Reinventing Our Communities

TRANSFORMING OUR ECONOMIES

Schuylkill Banks and Grays Ferry Crescent Tour
Welcome to Philadelphia!

Thank you for joining us on the Schuylkill Banks and Grays Ferry Crescent Tour, one of the many developments that have contributed to Philadelphia’s new moniker as an “urban oasis.” Schuylkill Banks is a riverfront greenway, part of the complete 60-mile Schuylkill River Trail that extends across southeastern Pennsylvania. Schuylkill Banks connects residents and businesses to recreational trails and activities, housing, other businesses, and amenities throughout the heart of the city.

We have an exciting agenda for you today. Tour speakers will highlight the development of Schuylkill Banks and its economic impact on surrounding businesses and neighborhoods, and will discuss the trail's inextricable link to anchor institution growth and development in Philadelphia. The tour will also visit Grays Ferry Crescent, a section of the trail that, when completed, will serve as a link for residents in this south Philadelphia neighborhood to opportunities throughout the city.

If you have any questions along the way, please don’t hesitate to ask. Thank you for your time and interest in the Schuylkill Banks and Grays Ferry Crescent Tour and the 2016 Reinventing Our Communities conference.

Your tour hosts,

Sydney Diavua and Eileen Divringi
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia
Schuylkill Banks and Grays Ferry Crescent Tour
September 21, 2016 | 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.–9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Participants board the bus at the Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Bus will depart promptly at 9:00 a.m. for the Center City portion of Schuylkill Banks</strong></td>
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<td>9:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Guided tour of the Center City portion of Schuylkill Banks</td>
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<td><em>Tour Guides</em>: Joseph Syrnick, President and Chief Executive Officer, Schuylkill River Development Corporation</td>
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<td>David Kanthor, Transportation Planner, Philadelphia City Planning Commission</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.–10:20 a.m.</td>
<td>Narrated driving tour of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia</td>
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<td><em>Tour Guide</em>: Sara Merriman, Senior Director, Business Attraction and Retention, Department of Commerce, City of Philadelphia</td>
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<td>The tour will transition from the Center City portion of Schuylkill Banks to Grays Ferry Crescent down Civic Center Boulevard and University Avenue, which house</td>
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two of the city’s hospital systems. You will hear about the influence of Schuylkill Banks’ development on the growth of these systems and the surrounding neighborhood.

As the bus crosses the river on 34th Street, we will pass the Pennovation Center. This recently opened center is a 58,000-square foot business incubator and laboratory. Participants will hear about the center’s development and connection to Grays Ferry Crescent.

10:20 a.m.–11:00 a.m.  Guided Tour of Grays Ferry Crescent

See the Grays Ferry Crescent portion of the Schuylkill River Trail, an access point to the river located in south Philadelphia. Guides will discuss the intentional shift of the trail construction to this location as a way to better connect the Forgotten Bottom neighborhood and provide access to the greenway for more residents. Participants will hear about current activity underway to connect Grays Ferry Crescent via a swing bridge to the neighborhood around Bartram’s Garden. Once completed, the trail will provide residents with a direct link to opportunities in Center City.

During this stop, participants will also hear about the recently constructed skate park and community activities (such as movie nights and festivals) that have attracted Philadelphians from all over the city to the neighborhood.

11:00 a.m.   Return to the Hilton Philadelphia at Penn’s Landing
Points of Interest

1. Schuylkill Banks
2. Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk
3. Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP)
4. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)
5. Pennovation Center
6. Grays Ferry Crescent Trail
7. Schuylkill Crossing at Grays Ferry (Swing Bridge)
8. Bartram's Mile
Speaker Biographies

**Sydney Diavua** joined the Community Development Studies & Education Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia in October 2014. In her role as community engagement associate, she organizes outreach meetings and represents the Reserve Bank with Third District stakeholders to promote community development in low- and moderate-income communities. Prior to joining the Philadelphia Fed, Diavua was a program officer at Innovations in Civic Participation, an international nonprofit that focused on advocacy, research, and leadership training in the areas of youth civic participation and national service. Previously, Diavua worked for the Aspen Institute Roundtable on Community Change as a program associate covering issues in comprehensive community change and racial equity. Diavua has a master’s degree in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and a bachelor’s degree in political science from Spelman College.

