

# Call to Artists

## *Timeline*

Sculpture at Historic Laurel Hill Mansion  
East Fairmount Park  
3487 Edgley Dr., Philadelphia, PA 19121  
Exhibition dates July 18 - October 17, 2025

### **Submission Deadline: Monday, March 3, 2025**

Philadelphia Sculptors, in collaboration with the Women for Greater Philadelphia, is pleased to announce a call for submissions for *Timeline*, an outdoor sculpture exhibition at **Laurel Hill Mansion** in East Fairmount Park, Philadelphia.

*Timeline* takes an expansive view of the panoramic property and its history. Located on a high bluff along the Schuylkill River, Laurel Hill Mansion sits on lands that were for millennia inhabited by the Lenni Lenape until they were acquired by William Penn in 1682. The mansion was built in 1767 and it changed hands, structure, and purpose throughout the colonial era and beyond. Currently, the nonprofit organization the Women for Greater Philadelphia serves as the steward for the property. As Philadelphia prepares to celebrate the Semiquincentennial in 2026, this call asks for artists to reflect on the *Timeline* of American history. Some topics fitting for the historical site may include land acquisition, women's rights to property, architecture, commerce, farming, Quakerism, colonial American history in all its complexity, or simply a stunning scenic view. Artists may consider ways of connecting the past to the present by integrating contemporary viewpoints with historical concepts.

Artist applicants are highly encouraged to attend a tour and information session at Laurel Hill Mansion on Sunday, **December 15, 2024, at 1:00 pm** to learn its history and to peruse the exterior site where works will be exhibited. Anyone planning to attend this tour should **RSVP** to Nancy Agati, [nancyagati@gmail.com](mailto:nancyagati@gmail.com) or Leslie Kaufman, [lesliekaufman@verizon.net](mailto:lesliekaufman@verizon.net). If artists are unable to attend this session, they may also visit on their own. Please be aware that Laurel Hill Mansion's 2024 season ends on **December 31, 2024**. The spring season doesn't start until April, 2025, so all site visits should be made this year if possible. In special circumstances, individual tours can be scheduled when the property is not otherwise open to the public by contacting Smokie Kittner at [s.kittner@womenforgreaterphiladelphia.org](mailto:s.kittner@womenforgreaterphiladelphia.org). More historical information is available at [laurelhillmansion.org](http://laurelhillmansion.org) and at The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, <https://www.portal.hsp.org/>

### **Eligibility**

All Philadelphia Sculptors (PS) and Women for Greater Philadelphia (WFGP) members in good standing are eligible to apply. New members may join either organization to be eligible. For PS membership details go to: <https://philasculptors.org/membership> and for WFGP membership details go to: <https://www.womenforgreaterphiladelphia.org/pages/membership.html> .

### **Jurors**

Submissions will be juried by Nancy Agati (Philadelphia Sculptors) and Rachel Zimmerman (InLiquid).

### **About the Jurors**

**Nancy Agati** is a multidisciplinary artist whose work includes works on paper, sculpture, site-specific installation, and public art. She has had exhibitions throughout Philadelphia and nationally. Her works on paper are in several public and private collections. Agati has created installation projects about nature and the environment for the New Jersey Coastal Climate Project in Atlantic City, *We All Fall Down* at The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, and *AquaTerrace* at DaVinci Art Alliance, Philadelphia. As a member of Philadelphia Sculptors, she built and installed *Evident Cycle*, a temporal floating sculpture, for *FLOW* at The Independence Seaport Museum, Philadelphia. Nancy is honored to serve as a juror and curator for *Timeline* at Laurel Hill Mansion. Further information about her work can be found at [www.nancyagati.com](http://www.nancyagati.com).

**Rachel Zimmerman** is a photographer and the Founding Artistic and Executive Director of InLiquid. As the director of InLiquid, Rachel has spent over two decades transforming Philadelphia's visual arts landscape through innovative curation and arts management. Zimmerman has widely exhibited her photographic work throughout the Philadelphia region. Her work is in permanent collections, including the George Eastman House Museum in Rochester, NY, Temple University in Philadelphia, and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Her work is in private collections in Amsterdam, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. Rachel is delighted to act as a juror on behalf of Women for Greater Philadelphia for the *Timeline* exhibition. More information and examples of Rachel's work can be found at [www.inliquid.org](http://www.inliquid.org).

## **Venue**

This is an outdoor exhibition on the fenced grounds surrounding Laurel Hill Mansion. The half-acre area consists of the front entry with gardens and walkways, open grass space, a small arboretum with heritage trees, a stunning river view, a gazebo, and a back porch area.

Photos of the property are available at <https://laurelhillmansion.org/Pages/garden.html>.

## **Proposals/Submissions**

Artists can submit a proposal for new work or submit an existing sculpture or installation piece that responds to the themes/site referenced above. Written proposals for new works should describe the theme or concept associated with the location in 500 words or less. They must include preliminary drawings/illustrations and current or past works similar to the proposed topic. Narratives submitted for existing work must also provide a cohesive presentation connecting the work to the theme/site. Artists may indicate their choice of location but specific sites cannot be guaranteed and will not be able to be determined until all the works in the show are selected.

