

# File / Life: We Remember Stories from Pennhurst

## Know Before You Go

The Institute on Disabilities at Temple University and Thomas Jefferson University welcome you to **FILE/LIFE**. We hope the following information will help you plan your visit.



Helix Gallery, Thomas Jefferson University

## Location

Helix Gallery  
Thomas Jefferson University  
Center City Campus  
1001 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

## Admission

Free

## Event Dates and Hours

January 17 – April 13, 2024

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Select Saturdays:

January 20, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

February 17, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

March 16, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

April 13, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

### Viewer Advisory

FILE/LIFE includes potentially challenging content that references abuse, mental illness, ableism, racism, racist slurs, sexism, misogyny, homophobia, and heterosexism. The archival material includes historical language used to describe disability, race, and sexuality in ways that are offensive today. Though we recognize the difficulty of this language, it is included because it sheds light on the origins of stigma that has been experienced by people with disabilities, including those who identify as members of the BIPOC and/or LGBTQ+ communities.

**Photography and video recording are not permitted at this installation.**

## Accessibility

- FILE/LIFE is a space where all visitors are invited to "be as you are."
- Digital content can be accessed through touch screens, QR codes, and Braille.
- All original video content is open captioned, ASL interpreted, and audio described.
- File/Life offers free access to Aira descriptive technology. Aira is a mobile app that connects people who live with vision loss to professional Visual Interpreters who are available on demand, 24/7.
- Community Conversations are ASL interpreted, CART captioned and Audio Described (through Aira).
- Lubert Plaza, a green space located in front of the Dorrance H. Hamilton building, is our designated area for service animal relief.
- Fidgets are available on loan and are available at the information table located outside the Helix Gallery.

# Helix Gallery

## Main Entrance and Locust Street Doors

The Helix Gallery is in the Dorrance H. Hamilton building at Thomas Jefferson University. The main entrance to the Dorrance H. Hamilton building is fully accessible. The building's lobby features a security desk to the right, and a bank of elevators to the left. The Helix Gallery is located on the left side of the lobby, just around the corner from the elevators. Look for File/Life directional signage or ask a security guard to direct you.

The gallery doors facing Locust Street will be locked at all times. **The only entrance to File/Life is through the main entrance to the Dorrance H. Hamilton building.** This entrance is wheelchair accessible.



Helix gallery, which faces Locust Street is circled in red.

Main entrance to the Dorrance H. Hamilton building is circled in yellow.

Passersby are invited to interact with File/Life “prompts” by using their smart phones or tablets to access QR codes displayed in the Helix Gallery windows facing Locust Street.



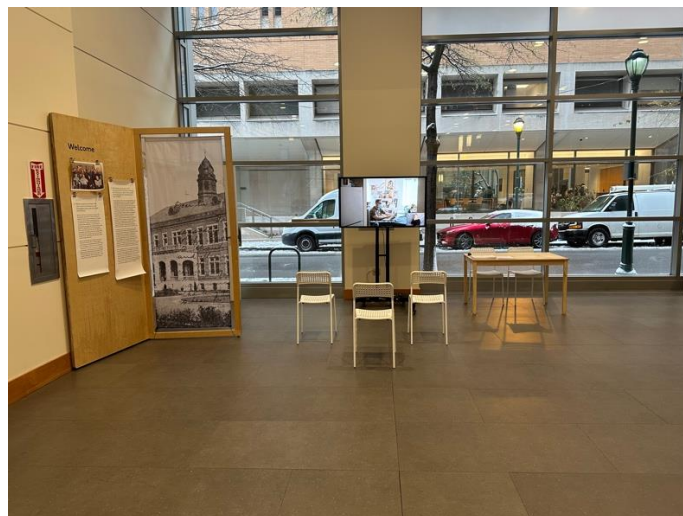
Helix Gallery, Locust Street doors. Not an entrance.

## Environment

FILE/LIFE is installed in two areas – the lobby of the Dorrance H. Hamilton Building and the Helix Gallery.

