

**"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."
Chinese proverb**



FISHTOWN DIARIES II

Documenting Neighborhood Art
by and for the
Fishtown Community



Fishtowners of all ages participated in citywide "Philly Cleanup" sweeping, picking up trash and painting over graffiti at FRC playground and neighborhood with help from Temple University students, and Fishtown Neighbors Association.

www.artsphere.org



College students, joined with Art Sphere Inc., Adaire Middle School students and Fishtown families to inspire one another.



**"Friendship multiplies blessings and minimizes misfortunes; it is a unique remedy against adversity and it soothes the soul."
Baltasar Gracian**



Before FRC front wall: stencil sized up to cover insitutuional red and graffiti



After FRC front wall: patterns hide graffiti with color; drawings from 06 made into stencils in 07, used to paint mural above in 08 "connect" ongoing artistic contributions of many.



"I heartily enjoyed my time here with you. I'm proud of my rose and I hope it brings smiles to peoples faces as they ponder why I wrote "connected". I applaud your efforts at building community, especially with art. It saddens me how under appreciated art programs can be, but I could never have succeeded in school and in life without art, and by art I mean anything that expresses the human spirit. Thank you - You've really made a difference with this rec. center. Hopefully, one day, I'll be able to do the same with important aspects of my life." *Michelle N*



Insightful comments from our participants:

"3/13/08 -I love the idea of painting over graffiti, especially in areas were children play. I studied the broken window theory in school which states that the presence of dereliction and neglect, if unchecked, almost inevitably leads to further disregard for the environment. When you see trash everywhere, you're more likely to litter. So painting over the graffiti really helps ensure that this community center remains a clean safe and enduring environment."

"Fishtown sometimes seems to be a place that lost hope long ago and with that lost drive, and want for something more. Art Sphere has broken through that despair by giving the town a strong sense of community and pride all through art. It is inspirational and beautiful and I really enjoyed being a part of it and really seeing change manifest itself on a wall."

"Today was nice because we got a choice to work on whatever project we were best suited to, and when the little children came out to visit, we got to witness the community center in action, being used as it is intended."

"Fishtown: Reflections -I thought the way individual styles were obvious but blended added to the overall effect. Like a community it came together with individual effort towards a common goal. Clearly the Fishtown community enjoys the recreation center and murals. Part of the exciting part is its ever changing look. The way the kids would come by to paint a few details and observe the progress." MB

"I really enjoyed being hands on. The work we did today will directly reach the community. I lke the fact that the park area is open to all." EL



"As I give, I get."
Mary McLeod Bethune, African-American educator

**"Life, like a mirror, never gives back
more than we put into it."**
Anonymous

Sharing experiences from University of PA, Bryn Mawr College, Swarthmore College, Temple University, Arcadia University, Moore College of Art and Bucks County Community College with majors from International Studies, Philosophy, Sociology, Art, Architecture, Japanese, Anthropology and others, college students indirectly brought new ideas, hard work ethics, exposure to academic success, and the inspiration to continue to follow career pursuits.



**Artwork made by participants:
below and above**



**Participants generate care
within our community with
their generosity of spirit.**

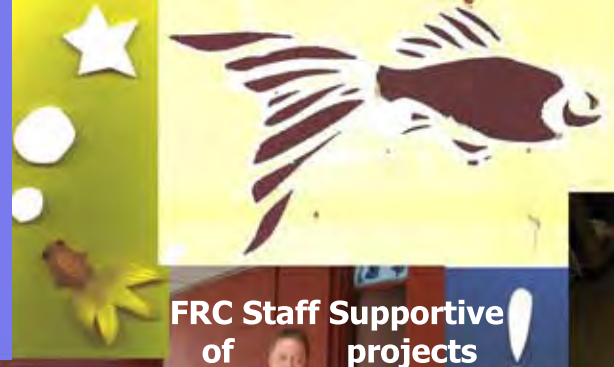
**"We successfully
completed murals begun by
previous groups and
removed trash and graffiti."**

**"Drawings and cards from
earlier participants inspired
our artwork"**

"We know what we are, but know not what we may be." William Shakespeare

"Art is not what you see, but what you make others see." Edgar Degas

"Art is literacy of the heart" Elliot Eisner



Fishtown Poem/Rap:
You can do it,
try some more,
Good job, good job.



Create your own poem with the first letter of the first word of each line spelling Fishtown.

