

City of Philadelphia  
**MuralArtsProgram**

# This We Believe

**City-wide Mural Project**

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## Why We Live Here

Imagine that you are home one night having dinner from some good friends who live in one of the neighboring suburbs. Life has gotten hectic for all of you and you haven't seen each other in almost a year.

Still, these are good friends who, based on what they've heard lately about Philadelphia, really want to understand why you live where you live.

After some great food and drink, your friend says. "Tell me a story that sums up what it's like to live here. What does life here feel like, smell like, sound like, taste like?"

That is our work for the day. We need to give your friend the richest, most candid insight into what it's like to live where you live, what values animate the place, for good or ill.

Individually, then in pairs, quartets and in groups, we will create a mosaic of stories that together portray what makes Philadelphia *Philadelphia*.

While your friend is talking, feel free to interrupt with questions to get inside the story your friend is telling. This is a good friend, one for whom you have deep affection and respect – almost like an older beloved aunt or uncle you haven't seen in a while.

When one person's story is done, switch roles - so that the first story-teller becomes the interviewer, and vice versa.

When you have both told your stories, review them a bit and answer the following question about each story:

What does this story (or these stories) say about the values and beliefs of the people and the place of the story.

**NOTE:** If adding a wrinkle to this portrait of your friend and family helps you make a point about what it's like to live here and why, feel free. Just don't completely change the core facts of the scenario.