the resource exchange is a nonprofit reuse center dedicated to promoting creative reuse, recycling, and resource conservation by diverting valuable materials from the waste stream and redirecting them to artists, builders, educators, and the general public.
On behalf of the The Resource Exchange Board of Directors and staff, I am proud to present our first annual report. Over 3 years of focused effort by our board, staff, and committed volunteers, combined with invaluable support from our donors, strategic partners, and the community, has finally resulted in making a creative reuse center for the Philadelphia region a reality. Our mission is a unique intersection of creative, environmental, and social goals, and transforming the creation of waste into creative reuse informs everything that we do. The results highlighted in this report demonstrate that we have just begun to realize our full potential.

2012 was a pivotal year for The Resource Exchange. Working as a 100% volunteer organization since 2009, we received our first grant in the latter half of 2011, enabling us to start 2012 in a new, open-to-the-public location. By year’s end, we had also created 3 new staff positions, resulting in a newly energized organization well positioned to increase our program successes in the future.

Along with celebrating this year’s accomplishments, we owe our deepest gratitude to all of our supporters. Your continued involvement and support makes what we do possible, and enables us to look forward to finding new ways to promote our mission in the coming year.

Karyn Gerred
Executive Director
Beyond keeping tons of low cost reusable materials in the creative economy and out of our region’s landfills, reSETS serves Philadelphia’s film and theatre industries by:

- Partnering with the Greater Philadelphia Film Office [GPFO], to provide local productions with best practices tips, sustainable procurement options, and vetted vendor resources through our green production guide, SETS [Setting Entertainment Towar d Sustainability].

“I love working with The Resource Exchange! They have been influential in how we do business now. Before, we didn’t know what to do with all of our used scenery and it killed us to watch, literally, tons of great stuff adding to landfill. Through their efforts we have been able to purchase reclaimed material (at a significant cost savings), donate material to be reused by the community-at-large, and been connected to a variety of sources to reduce our high waste output. They have been able to save us money at the beginning and the end of a project, and diverted our waste stream into a far more productive and planer-friendly output for all.”

Daniel Schultz, Technical Director Walnut Street Theatre

- Offering onsite waste assessments to determine the amount of reusable and recyclable materials involved in a production, and working with the production’s leaders to develop a comprehensive strategy for diversion.
2012 reSETs reclaimed materials:

from Film/Television:
Silver Linings Playbook
After Earth
Dead Man Down
Paranoia
Political Animals
NBC Studios

from Theatre:
Charlotte’s Web, Cyrano,
Robin Hood + Tulipomania
Arden Theatre Company
Pookie Goes Grenading
Azuka Theatre Company
The Edge of Our Bodies +
The English Bride
Theatre Exile
The Music Man
Walnut Street Theatre
The Winter Wonderettes
11th Hour Theatre Company
Delaware Theatre Company

over 10 tons:
...1,450 lb poplar...
252 lb felt...520 lb lamps...1,787 lb
2x4...791 lb office paper...425 lb books...591 lb glass...60 lb
carving foam...252 lb felt...525 lb metal school desk chairs...360 lb
fabric...776 lb green cardboard tubes...737 lb stage lights...
1,000 lb paint...

2012 productions that used reSETs reclaimed materials:

After Earth
Blinding Edge Pictures +
Overbrook Entertainment

Paranoia
Gaumont, Demarest Films, EMJAG Productions + Kintop Pictures

Dead Man Down
NBC Universal Television
The Traugott Company

Do No Harm
The Oﬀ-Broad Street Theatre
at First Baptist Church

Experiencing people as really kind of huge
BodyFields Performance Collective + Son Step
Philly Fringe
First Unitarian Church

Iminami
PuppieTyranny
Philly Fringe
Greensaw Design+Build

Crave
Theatre Drapeau Rose
Philly Fringe
Power Plant Productions

Missionary in Manhattan:
A Mormon Musical
The Ukulele Orchestra
of Great Brooklyn
Theatre for the New City
New York, NY

The Lemurian Solution:
Your Interactive Evolution
Mr. and Mrs. Magoo’s Traveling Trash Puppet Circus
Philly Fringe
Magic Gardens

