerantz** (Washington Square): redevelopment, neighborhood culture, and the rapidly shifting landscape of Philadelphia
- **RAIR** (Penn Treaty Park): a recycled eco-history of Penn Treaty Park
- **Alexander Rosenberg** (Rittenhouse Square): the built and unbuilt structures of Rittenhouse Square, throughout its history
- **Jamel Shabazz** (Vernon Park): monument to African American veterans of all wars
- **Zoe Strauss** (Logan Square): the public commons and civic action
- **Hank Willis Thomas** (City Hall): African American representation, civil rights, and belonging in the city
- **Shira Walinsky and Southeast by Southeast** (Marconi Plaza): a fully functioning newspaper kiosk populated with publications and artworks made with artists from refugee communities in Philadelphia
- **Marisa Williamson** (Washington Square): buried African American sites and untold stories in and around one of Philadelphia's most historic neighborhoods



The public will be able to see and interact with **Kara's Crombie's** monument at a special *Monument Lab* summer preview event on Saturday, July 1 in Franklin Square at 6th and Race Streets in Old City. The monument, titled *Sample Philly* (see concept image at left), will contain a sound bank of musical loops and samples drawn from Philadelphia's rich musical history, as a monument to free arts and music education in the city. This event will be part of the 2017 Wawa Welcome America schedule and will be free and open to the public.

*Sample Philly* will remain on view in Franklin Square through the end of July, and then will be re-installed in mid-September with the start of the *Monument Lab* exhibition.

***Find more information on each artist [here](#).*** (Note that previous artist lists may have included Ai Weiwei, who is no longer a participant in *Monument Lab* and should not be included in the roster.)

A major *Monument Lab* Kickstarter campaign launches today, the first crowdfunding effort in Mural Arts' history. The campaign offers additional glimpses of everything to come this fall, as well as special opportunities for members of the public to experience the project. Early investors in *Monument Lab* will receive various rewards, including *Monument Lab* branded products, limited-edition artworks, and experiential activities. **Click [here](#) for more information about this Kickstarter campaign, which runs through June 1.**

**Jane Golden, Executive Director of Mural Arts Philadelphia,** said, “We are so excited to provide a platform for the 21 talented artists who will create a wide assortment of artwork throughout Philadelphia for *Monument Lab*. The range, depth, and breadth of their ideas will have a major impact on the city at a time when it’s more important than ever to have conversations about how we want to be represented in public space.”

**Paul Farber, *Monument Lab* Artistic Director,** said, “The artists in *Monument Lab* proposed projects that respond to Philadelphia’s historical landscape in such complex and inviting ways. They have worked with purpose and compassion. Their works engage our city and our residents around urgent issues of social justice, cultural symbolism, and civic action toward a reimagined public history. Alongside research labs at each park site, the artists’ temporary monuments will offer spaces to inquire, excavate, collect, and share knowledge.”

*Monument Lab* projects will be located in and around the original squares of the city, as imagined by founder William Penn (City Hall – originally Center Square, Franklin Square, Washington Square, Logan Square, and Rittenhouse Square), as well as five neighborhood parks (Penn Treaty Park, Vernon Park, Norris Square, Malcolm X Park, and Marconi Plaza), plus the exhibition hub space at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

*Monument Lab* will feature continuous programming throughout its nine-week run on Wednesdays and Saturdays, at the 10 featured sites and select locations in Center City Philadelphia, as well as a First Friday celebration on Friday, October 6. More details about public programming and featured speakers are forthcoming. For more information about Mural Arts Philadelphia's *Monument Lab* project, visit [muralarts.org/monumentlab](http://muralarts.org/monumentlab).

Major support for *Monument Lab* projects staged in Philadelphia's five squares has been provided by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. An expanded artist roster and projects at five neighborhood sites have been made possible by a significant grant from the William Penn Foundation. Lead corporate sponsor is Bank of America. Additional support has been provided by the Hummingbird Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Nick & Dee Adams Charitable Fund, Parkway Corporation, Tiffany Tavarez, Tuttleman Family Foundation, and Joe & Renee Zuritsky. Lead *Monument Lab* partners include the City of Philadelphia, Historic Philadelphia, Inc., Independence National Historical Park, Penn Institute for Urban Research, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, and the University of Pennsylvania.

**Mural Arts Philadelphia** is the nation's largest public art program, dedicated to the belief that art ignites change. For over 30 years, Mural Arts has united artists and communities through a collaborative and equitable process, creating nearly 4,000 artworks that have transformed public spaces and individual lives. Mural Arts aims to empower people, stimulate dialogue, and build bridges to understanding with projects that attract artists from Philadelphia and around the world, and programs that focus on youth education, restorative justice, mental health and wellness, and public art and its preservation. Popular mural tours offer a firsthand glimpse into the inspiring stories behind Mural Arts' iconic and unparalleled collection, which has earned Philadelphia worldwide recognition as the "City of Murals." For more information, call 215-685-0750 or visit [muralarts.org](http://muralarts.org). Follow us on social media: @muralarts on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/muralarts), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/muralarts), and Snapchat, [MuralArtsPhiladelphia](https://www.facebook.com/MuralArtsPhiladelphia) on Facebook, and [phillymuralarts](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCphillymuralarts) on YouTube.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE: More about *Monument Lab*, including the one-sheet backgrounders on each artist and high-resolution images, are available in the Mural Arts Philadelphia press room at [bit.ly/MonumentLabPress](http://bit.ly/MonumentLabPress).**