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The Steel Yard
27 Sims Avenue
Providence, RI 02909

***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

- What:** Watch creative **Rhode Islanders transform a crane salvaged from the Providence River into public art** as part of a special edition of The Steel Yard's Workforce Welding program. Helmets will be provided, because sparks are going to fly!
- Participants get **hands-on experience in MIG welding**, learning how to use tools like plasma cutters, chop and band saws, and oxyacetylene torches. At the end of the week, they'll get \$300 and an opportunity to apply for a 12-week welding internship at the Yard. Participants must be 18 years or older. Veterans, the unemployed, or people with low incomes, are given preference in the program.
- Who:** **John Nguyen**, the Yard's workforce projects manager, and **Tim Ferland**, the Yard's longtime director of Public Projects, will lead eight participants, all Rhode Island residents with an interest in learning how to weld and making public art.
- When:** The program runs **August 3-7, 2026, from 10 am to 4:30 pm**. Media are welcome to attend on **Thursday, August 6 between 11 am-12 noon and 1-3 p.m.** During these windows, participants will be building and staff will be available for interviews.
- Where:** **The Steel Yard**, 27 Sims Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island
- Why:** **See community improvement and workforce training in action.** Reporters and editors can interview Yard leaders and program participants, who will turn pieces of a steel crane into amenities for the Public Street coastal right-of-way off Allen's Avenue in Providence, which provides river access to local residents living in Washington Park and South Providence.
- How:** This special summer edition of the Yard's Workforce Welding program is made possible through **a \$1.5 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Marine Debris Program**. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, NOAA, and the state's Congressional delegation [announced the award in January 2025](#), which made possible removal of sunken, steel-hulled barge from the Providence River last year. The barge, and a crane it supported, sat in the river since 2017, creating a navigational and environmental hazard.

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