About the Fairmount Water Works

The Fairmount Water Works housed the sole water pumping station for the City of Philadelphia from 1815 -1909. Since opening its doors in 2003 as an environmental education center and the public classroom of Philadelphia Water, the site has served as a destination for more than 520,000 visitors, and is dedicated to fostering stewardship of shared water resources by encouraging informed decisions about the use of land and water.

The mission of Fairmount Water Works is to foster stewardship of our shared resources by encouraging informed decisions about the use of land and water. We educate citizens about Philadelphia’s urban watershed, its past, present and future, and collaborate with partners to instill an appreciation for the connections between daily life and the natural environment.

What makes the Fairmount Water Works unique among environmental centers is its location at the river’s edge and in the center of the fifth largest city in the nation.

Our Site

Conveniently accessible from Kelly Drive, Route 76, Interstate 95, and Center City, Fairmount Water Works is situated on the east bank of the Schuylkill River between historic Boat House Row and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Popular among tourists and residents alike, the facility’s neoclassical exterior offers a serene and picturesque view of the Schuylkill River: the perfect backdrop for an event. Our indoor space offers a truly unique way to host your next event. While our facility does not lend itself to events with a dance floor or sit-down dining, we can accommodate networking/social receptions, lectures, seminars, exhibits, fundraisers – even photo shoots.
Media Room
(400 square feet) • Capacity 35-40
Laboratory
(500 square feet) ● Capacity 25-30
Lobby
(1,200 square feet) ● Capacity 60-70
Additional Information

Whether you are planning a cocktail reception, corporate meeting, fundraiser, or something unique, the Fairmount Water Works’ facility is a great fit.

Our rental fees are all-inclusive, so any service, furniture, or technology we offer is available at no extra cost. And with no required caterers, you can control costs or go all-out with your favorite chef. Base rates are for up to 4 hours of us, plus an hour before and after your event for setup and breakdown. Rentals lasting for more than 4 hours are charged additional time by the hour. Discounted fees for non-profit organizations are available.

Considerations

- **Insurance**: Renter must sign a facility rental agreement, and submit a Certificate of Liability which covers the duration of the event and specifically names the Fairmount Water Works and the renter.

- **Sale of Alcohol**: Fairmount Water Works does not possess a liquor license, and as a result, there can be no sale of alcoholic beverages in the venue.

- **Liability**: Fairmount Water Works is NOT liable for injuries sustained as a result of neglect, unlawful and/or unsafe actions on the part of the renter or their guests.

Amenities (subject to availability)

- No Required Caterers
- Wi-Fi
- 70” Monitor for presentations with DVD player (MAC/PC compatible)
- Lectern
- 6’ Tables
- 100+ stackable chairs

For more information about facility rental, or to schedule a site visit, complete an [online facility request form](#), and you should receive a response to your request within two business days.
FAQ

What is the rental fee? Between $200 - $1800, depending on the space used, day of the week, and time. Fees for non-profit organizations and groups affiliated with Fairmount Water Works may be discounted.

What is included with the rental fee? A/V, free Wi-Fi, use of chairs and tables (long and hi-top round), use of lab for catering. You are more than welcome to provide your own table covers, flowers, balloons, banners, etc., and our staff can arrange them for you.

Do you have an exclusive caterer? No, but we'll gladly provide a list of suggested caterers.

How do we arrange alcohol at Fairmount Water Works? Arrangements for alcohol are made through the catering service you choose, not by Fairmount Water Works.

Is music allowed? Yes! We’ve had quite a few live performances at our site.

Where do my guests park? Two-hour parking is available along Water Works Drive.

Is the facility indoor only, outdoor only, or both? Indoor (and outdoor with proper permits).

Is your facility handicapped accessible? Yes.

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