

# PROCLAMATION

The City of Philadelphia takes great pride in its unique historical and cultural legacy. As the birthplace of modern day democracy, Philadelphia has long been a shining example to the rest of the world for its innovation, forward thinking, and for welcoming, respecting, and thriving with a robustly diverse population of people of various ethnicities and cultures. Fittingly, Philadelphia joined the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) on November 5, 2015 thereby becoming the first “World Heritage City” in the United States.

In addition to new opportunities for economic growth, international relationships, historic preservation, increased tourism, and civic pride, this recognition is a dynamic opportunity for us to showcase our heritage to the international community. There are now 280 World Heritage Cities around the world and the City of Philadelphia’s place on this esteemed list contributes to our community of people who create a nurturing and accepting environment for all of us to live in.

Philadelphia received the designation due to our United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site of “outstanding universal value,” Independence Hall, and because of the rich array of historic buildings and cultural sites located throughout the City, including 67 National Historic Landmarks. Our World Heritage City designation also helps highlight our many diverse communities and multiple cultures that populate Philadelphia.

Beginning in 2016, the City of Philadelphia recognizes *World Heritage Day* annually on the fourth Thursday in May and each year, the celebration is carried out in a different location and in a different manner. Hosted by the Global Philadelphia Association, in partnership with the Office of the City Representative, this 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated over a week of virtual festivities being held May 24<sup>th</sup> to May 28, 2021.

## THEREFORE...

I, James F. Kenney, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, do hereby proclaim the week of Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup> through Friday, May 28, 2021 to be

## WORLD HERITAGE WEEK

in Philadelphia, and encourage the participation of all residents in the celebration in recognition of the many diverse heritages and shared cultural traditions that have kept us connected to one another and strengthened our bonds over the course of a difficult year in pandemic.



James F. Kenney

James F. Kenney

Mayor



Given under my hand and the seal of the City of Philadelphia on this twenty-fourth day of May, two thousand and twenty one