

What

Gives

PHILLY

A

Bad



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This zine is made to shine a light on the things that makes Philadelphia seem attractive to people everywhere, even its own residents. This isn't meant to bash the city, just to bring awareness to the main problems in our communities so we can be problem solvers who shape a safe and beautiful environment.



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This is not a story of racism  
Not another story of violence  
Not a real issue  
But it is

Walking down the street  
See a mute colored eyesore  
Blocking the color of our neighborhoods

Colorless houses with colorless owners  
Draining the color out of these homes  
in order to make more colorless empty boxes

But this is not a story of violence  
But it is...  
the effect of past violence  
Of wars against nations native to this land  
Has it ever really stopped?  
When do we stop fighting these wars?  
When will we be able to have and to hold land of **our own**  
Without settlers trying to kill our communities, making **false promises**  
And draining our color

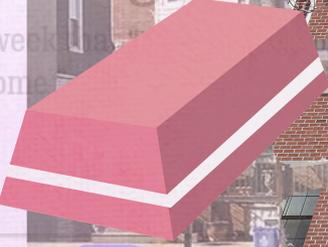
But this isn't a race war...  
When property value is raised in invaluable **neighborhoods**  
Those whose lives have value replace those **who don't**  
And the houses do the same  
But those whose lives are only seen as valuable **are colorless**  
Is it a surprise that anything colorful **must fade?**  
No, not at all

How long has it been since a black brother **could walk through a white**  
**neighborhood without a grimace and a "nigger"?**  
While a white man could walk right through ours, **without a look in their direction or a parting of**  
**lips?**

Forever, but they chose not to, is it because we **are too dirty and too poor,**  
or too bright and too **powerful?**

Maybe the only way to rip away the color of our **community is to demolish our homes and erase**  
**our history**

We hold down **the fort**...  
Refusing to **sell our homes**  
But this **fight isn't over yet**  
We come **bearing arms**...  
Arms **linked in front of city hall**  
We link **together as a community**  
**As a people**  
To preserve and brighten our **color**



Erase

VANDALIZE



"WHEN PROPERTY VALUE IS RAISED IN INVALUABLE NEIGHBORHOODS THOSE WHOSE LIVES HAVE VALUE REPLACE THOSE WHO DON'T AND THE HOUSES DO THE SAME..."



DESTROY



# Samantha Thornhill

## Biography:

She is an author, poet, educator, and producer born in Trinidad and Tobago. She first found poetry in the sixth grade after writing a poem about Christmas in her homeland. This was just the start of her long journey of representory works. Thornhill's poems range from odes to her mother and culture to social issues in the modern day. She acknowledges her 10th grade English teacher as the person who helped her perfect her craft and become the artist she is today. Over the course of her career, she has produced three poetry albums and 10 children's books for which she has won multiple awards. Asof now runs workshops at Juilliard and Lincoln square as an educator and mentor to black youth of her community. All her services and projects can be viewed in her website, [samanthaspeaks.com](http://samanthaspeaks.com).

## Ode to Gentrification

Her poem Ode to Gentrification, tells the tale of how gentrification has affected city streets. Towards the beginning of the poem she says, "Your very name, glass splinter planted deep in the fat of our vernacular. Gentrification, rightly mistaken for juxtaposition: pretty boys with swagger, checkerboard trains, skyscraper sadness, bodegas sighing out soy."-(Thornhill, lines 9-17). Here Thornhill uses personification to describe how gentrification painfully alters our cities culture. She says that gentrification is rightfully mistaken for juxtaposition because it creates an obvious separation between itself and the things around it. In the last stanza she says, "I sit on the up-side of your coin, drinking down the sky's blue dregs, while the teens I teach, and the sturdy black grandmothers I salute with my seat, kiss concrete."-(Thornhill, lines 9-17). She uses a cliché of the "up-side of the coin" Thorso that it is simple to say that she is benefiting from gentrification while the people she works to help are struggling because of it, "kissing concrete". She also mentions a unique word, "regrateful" that could be a combination of grateful and regretful, to express that she is grateful for gentrification for her home, but how she is also regretful because the construction of homes like hers means that others will have to do without.