Of Plastic Things and Butterfly Wings
Little Fish Theatre
Philly Fringe
The Oﬀ-Broad Street Theatre
at First Baptist Church

Awesome Alliteration:
The Magical Musical
BetaMale Productions
Philly Fringe
SkyBox at the Adrienne

Rent-a-Grandma
Eliza Stamps +
Amy Linsenmayer
Philadelphia Art Alliance

After Earth
Frequency Films, IM Global,
Original Film + WWE

Political Animals
NBC Studios

Political Animals
NBC Studios

Dead Man Down
Frequency Films, IM Global,
Original Film + WWE

Political Animals
NBC Studios

Political Animals
NBC Studios
While the reSETS program focuses on film and theater, reCREATE’s program focus is on individuals and creative reuse in fine art, craft, and design. Our in-store gallery displays the work of local artists who have transformed reclaimed materials from our inventory into new works. Each month in our newsletter, we feature a reCreate artist, sharing their work with over 300 community members.

Our new warehouse location in Port Richmond provides the space to host workshops and events, including our first P.O.S.T. show [Philadelphia Open Studios Tours]. The Miss Rockaway Armada [a visual and performing arts community engagement project supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, in collaboration with The Philadelphia Art Alliance] came to The Resource Exchange for unique, reclaimed materials to complete their ambitious traveling exhibition.

Once the exhibit closed, we were able to save material again, much of which has since been incorporated into new works of art, like the beautiful wall hanging shown here, made by Laura Semelroth out of silk screen remnants.

Our new space has also given us the ability to develop a new series of reCreate workshops. In 2012, with the help of community arts organizations, we began hosting recycled art workshops and activities for all ages to promote creative reuse. In 2013, we plan to expand our workshop programming to include structured workshops with artists as well as informal craft and creation nights.

This year during Design Philadelphia, we also introduced our Art-from-the-Arts Design Challenge, where materials saved from previous works serve as the inspiration and materials for creating something new.

Rachel Schaffram, who used our reclaimed materials for her installation Recipro-city at The Painted Bride:

“I recently found out about The Resource Exchange and am so glad they exist as a resource in Philadelphia! As an artist/educator I have been wishing for several years there would be such a place where I could both recycle my old art materials/items that could be creatively repurposed and source interesting reused materials at low cost. I donated materials from my art teaching practice...a week later I got a bunch of unique materials for a project at a very affordable price.... I feel good creating from quality materials that would otherwise have been thrown away. Thank you Resource Exchange.”
Victor Atkins

“For an artist it’s like being a kid in a candy store. It’s so easy to just go into an art supply store, get a piece of canvas, get some paint – but when you come here, there are just so many things to explore, which opens up an avenue for me to explore. The thing that we love to do when we make art is to stretch ourselves, to move into new places, to explore new things that we normally wouldn’t do. I can honestly say that this painting [“Play”] is a painting that I did that I probably would have never thought of if I hadn’t come in to see the store. I found the fabric here – it was just fun fabric – and I said I should take some of that home, without any idea what I was going to do with it...It was inspirational coming here. The people here are just wonderful. They make it easy to explore, they let us loose, they’re always welcoming... and have a story to tell. So it helps me tell my story.”

Diane Wilkin

“I shop at the Resource Exchange because I really enjoy adding alternative materials into my artwork...it has really amazing stuff, it’s always kind of different and there are always random things here that you wouldn’t find anywhere else. I think it’s a really great place for artists to come, there’s a lot of really great fabric, paints, frames, and all kinds of things that you could get really creative with. I think it’s a great way to recycle materials...if they weren’t sold here, they would be thrown out... It’s a good way to not have so much waste in the world.”

Jennifer Jordan

“...”

Angela McQuillan

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Linda Soffer

“...”

