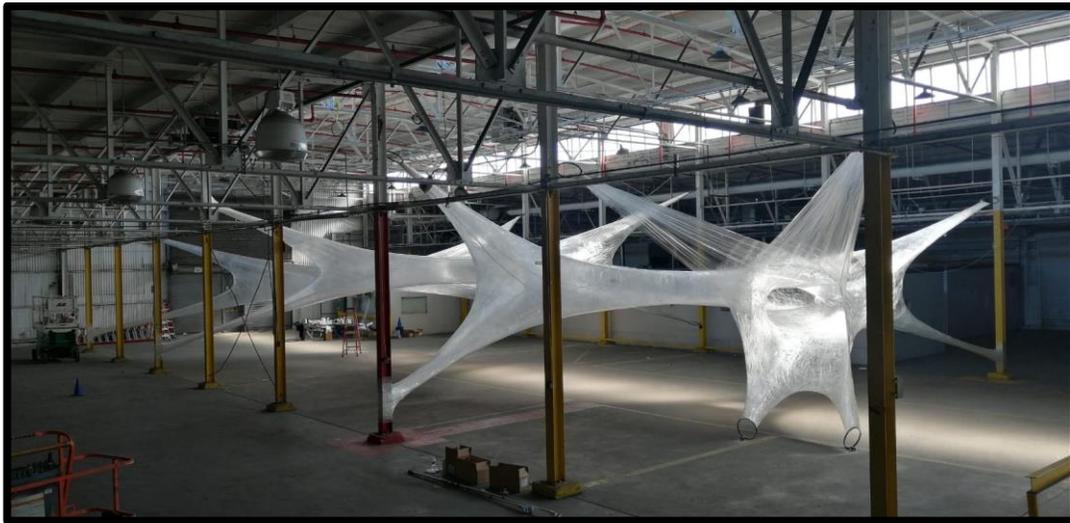


CONTACT:
Jennifer Tran, PIDC
Director of Navy Yard Marketing & Communications
(215) 218-2854
jtran@PIDCphila.com

Group X
Installation Organizers & Curators, *anonymous*
therealgroupx@gmail.com



INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS BUILD LIVING SCULPTURE MADE FROM TAPE AT THE PHILADELPHIA NAVY YARD

Tweet this: The @NavyYardPhila invites you to an immersive experience featuring a temporary new interactive art sculpture made with 21.5 miles of translucent tape:
www.navyyard.org/cocoon

PHILADELPHIA – November 8, 2019 – Group X and the Philadelphia Navy Yard announce its latest public art installation, *Tape Philadelphia: Enter the Cocoon* (#NavyYardCocoon), an interactive tape sculpture created by experimental European arts collective Numen/For Use.

This temporary experience was installed inside 1701 Langley Avenue (Building 694) at the Navy Yard, latching onto the building's existing structural beams using a staggering 21.5 miles of translucent tape - the distance of the Broad Street Run course from start to the finish line at the Navy Yard and back! Following a 12-day installation period, the exhibit will open to the public tomorrow, Saturday, November 9, 2019 and run most Thursdays through Sundays through

Sunday, December 1, 2019. Exhibit hours are Thursdays and Fridays at 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays at 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Following the wildly popular [Sea Monsters HERE](#) inflatable art installation with artists Filthy Luker and Pedro Estrellas, ***Tape Philadelphia: Enter the Cocoon*** is the second collaborative partnership between **Group X**, a group of Philadelphia-based artists, curators, and organizers whose members are anonymous, and the **Navy Yard**, the “coolest shipyard in America” and leading model for repurposed military base where nearly 15,000 employees work at 170 companies, surrounded by iconic parks, Complete Streets, and a riverfront greenway.

Numen/For Use, a collaborative effort of industrial designers Sven Jonke, Christoph Katzler, and Nikola Radeljković, were commissioned because of the mesmerizing nature of their work that is ever-changing and comes into its full potential when activated by an audience. The installation is constructed entirely of layers of tape, building a labyrinth of passageways on the ground and in the air that takes on an organic, moving form when in use.

“In a city of monuments and murals, we see this experience as an expansion on what public art can be,” says Group X, the organizers and curators of the project, who are comprised of anonymous Philadelphia artists and arts leaders. “On its surface, *Tape Philadelphia: Enter the Cocoon* is playful, perhaps a bit mesmerizing, and definitely weird. Underneath that, the project is asking questions about the role of the viewer in public art and the responsibility of art that’s presented for public consumption.”

With their sculpture, Numen/For Use wish to transport onlookers and those who navigate the installation both literally and metaphorically. This is Numen/For Use’s first installation on the East Coast, and their second in the United States.

“For us it is 100 percent important that the public can go inside and experience these works. When people see the installation, most of them are curious, and then they want to go inside. But since you have to take your shoes off and crawl on all fours, it makes the social borders come down. Visitors enjoy it together in a very communicative way even though they often do not know each other or talk to each other,” said artists Numen/For Use. “This is why we like to see it in the public. Maybe it is somehow like in a different world and some rules and borders do not count for a while.”

For *Tape Philadelphia: Enter the Cocoon*, Numen/For Use have created one of their most accessible tape installations to date. Group X and the Navy Yard involved Philadelphia-based accessibility consultants **Elizabeth Clay** of @AccessibleArtPhila on Instagram, who works specifically in the art and culture space to ensure accessibility information is available to audiences and visitors with disabilities, and **Alanna Raffel** of **Access Point**, a company that strives to increase inclusion in Philadelphia and beyond by advocating for access, creating solutions, and promoting awareness of accessible opportunities for people with disabilities and their friends and family.

