

The William Penn Foundation Awards The Schuylkill Center  
a Three Year Environmental Arts Grant.

The Center gratefully acknowledges the William Penn Foundation for its generous gift to support our Environmental Art program for three years. This prestigious award ensures the growth and continued quality of the three areas offered by the Environmental Art Program: Outdoor Environmental Art Exhibitions, Gallery Exhibitions, and the Artist-in-Residence Program. We will also be expanding the frequency and reach of our Gallery and Outdoor exhibitions, connecting with additional partner organizations, and increasing the Artist-in-Residence program. This will allow us to better integrate the Environmental Art program into the themes of the education programs, as is evident in the current William Penn Foundation funded gallery exhibition, *Swarm*, which artistically raises awareness of habitat loss, honeybee Colony Collapse Disorder, and for aesthetic balance, the beauty and functionality of the invertebrate world.

The William Penn Foundation Grant also includes funding to create the new position of Art Program Manager, which has recently been filled by Philadelphia artist Zoë Cohen. Zoë comes to us from a background in public and studio art projects and community art education, with a Master's of Fine Arts from Brooklyn College. Since her hire in May, Zoë has worked closely with Art Director Mary Salvante and the other Schuylkill Center departments to explore inter-departmental collaborations and what should be a natural fit between Environmental Art and Environmental Education.

The Environmental Art Program was first introduced to the Schuylkill Center in 2000 when Mary Salvante, a Drexel graduate with a Masters in Arts Administration and a freelance arts consultant in New York and Philadelphia, proposed including art work in the Center's live and silent auction for the first annual fund raising gala. With David Montgomery, President of the Phillies, as the auctioneer, encouraging the audience to step up to the plate and support both art and the environment, the auction was a success. So much so that Tracy Kay, Executive Director at the time, invited Mary to write a proposal for an arts program that could enhance our education programming and attract a larger group of visitors. Working pro bono and volunteering many hours at the Center while building her reputation in the region, Mary gained the attention of the Philadelphia art community by creating a unique arts venue here in Upper Roxborough. The rest, as they say, has a happy ending.

For more information and details on exhibitions and programs see the Art Program page.