

ENGLISH



Philadelphia's
**MAGIC
GARDENS**



1020 South St. Philadelphia, PA 19147
phillymagicgardens.org

HOURS

Wednesday - Monday
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays

Tickets are limited, purchase online

GENERAL ADMISSION

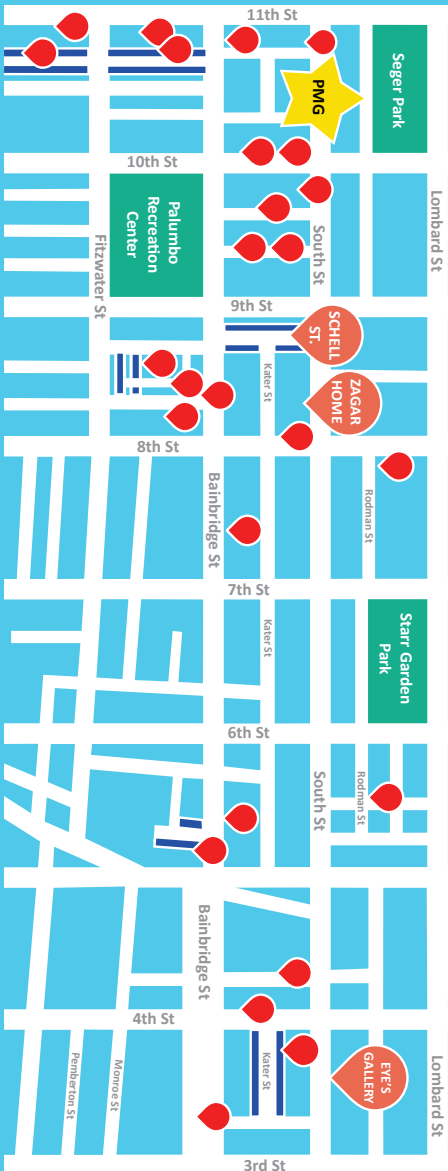
Members	FREE
Adults	\$15
Students (with ID)	\$12
Seniors (65+)	\$12
Children ages 6 - 12	\$8
Children ages 5 and under	FREE

Check our website for tours, events, workshops, and more!

EXPLORE MORE ART IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

PMG creator Isaiah Zagar has more than 200 public murals throughout Philadelphia. Use this map to explore nearby works.

Scan the QR code to see the full map of Zagar murals.



Philadelphia's Magic Gardens, the largest Zagar installation open to the public (1020 South St.)

 Fully mosaicked alley with significant murals from 1996-2020

 Isaiah & Julia Zagar's home since 1985 (826 South St.)

 Julia Zagar's folk art store (327 South St.)

 Public Mural

 Alley of Murals



ABOUT PMG

Philadelphia's Magic Gardens (PMG) is an immersive mixed media art environment that is completely covered with mosaics. The creator, Isaiah Zagar, used handmade tiles, bottles, bicycle wheels, mirror, and international folk art to chronicle his life and influences. The space is made up of two indoor galleries and a bi-level outdoor sculpture garden.

As a nonprofit museum, PMG celebrates art in its many forms through community outreach, public programs, hands-on activities, exhibitions, and tours. We welcome everyone to explore the space and embrace the possibility of self-expression.

ABOUT ISAIAH ZAGAR

Isaiah Zagar (born 1939) is the creator of PMG, several other fully-mosaicked sites, and more than 200 public mosaic murals throughout Philadelphia and the world. Born in Philadelphia and raised in Brooklyn, he received his B.F.A. from the Pratt Institute of Art. At 19 years old, Isaiah discovered the sprawling art environment of Clarence Schmidt in Woodstock, New York. This shaped his ideas of what art could be and started a lifelong interest in total works of art and their creators.

In the 1960s, Isaiah and his wife Julia (born 1940) worked with local artists as Peace Corps volunteers in Peru. Afterwards they settled on South Street in Philadelphia, where Isaiah experienced a mental health crisis that prompted his first experiments with mosaics. He used his art as therapy and started to create his own art environment. At the same time the Zagars opened the Eye's Gallery. The store featured Latin American folk art collected from their travels. Julia continues to run the business today.

In the 1970s the Zagars joined other activists and artists to protest the construction of a highway through their neighborhood. This ushered in a period of revitalization called the South Street Renaissance. Over the next 50 years Isaiah continued to mosaic more spaces. He fully embellished his current home (826 South St.), several studio spaces and rental properties, and nearby public walls. Isaiah no longer works independently on mosaics, but he does occasionally collaborate with PMG's preservation team to create new work.

HISTORY OF PMG

In 1991, Isaiah started working on the vacant lots located near his studio at 1020 South St. He first mosaicked the buildings on either side of the property, then spent years sculpting multi-layer walls out of found objects.

In 2004, the owner of the lots discovered Isaiah's installation and decided to sell the land, calling for the work to be dismantled. Unwilling to witness the destruction, the community rushed to support the artist and his creation. Newly titled Philadelphia's Magic Gardens, the site became a nonprofit organization with the intention of preserving the artwork at PMG and throughout the South Street region.



PMG has over 20 staff members who support the programs that happen year-round on site and in the community. Feel free to ask questions or reach out for more information.

CONTACT US

(215) 733-0390 / info@phillymagicgardens.org

ACCESSIBILITY

Much of PMG is wheelchair accessible, although some areas can only be accessed by stairs. View "Visit > Accessibility" on our website for details.

PRESERVATION

PMG's preservation team works hard to keep the space beautiful and safe for you. They do everything from small repairs and cleaning to large scale structural reinforcements. The team works closely with Isaiah to ensure the artwork at PMG will never stray from his vision. You can help them by not touching the art during your visit.

SUPPORT

PMG is visited by more than 100,000 people annually. Your support and respect for the artwork helps us to maintain the character of the space so it can be enjoyed by visitors for years to come. Other ways to support PMG include:

BECOME A MEMBER to receive free admission, discounts, and more all year long!

DONATE TO PMG: The Preservation Fund supports mosaic preservation work on site and around Philadelphia; the Julia Zagar Residency for Women Artists creates opportunities for women artists from around the world.