PIDC, Group X, and Numen/For Use welcome visitors of all abilities, and they worked together to ensure that *Tape Philadelphia: Enter the Cocoon* is an immersive art experience for everyone. The warehouse's location in the Navy Yard allowed for intentional, thoughtful design that integrates the needs of visitors with disabilities with the artists' large-scale installation. Visitors are invited to interact with the space around them, view the exhibit from the ground, and will have the opportunity to enter the interior of the art exhibit.

"Together with PIDC, Group X, and the artists, we encouraged participation over observation when planning *Tape Philadelphia: Enter the Cocoon*," noted accessibility consultants Elizabeth Clay and Alanna Raffel. "Rather than expecting visitors to simply view the piece, we collaborated on early designs to emphasize a shared experience for all in a space anchored in Philadelphia's history."

Building 694, located just beyond the Navy Yard's Broad Street entrance at 1701 Langley Avenue, is a single story, sheet metal-clad, rectangular warehouse built in 1943. Measuring at 898 feet long and 152 feet wide, Building 694 has a central monitor roof section flanked by symmetrical shed-roofed sections and ribbons of windows extending the length of the monitors covered with fiberglass panels. It has been vacant since the closure of the shipyard in 1996 and today is a prime development site. While it awaits its next phase of life, it has transformed into the temporary home for *Tape Philadelphia: Enter the Cocoon*.

"The Navy Yard is one of Philadelphia's most iconic places, with layers of historic and modern buildings and warehouses, incredible park spaces, and maritime assets along the riverfront," said Jennifer Tran, PIDC's Director of Navy Yard Marketing & Communications. "We are thrilled

to once again partner with Group X to bring a new-to-Philadelphia artist who could use the Navy Yard's unique and historic buildings as a platform for accessible and immersive public art. We are excited to unveil this one-of-a-kind public art installation today, which gives visitors and employees another reason to explore the Navy Yard.”

Tape Philadelphia: Enter the Cocoon (#NavyYardCocoon) is free to view most Thursdays through Sundays beginning Saturday, November 9, 2019, through Sunday, December 1, 2019. Open hours are Thursdays and Fridays at 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays at 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The installation will be closed on November 28 for Thanksgiving, as well as November 17. Visitors are encouraged to make a free reservation to secure a timeslot to enter the interior of the *Cocoon* interactive art exhibit. Without a reservation, this part of the experience may have long wait times or may not be possible during peak periods. Please see the exhibition page for full details at www.navyyard.org/cocoon.

The Navy Yard is open to the public and is accessible via car, bike, [Indego bikeshare](#), on foot, and [Navy Yard Transit](#). Limited on-site parking is available but using public transit is encouraged. On weekdays, Navy Yard Transit will provide a special stop at Building 694 so visitors can experience the exhibit traveling to and from SEPTA NRG Station.

Guidelines for those who wish to enter the experiential part of the installation:

- Guests must sign a waiver.
- Children must be at least 40 inches tall.
- Children younger than 11 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Two children are allowed per adult.
- No standing, running, or jumping inside the sculpture.
- No lighters, matches, or sharp objects allowed.
- Please leave bags and shoes in the provided bin.
- Socks are required and will be provided if needed.

High-resolution images are available [HERE](#). For media requests, please contact Jennifer Tran at jtran@PIDCphila.com.

About Numen/For Use

Numen/For Use are a European-based collective working in the fields of conceptual art, scenography, industrial and spatial design, Numen / For Use was formed in 1998 by industrial designers Sven Jonke, Christoph Katzler, and Nikola Radeljković. The group experiments with impersonal design and radical formal reduction, deeply rooted in the tradition of high modernism and mainly applied to various synergetic total-design projects.

<http://www.numen.eu/home/news/>

About Group X

“We are the next generation of arts leaders in Philadelphia. We are an anonymous group of local artists, curators, and organizers. Together, we aim to innovate, inspire, and push the boundaries of what public art in Philadelphia can be.”

<https://www.instagram.com/groupxofficial/>

About the Navy Yard

Since acquiring the 1,200-acre site from the federal government in 2000, [PIDC, Philadelphia's public-private economic development corporation](#) and master developer of the Philadelphia Navy Yard, has led the planning, development, and operation of the Navy Yard on behalf of the Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development (PAID). PIDC's mission—to spur investment, support business growth, and foster developments that create jobs, revitalize neighborhoods, and drive growth to every corner of Philadelphia—strongly informs our strategy for the Navy Yard, which focuses on creating an environment that drives employment, innovation, and production.

POLITICO has called the Navy Yard “the coolest shipyard in America” and many industry observers, including the Urban Land Institute, have recognized the community as a leading model for repurposing military and industrial assets for a diversified modern economy. Home to reimagined shipbuilding facilities as well as new high-performance and energy-efficient construction, the Navy Yard has a variety of flexible buildings with different heights, vintages, and floorplates, powered by a nationally-recognized microgrid and oriented around iconic parks, Complete Streets, and a riverfront greenway.

Today, the Navy Yard is an expanding community of nearly 15,000 employees and 170 employers who occupy 7.5 million square feet of facilities across a mix of property types,

including office, retail, industrial, R&D, and institutional. In recent years, the Navy Yard's total employment has steadily expanded by approximately 1,000 new employees per year and will support an additional 10 million square feet of commercial and residential development at full buildout.

<https://www.navyyard.org/>

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