



A DAY OF TACTILITY

A P R O P O S A L B Y
T E S S A H A A S

A full-day programming
event to inaugurate
regular, accessible
programming for visitors
with & without
disabilities.

PAFA
Pennsylvania Academy
of the Fine Arts



Art museums and institutions allow visitors to look at art, read about it, and learn. These are the three expectations that most visitors have entering a museum space. These expectations shift for visitors who are blind and visually-impaired, but they do not disappear. While PAFA currently offers special accessibility tours, they are on a request-only basis. Visitors needing accessibility must call ahead to plan their visit. In an effort to begin creating a more inclusive and accessible experience for visitors, A Day of Tactility will invite visitors who have previously felt excluded from arts institutions to PAFA.

As of 2015, Pennsylvania is the fifth state with the highest percentage of blind residents. I believe there is a cultural imperative to create a more inclusive, accessible, and equitable museum experience, and I believe that an historical, prestigious institution like PAFA could pave the way for other Philadelphia institutions to create more accessible programming.

I am proposing a full-day programming event to inaugurate regular, accessible programming for visitors with & without disabilities. This event will take place in conjunction with SWARM., allowing visitors to experience the exhibition regardless of disability. Didier William and Nestor Armando Gil, the two artists whose work is featured in SWARM., use materials that are tactile in nature - bread, grass, cement, wood. Asking the two artists to provide material samples, older works that can be interacted with tactilely, and statements in braille will allow visually-impaired and blind visitors to interact with, read, and learn about SWARM.

10 a.m.: Opening Remarks (Katie Samson & Carmen Papalia)

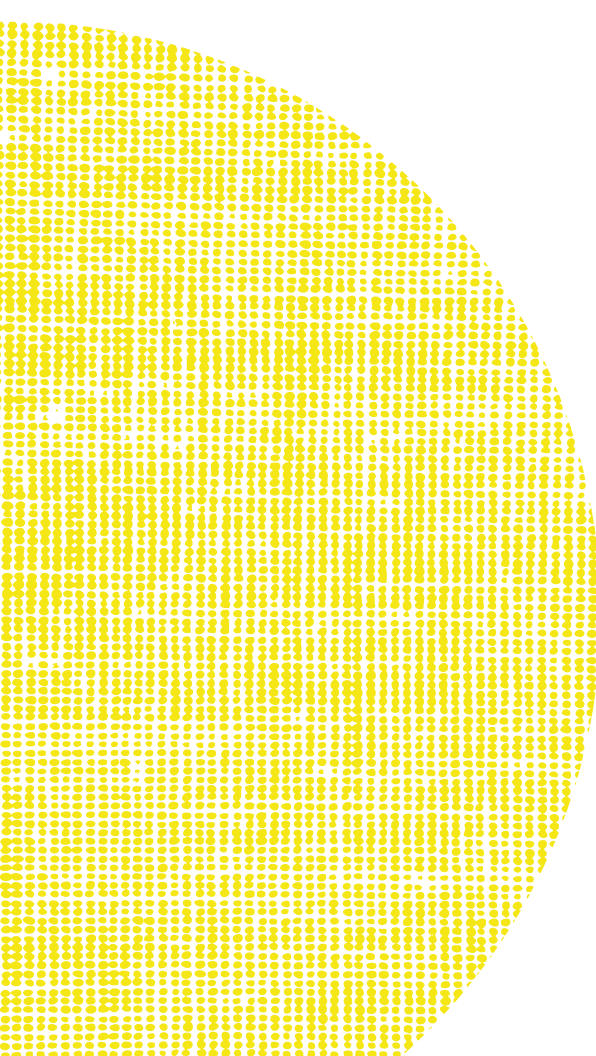
11 a.m.: Tactile Tour of Swarm.

12 p.m.: Break for Lunch

1:30 p.m.: Guided Walk through SWARM. from Fisher Brooks Gallery to Morris Gallery with Carmen Papalia.

3 p.m.: Materiality & Accessibility in the Museum: a conversation with Carmen Papalia, Didier William, and Nestor Armando Gil.

3:45 p.m.: Closing Remarks (Brooke Davis Anderson & Tessa Haas)



Long-Term Goals

Monthly Tactility Tables -

allowing visitors to interact with materiality used in current exhibitions.

Accessibility Interns -

implementing a program that allows disabled folks a short-term employment at PAFA to gain experience working in an arts institution before securing a long-term job