Looking Toward 2020
This year saw a lot of activity, including the 15th World Congress of the Organization of World Heritage Cities and the 4th biennial Global Philly Expo. We have a lot to look forward to in 2020. We invite you to join us at the 5th annual World Heritage Celebration on Sep 10th where Philadelphia Orchestra maestro Yannick Nézet-Séguin will be our special guest and honoree.

Preserving & Celebrating Historical & Cultural Assets
Philadelphia hosted the 2019 American Association for State and Local History’s (AASLH) Annual Meeting Aug 28-31 alongside the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. This year’s meeting revolved around the theme of “What are we waiting for?” and broadly encouraged attendees to embrace new challenges. AASLH was excited to host the conference in Philadelphia due to how the city has revamped its iconic colonial history into a diverse presence on the global stage.

GPA’s World Heritage Education Consultant Sarah Sharp led a two-hour walking tour on October 12 to raise awareness of the cultural significance of Philadelphia’s World Heritage Sites. As part of GPA’s World Heritage City Project, the tour began at Independence Hall’s World Heritage Site designation plaque, located on the east side of the building. Welcoming both children and adults, the tour provided the group with the opportunity to walk around Independence National Historical Park while learning about the site’s history. At the end, the tour group convened across the street at The Bourse to continue discussing the what
they had learned about while snacking on some of the food hall’s international treats.

Partnering with the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, GPA hosted an On the Table Philly luncheon on October 17 to foster collaboration among the city’s 67 National Historic Landmarks (NHLs). Hosted at PAFA’s Education Center Room, the event brought managers from Philadelphia’s NHLs together with tourism and heritage experts to discuss how they could join forces to raise public awareness of Philadelphia’s NHLs. By providing a forum for these local heritage leaders to share their personal experiences, the event helped site managers to formulate personalized solutions for the collective problems they face. An NHL open house day to be held in 2020 is in the planning stages.

Educating Global Kids with Roots

GPA is working with St. Mary Interparochial School this year to conduct programming, where “World Heritage” has been adopted as this year’s theme for the entire school. The school received 255 Philadelphia World Heritage Coloring Books and teachers are using the books to teach students about Philadelphia’s history, culture, and global connections. The school also recently launched their new STREAM curriculum, which incorporates service and the Sustainable Development Goals into teaching. GPA is also continuing to work with teachers at Houston School on World Heritage programming that began last spring.

We partnered with the School District of Philadelphia and History Making Productions to present “Migration, Immigration, and Transformation,” a professional development for social studies teachers highlighting historic movements of people into Philadelphia and its impact on the city’s political, economic, and social structure. Workshop attendees were presented with primary and secondary sources covering the Great Migration of African Americans and international immigration into Philadelphia during the early decades of the 20th century and then created authentic assessments using the sources during the breakout session.

GPA partnered with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) to present the workshop “Teaching About Caring and Curing in Our City’s Past: Philadelphia, Public Health, and the World.” The workshop focused on using HSP’s primary sources to teach about Philadelphia’s global medical heritage. Global health expert Dr. Christiaan Morssink spoke on our city’s role in global medicine, past and present, and workshop participants received online and print instructional materials, as well as copies of the Spring 2019 issue of HSP’s magazine Legacies.

GPA participated in several other educational Expo events presented by GPA members and partners. We had a table at the Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy’s annual Arts Education Fair, held at PAFA on Aug 27th. We also presented children’s “heritage storytelling” writing activities at Mighty Writers’ MightyFest on Sep 28th, and we invited students to participate in our “heritage storytelling” photo booth at the Penn Museum’s Festival for International Students on Oct 18th.

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2019 Philadelphia World Heritage Celebration

As part of the fourth annual World Heritage City Celebration, GPA hosted a special dinner on September 5th to honor Philadelphia’s progress in carrying out the World Heritage Strategic Plan. Philadelphia became the first World Heritage City in the United States in 2015, joining a network of over 300 World Heritage Cities across the globe. The Dinner provided Philadelphians with the chance to commemorate World Heritage Cities Solidarity Day, allowing them to celebrate the unique heritages and common bonds that uplift their voices on the global stage. “Our collective heritages are truly important to us as individuals and to our entire community,” said GPA Board Chair and Deloitte Managing Partner for Greater Philadelphia Rob McNeill. “These heritages help us to power our global connections.”

In addition to this, the Dinner honored local legend Vernon Odom, who became invaluably ingrained in the city’s fabric through his 42-year career as a WPVI-TV/6abc broadcast journalist. Dinner attendees had the opportunity to delve deeper into Odom’s extensive reporting experience through an on-stage interview conducted by his long-time colleague Jim Gardner, which discussed both his local work and his on-the-ground coverage in Africa, Europe and Latin America. “I’m deeply honored to bring my voice to a tremendous organization that means so much to Philadelphia,” said Odom. “It is very rewarding that the association has chosen to recognize my 42+ years of work here as a journalist in the Philadelphia region and my efforts to bring truth, justice, and valuable information to the people in the Philadelphia marketplace.”

The World Heritage City Celebration Dinner was generously sponsored by the following organizations: Brandywine Realty Trust, Comcast NBCUniversal, Connelly Foundation, Deloitte, Drexel University, Independence Blue Cross, Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, Philadelphia International Airport, John and Susan Smith, Stradley Ronan, TE Connectivity, Temple University, Jefferson University, the University of Pennsylvania, Penn Medicine, and Wells Fargo. Media partners for the event included 6abc, Al Día NewsMedia, ChatterBlast, and Philadelphia Magazine.
World Heritage UK Conference

GPA’s Executive Director Zabeth Teelucksingh travelled to Wales on October 7-8 for the fifth World Heritage UK Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting, where she learned about global initiatives to elevate the world heritage platform and shared Philadelphia’s progress towards this. Every year, the World Heritage UK Conference facilitates collaboration among global preservation leaders by providing a forum for strategic discussions about World Heritage positioning and initiatives. This year’s conference was hosted by the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site at the Llangollen Pavilion near Wrexham in North Wales.

