



FRANKFORD AVE ARTS CORRIDOR

e-newsletter

NEWS & EVENTS

Corridor Business Updates!

Walking Fish Theatre

2509 Frankford Avenue
Fresh Fish 2.0, a series of 8 ten minute plays that runs every evening until April 19th, is going on right now! There's plenty more Fish to go around, so be sure to catch an evening. Tickets/info at:
www.walkingfishtheatre.com

GERM Books

2005 Frankford Avenue
April 26th
The Nikola Tesla Inventors Club will be hosting another event honoring GERM's induction into their hallowed society. Featuring an anti-gravity demonstration and soup! More at:
www.germbooks.com

Johnny Brenda's

1201 Frankford Ave
April 23rd
Stoudt's Brewing will be releasing their new beer "Heifer in Wheat", a bubbly Hefeweizen, at JB's. Featuring free pint glass with purchase, t-shirt raffle, and a guy in a cow costume. What's not to love?
www.johnnybrendas.com

Local Arts Centers!

Project Synergy at the Hinge Cafe
2652 E Somerset St

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2009

The First Friday Family Keeps On Growing

For one night every month Frankford Avenue rouses from its slumber and for a few hours becomes a hoppin' couple of blocks, jam packed with artists, musicians and their observers. Readers following this newsletter, or the [Frankford Ave Arts](http://www.frankfordavearts.com) website, are surely no strangers to the myriad events that grace this fair avenue. They will know the handful of mainstays that make every First Friday work: Rocket Cat, GERM, Proximity, High Wire, Goldfish and the original firecracker, Bambi. Many of these institutions were among the first round of First Friday participants, and they all continue to be a spark of life on the Arts Corridor. However, recently there has been an influx of newcomers to the First Friday stage, some which have already debuted and some who are still being imagined. Not all have gained their sealegs yet, but this new round of pioneers promises to keep future First Fridays interesting.



Two new venues debuted last month, outgrowths of the businesses Mendez Homes and Liberty Vintage Cycles. [Mendez Homes](http://www.mendezhomes.com) (2480 Frankford) used their renovated office space with exposed brick and hardwood floors as an impromptu gallery space. They played host to artist Jasmine Ramos and her strikingly vibrant paintings. Robin Macrae, a Sales Associate with Mendez, had the idea when a friend mentioned that she was looking for a place to show her work, but hadn't had luck with the more established galleries downtown. Robin had seen the adapted spaces elsewhere on the Avenue that now functioned as part time art galleries, like the Rocket Cat Cafe, Perpetua Antiques, or the pubs Atlantis and Memphis Taproom, all of which have showcased art over the last few months. Why not a realty office also?

Adam Cramer of [Liberty Cycles](http://www.libertycycles.com) also unveiled a partially cleared section of his motorcycle garage that he is developing into a full gallery space. He will be the first to offer raw, industrial display space on the First Friday circuit, opening up a range of possibilities for new art displays. Traditionally the corridor has featured more conventional spaces, suited

215-425-6614

All ages are invited learn culinary arts, singing, sculpting, furniture making, photography and more! The next season of classes starts on 3/24. More information at www.projects너지arts.com

Angler Movement Arts Center

1550 Montgomery Avenue
215-922-0866

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

Join Kim Creighton and her talented staff to select from 10 various art classes ranging from pottery to painting. Call 215-427-1514 or email portsideartscenter@verizon.net for more details.

PositiveSpace Charette

Following a two day design lab with neighborhood artists and community members, Positive Space will present their ideas for art, greening and sculpture for 2012-18 Frankford Avenue. April 13th, 7 p.m, at 2423 Amber St (Philly Brewing Co.) Click [here](#) or email organizers at positivespacephila@gmail.com to see what's in store!

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

for hanging paintings or small sculptures. The Cycle Garages rugged space and loading bay allow for larger and bulkier sculptures and installations to be put on display. Adam's space is not even fully pieced together yet, but he held a small opening in April to preview the space,

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.

which he hopes to eventually lease as a full time gallery. Adam's garage fronts Sepviva St, but has a rear door accesible in the back of the landscaped lot at 2205 Frankford.

On top of these new faces, there are also some exciting new stuff coming up this summer. First, there are two new proposed First Friday venues. [Philly Book Co](#) (1113 Frankford), down near Frankford and Wildey is currently soliciting for artists to occupy a portion of their warehouse. Amidst piles of books, there is a vaulted ceiling that owner Mike DiProspero thinks is perfect for a hanging sculpture or mobile. He hopes to have his bookstore open late on First Fridays and showcase art in the future as a southern anchor for Frankford Ave.

