



FRANKFORD AVE ARTS CORRIDOR

e-newsletter

NEWS & EVENTS

Workshops on Frankford

Do It Yourself Rain Barrel Workshop

Thursday, August 12th 6-8pm

Learn how to build a DIY rain barrel and take one home yourself! Sustainable 19125 is offering free workshops to provide you with the tools, supplies, and wherewithal to create your own barrel. RSVP to sustainable19125@gmail.com for more information.

August 14, 21

Pop's Playground (Trenton & Hazzard)

Join the Friends of Pop's Playground each Saturday from 10am - 3pm for arts and crafts, brought to you by the Clay Studio. Gears for Groms skateboard clinics run each Saturday from 10am-12pm. Limited helmets are provided - parental permission is required. You bring \$3 and we'll provide the fun! Lunch included! Brought to you with support from Franklins Paine Skatepark Fund and Weed & Seed. Any questions? Contact Peggy at peggypotts@hotmail.com

Waterfront Wednesdays at Penn Treaty!

There is one night left for this one of a kind concert series on the river. On Wednesday August 11th come down to Penn Treaty Park at 7pm for Weathervane Music's Showcase. visit

www.penntraatymusic.com for more information!

Girard Fest Street Festival

Check out the 1st annual Girard Fest Saturday Sept. 25th, 2010 from 11am to 7pm on Girard from Front to 4th Streets. This project of the GBAA will include face painting, puppet shows, chalk walk, lazer tag, a climbing wall, health screenings, vendors, a flea market and a free trolley

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Acomplished Artist Couple hangs hats on Frankford Ave

Michelle Marcuse loved her home in Old Kensington. The re-purposed grocery store at 4th and Master was spacious, and the neighborhood had (and has) flavor. After a few years there, she began to form relationships with her neighbors. It was a great place for her to create and sell her one-of-a-kind clothing, and her customers in the 90s enjoyed the adventure of stepping outside of the known universe of Center City and the suburbs.



As her clientele grew, so did the art scene around her. In 2004 the [Crane Arts building](#) began rehab work, and Michelle moved her studio there in 2007, partly out of a need for teaching space. Not long after she met Henry Bermudez, a painter from Venezuela who had found a place in Philadelphia by way of the [Mural Arts Program](#). They shared a studio in the Crane, and Michelle began teaching there as well. Unfortunately though, by then the recession had begun, and while initial enrollment was good, it slowly tapered off.



The tough economy spurred the pair to look for combined live work space to reduce expenses, and to stay close to their work at all times. After talking with friends who lived in Fishtown, and searching through real estate listings they came to the conclusion that the rich organic arts community along Frankford Avenue was the place for them. Next came the hard part though; gutting and rehabbing their 100+

year old home.

Now mostly finished with a large demolition project they completed without much help, the couple has begun to create what will be a home as well as

shuttle to Crane Arts & the Lehigh Avenue Arts Festival. For more info visit www.qicartfest.com

Corridor Business Updates!

2011 Business Directory

Work has begun to create the 2011 Neighborhood Business Directory for Kennesington, Fishtown and Port Richmond. Business owners; please keep an eye on your mailbox for a letter explaining how you can take advantage of one of the most cost effective ways to advertise locally in the world! Also, NKCDC staff, volunteers, and interns will be calling EVERY business in the 19125 zip code to confirm your location, so please answer the call!

Restaurant Week 2010

This year's River Wards Restaurant Week will take place from October 3rd to October 10th. We will have at least 10 participating eateries offering price fixed menus to the enthusiastic epicurians of Philadelphia. All the details will be announced soon on www.riverwardrestaurants.com

Phila Live Arts + Philly Fringe

Philly Fringe is an unfiltered festival, where new and established artists present their work free of a selection process. For some it's a once-a-year, or once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a show; for professional companies, it can be an opportunity to try something new and join in the fray. It's come one, come all! This years events will take place Sept. 3 - 18, any many of them will be on the corridor. Follow [this link](#) for more info!

Are you an artist or community member **interested in helping to identify ways to reuse industrial relics from the Cramp Building?** PennDOT is seeking to preserve items of historic relevance before it is demolished to make way for an expanded I-95, and would like to hear ideas from the industrial arts community. If you're interested please send an email to hpyatt@nkcddc.org including your name, email, phone number, and any relevant skills you posses. You will then be contacted to help in preserving pieces of Fishtown's industrial history as the project details are worked out.

Local Arts Centers!

Angler Movement Arts Center
1550 Montgomery Avenue
215-922-0866

teaching, gallery, and studio space. Of course there were and are challenges. Financing was a big one, since, as many readers of this newsletter know, being a self employed artisan is not a source of income that is readily understood by bankers. They managed though, mostly through persistence, and today are on their way to creating another unique mixed use facility on Frankford.

