

# CELEBRATE DOCK CREEK

For museum hours  
and program details:  
[www.APSMuseum.org](http://www.APSMuseum.org)

American  
Philosophical  
Society Museum  
104 South Fifth Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
215-440-3440  
[www.APSMuseum.org](http://www.APSMuseum.org)  
[museum@amphilsoc.org](mailto:museum@amphilsoc.org)

**"TANN, HORNS, & DEAD DOGS": Tales of Civic Effluvia**  
Performed by Nightjar Apothecary  
September 5, 6, 12, 13, 20, 21, 27

**Water Walk Weekend**  
September 20, 21

**National Public Lands Day**  
September 27

Celebrate Dock Creek offers a month of "Water Works" presented in conjunction with the APS Museum exhibition *UNDAUNTED: Five American Explorers, 1760-2007*. The celebration highlights the pioneering environmental work on North American waterways by Ruth Patrick, one of the exhibition's featured explorer-scientists. It also presents creative "water works" about Dock Creek by artist Winifred Lutz and performance artist Brett Keyser. Both are part of a multi-artist residency project titled *UNEXPECTED: Contemporary Artists at the APS Museum*.

*UNDAUNTED*, which also features David Rittenhouse, John James Audubon, Titian Ramsay Peale, and Elisha Kent Kane, runs through December 31, 2008. *UNEXPECTED* features projects by Winifred Lutz, Brett Keyser, and Roderick Coover.

#### American Philosophical Society (APS)

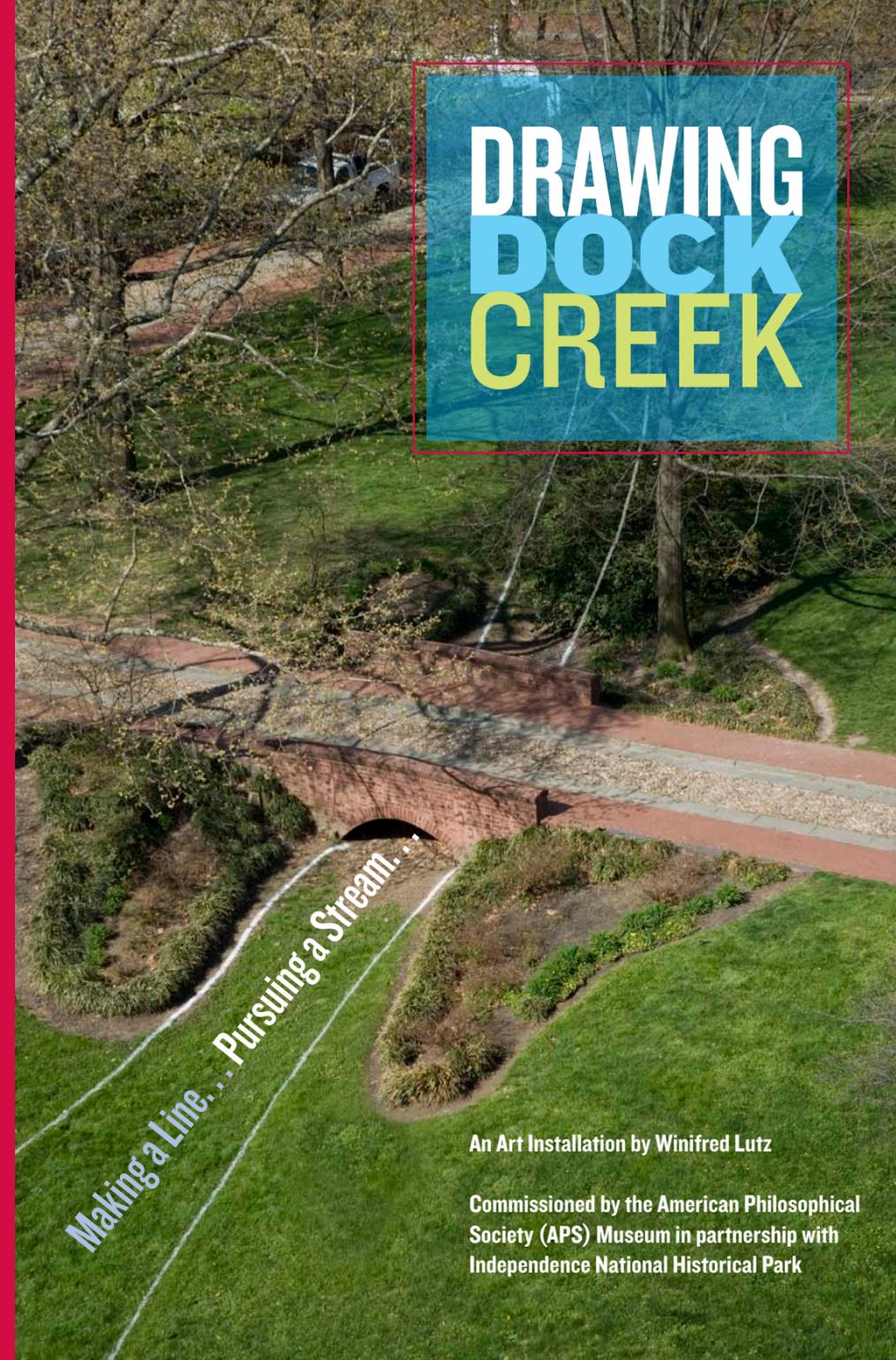
Ever Since Ben Franklin and his friends founded the American Philosophical Society in 1743, the APS has gathered and preserved rich library and museum collections that trace American history and science from the Founding Fathers to the computer age.