Keith Angelitis, whose business is featured in this months newsletter, is also prepping to participate in May's First Friday activities. He hopes to have art on display in the first floor of [Angel Studios](#) (2452 Frankford), along with live music, and a garden party in the backyard of his property.

None of the aforementioned businesses are traditional galleries, but all are adapting their spaces for artistic uses. This kind of community driven support for the arts is what the creative culture of Kensington and Fishtown is based upon. Be sure to support these new venues as they start to get their feet wet. Hopefully this is only the beginning of their careers on the Avenue.

...Don't Forget These Upcoming Events!

April and May will see a plethora of big neighborhood events coming to Fishtown and Kensington. First up is the [Fishtown Shadfest](#) on April 25th, with the Fishtown Area Business Association and others bringing food, music, art and fun to Penn Treaty Park. Highlights include craft vendors, a Fishtown Beer Runners 5K, live music, a trolley tour of historic sites, and much more! Shadfest also coincides with the Empowerment Group's "Shop Philly!" day on Girard and Frankford Avenues. A celebration of Philadelphia's entrepreneurs, select businesses will be offering discounts and specials all throughout the day. Find out more [here](#).

Then, on May 1st, Fishtown, Kensington and Port Richmond will kick off the neighborhoods' first [Restaurant Week](#). Ten restaurants will be offering special fixed price menus or discounted entrees ranging from \$10-30. Check the website for participating eateries.

Finally, later in the month, comes the third annual [Kensington Kinetic Sculpture Derby](#), on May 16th. This celebration of non-motorized forms of transportation starts up at noon, featuring wildly crafted bicycles and other rolling dinguses. This event runs alongside the [Trenton Ave Arts Festival](#), now in its fourth year. There will be around 100 artists selling all manner of crafts, along with plenty of food, beer and music. So mark your calendars today!

★ FEATURED BUSINESS

Angel Studios



Keith has a slogan on the website for his photography studio that reads, "No Ordinary Vision". What's striking about



this statement is that Keith's website exists, in part, to advertise his photographic services for weddings and other events. Most photographers at weddings and bar mitzvahs are the epitome of "ordinary vision". But not Keith Angelitis, and not Angel Studios.

Keith says when he tells people he's a photographer he's often asked what he specializes in. "I tell them I specialize in photography," Keith says with a smile. He uses Angel Studios to defy

constricting definitions; he shoots everything and anything, because he simply loves advancing his craft. A Juniata native, Keith started out as the latest in four generations of carpenters, and he is always excited to get work doing something that doesn't involve a hammer and nails. Keith got the photography bug when friends with a garage band needed some press photos taken on the cheap. He offered to do it free and got his first taste of the shutterbug life. The band broke up, but Keith was smitten.

Keith eventually enrolled in photo classes at the Community College of Philadelphia. He found he was able to make a little money picking up work as a freelance photographer on the side. "When I started, I was doing construction during the week, taking pictures on the weekends. Then it got to the point that I was taking pictures during the week, and doing construction work on the weekends."

Eventually Keith was able to give up his tool belt. "Now I do this full time, and sometimes I almost feel bad getting paid, because it doesn't feel like I'm working." Getting paid to do something he loves also gave him the freedom to branch out into other fields, like doing more artistic photography, playing music and gardening.

Nowadays he lives and works with his partner Elga Lyle, who is also a photographer and musician. They both make their residence at Angel Studios itself, a meticulously restored, three-story rowhome at 2452 Frankford, brought to life through Elga and Keith's labor. The first floor has a small open studio space, which transitions into a neatly arranged sitting room. The upper rooms are similarly furnished with antique furniture, yet there are only a few personal affects here and there. Keith explains that "Angel Studios" is really the entire house, and that he and Elga actually only live in the top most floor. All the other rooms in the house are furnished purely to serve as the backdrop for photo shoots. Keith will frequently rearrange furniture and change interior decor to suit the needs of a client, saying about his unconventional "studio", "with photos it's not what you put in, it's what you leave out,". Keith uses his whole house to create a myriad of environments.

Keith moved to Frankford Avenue so that Angel Studios could have more visibility on the Arts Corridor, but says that most of his business comes simply through word of mouth. He prides himself and his success on his and Elga's upbeat, friendly demeanor. "I say that when we come to a wedding I feel like we leave with 200 friends...we just try to make people feel comfortable. I believe people hire us because they like our personalities."