# Philly is in pain...

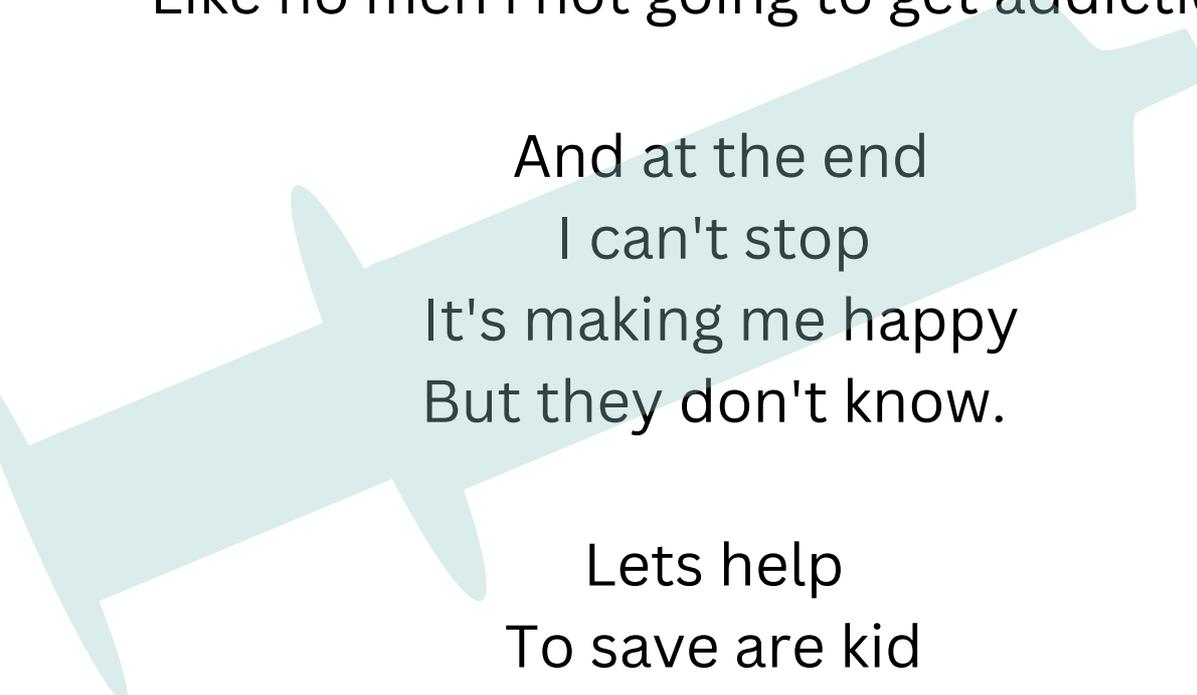
We are a family  
We are a community  
We are a team  
Lets stop

Lets stop doing it  
Help are family to stop  
People start thought it was a joke  
Like no men i not going to get addiction

And at the end  
I can't stop  
It's making me happy  
But they don't know.

Lets help  
To save are kid  
Are self  
Are family

Let's make Philly a better place to live in.





# frankford drugs addiction



Lets make ohilly better

# Interview

1. what do you think about Philadelphia?

He said it's a good city but there are some areas that have a lot more crime than others .

2. What do you think about living in Philadelphia?

It's a really nice city but sometimes it really pains me when I have to avoid certain areas.

It really depends because like i said it all depends on the area of the city there are some areas that are really nice in some areas that are worse like Frankford in North Philly.