#### APS Museum

Founded in 2001, the APS Museum combines sophisticated exhibitions of its treasures with provocative works by contemporary artists, offering challenging new perspectives on history, art, and science.

*UNDAUNTED* is supported in part by Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Connelly Foundation, Pennsylvania Humanities Council, Evelyn Stefansson Nef Foundation, and Commerce Bank. *UNEXPECTED* is funded by Heritage Philadelphia Program, a program of Philadelphia Center for Arts and Heritage, with marketing support from Philadelphia Cultural Management Initiative. Both are funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and administered by University of the Arts.

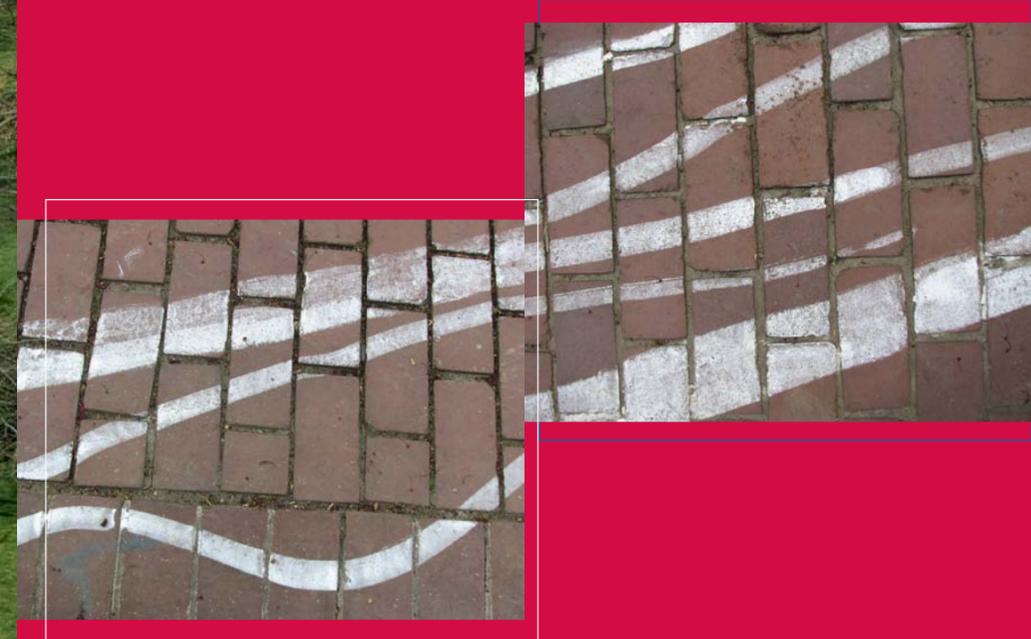
Credits: Benezet House and Blue Anchor Tavern and Inn, woodcuts, from John F. Watson, *Annals of Philadelphia*, 1830, APS; Philadelphia Merchants' Exchange, colored lithograph, ca. 1840, APS.



An Art Installation by Winifred Lutz

Commissioned by the American Philosophical  
Society (APS) Museum in partnership with  
Independence National Historical Park

# DRAWING DOCK CREEK



Follow the path of a creek buried long ago  
under the streets of colonial Philadelphia . . .

Discover the burgeoning city that grew up along its shores.



