

Monthly Newsletter

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Last month at SOSNA

Welcome to the new format of the SOSNA monthly newsletter!

May was a busy month at SOSNA. On May 21st, SOSNA hosted its annual **Plazapalooza Festival**, which was a huge success! Friends and neighbors came out to listen to live music, eat tasty bites, and the young kids had a blast with face paint, balloon art, and the famous kiddie train.

Thanks to our sponsors and volunteers for a great festival.

The **2023 Michelle Cutner Award winners** have been chosen and we are delighted to honor 5th graders **Luca Simpson** from Chester Arthur Elementary School, and **Caitlyn Flynn** from Stanton Elementary. Congratulations to both for being great



community stewards and going above and beyond for your classmates, teachers, and neighbors!

The first **SOSNA mini-grant** of the year will go to **Gustina House CDC** to help them restart their work in the area; they place a special emphasis on helping long-term residents, those in transitional living

situations, and single mothers.

SOSNA's Vision Zero Committee hosted a public meeting for the **Grays Ferry Gateway Project**. This project has been underway for over 10 years and we are currently in the fundraising & design negotiation phase – we are 1/3 of the way to our fundraising target!

Elections Steering Committee Kicks Off

The SOSNA Elections Steering Committee was announced at the 2022 SOSNA General Election and we are pleased to share that they have begun their work.

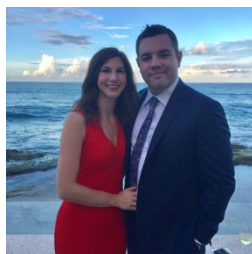
Over the next few months, this committee will research and propose best practices to reform SOSNA's annual General Election. A final proposal will be put before the Board of Directors for a

vote, after which the results will be shared with the community at our fall General Meeting.

We thank the dedicated volunteers who stepped forward to be on this committee and laud them for their civic engagement.

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

-Jane Goodall



Community Spotlight: Fridays on South

In 2022, as our society continued to reopen following the worst of the covid-19 pandemic, SOSNA saw that our businesses were struggling and asked ourselves how we, as a civic neighborhood association, could help.

SOSNA decided to partner with **Keepin' It Small** (KIS), a local small-business promotional firm, to

develop an ongoing series of events along **South Street** on Friday evenings throughout the year. These events came to be called "**Fridays on South**" and have been a rocking success so far!

First piloted in December 2022 along 3 blocks of South Street, these events now span Broad-23rd and feature **live music** on the street, **special deals** from

retailers who stay open late, and **drink specials** from participating bars.

SOSNA and KIS collect feedback from business owners, which has been overwhelmingly positive, and in fact, we are adding an event in July!

Follow us on Instagram to stay up to date about Fridays on South, @sosnaphilly

Community Member Spotlight

This month, we are highlighting 2 SOSNA Board of Directors members for the work they did to host this year's Plazapalooza Festival.

Stephen Rodriguez is chair of the SOSNA Triangles Committee and was 1st elected to the SOSNA Board in 2021. Since then, he has worked to bring improvements to the pedestrian Triangle space

at 23rd & South. In 2022 he piloted a new trash system for the Triangles, which has been fully adopted. Stephen also helped secure the funding for new furniture for the space, which was successfully installed in spring 2023.

Miz Fischer is a new Board member who was 1st elected in 2022. Since joining the Board, Miz has

brought incredibly energy and a boots-on-the-ground approach towards all her work for SOSNA. Miz worked tirelessly to secure the sponsors for Plazapalooza and organized the raffle, which was a huge hit (and we discovered just how much coffee folks drink!).

Have a community member you'd like to highlight? Email us with their name, photo, and why they should be highlighted, and we may feature them in a future issue!
hello@sosnaphilly.org

Media of the Moment

PODCAST: *Stay Tuned with Preet*, "It's The Parking, Stupid" with special guest Henry Gabar from Slate. Henry discusses how parking has shaped 20th century urban landscapes and how it continues to influence

modern urbanism debates. **Listen now:**
<https://cafe.com/stay-tuned/its-the-parking-stupid/>

MUSIC: We're loving **Batala**, the Philly drum line that plays Samba Reggae (Brazilian) & brings major

energy to any festival! Check them out on Instagram **@batalaphilly**

BOOKS: *Third & Indiana*, by Steven Lopez (Young adult & adult, fiction). Set in the Badlands of Philly, this novel follows the experience of several people connected to 14-year old Gabriel Santoro in a gang-controlled area of the city.