Like all of the other people who've created spaces on and around Frankford Avenue, there's a back story. Henry began as a painter 37 years ago in his native Venezuela and has slowly grown his following all the while. Over the past few decades he has shown his work in South America, Europe, and of course North America, garnering prizes and commissions along the way. Breaking into North America though, wasn't so easy. He made his first foray onto this continent in Miami, and in his words "It didn't work". Then, he came to Philadelphia to visit his friend [Frank Hyder](#). Through this friendship, he connected with [Paul Santoleri](#) and they received a commission from Mural Arts as a team. Subsequently the Director of Mural Arts, Jane Golden, offered Henry a contract, allowing him to stay in Philadelphia, and to meet Michelle.

While Michelle was born in the US, her story began in her childhood home of South Africa, where she was acculturated in a very diverse place. While she attended primary school there during apartheid, she explains that there was still extensive social osmosis whereby she began to understand the influences of both native Africans, and multi-national white colonials. After high-school she followed an Israeli soldier back to Israel, where she worked on a [Kibbutz](#) for seven years before returning to South Africa and [Art School at the University of Cape Town](#). Longing to continue her arts education, her US citizenship allowed her to travel to the US easily and she enrolled at the [Tyler School of Art](#) where she received a degree in Painting. It was after Tyler that she began her career making completely unique clothing in her 4th and Master residence.

Now this dynamic team is here on Frankford Avenue, bringing their wealth of experience and well honed techniques to the growing creative scene.

Both Michelle and Henry wish to begin teaching again. Henry's experiences teaching both youth, and retired persons has shown him the open mindedness of



these groups and he is eager to build on these experiences. Michelle sees a potential to reopen her [encaustic](#) classes as the economy begins to stabilize. This novel technique involves etching into wax and was originally developed as an outgrowth of the process of sealing the hulls of ships with wax. Made from beeswax and resin, encaustic medium offers a method for painting with molten wax which is suited to a variety of surfaces ranging from enamel-like finishes to high texture and tone, and it is compatible with drawing, oil painting and sculpture. As their building develops they intend to open their first floor as a gallery space and fit in teaching space, in addition to their already productive studios.

If you see Henry and Michelle about on Frankford Avenue, be sure to say

Classes for children, teens, and adults in yoga, pilates, ballet, modern, jazz, and creative movement.

www.anglermovementartscenter.com

Portside Arts Center
2531 E. Lehigh Avenue
215-427-1514

Your local source for all-ages artistic courses. Check out their website for class listings and sign up today.

Visit www.portsideartscenter.com or email portsideartscenter@verizon.net for more details.

Frankford Avenue Arts Corridor Plan

The Frankford Avenue Arts Corridor Plan, completed in 2004 with the help of Market Knowledge, Group G, NKCDC, and a series of community meetings, is available online at www.nkcdc.org under Neighborhood Plans. Posted bi-monthly, the goal of this newsletter is to keep people informed about arts-related development on Frankford Avenue and in the Fishtown and Kensington neighborhoods. If you know someone who would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please have them send an email to info@nkcdc.org.

Quick Links

[Frankford Avenue Arts Website](#)

[NKCDC](#)

[Email Us](#)

[About Us](#)



For more information on upcoming events and activities in the neighborhood, please visit NKCDC's website www.nkcdc.org or the Frankford Avenue Arts Corridor www.frankfordavearts.org.

hello.

Michelle and Henry live on Frankford at Berks. For more information or to contact them visit www.henrybermudezart.com/ and www.michellemarcuse.com/

...And Welcome a New Business!

The Classic Lighting Emporium @ 1105 Frankford Avenue

Since 1993 the [Classic Lighting Emporium](#) has supplied Philadelphia with it's most interesting vintage and new lighting fixtures. They supply everyone from home decorators to movie sets, and now they are moving to Frankford Avenue! Owner Thomas Fasone expects to have his new shop up and running this fall, and the extensive improvements that are underway, including a new mezzanine, will make it well worth a visit.

★ FEATURED BUSINESS

The Lola Bean Cafe

Nearly ten years ago Mary Button and Erica Zito, originally from New Jersey, met through a mutual friend while they were both living in Baltimore. Three years later, both women decided they were eager to be closer to family and made the move north to Philadelphia.

Originally settling in the Queen Village neighborhood, it wasn't long before they migrated north once again to Fishtown, buying a home on Sepviva Street and becoming part of the community.

Mary and Erica have had a burning desire to run their own café for years and they did not take this dream lightly. Erica, a Traffic Manager for business support at [XPN](#) (she schedules event and business announcements) and Mary, a hair stylist, spent many years saving for this venture. The ladies worked on completing a [business plan](#) for almost two years – researching, projecting and imagining. They shaped a vision for The Lola Bean by spending time in some of their favorite coffee shops and observing which characteristics indicated successful



businesses. Regular hours, a friendly and welcoming environment and delicious food and coffee were necessities for making a profit in a competitive café market. When Erica and Mary started looking for spaces, it didn't take long to realize that [1325 Frankford Avenue](#) was the perfect space. Small but full of natural light, the café on the corner of Mercer and the arts corridor is passed daily by dozens of commuters either walking to the el or biking. And it's no secret that Fishtown is full of home based businesses – folks who sometimes need that pick me up just around the corner. Customers can expect to find delicious LaColombe coffee and espresso drinks, pastries from Au Fournil and other baked goods from Carangi in South Philadelphia. Pre prepared salads and sandwiches, fruit, yogurt and bottled drinks will also be available. Erica and Mary hope to incorporate local baked goods made right here in the Fishtown and Kensington area in the future.

