



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Powerhouse Arts Presents Community Day 2025 Saturday, May 31 from 11AM-5PM



Powerhouse Arts Community Day 2024. Photo: Tod Seelie

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK — The second-annual [Powerhouse Arts Community Day](#) welcomes the community for a day of discovery and creative expression, a celebration of creativity, collaboration, and the inspiring community that distinguishes Powerhouse Arts within the borough.

On **Saturday, May 31**, guests of all ages are invited to explore the iconic PHA facility, meet artists and fabricators, and take part in hands-on activities. This event follows a successful edition of Community Day which welcomed over 1,300 visitors in 2024. This family-friendly, all-ages event, takes place across three floors in our purpose-built art-making facility. The event takes place from **11am–5pm** (doors close at 4:30pm). [Participation is free with RSVP.](#)



List of Community Day Activations & Performers:

Anne Cubberly's Giant Puppets
Arts Gowanus
Boxcutter Collective
Brooklyn Film Camera
Stained Glass Studio
Craftsman Ave
Drag Story Hour NYC
Firework Photo Booth Co.
Groundswell
Jamel Gaines Creative Outlet*
Khorikos*
Las Mariquitas*
Materials for the Arts
MGC Community Print Studio
PrintSpace
Peace MFG

PHA Ceramics
PHA Print
PHA Public Art
Redhawk Native American Arts Council
Street Lab
TATTER
The Alpha Workshops
Fiera
Workspace 11

Music by:

Woof
Nelly G
Max Glazer
Madkick
Sticky Dojah
Black Bean

**Performances taking place in the Loft.*

For more information, please visit powerhousearts.org. Follow along on the organization's Instagram at [@powerhouse_arts](https://www.instagram.com/powerhouse_arts). To sign up for the organization's newsletter, visit this [link](#).

Other Programming Highlights



Detail view of "Mucky's Return" by artist Jeff Gipe. The sculpture will be unveiled with a celebration and public gathering beginning at 2:45PM at the PHA Loading Dock on Saturday, May 31 for Community Day. Photo courtesy of the artist and PHA.



Unveiling Celebration for *Mucky's Return* by Jeff Gipe

At the Powerhouse Arts Loading Dock from 2:45-3:45PM on Saturday, May 31st, the Gowanus community is invited to gather for the unveiling of *Mucky's Return*, a new public sculpture by artist and filmmaker [Jeff Gipe](#) that honors the legacy of a dolphin—nicknamed 'Mucky'—that swam into the polluted waters of the Gowanus Canal in 2013. The event will feature reflections from Gowanus historian and author **Joseph Alexiou**, and live music by legendary Gowanus producer and musician **Martin Bisi**, performing with multidisciplinary artists **Laura Ortman**, Chapman stickist **Dan Gitlin**, and Gowanus-based musician **Bradford Reed**.

In his artist statement, Jeff Gipe states:

"*Mucky's Return* honors the legacy of a dolphin— nicknamed 'Mucky'—that swam into the polluted waters of the Gowanus Canal in 2013. The event left a lasting impact on the community, as many watched helplessly as Mucky met a tragic end. Mucky is one of several mammals, including 'Sludgie' the baby whale, that have suffered similar fates in the toxic canal.

For decades, the Gowanus Canal has endured industrial pollution and environmental neglect, ultimately becoming one of the nation's most contaminated waterways. Now, as the neighborhood transforms from an industrial corridor into a landscape of high-rise housing developments, the canal's troubled legacy remains a critical part of its story.

It is my hope that this installation initiates dialogue, fosters empathy, and inspires reflection on the significance of our shared environment. Just as 'Mucky' became a symbol of the potential dangers of the Gowanus Canal, this installation seeks to honor its legacy and inspire collective action to address the canal's challenges and promote a healthier future for both the environment and the community."

2025 PHA Staff Art Show

The PHA 2025 Staff Art Show celebrates the expansive creative practices of PHA's staff—fabricators, administrators, directors, security staff, and interns—whose work,



materials, methods, and personal visions stretch well beyond the walls of PHA. The show presents a dynamic range of mediums: painting, drawing, metal work, sound, video, sculpture, and more.

In myriad ways, the PHA team works directly with artists at all points in their careers, from incredibly complex and high-profile installations with world-renowned artists through to mentoring artists at the very start of their careers. Across all of their work, each team member brings expertise, creativity, and skill as exemplified in their own practice and in the artwork highlighted at this exhibition.

For the 2025 Staff Art Show, over 40 team members will exhibit artworks in the Small Hall located on the 2nd floor of the organization's facility. The exhibition remains on view during regular business hours through June 30. Opening reception June 5th 5-8PM.

The Dear Neighbor Project presented by Tiffany Baker for Van Alen

Created by Brooklyn-based artist [Tiffany Baker](#), this multi-site public mural installation presented by Van Alen turns the voices of Gowanus residents into public art and illustrates their experiences with flooding in the neighborhood.

To create *The Dear Neighbor Project*, Tiffany connected with community leaders, local organizations, business owners, and residents to learn more about the impact of flooding in Gowanus. She then organized interviews with residents about their personal experiences with flooding, ranging from long-time residents to newer arrivals, and middle schoolers to older adults. Her murals illustrate and directly quote from these residents' stories — sharing their experiences, advice, and stories of community support during flood events.

A site-specific mural and activation will take over the Powerhouse Arts Lobby for Community Day. An audio archive of their stories will live permanently at dearneighborproject.com.

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