Friendly

What are these fish saying or thinking?

individuals are

Recommended reading:

Supporting

This is a Poem That Heals Fish
Exuding magic and unbridled creativity on every page, this is a book with the potential to heal more than just fish.--Publishers Weekly

helpful

teens

Organizing change, this is

Worthy

news!



Fishtown youth that helped design IMO Mural.



Friends Guild and Friends High School students painting over graffiti on rink





Communities welcome exposure to diverse experiences and various types of education made possible through interactive art activities.



To Get Your Free Copy of Fishtown Diaries II

or previous issue

(Fishtown Diaries) with Fish origami and art lesson plans or for more information regarding our programs or volunteering contact us at

Art Sphere Incorporated at:
info@artsphere.org



"May the holes in your net be no larger than the fish in it." Irish Blessing
Your commitment to community art contributes to the maintenance, painting and care of FRC and builds connections between people.



Help Fishtown Get its Wish

With 1000 Folded Fish! Please support our community efforts and buy a fish! Origami lesson plan kits with magnets, beaded hanging fish and cranes were made by numerous volunteers just for you. Available at The Spirit Newspaper, 1428 Susquehanna Ave. and Barefoot Doctor Community Acupuncture, 1550 E. Montgomery Ave @Angler Movement Arts Center for \$5-\$10 donations.

Share Art with Someone close to your Heart

With One-of-a-Kind Handmade Watercolor Cards
These small works on acid free archival watercolor paper are adorable and frame-able! Show someone you really care with a unique work of art by local artists. Limited supply available with \$10 donation at Flower Etcetera, 637 N. 2nd Street (N. Liberties)

ASI Art Programs with FRC Preschool and Daycare engage a new generation in neighborhood stewardship.

www.artsphere.org

Community art teaches skills and increases participant confidence. Going out there, working with new people and thinking on your feet is also what community service and life is about.

Bench before



Trashcan after



Trashcan before



Several Arcadia University students from Fishtown led others; making improvements to FRC playground with Fishtown Neighbors Association and local youth. Some students returned to participate for their third



year; adding details to benches, painting trashcans, and sharing in the making of Fishtown history and pride.

Bench after



"Non-violence is not inaction. It is not for the timid or the weak...Non-violence is hard work. It is the willingness to sacrifice. It is the patience to win"
Cesar Chavez -Farmworker Activist

Feedback from Fishtown Events

"Great work, we look forward to the next Art Sphere event"
Ed Carpenter, Director Fishtown Recreation Center

"What a difference it makes" "When I came in I couldn't stop looking at it"

"I really enjoyed working with the Fishtown Recreation Center. I learned a lot about the community and the many needs of this area of Philly of which I am honored to be serving. Painting was meditative in a way which made me think of the importance of volunteering and helping others. I also thought about the children that play in this park and the fact that they represent our future, so we really must give them a nurturing safe environment to grow up in. I hope I made a small difference today."

"Thank you for having us today. It was great being able to contribute to your project. This is a great thing you have going on. I feel like this idea can be also spread to different parts of the city. Like parks, community center, and schools. Having art like the one displayed in this center makes people feel better and brings smiles to their faces ...so having an expansion of this would improve the community feeling."

www.artsphere.org



Bet Adams gave her sincere appreciation to those involved in neighborhood revitalizing and mural renovating efforts. Consider learning more and being involved in the commemorative soccer tournament <http://www.freddyadams.com/>

Soccer team members above reading Fishtown Diaries I



IN MEMORY OF

FREDDY ADA



"I had a great time today and hope this program continues to grow and gain community support in Fishtown. This place, the recreation center looks beautiful and I would love to return and help with future projects. It was most definitely a pleasure." Binata



"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."
Pablo Picasso

Greetings Friends of Art Sphere Inc.,

I am happy to share Art Sphere Inc.'s recent activities and community artwork collected in Fishtown Diaries II with contributions showing our progress since our first issue. As a local grassroots arts 501C3 non-profit serving local inner city communities we invite you to our upcoming events and could always benefit from your support. Keep us in mind for donations, volunteering, and of course sending your submissions for Fishtown Diaries III!

Best Regards,

Kristin

Kristin Groenveld

Executive Director and Founder

Art Sphere Incorporated

www.artsphere.org

Fishtown Stencils Pride

Our interactive Fishtown Neighborhood Stencil Project uses images collected from the neighborhood to create community art that builds pride; reinforcing community values with creativity and was made possible through the generous support of the Five County Arts Council, A Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts program serving Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties. We look to apply our model for future programs (beginning with Friends Neighborhood Guild and Gwynedd Friends School, Winter 08).

