

Diversity Fellowship 2017- Journal of Experience

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Reflecting on the duration of my fellowship at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, my experience has been immersive, exciting, and surely varied from day to day to say the least! Each day I came to work, it was never like the day before. This added to the excitement and got me quickly adjusted to the fast-paced nature of *Philadelphia Assembled*. My day to day experience ranged from meetings with editors and stakeholders of *Philadelphia Assembled*, to planning internal newsletters informing PMA staff on the projects “city-phase” highlights, to meeting with staff departments within the PMA and assessing their involvement with *Philadelphia Assembled’s* “Museum phase”. My work has allowed me to connect and work with collaborators, artists, and activists across Philadelphia and plan participatory events and programs to be executed during the projects “Museum phase.” Aside from the project’s culminating exhibition (scheduled to open September 10th and run through December 10th), the planning of the September 9th grand welcoming of *Philadelphia Assembled* into the Perelman Building has been underway. Seeing the Perelman Building undergo transformation for opening day and the exhibition has been a highlight for sure.



(Photo of banner within PMA's Perelman Building during construction, taken on personal camera)

Philadelphia Assembled in short is composed of 5 atmospheres: Reconstructions, Sovereignty, Sanctuary, Futures, and Movement. Each of these atmospheres connect to the changing fabric of Philadelphia and its citizens, all the while relating to their needs, goals, and values as Philadelphians. One of my favorite moments amidst working with *Philadelphia Assembled* has been engaging with the Sanctuary atmosphere. The Sanctuary atmosphere deals with safe space and what Philadelphians envision their safe spaces to look like within the city. The idea of safe space plays a large part in my own practice and is an element of my graduate thesis, so naturally this was the atmosphere I took to the most. On Thomas Jefferson University's campus, *Philadelphia Assembled* and its Sanctuary atmosphere installed the Toward Sanctuary Dome. The dome welcomed Center City and the larger Philadelphia community to come out, relax, engage, and ultimately reflect on what they envisioned their own safe spaces to look and feel like within