## Lobby

The lobby area outside the Helix gallery offers a general information/welcome table, a tall, multi-panel informational display, and a large video monitor with video playing on a continual loop. The video is captioned, ASL interpreted, and audio described (each video is also accessible through QR codes). Disposable headphone covers are available for visitors' use.



## Gallery

The Helix Gallery is intimate (300 square feet) and features an accessible ramp. Large portraits of people who lived at Pennhurst hang on the north wall of the gallery. All installation content can be accessed through three interactive display panels, mounted on stands throughout the space. The stands are set to various heights and are adjustable for ease of access.

- Touchscreens and headphones are used throughout the FILE/LIFE installation.
- Touchscreens will be sanitized daily, and disposable headphone covers are available.
- If you are using QR codes to access audio, or using the Aira app, we recommend that you bring your own headphones or earbuds. Disposable earbuds are also available but will not match the quality of your personal technology.



Interior of Helix Gallery

## The File/Life Experience

A general information table will be just outside the entrance to the Helix Gallery.

The materials provided include:

- A folded sheet of paper with QR codes. This sheet of paper contains both print and Braille.
- Braille books with installation content.
- File/Life perforated prompt cards. Each card lists several questions to consider as you experience the installation (these prompts are also available through our touch screens and through QR codes). You can use the perforation to separate the two sides of the card; the smaller side can be used as a bookmark.
- Survey (available in paper and digital formats).
- Fidgets
- Disposable headphone covers

File/Life tours are self-guided. At most times during the week, a staff member will be available to greet you and answer your questions. A staff member will always be present on Saturdays.

Our File/Life video will play in a continual loop in the lobby. The video is a compilation of six short videos, with an overall run time of one hour. The video is open captioned, ASL interpreted and Audio Described. Audio is available through headphones, though the video may also be accessed through QR codes.

The Helix Gallery is an intimate space. We recommend a maximum occupancy of six people. If the gallery is full when you arrive, you are welcome to spend time with the lobby display and the video. The lobby display includes a relaxed area for sitting and for conversation.

**Note: The lobby is a public space. Noise levels will vary.** Saturdays will likely be quieter than weekdays.

## Restrooms

Accessible restrooms are on the ground floor of the Dorrance H. Hamilton building, a short distance from the Helix Gallery. They are on the right-hand side of the hallway just beyond the File/Life lobby display. Visitors are welcome to use the restroom that most closely aligns with their gender identity or expression.



## Travel

### Public Transportation (train, bus, subway, and PATCO)

Visit [Moovit](#) for routes and schedules.

### Street Parking

Limited metered street parking is available. We recommend using one of the following parking apps:

- [MeterUp](#)
- [Parkmobile](#)

### Parking Lots

There are several parking lots and garages withing easy walking/rolling distance from the Helix Gallery:

- [Hamilton Garage](#) (self-park)  
11th Street between Locust and Walnut Streets on the right-hand side.  
Open: 7 days, 24 hours
- [Jefferson Garage](#)  
107 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street
- More detailed list of parking options: <https://www.jefferson.edu/about/locations/center-city/parking-at-jefferson.html>

### Local Attractions

The Helix Gallery is convenient to many of Philadelphia's historic sites (e.g., Independence Hall). You may also want to enjoy the many restaurants, cafes, and shops in Old City Philadelphia before or after your visit. Learn more at [Visit Philadelphia](#).

## File/Life Community Archivists and Collaborating Artists

- Jonathan Atencia

- David Bradley
- Harold Gordon
- Ramona Griffiths
- Cecilia Lee
- Jacob Lee
- Danielle Moore
- Frank Orr
- Bianny Perez
- Nicki Pombier
- María Teresa Rodríguez
- Margery Sly
- Lisa Sonneborn

## Jefferson Humanities & Health / Helix Gallery

- Megan Voeller, Director
- Marcie Mamura, Education Coordinator
- Kirsten Bowen, Program Coordinator



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