*Drawing Dock Creek* is a temporary contemporary art installation of tinted whitewash and lime markings that flow over grass, brick, cobble, and concrete. It traces the course of a once beautiful tidal stream that is now an underground sewer hidden from sight.

The APS Museum invites you to follow the artist's markings over a two-block area in Independence Park and then continue along what is now Dock Street.

In September 2008 more than 48,000 feet of vibrant blue elastic bands will be stretched across the swale of the dry creek bed, visible in the Park between Third and Fourth streets.

# HISTORY OF DOCK CREEK



When William Penn planned his “Greene Countrie Towne” between the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers, he laid out a grid of streets named for trees and dotted with verdant park squares. But a waterway called Dock Creek subverted his rectilinear plan, meandering northwest to southeast through what is now Independence National Historical Park.

By the early 1800s the creek had disappeared. It went from tidal stream, upon whose banks the most prosperous citizens of Philadelphia had built their homes, to industrial drain, polluted by tanneries, slaughterhouses, and breweries, to hidden waterway, buried underground.

The story of Dock Creek is a history lesson about the building of one of America’s first great cities—a cautionary tale about how unregulated development and environmental degradation turned a pristine waterway into a foul blight, ultimately causing the city to transform it into a subsurface sewer.

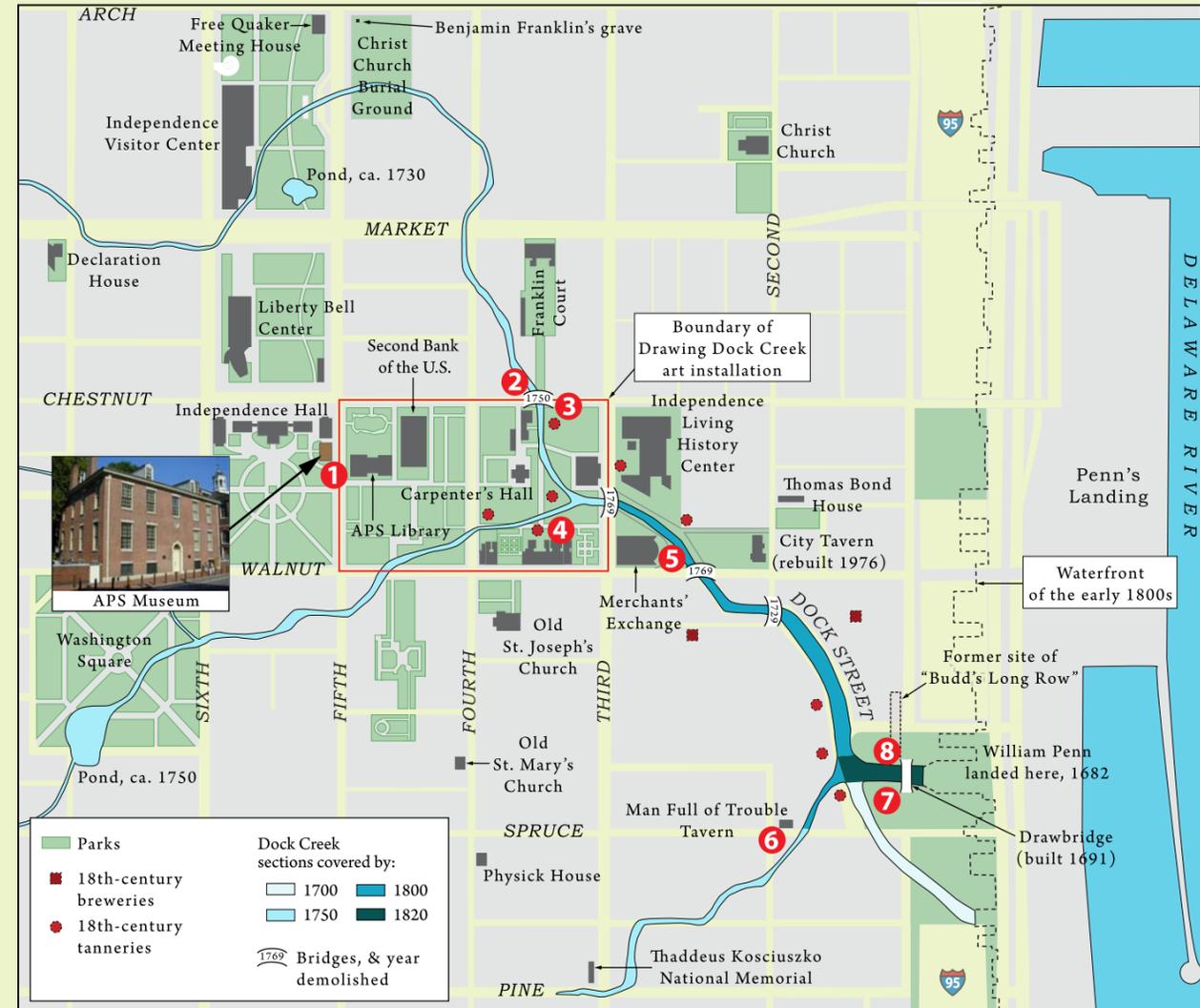
## About the Artist

Since 1975, Philadelphia-based artist Winifred Lutz has created major site-integrated sculptural installations and permanent public artworks in the United States and Europe. She is Laura H. Carnell Professor of Sculpture at Tyler School of Art of Temple University. The APS Museum commissioned Lutz to create *Drawing Dock Creek* in conjunction with its current exhibition, *UNDAUNTED: Five American Explorers, 1760–2007*.

# A TRICKLE BACK IN TIME

Walk downstream and backwards in time to arrive at the very place William Penn landed and founded his “Greene Countrie Towne.”

Leave from the APS Museum, find and follow the artist’s markings, and continue along Dock Street. Discover how a stream touched, and was touched by, the lives of the early settlers who lived here.



## Cooconocon

The wide basin of Dock Creek near the Delaware River was called “Cooconocon” (“Place of Pines”) by the Lenape Indians. This name, like the creek itself, was erased by colonial settlers. The Euro-American name of “Dock Creek” came from the use of the basin as a boat dock.

### 1 APS Museum, 104 South Fifth Street

Philosophical Hall, home of the American Philosophical Society (APS) Museum, was completed in 1789 on a site adjacent to the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall). Founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743 for “promoting useful knowledge,” the APS was the first academy of science in North America.

