



The Philadelphia World Heritage Quarterly

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– A publication of the Global Philadelphia Association and the World Heritage City Project –

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Philadelphia Love Park

GPA Statement: Black Lives Matter

The past three months have been difficult to say the least. COVID-19 has transformed our world and impacted each of us. However, we draw strength from our shared heritage, which includes a long history of coming together in times of crisis - to support one another, to care for the vulnerable, to rebuild, to learn, to innovate, to protect our inheritance, and to fight for a better future. As a World Heritage City, we are part of a global community actively sharing stories of resilience. Visit the OWHC's website for more info on the #ResilientHeritageCities campaign.

Our city and our nation have spent the past weeks mourning the senseless and tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery and countless other victims of police brutality and the systemic racism that exists. This great sadness, frustration and anger has highlighted that change is necessary to address the inequalities that exist in our society.

The OWHC published a message from GPA Executive Director Zabeth Teelucksingh on its website to show how Philadelphia is adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic. Published on April 19, Teelucksingh shared GPA's strategy for strengthening Philadelphia's global connections through virtual communications, particularly through sharing educational resources and messages from members.



The OWHC published [best practices from numerous World Heritage Cities](#) in response to COVID-19. The OWHC also compiled a database of the responses and recovery initiatives that World Heritage Cities like Philadelphia have implemented to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, the database divides each city's response into four separate categories: prevention and security; flattening of the epidemic curve and ensuring continuity of services; economic and tourism recovery; and creating or improving the digital access to heritage (when physical access is impossible). By creating this database, the OWHC is fostering a collaborative environment for World Heritage Cities and Sites to collectively develop strategies to protect their populations.

The OWHC also launched the #ResilientHeritageCities campaign to encourage World Heritage Cities to engage with one another and share pictures and videos of their

unique beauty. With public spaces emptier than ever, social media users can take advantage of their cities and sites' newfound solitude by using the hashtag to post pictures of sites without their usual crowds. In doing this, the OWHC is generating hope and global unity by helping people stay connected to humankind's most inspirational destinations.

On September 10th, we will hold the fifth annual Philadelphia World Heritage City Celebration, where we will virtually honor our special guest, Yannick Nézet-Séguin of the Philadelphia Orchestra, for his outstanding contributions to the global community.

KEY UPCOMING EVENTS

June 28 - July 4

Wawa Welcome America Festival

Sept 10

Philadelphia World Heritage City Celebration

Dec 14

Globy Awards

Support

**The Philadelphia
World Heritage City Celebration**

**on September 10th,
where we will honor**

Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

**Help us continue heritage programming and
connections in Philadelphia.**