Making it all possible

More participants than expected...will there be enough food and brushes? Additional support from the following agencies made our projects possible: Darrell Clarke's Office, City of Philadelphia, Department of Parks and Recreation, Anti-Graffiti Network, NKCDC, Friends of the Fishtown Branch of the Free Library, Johnny Brendas, Bambi Gallery and Old City Publishing.



Team effort

We want to give thanks to our partnering groups. These include: Fishtown Residents, Campus Philly, Friends Neighborhood Guild, Arcadia University, Moore College of Art, Temple University, Campus On Epsilon Delta Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Zwingli/St John's Youth Groups, Philly Fellows, First Methodist Church, Primitive World Productions, First Methodist Church, Bucks County Community College, Greater Philadelphia Cares, Adaire Middle School, Friends Middle and High School work camps, ONE Philadelphia, Fishtown Neighbors Association, 26th Police Precinct, and Fishtown Recreation Center Staff, Teachers, Parents, Grandparents, Students and Bingo group.



Feeding the Creativity

Continued generous donations made by Rustica Pizza, 903 N. 2nd Street (Northern Liberties) Red Bull- (reps above even joining in the fun), and Primos Pizza (Fishtown) keep all well fueled.

Special Thanks

Much appreciated financial support has also been provided by the Clayman Family Foundation, the Siemens Caring Hands Foundation, and donors like you.

And of course, we appreciate our participants and volunteers working with us to make each project successful. We hope to continue to honor the spirit of our work together and encourage you to share the joy of community art making and community clean up efforts with others.



Thank you!
www.artsphere.org





"We have never discovered a culture on this planet, past or present, that doesn't have art. Yet there have been a number of cultures - even today - that don't have reading and writing. Why is that? One possible explanation is that the activities represented by the arts ... are basic to the human experience and necessary for survival. If they weren't, why would they have been part of every civilization from the Cro-Magnon cave dwellers to the urban citizens of the 21st century?"

David A. Sousa *How the Brain Learns*

Events such as the celebrating of the Fishtown Library and MLK Day brought people from as far away as Japan, Finland and Florida to work together with Fishtowners.

"When we show our respect for other living things, they respond with respect for us." Arapaho Proverb

**"The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it."
Chief Joseph, Nez Percé**



**Art Education Thru Fish:
What makes Fishtown
beautiful to you?**



For more art projects and materials see our red notebook at Fishtown Library to make: origami fish, Fishtown memory scrapbook, fish collage, your own stencil, collecting your own Fishtown facts from newspaper, or have an artist dialogue with your friends about Diaires I and II.

Alphabet of Favorite Fishtown Places- Add your Fish Local

**Abandoned building
Bridge
Coffee shop
Doghouse
Educational establishment
Funny sign
Garden
Hangout
Invisible Space
Junkyard
Kitchen
Lounge
Musical venue
Neighbors place
Organization headquarters
Place of worship
Quiet city space
Recreation Center
Street corner
Traffic light
Underground
Very Fishtown place
Wonderful home
X- travagant Street
Yummy food joint
Zippy Mural Site**

**Alphabet of Fishtown Favorite Fish
Illustrate, Describe or Add your Fish Species:**

Artistic fish

Big bold fish

Cat fish

Dog fish

Easygoing fish

Flying fish

Greedy fish

Happy fish

Intelligent fish

Joker fish

Kissing fish

Laughing fish

Mystic fish

Naughty fish

Overweight fish

Perplexed fish

Quick fish

Radical fish

Soul fish

Tiny fish

Unique fish

Very Fishtown fish

Wandering fish

X- tra large fish

Yelling fish

Zebra fish



www.artsphere.org

FRC Front entrance



FRC West facing wall

While we facilitate art projects, we help participants visualize and create new futures by redefining interpretations of themselves and others.

