

Write Your Block

- *Write Your Block* is a project developed by Poet Laureate Frank Sherlock which will give Philadelphians the opportunity to explore their neighborhoods through poetry. With support from the City of Philadelphia, people citywide will use poetry to map the personal landmarks, histories, traditions and experiences that help identify their communities. This is a unique chance to preserve your memories and connections to the city you live in— to shape the city as your own poem.

THE CITY REAL & IMAGINED



CAConrad & Frank Sherlock

The project is inspired by *The City Real and Imagined* (Heretical Texts/Factory School, 2010), a collaborative work from Sherlock and CAConrad. The two poets wandered the city, using poetry to map their path and articulate their interaction with urban space.

The purpose of *Write Your Block* is to give voice to the distinct Philadelphias we experience, not defined by architecture or physical landmarks alone, but activated and informed by our own lives & imaginations. Whether you are versed in verse, a street rhymer or have yet to write your first poem—every Philadelphian has stories & memories connected to a shared neighborhood experience just waiting to be documented.



Write Your Block encourages people of all ages to map out the immediate surroundings according to their own experiences. In neighborhoods all over Philadelphia, you will have the opportunity to share the city as you see it. The OACCE will be working with community partners to organize events during which neighborhoods can gather, wander, and reconvene to put their path and thoughts to paper. Are you unable to make it to the event in your area, but interested in participating? Do you want to participate on your own time with a group of friends? A toolkit will be available online for self-guided activities. Once you're done, share your poems with the rest of the *Write Your Block* community by posting online at creativephl.org/writeyourblock. Later in the year, we hope to host a series of readings and a printed collection of poems representing every Philadelphia neighborhood.