### 2 Benezet House

A large elegant home stood on the north side of Chestnut, to the west of Dock Creek (now Orianna Street). As late as the 1720s, visitors could boat to the front door. Quaker Anthony Benezet, who bought the home in the early 1700s, wrote influential abolitionist pamphlets and advocated free education for African-Americans.



### 3 Chestnut Street Bridge

Dock Creek formed a “deep vale” where it was crossed by Chestnut Street. As the bridge built here was not well maintained, residents petitioned the city to repair the dangerous crossing. The daughter of one John Raynalls drowned near the bridge.

### 4 Tanneries and Slaughterhouses

By 1739, at least eight tanneries dotted the shores of Dock Creek, dumping the byproducts of leather-making into the water. Hair, hooves, acids, and dyes clogged the stream along with waste from slaughterhouses, breweries, and homes. Townspeople blamed the stench for spreading disease. Although the city was slow to regulate dumping, it ultimately solved the problem between 1740 and 1820 by channeling the stream into a covered sewer and then paving it over.



### 5 Philadelphia Merchants' Exchange

This stunning building by William Strickland was completed in 1834. Adjacent to a curving cobblestone pavement that had covered Dock Creek sixty years earlier, its rounded portico still echoed the contour of the shoreline. This building quickly replaced the nearby City Tavern as the spot where elite merchants and businessmen traded or auctioned goods and real estate. Smaller deals were made outside in nearby peddlers' stalls and produce markets.

### 6 Man Full of Trouble Tavern

Man Full of Trouble is the only colonial tavern still standing in Philadelphia today. Unlike the more elite City Tavern (rebuilt in 1976 as a restaurant), Man Full of Trouble catered to a lower class clientele. Early on, it was one of many unlicensed “tippling houses” in the city and may have been called “Man with a Load of Mischief”—its sign showing a man carrying a woman on his shoulders.

### 7 Drawbridge

In the 1690s, a drawbridge was built over Dock Creek at Front Street, and the land along the street was redeveloped to create “Budd’s long row” of ten houses. The original wooden drawbridge was built for boats passing into the creek, but by 1750 a stone bridge had replaced it. By then the waterway was used more as a conduit for the drainage of waste flowing into the Delaware River than for the movement of goods into the city.

### 8 Blue Anchor Tavern and Inn

When William Penn first landed in Philadelphia, in 1682, the Blue Anchor Tavern stood on high ground farther to the north of Dock Creek. Later, as the city developed, the tavern moved closer to the creek and continued to serve customers until the early 1800s.

