

EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

**Building Trust with Authentic, Creative Community
Engagement Strategies**

Maura Jarvis

Program Manager for Equitable Infrastructure
US Water Alliance

The US Water Alliance is a national membership organization that advances policies and programs to secure a sustainable One Water future for all.

A photograph of three people sitting around a table in a meeting, with the word 'EDUCATE.' overlaid in white text.

EDUCATE.

We educate the nation on the true value of water and engage an expanding base of One Water champions through mutual discovery, learning, and communications.

A photograph showing a close-up of a water filter and a circular component, with the word 'INITIATE.' overlaid in white text.

INITIATE.

We initiate new approaches and solutions to our most pressing water challenges, leveraging powerful partnerships, authentic engagement, and cultural strategies to advance One Water.

A photograph of hands writing on a notepad with a pen, with the word 'ACCELERATE.' overlaid in white text.

ACCELERATE.

We accelerate the adoption and scaling of the mindset, practices, and policies behind the One Water approach to advance a better quality of life for all.

A photograph of two people standing at a podium during a presentation, with the word 'CELEBRATE.' overlaid in white text.

CELEBRATE.

We celebrate what works to advance the One Water movement and solutions to inspire and spread innovation in water system transformation.

ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER

What skills make us suited to do this work?



WHY IS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CRUCIAL TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