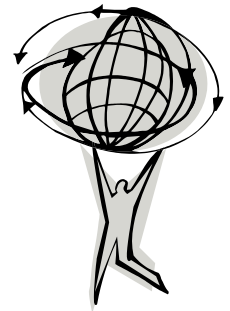
Resources

Tis' the season for summer break and the city is calling all youth aged 12-24 to join **Summer WorkReady!** To find out more call the hotline at 267-502-3900.

Fairmount Park is now accepting applications for its **summer camps**. To find out more and sign up today, visit rb.gy/lgpbs.

The **Wagner Science Museum** is now accepting **applications for group tours and summer camp tours**. This amazing museum is dedicated to bringing the joy and knowledge of science to everyone. To schedule a tour, contact Museum Educator Cristina Juarez at reservations@wagnerfreeinstitute.org.

Play Everywhere summer grants are open! Play Everywhere Philly is a city-wide collaborative challenge to create playful learning spaces that support child development and literacy skills in everyday locations across Philadelphia. Learn more and apply here: <https://kaboom.org/grants/play-everywhere-philly>.



Grant Opportunities

Comcast RISE Grants

Supporting small businesses by focusing on economic growth in local areas.

Deadline: June 30, 2023

Find out more here rb.gy/vukpc

Business Security Camera Program

Get assistance from this city program to fund security cameras for your business.

Rolling deadline.

Find out more here rb.gy/54f42

SOSNA Mini-grants

Have a community project or initiative that you want to fund? SOSNA gives out mini-grants up to \$1000 to help fund projects. Past projects include the garden at United Baptist Church and the mural & other renovations at the MARC pool.

Rolling deadline.

Apply here rb.gy/cv0tv

Volunteer Opportunities

SOSNA and The Deacon, on Christian Street, are working to organize a **neighborhood block clean-up** around the school. Follow us on Instagram to get the latest details! @sosnaphilly

We're Still Here is a new nonprofit dedicating to preserving the oral and written histories of Philly through the people that live here. We're Still Here is now **seeking participants to share their story in conversation**.

If you or someone you know is interested, please email Keisha Usher-Martin (SOSNA, vice chair) at keisha.ushermartin@gmail.com

Website:
<https://www.stillhereproject.org/>

"The ultimate measure of man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge."
-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**South of South
Neighborhood Association**
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Serving the Graduate Hospital
neighborhood since 1989.



We're on the Web!
www.sosnaphilly.org

SOSNA is 501c(3) neighborhood association and registered community organization (RCO) in the city of Philadelphia servicing the Graduate Hospital neighborhood. SOSNA has a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of 15 individuals from the community. Board members hold 3-year terms and public elections are held every October when all SOSNA members can vote.

SOSNA is sustained through generous donations from our community. ***Please consider making a tax-deductible donation today to support our work so we can continue to service you.***

[DONATE following the link or QR code below. Thank you for your support!](https://www.sosnaphilly.org/donate)

<https://www.sosnaphilly.org/donate>



Upcoming Events

Juneteenth Celebration with Young Chances Foundation

When: June 19, 2023,
11:30a-1:00pm

Where: Starbucks @
Lincoln Square (1002
Broad Street)

For a more complete list
of **Juneteenth** events in
Philly this year, we
suggest you check out the
Visit Philly guide here,
<http://tiny.cc/j8q7vz>.

SOSNA Zoning Committee monthly meeting

When: 3rd Wednesday of
the month, 7-8pm

Where: SOSNA Office,
1901 Washington Ave.,
Unit B (entrance on 19th)

SOSNA Economic Development Committee meeting

When: 1st Thursday of the
month, 6:30-7:30pm

Where: Zoom

Email Addie Johnston at
hello@sosnaphilly.org for
link

Movie in the Park (FREE)

Movie: *ENCANTO*

When: Friday June 23,
2023, 8-9:30pm

Where: Carpenter Green
Park, 17th & Carpenter
Streets

BYO blanket and snacks!

Movies in the Park @ Fairmount Park

All through the summer,
catch FREE family movies
at various parks through
the city.

Check out the schedule
here rb.gy/h64ck