Preserving & Celebrating Historical & Cultural Assets

On June 20th, a World Refugee Day celebration was held in Mifflin Park in South Philadelphia. GPA presented info and invited attendees to share their heritages with a postcard station and a photobooth. The event drew large crowds of families, with many opting to hold barbecues in the park. There were multiple events throughout the day, including an African choir, belly dancers, a singer with a guitar, and a number of songs sung in Swahili. In addition to these performers, Philadelphia Councilmember Helen Gym also came out to speak about the importance of refugee programs and to show her support for the event. In addition to the festivities, the American Red Cross offered COVID-19 vaccines to attendees. The event was organized by HIAS Pennsylvania.

KEY 2021 DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG. 27 – OCT. 6
Philadelphia International Unity Cup

SEPT. 30
SDG #4 Art Unveiling at 3:15PM at Samuel Gompers Schools

NOV. 4
SDG #10 Art Unveiling – 3:00-5:00PM Temple University

DEC. 13
Globy Awards
On June 26th Philadelphia celebrated its 8th annual Caribbean Heritage Day. During a two-hour virtual event hosted on Zoom, the Caribbean Community in Philadelphia hosted a variety of speakers to celebrate the culture, cuisine, and creativity of the community. The event included speakers, cooking demonstrations, and a variety of cultural performances. The event was sponsored by Reading Terminal Market, the City of Philadelphia’s Office of Immigration Affairs, and the Caribbean Community in Philadelphia. The group hopes to return to a live, in-person event for the celebration in 2022.

Earlier this summer, the GPA was able to visit and highlight the first traditional Iraqi Guesthouse, also known as a “Mudhif,” built in America at the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education. The Mudhif was designed by Environmental Artist Sarah Kavage and Iraqi social art designer Yaroub Al Obaidi. Made from bundles of phragmite reeds and other natural materials, the Mudhif serves as a place for U.S. and Iraqi Veterans to come together and heal their traumas from war, and it will be a teaching tool for the Schuylkill center to use for their environmental art education program. The Schuylkill Center will also host a 9/11 memorial service at the Mudhif location in September.

A children’s book read-along as well as fun activities such as virtual tours, movement exercises, art projects, and a cooking demo. Every episode includes an educator’s resource guide and other learning materials. Episodes include Oney Judge’s Daring Escape from Slavery, Philly has a Dream for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Color your City with Caleb and Olivia, Let’s Play Together!/¡Juguemos Junto!, and Cooking Culturally - Let’s Cook for Ramadan.

GPA’s Education Advisory Committee met in July to gauge what teachers may need this school year. They discussed the School District’s plans for new Social Studies curriculum development, which includes using diverse sources and a focus on social justice and African American history in a global context, and the need for trauma-informed approaches to student and teacher support this year. The Committee also provided input for an upcoming Teacher Needs Assessment this fall. GPA will survey K-12 teachers to determine specific needs and opportunities for program development, as well as determine how to expand our teacher outreach and better connect teachers to our programs and materials.

### Building WHC Awareness & Ownership

This June, the US celebrated Juneteenth as a nationally recognized holiday for the first time. Philadelphia has a long history of recognizing Juneteenth and celebrations were held throughout the city. Members of Global Philadelphia attended the Germantown Juneteenth Festival hosted by the Johnson House Historic Site. The Johnson House is a National Historic Landmark, Underground Railroad station, and home to the Center for Social Advocacy.

---

**Educating Global Kids with Roots**

All five episodes of GPA’s [Heritage Storytime](#) are now available to stream for free online. Each episode focuses on a heritage theme and features...
One of our summer interns, Thomas Dyer, attended the festival and wrote about his experience as an African American male celebrating Juneteenth as a federal holiday. In his article, Dyer writes, “Besides being with my family for family gatherings and other holidays, this was the first time where I felt like I could truly be unapologetically Black around my peers, and have a sense of what it feels like to be invested in my own culture. I loved seeing Blacks at the festival, but I enjoyed seeing people of other ethnicities participating in the event as well. It showed me that people outside of Black culture are actively interested in learning the history of Juneteenth and want to help solidify the importance of the holiday,” Dyer writes. Thomas added that the challenge now is to further pass along the history and significance of Juneteenth to future generations to preserve, honor, and create Black culture in the United States.

Every year, Philadelphia holds Wawa Welcome America with several days of festivities leading up to the Fourth of July, including free museum days, special events, movie showings, concerts, free hoagie day, and much more. This year, Global Philadelphia participated with tabling activities at the Free Museum Day at Carpenters’ Hall. Carpenters’ Hall is located two blocks from Independence Hall and was the site of the First Continental Congress in 1774.

Extending Philadelphia’s Global Reach

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Campaign continues to be an exciting and important project here at Global Philadelphia. The mural for SDG 4: Quality Education has officially been completed at Samuel Gompers School, in partnership with Saint Joseph’s University, Samuel Gompers School, and the School District of Philadelphia. We are excited to showcase this amazing mural in an event that will be announced soon.

