



*The ARAMARK Tower
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Mayor Street, officials and students preview The Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center

Philadelphia, Oct. 28 — Mayor John F. Street, public officials and enthusiastic elementary school students today enjoyed a special preview of the new Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center. Today's events marked the first day of a two-day celebration of the Center's opening.

"Everything about the Interpretive Center has the look of a world-class undertaking," Mayor Street said. He specifically noted "the bold thought and audacious creativity" that went into the design of the Center's exhibits.

Mayor Street also acclaimed the contributions of city workers, volunteers and donors in bringing the city a new tourist attraction and educational institution.

"We cannot discount the Center's all-important mission of education. Ultimately, our goal is to inspire. One way we will measure the Center's success will be the number of children who experience the Center and go on to careers in science, engineering and technology," he said.

The Mayor received a proclamation from Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell naming Oct. 26 to Nov. 1 "Water in Our World Week" throughout the state. Joseph Certaine, director of the Governor's regional office and Philadelphia's former managing director, presented the proclamation on behalf of Gov. Rendell.

"'Water in Our World' is also the theme that unifies the Center's exhibits and lessons," said Mayor Street. "We are all responsible for the health of our rivers."

Mayor Street then joined more than 30 fourth-grade students from St. Malachay's School. Together, they explored the Center's many conventional and high-tech interactive exhibits. The "Pollutionopolis" sculptural installation was a particular favorite.

"Our Interpretive Center has something of every age and every interest," the Mayor said.

The Interpretive Center is housed within the Fairmount Water Works, a complex of graceful neo-classical buildings on the banks of the Schuylkill River. The Center will offer the visitor a variety of experiences through mechanical and computer interactive exhibits, programs in a classroom and water laboratory, and the opportunity to experience the Schuylkill River from the river balconies and riverbank esplanade.

The Center will also feature historical information about the Fairmount Water Works.

The center will be able to accommodate 100,000 visitors yearly and will be completely ADA accessible.

The Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center is a project of the Philadelphia Water Department.

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