From its beginning in 1682 and across more than three centuries that have followed, Philadelphia has contributed history, art, and culture of importance to the world:

**Colonial City Founded on New Principles**
Philadelphia is a physical manifestation of the principles of freedom and tolerance that were novel in the 17th century and remain critically relevant in the 21st century.

**Enlightenment City of Freedom and Popular Sovereignty**
As noted by UNESCO, the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution have served as an innovative foundation for governance and model for the founders of other nations.

**Evolution from Industrial to Post-Industrial City**
With its immense, diverse workforce, nineteenth-century Philadelphia was one of the world’s most important industrial centers. But even as its preeminence as the “Workshop of the World” peaked, the city was re-imagining itself as a post-industrial center, a global model for a city defined by artistic and cultural exchange, education, research, and new forms of manufacturing.

**City of Re-Use and Re-Invention**
Philadelphia has developed innovative ways to re-use and re-invent its historical and cultural assets to preserve and protect the heritage they represent.

In 1979, Philadelphia’s iconic Independence Hall was inscribed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on its World Heritage List. This is the foundation stone of our OWHC membership.

As UNESCO has stated:
“The Declaration of Independence was adopted and the Constitution of the United States of America framed in this fine early 18th-century building in Philadelphia. These events, which took place respectively in 1776 and 1787, were conceived in a national context, but the universal principles of freedom and democracy set forth in these two documents have had a profound impact on lawmakers and political thinkers around the world. They became the models for similar charters of other nations, and may be considered to have heralded the modern era of government.”
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10 REASONS TO INVEST IN THE WORLD HERITAGE CITY

Considerable research documents the benefits enjoyed by other cities as a result of their World Heritage City status. We anticipate similar results for Philadelphia.

01 Increased Global Competitiveness
02 Enhanced Stature of Philadelphia Brand
03 New Business Attraction
04 Increase in Tourism & Conferences
05 Higher Revenue for Arts & Culture
06 Increased Land & Property Values
07 Attraction of Grants & Investments
08 Promotion of Sustainable Practice
09 Global Network & Accessibility
10 Heightened Awareness of City’s Cultural Heritage