TO UNDERSTAND



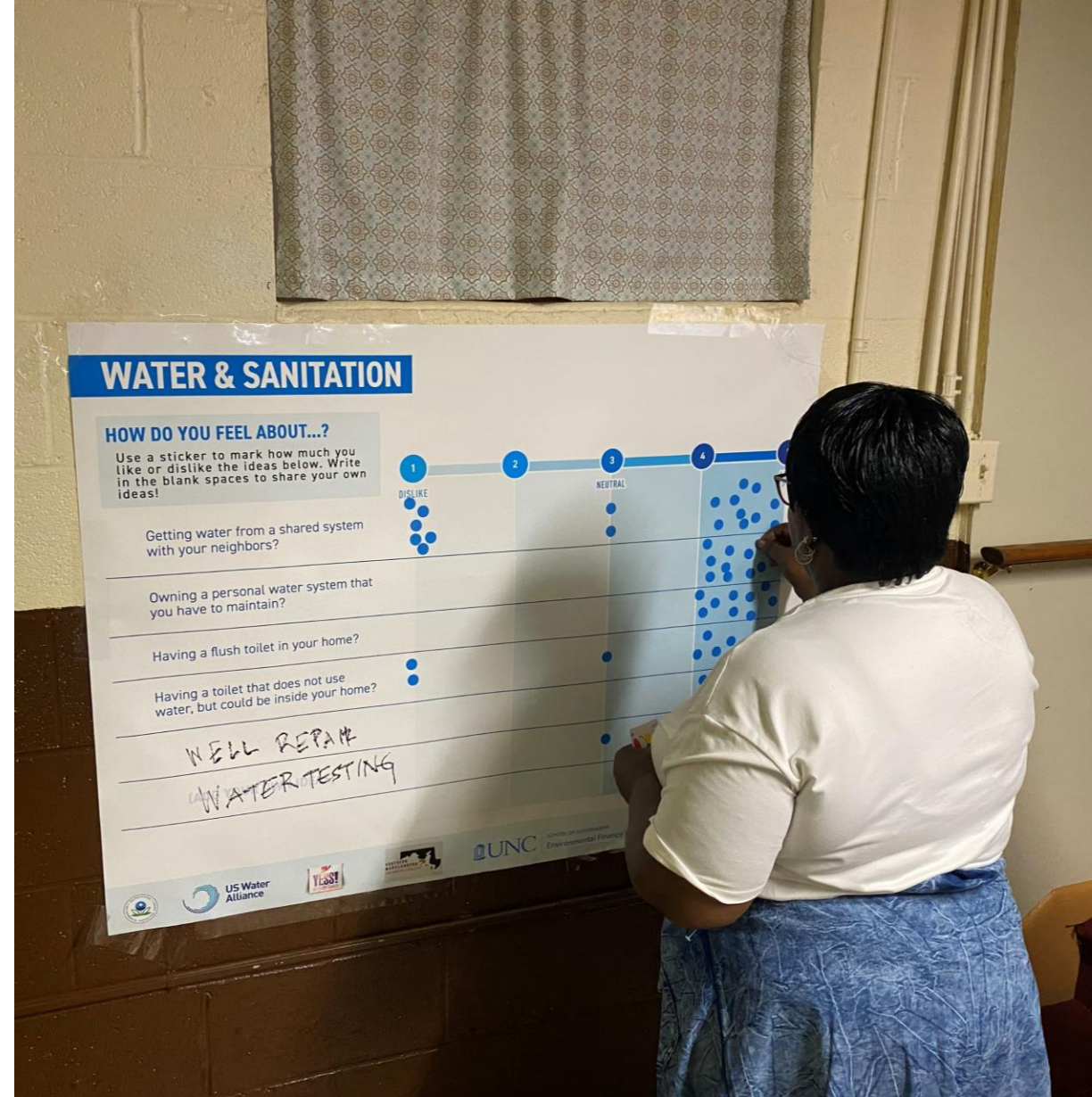
TO IMPROVE EQUITY



TO BUILD TRUST

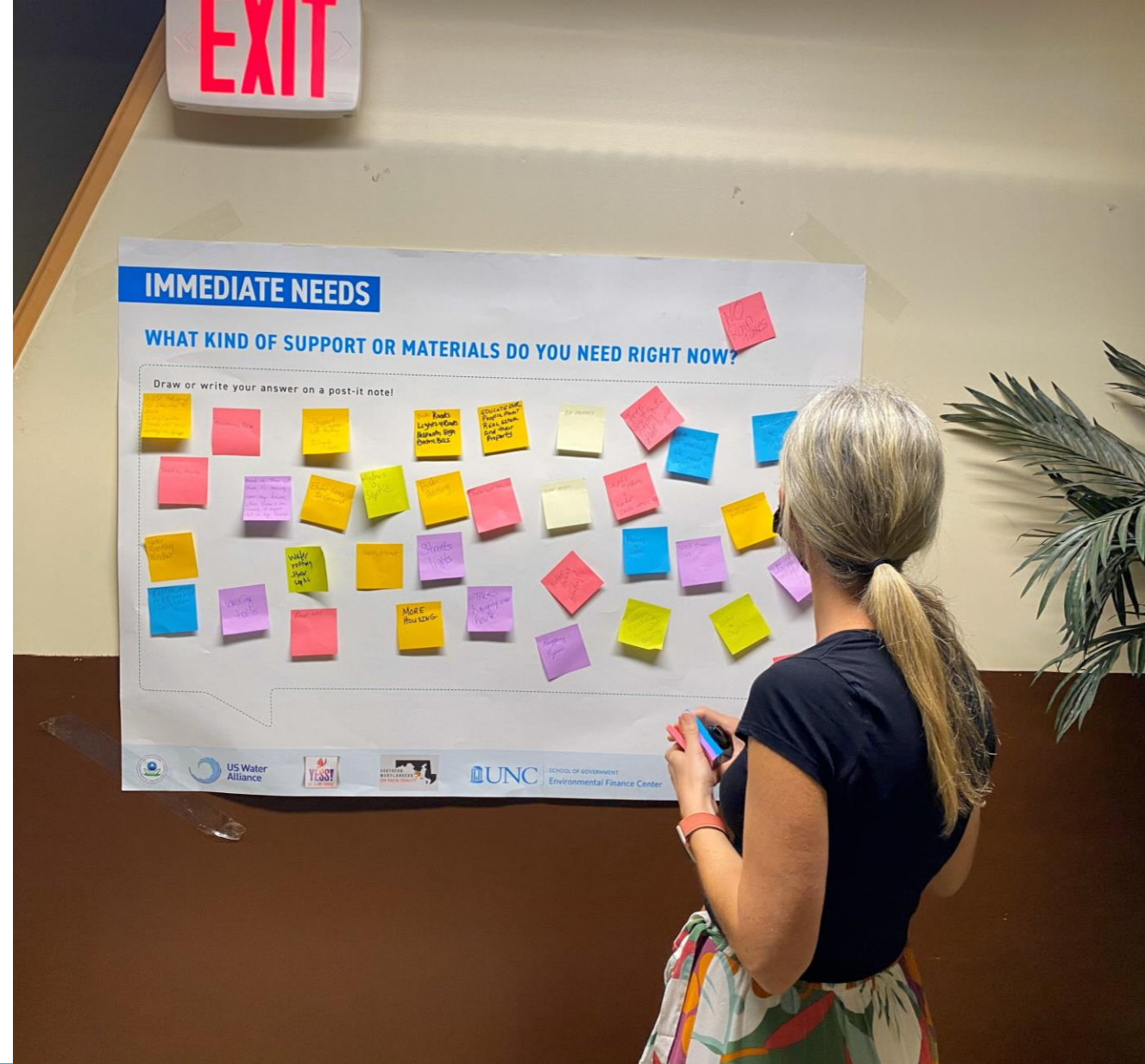


TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES



WHAT IS REQUIRED TO DO THIS WORK?

EMPATHY, AWARENESS & ACTIVE LISTENING.



START WITH THE BUILDING BLOCKS.



UTILIZE THE CORRECT TOOLS.



An aerial photograph of the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. The river flows from the bottom left towards the right, with a dam visible in the lower center creating white rapids. On the left bank, there is a large, light-colored stone building with a classical facade, surrounded by green trees and a grassy area. In the background, the Philadelphia skyline is visible under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The text "EQUITABLE ENGAGEMENT IN PRACTICE" is overlaid in large, bold, white capital letters on the left side of the image.