Fishtown by Aakash Suchak

(Fishtown Participant)

In response to ASI "IMO" mural- In Memory of...
and Freddy Adams mural

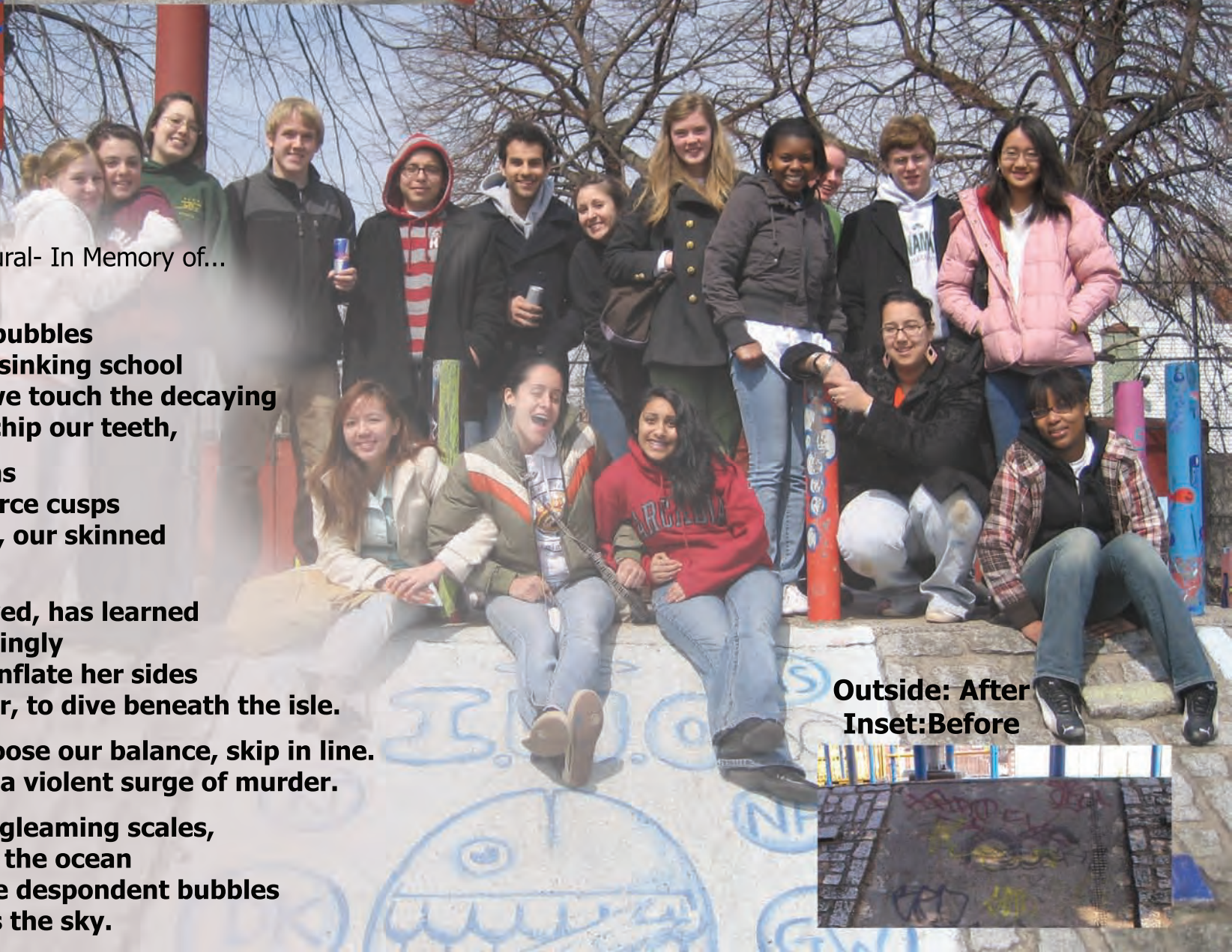
**Fishtown, submerged in bubbles
and murder, subsumes a sinking school
of the urban poor. Here we touch the decaying
mural of Freddy Adams, chip our teeth,**

**hog the ball. In the depths
of our aphotic streets, fierce cusps
of coral rip at our clothes, our skinned
forearms, tender ankles.**

**Our teacher, twice removed, has learned
to point her trident accusingly
from across the yard, to inflate her sides
at the first swirl of danger, to dive beneath the isle.**

**Daily we get scratched, loose our balance, skip in line.
Daily we are drenched in a violent surge of murder.**

**As we glide, we drop our gleaming scales,
feeling the mute throb of the ocean
that drowns us, and make despondent bubbles
that float quietly towards the sky.**



**Outside: After
Inset: Before**



The Fishtown Diaries I and now II have been a powerful method to document projects, receive and share feedback from various participants.



**"I can't tell you enough how great it is to see God working through your team and this place!
(heart)
Christine**



**"Thanks so much!
I've gotten such a totally new appreciation for art!"
Becky C**



"Thank you so much for the great experience and opportunity. Your artwork inspires me to be more passionate about being able to make a difference. I hope to see Fishtown continue into something bigger and better than it ready is. God Bless!" Grace K