Over the course of two days, the conference spotlighted the themes of financing sites and governance models; heritage, soft power and diplomacy; and the impacts and benefits of tourism. To accomplish this, World Heritage UK completed a report in the months leading up to the conference to analyze the strengths, weaknesses and solutions in the UK’s approach to managing its 32-site World Heritage Collection. In particular, the report concluded that the UK will be able to maximize the potential of its booming tourism industry by driving more sustainable resources towards the world heritage sector, which will boost its cultural, governmental and international wellbeing.

With 130 representatives from 27 heritage sites, the conference provided participants with the opportunity to learn from a panel of experts through a series of presentations and question-and-answer sessions. Teelucksingh was one of four members on this expert panel, and additionally gave a presentation on Philadelphia’s World Heritage City Project, which serves as a model for the world through its unique public-private partnership. It was well-received, with many conference attendees complimenting Philadelphia’s World Heritage City Celebration Dinner and planning to host similar events.

By sharing her city’s stories, experience and progress with the conference, Teelucksingh unearthed new connections between Philadelphia and the global world heritage community, particularly to Birkenhead Park, England; New Lanark, Scotland; and the Slate Landscape of Gwynedd, Wales. GPA is proud to have had the opportunity to represent Philadelphia’s global interests at such a prestigious gathering and looks forward to the conversations that will emerge from next year’s conference on Climate Change and Heritage.
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Building WHC Awareness & Ownership

GPA and its members hosted the 2019 GlobalPhilly Expo from September 1 to October 15 to showcase the international activities happening within the Philadelphia community. As the fourth iteration of the exposition, this year’s GlobalPhilly Expo featured over 100 programs and events encompassing a variety of international themes across the city. In particular, the 2019 GlobalPhilly Expo spotlighted the theme of Medical Heritage in order to raise awareness of Philadelphia’s rich history of medical excellence.

After facing off against the U.S., Liberia took home the championship trophy for its third time in the final match of the 2019 Philadelphia Unity Cup on October 12. As one of the many events featured in GPA’s 2019 GlobalPhilly Expo, the three-month tournament celebrated Philadelphia’s diversity by providing local soccer fanatics and athletes, representing 52 countries, with the chance to participate in a World Cup-style competition.

Pennovation Works hosted the 2019 Philadelphia Mini Maker Faire on October 6, which provided local artists, inventors and exhibitionists with the opportunity to display their work. In particular, the event featured the Heritage Hut, an interactive exhibit created by GPA’s Community Heritage Coordinator Gigi McGraw. The Heritage Hut provided people of all ages with the chance to learn about Philadelphia’s status as the nation’s first World Heritage City, particularly through the Tell-A-Story Timeline.

After three months of great work, GPA said good-bye to our team of summer interns in September. Throughout the summer, our team of six interns managed GPA’s social media channels; helped organize events like the 2019 GlobalPhilly Expo and the World Heritage City Celebration Dinner; published articles about Philadelphia’s world heritage; and so much more. Representing the University of Edinburgh, Temple University, Holy Family University and Friend Select, we wish the team nothing but the best as they return to their fall semester studies.

Extending Philadelphia’s Global Reach

This September, GPA received a travel grant from the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) that allowed GPA World Heritage Program Manager Melissa Stevens to attend San Antonio’s annual “World Heritage Festival.” She was hosted by the City of San Antonio’s World Heritage Office and met with various entities involved in San Antonio World Heritage management to share information and explore opportunities for collaboration.

San Antonio’s Spanish Missions, which include the Alamo, became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2015, and the city joined the OWHC soon after that. The 5-day festival celebrates and promotes the San Antonio Missions and includes community events such as an outdoor movie and concert, a Mission Mariachi Mass, and the Tour de las Misiones, a guided bike, run, or walk tour of the Missions.

San Antonio’s recent UNESCO designation has been a catalyst
for community development, specifically within the Missions buffer zone, and the City has invested heavily in a comprehensive World Heritage Work Plan. As a result, residents are able to directly connect their city’s heritage assets to tangible economic benefits and improved quality of life, which increases community valuation of the Missions and the city’s heritage.

GPA, in partnership with Glenmede, Mural Arts, and Friends Select School, has produced a public art project in honor of UN Sustainable Development Goal #5, “Gender Equality.” Sponsored by Glenmede and created by local artist Barbara Smolen, this artwork is the first in what will be a series of Philadelphia public art pieces commissioned by GPA, each representing one of the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A public unveiling of the artwork was held at Friends Select School on October 3rd and featured remarks by project partners, a performance by students at Friends Select School, and a light reception. Glenmede and GPA also presented a check to New Century Trust, a local NGO dedicated to ending the political and economic inequality women face in the Greater Philadelphia region.

The artwork is installed on the west wall of Friends Select School at 17th St and the Parkway. The 10 x10 ft painting is designed to be visually engaging and is perfect for selfies and social media (#SDGPHL #GenderEquality).

For more information, visit globalphiladelphia.org/SDG.

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We welcome you to send your stories to Melissa Stevens (melissa.stevens@globalphiladelphia.org) for inclusion in the next Quarterly.

**Key Upcoming Events**

- **Dec 9** Globy Awards
- **Apr 18** International Day for Monuments and Sites
- **May 28** World Heritage Day
- **Sep 10** Philadelphia World Heritage City Celebration