

# Paine's skate park gets some love at GEP Philly party

Center City event planning firm GEP Philly decided to parlay its location next to LOVE Park into the theme of a fundraiser to benefit Paine's Park Project on Aug. 8.

Employees felt that the decision was appropriate — located along the Schuylkill River, the park is meant to replace LOVE Park as a premier skateboarding destination after skateboarding was banned at LOVE Park.

The company raised a total of \$22,000

for the event, which attracted more than 500 people, and also tried to “shine a bright spotlight on the fact that Paine's Park exists,” said President and CEO Michael Lyons.

Jamie Elfant, executive director of the park project, said the event was a success.

“It was incredible. There was a

lot of effort put out on their part,” Elfant said, citing the group's attention to detail, which included red decorations, a rooftop Love Boat party and catering by restaurateur Stephen Starr.



Paine's Park Project is mustering support for a skateboard park on the Schuylkill to replace LOVE Park.

two funds of the Philadelphia Foundation.

The first grant totaled \$8,489 from the Dorothy Cassard Fund, and the second came from the Margaret R. and Herbert Wakefield Memorial Fund, totaling \$4,203.

The Philadelphia Foundation, founded in 2005, is a nonprofit that manages more than 750 charitable funds established by caring families who want to contribute to their community.

— Anthony Campisi

*Love was in the air at GEP Philly's fundraiser, which raised \$22K for Paine's skatepark.*