3. why are these areas more dangerous than others?

because the crime that goes on their killings and drug dealing and lot of these killings are associated with drug dealers and Drug dealings in general bring a lot more trouble into a neighborhood

4. How do you control drug dealers?

okay so a drug-dealing I'm not an expert of course drug dealing and drug abuse it's all a cycle drug dealers are often drug abusers themselves so you have to rehabilitate and try to not like lock up in like kill people it's it's a petty crime that causes a lot of damage so you have to find the root and try to rehabilitate these people who are drug dealers and drug addicts because they have issues themselves that that you know putting him locking him up in jail can cell cuz even if you put them in jail they'll still deal drugs in jail drug dealing is part of a huge psycho of different things and no life is almost like a mentally.

5. What's your experience with drugs?

I don't have any first-hand experience but I have experience. I have seen how it can affect people. I've seen crazy people on subways and I've seen stuff like that that are clearly effects of drugs. Do drugs all obviously have a bad effect on people.

6. How did durg affect your social life?

Well friends may try to peer pressure me into doing drugs or something like that and I'll have to cut them off you know and some people made you know about that

7. what's your thoughts about the unregulated use of drugs?

It's bad because it should be illegal because it affects the economy and people and it's a criminal act.

8. What changes could be made to stop the drugs?

Instead of laws that help people instead of law that incarcerate people or put people like the route to solving this problem is to light addiction and stop all that kind of stuff.



# THAT GUN



May seem like a toy to you  
Or like the PUBG game  
that you play for fun  
But to that boy, to his family  
It was a life that couldn't live  
A life that can no longer dream  
Can you give back his life?



A gun is an unpleasant gift for some innocent lives

that ends a childhood

A gun that breaks a family apart

Many shared dreams and promises

A gun the reason behind many tears

That you can't take back,

A gun that can cause

Bad influence, bad reputation, bad addiction

Because of a gun we can't

feel safe in our own city



A GUN VIOLENCE CITY

Children hurt  
control school  
Guns DEATH  
destroy Criminal  
Victims Safe  
Police Freedom

**The Philadelphia Inquirer**  
An Independent Newspaper for the People

5 Teen-Agers Arrested in Slaying of 2  
4 Girls, Kebab So 'Head Hunter' Right of Terror

Headline Hopping by Olie Conrad

bullet  
Hood  
Crime  
Fear  
Future  
North Philly

STOP

scared Killing west Philly  
Self defense Violence  
the safest Country on Earth. laws  
- Shannon Watts. shoot

34 DEATHS · AUG 16: 511 DEATHS · AUG 17: 446 DEATHS · MAY 25: 548 DEATHS · MAY 26: 662 DEATHS · MAY 27: 1518 DEATHS · MAY 28: 1178 DEATHS · MAY 29: 1160

**STOP THE VIOLENCE**

## Gun Give Philly A Bad Rep

If you ask "What gives Philly a bad rep?" I would say Gun Violence. Gun Violence is a major issue in the world that we all need to talk about. When I think of gun violence Philadelphia is the city that comes to my mind first. Everyday violence happens in Philadelphia, especially gun violence. Now gun violence has become normal in Philadelphia. People don't get surprised when they hear news about gun violence. For this research on gun violence, I will be talking about the shooting that happened recently at Roxborough High school. In September 2022, a teenage boy was killed at Roxborough High School. And four others were injured. "Two gunmen fired at least 70 times on Fairway Terrace near Pechin Street, behind Roxborough High School around 4:41 p.m." And this needs to be talked about more because even school areas are not safe for students. Gun violence like this is happening in Philadelphia every this is just one example. Philadelphia is becoming a dangerous place for residents day by day. We can't even go outside without feeling unsafe. My parents moved to Philadelphia thinking it was a safe city. But after moving here we see the reality of this city. We hear about new violence in the news everyday. And Philadelphia has to do something about this before it gets more worst. And gun violence is one of the reasons which is making Philadelphia's reputation look bad. I believe that every Philadelphia citizen should feel safe when going to work, school, and outside alone. Their family shouldn't have to worry about them. Does the city of Philadelphia have a solution for this?



