

FAQ's

For further questions feel free to contact project manager Kathryn Doherty at 215 427 0350 X 120 kdoherly@nkcdc.org

What is a kinetic sculpture derby?

A kinetic sculpture is a piece of art that contains moving parts. These parts are generally wind or human-powered. When engineered as a vehicle which can be piloted, these mobile pieces of art can be pitted against one another in a competition of speed, durability, and artistic ingenuity. Although kinetic sculptures were created in some shape or form by American and European artists throughout the early 20th century, the concept of racing these sculptures emerged in Ferndale, California in 1969. An artist named Hobart Brown made a few "artistic improvements" to his son's tricycle, and a friendly wager led to a race among weird sculptures. The concept of racing these sculptures has been spreading ever since. Here on the East Coast, the first annual Baltimore Kinetic Sculpture Race was held in 1999, and is hosted each year by the American Visionary Art Museum. Our Kinetic Sculpture Derby is based on Kinetic Sculpture Racing, but is NOT a race, rather a DESIGN COMPETITION and PARADE.

What were some of 2007's Kinetic Sculptures like?

We had 11 official entries and many other un-official sculptural additions. Sculptures ranged from a 6 person Alien space ship made from 2 bicycles welded together and a frame built around the bikes to accommodate a metallic "skin", the pilots were dressed in silver and colorful garb with green face paint to look like aliens, complete with antennae! Other sculptures were 2 folks dressed as pigs on a tandem bicycle decorated with balloons to look like they were flying, it was very cute! The only non-bike entry last year was a large pirate ship that required 3 people to drive it, 2 to crank the hand crank direct-drive gear and one to steer the ship, pilots were dressed as pirates with several crew members aboard throwing water balloons at the crowds. Simpler sculptures were bicycles with sculptures around them such as metal fish, a chair sculpture trailer. See the website for photos and inspiration.

Does my sculpture have to be a bike?

NO! Any human powered vehicle that meets the guidelines will work. Last year the largest sculpture had a hand crank direct-drive using a motorcycle chain which 2 people hand cranked and one person steered. Be as creative as you can get, as long as you are sort of safe and fit the guidelines posted on the website.

Who can participate?

Anyone. Any age.

How do I sign up?

You can download the registration form at www.kinetickensington.org and signup for our news.

Where do I get my Kinetic Sculpture parts?

Visit our Resources page on the website to find lists of good places to visit.

What if I want to start a team but don't know anyone interested?

First, contact the project manager to see if she can connect you with some people, second, attend the meet n greet where you can meet other like minded folks that need a team- date TBA; finally once you make new friends ditch your boring ones that wouldn't make a kinetic sculpture with you!

What's the inspiration behind Philadelphia's first ever Kensington Kinetic Sculpture Derby?

Sculptures aren't the only things on parade today. Celebrating art and human-powered transit, this event was conceived as an economic development initiative to promote some of our local businesses and parade people by the diversity of the neighborhood's arts related craft and handmade, and sustainable, green businesses - our local businesses on parade!

How do I Sponsor?

If you want to be a fiscal sponsor- please download the form on the website's sponsor page or contact Sponsor Manager- Sarah Corlett at 215 427 0350 x 111 scorlett@nkcdc.org . If you would like to donate prizes such as gift certificates or related products from your business, also contact Sarah Corlett to discuss specifically what we are looking for.

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How do I win prizes?

There are five prizes for the winners and for others too! The *Art Award* will be judged upon consideration of colors, costumes, 2 and 3 dimensional art, kinetic motion, humor, theatrical appeal, and mass crowd appeal. *Best Costume* - well, you get the idea! The *Rusty Dinosaur* award goes to the sculpture that breaks down first. The *People's Choice Award* gives spectators a chance to vote at the finish.

The Engineering Award includes consideration of ingenious conquering of course obstacles through sculpture design as well as any ingenious facet of the design that functions in a truly unique or glorious manner. Finally, the *Second to Last Award* - the sculpture who makes it across the finish second to last!

Who is NKCDC?

New Kensington Community Development Corporation (NKCDC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to revitalizing the East Kensington, Fishtown, and Port Richmond neighborhoods in Philadelphia. Every year, NKCDC serves more than 10,000 low- and moderate- income families. Since 1985, we have been working with local residents and businesses, the city, and other partners to enhance the physical environment, increase the economic vitality, and improve the quality of life for residents in this area. While strategies have shifted over the more than twenty years we've been addressing these issues, today, NKCDC has developed into a community development corporation with a multi-faceted approach. NKCDC accomplishes its mission through 5 program areas:

The Economic Development program seeks to further local business development in order to create jobs and community wealth.

The Real Estate Development program brings life to abandoned buildings and creates affordable housing opportunities.

The Community Organizing team works to help residents voice concerns to city & state government and facilitates community meetings to provide information and address problems.

Land Use Management works to stabilize vacant land through the creation of clean and green open spaces, volunteer greening projects and tree plantings, a community garden center and the maintenance of some of the over 1100 vacant lots.

Housing Counseling expands homeownership opportunities and facilitates assistance for low- and moderate-income families. Current concerns being addressed are foreclosure, financial literacy and increasing tax and energy costs.