Works should be designed for outdoor installation and be able to withstand various weather conditions for the length of the exhibition. Proposals should consider the safety of the audience and the method of securing the work since the site is located within Fairmount Park and has public access throughout the day. It will be possible to dig small holes or make other minor changes to the grounds, but artworks requiring heavy equipment, concrete pads, or other more permanent or significant alterations will not be permitted. Artists will not be able to secure artworks to the house itself but may attach works to the chain link fence at the property's perimeter, or other fences or structures on the property. Artists are expected to deliver, install, and deinstall their artwork. Vehicles will not be able to drive directly into the fenced area so artists should be prepared to move or carry their works with hand equipment to their sites. When appropriate, artwork can be assembled from components on site.

## **Stipend**

Artists selected for the exhibition will receive a stipend of \$100.

## **Selection Criteria**

Artworks should fall within the general parameters of the title and theme. Those showing originality and technical competence, and which have the potential to elicit meaningful discussion, will be considered positively. The curators will also evaluate the works submitted in relation to one another to present a cohesive thematic exhibition. Works must be able to be installed appropriately on the grounds and not present safety hazards.

## **Fees**

There is no entry fee for this show, but artists must be current with their PS or WFGP membership dues. (See “Eligibility” above for link to PS and WFGP membership details.)

## **Insurance**

While liability coverage will be provided, artists will be responsible for their own coverage against loss or damage.

## **Sales**

Artists may choose to make their artworks available for sale. In the case of any sales, neither Philadelphia Sculptors nor Women for Greater Philadelphia will take a commission. Sales will be exclusively between the buyer and the artist but if Laurel Hill Mansion facilitates the transaction a small fee will be assessed to cover that cost.

## **Calendar:**

**Submission deadline: March 3, 2025**

**Artist notification: April 2025**

**Artwork delivery and installation: July 10-12, 2025**

**Exhibition: July 18 - October 17, 2025**

**Opening reception: Friday, July 18, 6-8 pm**

**Exhibition hours: Thursday – Sunday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**Deinstallation and pickup of work: October 18- 19, 2025**

## **Submission Requirements**

All artwork submissions must be received as jpgs. Artists may submit a maximum of 5 works including either proposal drawings/images or images of existing work. For artists submitting proposals, at least two of the images must be of similar or related prior work. Image sizes cannot exceed 5 MB.

## **Entry Procedure**

**Completed entry form must be submitted by March 3, 2025.**

**Applications must be submitted through Airtable at:**

**<https://airtable.com/appYnCHfivyz7Uj3a/shrN0qVO662NHVG18>**

The following attachments or links will be required:

1. **Jpg images of artworks and/or preliminary drawings:** Images should be numbered and labeled with artist's name and title.
2. **Description of artwork:** Numbered images should be described either as “submission” (for existing work) “proposal” (for new work) or “prior” (for earlier work provided to support proposed work). For each image, please include title, dimensions, and media and any additional relevant information.

3. **Proposal:** 500 word maximum. Narrative should be headed with name, title, dimensions, and materials. Proposals should describe the theme or concept associated with the location in as much detail as possible, making sure to provide a clear and well-thought-out written description to complement the visual one. All details for the installation of the artwork should be described, including required equipment and tools, preferred location, method of installation, and approximate time needed for the installation.
4. **Combined artist statement/bio:** 300 word maximum.
5. **Link to the artist's website and/or social media:** Optional, but encouraged.

### **About Philadelphia Sculptors**

Philadelphia Sculptors is the only professional organization of sculptors in the Philadelphia region. Incorporated in 1997, its mission is to promote contemporary sculpture and serve as an advocate for sculptors by expanding public awareness of the role and value of sculpture within our culture. Since its inception, it has organized numerous indoor and outdoor group exhibitions at traditional and non-traditional venues and has sponsored programs, conferences, workshops, and performances. Membership is open to all. Visit <https://philasculptors.org> for more information.

### **About Women for Greater Philadelphia**

The organization Women for Greater Philadelphia (WFGP) is the steward of the historic pre-revolutionary Philadelphia Park House, Laurel Hill Mansion, a creator of cultural events, educational programs, and a preserver of history. Incorporated in 1973 under the name Women for the Bicentennial, a non-profit service organization, its purpose at that time was to cooperate with the city of Philadelphia in celebrating the nation's 200th anniversary in 1976. The first project was the renovation and restoration of the handsome, but neglected, Laurel Hill Mansion under an agreement with the Fairmount Park Commission. The name was changed after the Bicentennial. Since that time the WFGP has continued to present cultural and educational programs and events with many taking place at Laurel Hill Mansion. [www.wfgp.org](http://www.wfgp.org)

For additional information about the exhibition, contact: Nancy Agati, [nancyagati@gmail.com](mailto:nancyagati@gmail.com), or Leslie Kaufman, [lesliekaufman@verizon.net](mailto:lesliekaufman@verizon.net).