In my opinion im 16 and we are teenagers and drugs could really affects us and our lives and families at this age,because we're in a age where some of us want to try different things,and some of us dont know whats right and whats wrong and we might just think that its fun or its a joke, a bigger problem that drugs are so easy to get these days its like buying coffee in a place like Frankford.-

Abduljaleel Shoufan



### Why is this so important?

I'm 16 years old living in West Philly for almost 6 years. My family and I thought Philadelphia is a safe city. So we decided to move to Philly when we came to the USA. During this 6 years we saw heard a lot of things about violence. Seeing violence in a city we live in made me scared and surprised because the environment I'm from is very different. In my country I only used to see violence on TV. But after coming here it's very different. Here even school environment is not safe for students. My family and I are always worried about what will happen to us. And I know there are many families like my family that has to worry about their kids and feel unsafe to even go outside. So if Philadelphia don't do anything about this violence issues Philadelphia will become more dangerous.

- Somaia Sultana

I am a 16 year old black woman who lives in West Philly. I have grown up in Philly all my life and it has been a pretty good experience in my opinion. Yes, we have had the problems of drugs, gun violence, and gentrification, but now they feel to be more prevalent than ever. I walk down the street and see people walking down the street yelling at the air because they are so high and it makes me very nervous. It is unsettling to see how dangerous our city is everyday on the news; we always hear of someone being shot and killed, usually multiple people. This problem isn't getting any better either. Some don't think that gentrification is a bad thing and looking at it head on, it's not, but when you dig deeper you find that they raise property taxes for longtime residents, they even swindle them out of good deals on their homes, leaving them homeless. Living in Philly for so long, I don't want to feel scared or ashamed because this is my home.-

Kelsey Johnson

happening in Philadelphia especially gun violence. My poem "That Gun" is mainly about the Roxborough school shooting. I wrote my poem inspired by Maya Angelou's poem "Still I Rise". I incorporated Alliteration, Anaphora, simile and Rhetorical Question just like the poem "Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou. My collage I added cut out of many deaths that happened in Philadelphia. I added images in my collage that represents stop gun violence. And in my information article I talked about my own opinion about gun violence and I also provided a great summary of what happened in Roxborough High School shooting. My main message for my zine is that if we don't stop gun violence in Philadelphia our city will get worst

- Somaia Sultana



My whole collage is just like my whole project talking about drugs and you can see that in the first three pictures I tried to put them together like it's a one picture the three pictures at the top and it's showing how the streets of Frankford are bad and dirty.

And I tried to show the and there for people to see what students are people who's going to their jobs have to see every day and have to deal with everyday when they go to Frankford to catch the train or to get the bus.

I have a lot of pictures at the bottom police because that's how mostly it looks like they're there is a lot of crimes going on there is a lot of stealing and it's pretty dangerous at night and in the morning, there is a lot of gun violence and a lot of drug dealers who probably sell drugs to kids because they don't care they just want to get the money and kids in my age or teenagers most of them try a lot of different things and they get addicted to it and that's why we need to deal with Frankford and stop the drug dealing stop drugs because it's dangerous to our community and it hurt a lot of us and a lot of different way.

- Abduljaleel shoufan

In all the parts of my design I used a lot of color and lack thereof to convey my message of how gentrification affects Philadelphia. The color represents being expressive and unique, like the communities and houses are; whereas the lack of color represents how gentrification is taking the beauty out of our neighborhoods visually as well as the atmosphere. The idea of juxtaposition was used in my poem to emulate Danez Smith. In his poem, "not an elegy for Mike Brown", he talks about how people are treated in society differently depending on their race, whereas my poem focuses on how people's class and wealth have better housing. These people who are seen as more deserving of things to society are more likely white. This can be true from what I have actually seen in the city; every gentrified house I have seen had white owners. This could possibly create rifts between our Philly communities even bigger than there already are. The way I used bright colors and monotone tints aids my message of gentrification's way of separating communities, where the colors are an obvious juxtaposition that represents the negative effects on the communities impacted by gentrification and longtime residents fighting back against it.

- Kelsey Johnson

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