EQUITABLE ENGAGEMENT IN PRACTICE

PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT

INTEGRATED UTILITY SERVICES



Green City, Clean Waters



Philly
WATER
Bar



Drink
Philly
Tap



Informe sobre la calidad del agua potable del 20

¿Sabes por qué amamos el AGUA? FILADEL

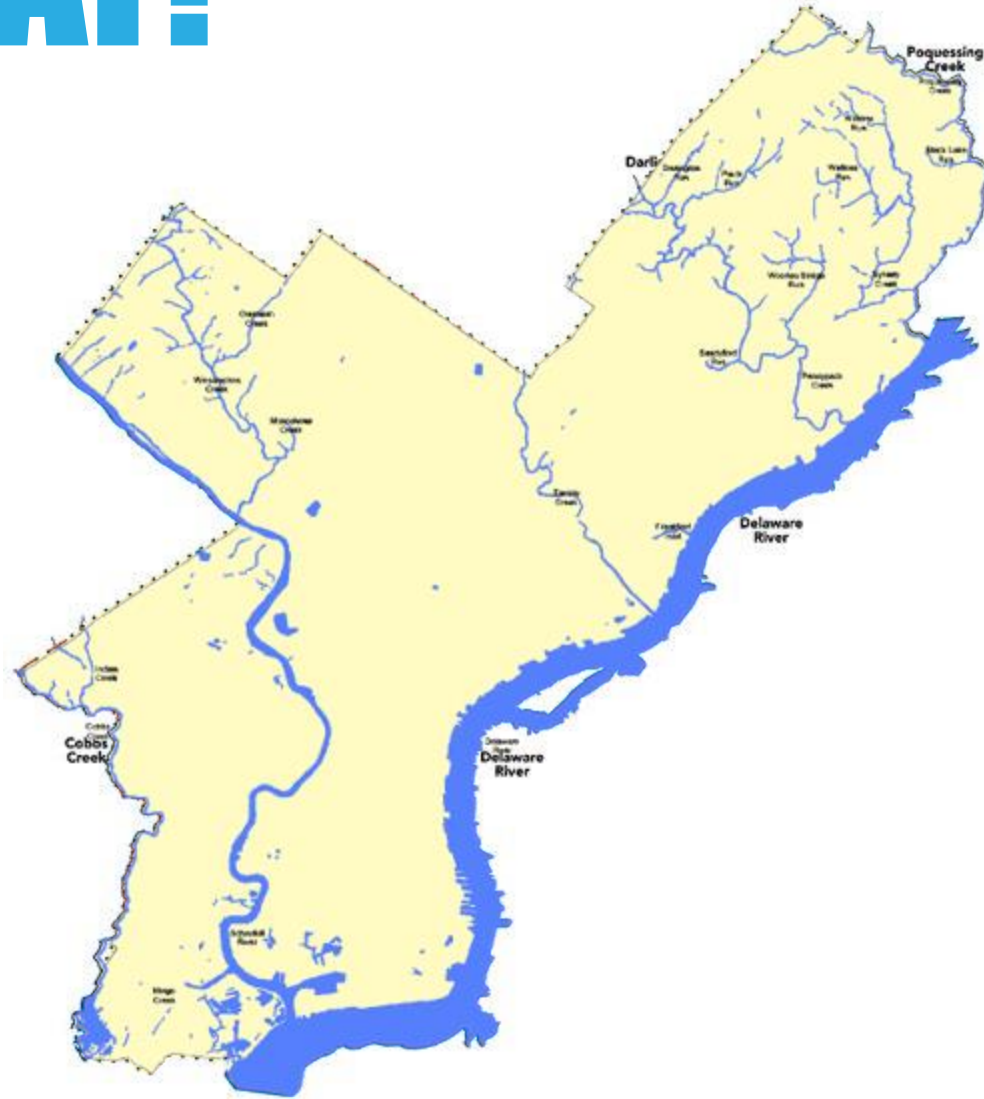
PHILADELPHIA WATER

Celebrating drinking high-quality water. Wherever you are, there's a water tap nearby. Celebrating drinking high-quality water. Wherever you are, there's a water tap nearby. Celebrating drinking high-quality water. Wherever you are, there's a water tap nearby.



WINGO... WHAT?

PHILADELPHIA'S WATER HISTORY



FROM CREEK TO SEWER





Germantown Flooding Video (3)





PROCESS + PRACTICE

Our stories flow into one another.

Wingo- WHAT? Germantown Poetry & Water Workshops



water history arts activation transformation



Bought a house in Mt. Airy, to keep
me high and dry
Yes, bought a house in Mt. Airy, to
keep me high and dry
But climate is changing,
Rain keeps on raining,
And this mount just ain't that high.

Peter



Community poems

Devastating losses of memories arise!
Photos, school work and artifacts
Water poured from the walls
in the rear of the basement
like a lake
Wedding photos from '89
Memories taken away

*— Melissa Teller-Putman,
Joseph E. Coleman
Northwest Regional Library
November 2021*

Brooked river
Taking on rain
all night
You know the
flood is coming
No stopping
the river's might

*— Workshop participant,
Aubury Arboretum
August 2021*

PHILADELPHIA WATER
Wingo WHAT?
water.phila.gov/wingo-what

Wingohocking
by Trapeta B. Mayson

1 Beneath this ground
Deep into the sod
Under the concrete and hum of our great city
Is a creek that holds our past and
flows into a turbulent present
Reminding us to take tender care
To steward, to protect this place
Lenape land, sacred — crooked water
Wingohocking
Favorite place for planting ourselves
Until it tires of holding our debris and residue
Then overflows
And announces itself in our lives

PHILADELPHIA WATER
Wingo WHAT?
water.phila.gov/wingo-what

Water • History • Arts Activation • Transformation

You're standing where the Wingohocking Creek once flowed!

These verses were written by Germantown residents with poet Trapeta B. Mayson.

Using the power of poetry, these words are intended to serve as a source of healing for residents impacted by local infrastructure flooding.

What can rain reveal?
Look for words that will appear near the poems when it rains.
These words are powered by rain-activated art!

water.phila.gov/wingo-what

Community poems

When it rained again,
she asked to leave
When it rained again,
she asked to leave
At 6 years old, who wants to clean?
The basement flooded,
how much water is there?
We took off work, squeegee and
wet vac in hand
Hope the water didn't ruin the dolls
We're the games and blocks safe
Or floating along?

*— Alisa Kamis-Brinda,
Joseph E. Coleman
Northwest Regional Library
September 2021*

Water
Warm, soothing
Movement Flow
Weightless
Force, insistent,
white noise
Life

*— Jill Sauls,
Haines Street &
Crittenden Street
October 2021*

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Thank you!

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