**Eileen Divringi** is a community development research analyst in the Community Development Studies & Education Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. Prior to joining the Philadelphia Fed, she completed a graduate degree program at the University of Pennsylvania, during which she interned with the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority and the Opportunity Finance Network.
Divringi has a master’s degree in city planning from the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor’s degree in political science and environmental studies from the University of Michigan.

**David Kanthor** has worked as the transportation planner for the Philadelphia City Planning Commission (PCPC) since joining the staff in 2015. At PCPC, Kanthor focuses on pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and vehicular transportation planning and implementation citywide. He serves as the chair of the city’s Trail Committee and works collaboratively with various city agencies to develop priorities for trail development. In this capacity, he also serves as the PCPC designee to the Parks and Recreation Commission. In 2016, PCPC won the National Planning Excellence Award for a Planning Agency from the American Planning Association. Kanthor has a master’s degree in community planning from the University of Maryland and a bachelor’s degree in growth and structure of cities from Haverford College.

**Sara Merriman** is senior director of Business Attraction and Retention for the City of Philadelphia’s Department of Commerce. She has more than 15 years of professional experience in economic development policymaking and implementation. She directs all activity supporting business attraction and retention for the City of Philadelphia, including client relations, incentive services, research, marketing, and communications. She leads a team of managers serving firms in life science, technology, manufacturing, and professional services, as well as internationally based firms across all sectors. Merriman is a resource and connector for all businesses seeking to locate
or grow in Philadelphia. Prior to her current role, she managed several operational and productivity initiatives for the Department of Commerce, including departmental performance management and the development of the Business Services Center, a web-based information portal for Philadelphia businesses. She is also vice chair of the Philadelphia Historical Commission and a member of the executive committee of the Philadelphia Sports Congress. Previously, Merriman managed waterfront revitalization, education, health, and public art initiatives as project director for the Schuylkill River Development Corporation.

Joseph Syrnick is president and chief executive officer of the Schuylkill River Development Corporation (SRDC), a lead agency for the redevelopment of the tidal Schuylkill River. In partnership with public and private agencies, institutions, and corporations, SRDC’s core mission is to revitalize and redevelop the lower Schuylkill River and reconnect it to the life and fabric of the city and region. Syrnick came to SRDC in 2005 after a 34-year career with the City of Philadelphia, where he had been chief engineer and surveyor since 1986. He also served 18 years as a commissioner of Fairmount Park. In early 2008, former Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter named Syrnick to the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, where he currently serves as vice chairman. Syrnick has an M.S.C.E. and a B.S.C.E from Drexel University, and is a registered professional engineer and professional land surveyor.
Philadelphia Trail Master Plan

The Philadelphia Trail Master Plan was released in 2013 and was the first of its kind in Philadelphia. The plan was recommended in the citywide vision, known as Philadelphia2035, and coordinates the planning and construction of trail systems. It inventories existing trails and details and prioritizes more than 60 proposed trail segments citywide. The goal of the plan is to communicate city priorities with one voice and document. The implementation of the plan is led by the Philadelphia Trail Committee, which includes representatives from the Planning Commission; Parks & Recreation; Office of Transportation & Infrastructure Systems; Streets, Commerce, and Water departments; and other agencies that impact trail development citywide.

The Philadelphia Trail Committee meets regularly for updates on trail activity citywide, to set city funding priorities for trail funding sources, and to guide the next steps of the Philadelphia Trail Master Plan.
Before and after photos of Schuylkill Banks
Before and after photos of Grays Ferry Crescent