The next step in Keith's plans is begin to engage the Angel Studios space as a venue for different artistic mediums. Keith plans to bring his and other local artists' music, poetry and artwork to his studio, and First Friday. Additionally, he will further engage his space by beginning to offer photography lessons, and renting out his studio to other photographers. Of course, his first love will always be his photos and helping Angel Studios. Keith says he remains committed to continuing his business' mission of, in his words, offering "a quality product at a fair price, that always goes above and beyond expectations."

Set up an appointment with Angel Studios, located at 2452 Frankford Ave, by calling 215-425-7200. More information at www.angelstudios.org

Commercial Space for Lease

*New! - 1325 Frankford Ave #1
Price: \$189,000*



*Great commercial opportunity within this amazing light filled, european sleek meets modern space. Mercer Flats is located on the edge of Fishtown, amidst quaint gardens adorned by sculpture built by the locals. With 3 townhomes on Mercer Street, 1 commercial space and condo on Frankford Avenue, Mercer Flats is a perfect addition to the neighborhood. MLS #5421131
Year Built: 2008. Sq Ft: 1160. Zoning: G2. Annual Taxes: \$130. Courtesy of RE/MAX City Space- 215-625-3650*

*NEW! - 2031 Frankford Avenue
For more info contact Steve Cacciutti at 610-457-1113 or costruzione@gmail.com*



*1850-62 Frankford Ave
Price: Negotiable*

1890's, 4 commercial spaces for lease under construction now. Call to negotiate space/fit out, each will be roughly 700 SQ FT, but you can have 2 units for more space. Apartments will be above and parking in the rear. Call Donna DiStefano 215 266 4122

*VIKING MILLS - Artist's Workspaces
East Hagert and Coral Street*

1890's, 5 story factory building located near the Fishtown section of Philadelphia, undergoing renovations. Up to 11,000 sf per floor available for rent. Inexpensive, perfect for artist studio, craftsmen, dance/music studio, light industrial, or warehouse space. Located across the street from The Coral Arts House. Present tenants include: horse drawn carriage manufacturer, motorcycle mechanic, and fiber supplier to brush manufacturing industry. Check out www.vikingmills.com or Contact David Hirsch at DBHMM@hotmail.com

Commercial Space For Sale

*2226 Frankford Avenue
Price: 150,000*

2 doors down from Michael's Decorators. HUGE property with TONS of potential! Front of the building is wide and long and great for either studio space or commercial front. 2nd and 3rd floors have 2 large one

bedroom in front and back. Has some original details including banisters and the historical front from the 1880's! Also has a very deep, high ceiling in basement for extra space. Some minor fire damage, but no active issues. Year Built:1928 Square Feet of Land:1800 Zoning:C2 Annual Taxes:\$212 A Coldwell Banker Preferred Listing 215-634-0800.

1359 Frankford Avenue
Price: \$349,000


Prime developmental opportunity here for a mixed-use building with plans and approvals for 6 residential condominiums, 2 commercial stores, and a parking garage for 6 cars. This is directly on the busy Frankford Avenue Arts Corridor just off Girard Avenue in what is now considered prime space in Fishtown. The plot is over 4,700 square feet and the proposed building coverage is 3,574 square feet at 35 feet high, covering 3 quarters of the plot, which the remaining being open space. This lot is directly in front of 7 brand new construction townhouses that are being now. Courtesy of Coldwell Banker Preferred- Old City. 215-923-7600.

1325 Frankford Avenue
Price: 189,000

Great commercial opportunity within this amazing light filled, european sleek meets modern space. Mercer Flats is located on the edge of Fishtown, amidst quaint gardens adorned by sculpture built by the locals. With 3 townhomes on Mercer Street, 1 commercial space and condo on Frankford Avenue, Mercer Flats is a perfect addition to the neighborhood. Year Built: 2008. Sq Ft: 1160. Zoning: G2. Annual Taxes: \$130. Courtesy of RE/MAX City Space #160; 215-634-0800 .

1301 Frankford Avenue
Price: \$949,000

Great location! Well maintained and well established neighborhood bar/restaurant in a prime location. Situated on the rapidly developing Frankford Avenue Arts Corridor in the heart of Fishtown. Walking distance to mass



transportation and all riverfront activities. Featuring 4 efficiency apartments on month-to-month leases to long-term tenants. Bar has a fully equipped kitchen. Price includes liquor license (with takeout license) and the adjoining lot on Thompson Street. Owners motivated so call for your appointment! Courtesy of Century 21 Leibovitz Realtor 215-634-0800.

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