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***The City of Philadelphia, With Support from the Global Philadelphia Association,
Becomes an Observer Member of the Organization of World Heritage Cities***

PHILADELPHIA – On September 16, Mayor Michael Nutter publicly announced that Philadelphia was joining the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) as an Observer Member. This is the first time that a city in the United States has been granted this status. More detailed information about the Organization of World Heritage Cities can be found at www.ovpm.org.

The OWHC is an umbrella organization of cities from across the globe whose heritage is regarded as being of world-wide importance. Based in Québec City, Québec, Canada, the OWHC is composed of over 200 member cities. Until now, none of those cities were U.S. cities. The announcement came during the Opening Ceremony for GlobalPhilly™ 2013, a 47-day, 106-event international exposition presented by the Global Philadelphia Association across the Greater Philadelphia Region. The Global Philadelphia Association has been a long-term partner of the City in this effort. The Association led the way in coordinating the City's membership effort, providing research and support to the City and communicating with OWHC officials in Québec on the City's behalf. Philadelphia was helped in its effort by the fact that Independence Hall, a World Heritage Site, is located in the City.

With this new status, the City will be eligible for numerous benefits of OWHC membership. At the outset, City representatives will be entitled to attend the XII World Congress of the Organization of World Heritage Cities in November. The World Congress will be held in Oaxaca, Mexico, and focused on the theme of Sustainability. It will be attended by representatives of many of the world's most prominent cities. More broadly, being a member of the OWHC will not only help Philadelphia to preserve its heritage, but also enable the City to promote itself on numerous levels – as a historical and cultural center, as a place to visit and study, as a place in which to invest and locate businesses, and as a place to live.

“Philadelphia is rich in organizations, like Global Philadelphia Association, that are dedicated to enhancing our global presence and putting our great city on the world stage,” said Alan Greenberger, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development.

“Joining the Organization of World Heritage Cities as an Observer Member is an important first step towards Philadelphia receiving its true recognition among the world's most historic cities and is another tool to promote Philadelphia to visitors and businesses alike. Thank you to all involved in this effort.”

In making his announcement on September 16, Mayor Nutter stated that the City's goal would be to become a full member of the Organization. Philadelphia has a rich history that has helped to shape and change the world, and this history is embodied not only in its physical sites and architecture, but also in the very layout of the City, which traces back to the original plan of William Penn. Securing full membership status will require a significant amount of planning and work and is expected to take several years.

The Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC)

The mission of the Organization of World Heritage Cities is to protect historic cities that have made notable impacts on the world. Headquartered in Québec City, Canada, the OWHC is comprised of over 200 cities throughout the world that house sites included on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Global Philadelphia Association

The Global Philadelphia Association is a non-profit, 501(c)(3)-certified organization consisting of over 120 institutional and individual members. Its mission is to assist – and encourage greater interaction among – the many organizations and people who are engaged in one form or another of international activity within the Greater Philadelphia Region, to promote the development of an international consciousness within the Region, and to enhance the Region's global profile. The Association coordinates a World Heritage City Working Group, comprised of numerous civic, business, and academic leaders from the Philadelphia region. For more information, visit www.globalphiladelphia.org.

GlobalPhilly™ 2013

GlobalPhilly™ 2013 is an international exposition presented by the Global Philadelphia Association, occurring from September 15 through November 1, featuring a wide array of global, international, and multicultural events and activities sponsored by the

Association's members, and shining a spotlight on the many international dimensions of the Greater Philadelphia area. The Global Philadelphia Association will highlight these events as part of its mission to move Philadelphia forward as a world city. Learn more about the initiative at www.globalphiladelphia.org.

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