For SDG 1: Zero Poverty, sponsored by John and Susan Smith, artist Gabe Tiberino is currently painting the mural at his Philadelphia studio. SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, sponsored by Kay Halloran and the Halloran Family Foundation has also seen significant progress. Artist Russell Craig will begin painting the mural in his New York studio at the end of this month. Both Craig and Tiberino are notable artists in the Philadelphia area and beyond.
We are also excited to announce that FDR Park, located in South Philadelphia, has agreed to host SDG 7: Clean and Affordable Energy, in partnership with the [Kleinman Center for Energy Policy](#) at the University of Pennsylvania. The Park is a fitting location that works seamlessly with the goals of SDG 7 and the Kleinman Center. An artist will be chosen in mid-September to paint the mural.

In addition to the incredible progress for these individual SDG projects, we are excited to announce the completion of a new SDG brochure, which showcases the SDG goals completed and in progress, as well as the SDGs that are left to sponsor. To coincide with the brochure, several SDG-focused videos are in production, featuring interviews from sponsors and artists about the SDG campaign and overall process. Visit the [Campaign’s website](#) for more information on Global Philadelphia’s SDG projects, as well as a map on the location of current and upcoming SDG murals.

**World Heritage Week**

In May, Philadelphia celebrated six years as a World Heritage City with a week of free, virtual festivities for the whole family. Presented by GPA and the City of Philadelphia, [World Heritage Week](#) highlighted many diverse heritages and shared cultural traditions.

The goal of World Heritage Week was to not only celebrate Philadelphia and all that it has to offer but to celebrate it as a World Heritage City. World Heritage Cities have UNESCO designated sites of “outstanding universal value” that have special importance for everyone and represent a unique, best, or most significant example of the world’s cultural and natural heritage. Philadelphia’s UNESCO World Heritage site is Independence Hall. Philadelphia was the United States’ first World Heritage City. There are only two World Heritage Cities in the United States, with the second being located in San Antonio, TX.

The week’s activities included Virtual World Heritage Week Quizzo hosted by [KYW Newsradio](#)’s Denise Nakano. Participants were quizzed on their knowledge of Philadelphia’s history and global heritages and the winning team received prizes. The week also featured a video of [Amanda Gorman](#) – the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history – performing the poem she composed...
for the 2020 Philadelphia World Heritage City Celebration; a video on the fascinating history of Pepperpot Soup by Emmy Award-winning TV host and culinary historian Chef Walter Staib; a special episode of Heritage Storytime exploring global culinary traditions with a kid-friendly cooking demo; a message from City Representative Sheila Hess; and much more.

GPA Impact Report

With the arrival of COVID-19, last year was full of obstacles for Philadelphia. Nevertheless, GPA was able to persevere and adapt during this global pandemic. The 2020 Impact Report discusses GPA’s education program, World Heritage Week, our annual Globy Awards, and the Sustainable Development Goals Campaign.

World Heritage Spotlight: Versailles

Versailles was the home to the kings of France and the French monarchy from Louis XIV to Louis XVI as well as Napoleon Bonaparte. The Palace and Park of Versailles were built by several generations of architects, sculptors, painters, ornamentalists, and landscape artists to represent the perfect model of a royal residence.

What once was the seat of power for France is now a museum and showcases the history of the country. The palace contains a hall of mirrors which was built to replace the terrace designed by Louis Le Vau. The hall of mirrors pays tribute to France’s political, economic, artistic success through 30 painted compositions on the vaulted ceiling. Next to the hall of mirrors is the king and queen’s respective suites. Since there was no social media or email, it was important that the sovereigns were close to the activity, so they could hear what was happening in their monarchy.

The gardens of Versailles are just as important as the palace. In 1661, Louis XIV entrusted André Le Nôtre with the creation and renovation of the gardens. The gardens contain many fountains, four each separately placed at the crossroads of the principal alleys in the garden as well as parterres and the groves.

The French Revolution ended the monarchy which in turn led to the end of Versailles having
inhabitants. Many pieces of furniture and art were destroyed in the revolution, but even before then, there was no standing furniture. This was because the courts would travel from their winter corridors to Versailles for the summer and bring the furniture. After the revolution, Versailles fell apart and underwent much construction. With the help of the Americans such as the Rockefellers, Versailles was able to get up and running again.

Versailles became a World Heritage Site in 1979, three years after UNESCO started in 1976. Along with Versailles, Independence Hall in Philadelphia was also named a World Heritage Site in 1979. To become a World Heritage Site, there is a list of 10 to 12 criteria needed to be met along with a proposal submitted to the committee. But in 1979, that was not the case.

The way World Heritage sites are chosen has evolved from the initial start of the organization to the recent additions from the 2021 meeting. UNESCO is now looking for multi-city sites to add to the list like spa cities in Europe. Many Arabian cities have been added over the years to reflect the diversity of World Heritage. Versailles is open to the public again and makes for a great spring or summer day activity. There is a lot of walking required, so come prepared with walking shoes. If you wish to spend the night, you can now do so. The palace was remodeled and a hotel was added. If you cannot make the trip to France, but want to walk around luxurious gardens, then Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA is the place to check out.

The events and programs we describe could not be possible without YOU, our sponsors and supporters. We are most grateful.

Support our next SDG Art Unveiling

You’re Invited

9.30.21
3:15 p.m.
Samuel Gompers School

by St. Joseph’s University to Welcome: New Piece of Public Art in Philadelphia!