Angela McQuillan

“...”
This year’s annual reJOICE! holiday celebration brought shoppers from all over the city, including many from our new neighborhood. We also hosted a make-your-own holiday workshop with HandmadePhilly and joined Flying Kite + Philly Swap’s Craft Market. Bob Jondreau [Executive Director of The Pennsylvania Resources Council] joins Executive Director Karyn Gerred, sorting felt for local arts nonprofit Project Synergy, for the 2012 Philadelphia International Children’s Festival at The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts – hundreds of children used the felt, fabric remnants, and other low cost reclaimed materials over the course of the three day festival.

Tyler School of Art student Dylan DeVlieger used reclaimed materials from The Resource Exchange to design a portable garden on campus at Temple University. Poplar that we saved from Arden Theatre Company’s production of Charlotte’s Web was incorporated into the rehab/design of 2200 N. Sydenham Street [Tom Weber, developer].

Woah San, a professional photographer [GHA Photography], rented props to shoot an advertising poster for the the “The Life and Times of Congressman Robert Smalls” exhibit at the African American Museum. SpikeDaBlue, a community handball court decorated for a special event with fabric saved from a film shot in Philadelphia.

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events
in our store and beyond

February 15 - Generocity’s first Nonprofit Meetup

May 22 - Trenton Ave Arts Festival

August 13 - Fishtown Neighbors Assn. + Business Assn. networking event at Frankford Hall

October 20 - [NKCDC] New Kensington Community Development Corp F.O.R.K. Bike Tour

October 21 - Greater Philadelphia Film Office [GPFO] Production Party at The Electric Factory

November 2 - PhillyDoGooder Video Hackathon at The University of the Arts

the resource exchange
2829 Cedar Street [enter on Cambria Street] Philadelphia, PA 19134
267.997.0060
www.theresourceexchange.org
Our creative reuse retail warehouse is the critical engine that produces the earned revenue to support programming and our larger mission of promoting reuse. This program enhances the quality of life for people in the Greater Philadelphia region by not only decreasing the amount of valuable material sent to our region’s landfills, but also making these materials accessible and affordable to the public for creating, building and learning.

The individual and institutional donations that make up our inventory are sold for 1/3 to 1/2 off retail value to incentivize reuse in the creative economy and beyond.

We sell reMade products, a line of functional handmade items [“upcycled” artist canvases made from salvaged lumber and muslin, bags, greeting cards, notepads, birdhouses, etc.] created by volunteer artists to help defray the costs of material reclamation. Customer ideas and projects are displayed prominently in the store, and completed projects made with Resource Exchange materials are featured online on our blog and Facebook.

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We live in somewhat of a throw-away society, and for me to reuse things -- and feed my creativity through that -- is exciting.

-- Victor Atkins, Artist

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It’s inspiring for me because I see how things are constantly reused, rather than becoming trash. That’s pretty wonderful.

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January
re’s new store at, 2829 cedar street in Port Richmond, open saturdays and by appointment.

July
store hours expand: saturday + sunday + new staff member hired to support reSETS

September
store gains almost 500 square feet.

October
hours expand: thursday - sunday

December
store gains 2 part-time staff members
Almost 70% of The Resource Exchange’s present income is made up of earned revenue from reclaimed material sales. In 2012, because of the establishment of our retail store, sales figures grew substantially.

Growth in staff has caused compensation expenses to increase this year. We are proud to contribute to the creative economy through job creation, but we also acknowledge that the earned revenue from reclaimed material sales does not fully cover our costs. In 2013, we will look increasingly to corporate, foundation, and individual contributions for support.
Our work would not be possible without the ongoing support we receive from our donors, partner organizations, customers, friends & family, and community volunteers. Their contributions and effort in 2012 strengthened our capacity to divert valuable materials from the waste stream and redirect them to artists, builders, educators, and the general public, and 2013 will witness our continued growth and development. We eagerly anticipate expansion of our reSETS and reCREATE program offerings, as well as increased revenue generation as we expand our creative reuse retail operations to ensure that our programs are sustainable in the long term.

Over the next twelve months, we will pilot a new volunteer program and a new series of workshops promoting creative reuse. We will also increase our flow of donations and customers, build on existing relationships with theater and film production companies, enable new works by individual artists, and forge new connections with arts and education organizations throughout Greater Philadelphia.