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Contact: Diane Gerace  
215.937.5402  
[diane.gerace@phl.org](mailto:diane.gerace@phl.org)

## PHL Unveils Youth Art Exhibit that Promotes Citizen Diplomacy

**PHILADELPHIA** — A new exhibit that celebrates citizen diplomacy features artwork created by young artists from throughout Philadelphia.

Located in Terminal A-East Baggage Claim and accessible to the public, the artwork depicts numerous historic landmarks that include the Benjamin Franklin Bridge—a suspension bridge that connects Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with Camden, New Jersey; and Eastern State Penitentiary—a 19<sup>th</sup>-century prison designed to create social change. The artwork also highlights points of pride like our beloved sports teams the Eagles and Flyers along with a variety of themes such as peace and equal rights.

The exhibition is presented in partnership with Citizen Diplomacy International of Philadelphia, an organization that fosters U.S. foreign relations and works to connect the region by welcoming international guests to promote the City's economy and its contributions to the world.

Citizen Diplomacy also works to foster relationships with cities internationally through its Sister Cities program by establishing long-lasting connections between the residents of each city. Philadelphia's Sister Cities are Florence, Italy (1964); Tel Aviv, Israel (1966); Torun, Poland (1976); Tianjin, China (1979); Incheon, Korea (1983); Douala, Cameroon (1986); Kobe, Japan (1986); Nizhny Novgorod, Russia (1992); Abruzzo, Italy (1997); Aix-en-Provence, France (1999); and Frankfurt, Germany (2015).

Philadelphia's Sister Cities program engaged young artists from several of the city's recreation centers-- Houston Playground, Torresdale Recreation Center, and Vare Recreation Center – as well as Portside Arts Center and Science Leadership Academy to visually express their passion for their city.

"It's wonderful to see young artists engaging in citizen diplomacy through our Sister Cities," said Airport CEO Chellie Cameron. "At PHL we pride ourselves in welcoming people of all ethnicities and backgrounds."

Special thanks to Philadelphia City Councilman Bobby Henon for providing art supplies in support of this project.

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Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$15.4 billion in spending annually and supporting more than 96,300 full-time jobs for the 11-county Philadelphia MSA.