So where did the name Lola Bean originate? Why their dog of course! When Mary and Erica first moved to Fishtown, their walks with Lola to the park and around the neighborhood forced them to interact with their neighbors. The community made them feel welcome and immediately at home. Besides, as Mary says "We always knew Lola would make us money some day!" The Lola Bean will be opening in the next 4 to 6 weeks so keep your eyes and ears peeled. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 6 pm, Saturdays 7 am – 5 pm and Sundays 7 am to 4 pm. Interested in having your baked goods or treats featured in the café? Stop in when the café opens and talk to Mary!

Contact info: www.lolabean.com or 215-634-LOLA.

Commercial Space for Lease

2472 Frankford Ave.

Price: \$1500/mo

Square Footage: 3000 sq ft

14ft ceilings - Large open space - frontage on Frankford Ave. Ground floor - 3000 sq ft. 1.5 bath w/darkroom sink. HEATED. Full Kitchen.

Contact Greg S. (267) 258-5847 or olivest416@yahoo.com

Coral Street Arts House

2446 Coral St

Price: \$371-698/ mo + utilities

Live/work apartments for INCOME QUALIFIED artists and their families. To see if you qualify contact Laura Semmelroth at 215 739 0310, or download an application at

<http://www.nkcdc.org/controlpanel/images/nkcdc/CSAApplication2.pdf>

Listing # 5703541

1834-48 FRANKFORD AVE

Price: \$3,500

Square Feet: 15546

Former Franklin Auto Body Shop, very large single story building with industrial feel, also avail. for sale

Contact Critini Realty (215) 465-4225.

2578-80 Frankford Ave (at Huntingdon St)

\$3500 - \$4000

Zoning: C2

5000 Sq Ft Renovated commercial space, also 2400 square foot basement

Joe Bodnik (215) 704-5549

Commercial Space For Sale

Listing # 5715548

2311 FRANKFORD AVE

Price: \$199,900

Store Front Property. Excellent Opportunity for Any Business Owner!! First Floor is set up for business with several rooms for storage, etc plus Powder Room. 2 Bedroom apartment on upper 2 floors. 2nd fl had two large rooms and rear full bath. 3rd floor has 2 large Bedrooms. Separate electric and heat. 2313 will be for sale in the near future with large rear access garage. Total between both properties is 4500 sq. ft.

Courtesy of Coldwell Banker Hearthside Realtors-Philadelphia

Listing # 5628682

1444 Frankford Ave

Price: \$499,000

Square Feet: 3420

Bar on Frankford Ave

Courtesy of Mendez Homes and Investments

5587726

957-63 FRANKFORD AVE

Price: \$1,500,000

Square Feet: 7000

Zoning: G2

Conveniently located near Center City. This property consist of 4 parcels totaling approx 7000 sq.ft. with heavy duty Phase 2 & Phase 3 electrical system. 957-959 Frankford Avenue and 961-963 Frankford Avenue. 957 Frankford Avenue (15x62') & 959 Frankford Avenue (15x100') consist of a one story building with a powder room, gas infrared heat, cinder block construction, cement floor, fire proof ceiling with 21'height, extends into new 2400'addition constructed in 2005 with 16'ceiling height, (no heat). Drive through 12x14 electric roll down steel garage door, exit onto Sarah Street thru 8' roll down garage door. 961 Frankford Avenue (16x100), 9' roll down garage door leads into rear addition also. 963 Frankford Avenue was a 2.5 story home, (18x100) presently an office, powder room and lunch room, 2nd and 3rd floors are in shell condition. Basement with mechanicals. Possible Owner Financing!!

Listing # 5717226

1306-12 FRANKFORD AVE

Price: \$1,150,000

Square Feet: 9200

Zoning:L4

Prime Location for a variety of Businesses and/or New Development!
Possibility for both commercial and residential. Area demonstrates high

level of development activity along the new Frankford Arts Corridor--one block north of Girard at Thompson. This is a 9000+/- SF building (6600 SF +/- at ground floor and 2500 SF +/- at 2nd floor mezzanine level.) Extra high ceilings allow for an additional 2, 000 SF interior space for potential 11, 000 SF+/- . Currently under construction for 4 commercial store fronts, price includes new glass facade and brand new water/sewer lines. Approvals and Architectural Plans included. Great income potential from 4 stores. Commercial possibilities--L4 industrial zoning allows food markets, restaurants, showroom distribution, pharmacies, etc. Concrete floor, steel beam and truss structure, masonry walls, pitched roof to 12ft in rear. Also available for additional purchase is a 4500 SF LOT for +/- 14 cars connected in rear of bldg onto N Lee St.

Questions or comments? Please send us an email at info@nkcdc.org